

ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

February, 2019



Look Toward the Future With Fresh Eyes, Led by Jesus

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton
Bishop
Central Newfoundland

When I was young, I never thought I would be writing as one who would ever say: "I remember many years ago..." and then offer some wisdom that old folks would nod to, and young people would roll their eyes at. But...here we are.

I remember many years ago when I had recently finished my degree at Queen's College, and had been established as the rector in my first parish, a priest who was a mentor asked me what I thought of a sermon that they had preached at the morning service. It wasn't a flippant question to pass the time, nor was it asked because my friend was seeking affirmation. It came from a desire to serve the people well. My answer was honest as well. I looked this one in the eye, and said, "All around the mulberry bush, the monkey chased the weasel. The monkey thought 'twas all in fun. Pop! goes the weasel."

That might seem flippant, but it was a good conversation because it led

to an exploration of how people receive clergy, the Word of God, and how tough it is to make the connections which we are ordained for through the haze of cultural and spiritual changes in our society. We talked about how often in the parish and in spiritual leadership we are like cats chasing our tails. That conversation was almost thirty years ago, and I still think of it because it instilled in me a need to consistently and faithfully face reality.

As a Bishop, I am constantly part of conversations which demand much energy in getting to their centre. By that I mean becoming like Jesus and getting to the heart of what hurts, what is needed, what is clouding the conversation, and how we can somehow allow God to be present in it. There is no common discussion anymore that seems centre in the future and faith. In 2019, we will be

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News From Grand Bay

Submitted with photograph by
Doreen Dowding

New Wine Gospel group performance



St. Paul's New Wine Gospel Group from Grand Bay held a Worship and Praise service on Sunday, December 9th, portraying the Christmas Story. There was a great turnout and a wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

Confirmation with Bishop Organ

St. Paul's Church in Grand Bay had their confirmation with the Rt. Rev'd John Organ on Sunday, December 9th, 2018.

First row: Cole Short, John Organ, and the Rev'd Clara Fillier, Julia Fillier Clayton Billard.

Back row: Deacon Faye Coffin, Fred Francis (adult confirmand), the Rt. Rev'd A potluck luncheon and time of fellowship followed the service.



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...“Fresh Eyes” Continued From Page 1

talking about that a fair bit I expect, both in our Diocese of Central Newfoundland and on a national level.

In spite of the fact that “catch phrases” are effective, and have drawn me into many life changing discussions and programs, I have grown wary of them because we are so well used to attention grabbing tweets, Facebook posts, and fast commercials that promise quick fixes and instant answers, that we just don’t buy it anymore. My first Bishop’s Charge was considered by some as really, really long. No argument here: it was. But it was filled with passion, commitment, and direction from the one called to lead. The documents that followed Synod are meant to build on that foundation. (Notice this is not past tense!) Even though some referred to what we are doing as another strategic plan and process that has a beginning, a middle and an end, I am not giving up! Strategic plans do not work in our context. The vineyard has changed too much for that...and so have the leaders in the Church. It is hard enough to talk about a unified mission, but when the conversations we hold are constantly being framed around less money, churches in decline, and a loss of

sway and energy when it comes to being involved with church structures, we miss the picture of the two very important things that Jesus constantly engaged with. Firstly, just how and why people believed what they did about God. Secondly, how to bring light, love, and healing into every conversation.

Mark C. Taylor says in his book *Economies of Faith in Virtual Culture*: “It is obvious that we are living during a time of extraordinary transition: something is slipping away and something is beginning.” Taylor goes on to say that we cannot yet see what is emerging, and are caught in trying to describe what is still hidden in terms that are familiar to us.

There is the challenge. I don’t think for one minute that the presence and influence of God is being diminished in any way. In fact, I believe that we are living in an extraordinary time of opportunity. The Spirit of Jesus is moving, and just as he called the Church of His day to move with the Spirit of Love, we are being called.

In relation to the institutional Church, there has been grief, loss, disillusionment and death. But are we not still resurrection people? I am

ever thankful for the Anglican Church of Canada, and that I am part of a diverse, scared, wondering, seeking, and mistake making body that is accountable to the past, and still brazen enough to believe in the future.

Brothers and Sisters, we can choose to walk away, discredit the faith expressions of others, and throw out the struggles of institutions as mistaken and wrong. We can even choose to “dig in” and stand on claims that old models are in no way obsolete, outdated, and irrelevant, but are still the only way to be children of God...OR...we can look toward the future with fresh eyes led by Jesus, who according to Colossians Chapter 3 has created and inhabits everything, every time, and every culture. In fact, John 3:16 tells us that God so loved the world, that he joined us in it. Jesus joined the culture then. Surely, he is here among us now. Surely the Holy Spirit of that same Lord will be true to the counsel of Hebrews chapter five. Be free and remember I will in no way fail you, neither will I in any way forsake you.

