



Fruit Trays for Seniors in Grand Falls/Windsor

These photographs show the fruit trays that were put together by the Social Concern/Outreach Committee in Grand Falls/Windsor in January of 2023. This was followed by a lunch. The fruit trays were delivered to seniors who live in retirement homes or who are shut-ins. For more activities from this group, there are more photographs on page 7.
- submitted with photographs by Gloria Robinson



PWRDF Fundraiser at the Cathedral in Corner Brook



Top photo: Winnie Miller and Muriel Randell greeted all who attended the ACW Touton Brunch at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook on March 16th. (Photo: Connie Lamswood)

Middle photo: Effie Humber, Stelman Flynn, Valerie Pretty, and Foster Lamswood served as kitchen staff for this ACW fundraiser for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). (Photo: Connie Lamswood)

Bottom photo: Michelle Joyce, Katie Watton, Sheila Crocker, Deborah Howe, and Irene Grandy served the meal of toutons, sausages, bologna, and baked beans. (Photo: Dean Catherine Short)
- Submitted by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen



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ANGLICAN LIFE in Newfoundland and Labrador is the newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. A co-operative effort of the three Dioceses in Newfoundland and Labrador, it publishes ten issues each year with an independent editorial policy.

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Editor:

Mrs. Emily F. Rowe
3 Carpasian Rd.
St. John's, NL
A1C 3T9
Email: anglicanlifeNL@gmail.com

Advertising Rates and other information may be obtained from:

The Rev'd Fred Marshall
22 Church Hill
St. John's, NL
A1C 3Z9
Phone: (709) 727-4346
Email: fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com

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She's Gone B'ys

The Rt. Rev'd Samuel Rose
Bishop
Anglican East NL

I want to share some statements that I often hear about the Church. Perhaps you, too, have listened to something similar?

"The Church is not what it used to be."

"There's no one going to Church like they used to."

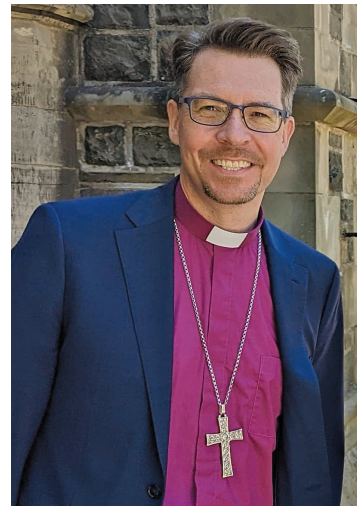
"The Church is dying."

Sound familiar? And it is hard to argue against the truth in each sentiment. Indeed, as a Bishop, I agree that the Church is not what it was, and that fewer people belong to the church community. Some church buildings have closed, and others will end in the future. As the population ages, particular churches will be "last generation" communities with no younger people left.

As the old Newfoundland expression goes, when it comes to the Church, it looks like "She's gone b'ys, she's gone!"

The Church, like any other institution, has seen changes over the years. While some may argue that the Church is dying, it may be more appropriate to say that it is evolving. In the teachings of Jesus, there is a consistent theme of new life and resurrection, which can be applied to the current state of the Church.

Jesus spoke about the concept of new life and resurrection to emphasize the idea of transformation and growth. This idea can be seen in how the Church has adapted to



modern times. While some traditional practices may be fading away, new ways of connecting with people and spreading the message of love and compassion are emerging.

One such way the Church is connecting with people and living the example of Christ's love is the Thrift Store in the Parish of St. Lawrence, Portugal Cove. The leadership of the parish looked at ways that the Church could reach out and serve the community as both human and financial resources were declining.

The St. Lawrence Thrift Store was created to raise funds for large-scale outreach projects. It supports both the parish and the community. Up to 50% of all funds raised go to the general fund. The store raises the church's profile as an active community partner. The community benefits from a local place to send items, a scholarship, and a new place to shop every Saturday. The parish food

bank has also benefited, as the parish can maintain necessary inventory levels to serve those in need. Income from the thrift store has given the parish the luxury to explore new initiatives for the community.

Instead of focusing on the decline of certain aspects of the Church, it may be more helpful to shift the perspective toward the opportunities for renewal and revival. Just as Jesus brought new life to those he encountered, the Church has the potential to rejuvenate itself by embracing change and innovation. This is what the church in St. Lawrence, Portugal Cove, has done and so many other churches are exploring similar ways.

While some parts of being the Church will end, we know, as Christians, that our faith is built on the foundation of the resurrection. Ultimately, the teachings of Jesus remind us that death is not the end but rather a transition to new beginnings. The Church, too, can experience a resurrection of sorts by staying true to its core values while adapting to the needs of a changing world. As long as the message of love, hope, and redemption remains at the centre, the Church will continue to have a meaningful impact on the lives of believers.

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ANGLICAN LIFE



Prayer Quilts for those recovering from addictions



On Sunday March 19th, 2024, during the morning service at Gros Morne Community Church in Rocky Harbour, the Parish of Bonne Bay North Prayer Quilt Group donated 10 Prayer Quilts to The Haven of Rest Men’s Addiction and Recovery Centre located in Deer Lake. During Sunday mornings service, Pastor George Coles shared a presentation on The Haven of Rest. Over \$600 was collected for The Haven as they work toward sustaining a 12-month drug and alcohol rehabilitation residency on the West Coast.
- article and photograph by Dale Decker

Left to right: Dale Decker, Pastor George Coles, Gail Sparkes, Edith Critch, and Cavell Bugden

An Update From The Editor

Emily F. Rowe
Editor, Anglican Life

We’re nearly at the end of another “year” for Anglican Life—only one more paper before the summer break. So here is an update for all of you on how things are going.

