

ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

February, 2018

St Alban's in Grand Bank Supports the Gathering Place in St. John's

Article and photograph
by Carl Rose

St. Alban's ACW of Grand Bank, with the help of the congregation, collected warm clothing such as coats, hoodies, sweaters, boots, caps, gloves, mittens, and personal items for the clients of the Gathering

Place in St. John's.

ACW president Ruby Alcock said it was a very successful project with three suitcases and 12 boxes delivered to the Gathering Place.

Alcock explained that

the Gathering Place in St. John's provides services to the homeless or those living in less than desirable housing conditions—people who are unemployed and who do not have adequate social supports in their

lives.

"Our ACW realized these people need our help," she said. "Members of the congregation responded in a big way. We well surpassed our expectations."

She added, "They were very appreciative of our kindness. Many people less fortunate than ourselves will be a little warmer this winter because of this gesture."



Sunday School Children Contribute to World of Gifts, PWRDF

Submitted with photographs by
The Rev'd Hannah Dicks

St. George's Sunday school children from Gambo collected coins in a jar for two months, and raised \$471.20 for their Christmas Outreach Project, to give to World of Gifts, sponsored by the Primates World Relief and Development Fund. They were able to give two sets of 40 chickens for \$80.00, which will supply eggs and meat to needy families; \$150.00 for 5 goats, which will provide

milk; \$60.00 for 30 ducks; \$60.00 to provide 2-20kg bags of seeds, to produce nutritious food for families; and \$100.00 to help provide mosquito nets to protect vulnerable people from malaria and other mosquito-carried diseases. A big thank you to our young people for actively becoming involved to help give to those in need in our world.



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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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Celebrating Candlemas

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Geoff Peddle
Bishop
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

*If Candlemas Day be sunny
and bright,
Winter again will show its
might.
If Candlemas Day be
cloudy and grey,
Winter soon will pass
away.*

*On Candlemas Day, throw
your candles away, and
eat your supper by the
light of the day.*

*If Candlemas Day is bright
and clear,
There'll be two winters in
the year.*

February 2nd is Candlemas Day. Those of us who grew up in a different age may remember one of the rhymes quoted above. Candlemas Day, coming as it did in early February, halfway through winter, was a time for many whose lives and fortunes were tied closely to the land and the sea to take stock of their food supplies for themselves and their animals. A more modern tradition equates Candlemas with Groundhog Day (Wiarton Willie) and it was a time when the interplay between light and shadow figured prominently. For Christians, the roots of Candlemas lie in the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. In the early days of Christianity this feast was called "the feast of the meeting" for it commemorated the meeting of the infant Jesus with Simeon and Anna in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2:22-40) when the baby was recognized by the elderly Simeon and Anna as the true

Son of God, given by God to all humanity to redeem them from sin and death. Simeon's words in the Book of Common Prayer are called the Nunc Dimittis, or the Song of Simeon:

*Lord, now lettest thou
thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.*

*For mine eyes have seen
thy salvation,*

*Which thou hast
prepared before the face of
all people;*

*To be a light to lighten
the Gentiles and to be the
glory of thy people Israel.*

By the Fifth Century the festival was celebrated with a procession of lights, a practice many still continue, bringing to mind Christ as the true light and saviour of all. Today, the feast is known by various names—The Presentation of Our Lord, The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary ... and Candlemas. At its simplest level, the Feast of the Presentation commemorates an encounter between Jesus and two elderly people many years ago. But, at a deeper level, the Feast is about a present-day encounter between Jesus and those who seek him still. Luke tells us that both Simeon and Anna had waited many years in hope of seeing the Messiah. We will never know how often they were tempted to give up, *and give in*, to the hard thought that God's promise would never come to pass. And yet in the very winter of their lives, for they knew they would soon die, God came to them as an infant and revealed to

them a love greater than they could ask or imagine. February is not an easy month for some. It is a cold



Photo Emily F. Rowe

month characterized by ice and snow. In nature, there is little evidence of the new life that will come all too soon in spring. Some people speak of the "February blahs" they feel at this time of the year. And some even suggest a condition known as SAD, or Seasonal Affective Disorder, that seems to get people down at this time of the year when the nights are long, the days are short, and the power of the sun is at its weakest. The remedy for SAD? More sunlight. In our journey as Christians we can also get the "blahs" from time to time, and despair that things will ever get any better. Candlemas reminds us that in the midst of darkness, in the midst of war and evil and suffering, God comes to us in the person of Jesus to be one with us in our weakness. In the midst of the winter experiences of our lives, when all seems dark, still and cold, we are invited at Candlemas to bring our doubts and fears to God and let the bright light of his Son shine upon them. For in Jesus Christ, God has chosen to be one with us in our darkness and uncertainty. Let us welcome the new light that Jesus brings and allow ourselves to be embraced by his unending love. And like Simeon and Anna may we sing aloud of life and love and light and salvation as we look ahead, past winter, to the spring, when the light of Christ's resurrection will shine forth once and for all... at Easter.