Come Holy Spirit, come; sustain our work, show us how to once again be people of mission, and trust you to equip the future of our faith.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Hi. My name is Ruth Bugden and I have been a leader with the Girls’ Groups at St. Lawrence Parish, Portugal Cove for over 50 years. With reference to the article “JA Going Strong in Spaniard’s Bay,” I just wanted to point out that Portugal Cove has had a JA Group for close to 50 years and are still very active. We also have Sunbeams, Young Girls Auxiliary, and Girls Auxiliary. All four groups meet regularly. Our GA Group for ages 12 to 18 is to my knowledge the only one left in Canada. I have spent some time over the past few years looking for another group, but haven’t

found one. This group was formed in 1964 and is still very active with 30 plus girls and leaders. I am really pleased to hear that the groups are still alive and healthy in Spaniard’s Bay and Island Cove. Over the years I have spent many happy hours both at the rallies for all levels of the Girls Groups, as well as on the Girls Work Committee planning the rallies. Keep up the Good Work!

Ruth

The article “JA Going Strong in Spaniard’s Bay” can be found in the December 2018 issue of Anglican Life on page 7.

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Turning the Tables on the Migrant Worker Experience

Article by
Dr. David Morgan

150 million.

Though an incredibly difficult figure to define and calculate, that's the total number of international migrant workers in the world in 2013, based on a 2015 report of the International Labour Organization. That's roughly 4 times the population of Canada, and roughly 300 times the population of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Most readers of Anglican Life have at least a small sense of what the migrant worker life is like. You might have a brother, daughter, or friend who was travelling "up to Alberta" on rotation. Or, you might have done it yourself. 2 weeks on, 2 weeks off. 3 weeks on, 1 week off. Get up early, catch a plane, fly across the continent, live in a trailer, eat camp food, punch a long day of work, exercise in the evening, catch another plane and have a bit of time home before doing it all again. Constantly putting your life on hold—missing birthday parties and never tucking the kids into bed.

You know what...these Alberta-bound friends and family aren't even counted in the 150 million because they are working in the same country in which they are citizens. Not to suggest that the Alberta commuting life is an easy one, but it's the same language, same currency, and more-or-less the same

climate, food, and culture. All the same Canadian rights and freedoms apply, your healthcare is (for the most part) still covered, and your mobile phone probably works fine.

So, let's change it up a bit. Remember that friend who was catching a plane for Alberta? They're now catching a plane to Dhaka. It's way hotter there than it was back home in Pouch Cove. Hardly anyone speaks any English and the food is totally different (your friend had to travel with a bag of hard bread and a pack of Mt. Scio savoury "just in case", but there was a long period of questioning by Bangladeshi Customs officers over the savoury and the treats from home were eventually confiscated).

Your friend lives in a basement apartment with four other people who also only speak a bit of Bengali. Every day involves an hour-long bus ride to and from work for a 12-hour shift (but not on every second Saturday, because that is their day off). Calling home is hard, because by the time your friend gets off work and back to the apartment, it's the middle of the night back home.

Oh, and your friend isn't gone for 2 weeks—they are gone for 8 months. But, it's not like they could come home earlier anyways because they aren't making

much money and are sending whatever they can back home.

Last week your friend had stomach cramps and had to visit a doctor. The doctor and medicine cost a small fortune, and they weren't totally sure they were given the right medicine anyways (they couldn't explain their symptoms in the local language, they didn't really have any friends that they could ask to go with them, and they can't understand what the medicine bottle says). To cap it all off, on the way home from the doctor, someone cursed on them and told them that they should go back home because they were stealing jobs from Bangladeshis. When your friend called that evening to tell you about their horrible day, they cried on the phone for nearly 5 minutes. You told your friend to imagine that you were wrapping your arms around them in a big hug and that you were never going to let go; when the call was over, you cried too, and then your spouse gave you a hug for



Migrant workers in a field in Ontario, May 23, 2018

real.

This "reverse" tale of international migrant work might have upset you—for that, I am sorry. And, if you are one of the readers of Anglican Life for whom this story is a little too close to your reality here in Canada, then I am especially sorry if I have upset you; if you see me around and ever want to talk, please introduce yourself—we can have a chat (I'll buy coffee, but I am not much of a hugger).

Nobody should be fooled into thinking that the hard realities of international migrant work can't be found in Newfoundland and Labrador. There are plenty of international migrant workers in this province. In fact, the Government of Canada reports that, on December 31, 2013, there were 1236 people with permits to work in NL under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (that's just one program—there are others). Some of these workers might have picked up a copy of Anglican Life around town, while others might be reading a copy while sitting a pew. When you see someone in your community who seems lost or alone, perhaps they are

far from family and home – it only takes a second to offer a prayer or say "hello."