We continue to increase our readership after the big “subscription reboot” organized by General Synod in 2019. As of writing this article (in March), we currently have a just a little shy of 3500 subscribers to the print paper, which is still the largest diocesan newspaper outside of Toronto. Whenever we send around a notice about

getting a subscription to Anglican Life, we get responses, so if you know someone who still wants to get the paper, please let them know that they can. We know they’re still out there!

In the most recent month’s statistics, there were 785 visits to our website. That’s a lot of people reading Anglican Life online! 119 of those visits were from Newfoundland and Labrador, but with the website, we are able to reach a much wider audience, with 60% of the visits from within Canada,

almost 30% of the visits from the USA, 3% from the UK, and the rest from the wider world. We were also able to get a Canada Helps donation tab on the website, and have already received money that way, so not only are people reading the paper online, they’re supporting it too.

But there is so much more that we can do. Anglican Life is free “ink” (whether digital or physical) for the Anglican churches in NL. It makes me frustrated to hear that so many parishes, and even the dioceses, are launching programs,



holding anniversary celebrations, and reaching out into their communities, and only a few get sent in for publication. I know that there are lots of Anglicans out there, even members of the clergy, who say, “Nobody reads that anymore!” They dismiss Anglican Life and its place within the Church, but what

could be more important than communications? Our dioceses and parishes cannot afford to have communications departments, but they do have Anglican Life. It is a shame that they don’t make better use of it.

All of that said, things are going very well, and Anglican Life continues to grow, both with print subscribers and with online readers too. To those of you who support Anglican Life, I offer a very heartfelt thank you—we depend on your support, and love hearing your stories.



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Fun and Friendship at St. Mark's Anglican Church

Article and photographs by Cheryl Faseruk

If you hear laughter coming from St. Mark's Church Hall on Logy Bay Road, there is a good chance the Women's Friendship Group is meeting. Initially formed in January 2019 as a way for women with common interests in quilting and sewing to come together, it has grown into a lively, productive, supportive group with a wide variety of activities and projects. Membership has grown from the first meeting of fourteen women to over 65 on the current email list. Typically, 20 to 30 women meet in person weekly, with ages ranging from late 50s to early 90s.

The main purpose of the Women's Friendship Group is, of course, friendship. There is no requirement to knit or sew to attend. Members are encouraged to bring their knitting, embroidery or sewing to work on if they choose, but many come to sit, chat, and enjoy each other's company. Some play cards or board games. Others bring projects which require advice or help to finish. The knitting, quilting, and sewing expertise within the group is remarkable! There is always someone

willing to show you how to turn the heel of a sock or sew the binding on a quilt. A favourite activity is "Show and Tell," when members share unusual or interesting crafts or handiwork they are working on or have received as a gift. As well guest speakers have been invited to present to the group on topics as varied as flower arranging and protecting yourself from phone and online scams.

Outreach is hugely important. Many of the members are avid knitters and sewers, and the Women's Friendship Group has given a focus and a purpose to their hobbies. Although there is never any obligation to participate, the group has made a real difference to the community with some ongoing projects. Our knitters provide children's hats and mittens to the students at East Point Elementary School each winter, coordinated through the school guidance counsellor. They also provide cozy prayer shawls to the Cancer Clinic, finger puppets to the Janeway Child Health Centre Blood Collection Lab, and socks to the Gathering Place.

Our sewers have crafted sweet flannelette hearts for the Janeway NICU to be used in a Mom & Baby Scent Program with premature babies, and are also sewing new incubator covers. Arm support pillows were sewn in a group assembly line for breast cancer patients. Some of the quilters in the group are working on children's comfort quilts to be used by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary during traumatic situations. When a Baby Clothes Lending Library started in St. John's, the coordinators asked the Women's Friendship Group to make 60 drawstring bags to store the donated baby clothing. Members who are not able to attend meetings regularly in person are still able to feel a connection to the Friendship Group and a sense of contribution by completing some of these projects at home.

The Women's Friendship Group also provides the Single Parent Association of Newfoundland & Labrador (SPAN) with "Birthday Cake Kits". These packages contain everything a parent needs to make a



The Women's Friendship Group enjoying a summer coffee on the deck of the Pantry Cafe

birthday cake for their child—cake mix, a can of soda, frosting, candles, balloons, and birthday napkins. The directions for making a cake with a can of soda and a cake mix (no oil or eggs required!) are included. This beautiful, colourful project is coordinated through the SPAN food bank staff who have told us that parents often cry when they are given everything they need to provide a cake for their

child's birthday!

The Women's Friendship Group acts as a ready resource and support for our rector, The Venerable Amanda Taylor. She adds, "Whenever I hear of a family in need, or an organization looking for support, I know that all I have to do is speak to the ladies! Without hesitation, if they can do it at all, it is done."

Continued on page 5

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Flanellette hearts sewn for the Janeway NICU



Birthday cake kits provided for the Single Parent Association of Newfoundland

Not only are they a support to the community, they are also a support to one another. The friendships that have been forged and the bonds that have been formed are truly remarkable. No matter what I may be doing in the office, if I am in the building on Wednesday afternoons, the laughter draws me to the hall!"

From September until June, the group meets in St. Mark's Church Hall every Wednesday afternoon. If the church hall is not available, and

through the summertime, outings are planned—garden parties, picnics, coffee on the deck of the Pantry Café, or afternoon tea at the Newfoundland Chocolate Company. The group has gone on tours of Government House and the Botanical Gardens, visited the Quidi Vidi Village Artisan Studios, and had lunch at the Legion. We also go to the movies together when something appealing is playing. Friends, spouses, and neighbours are always welcome to come along on

any outing.

