

# ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER FOR THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL



JUNE 2024

## St. Paul's, Goulds—"Giving From The Heart" Lenten Outreach

Article and photographs by  
Suzanne McCormack and  
Lorna Williams

For the past number of years, St. Paul's has been collecting personal and toiletry items for those who are less fortunate, and they are then distributed through the Gathering Place. Because many groups donate at Christmas time, we decided to do our outreach project at a different time this year to help balance the need and supply. The congregation and friends of St. Paul's took part in a Lenten Outreach Project: "Giving From the Heart."

Together we collected over 1100 items which were taken to the Gathering Place in St. John's on the week before

Palm Sunday. These items will be distributed through the "Be Kind Boutique."

We collected:

- 126 pairs of socks
- 64 toothpaste
- 69 toothbrushes
- 79 bars of soap
- 83 packs of tissues
- 74 rolls of toilet paper
- 27 bottles of shampoo
- 45 deodorants

And many many other items!

The Gathering Place staff were so appreciative for the kindness and generosity, and for thinking of them with our "Giving from the Heart" donations.



Left to right: Suzanne McCormack, Lorna Williams, Joanne (from The Gathering Place's "Be Kind Boutique"), and The Rev'd Fred Marshall

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## ACW Volunteers in Summerside/Irishtown



The photograph on the left shows representatives from the St Paul's ACW receiving an award for volunteering in the town of Summerside/Irishtown.  
- photograph submitted by The Rev'd George Critchell

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## The World Day of Prayer in Burgeo

Article and photographs by  
Deacon Brenda Strickland

This year's World Day of Prayer service was based on a program written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Palestine, and was prepared and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. The theme was, "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," and was based on Ephesians 4:1-7.

Our church service was produced through the collaboration of three faith-based organizations of Burgeo, NL: St. John the Evangelist Church (which hosted the event), Faith United Church, and the Roman Catholic Church.

We were grateful for the participation of volunteers and attendees. Thank you to all who helped with the set up, brought food, (that was enjoyed by all following the service), presided, presented, and mingled.



First row: Marg Hann,  
Second row: Joyce Green, Mae Lushman, June Anderson, Doris MacDonald  
Third row: The Rev'd Elsie Rose, Juanita Hatcher, Hilda Baggs, Geraldine Skinner, Ruth Spencer, Dianne Ingram

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ANGLICAN LIFE



# Blessing the Fleet in Garnish

Article and photographs by  
Jessie Ann Marsh

The Town of Garnish is nestled on the southern shoreline of Fortune Bay. Within the town, there are many who rely on the sea for their livelihoods. Garnish has approximately 80 fisherpersons who know too well the dangers that the sea can hold. St. Giles' Anglican Church in the Parish of Marystown, with their rector The Rev'd Jeffrey Blackwood, decided to "bring back" the traditional Blessing of the Fleet service on the waterfront. The last service was in 2019, before the days of COVID-19.

The service was prepared and officiated at by Rev'd Jeffrey, and a meaningful sermon was delivered by Major Ross Grandy who grew up in the town in a fishing family.

The service was greatly appreciated by the fisherpersons and residents. It was a wonderful reminder of God's love for each of us, that he is always with us and to rely on him in pray for guidance and a safe return to their sheltered harbour each and every day.

A lovely lunch followed which was prepared by St. Giles' ACW, and some entertainment was provided by our rector Rev'd Jeffrey, Aubrey Freeborn, and Doreen & Keith Bolt.



*Top photograph: the fishing fleet in Garnish  
Middle photographs: Major Ross Grandy; The Rev'd Jeffrey Blackwood (rector of the parish), and the musical entertainment that was enjoyed at the post-blessing gathering and lunch  
Bottom photograph: the table with the cake*

"Those who go down to the sea in ships,  
Who do business on great waters,  
They see the works of the Lord,  
And his wonders in the deep."  
Psalm 107: 23-24





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# Living Love: Discipleship in Following Jesus

The Rt. Rev'd John Organ  
Bishop  
Western Newfoundland

What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? At the most basic level it means believing he is the incarnate God, the God-Man, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, living according to his summary of the Jewish Law. That means that we must first love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength; secondly we must love our neighbour as ourself.

To love God with all we are and have is a big ask! It demands a lot of us. Let us take stewardship as an expression of loving God. This includes tithing, placing before God 10% of our income. Biblically, 100% of all we earn comes from God through the gifts and talents God has given us. As an expression of our love for God and gratitude for all God has bestowed upon us, we return a tenth to God.

Our love for God can grow through our stewardship.

Fasting can be an expression of our love for God. Fasting frees the body for prayer and enables greater communication with God. It is disciplining our appetites and reducing our distractions. We become more available to the

presence of God and our relationship deepens. As we dwell in God's presence, our love for God grows and we experience God's love for us.

Our love for God can grow through fasting.

Jesus asks us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and even to love our enemy. God is love. The more we dwell in God, the greater our capacity to love God, our neighbour, and even our enemies.

Loving our neighbours and our enemies increases our love for God, and helps us to experience the power of love to overcome hate.

Discipleship prevents us from reducing Christianity to mediocrity. Being a Christian is much more than a cultural identity. Following Jesus Christ has to do with how we live our lives.

We have freedom to follow Jesus or to not follow him. To genuinely follow him is to be fully committed to Christ. Being halfhearted about following Jesus will not allow us to truly know God and God's transformative power to make our lives really impactful.

Depending on who you listen to, the Church is in a nose-dive decline. Some say that God is calling

the Church to something completely new. Others say God is calling us back to basics. Discipleship is basic. It is first principle Christianity—"Come, follow me."

The Church can be about many things. It can be about a building. It can be about a tradition. It can be about an in-group. It can be about clinging to what is no longer working. It can even be about hate, division, and exclusion.

Discipleship will not be about those things. Instead, it will be about Jesus Christ. It will be about following Jesus and helping others to follow him. It will be about being shaped especially by love and hope. It will be about God and the Kingdom of God. It will be about a quality of life that meets all obstacles with confidence of success. It will be about knowing all will be well, even though we are going through tough times. It will be about knowing that life has purpose, meaning, value, and victory.