God our refuge, you share the journey with migrants and refugees, lightening their footsteps with hope. For you, Lord, are close to the broken-hearted. Pour out your Spirit upon world leaders. May they see the tragedies of our human family, and be moved to respond with wisdom, compassion and courage. Open our eyes and hearts to the God-given dignity of all your people. Move us to welcome our neighbours, and so bear witness to your love. Through Christ our Lord, Amen. - Rachel McCarthy, Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

For more information and resources on social justice, check out www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/. And for more on local social justice efforts, check out www.parishoftheascension.ca/society.php and www.facebook.com/Anglican-East-NL-Society-Justice-Committee-500337617113660



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Hanging The Greens

Article and photographs by
Karen Simon

St. Augustine's Church, Margaree Fox-Roost, held its hanging of the greens service on December 2nd, 2018. Here are some photographs from that event.



Alex



Riann



Deacon John Billard and Herb Park



Sharon and Tanner Billard lighting the first Advent candle



Bishop Peddle with members of the CLB

Bishop's New Year's Levee

Photographs submitted by
Archdeacon Sam Rose

On January 1st, 2019, Bishop Geoffrey Peddle of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador hosted the annual Bishop's Levee in the crypt at the Cathedral of St. John the

Baptist in St. John's.

As January 1st is also Bishop Peddle's birthday, cake was served and happy birthday was sung to him by those who were present.



Bishop Peddle, Kathy Peddle, Jill Rose, Archdeacon Rose, Archdeacon Whalen, Sharon Whalen



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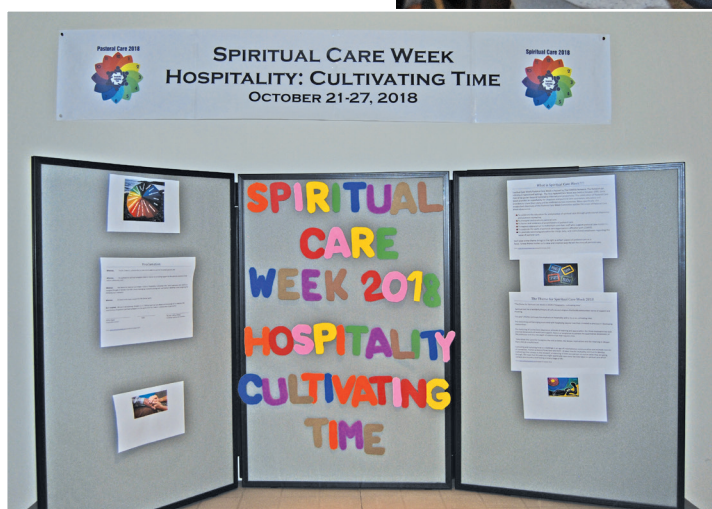
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Pastoral Care Week in Port Aux Basques

Submitted with photographs by
Karen Simon

From October 21-27th, staff at the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre in Port aux Basques took part in its annual pastoral care week. "Hospitality Cultivating Time" was the theme for 2018. These photos show clergy from the Anglican Church, the United Church, and the Salvation Army blessing hands of staff



Growing Old

Kevin Smith
Columnist

"Quite a lot of our contemporary culture is actually shot through with a resentment of limits and the passage of time, anger at what we can't do, fear or even disgust at growing old."

This quotation by Rowan Williams put me into a reflective mood at the time of the writing of this column. It was supported as well when I was viewing "Springsteen on Broadway"—a Netflix concert where Bruce reflected on his life and sang some of his famous songs. Bruce mused that as he grew older, he missed the freedom of youth—the joy of not being concerned about tomorrow and the lack of limits of what you can do or say.

All this got me to thinking about my life and the people who have had an influence on me and my actions. One such example is that of Mrs. Rosalie Spurrell who passed away in December in her 100th year. Rosalie was a primary school teacher in Gander when I attended school there. I don't remember much about those days but Mrs. Spurrell's kindness and gentle demeanour lingered with me all through the years.

There have been many such influences on my life. Bert Brown inspired in me an appreciation for art and literature. Hilda Chaulk Murray was a firm hand at a time when teenage testosterone levels were running on bust. And, Sam Pitman helped me navigate Latin at a time when the dead language was on its way out. I could go on because many teachers were so important in the molding of my character and behaviour.

Needless to say, I was tremendously moved when Ann Perry put my name forward in the NLTA's "Teachers Change Lives Every Day" program. In her nomination, Ann said:

"My thanks to an amazing teacher is long overdue. Mr. Kevin Smith was my sixth grade teacher



at Blackall Memorial in St. John's during the 1973-74 school year. He was my first male teacher and a very positive role model. I will always remember how he wrote the word "EMPATHY" in large letters on the chalkboard during one of our first days in his class. He advised us that it would be the most important concept that he would teach us. He would also read to us from The Daily News paper keeping us informed about current events."