The weekly meetings are very informal, and the unstructured format seems to be one of the attractive features of the group and a strong reason for its success. Women may drop in for a few minutes or leave early if they have other commitments that day. There is no Executive, no dues, no minutes are taken and there are no scheduled coffee duties. If you want a cup of tea, you make your own!

Two members currently volunteer to arrange guest

speakers, send emails, or book outings as needed. Any member can suggest a project, but there is never any obligation to participate.

The weekly format also means that people stay closely connected, and friendships are given a chance to build. As opposed to monthly meetings, little time is missed if illness or poor weather prevents attendance. Those who are unable to attend in person stay in touch, and are updated regarding

ongoing projects, through regular emails. This was especially important through the pandemic, when emails, often with attached pictures of members' projects, helped keep people connected and cheered them up during a lonely time. Even members who have moved out of the province enjoy staying in touch with the group through the email connection. The fun and friendship of the St. Mark's Women's Friendship Group has been an unqualified success.

Celebrating Pentecost and The Love In My Red Stole

The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

I love Pentecost Sunday. I love the red of the vestments, altar cloths and hangings, the festive atmosphere, the balloons, the decorations, the cake. I also love my red stole.

Of course, it's about so much more than those outward trappings. It also has some of the most exciting and dramatic stories in scripture. This year, we get the story of the dry bones from Ezekiel to go along with the story from Acts. Stories of wind and the rattling of bones coming together with the vivid image of flesh and sinews appearing on them and eventually the spirit, enlivening them. Then in Acts, stories of wind and fire and people speaking in different languages but yet understanding each other.

And yet, it's a celebration about more than life being breathed into dispirited people—

the people in the time of Ezekiel and the people in Acts.

At the same time as we know that it's more, there is no way to really describe what that "more" is when it comes to the Spirit. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes." John 3:8.

What I understand from this is that we can't control the Spirit but what I know is that we can feel it. Although that feeling may not come in ways that we expect. I remember years ago, being in Vancouver for Pentecost Sunday and attending a charismatic Anglican Church. I went expecting great things, maybe even a powerful outpouring of the Spirit that would be life altering. Whatever I expected, it didn't happen. I often smile when I



remember that. I smile because I was confusing the power of the Spirit with outward manifestations, with something tangible. When the most powerful manifestations of the Spirit that I have experienced have been those that were almost imperceptible at the time. A moment of peace when life is hectic and crazy. A letting go of hurts in a way that brings peace—at least for a few minutes. Experiencing the love of family and friends. Being with my

grandchildren. In other words, moments when I experience love.

The red stole I wear at Pentecost was made for me by a friend. The various shades and hues of red in it are beautiful. It is not symmetrical and it is reversible, with both sides different. I know that she made it like that because she felt it reflected me in some way. I am not entirely certain how it is she sees me, except that I know the stole was made with love, as were the other stoles that she made me in the various liturgical colours of the church year. It is a visible reminder to me of love.

The very real spirit of love is what Jesus promises us. Pentecost reminds us of the power of love in our lives and that is worth celebrating!

Beyond Buzzwords: Following Jesus Rather Than Saving Ourselves

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

Does it seem like every so often, the Church finds a new buzzword to talk vaguely about? Once upon a time, it was “stewardship,” or “fresh expressions,” then “missional” or just “mission.” All of these are good ideas, but when we talk about them only vaguely, they lose their meaning and wind up doing more harm than good.

“Mission” comes to mean whatever you want it to. Rather than rediscovering what the Church is called to be, people engage in mental gymnastics to rebrand what they were already doing as a “missional project.” Others get cynical and assume that this latest trend will soon be replaced with some new flavour of the month. We wear out traditional words and then struggle to find new ways of talking about timeless concepts. And we’re getting ready to do the same thing with “discipleship.”

The idea of discipleship is based on learning,

because a disciple is simply someone who learns. There are elaborate discipleship programs to teach the basics of Christianity to new converts or to those who are rediscovering their faith. However, these people can sometimes seem few and far between. So we tend to focus on those we already have. We offer whatever program is currently in vogue as a small group experience for existing parishioners.

Some people have never learned anything new or questioned their beliefs since they were confirmed, and have never grown beyond a very simple, childish faith. Members of small groups like these usually grow and mature in their faith. But these programs are often inward-focused, targeted towards the people that are already part of our faith communities. They’re based on the assumption that if people learn enough about Christianity, they’ll become better disciples. And the unspoken expectation is that *this will*



save our dying institutions.

But that’s not at all the way that Jesus made disciples. Watch what he does in the first chapters of Mark’s gospel. After his baptism and temptation in the wilderness, he starts roaming Galilee, announcing that “the Kingdom of God has come near.” He invites fishermen like James and John, Peter and Andrew to follow him, but he doesn’t spend a lot of time directly teaching them (and they usually misunderstand what he *does* tell them).

In fact, most of what those first disciples do is follow and watch Jesus. Eventually he tells them the parable of the sower, and I always imagine it’s an object lesson inspired by something they’ve seen in



their travels. “Look at that guy!” he says. “See how he’s scattering handfuls of seed everywhere? Do you see how much of it will never grow, but what does grow will make it all worthwhile? *That’s* what the kingdom of God is like!”

Christian discipleship is not just about learning things you can find in a book. It’s about learning to see things from the perspective of the kingdom of God, and this is something that we can only learn by doing. What do we see God doing in the world around us? Don’t forget that God is not just limited to working within the church, whether ours or anyone else’s. What can the natural world tell us about God’s love and care

for us? If you’re not sure, consider the lilies of the field or the birds of the air.

