

# ANGLICAN LIFE

## NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

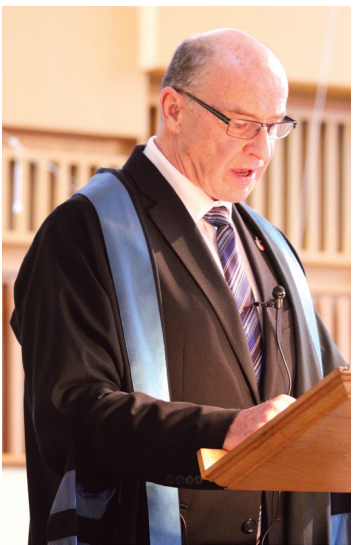
A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

June 2019

### Queen's College Convocation, 2019

Article and photographs by  
Emily F. Rowe

Queen's College Convocation was held this year on Tuesday, April 30th at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in St. John's. Twenty-eight new graduates were recognized with the degrees of Master of Divinity, Master of Theology, Bachelor of Theology, and Associate in



Provost, Dr. Rick Singleton

Theology. Also, Archdeacon John Holdsworth (of Cyprus and the Gulf) and Mr. Geoff Carnell received honorary doctorate degrees from Queen's College.

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Geoffrey Peddle, Bishop

of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Chancellor of Queen's College, was unable to attend this year due to travel delays, so Vice Chancellor and Provost, Dr. Rick Singleton, presided at Convocation in his place. Also in attendance were Bishop John Watton of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, Bishop John Organ of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, and Archdeacon Sam Rose, representing the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

Dr. Singleton presented his Report to Convocation. 177 students registered at Queen's this year, and approximately sixty percent of them are Anglican. Substantial effort continues to be placed in the development of courses and programs that can be offered off campus,



Archbishop Hiltz

supporting ministry training across the province and beyond. Dr. Singleton highlighted the relationship between Queen's College and the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf where there are currently thirty-three students in the Bachelor of Theology in Discipleship and Ministry Program. He also called attention to the Continuing Education for Clergy that has been offered monthly at Queen's during the past academic year.

The Convocation Address was given by Archbishop Fred Hiltz,

Primate of Canada. He talked about the history of Queen's College, and the spirit of the home that Queen's is for so many people. Archbishop Hiltz spoke of Queen's in the following ways:

Like an inn, where disciples come in search of opening the scriptures, of learning what it is to live out a deeper theology of baptism, a much richer theology of the Eucharist, and a broader theology of mission in our time.

Like a resting place—a place where restless hearts can find their rest in God, and learn of God's peace for all.

Like a docking station, in this world of electric learning, where people can link into programs via the Internet.



Geoff Carnell receives his hood from The Rev'd Canon David Bell, Dean of Theology



Archdeacon Holdsworth shakes hands with Provost Dr. Rick Singleton

Like that of a base, for a learned ministry—to become informed of the history of the church, and also of contemporary issues so that we can become a thinking church, and a feeling church. A place where we can learn to be entirely contemporary people in this world while maintaining our identity as thoroughly Christian. Archbishop Hiltz encouraged the graduates to "Go deep with God, and that will take us wide with the world."

Following Convocation, a reception was held in the parish hall. Congratulations to all who received degrees and certificates.



Graduates from Queen's College, 2019, with the Provost



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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

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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## Sisters Together to Share Worship in Codroy

Submitted by The Rev'd  
Deacon Faye Coffin  
Photograph by Linda Kendall



Our service at Holy Trinity Church (Codroy) on March 31st, 2019 was enriched by the presence of three sisters, and sister-in-law Florence Collier, from Corner Brook. Florence is 93 years old. It was so nice to have these sisters together for the worship service.

Pictured left to right: Alma Hilliard, Blanche Downey, Florence Collier, Mary Loder (daughter), and Vivian Osmond.

## Turkey Suppers For Seniors

Submitted with photographs by  
Rose Noel

Epiphany Church in McIvers served 75 seniors a hot turkey supper on April 9th, 2019. The Rev'd Malcolm Palmer and Ada attended. Weldon, Wallace, and Larry provided the music.