Thank you, Ann, for that awesome commendation.

Like I alluded to earlier, I am in a pensive mood these days. I have walked many roads—news reporter, teacher, fundraiser, and planned giving consultant—and like most of you, I look back on my life with mixed feelings: some good, some regret, but always with great fondness. I am also proud of my family who have been a source of great joy as I enter this phase of my life.

In conclusion, as Albert Einstein said, "Do not grow old, no matter how long you live. Never cease to stand like curious children before the great mystery into which we were born."

And, as we gaze into the future, don't forget to get your estate in order and leave something in your will for your church.

Kevin Smith is a gift planning consultant for Anglican East NL. He can be contacted at 709 739-5667 or by email: kevin.smith709@gmail.com

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Smart Cookies

Ronald Clarke
Columnist

Everybody thought that Jeff Nelson was a “Smart Cookie,” but nobody else believed that more strongly than he did himself. Jeff became “a man-of-the-world” at age 20, and he certainly knew what he wanted from life: money, material things, and all the pleasures he could get.

Jeff had a lot of imagination, a lot of drive, and he wasn’t afraid to take risks, so he soon started to make money—a lot of money. People sometimes questioned his “deals,” or protested his “ruthlessness,” but he succeeded—sometimes beyond his dreams.

Money bought the “good things”: a fancy house, expensive cars, pleasure trips. Jeff married a lovely wife, had lovely children. The man had it made! Jeff bought expensive booze, threw big parties, and let everybody know that he was “one happy man.”

Sometimes Jeff’s appetites exceeded his means, and then he got into financial trouble but his ingenuity rescued him every time and the party went on.

As the years went by Jeff’s satisfaction increasingly dimmed, so he spent more lavishly. Then he “dumped” his middle-aged wife for a younger, more exciting woman. Ah! Life was “fun” again!

Eventually Jeff developed a heart condition. The doctor ordered him to slow down, to eat less, to drink less. “No way!” Jeff roared. Addicted to his lifestyle, there was no way he could change. Jeff laughed the whole thing off. He didn’t seem a bit concerned about his condition. He bluffed everybody, including



himself.

Then one night it came, in the middle of a gala party—a sudden, heavy heart attack!

The family told me that he only had a 50-50 chance of surviving, so I couldn’t visit him for a few days. Then one day the nurses let me in, “just for a few minutes.”

We had been friends, Jeff and I, for over 40 years, so when our eyes met we both knew the score—he wouldn’t be around much longer. I held his hand in silence for a minute or two before he spoke.

“Ron, boy,” he said in a slow soft voice, “at last I know the Lord. What a difference it makes” he continued. “Now I know what life and death is all about! What peace! What joy! But now I’m finished. Oh, how foolish I’ve been! What time and work I’ve wasted!”

We both shook our heads in anguish. Yes, life without Christ is such a waste but at least he had found out before the end.

Jeff had a burning desire now to go out into the world, right away, and tell everyone how to live, but a few hours later he died.

How many “smart cookies” do we seem to have today? Alas, many of them, unlike Jeff, may never “get to know the Lord” at all!

Volunteering, Giving Back, or Passing on a Blessing

News From PWRDF

Article by Sheila Boutcher
PWRDF Representative, Diocese of Central Newfoundland

This fall I was invited to write PWRDF stories to accompany the Advent candle-lighting responses. As I thought about, and searched for details on stories that reflected the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, I was struck by how much our partners, and the beneficiaries of our programs “give,” “give back,” and “pass on” blessings that come from the programs that PWRDF supports.

Under the All Mothers and Children Count program for example, training has been provided to local Community Health Workers. They volunteer full-time hours, travelling to a number of communities in their areas, meeting with families to teach things like nutrition, family planning, and health practices. Among other things, they provide pre and post-natal monitoring for mothers, babies, and young children. Those volunteers are instrumental in the success of this program.

In 1999, Lulu Boxoza founded Temba House, to care for those in the last stages of HIV-related illness. At first the intent was to help people, abandoned by their families, to die with dignity, but to everyone’s joy and amazement, that didn’t happen. The Temba community discovered that when people received proper care and nutrition, they began to recover. It soon became known as the place to live rather than a place to die. Volunteers are the backbone of the Temba House Program, each week they travel door-to-door to visit patients and assess their needs.