Upcoming Anglican Life Deadlines:

March - 30 January

April - 1 March

May - 2 April

Photograph Submissions:

Very large, high resolution photographs
(minimum of 300 dpi). JPEG or TIFF format.
Please include the photographer's name.

The Parish of Gambo

Celebrations of Lay Ministry and Music

Submitted with photographs by
The Rev'd Hannah Dicks

The parish of Gambo celebrated the contribution of several of its members to the music ministry of the parish: Lena and Ches Davis of Gambo, and Mary White

of Hare Bay, on Sunday December 10th with a parish service and supper. Ches and Lena were recognized for the almost 70 years of sharing their gifts, playing

at St. George's Gambo and throughout the parish. Lena began playing the organ at St. George's at the age of 15, and was later joined by Ches who accompanied her on

his guitar. They continued to play as a duo team of musicians.

Mary White was recognized for her leadership with music at St. Augustine's in Hare Bay.

Marie was responsible for the formation of the choir at St. Augustine's 38 years ago and has continued to give leadership to the choir in music and song every since.



The Rev'd Hannah Dicks, Ches Davis, Lena Davis, Bishop Watton

Congratulations to Rose Collins, who received her commissioning as a licensed lay minister, from the Rt. Rev'd. John Watton,

during the Sunday evening service on December 10th at St. George's Church, Gambo. Rose has been very active in many areas of ministry with

St. Augustine's Church in Hare Bay, and will now serve as a part of the lay ministry team for the Parish of Gambo.



Pictured above, in the middle are Rose Collins and husband Gary Collins, along with members of the St. Augustine's congregation and Bishop Watton (far left)



The Rev'd Hannah Dicks, Mary White, Bishop Watton

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The ACW Fellowship of the Port Rexton Parish recently put together, with the help of the congregation, Christmas hygiene bags for The Gathering Place in St. John's.

In this photograph, on the left we have Dian Hogarth, Glenda Moulard, and Carolyn Fowlow. On the right, we have Edith Toope, Alma Long, and Ruby Lockhart. Missing from the photograph are Linda Goodyear and Jane Peckham.

Updates From The Parish of Port Rexton

Submitted with photographs
by Carolyn Fowlow



Along with the Rev'd John Nicolle, the lay ministers and the music team meet regularly to plan ahead for coming services in the Port Rexton Parish. In this photograph are:

men (left to right): Horace Hookey, Melvin Kelley, Austin Hookey, the Rev'd John Nicolle, Ron Ayles, and Roy Ayles.

ladies (left to right): Roslyn Cooper, Alma Long, Maureen Howard, Glenda Moulard, Linda Verge, Lily Porter, and Shirley Hogarth

The Role of Executor: Mixed Feelings

Kevin Smith
Columnist

The role of Executor for a will is a very important and yet daunting task—one not to be taken too lightly, for it has many legal challenges. The Public Legal Information Association of NL (PLIAN) defines an executor (male) or executrix (female) as the person or trust company appointed in a will to control and protect the estate's assets, pay off any debts and distribute property as directed by the will. They go on to say that "Once you begin the process of dealing with the estate, you are legally bound to complete the job; if you change your mind after you begin the process, you will have to apply to the court to be relieved of your duties."

PLIAN has an Executor's Guide on the internet which outlines the duties and responsibilities of an executor who, ideally, should know that he or she will be named before the death of the deceased. The roles are many and varied and are outlined in the guide.

Not everyone is prepared for these responsibilities or is happy to serve in this capacity. Such is the case of one lady I met who had been the executrix for her sister's will. Little did she realize what was involved.

"I thought it was just a matter of having her wishes carried out. I had to contact the banks, the insurance companies and many others businesses. When it came time to cancel her car insurance, close and transfer bank accounts, RRSP's, other pensions, even just cancelling her phone became very time consuming and frustrating at times. Each entity required different documents. All needed a Death certificate, some needed documents witnessed by a Justice of the Peace, others needed a Notary Public. Sure, when this all began, I didn't even know the difference between the two. There was contacting CPP and all other official offices of the government and then the most difficult—

CRA and the final Income tax filing. It became necessary to hire an accountant to take on this task. However, it was my responsibility to make sure everything they required was made available."

Would she do it again? Her reply: "I'm pretty sure I would not do this again."

There were also some additional issues:

"Because this whole process became so consuming, I feel it added stress to me and my family's life in that it also stole a peaceable grieving time from me. I was running here and there trying to get things done, sending copies of documents or waiting on something for someone else. Some of the tasks took a year to clue up."