Christians can get caught up in things that don't really matter. We become more attached to bricks and mortar than to the living stones. We get caught up in the earthly mundane, and lose sight



of the spiritual domain. Our vision blurs and we don't see the glory being revealed. We become caught up in our own importance and lose touch with the bigger enterprise of God's mission. We hold on to what is dying and turn away from what is bursting into life. We can be convinced of being right even though we are wrong.

We have been warned about being a noisy gong. We have been warned about making much of religion and little about love. Christianity is about love. Discipleship is about love. Church is about love. Make any of those about other than love and we are in trouble.

There is a desperate need for love in our world. Jesus is all about love. Indeed, God is all about love. Discipleship is all about love. If a Christian

moves away from love of God and neighbour, then there is something terribly wrong. Love is paramount. Not clothed with love, the Christian is not wearing the right garment required to be part of the heavenly banquet.

Where there is love we find God. Where there is hate we have the absence of God.

There is no nose-dive decline for love. The world and our communities are in desperate need of love. God is love. Following Jesus is following the way of love. We gather as Church to grow in love for God and one another. We can gather in a designated sacred space, or in a rented space, or in a home. What matters is that the Church, the followers of Christ, gather and together grow in love for God and neighbour.

Discipleship is basically living out our baptismal vows. Those are first and foremost rooted in love. The Church will always be strong when its members are filled with that self-giving love demonstrated in Jesus Christ and which he demands of all who follow him. A Church made up of people genuinely following Jesus Christ will have a bright future.

Go where life takes you, but plan ahead.

As a free spirit, you rarely look back. But you should look ahead - especially to protect your loved ones when you're no longer there. All it takes is a little preplanning.

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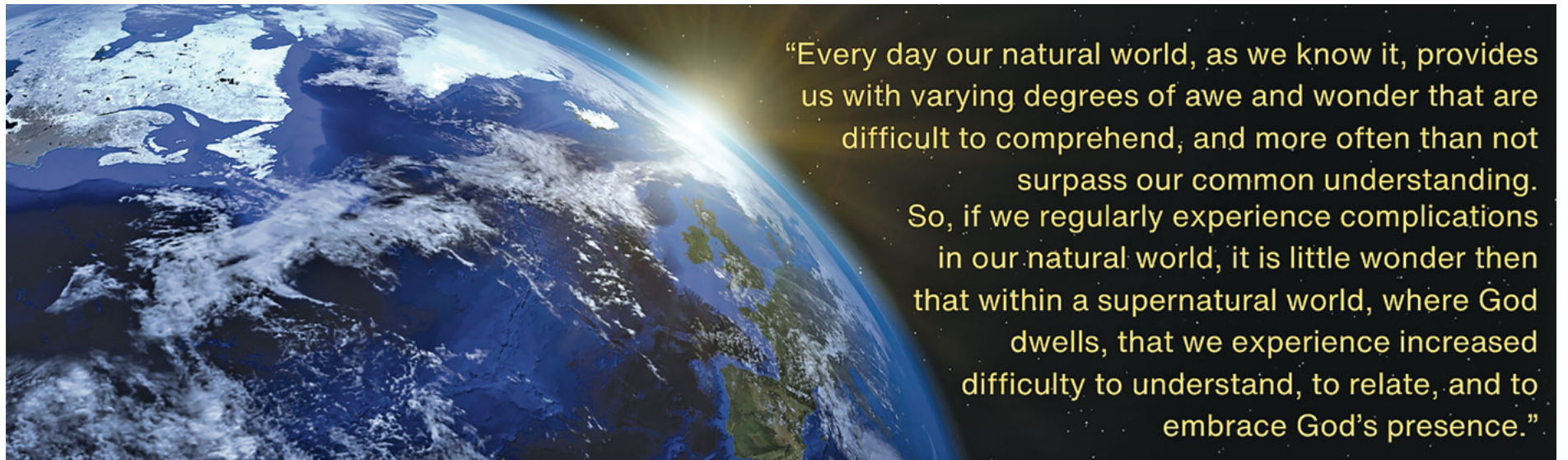
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“Every day our natural world, as we know it, provides us with varying degrees of awe and wonder that are difficult to comprehend, and more often than not surpass our common understanding. So, if we regularly experience complications in our natural world, it is little wonder then that within a supernatural world, where God dwells, that we experience increased difficulty to understand, to relate, and to embrace God’s presence.”

image designed by E. F. Rowe in Canva

# Reasonable and Probable Grounds to Believe

## Finale

Ford Matchim  
Columnist

On the above series—Reasonable and Probable Grounds to Believe—this will be my 24th and final column. As a summary on the series, I provide new leads on a very old cold file, which is based on a reasonable and probable grounds approach to conclude there is a God. As temporary guests on this planet, many of us live and die without making a personal choice to believe or not believe. Every day our natural world, as we know it, provides us with varying degrees of awe and wonder that are difficult to comprehend, and more often than not surpass our common understanding. So, if we regularly experience complications in our natural world, it is little wonder then that within a supernatural world, where God dwells, that we experience increased difficulty to understand, to relate, and to embrace God’s presence.

Two extracts from my very

first column read: “The phrase *reasonable and probable grounds to believe* meant that if you (as a police officer) provided the investigational information you had acquired, say to four or five ordinary people, and sat them down and had them discuss the whys and wherefores of your information, then after a reasonable time of pondering the matter, they too would conclude like you, that reasonable and probable grounds were present to believe that the person was responsible for committing the offence.”

And that, “One does not need proof to have faith. To those of faith, the need of so-called facts to support their belief may well be looked on as shallow and irrelevant, not to mention irreverent, and that a claim can justifiably be made it is religiously improper to attempt to explain faith by rational argument.



Perhaps the most scientific proof there is a God comes from the simple fact that so many people believe that indeed there is a God. In essence then, for me to embark on a ‘reasonable and probable grounds’ approach to believe there is a God flies in the face of our common senses. Nevertheless, I shall try and sally forth.”