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, PWRDF participated in a program to provide hot lunches to school children. Lunches consisted mostly of rice, beans, and local vegetables. Students reported that the



Photo © PWRDF

Nutrition Clinic in Burundi (PWRDF partner Village Health Works)
Photo from PWRDF

food was the reason they attended school and that they were able to focus on their studies better when they weren’t distracted by hunger. As a result of the program, school enrolment and success rates increased. While financial support for the program came from PWRDF, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and FinnChurch Aid, the success of the program was because of the love demonstrated by volunteers who spent as much as 16 hours a day walking to school, cooking, serving and cleaning up the meal. When asked why they do this every day, they replied, “because of the children, who now come to school.”

PWRDF programs are designed to be self-sustaining, if possible: when a family is given a goat, they will pass on offspring from that goat

to another family; when a farmer is given seeds, they give 20% of seeds harvested, back to the seed bank to be given to another farmer; and recipients of nutrition, health, farming, craft/trade, or other training are excited to pass that knowledge along to other community members. So there are both direct and indirect beneficiaries of our programs and no way to measure just how far your generous gifts will go. The synergy that is created by your donations, matching funds from Global Affairs Canada, donations from our partners, program volunteers and beneficiaries ensure the ripple effect is widespread and will continue for years to come.

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12 Step Spirituality: Spirituality For Everyone

The Rev'd Gerald Westcott
Columnist

In the spring of 2018, and in response to the number of people in our region living with substance addictions, the Parish of the Resurrection in South River initiated a Narcotics Anonymous Group. The intention was to form an NA group in which the priest could be pastorally present and available as a form of outreach to the region. Since June of last year, what is now called the Baccellieu Trail Recovery Group has emerged and continues to take root. There are pastoral and spiritual benefits to my presence in the meetings each week, but mostly I am a listener, learning from the wisdom of those who are walking the difficult path of recovery.

In addition to the regular meetings, "Twelve Step Spirituality" is also part of the NA program. Twelve Step Spirituality is not just about staying clean or sober, but even more importantly it is about spiritual enlightenment. One of the many things that I have learned from the weekly meetings, is that Twelve Step Spirituality is not just for recovering addicts. A member pointed this out to me when he said that Twelve Step Spirituality is a spirituality for everyone because it is a program for life. And he is right. The word "addiction" is only used in step one, with the truth remaining that we are all powerless over our lives and that we need to believe in a power greater than ourselves in order to be restored to sanity. All of the twelve steps are spiritually relevant to all people of our culture today, but two in particular stand out for me.

The first is step two: the invitation to believe in a Higher Power, whatever that may be for you. This



is brilliant. The Twelve Steps is not telling the seeker what to believe in. The invitation is one to spiritual exploration and discovery. When someone is intentional in seeking God or your higher power, God always shows up. "Seek and you will find." So religion, or creeds, or doctrines are not obstacles to be put in the way of someone beginning to seek out a spiritual path to wholeness.

The other step that stands out for me is step eleven: the use of meditation to improve our conscious contact with God. The various forms of meditation, across traditions and cultures, are pathways for us to deepen our conscious sharing in a larger life, our higher power. The path to enlightenment or spiritual freedom is learning and practicing how to get out of our addictive thinking minds. All of us are addicts, minimally to our own addictive thinking patterns. Step eleven invites us to go deeper than our thinking, to discover a deeper conscious contact with our Higher Power, where we are liberated from the prisons of our thinking minds.

For the Christian, to follow the Twelve Step Spirituality is to put on the mind of Christ. Give it a try.



Advent at St. George's, Cormack

Article and photographs by
Mona Edwards

It began on The first Sunday of Advent with the 13th annual baby Jesus birthday party (a little early, but when opportunity knocks...). This was followed by the hanging of the greens service, preparing for his coming.

At our ACW outing, we each donate \$10 in lieu of giving gifts, which is then donated to a local family to help with expenses incurred due to an illness.

One of our favourite outreach projects for over 20 years has been entertaining at The Vera Perlin Association's functions, and this Christmas was no exception.

We also enjoy providing a meal and entertainment to our local seniors during this season.

This year, we've begun a new tradition to support the local food bank. Members of the congregation filled gift bags with school lunch items, which will be distributed to needy families in the new year, a time when need is great and donations are low. Rev'd Maki blessed the bags at our Christmas Eve service.

All in all, it was a very rewarding time. Thank you to all who gave their time, talents, and treasures.



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Are You At A Crossroad in Your Life?

Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

As I recall, it was a fairly nondescript item in our local tri-diocesan newspaper, but it promoted a program that was anything but ordinary. Offered by the Sisters of St. John the Divine, an Anglican monastic community of women founded in Toronto in 1884, the program was called Women at a Crossroads, a program of discernment for women who find themselves, as the title suggests, at a crossroads.