I asked her what advice she has for anyone seeking an executor:

"If you are looking for someone to be your executrix, ask someone you know that is skilled in the legal and or financial world, preferably not a close family member.

If someone asks you to become an executrix, remind them that this is a legal task, better handled by professionals. If the person has specific things they want you to do or oversee, (children) this can be addressed in the will without you having to be the executrix."

Finally, the lady agreed that she didn't realize the immense responsibility involved in being an executrix:

"I thought I was just doing a good deed for my sister. It is an overwhelming task to put a loved one's final affairs to rest."

Kevin Smith is a gift planning consultant for the Anglican Church of Canada.

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PWRDF News

Access to clean water—a basic human right

Article by Mona Edwards
PWRDF Representative,
Diocese of Western Newfoundland

It's difficult to comprehend that there are people in our world who don't have access to clean drinking water, but even more reprehensible is the fact that it's happening in our own country.

Pikangikum, a remote community of approximately 2500 in Northern Ontario, appeared on the radar in 2000 when it was reported to have the highest suicide rate in the world.

Of the 450 homes, 90% lacked access to clean water and sewer services.



Since 2013, thanks to the generosity of PWRDF donors, over \$600,000 has been raised and 24 homes are now equipped with both clean water and waste water removal facilities.

In 2016, PWRDF partnered with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba with a goal to bring indoor plumbing to 10 more homes. Even though Habitat for Humanity's main goal is to supply affordable housing, they realized the need in Pikangikum, and willingly came on board with PWRDF to work towards this goal. Each year HFH is committed to providing its design, project planning, construction and logistics skills to help improve the quality of life for those living there.

In December 2016, Asha Kerr-Wilson, a member of PWRDF Youth Council,



visited Pikangikum where she witnessed first-hand the level of poverty, poor living conditions and run-down homes with no running water. She also experienced the outrageous price of food and other basic supplies, and the isolation from other communities. Even though most people were hesitant to share their feelings, she sensed their hope, which keeps them going in difficult times. This is the hope that drives people to make change, whether those in the community or those of us outside, as we collectively work for a healthier world.

Something amazing is happening in Pikangikum, thanks to the interaction with PWRDF and Habitat for Humanity, and it involves the youth, specifically Jenelle Turtle, Jamie Suggashie, Jonas Desiree, and Raphael Peters. They're being trained as carpenters, plumbers, and electricians, and are interested in becoming involved in other programs. This on-the-job training is empowering the youth in the community, and giving them a sense of independence and control over their lives and the future of their hometown.

Unfortunately, there have been four more youth suicides this past summer, so much more needs to be done. Thanks to the generosity of PWRDF donors, the future does look brighter.

Matthew 25, Verses 35-40: " ...For I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink... Then the righteous will answer Him, ' Lord when did we see you... thirsty and give you something to drink?'... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" Amen.



Christmas in Canning's Cove

Submitted with photographs
by Lisa Chatman

Here are some photographs from the St. John the Divine Anglican Church of Canning's Cove Sunday School program on Christmas Eve. Children performed several stories: the Christmas Emoji Story, God's Christmas Tree,

The Christmas Stocking, and also a song entitled "Jesus was born on Christmas."



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Live Nativity Scene in Downtown St. John's

Submitted with photograph
by Emily F. Rowe

On December 23rd, the downtown of St. John's was treated once again to a live nativity scene just outside the great west

doors of the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. Members of the congregation gathered on the lawn dressed as figures

from the first Christmas, and were joined by some lovely live sheep. Hot chocolate was provided for the people who came out to see them.

Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World

The Rev'd Canon Gerald Westcott
Columnist

I've recently read Alan Roxburgh's "Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in our Time." This is a small, readable book that reflects accurately where the diminishing church is today, is inspiring in how we need to discover being church in new and spiritually deeper ways, and is encouraging with practical ideas and pathways forward. Anyone reading this column in Anglican Life is probably in some form a participant in the life of your local church. Anyone reading this article knows that the church and society they once knew are no more. That realisation can be a good thing that will hopefully set you free to more deeply discern with the Spirit new ways forward as the people of God. Richard Rohr, in one of his recent daily meditations (that I would highly recommend subscribing to at www.cac.org), writes "The word change normally refers to new beginnings. But transformation more often happens not when something new begins but when something old falls apart. The pain of something old falling apart—disruption and chaos—invites the soul to listen at a deeper level. It invites and sometimes forces the soul to go to a new place because the old place is not working anymore." He goes on to say, "Change can either help people to find new meaning, or it can cause people to close down and turn bitter. The difference is determined by the quality of our inner life, or what we call 'spirituality.'" Something "old" is falling apart. We are living in a time of rapid change at every level of global civilization. The church is going through a time of transition, some would even say "reformation." Of this there is clearly no doubt.