When Jesus tells us to make disciples of all nations, he is not necessarily expecting us to make converts. He’s expecting us to invite others to notice how a new and better world is already breaking into our own. He’s expecting us to see where we have missed the kingdom altogether and repent and return to the ways that give life instead of our own self-centred focus. Discipleship might not save an institution or a parish—that ship may have already sailed—but it is an invitation to become more faithful followers of Jesus, and to share what we have found with others.

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ANGLICAN LIFE Newfoundland&Labrador

A Recap of The Outreach Efforts by Our Social Concern Group, Grand Falls/Windsor

Submitted with photographs by Gloria Robinson



A movie with snacks for seniors, hosted in March, 2023



In May, 2023, items donated by members of our church family were collected, sorted and donated to the Central Newfoundland Hospital Gift Shop Auxiliary.



In December of 2023, the Social Concern and Outreach Group hosted a senior social for over 70 senior citizens. The event started with a Eucharist, and was followed by soup, sandwiches, tea, coffee, and cookies. This was then followed by entertainment with music and singing. The evening ended with a few games of Bingo. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.



The Father's Love

Melanie Clarke
Columnist

I grew up with three brothers. As the only girl, I naturally grew up as a daddy's girl. My mother always said, "If you are looking for Melanie, see where her father is, and she won't be far behind!" My mom was correct: wherever dad went, I went. I went with him to the supermarket, the church, the hospital, the garage. If he visited the old people, I was there. If he went to the wharf, I was there. If he went for a walk...I was trailing behind him.

One of dad's favourite activities, was for me to back comb his hair. He would sit on the floor and for hours I played with his hair. I combed it from side to side and teased it; by the time I finished playing, dad's hair was a mess and ultimately, he would have to go wash it before he looked presentable! During dad's hair session, he was required to hold my dolls and change their clothes so that the dolls were ready for the day. Dad patiently sat and tried to dress the dolls to make me happy, all the while I chatted away about my friends,

and school, and Sunday school, and anything I could think of. This was a weekly activity until I became old enough that dolls were no longer my main interest.

My main focus after dolls became public speaking. I would write speeches, and dad would help me to tidy up what I was saying to make sure I was saying what I wanted to say. My hairdresser phase had become my writing stage, and dad patiently sat with me week after week, as I wrote and re-wrote my speeches. No matter how busy dad was, he always had time to sit with me and help me with whatever new project I had become obsessed with! I always knew when I had been successful with whatever I was doing, because dad would look at me and give me this certain smile; when I received that smile, I knew the project was completed and I had his approval.

During all this time with my father, he never had to tell me I was doing a good job. He never lost patience with me when I wanted to start over again.

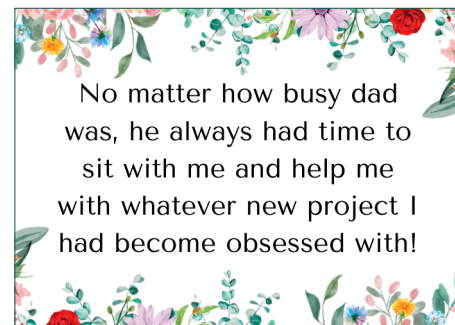


He never criticized me when I wasn't focused and being silly. He never discouraged me from trying new things. He supported me throughout all my phases of growing up, allowing me to find my own way with his gentle guidance.

My dad even loved me when I wasn't being my best! He gently scolded me when my behaviour was bad, yet it was always done with love. The worst thing that could happen to me growing up was for dad to say he was disappointed in me. I never wanted to disappoint my dad.

So why am I telling you all this about growing up with my dad?

I want you all to know, that Our Father in Heaven loves each and every one of us just as much



as my dad loved me! Our Father in Heaven is patient and kind and loving. He wants the best for each and every one of us! He knows when we are not being our best selves and yet, he still loves us. God sent his son, Jesus Christ, to prove to us how much he loves us. Jesus came to the world so we would *know* God's love for us. Our Father is with us every single day of our lives and he *never* leaves us. God gently guides us through life, but we make our own choices, rightly or wrongly. *And* he never leaves us or abandons us or stops loving us. The cross assures us that God will always love us, and Jesus' sacrifice for us is a reminder of that love!

God bless you all!

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New Lay Minister and Eucharistic Assistant in Grand Bank

On the fifth Sunday in Lent, March 17th, 2024, the parish of Grand Bank was blessed to witness the commissioning of Elaine Rose as a Licensed Lay Minister and Eucharistic Assistant in our parish and diocese. God bless you and your ministry, Elaine!

Photos (left to right): Elaine Rose and her mother, Olive Price; Elaine's mother placing the LLM scarf on her (standing by are her presenters); the newly Licensed Lay Minister, Elaine Rose, and the rector, The Rev'd Charlie Cox;

- article and photographs submitted by The Rev'd Charlie Cox

Reasonable and Probable Grounds to Believe

Practical theology

Ford Matchim
Columnist

The Roman emperors Constantine, and (later) Theodosius, arranged meetings of various Church leaders. It was during this period the Nicene canons arose at Nicaea in 325, followed by the Council of Constantinople in 381. The adherence to creeds and sacramental practices dominated the Christian liturgy, and to obey God meant to obey the Church rules and the edicts of the Church hierarchy. What impact "reason" had on theology at this point in time is a good question. One could argue any reasoning done was heavily political and bureaucratic.