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With every blessing,

Michael Thompson  
General Secretary,  
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Thank you for your help and for your continued support of Anglican Life in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Emily F. Rowe  
Editor, Anglican Life

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# The Road to General Synod

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton  
Bishop  
Central Newfoundland

As Archbishop Fred Hiltz prepares to lead the Anglican Church of Canada to and through what will be his final synod with us as our Primate, he has picked up his pace of visiting, teaching, enabling, and preparing the Church National for a new vision. At the most recent House of Bishops, toward the end of our gathering, the Primate asked us bishops to allow him the grace of anointing and praying with each bishop in the context of our final liturgy. In many ways, this moment was for each of us an individual moment with one we have looked to for leadership, guidance, compassion, and understanding. Archbishop Fred has not only led us, but offered himself as a self-sacrificial lightning rod, attracting frustrations of global, national, diocesan, and local communities of lay, clergy and bishops. He has done this so that the destructive energy of angry light would be somehow focused in the right way.

His most recent package of teaching has been entitled "The Road to General Synod." As the synod looms over us, one might easily think that it is going to be primarily focused on the Marriage Canon. It needs to be said, that there is much more to the Church than talking about sexuality, and interpretations around biblical commands about relationships and morality. Simply put, the discussion about the road that is leading us to General Synod presents a bigger picture. It is about who we have been, who we became, and who we are becoming.

As different narratives, past and present, of life as Anglicans are told, we are surrounded by diversity of experience, conflict, resolution and belief; each equally true, sincere, and therefore valid. What a gift this can be to open hearts who have become satisfied to be still, receive, and trust that the Spirit of Jesus is moving today in a powerful way. The foundational task of

the Church in our generation is no different than it has been in any other. It is our commission to enable people to see the Kingdom of God as an accessible destination for everyone. Through each generation, from the Upper Room, to Constantine, to the Monastic life, the Reformation, and the scientific revolution, the Church has been called to lay aside ego, to tear down walls, and walk away from anything that prevents the flow of love.

Lest we think the Spirit is not leading us there, I beg an open consideration of all that is happening around us. Technology and capitalism have created a prison that favours no temporal age, level of wealth, religion or location. The decline in cultural support for religion in general is no local phenomenon, because the world is being bound together in ways we have yet to fully realize. One thing we do know about religion however, is that acts of extremism and fundamentalism are no longer supported or justified; when people declared any justification for acts of violence and oppression because of religion, their apology is seen as nothing but narrow-minded hate.

So, here is a short list for you to consider and pray about as your Church heads to General Synod:

First: we are being challenged by a unified global economic and technical culture to prove the validity of our faith in a time when no one really cares what we do anyway.

Secondly: the crisis of hate crimes and violence against every world religion, is a call for each of us to become literate and committed to learning of the beauty, truths and teaching embedded in every new and ancient experience of God. Each religion must let go of the sense that "We are the Only One," and learn how to trust the movement of the Spirit that is bigger than every thought or human way.



Photo by J. D. Rowe

Interfaith relationships have never been as important, or as possible, as they are now.

Thirdly: we are being challenged by a global environmental crisis, largely through environmental disasters, to come together for the good of people everywhere. To think that we are going to "save the planet" is rubbish. Humanity will be eliminated like a virus unless we change our ways. The larger question is: "If we are stewards of the Earth

and Creation," are we willing to become less selfish, and more determined to share the wealth and resources of our planet, and no longer tolerate starvation, poverty and need?

Fourthly: as an adjunct to the former line of thought, every country on earth has indigenous people who have been affected, annihilated, and dispossessed by colonial attitudes. As we seek to find ways to recognize them, and make ourselves feel good about reconciliation, we must return to looking at the stark picture of prejudice, poverty, and oppression that remains the outward and visible sign of our comfort and possession.