God is in God's world doing what God does in every emerging new life and the creating of new and loving connections. God's life is in no way contained in or controlled by the "Church." The church is a school of Love that is called to be a participant in the life of God. The Spirit is very much active and alive in our communities, but the church has fallen behind and has in many ways become disconnected to what Spirit is doing all around us.



Roxburgh, Rohr, and many other modern day prophets, are calling the church, the people of God, in addition to what we are effectively and meaningfully doing in our church buildings, to connect to what the Spirit is doing "outside" of our church buildings. The remaking of the church has everything to do with deepening spiritual practice and spiritual listening, learning to discern more clearly what the Spirit is already doing outside of our church buildings in our communities, and becoming co-creators with the Spirit in the transformation of our world. The church that we once knew is dying. But God is always creating new ways forward. In Roxburgh's words, let us "Join God in the remaking of the church and changing the world."

Fogo's ACW's Christmas Stockings Spread Cheer

Article and photograph
by Lisa Snow

Jesus is the reason for the season. As the Christmas season approached, St. Andrew's ACW in Fogo presented stockings for the long-term residents

at the Fogo Island Health Centre to Carla Reddicks, the Recreational Therapy Worker. Lisa and Judy Snow made and donated a stocking each, and they also

made eight other stockings with materials donated by the ACW. Pictured are Margaret Oake, president of the ACW, Lisa Snow, Judy Snow, and Carla Reddick.



Faith in Tough Times

Allison Billard
Columnist

My elder son told me quite frankly one night at bedtime that he didn't care if he died. Shocked, I replied saying that I cared very much, that I would be very sad if he died, because that would mean he wasn't here with me any more. He tearfully said that it would be ok to die because he would get to see his friend, who passed away in November, and that he missed his buddy very much.

Children have a lot to teach us about coping with loss. My little family has been very fortunate and has not had to deal with a lot of loss, but in recent months we have experienced the loss of my grandmother, my son has lost a friend to illness, and we experienced a good friendship separated by a great distance.

In each case, my children have had some time being sad, have found ways to remember or celebrate the person lost, have gotten ok with the idea of a departed loved one being in heaven, or focused on what we'll do when we see our friend again, whenever that may be. Their resilience

and acceptance are truly incredible.

Why then is it so hard for some of us as adults to process grief and loss?



I have really been struggling. Partly, I suppose, because I have been so fortunate to not have had to face loss very often. I find my mind dwelling on all the saddest parts of loss, all the things I will miss, all the lasts that were had, all the things that will never be. I struggle with anxiety, sometimes finding it hard to get out of bed, get showered, and face the day. There's struggling to do all the day to day things that need doing, making sure homework is done, and dishes are washed and everyone gets where they

need to be. I withdraw from whatever I can.

I find it easy enough to comfort my sons with all sorts of lovely ideas that I want to believe: that it's ok to be sad; that there's nothing to be afraid of about dying; that our loved one isn't sick or suffering anymore and has gone to heaven to be with God; that we will always carry them in our hearts and someday will be reunited with them.

Despite "knowing" all that, my heart is heavy with sadness and I struggle to trust and believe those words. I'm hoping the answer lies in prayer, because there is a whole lot of that happening these days. I pray to find a change in perspective, to feel better, to find a way out of the darkness.

Happily enough my children are full of love and light. I have a supportive family and friends. I am part of a vibrant faith community. We are not all so lucky but the kindness of strangers can make a whole lot of difference. Who needs your kindness today?

The Secrets Visit Rocky Harbour

Submitted with photograph
by Dale Decker



On Tuesday November 29th, 2017 the singing trio "The Secrets" performed at St. Matthew's, Rocky Harbour to a small, but appreciative, crowd. It was an awesome country Christmas concert by fantastic musicians!



A Christmas Carol in Bonavista

Submitted with photograph by
The Rev'd Shaun O'Connor

Three boys from the youth group (shown above,) dressed up as characters from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. They were

part of the float from the Parish of Bonavista which took part in the Bonavista Christmas Parade this year.