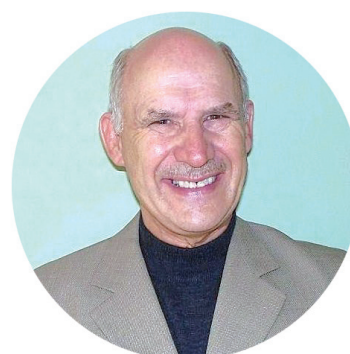
The spread of monasticism, inspired by St. Antony of Egypt (c.251-356), had a strong impact on the Church. The monks were men who left their worldly routine to seek God in the silence and seclusion of the desert. Through thinking and reasoning, they were free to worship God directly. By the year 390, some fifty thousand monks would congregate to celebrate Easter. Monasticism with its practices of prayer, and ponderance in solitude with God, had popular appeal and a strong

influence on the development of the Christian Church.

The efforts of reformers who objected to the doctrines, rituals, leadership, and ecclesiastical structure of the Church in Rome, especially Martin Luther's publications in 1517, led to the creation of new national Protestant churches. And within these reforms there was to be a marked separation of the heavenly and earthly kingdoms, and a new hierarchy of authorities would commence with scripture, followed with conscience, reason, and tradition. And that henceforth, neither kings nor popes were to stipulate what people should or should not believe

The highest scriptural authority for Christians comes from the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. The Bible is seen as evidence, witness, and testimony that represents our theological underpinnings, and down through the ages Christians have learned theology from the Bible, and from the traditions and experiences of the Church.

Tradition is a preserving power, and it aids us in formulating



truths of the past that help us make decisions for the future. However, human interpretation is always on the march, and we are continually required to update our levels of thinking and appreciation as it pertains to the past. God—the Spirit of God—is constantly responding to our changing circumstances.

What is involved in believing, and how do religious beliefs relate to other parts of our life? In particular, what do we experience and feel, what do we do, and who are we? Honest answers to such questions require, amongst other things, activation of our humility, being humble, being candid, and being sincere. We know the importance of being able to listen to others, and often contemplative

listening is a necessary ingredient to a fuller understanding. Sometimes it's revealing too to listen to our own answers and examine their honesty.

Collectively as Christians, we make up a considerable mix—an overlapping of fundamentalists, conservatives, liberals, and so on. Faith includes goodwill, and ideally the pursuit of an acceptable balance between those Church organizations steeped in rigidity of practices, and those at the other end of the spectrum where freedom reigns. We are so quick and efficient in accenting our differences but not so much on celebrating the many practices we already have in common.

We ponder the pleasant thought, "Wouldn't it be nice if we could all get along together?" It's easier said than done, for sure! But we have a responsibility to be open, supportive, and embracing to people of other churches, and we should continue to stretch our own levels of tolerance and acceptance. "...all things are possible with God."

Gaza and West Bank

PWRDF joins multinational alliance of Anglican organizations in joint project

Article by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen
PWRDF Rep for Western Newfoundland

Within days of the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel and the Israeli retaliatory attacks, PWRDF issued an emergency appeal for Gaza. A relief grant of \$30,000 was immediately sent to long-standing partner, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. These monies were used to hire much-needed staff, and to buy an increased supply of fuel and medical supplies.

As they planned for longer-term support in the region, the Diocese of Jerusalem wrote a proposal for a new six-month project, scheduled to run from February 1st, 2024, to July 31st, 2024. This project was designed in consultation with Anglican Alliance, a partnership of Anglican humanitarian and development agencies, including the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

According to former PWRDF Communications and Marketing Officer Jacqueline Tucci, "Eight agencies from five countries (Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Canada), collaborated in support of this proposal. This relieves the Diocese of Jerusalem of needing to provide individual proposals and reports to each funding agency" at an already challenging time.

Key objectives of the project include support for:

- quality inpatient and outpatient health services at the Diocese of Jerusalem Health Institutions in the West Bank for the most vulnerable people directly affected

- quality education at the Diocese of Jerusalem Education Institutions in the West Bank, especially for children
- medical interventions (inpatient and outpatient) at the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital for the wounded and traumatized in Gaza

The Diocese of Jerusalem Institutions that will benefit from this project include: Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza, Saint Luke's Hospital in Nablus, and Penmen Clinic in Jenin (Zababdeh village). Also benefitting are students at Christian National Kindergarten in Nablus and Saint George's School in East Jerusalem. This joint initiative will directly support 2,608 people, and benefit an additional 14,512 indirectly: 17,120 in total.

PWRDF's Humanitarian Response Coordinator, Naba Gurung, says that whatever the cause of a disaster, the goal is always to save lives and to reduce suffering of the most vulnerable. That becomes complicated when there are warring factions, so aid agencies like PWRDF need to communicate with local partners as situations change, and be flexible and adaptable. Last week's plan often doesn't work this week. However, aid agencies may ultimately have to help broker peace, or at least, accommodation, before they can deliver aid. PWRDF has offices only in Toronto, so it is often the sacrifices and commitment of local partners that make a crucial difference.

How you can help: Please keep



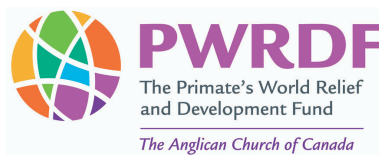
Dr. Suhaila Tarazi, director of the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital, amidst the destruction; photo by The Diocese of Jerusalem

the people affected by the war in your prayers. You can donate to PWRDF's Gaza and West Bank Emergency Appeal online (<https://pwrdf.org/>), by phone at 416-822-9083 (or leave a message toll-free

at 1-866-308-7973 for PWRDF staff to call you), or by mail. Send your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4Y 3G2. Please indicate "Gaza" in the memo field.

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Above: Bessie Short, Claudine Matthews, and Betty Keeping, all of whom celebrated birthdays in March.

A wake-a-thon for St. Paddy's Day in Port aux Basques

On March 15th, the ACW Ladies of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques held a wake-a-thon. The theme for the evening was "St. Paddy's Day." The evening began with a potluck supper, followed by a fun filled evening of games. The total raised for our ACW wake-a-thon was \$5245. A heartfelt thank you to all who sponsored our ladies. -article and photographs by Lisa Brown

How Can We Know God?