This was a tough case. I’ve delved into various topics: including our patterns of behaviour; examining how we believe or do not believe; our struggles with faith; a focus

on scripture; believing and doubting; our religious variance; a relationship with God; our sense of values; spiritual intelligence; challenging the status quo; and to live and to die. And yes indeed, at the end I became convinced (all over again) that reasonable and probable grounds exist to believe there is a God.

Writing columns for Anglican Life has been a pleasure. I thank all those readers who have offered their many generous comments of appreciation and support. And a big thank you to Emily Rowe, the Editor, whose skillful ways of making all complicated matters look easy, along with her generosity in providing special dispensation in meeting certain guidelines, is all very much appreciated.

...*May the Spirit of God, and the Spirit of peace be with you all your days!*

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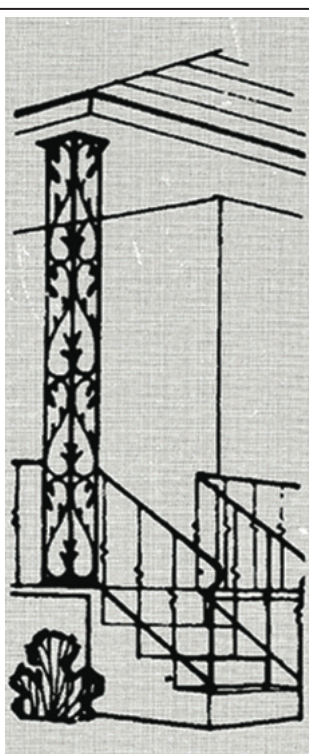
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# Between the Lessons: My 8-Year Faith Exploration

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe  
Columnist

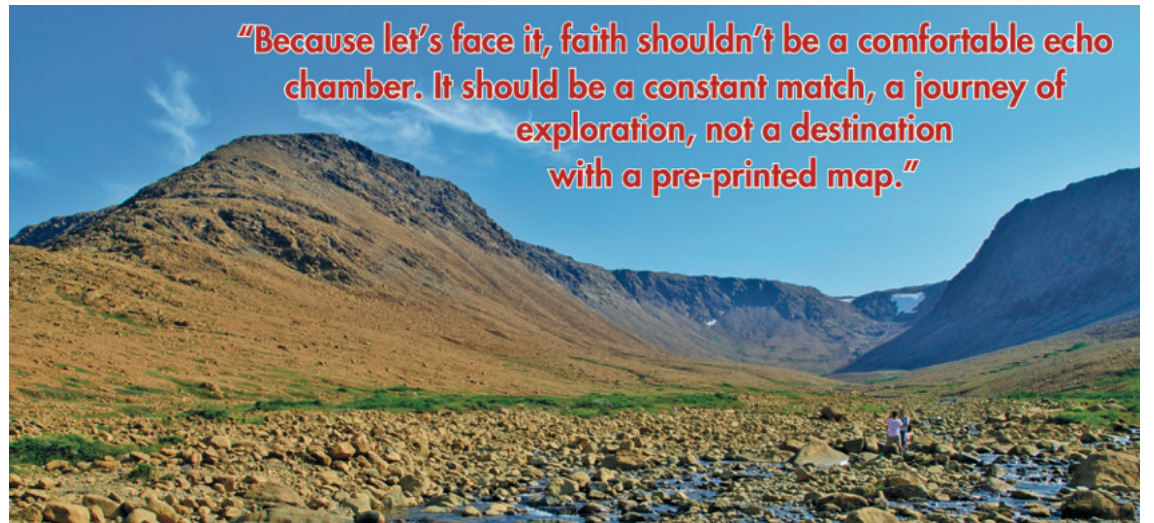
Eight years. It feels like yesterday that I was pitching my wife this crazy idea for a column. I was going to call it "Between the Lessons." The idea? Unearthing those forgotten stories from the Old Testament, the ones getting skipped over between the Sunday readings. Let's just say, they weren't exactly your typical bedtime stories. These weren't stories for easy answers, but for grappling with the complexities of faith, morality, and the sometimes downright bizarre twists of scripture.

I remember *The Difficult Story*: the one from my first year of writing that almost had me second-guessing the whole project. We had to grapple with a story in 1 Samuel 15 where God seemingly commanded King Saul to commit genocide against Israel's enemies. Even as I look back to it, the story raises uncomfortable questions about the current conflict in Israel/Palestine. Later, as I came to the end of 2 Samuel, I had to wrap my head around what to say about a story where God sends a



plague as a punishment for a small infraction on King David's part. Plague as punishment is problematic enough, but at that point, it was May of 2020. People were already talking about COVID-19 as some kind of punishment, and so I left the series unfinished, taking up other challenging topics, beyond the pages of scripture. Engaging with the tough stuff, the issues that make us squirm and question. Because let's face it, faith shouldn't be a comfortable echo chamber. It should be a constant wrestling match, a journey of exploration, not a destination with a pre-printed map.

Over the last few years, I've learned a lot about when to speak up, and when to shut up. Sometimes I had to back off from making jokes that were a bit too irreverent



photograph by Timothy Holmes on unsplash.com

for the Church paper. Not that they weren't funny, but that it wasn't the time or place to make that kind of joke. At other times, I challenged some of the systemic problems in the Church or the world. I did that because it wasn't the time or the place to stay quiet.

That's why I never shied away from the thorny issues. The mental health struggles of clergy, often burdened by the weight of expectation and the weight of silence. The outdated structures of the Church, creaking under the strain of a changing world. The question of mission, that constant hum in the background: how do we, as Christians, navigate the

21st century with a faith that feels both ancient and ever-evolving?

But now it's time to end this column. These past eight years have been a privilege—a chance to grapple with the big questions, prod at complacency, and hopefully spark a few lively debates along the way. But sometimes the walls of Institutional Christianity have felt like the edge of a map, with the world beyond shrouded in enticing mystery.

This next chapter, then, feels less like retirement and more like an expedition. There's a whole world out there, teeming with opportunities to wrestle with faith

and reality, to champion social justice, and to pursue a more meaningful Christian experience—not just for myself, but for all who yearn for a more compassionate and equitable world.