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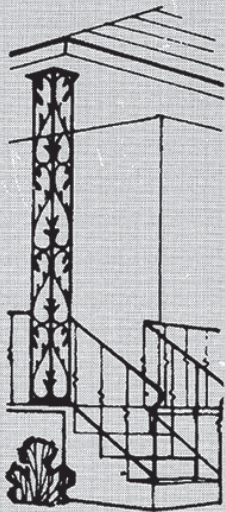
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A Sadness In The Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

There is a sadness in our Diocese of Western Newfoundland. It's a sadness that began when Archdeacon John Meade fell ill shortly after being elected bishop in June, a sadness that increased as his health deteriorated, and a sadness that deepened when he died on November 29th. He should have been consecrated co-adjutor bishop on November 1st, and taken over as the diocesan bishop at the beginning of January. He had a vision and a plan for this Diocese that would continue and build upon the ministry that existed here, a vision that was honed during his years of faithful service as a parish priest (mostly in Western Newfoundland and briefly in Central Newfoundland) and during his years as Executive Assistant and Archdeacon. It would have been a continuation of the exercise of ministry that defined his life, having been ordained deacon in June of 1998 and priest in December of the same year, immediately following his graduation from Queen's College in St. John's. While he served in a neighbouring parish, it was as an Archdeacon that I best knew John, serving with him on a diocesan committee and consulting with him as a member of

our Parish Council. I found him to be an efficient and effective Archdeacon with a heart for the parishes and ministries of this Diocese and of our Church national. (One never waited long for a response from him by whichever means of communication one chose.)



I personally knew him to be of invaluable assistance to our Parish when we needed it and a great supporter of Killdevil Camp and Conference Centre and of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Doubtless others knew him as upholding many other ministries.

There is a sadness in our Diocese. Indeed, the sadness is not that we don't have a sure and certain hope in the resurrection, nor that the ministry of the Diocese will not go on. We will have another election and the

new bishop will have his or her own vision. We believe that John has received his promised rest. As the prayer in our Book of Alternative Services reads, in part: 'Grant, O Lord, to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that they may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope...' No, the sadness is for the potential that was lost, for a life cut short. It is that a person who dedicated his life to the service of God and God's Church did not live to continue to serve God and God's people in the role of bishop to which he was elected. We do not know what form his ministry as bishop would have taken, but we do know that he would have embraced it with the steadfast and resolute faith that sustained him throughout his life.

There is a sadness in our Diocese. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



Canada 150 Leader Award

Article and photograph by
Sandra Taylor

We are proud to announce that our own Rev'd Sam Butler was awarded a "Canada 150 Leader Award." This award is given to those who have made a significant contribution to their community and who have contributed to the well being of others. Rev'd Sam was presented with this award on Friday, December 8th in All Saints'

Parish Hall with over 60 parishioners in attendance. Member of Parliament, the Honorable Ken McDonald, presented Rev'd Sam with this distinguished award. All Saints' Parish, Foxtrap is very proud of Rev'd Sam Butler who is very worthy of receiving this award. Congratulations and God bless you in your future endeavours.

Codroy Confirmation Class Raises Money for The Janeway

Article and photograph by
Linda Kendall

As part of their outreach program, the Confirmation class of Holy Trinity Church in Codroy decided to sell

blocks on a basket of kitchen items. The project was such a success, thanks to the hard work of

the children, that instead of one basket they had enough items to make up three baskets (one draw). The children raised \$482.75 which they happily donated to The Janeway Hospital. Pictured by the baskets, from left to right, are: Cassie Downey, Jasmine Samms, Madelyn Young, Nicholas Janes, Alex O'Gorman, and T.J. Patey.



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Members of the choirs from St. Augustine's and Holy Spirit churches

Christmas Combined Choir

Submitted with photographs by Karen Simon

On December 8th, choirs from the South West Coast of Newfoundland came together for a night of fellowship and song. It was a beautiful evening with funds raised being used for Christmas food hampers by the Ministerial Association.



The Clergy sang a carol (pictured above).

Front row Fr. Lee Lainey (St. Ann's Roman Catholic Parish)
Second row: Rev'd Patricia Ritchie (Wesley United Church, retired); Rev'd Marlene Harvey (Anglican Parish of St. James); Rev'd Maryrose Colbourne (Anglican Parish of Isle aux Morts/ Margaree-Fox Roost)
Third row: Rev'd Harold Harvey (Anglican Parish of Grand Bay); Pastor Tyrone Ball (Faith Pentecostal Tabernacle); Pastor Maurice Collins (Salvation Army).

Confirmation in Margaree-Fox Roost

Submitted with photograph by Karen Simon



On Sunday, November 19th, the congregation at St. Augustine's in Margaree-Fox Roost was treated to a beautiful confirmation service.

Three Candidates were presented to Archbishop Percy Coffin: Emma, Noah, and Ashley. A lunch followed the service. Thanks to the teachers: Sharon Billard and Shirley Osmond for a job well done.

2018—A New Year

Ronald Clarke
Columnist

So, it's the new year and we thank you, loving God, for bringing us safely through the old year.

For all us "olders," this past year was not exactly "trouble free." Physically, aging can be of great concern. Our bodies become less and less able to do all the things we used to easily perform.

So, often we become frustrated. Some of my best friends are no longer able to get to church any more. They terribly miss not only the worship but also the company of lifelong friends.