The Rev'd Michael Li
Columnist

There is no empirical evidence showing that God exists. Science alone cannot prove or disprove the existence of God. But, there are at least four places where God has revealed himself to us to tell us who he is.

First, look to creation. Life does not appear out of nothing from non-life. The universe exists. Who created the universe? The universe had a beginning. God is revealed in nature. Nature is not God, but God is the Creator of nature and reveals himself through nature.

Psalms 19: 1 tells us: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Nature shows the greatness of God. The more we learn about the universe, the more we can see the work of God.

Romans 1: 20 also tells us that a basic understanding of God can be gained from the natural world. We call this general revelation. This points us to God as Creator. Have you considered the following: twenty-nine percent of

earth's surface is covered by land while seventy-one percent by water? If the percentages were reversed, we would burn up and die. The planet earth rotates at about 1,038 miles per hour. If we rotated at 100 miles per hour, our days and nights would be ten times longer. It would be impossible for humans to live like that.

Second, look into our own conscience. Humans have "moral awareness" or "moral consciousness." The conscience reacts when one's actions, thoughts, and words conform to, or are contrary to, a standard of right and wrong. Romans 2: 15 tells us: "since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them." In other words, our own hearts tell us there is a God whose law is written on our conscience, and we have broken that law and we know it.

Third, look to the Bible.

God exists because the Bible tells us that God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1: 1). We can know God through the revelation he has given us in the Bible. God has told us many things about himself, about humans, and about the universe that he has made.

Jesus tells his disciples in the upper room that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth (John 16: 13a). Because of the Spirit's work through the disciples, we have his record: the New Testament. We should study the New Testament to know Jesus better. Jesus reveals who God is (Hebrews 1: 3a).

Jesus and his followers pointed us to the Jewish Scriptures as a reliable revelation of who God is. Modern followers of Jesus believe that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament (Matthew 5:17). The Bible (Old and New Testament) is about Jesus and he is its fulfillment in all ways.

Fourth, look to Jesus. In John 8: 19b Jesus said: "If you knew me, you would know my Father



also." You would know who God is. Why? Because Jesus said in John 10: 30, "I and the Father are one." It was a bold statement. The Father and Jesus are united in will and purpose.

Was Jesus telling the truth? We can know that Jesus was telling the truth by getting to know him. We can read the four accounts of his life and teachings called the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Jesus was with God in the beginning (John 1: 1). In Jesus we see what God is like.

How can we know God? Creation, conscience, the Bible, and Jesus all point us to God. God is a Spirit. He is in a different dimension. He is in a different realm of reality. It is not enough to know

only the Creator. We must know God as our Lord and Saviour. Knowing God is only the beginning of the Christian life. It is a lifelong pursuit.

God is God; we are not God. We will never become God. Because God is infinite and we are finite, we can never arrive at a complete understanding of God. We will never know all things about God. The Christian life is a journey. It is one in which we continually seek to know God in deeper ways. We walk through life with God. We talk to God. We worship God. We listen to God speaking through the Bible. We should be growing in our knowledge of God through our entire lives. God lives among us and within us. Let us thank God for our special relationship with him!

For those who would like to know more about God, please read Professor Millard J. Erickson's book called God the Father Almighty, Baker Books, 1998.

News From Port Saunders

Organist recognized for her years of commitment



The congregation of St. John the Divine Anglican Church in Port Saunders recognized Naomi Patey for her dedication as organist for over 50 years. In appreciation for being a long time dedicated organist, the church had a photo blanket made with pictures of Naomi at church functions and with her family. It was presented to her during a service in December 2022. Her talent with the organ, keyboard, and occasionally on guitar, were a given every Sunday. If she wasn't there everyone asked, "Where is Naomi?" She has been an integral part of the church, its services, and committees since a young woman. As well, she was often in demand to play at funerals throughout the parish. Unfortunately her fingers aren't as agile as they once were, and Naomi started to find it difficult to play. She surely is missed at the keyboard. Rev'd Smith fills in now playing her omnichord. Today, Naomi is an active resident of the Northern Retirement Home in Port Saunders and still attends church when she can.
-article and photograph by Denise White

Beautiful gifts for St. John the Divine Church



Tabernacle given in memory of David Pitman



Members of David Pitman's family on hand for the presentation

Many beautiful items were recently given to the Anglican Church in Port Saunders. It was noticed that the church could use a tabernacle and new communion robes. After an inquiry from a family who wished to make a gift, and the need was identified by the rector, the gifts were purchased and generously given.

The niece of one of the church members who had recently passed away asked what his family could give to the church in his memory. She quickly went about asking her cousins to give a contributions to purchase the tabernacle. They eagerly collected enough funds to purchase a simple yet elegant piece that coincidentally matches the church's décor. It's been said, "Uncle Dave would love it."

Rev'd Marie Smith saw the need for new communion vestments, and generously purchased a full set of colourful communion vestments, and an additional white set, out of funds she was given on the occasion of her ordination to the priesthood September 18th, 2021. They were dedicated for clergy use in the parish.

Both were presented on November 5th, 2023. The tabernacle was presented by the family members of David Pittman, who passed away in June of 2022. Rev'd Marie presented the set of vestments for use in the Parish of Port Saunders.
-article and photographs by Denise White



Rev'd Marie displaying her gifts



Our Journey Through Lent 2024

St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith
Photographs by Pauline Noel

Our journey through Lent has been a fulfilling trip, while sharing some necessary intermittent diversion along the way. On Shrove Tuesday, the eve of Ash Wednesday, our ACW team budgeted adequate time to prepare and serve a delicious baked beans, sausage, and pancake supper. This offered us a time of welcome fellowship with other neighbouring parishes just hours ahead of a major snow storm which curtailed the sermon of ashes scheduled at church the next day. But thanks to present technology, Canon Jotie did an online version from his home to ours.