The conversation continues, of course, and I have a feeling the most impactful chapters are yet to be written. Keep asking those questions, keep wrestling with the ambiguities, and keep searching for meaning even when the answers remain elusive. That ongoing quest is the very essence of faith, a journey without a map, yet overflowing with the potential for adventure.

## St Patrick's Day potluck in Rocky Harbour



More than 60 people attended the St. Matthew's (Rocky Harbour) annual St. Patrick's Day pot luck supper of stews, soups, and other dishes. There were also delicious desserts! - submitted with photographs by Dale Decker

# Integration and Fellowship

## St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith  
Photographs by The Rev'd Bill Strong

It is a truism that there are times when an air of apprehension envelops us in our midst. But at the same time, a more happy period is also blossoming as we mingle in fellowship with other faith communities around us along the way.

On Saturday, April 13th, 2024, several members of our ACW team accepted an invitation to attend a quiet day at the parish of St. Peter's in Upper Gullies. Also affiliated were ACW members from other parishes including members from All Saints' parish in Foxtrap.

That special time of celebration began with a 10:30 church service competently conducted by The Rev'd Dr. Bonnie Morgan.

Her topic specifically reflected upon three special women of wisdom. She reiterated specifically the story of St. Catherine of Siena (25 March 1347 – 29 April 1380). Also, elaboration of wisdom and purpose was bestowed upon Sophia and Charlotte Elliott.

It reminded us of the Samaritan woman at the well whom Jesus befriended and subsequently went out to evangelise in his name (Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom). This is one of the biblical passages where Jesus seems to be recognizing

the gift of women (John 4:7). We listened, spellbound, as she read and reiterated to the group the stories of Catherine, Sophia, and Charlotte.

While universally and instinctively, women have an innate impulsion to be givers and protectors, we must still take time to digest the great commandment in its entirety—Love the Lord with all thy strength and love thy neighbour as thyself. But sometimes we leave out ourselves from the equation.

Later, in the hall, after I extended appreciation to the ladies of St. Peter's and conveyed our gratitude to Dr. Bonnie for a most inspirational delivery, we were pampered with a delicious lunch of soup and dessert.

Then a period of entertaining with jokes and story telling wrapped up a most relaxing and enjoyable fellowship with neighbouring parishes.

That day at St. Peter's, the hall was a forum to dispel stress and concentrate on the moment, and relish what we got.

*And having come in, the Angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favoured one, the Lord is with thee, blessed are you amongst women"*

Luke 1:28.



## Easter at Holy Trinity, Codroy



On Saturday, March 29th, 2024, Holy Trinity Church in Codroy hosted an Easter party for the children in the community. It was a fun afternoon, with crafts, games, an Easter egg hunt and lunch. We also had a visit from the Easter bunny. The children went home with bags of treats and memories. -submitted with photographs by Linda Kendell



# Centennial Celebrations at St. Michael and All Angels', Creston

Article by The Rev'd Jeffrey Blackwood, Judy Hotton, and Sheila Edwards  
Photographs by members of the congregation

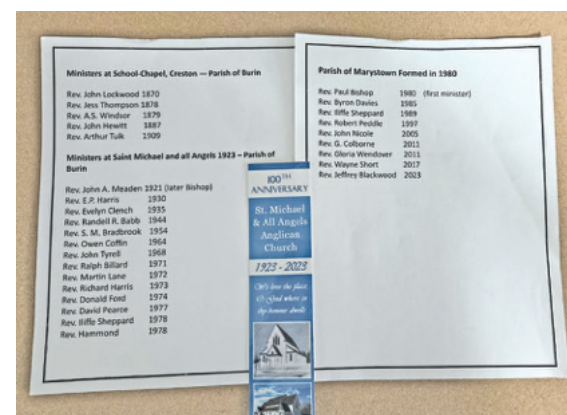
What a year 2023 was for the congregation of St. Michael and All Angels', Creston, in the Parish of Marystown! It was the centennial anniversary of the current church building, and there was much excitement to celebrate. With the arrival of Rev'd Jeff as the new priest-in-charge in February of 2023, a lot of work was now able to get underway. After a committee was struck in the spring, a series of events were planned to commemorate the occasion.

We began with a Prayer Walk on August 9th, which was held at the Landing Place Trail in Creston. It was a very moving experience for everyone involved, and funds raised from the walk helped fund the banquet, which was held in November. More on that in a bit!

On October 1st, a parish service was held to mark the patronal festival of St. Michael and All Angels. Bishop John Watton was in attendance, as not only did we celebrate our patron and our centennial, but four young men reaffirmed their baptismal covenant in Confirmation. It was a tremendously moving time, and (naturally) a luncheon followed which was enjoyed by everyone.

November 10th saw another time of fellowship with a gospel concert at St. Michael's Church. A great assortment of performers contributed to a beautiful night of music, with all proceeds going to the centennial celebrations to follow.

The weekend of November 18th - 19th was the big celebration: the Centennial Commemoration Banquet & Worship. November 18th marked the 100th anniversary of the first worship service held in the present St. Michael and All Angels' church, which happened



to fall on a Saturday. It was decided that we would have a banquet on Saturday, followed by a commemorative Eucharist on Sunday. Community leaders, past clergy, deanery clergy, and Bishop John and Archdeacon Terry Caines were all in attendance, with the Rev'd Gloria Wendover serving as our guest speaker. The celebratory cake was cut by the two oldest

members of the congregation, Meta Shirley and Grace Legge. Our commemorative Eucharist was a truly beautiful event, with Archdeacon Terry preaching and Rev'd Jeff presiding. The worship was as closely structured to that which would have been used in 1923 as possible. A full house, and attendance from our past clergy and community leaders, helped

make the final event for our centennial truly memorable. The Congregation of St. Michael and All Angels', Creston, would like to extend the biggest thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the centennial celebration the memorable time that it was. May God continue to richly bless us all into the next hundred years!