The website today (<https://ssjd.ca/>) says the program is for women who are intentionally committed to seeking God's guidance in living out their baptismal call—in business or professional careers, in homemaking, in lay careers in the church, in volunteer work, in missions at home and abroad, in ordained ministry, in monastic life, or in the many other ways in which we may serve God. The goals of the program are to assist women to discern where God may be calling them, through sharing the life of a Christian community committed to a balanced life of prayer, service, study, rest and recreation; by engaging in classes and discussions about Christian life and vocation, and receiving personal guidance in deepening their prayer life.

I cannot say for certain if that was the text of the notice twenty years ago, but I do know that it seemed to be speaking to me personally.

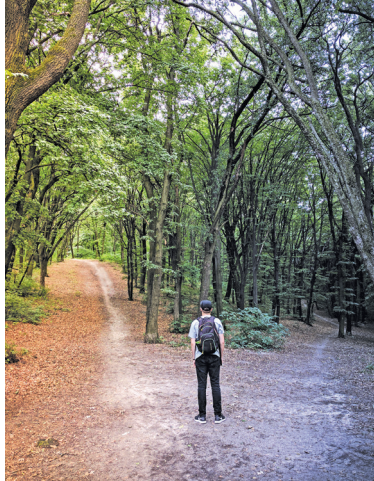


Photo by Vladislav Babienko from www.unsplash.com



So I applied, not knowing what to expect really. When I did attend, I was treated to an experience I will never forget. I was led gently and without judgement through just what the website claims—a balanced life of prayer, service, study, rest and recreation. I have often described it this way—it was as if someone wrapped me in cotton wool and allowed me to float through two weeks of my life. We were a part of the community, working and studying, being taught about prayer, including contemplative prayer. I came to understand that drawing close to God is our first and most important calling. My focus changed from “what is God calling me to do?” to “how is God calling me to serve in this situation or at this time or in this circumstance?” The Women at a Crossroads program is a great gift offered by the Sisters. It was a transformative gift for me.

There is another program offered by the Sisters, one that is longer and more substantial in that it is a year long—it is called the Companions program. Again, the website asks “Are you contemplating next steps on your journey? Do you want to experience life in community, learn more about prayer, serve others, and take monastic values out into ‘the world’?” If your answer is yes, then “an 11-month travel adventure [following] Jesus on the road of prayer, community, learning, service, and creative enjoyment” awaits you. It is for “women age 21 and up to explore an expression of contemporary monasticism rooted in the Anglican tradition.” Do either of these programs appeal to you? Then check them out. To quote C.S. Lewis, you will be “surprised by joy.”



Cathy Cornick and the elves singing Christmas Carols

Holly Tea at St. Michael's

Article by Jean Ellis
Photographs by Jean Ellis and Emily Rowe

On December 1st, the annual Holly Tea was held at the parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Kenmount Terrace, St. John's. This event was hosted by the ACW, and was once again sold out. Fr. Nichol's parish hall was beautifully decorated for Christmas, and each table



A dance with a mummer



Some ladies enjoying the Holly Tea

big hats—and one even carried an ugly stick. There was much clapping, singing, and jumping which excited the audience.

Towards the end of the afternoon, Mrs. Claus and her elves served yummy Christmas

cake, and prizes were drawn for and awarded. Everyone enjoyed themselves so much, and are looking forward to it again next year. This event began at St. Michael's in 2005 with an idea put forward by Kate Bagby at an ACW meeting.

Entertainment was provided by some Christmas elves and by choir member Cathy Cornick. A special treat was Cathy's singing of “O Holy Night.”

Then the mums arrived with gusto and caused quite a stir. They were dressed in the usual attire with veils, curtains,



ACW ladies preparing the Holly Tea

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Gerry Peddle Writes About Queen's College
December 3, 2018 [anglicanlife.ca](#)

"I walked down memory lane today at Queen's College. But it was so much more than just a nostalgic jaunt. I walked slowly in front of the wall of esteemed of graduates going back for over 170 years. I read the names of my forbears—men who shaped my identity—and that of my parents and grand parents. These were the loyal and dedicated men who were called and then prepared at Queen's to minister all across our great land. They framed, and constantly re-shaped the mold of dedicated Queen's men. They became the respected religious leaders in every corner of Newfoundland and Labrador, and were the authentic spirit of which legends are born. They were leaders."



St. Paul's New Wine Choir

In Aid of Christmas Hampers

Submitted with phtographs by Karen Simon

On December 7th, the Southwest Coast Ministerial Association held its annual Christmas Carol Sing to raise funds for Christmas hampers. This was a wonderful eccumenical event.



Local area clergy



St. Michael's Choir, Rose Blanche

Life is So Full of Challenges

Allison Billard
Columnist

Life is full of challenges. Big ones. Small ones. Everywhere you look, every time you turn around, there's a new challenge. Some say each challenge is really just an opportunity in disguise. That is nice and optimistic, although I admit I find it tough to see things that way sometimes.