Then after three days of battling through mountains of snow,

Saturday looked hopeful to squeeze in the ACW Quiet Day. We received guests from nearby churches, and together enjoyed lunch and welcomed the reprieve. President Betty delivered an interesting presentation with the theme, "Shaped by love."

On March 1st, our church hosted the annual World Day of Prayer service. The theme, "I beg you...bear with one another in love," was written by a group of Ecumenical Christian Palestinian Women, whose country was represented this year.

On Sunday, March 19th, we again had the distinct privilege to welcome members of the CLB, Upper Gullies company, to our church service.

It was a special treat to witness young girls actively involved in the brigade as well. Canon Jotie displayed his special gifts as he approached conversation in a dual capacity by welcoming some familiarity on the physical merits of the battalion.

With the intermission of diversion in the church during Lent acknowledged, focus reverted to the midweek Lenten observance, each Wednesday, for five weeks. This was built around a series of prayers of restoration in Christ through the "Discipline of Reckless Prayer."

Random House dictionary defines the word "reckless" as: "disregarding the consequences of danger,

or being rash." In my initial response to the approach, I didn't feel that it was an accurate synonym for anything associated with prayer. But when once I grasped the concept of venturing outside the realm of automatic approved form of prayer, to search, hear, grasp, and especially concentrate on one's own, even if just for the 40 days, it broadened my parameters in a positive and personal way.

1. Reckless prayer through daily devotion.
2. Reckless prayer through reading the Bible.
3. Reckless prayer through the Jesus prayer.
4. Reckless prayer through breathing.
5. Reckless prayer through silence.



A particularly Reckless thank you to Canon Jotie for creating a special and memorable Lenten Experience 2024.

"In whom we have boldness And access with confidence Through faith in him." -Ephesians 3:12.

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Send it all to us by email at: anglicanlifenl@gmail.com

ANGLICAN LIFE

Home Again Furniture Bank: Spotlight on Archdeacon Charlene Taylor

Article by Heather Kennerly
Photo by Home Again

Home Again Furniture Bank hosted their fifth annual Heads Without Beds Fundraiser on March 22nd—an event when they invite community members to give up their bed for one night to raise awareness and funds for those who are living without furniture in the Northeast Avalon Region. This year they shone a spotlight on participants who are making a big impact and difference in their community. One such participant is the Executive Officer of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor. Here is her story.

Archdeacon Charlene Taylor has known about and supported Home Again Furniture Bank since its inception thanks to her lifelong work with the Anglican Church. As an Archdeacon and former parish priest, her time is spent serving the community, giving support to her parishioners, and guiding people in their faith journey. Through this work she has seen first-hand why Home Again is essential for those in our communities.

“Through my parish work I often see different levels of furniture poverty. People have a roof over their head but they don’t truly have a home. Without

the necessary furniture to fill it, a table to sit and have a meal around, or a bed to dream in, it’s just four walls. Home Again changes that.” said Charlene.

In Charlene’s work with the Anglican Church she has focused much of her time on improving the well-being of community members and breaking the cycle of poverty. She is aware that too often people don’t associate those who are already in stable housing as being impoverished, but one glance at a nearly empty apartment or home and Charlene can attest to just how wrong those assumptions can be.

“The Anglican Church is one of the largest referral agents for Home Again, as all of our local parishes are a safe haven for those who are experiencing furniture poverty or need help. Though we see people in some of their hardest moments, we also get to see the amazing impact of receiving furniture and the transformation it has.” said Charlene.

Home Again’s furniture recipients often share just how life-changing furniture can be in not only giving them the comfort and dignity they deserve, but also the impact it has on their physical, mental and

emotional health.

“When I was living without furniture I wasn’t passionate about anything anymore, I looked around and said ‘This is the state I am going to be in forever.’ Now I am out working, I am volunteering, I exercise much more, I have animals.” said one furniture recipient.

Since Charlene experienced first-hand how Home Again was supporting our neighbours in need, it was a very simple decision for her to be a part of the Heads Without Beds fundraiser. So simple in fact she also participated in the original ‘Clergy on the Floor’ fundraiser, which was the catalyst for the expansion into the community edition of Heads Without Beds.

“I have fond memories of ‘Clergy on the Floor’, the feeling of community as the local Anglican Clergy joined together to support one another and the mission of Home Again. We laughed, had fellowship and ended up raising over \$5,000 for those who were living without furniture.” said Charlene.

Now Charlene continues to support Home Again by joining Heads Without Beds each year with her colleagues. This year, all of them slept at their office following the



fun event night.

“We’re excited to gather as a whole team and support Heads Without Beds again. Even though we are giving up our bed for the night, we’ll make the most of it and have a great time. We even plan on making breakfast together in the morning.” said Charlene.

For Charlene, the opportunity to impact hundreds of lives by fundraising and simply sleeping without her bed for one night is something she is happy to do.

“Each year we have such wonderful supporters. We never set a team goal because we just hope for people to have generous hearts and to give what they can to support their neighbours. We’ve been

successful in raising funds in the past and hope to continue that this year and beyond.” said Charlene.

The Anglican East NL team was in fact very successful at raising funds this year, with over \$4,000 being raised and donated back to Home Again they were the top team fundraiser!

Though this fundraiser for Home Again Furniture Bank has now closed, they still need your support in order to continue delivering free furniture to those who need it most.