# A Reflection on *You Are Leaven*

The Rev'd Canon  
Amber Tremblett  
Columnist

From April 19-22, I, along with my fellow mission canons, attended *You are Leaven: Fermenting Cultures of Spiritual Formation*, a conference sponsored by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The weekend was filled with workshops meant to open our minds to the width and depth of what can be spiritually formative for our own lives and the lives of those in our faith communities.

As I reflected on the weekend, the prayer in Ephesians 3:14-19 kept coming to mind.

This prayer alludes to the breadth and length and height and depth of God. This passage opens our eyes to just how expansive God's transformation of

his world is. I feel like my experience at this conference was a lived example of this meditation on God in Ephesians. So many of the things we do can be spiritually formative: cooking and eating together, going for a walk, playing games, listening to music, writing, or fishing. To be a Christian is to be completely enveloped by the love of God, meaning everything we do is Spirit-breathed. The Spirit can use each instance in our lives to further reveal to us the fullness of God and the riches of his glory.

This experience reminded me that we can always go deeper as followers of Christ. God will always desire that we know him better. The good news is because God is



always near, because God is in everything, there are so many ways to connect with him. There are so many entry points to the love of God. Our job as leaders is to first, find those connection points for ourselves and then, help our communities make those connections too. The crucial task for us is that we find the connections that root us and ground us in Christ's love, as the author of Ephesians prays for us. These connections may be different for

different people. There is no one secret formula. To proclaim that there is, is to try to control the work of God.

All our communities could do with a wider and deeper understanding of what is spiritually formative. All of us could do with putting fewer limits on the mystery that is the almighty God.

It was a blessing to gather, collaborate, and make connections with ministry leaders from across the country. It is so clear to me that we have so much to learn from each other. These leaders embodied the hope made possible in Christ, and I have never had a clearer sense of what it means to be part of the Body of Christ.

There was something

particularly holy about even the simplest parts of our time together, in the eating and drinking, in the waiting and watching, in the carpooling and contact exchanging.

This gathering was proof that the fermentation of a culture of spiritual maturity happens most reliably when we love one another, when we are vulnerable with one another, when we share ourselves and our time with one another.

We spent the weekend learning about spiritual formation. For me, the conference itself was one of the most spiritually formative experiences I've had in a long time. I am grateful for the opportunity, and I pray God uses my experience for the good of his kingdom.

## Rev'd Owen and Glenys Holwell: The Parish of Lewisporte Gathers to Wish Them Well in Their Retirement

Article and photographs by  
The Rev'd Hannah Dicks

Sunday April 28th, a parish service was held at St. Paul's, Lewisporte, to mark the occasion of the retirement of The Rev'd Owen Holwell from active ministry, and Glenys Holwell from lay ministry. Rev'd Owen served as deacon at St. Paul's, as well as at the other congregations of the parish, St. Andrew's (Glenwood/Appleton), and St. Mark's (Norris Arm North) for the past ten years; prior to that, he served for many years as a lay minister and in other areas of ministry in the parish. For the past three years, Rev'd Owen also served as Diocesan Chaplain, a ministry he thoroughly enjoyed and says, "where he found his true calling." Glenys Holwell served for over 21 years as a lay minister at St. Paul's, and would often accompany Rev'd Owen when serving in the other churches in the parish, or when on pastoral visits. She also sang in the choir for over 40 years. Both were very



devoted and faithful in service and ministry. During the service, certificates were presented to both Rev'd Owen and Glenys on behalf of Bishop John Watton. Following the service, members of the parish, along with others



from the community and area gathered for a wonderful meal in the church hall in thanksgiving for their ministry, and to mark the occasion of their retirement. We give thanks for their many years of faithful service and ministry, and



Left: Rev'd Owen and Glenys with their granddaughter; Middle: cutting their retirement cake; Above: Rev'd Owen speaking to those present

the much good they did both in the parish and diocese; and wish them much blessing now in their retirement. We give thanks for all who came out to make this such a memorable occasion for them.

## Meadows hosts successful dinner theatre



St Paul's church in the parish of Meadows recently had a capacity filled dinner theatre during which our ACW members, and others, provided excellent entertainment. - submitted with photographs by The Rev'd George Critchell

# Summer Church: Advice From A Priest With Many Hats

The Rev'd James Spencer  
Columnist

If you ever see me walking around in my parish, particularly on days when it's not too windy, you'll likely be able to recognize me by my hat. I commonly wear a black fedora, rakishly tilted and often held on by my hand in a stiff breeze. Most people can spot me pretty easily by it as there are few these days that wear such a hat.

What people don't often consider is that I actually wear two other hats, aside from the fedora.

The first is the one most are familiar with: the spiritual hat. I am a priest: the spiritual guide of the people I serve. I am called to guide and advise people on matters of faith, worship, and theological doctrine. To that end, I will now wear that hat, and give a little advice as we enter into the summer months.

Churches generally see low attendance during the summer. Many regular parishioners are away or otherwise engaged in the nice warm weather, enjoying whatever the brief respite from cold which pervades the rest of the year. Services still happen. Even if the priest is taking holidays there is often a deacon or licensed lay minister joyfully leading worship. But the number of people in the pews tends to be noticeably less than at other times (which, in some parishes, is already very low).

Does our spiritual life go on hiatus when the sun shines? Does



a holiday from work, or a summer getaway mean that we need to getaway from church life as well? I would think not. Therefore, my advice is this: go to church this summer. If you're still near home, keep going to church. If you're away, find a local church wherever you are and attend that one. Not only will it sustain and enrich your spiritual life during the summer, but it will also encourage the spiritual life of those who lead or attend services every Sunday and feel the loneliness of those empty pews (and also give the joy of seeing new people visiting the church).

Okay, that's one hat. Now for the other, lesser-known hat. This is the hat that many priests (myself included) feel less comfortable wearing. It's the hat of church administration. Particularly, those aspects which involve finances. It's uncomfortable because it often feels crass, worldly, and far removed from the spiritual calling to which we feel drawn. Nonetheless, it is an important hat,



photo by Andrew Seaman on www.unsplash.com

and one which we must wear. And wear without discomfort, for after all, our model is Christ, who faced questions and issues of finances boldly and without shame. So here is my advice:

Do not forget your church this summer. There's a good chance things are tight right now. Winter is usually an expensive time, with heating costs and snow clearing. Insurance payments are probably due. Most churches are probably hoping that there was enough left in the bank after last year to cover costs until the fall, when donations usually take an upswing. But that's not always the case. And even if it is, it's probably a close thing.