For instance—one of our little darlings has been presenting all kinds of interesting behaviours at school, at the after school program, and of course at home. Oh the phone calls, emails and incident reports I've had already, and as I write this the year isn't even half done yet! I would love to be able to say that I relish the opportunity for us to learn and grow as a family. However, mostly it is just frustrating and exhausting and I don't want to face each new challenge with grace and love; some days I just want this part to end.

It is challenging raising two strong-willed, independent, yet still so young and dependent boys. I want to cultivate in them a curiosity about the world around them, I don't want to squash their spirit of fierce independence and exploration. But I have to keep them safe, they do have to follow rules, and that is harder for some than for others.

Of course some days it all comes together and I feel like we're making progress. Then we have



days where we all spend our time shouting at each other and longing for bedtime, even though bedtime is probably the hardest part of the day. Those days feel like they last forever.

I am lucky in that there are lots of other moms in my circle and they all report similar feelings so I know I'm not alone. One mom said to me recently, "I tell myself every day: today is a new day so if yesterday was a bad day, we can try again today to get it right." I'm going to thank her for that next time I see her. It's true, some days are good days, some days are bad days, and with any luck we get another shot at it tomorrow.

The challenging days have taught me a lot (in spite of myself) most of the time. I have learned to be more

forgiving—of myself, of my kids, of my spouse, and of all those around me who are also just doing the best that they can. I have learned to let the judgement go: it doesn't help.

One of my favourite motivational memes these days is "In a world where you can be anything—be kind." I think it has become my new motto. We have to face our challenges with determination and kindness. We aren't the first ones to experience the challenges, and we can learn from and lean on those around us. And we can be kind. And if we get it wrong today, we can try again tomorrow. This too shall pass, right?

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All Saints' Doing What it Does Best

Article and photograph by
Sandra Taylor

What a wonderful Christmas lunch, a wonderful gathering, a wonderful time of fellowship. It is very hard to describe how people from all walks of life came together at All Saints' on Wednesday, December 5th. A team of 26 volunteers served hot turkey dinners to 238 guests, plus 13 dinners went out to those

who were unable to attend. At a time when there is so much turmoil in the world, it was a welcomed touch of community outreach and God's work in the world. We thank all who organized, prepared, and served this meal. We are very blessed to have such wonderful people here at All Saints' parish in Foxtrap.

Between The Lessons— Joab's Revenge

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

By the third chapter of 2 Samuel, the plot has taken a dark twist worthy of Game of Thrones or some other premium drama show. The story is now full of intrigue, betrayal, and revenge. David's supporters have been locked in battle with those of Ishbaal, Saul's son, and during the ongoing war, David's side grows stronger and stronger while Ishbaal's grows weaker and weaker.

Despite being on the losing side, though, Saul's old commander Abner has made quite a name for himself. It is easy enough to imagine that he had been supporting Ishbaal for the sake of advancing his own power and prestige, but that relationship has become strained. Ishbaal accuses Abner of making too free with the assets of the royal household (specifically, one of Saul's concubines) and the relationship finally snaps. Abner accuses Ishbaal of ingratitude and threatens to withdraw his support. He secretly sends messengers to David, offering to change sides and help David finally put an end to the resistance from those loyal to the house of Saul.

It is hard to know what to make of Abner. For most of the book, he had been a minor character in the background of the story of



the conflict between David and Saul. David had refused to harm the king while Saul was at his most vulnerable, and Abner would have been aware of his mercy and principles. Perhaps he finally saw that David was by far the better king, and that it was time to give up his stubborn allegiance to Saul's family. Perhaps he could read the writing on the wall and wanted to change sides before he was defeated in battle. Ishbaal accused him of taking liberties with one of Saul's concubines, but we don't know for sure if that actually happened. Perhaps Abner had gotten too big for his britches, and had been called on it, and in desperation, jumped at an opportunity to save his own skin by defecting to David's side.

Either way, David gladly receives Abner, and throws

a lavish feast to welcome him. Abner promises to rally the rest of Israel around David, and sets out to start gathering supporters. But just after he leaves, David's commander comes home from a raiding party. Remember from last month that Joab has been carrying a deep grudge against Abner, who had killed Joab's brother in battle. Joab is horrified to see that David is treating his rival with such respect and welcome. Unbeknownst to the king, he calls Joab back, takes him aside as if to speak privately to him, and stabs him in the gut. The new alliance between the tribe of Judah and the rest of Israel has been thrown into jeopardy before it could be firmly established, but Joab has gotten his revenge.

Now David must put all his political skills to work to manage this public relations disaster. He publicly curses Joab and his family, claiming that they are 'too violent for him.' He holds an elaborate funeral to publicly lament Abner, making it clear to all the people that he was not part of Joab's plot. The state funeral turns into another opportunity for David to show how much better he is than other kings and warriors, and the people love him for it.