Because many seniors are housebound they are therefore besieged with all the terribly negative "news." All the tragedies of the world are pushed into your face by TV and other outlets today.

Having to depend on others for more and more of our needs can also be a great concern.

So, is life in our later years totally negative?

Of course it isn't!

Most of us truly believe in God, and in his son Jesus Christ.

So, we can surely turn

to our Divine God, for every single need, every single



want. Alleluia!

Should we be afraid to die? Most of us believers are certain that death will be the blessed gateway to indiscernibly wonderful everlasting life! "Even though I walk through the valley of death," says the 23rd psalm, "I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff will comfort me." So, Jesus will bring us safely into glory! How wonderful!

So, why be so concerned about the next 10 months? God will take care of everything!

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Anglican Parish Helps to Establish Much Needed Furniture Bank

Article and photograph by
Keith A. Noel

Home Again. Two simple words, however establishing a home isn't always simple. On the Northeast Avalon Peninsula, Home Again Furniture Bank is helping those without the means to acquire furniture for their homes.

Home Again is a non-profit organization that is providing gently used furniture and household items to those in need, with a focus on generating comfort and dignity for the recipients. Home Again works through a referral system of local agencies to help people make their house a home.

As of December 1st, 2017, Home Again has provided furniture to 550 homes, 517 donors have benefitted from the pickup service, 196 tons of furniture was diverted from local landfills, and over 100 volunteers have helped make it all happen.

The furniture bank operates under the auspices of the Parish of the Ascension, Mount Pearl, and the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. The Rev'd Canon David Burrows is the rector at the Parish of the Ascension, the Canon for Society and Justice in the Eastern Diocese, the coordinator of the Religious and Social Action Coalition NL, and he also serves as the Executive Director for

Home Again.

In the latter part of 2014, Canon Burrows and other volunteers began discussions with management of the End Homelessness Program of the City of St. John's, and with other organizations involved with helping those in need. It was identified that there was a great need for some type of furniture bank and that the Anglican Church could possibly help. Thrive, the Community Youth Network for St. John's had completed a report outlining some of the needs and possibilities for a furniture bank, and also helped to get it off the ground.



Home Again initiated a pilot in the fall of 2015. It was started under the leadership of Canon Burrows, together with the Parish of the Ascension, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, the Society and Justice Team for the Eastern Diocese, and a dedicated

voluntary Furniture Bank Committee. It was started with the assistance of many volunteers and organizations, financial contributions and Government grants, donated furniture, warehouse and office space. It has grown steadily ever since.

This has developed into a very worthwhile outreach program of the Diocese. It is an example of how every church has potential to reach out to the vulnerable people in their area and live out the Gospel.

One of members of the original organizing committee is Gina Pecore, CEO of Genoa Design in

AMJ Campbell, a moving company, has donated part of their warehouse for the storage of furniture and has helped Home Again in many ways.

Regular Friday volunteers also include young people with the Mennonite community who are visiting this area.

Another example of the many partnerships is a grant from Eastern Health to enable residents at Her Majesty's Penitentiary to rehabilitate furniture.

Please refer to the Website for a list of some of the Supporters and Donors. The level of support, financial, voluntary and otherwise has been phenomenal, however there will be a continued great need for financial and other supports to enable long term operation of Home Again.

Prior to Home Again, Amy Tulk (now Director of Operations) and Maureen Lymburner (now Director of Development) had been working on a separate furniture program mainly to help immigrants. They joined as volunteers and merged with the Furniture Bank committee. They have worked tirelessly to develop and operate Home Again.

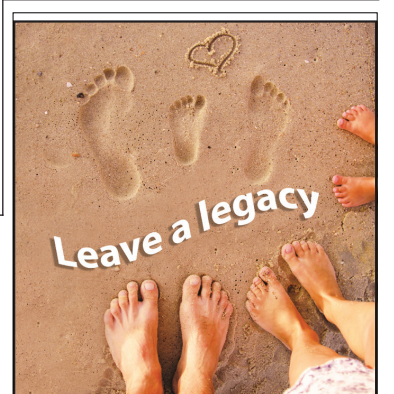
To help with Home Again *you can volunteer, donate financially, raise funds or donate gently used furniture*



or household items. There is a small pickup fee which helps with the cost of delivering the furniture for free to those in need.

For more information refer to/contact:

Website:
<http://homeagainfb.ca>
Michelle Emberley,
Coordinator
Telephone:
(709) 325-4040
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Anglican Foundation of Canada

AFC Awards \$303,000 in November Grant Cycle



DECEMBER 11, 2017, TORONTO, ONT.—The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) has announced \$303,000 in grants in support of new projects across Canada in its November cycle of awards.