And the bills still need to be paid. Each September most church vestries meet to have mild heart attacks as they look over the

income/expense reports, trying to remind themselves that things will improve as they approach Christmas (assuming nothing goes wrong).

So please, take some time to make arrangements to keep your giving reliable throughout the summer. Help ease the worries and the burden your church may be facing. And, if you can afford it, why not give a little to support whatever church you're visiting this summer? I'm sure it will help them still be there next year too.

So, there you have it. I've worn my two hats for this article. I hope they've inspire you to make a difference this summer, both for yourself and your church. Now I'm going to go put on my fedora, and hope it doesn't blow off in the wind. God bless you!

# Engaging With Canadians

## News from PWRDF

Article by The Rev'd Canon Debbie Pantin, PWRDF Rep for Anglican East NL

To work towards its vision of a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, and all similar humanitarian agencies, must be about the business of *public engagement*. Simply put, PWRDF needs to connect with people in such a way that they become interested enough in the work of PWRDF that they want to support it in some way—gaining knowledge through reading its publications, joining its webinars, or perusing its website. Spreading the word about PWRDF's work and impact in Canada and around the world, becoming a parish or diocesan PWRDF representative, becoming a one-time or regular donor, or upholding and joining PWRDF in prayer are all essential.

It will not matter that PWRDF is a well-run organization with laudable goals, ethical practices, and global partnerships if it does not have the support of everyday Anglicans like you and me to allow its work to continue to change lives. So this task of engagement is an ongoing and core function for the PWRDF staff, board, and volunteers. Work in the development and humanitarian aid sector is never a case of a quick fix, but of partnering with knowledgeable experts on the ground and walking alongside them as supporters. The global climate crisis has exacerbated existing challenges around food

insecurity, access to clean drinking water, health and wellness, displacement and homelessness, violence, and injustices of many kinds. War, conflicts and gang violence also continue to rage around the world, and in our own country the work of indigenous/settler reconciliation and responding to natural disasters is ongoing.

Whether intentionally or not, the methods used by PWRDF to engage with Canadians bear a strong resemblance to those used by Jesus in his earthly ministry: storytelling; gathering helpers; traveling lightly; welcoming and respecting women and children; and upholding everything in prayer.

It is the sharing of stories that really makes the work of PWRDF come alive. These stories may be told by Canadians who have visited projects and partners abroad and come back sharing the good news and impact they have observed first-hand. Sometimes the stories are told by in-country partners who are invited to come to Canada and tell their own stories. Those involved in the actual projects on the ground are the true experts and can make the stories come alive for us. Videos of these visits, as well as videos produced in the field, are easily accessible on the PWRDF website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Flickr, and X accounts. There is no lack of compelling stories of empowerment, education, environmental protection,



# PWRDF

## The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

improved health outcomes, and more.

The "helpers" are individuals and organizations around the world and here at home who participate in or support PWRDF and its projects through partnerships, donations, and supportive relationships. It is a large and varied team, with each one contributing their own gifts. The modest donation from a small Sunday School class in rural Newfoundland and Labrador is as important, and as appreciated, as large matching donations from wealthy individuals or organizations.

Jesus appreciated the offerings, the faith, and the opinions of women, children and the otherwise marginalized in society, and specially ministered to them. We know well the story of a young boy's lunch of bread and fish that contributed to the feeding of multitudes of people one day in Jesus' day. In many countries, the lives of women and children are especially imperilled still today, and PWRDF is aware that empowering the women leads to improvements for their families and communities,

too. PWRDF also highly values the contributions of its Youth Council. The Youth Council is a forum for significant dialogue and engagement by and for youth with the wider PWRDF organization, including a seat on the PWRDF board. Recognizing the importance of educating a new generation of Canadians about global and humanitarian issues, as well as important domestic social justice concerns, PWRDF produces the SUPERFRIENDS resource for parish and home use. (You can order copies for free each year.)

For Jesus, traveling lightly meant being without a home of his own and accepting the hospitality of friends and supporters. For PWRDF, it means not having a large administrative footprint either at home or abroad. The 2022-2023 annual report reveals that Administration accounts for just 7.6% of the total PWRDF expense budget, and PWRDF does not have offices around the globe, but partners with and supports the work of other international organizations to maximize the impact it can make. As

an organization, it takes seriously its responsibility to use all donations ethically and efficiently.

As Jesus modelled, PWRDF offers opportunities for staff, volunteers and supporters to come together to pray and to study scripture and to apply it to our world today. This is done through excellent Advent and Lenten resources for home or group use and through monthly *Praying with PWRDF* gatherings on Zoom. It takes place on the second Thursday of every month at 2:30 p.m. Newfoundland time, 2:00 p.m. in parts of Labrador. To participate, just sign up at this link: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/xa9pdlc>. You will receive the Zoom link every month.

With summer surely just around the corner, may you enjoy rest and refreshment with those you love. And watch for information about this year's Wild Ride, an opportunity for your group to come up with a simple fundraising activity to support PWRDF. We need you to share the stories and to share the load. Come, join the team.



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# Confirmation class raises money for school breakfast program, giving to the community, and taking care of their neighbours



Above: The Parish of Plum Point Confirmation Class 2023-2024 presenting a cheque to the breakfast program of the Viking Trail Academy in the amount of \$1295.35 as part of their fundraising in stewardship to a charity of their choice. Eat Smart Newfoundland matched this donation so the breakfast program are the recipient of \$2590.70. A big thank you to the confirmation class of 2023-2024. - submitted with photograph by The Rev'd Canon Terrance Coates

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# Birdsong

Melanie Clarke  
Columnist

Every Newfoundlander and Labradorian looks forward to spring after a long dreary winter. For months we have been locked in the grip of winter snow, rain, wind, sleet, and everything mother nature can throw at us. Winter feels longer than any other season. But after winter, the spring comes!