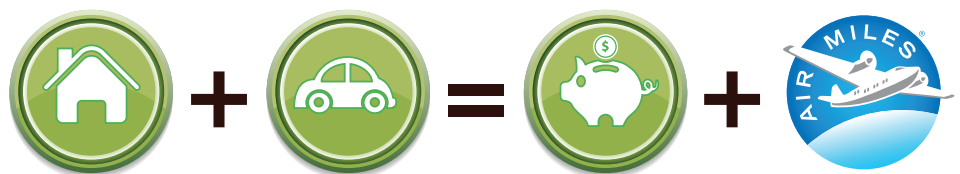
How do you think Jesus is responding to what is happening in our world today? John 3:16 tells of a God who sends, and one who freely came into the "world".

The Greek "cosmos" in that passage refers not to a planet, but to the structures, complications, challenges and needs of **everyone**, and every society. Jesus came because God loved us, who lived in the midst of an incredible mess, and to show the endless possibilities of love for every generation.

Our task then, as a Church and as individuals, is to make sure that every person, regardless of who they are, where they live, what they believe, who they love, or what they have done, is elevated to equal status in the Kingdom of God. Let us keep these things in mind as the Spirit of Jesus leads our Church into the future. Thank you, Archbishop Fred, for your nurture and teaching.

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# Alumni Workshop Held With the Archdeacon of Cyprus and The Gulf, the Primate, and the Prolocutor

Article and photographs by  
Emily F. Rowe

On April 30th, Convocation Day, the Queen's College Alumni hosted a workshop at St. Augustine's parish in St. John's. The speakers at that event were Archdeacon John Holdsworth (of the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf), Archbishop Fred Hiltz (Primate of Canada), and Cynthia Haines Turner (Prolocutor of General Synod).

Archdeacon Holdsworth's diocese is one of four dioceses in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East, and covers Cyprus and the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Yemen. They offer the Discipleship and Ministry program of Queen's College (still under its original name of "Exploring Faith" in that diocese) for the training of theologically literate lay and clerical leaders. Holdsworth said that they have over thirty people now training in this program in their diocese, and that Exploring Faith has the ability to be a great gift to the entire Anglican Communion if it is properly recognized for its potential. Exploring Faith overcomes many problematic issues that they have in a diocese like Cyprus and the Gulf, such as geography (people are very spread out), isolation (how to deal with those called to ministry in isolated areas), resources (how to give access to library materials in a country where you cannot always import religious books), poverty (the people with money aren't always the ones who most need the ministry of the church), and transient populations (people can have their job transferred at a moment's notice). Simple things like having a program from which credits can be easily transferred, and in which local education groups can be set up to support each other in remote locations makes a huge difference for



Archdeacon Holdsworth

religious education.

Holdsworth thanked Queen's College for the trust that they have placed in the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf. Many academic institutions do not allow for satellite locations such as this one. By allowing them to offer Exploring Faith to their people, Queen's is having a huge impact on their ability to train local people for ministry.

After a short break, Archbishop Fred Hiltz spoke to the alumni about the events at the upcoming General Synod, set for July



Archbishop Hiltz

2019. He said that many people are mistakenly assuming that this is a "two issue Synod," set to discuss marriage equality and to elect a new Primate for the Anglican Church of Canada. He cautioned against this though, and spoke at length of the importance of the continued work on reconciliation toward which we are working as a Church.

He harkened back to the apology offered to Canada's Indigenous peoples by then Primate Archbishop Michael Peers on August 6th, 1993. Hiltz reminded us all that Peers had said at that time that "words without action are empty," and urged us all to watch a documentary entitled "Stolen Land Strong Hearts," which is available online, and which speaks to this issue of reconciliation. In the matter of Indigenous peoples and same sex marriage, Hiltz was clear on the fact that there are as many different options within those communities on this issue as there are within any groups in the Anglican Communion, and that we must always be conscious of that.