Visit: homeagainfb.ca to see how you can get involved or become a sustaining monthly supporter by joining their community of Dreamers.

Heads Without Beds 2024



On March 22nd, 80 people gathered and joined Home Again to help celebrate all the amazing work done to support our neighbours who are sleeping on the floor and living without essential furniture. Fundraising and the amazing support of donors and our sponsors raised over \$48,000! This will directly impact families, seniors, new Canadians, and other members of our community who are waiting for their free furniture delivery.

-photographs by Ritche Perez



Making palm crosses: Claire Montrose, Alex Skinner, Natasha Nicolle, and Rev'd Barbara Boone



The group getting ready to watch the movie at the Heads Without Beds event



Sleeping bags on the floor, all ready for the night

Anglican youth helping others

On March 22nd, eight members of our Youth Group, along with their three leaders, slept without beds to raise money for the “Heads Without Beds” campaign. This annual event supports the Home Again Furniture Bank, an initiative of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Donations from family, friends, and parishioners helped the group collect a total of \$1675 to bring beds and furniture to people in need.

Youth participants represented three parishes in the Mount Pearl / St John’s area: the Parish of the Good Shepherd, the Parish of the Ascension, and the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

In preparation for the event, youth participated in a reality check activity during a regular youth group meeting, in which they attempted to budget for a month using a range of incomes. This helped raise awareness of the importance of reaching out

to struggling neighbours—loving our neighbours as ourselves.

During the “Heads Without Beds” event, some slept on the floor in the hall at the Good Shepherd, some slept on the floor in their own homes, and some spent the night in another facility outside of their homes. All left with an increased appreciation of the privileges they have been blessed with!

-article submitted with photographs by The Rev'd Barbara Boone



Back row: Michael Collins, and Natasha Nicolle
Front row: Paige Newell, Donna Ronan, Imani Gordon, Paris Somers-Gordon, Rev'd Barbara Boone, and Alex Skinner. Missing: Jeremy Newell, and Claire Montrose

World Day of Prayer in Corner Brook

Article and photos by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen

On Friday, March 1st, about 100 people gathered at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook for the ecumenical 2024 World Day of Prayer, with a liturgy prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine.

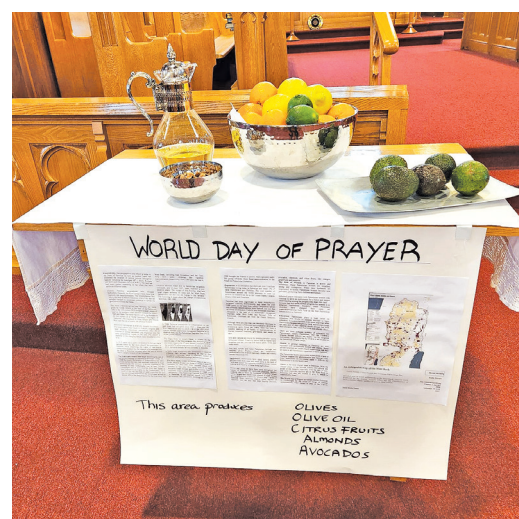
Participants heard about the faith journeys of three Palestinian Christians from three generations: Eleanor, whose grandfather established St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church in the Holy Land in the early 19th century; Lina, whose aunt, a Palestinian Christian Al Jazeera journalist, had been killed May 11, 2022; and, Sara, who was raised in Jerusalem and became the first woman ordained as a Lutheran pastor.

As they related their faith journeys, each woman shared what it means to be a Palestinian Christian. Eleanor related how her Arabic teacher encouraged her as an 11-year-old to run errands for humanitarian work. This became the foundation for a lifetime of humanitarian and development work for all people, regardless of religion, ethnicity, gender, status

or need. Lina spoke of her Aunt Shireen’s commitment to telling the stories of both Muslims and Christians and also to campaigning for all to have access to their holy sites. Sara talked of her grandparents growing up in Jaffa alongside Christians, Muslims and Jews before the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948. All three were affected by the loss of their homeland in 1948, yet persisted in showing love and offering hope to all.

As he began his reflection, Bishop John Organ stated that the Jerusalem cross he was wearing has a dove on it, as Palestinian Christians, and Anglican Palestinians/Israeli Arab Anglicans in particular, value and ensure they gather in Jerusalem on Pentecost, as Arabs are listed as being present at the First Pentecost (Acts 2:11)

Having spent three years as the Bishop’s Chaplain in Jerusalem (2012-2015), Bishop John reminded listeners how complex the situation in the Holy Land is when he said, “If you spend one



week in the Holy Land, you can write a book. If you spend a month in the Holy Land, you can write an article. If you stay longer, you learn to be silent.”

To shed light on this situation, Bishop John used the analogy of two sons, loved equally by their parents, at odds with each other, yet trying to live together in the same house. Gradually, one side takes more of the house and outsiders support one side or the other. And when some give up on peace, and resort to violence,



everyone on their side is labelled a terrorist. Yet others, like the three Palestinian Christian women whose stories were told, continue to work for peace for all.

The prayer that opened this gathering asks God to *walk with us as we journey through the land where you lived and taught, to open our eyes to see the present suffering of the inhabitants of this land, and, to grant us the strength and courage to act and pray with all who suffer around the world.* May we live that prayer.

ANGLICAN LIFE



NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Starting off as The Diocesan Magazine in 1889, and then becoming The Newfoundland Churchman after 1959, what we now know as Anglican Life has been around for 134 years. Although it has gone through many changes, one thing that hasn't changed is its ability to bring Anglicans together in our province and spread the teachings of Jesus Christ. We ask your help to keep our ministry going strong.



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