However, he is not king of all Israel yet. Although Ishbaal's side has suffered a significant loss in Abner's defection, there are still significant numbers of people who have still declared for the house of Saul. And David still has to deal with a commander in chief who is bloodthirsty, rash, and goes behind his king's back. All those matters still have to be dealt with before David can have peace. But that's another story, for another time.

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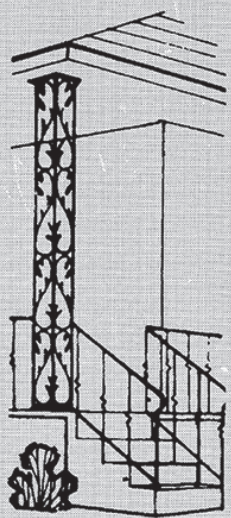
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St. James', Port Aux Basques

Articles and photographs by
Lisa Brown

Confirmation class stewardship project

The Confirmation Class of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques completed their Stewardship Project. The seventeen children were given \$5.00 each to come up with an idea to raise funds for various charities. The children raised \$1580.00 in total, which was distributed to several different charities. \$100.00 went to our local Christmas Hampers; \$100.00 to the Gateway Women's Centre here in Port aux Basques; \$100.00 to the "In Memory of Shadow Fund" (an animal rescue organization here in Port aux Basques); and finally \$1280.00 went to PWRF (Primates World Relief Fund), which will help to purchase farm animals,



Front row: Ashleigh Ingram, Sara Strickland, Sarah Meade, Chase Simms, Cameron Tapp, Peter Fudge, and Jackson Osmond
Back row: Natalie Kettle, Carly Mills, Kelsey Fagan, Brodie Seaward, Jesse Chaulk, and Ethan Scott
Missing from photo: Brooklyn Dicks, Avery Lawrence, Toni Lee Tulk, and Sarah Frampton.

bicycles, chickens, etc.. A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets or helped in any way to make this project such a success.

Youth service held on December 23rd

On December 23rd St. James' Church in Port aux Basques held a Youth Service. Approximately 170 people attended the service. The youth took part in every aspect of the service and they all did a wonderful job. After the service a brunch was held in the Memorial Centre.



Christmas Activities, St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith
Photographs by
The Rev'd Jolene Peters

On Monday evening, December 24th, which was Christmas Eve, our church hosted three services: at 4pm, 7pm, and 11pm. All three were largely attended. The end of the evening marked the culmination of a very busy, enjoyable, and rewarding journey that was launched on the very first day of the month.

It was on that day, December 1st, that Rev'd Jolene invited families of the parish to join her at the altar in recognition of this year's advent day—"A Trip to the Manger and Beyond."

A package representing that journey was prepared, and its contents explored. The idea and package were symbolic of the Holy Family and the birth of Jesus. It was presented in dialogue with activities geared toward both the education and enjoyment of young children, with story books, puzzles, all in the same simplified genre. The main character was the shepherd who throughout the story was hidden and searched for.

Each family was asked to retain it in their homes for a few days and subsequently pass it along to the next, and so on.

On Christmas Eve, a member recipient graced the altar with a very positive report of the effect that the experience had had on the children involved as an enlightenment of the true meaning of Christmas.

The "Candles in Memory" service on Sunday evening December 16th, generated an air of sadness



as the entire congregation joined in honour of loved ones, and former active members of St. John the Evangelist, Topsail, who are no longer with us.

But we were blessed and encouraged at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve, to see and hear our vibrant youth choir grace us with a medley of carols, followed by a Christmas dialogue featuring the Holy Family, played by Elizabeth Hollett as the Blessed Virgin Mary; Cole Norris, as Joseph; and Noah McPeake, as the Baby Jesus.



Margaree-Fox Roost Christmas Concert

Submitted with photographs by Karen Simon

Thank you to Maggie Seymour, Sunday School Superintendent of St. Augustine's Church in Margaree Fox-Roost with help from Elaine Ingram, Darlene Baird, and Tyson Meade for all of their hard work preparing this year's Christmas program. The service took place on Sunday, December 16th with a capacity crowd enjoying the concert.



Codroy Confirmation

Article and photograph by Linda Kendell

On December 9th, 2018 Bishop John Organ presided over the sacrament of Confirmation, confirming 12 young people and one adult at Holy Trinity Church in Codroy. This was an extra special service as it was the first service at Holy Trinity for our new Bishop. Bishop Organ made this a very memorable service

for all the candidates as he talked to each one individually during the service and made them feel very comfortable. He also presented each one with a cross necklace. Following the service there was a lunch at the Fire Hall

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