Everyone present received a copy of "A Word to the Church: Considering the proposed amendment of Marriage Canon XXI." That document includes a timeline, showing where this proposed change had its beginnings, an affirmation of the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples, a section on governance and interpretation, a section on the diverse teachings on the nature of marriage, pastoral realities, a lament, and a list of five affirmations. Hiltz especially drew attention to the lament section which says that this has been "a long season of deep pain for the whole church," and that we have "witnessed disdain and failure of charity toward those who hold different understandings of marriage." When asked how



Archbishop Hiltz and Cynthia Haines Turner

we can learn to disagree respectfully and gracefully with each other on matters such as marriage equality, Hiltz said that, "There is nothing evil about conflict—it's how we deal with it." He implored people to not question the integrity of the hard work that someone else has done in looking at scripture just because they have come to a different conclusion than your own. Don't try to change minds, but rather listen. Hiltz also reminded those present that the St. Michael Report said that our understanding of marriage is one of doctrine, it is not one of core, or creedal doctrine. We need to live together with our differences.

Also speaking to the alumni was Cynthia Haines Turner, Prolocutor of General Synod, and a member of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland (and Anglican Life columnist). She took the time to outline exactly what happens during the election of a new Primate for our Church, and walked us all through that

process. The new Primate will be elected by the clergy and lay members of General Synod—the bishops only vote if there is a tie. Turner said that General Synod has been presented with an excellent and diverse group of candidates, and she has great hopes for the future of the Anglican Church of Canada.

The morning concluded with lunch. Thank you to Queen's for organizing this event, thank you to the speakers, and thank you to St. Augustine's for the use of your parish hall.



Cynthia Haines Turner



The Primate addresses the Queen's College alumni





## Annual PWRDF Sunday Held in Corner Brook Parish

Article and photographs by  
Shirley Balsom

All Saints' Anglican Church, Corner Brook, held its annual Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Sunday on March 31st. PWRDF Diocesan coordinator Mona Edwards was invited to speak at the 11:00am service; she was accompanied by Cindy Turner who did the children's talk. Then Rev'd Tanya White blessed gifts given by the parishioners to be distributed by the parish PWRDF representative Linda Buckle on her visit to Cuba. The Outreach Committee hosted a soup, sandwich, cookie, tea and coffee luncheon, and a freewill offering was accepted for PWRDF. It was a wonderful afternoon of food and fellowship.

*Top of the page: People enjoying the luncheon*

*Middle photo on the right: Cynthia Haines-Turner and the children*

*Bottom right: Linda Buckle and Mona Edwards*



## The Graduate

Ronald Clarke  
Columnist



"How are you today?" I asked Thelma, a lively ninety year old in a seniors' complex.

"Not so well lately," she replied. "I think I'm soon going to graduate!"

"Graduate?" I queried, "How so?"

"I'm totally convinced," she stated, "that death is not really *death* at all—not in the sense that I will cease to exist—but it is rather a 'promotion' to a much higher, more wonderful life; it's a 'graduation' I've been preparing for all my life."

"When we are born," Thelma continued, "we're all helpless, uninformed infants. Immediately though, we begin to learn and develop, though the process is rather slow. It takes most of us about twenty years to become 'adults.'"

"Physically, at about twenty-one, we become 'adults'; we become 'mature,' so to speak. But as for life-skills, knowledge, and 'wisdom,' we still have a LONG way to go!"

"In fact, we go on learning and developing each and every year we live. The longer we live the more developed and wise we become. By the time we're eighty most of us really know what life is all about. I've learned a lot of new stuff in the past ten years. But by the time we're eighty or more, our physical bodies are just about worn out."

"How I wish I could have a twenty year old body now," she sighed. "What I could do for myself and the rest of the world! But now it's too late."

"If there's no life after death," Thelma stated, "then my life, and everyone else's, has been a stupid, pointless waste of time!"

"How so?" I asked.

"To begin with," she continued, "the first twenty-

five percent of my life was rather useless. Totally dependent on my parents, and everyone around me, I was more of a hindrance than anything else. Most animal creatures are not like that. They reach maturity shortly after birth; then they spend the great majority of their years functioning as adults. Why do humans 'waste' about twenty-five percent of their lives as youngsters?"