For me, the first signs of spring aren't the changes in the weather but the sounds of birds in my backyard. The little starlings and robins begin singing as soon as the majority of the snow is gone. In April and May, these tiny birds sing loud and clear as they hang out on the power wires behind my house. They also pitch on my clothesline and sing to each other—calling out, I assume, to their mates. My neighbours' house has some lattice that drops down from the roof. The birds see this lattice as a perfect place for nests to keep their eggs safe. As a result, for weeks, as these

birds tend their nests, I can hear birdsong late into the morning. The birds' songs can be heard inside my house even with the tv on!

These tiny birds return every year to my clothesline, sing their hearts out and once the babies can fly, they are gone until the next year! These little creatures always find their way back. Even though our Newfoundland winters vary in length and severity, the birds return to the same spot and usually at the same time. I assume the birds fly south for the coldest winter months, but their instinct is always to come back to where they were born and raised. How wonderful for us that these creatures instinctually return every year and as a result, we are blessed with their presence.

The tiny birds will only put their nests where they feel the safest. One bird always stays with the nest while the other forages for food. When the nest



is being built, each bird brings back twigs and grasses to create a fluffy spot for the eggs to rest and mature. The birds dedicate themselves to the next generation to ensure the baby birds can grow up and continue the species. When I hear the birds return, a sense of hope and renewal lifts my soul—I always feel a sense of “lightness” and no matter how hard the winter months have been, the birdsong makes everything feel better!

So why am I nostalgic about birds in my column for *Anglican Life*?

For me, as a Christian, I get the same sense of well being within my church family. My church family is



photo by Donna Koch on www.unsplash.com

nurturing. It is comforting. My church family feeds my soul the way the little starling feeds her chicks. I rely on those at church to help me when I'm at my weakest. If I miss church services, someone always checks on me to see that I'm ok. Walking into a church service, I am always greeted by my church family members. They have smiles and are genuinely happy to see me. Even though I have a close relationship with my siblings and mother, those at church provide another level of comfort and closeness which can't be found anywhere else.

This article is the last until September. I know many of you reading this

will spend a lot of time at your summer places and away from your regular church homes. Please remember that every church has a family, and all church families will welcome you in the summer. While on vacation this year, drop in to your regular church family, or visit one you haven't been into before—fellow Christians will nurture you no matter where you are from, and like the starlings and robins, they will feed you spiritually and in some cases physically, because you are part of God's great family!

God bless you all this summer and may you continue to be nourished by his love.

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## Palm Sunday outreach: spreading joy at Cozy Quarters

The Sunday School of St. Mary's Parish in Clarenville decided to do something a little different for Palm Sunday this year. The kids and leaders went to Cozy Quarters Personal Care Home to deliver Easter treats to the residents there, spreading some of the joy of Christ's resurrection and bringing smiles to everyone. The Sunday School is working to do more outreach and activities in our community to help the children understand the joy and fulfillment of serving as part of their church family.

*-article and photographs by The Rev'd James Spencer.*



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# The Vine and The Branches—African Violet Style

The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten  
Columnist

One of my earliest memories of childhood goes back to 1988. Often, we would go to Aunt Lizzie's. Aunt Lizzie was the matriarch of the Petten side of the family. She lived in an old-fashioned two-story house. You entered in the house by the back porch. In the porch in the corner was the old-fashioned wringer washer. When you entered the kitchen, on your immediate right was a sink, then was the pantry door where the best cookies in the world were kept. As you turned to your left was the chrome table and four chairs by the window and under the sash window was the coil heater. When you went into the front room, there was a dining room table and chairs to your left, and above that was a framed picture of the SS Caribou and her crew (which sank in 1942). Next to the table and chairs was the day bed underneath another sash window. One day in going to Aunt Lizzie's, on the window ledge of the window in the front room, there was a one litre "Brookfield" vanilla ice cream container. In that one-litre Brookfield vanilla ice cream container was a house plant—an African violet to be precise. After that particular visit that day, when we left, mom had in her hand the one-litre Brookfield vanilla ice cream container with the African violet in it. For years, mom tended that dark purple African violet. From breaking leaves off to make plants for others who saw it in full bloom wanting to have one, to the time the front door of the house blew open one night when we were not home, and it got frosty, and bringing it back again, for years mom had that plant until one day it did fade away. Mom had that same African violet for at least 25 years. Whenever I hear the gospel recently proclaimed on the Fifth Sunday of Easter, in which Jesus says, "I AM the vine, you are the branches," my mind goes back to the African violet.

The imagery used by Jesus to describe the relationship between us and him and God is very trinitarian in its nature. God is indeed the vine grower. Jesus is the vine. We are the



branches. If you have ever been to France or to the Niagara area of Ontario, you would be very familiar with vineyards. There are rows upon rows upon rows of vines which produce grapes. The grapes are used for eating, and used for the making of wine. Often branches are grafted into vines in order to produce the best possible grape for market. The production of such fruit is not an easy task, and it takes work. In order to have a good grape, the grape needs to be firmly connected to the bunch, the bunch needs to be connected to the branch, the branch needs to be connected to the vine, and the vine needs to be deeply rooted in the soil in order for the root system to take in the best of the nutrients and water to help in the assistance of photosynthesis (the process by which plants make food from the light of the sun). It all takes work. The other thing that takes as much work as working a vineyard is being the Church of Jesus Christ.

The Church—whether it be institutional or not—the Church takes work. One evening, a family invited their pastor to their home for a meal, and of course the family had a little Johnny. Of course little Johnny had a way with words. In making conversation with the family, the pastor asks little Johnny the question of what he wants to be when he grows up. Little Johnny answers by saying: "Reverend, I want to be like you because you only work one day of a week and; you got six days off."

What happens in our congregations and parishes in the times we gather for worship, if anything, is a finished product. It takes time, it takes devotion, it takes prayer, it takes a whole slew of many things for 11 am on a Sunday morning to take



photo by Cora Bianca Alb on www.unsplash.com

shape. Yet it also takes a lot of work and a lot of patience to do the things that need to be done during the week. There are times when you can plan a week of doing things that you would like to do, and a phone call on a Tuesday evening during the supper hour can chuck those plans out the window.