“The Anglican church is alive and well. Great things are happening from coast to coast to coast,” said the Rev’d Canon Dr. Judy Rois, the AFC’s executive director. “Thanks to the generosity of Canadian Anglicans for making this possible!”

Combined with those awarded in May, disbursements for an increasingly diverse range of creative projects total

\$707,000 in 2017, the AFC’s 60th anniversary year. Besides traditional infrastructure and restoration grants of \$240,000, the AFC provided \$71,000 for innovative ministry and \$52,000 for theological projects. It also disbursed \$60,000 for special anniversary-year projects for the transformation of parish ministry. This category included a lectionary-based curriculum for children’s spiritual formation, a liturgical resource for trauma-sensitive congregations, revitalization of rural ministry, and outdoor skateboarding facilities for youth.



“We’ve developed a strategic plan to include engaging and creative projects that faith communities are undertaking to help grow the church,” Canon Rois said.

Applications for the May 2018 award cycle must be submitted by April 1, 2018.

ABOUT THE ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Anglican Foundation of Canada seeks to foster Anglican presence by providing abundant resources for innovative ministry and diverse infrastructure projects and theological formation throughout the Canadian church. Leading the way in resourceful ministry since 1957, AFC has benefitted dioceses, hundreds of

In the last round of grants awarded by The Anglican Foundation, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland received a grant of \$15,000 for Revitalization and Rural Ministry. This grant was one of four request-for-proposal grants that were awarded in 2017 to go towards a project to enhance and transform parish ministry.

parishes, and thousands of Canadian Anglicans with the provision of financial support from coast to coast to coast.

For media requests related to AFC please contact:

Scott Brubacher,
Executive Administrator:
416-924-9199 ext. 322 •
sbrubacher@
anglicanfoundation.org

Between the Lessons—The Death of the Priests

The Rev’d Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

When we left David last month, he was a fugitive, on the run from Saul. He has started what I like to call his ‘Robin Hood’ phase—living in the woods and hills and caves as an outlaw, and a band of ‘Merry Men’ has started to collect around him. As the 22nd chapter of 1 Samuel begins, we are told that all those who were distressed, or indebted, or disgruntled came to him—all in all, about four hundred men. While Saul has been pursuing his own personal vendetta against David, the ordinary people of Israel can no longer find justice from the king, and are forced to look to David instead.

David realizes that he needs to take care of his family. Without protection, Saul will surely come after them when he can’t catch David. So he takes his aging parents outside of Saul’s jurisdiction, and tries to find asylum for them from the king of the Moabites. This actually makes sense, because careful readers might remember that David’s

own great-grandmother Ruth was a Moabite. David appeals to old family ties in an attempt to make sure his parents are cared for while he waits to see what God has in store for him.



Meanwhile, Saul is displeased. He accuses all his followers of conspiring with ‘the son of Jesse’—he won’t even call David by name! In his paranoid state, he now even accuses his own son Jonathan of turning against him, and corrupting David in turn. And to make matters worse, none of his attendants and advisors have seen fit to let him know what’s been going on right

under his nose. ‘No one tells me anything,’ he complains.

Then Doeg the Edomite pipes up. Last month, Doeg had been lurking in the background as Ahimelech the high priest took David in and gave him food and shelter during his escape from Saul. ‘I know what David has been up to,’ he announces. ‘I saw him at Nob, and I saw Ahimelech helping him!’ Now Saul has a new target for his paranoia, and he summons Ahimelech and the priests from Nob to answer charges of conspiracy against the king.

When he hears the charges, Ahimelech isn’t having any of it. David’s reputation has been nothing but honourable. He has been a trusted captain in Saul’s army, and the head of the king’s bodyguard. He is even the king’s son-in-law. ‘This is the first that I’ve heard of any treachery on David’s part,’ says Ahimelech.

Saul won’t listen to reason, though. He sentences Ahimelech and his family to death, but he can’t find

anyone among his soldiers to carry out the sentence. Perhaps they recognize that Saul has finally gone too far; perhaps they are just too frightened of God to strike down a priest. Either way, no one is prepared to move until Saul asks Doeg the Edomite. Perhaps Doeg sees this as the key to the king’s favour, and he strikes hard and fast. He kills eighty-five priests, and then rounds up an army and attacks the priests’ city of Nob.

It’s worth remembering that Doeg is not just a snitch, he’s also a foreigner. Saul’s failure as a king has allowed a foreigner to slaughter innocent Israelites—men, women, children, infants,

and livestock. This was part of the reason why Israel had wanted a king in the first place: to protect them from their foreign enemies! Saul now stands guilty of perverting justice and colluding with Israel’s enemies. While David’s reputation is still clean and honourable, Saul’s is getting more and more sullied. And to make matters worse, one priest has escaped the massacre and gone over to David’s side. The Merry Men now have their Friar Tuck—a sympathetic priest with a direct line to God. But that’s another story, for another time.