Yet, there is something else that takes more work to keep healthy than the Church is our own relationships with God. We need to make sure that we are connected to the vine. Just as our relationships with other people take work, so too does our relationship with God; our relationship with Jesus takes work, and what needs to happen most of all is that we need to have a good connection to Jesus.

I think if Jesus were to teach such a saying in our own time, he would probably say something like the following:

- I am the charger, you are the tablet
- I am the charger, you are the iPad
- I am the charger, you are the cell phone
- I am the charger, you are the Fitbit

None of these things work unless they have a good connection to the very source which gives them power and/or battery life in order to work. Well, guess what? The same can be applicable to us as members of the Jesus Movement. How are we connected to him? How is your connection to him? Do you need to be plugged into

him? Just as looking after the African violet for years took work, and so too does our relationship with God. So, I ask you: How is your connection? How is your battery life? What percentage of battery life do you have until you need to be plugged-in to the source of all life so that you can be charged and go and do what it is that the source of all life is calling you to do and to be? How is your connection to Jesus?

Well, no matter what percentage of battery life you may have, no matter the technological challenges that you may have, the worshipping community is the right place to begin order to get your battery charged. You have come to the right place in order to be connect to the source of energy, the source of all life. Not only is he found in the vine, but he is found in this place in bread and wine, and once we consume that in which He Is found we become Him in the world to others and for others. So, how is your connection?

I invited you to connect to him, in connecting to Jesus it will take work but the work will produce something great, something that will be fruitful not only for you, but for the kingdom as well. We are called to be good fruit; we are called to be the sweetness of God in this world, but in order to do that we need to be connected. Therefore, connect to God today and keep working to make sure that such a connection is not disconnected from the ultimate source.

# Cathedral of St. John the Baptist's Labyrinth: A Path to Inner Reflection/Global Harmony

Article by Laura Cowan

Walking a labyrinth offers opportunities for inner reflection and spiritual connection. It can be used for meditation, guidance seeking, and creativity enhancement. It helps to release mental or physical tension and reduce stress. Soon after Dean Roger Whalen arrived at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's, he and Sue Cummings, lay minister, formed a committee to explore the concept of an indoor labyrinth.

After work began on improving accessibility within the building, a temporary labyrinth was outlined on the floor of the south transept. Although it was small, it established energy and presence at the Cathedral, and a few people walked it. Also during this time, an outside labyrinth was built in the garden.

Connections with Veriditas (<https://www.veriditas.org/>), a nonprofit organization, led to a partnership with the Legacy Labyrinth Project (LLP) (<https://www.legacylabyrinthproject.org/>). The LLP began in 2013 with an aim to integrate the impact of the labyrinth experience with global peace and healing, bringing together labyrinth builders, supporters, and communities around the globe. The Cathedral now serves as the steward of the 9th labyrinth

in this international partnership. This aligns with the "Strategic Set Sail Ship" "Transforming Discipleship," and progresses our parish goal "to offer an exploration of alternate forms of spiritual contemplation and meditation through the Cathedral at Night Series and the installation of the Labyrinth".

With the light shining in from the Fisherman's Windows in early April, a 7-circuit, Chartres-styled labyrinth was created by master labyrinth builder and designer Lisa Gidlow Moriarty ([www.pathsofpeace.com](http://www.pathsofpeace.com)). Our labyrinth's theme of "Ocean Health" symbolizes a journey toward ecological awareness and renewal. The official dedication of the labyrinth is scheduled for Sunday, September 29th, 2024, with a promise to draw people from near and far to share in the celebration and dedication service.

On May 4th, 2024, the Cathedral invited the community to come and walk the labyrinth. World Labyrinth Day is an annual event sponsored by The Labyrinth Society (TLS) (<https://labyrinthssociety.org/>). Every year, on the first Saturday in May, thousands of people around the globe participate in World Labyrinth Day as a moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience.



People at the cathedral using the finger labyrinths; photo by Laura Cowan



People at the cathedral walking through the labyrinth on the floor; photo by Hugh Donnan

Participants "Walk as One at 1" local time to create a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next. Guided by a spirit of gratitude and peace, visitors began their journey through the labyrinth at the cathedral. All were presented with a sticker or button as a keepsake/reminder of their participation.

The cathedral is

committed to building dynamic labyrinth programming for public and parish alike. This commitment is in keeping with its mission statement: to deliver ministry and outreach that meets people's needs; and to nurture respect for all of God's creation and, as a parish, take an active role in environmental stewardship. Planning is now underway for World

Oceans Day on June 8th, 2024, promising further exploration of the labyrinth's theme.

For more information on upcoming events and the labyrinth experience, visit our website <https://ourcathedral.ca/labyrinth/>. Join us on the labyrinth as we embark on a journey of reflection, connection, and reverence of our world.

## Thank you to two columnists who are leaving Anglican Life

When I wrote a column for the May issue of Anglican Life, I thought that it would be my last one before the summer break, but I didn't know at the time that two of my regular columnists would be stepping back after this June issue, and I need to acknowledge their contributions.

Ford Matchim's column is one that I have had regular feedback about, and it's always been positive. Readers have enjoyed his *Reasonable and Probable Grounds*

*to Believe* column from the beginning, and he's been a total pleasure to work with. I wish him all good things for the future, and am thankful for all that he's done for Anglican Life over the years.

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe is also stepping back from his role as a columnist. From the monthly statistics that I get from our website, I know that his columns are very widely read, and from emails that I've received, I know that they have been very much

appreciated. My thanks to him for all of the thought-provoking columns. As his wife, it feels self-serving to "wish him well," but I know that he'll succeed in whatever the next chapter will be.

Happy summer to all the readers of Anglican Life. I hope that you all enjoyed this issue; it was fun to put together, and it has so many good stories from our Church in NL, and great columns in it too. See you in September!



Emily F. Rowe  
Editor, Anglican Life