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Quiet Day and Holly Tea

Article by Louise Smith

Photographs by The Rev'd Jolene Peters

At St. John the Evangelist in Topsail, as we journeyed through Advent on the path that would ultimately lead us to Christmas Day, Rev'd Jolene altered the course momentarily on December 2nd, to pamper members of our parish with a Quiet Day.

The focus of our Quiet Day was on exploring Mary the mother of Jesus, together with the themes of waiting, preparing, and receiving. It was a time of quiet reflection amidst the atmosphere of our church family. Rev'd Jolene's talks reflected on prayer, music and scripture, with intermittent breaks for refreshment.



We thank Rev'd Jolene for including this event, despite her busy schedule preparing for Christmas.

We endeavoured to envision the scene two thousand years ago of a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger in Bethlehem.

'And the angel said, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2: 10

Our day concluded around 2 pm with prayers and anointing.

Then on December 9th, our "Holly Ladies," in the true spirit of Christmas, welcomed a full house of guests in celebration of the 8th anniversary of our Holly

Tea, which has become a Christmas tradition here at St. John the Evangelist. As an added attraction this year



we were proud to present our newly minted Junior Choir, who performed a medley of Christmas Carols.

What a joyous time this season is

*As we praise the Lord above,
A new Advent candle
glows each week
Expressing Peace and
Hope and Love.*

*At the Holly Tea, we reach
outside our parish,
To receive old friends and
welcome new,
Exchanging greetings for a
Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year
too.*



Christmas Pageant Margaree-Fox Roost

Submitted with photographs by
Karen Simon



This year's Sunday School Christmas pageant took place on Sunday, December 10th. Approximately 15 children took part. Thanks to Maggie Seymour, Sunday School Superintendent for her hard work with the children.



St. Valentine's Day Reminding us about love

Emily F. Rowe
Editor

And just like that, we're back to the shortest month of the year, and often one of the coldest and most miserable for us in Newfoundland. February is the month that I always use in my examples of horrible weather, as in: "Well that's a nice long driveway in the summer, but just think of shovelling it in February!" While we started winter months ago, we had the warm cheer of Christmas, and then new year and its resolutions. But now February has set in, and it's cold, and it's still dark.

But we have a lovely bright warm spot in the middle of the month with Valentine's Day. As a kid, that meant making a "mailbox" in school from an old cereal box or something, and then the excitement of passing around Valentines to our friends, and getting

them in return. As we get older, there is the romantic pressure of the day—the expected grand gesture or gift. But of course there must be more to the story of Valentine than the gifts, the fancy suppers, and even more than the funny little cards that we gave to our classmates.

Actually, there is very little that we know for certain about St. Valentine. We know that he existed in third century Rome, and that he was martyred for his faith and buried in a cemetery that is north of Rome. The name "Valentine" itself was popular at the time, and comes from the word *valens*, which means worthy, strong, or powerful. There are a dozen saints who are venerated in the Roman calendar, and who share this name.

The most common

version of the legend of this St. Valentine is that he was the Bishop of Terni, Narnia, and Amelia in central Italy. While under house arrest, a Roman judge questioned him on the legitimacy of Christianity and the faith in Jesus Christ. Valentine was challenged to restore the sight of the judge's daughter through the power of prayer, and if he could do that, the judge would do whatever Valentine asked. So Valentine put his hands on the girl's eyes, prayed, and her sight returned.

The judge asked what he should do in response to this miracle, and Valentine replied that all of the idols that were around the judge's house should be destroyed, that the judge himself should fast for three days, and he should then be baptised a Christian. The judge agreed, and also

freed all of the Christian slaves that were under his authority—he, his family, and all of the members of his household were baptised.

Valentine was later arrested again, and was sent to the emperor Claudius Gothicus himself. The emperor liked Valentine, but grew angry when Valentine tried to persuade him to be baptised too. Claudius insisted that Valentine should renounce his faith or else be beheaded. When Valentine refused this request, he was executed on February 14th, 269.

There are many other legends of Valentine, and many reasons given for his later association with romantic love, including theories about Valentine's Day being an attempt to take over the pagan holiday of Lupercalia (celebrated mid-February in Roman times).

Many of these legends were actually invented in 14th century England, notably by the poet Geoffrey Chaucer, and are now dismissed in serious academic circles. However, in the almost complete absence of any real stories of Valentine, there seems little harm in taking time in the middle of a cold and dreary month to think about loved ones, to celebrate important relationships in our lives, to cut out red cardboard hearts, and maybe even to eat a bit of chocolate. The saints are there to point us to the love of God, and in many ways, regardless of the truth behind his many legends, St. Valentine reminds us all to love, and that is fundamental to our lives as Christians.