"Actually," Thelma said, "I was far from fully functional at age 30. I became wiser and more skilled in each decade. Only in 'old-age' have I reached my 'peak.'"

"How illogical and ironic is it," Thelma asks, "that when we reach our 'peak' we die? Must all our years of living and learning end in the grave?"

"Living, I believe," she continued, "is like going to school, where we develop our skill for *higher living* to come. I have been living and learning for ninety years. God has been schooling me for all those years, developing my spiritual powers for the glorious *new life after death*. My schooling, I think, is just about complete. I am ready for my *new role* in God's eternal kingdom. So, very soon now, God is going to graduate me. Praise the Lord!"

I think Thelma has got it all figured out right...worth thinking about, isn't it?

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## Hopping on The Ban Wagon

Article by  
Dr. David Morgan

*"I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination."*  
Jeremiah 2:7 NRSV



Society and Justice  
Anglican East NL

Is it time to ban single-use plastic bags? Well, I certainly see that they are a problem: they clutter up the natural environment, kill marine life, and take a bazillion years to decompose. As far as what the best solution is, that's hard to say, but a ban is probably the right way to go. Charge a tax for a single-use plastic bag (like the levy on beverage containers, but it would probably need to be way higher) or ban them all together—at least a ban puts all of us on the same footing regardless of income levels.

Now, don't get me wrong—I am not a fan of having governments interfere in my day-to-day life. My position on a single-use plastic bag ban conflicts with my "free choice" sensibilities. But there is a consumer reality that we, collectively, don't seem to be able to overcome.

The other day, I needed to buy some "button-style" batteries. I did a quick comparison and identified the options that offered a good combination of price and quality, and there were a couple of options that were more-or-less equal. To break the tie, I decided to look at the packaging. Not only were the best value options packaged in plastic, but all the options were packaged in plastic.

Why were they all packaged in plastic? Are "button-style" batteries more sensitive to moisture?

Is there a risk that they might get damaged in paper? I suspect neither of these considerations is the deciding factor for packaging in plastic. I think I might have already suggested the real answer. Remember, I was only looking at the packaging after I looked at price and quality. In the absence of consumer demand for less plastic packaging (or the heroics of a very small number of environmentally-conscious companies), manufacturers will continue to package in plastic because it is a highly-profitable option.

Might I have paid a bit more for batteries not packaged in plastic? Maybe (I'd like to think so). But, until we collectively begin to re-prioritize how we purchase, government interference is necessary to reduce the use of plastic. Just as price/quality was more "front of mind" than packaging in my battery purchase, profit is more "front of mind" than environmental stewardship for most manufacturers and retailers.

The impact of our collective consumer priorities on environmental stewardship is inherent in nearly everything we buy, whether large or small. Whether it's choosing electric/hybrid cars over gasoline or choosing paper straws over plastic,

if we begin to prioritize environmental stewardship in our purchasing, we will see change—environmentally-sustainable options will become better, cheaper, and more convenient. And, just as importantly, they will become even more environmentally-sustainable (presently, lithium mining/production for electric car batteries involves large evaporation pits, and the paper industry still uses relatively little recycled material).

Which brings me back to the single-use plastic bags. Sure, some of the single-use plastic bags we acquire are being reused for dog poop and wet paint brushes, so there is some meaningful reuse going on. But reuse is not reduction—remember, the three 'R's are in order of priority: reduce, reuse, recycle. Collectively, we have had the free choice to reduce our use of single-use plastic bags (sturdy, washable reusable bags are available from most retailers at low cost), but we haven't done it fast enough. So, it's time for governments to step in.

A single-use plastic bag ban might mean we have to buy some single-use plastic bags for certain applications when plastic is the only option, but let's try to not go back to using as many as we used to.

For more information and resources on social justice, check out [www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/](http://www.anglican.ca/publicwitness/)

## Never Too Late

Kevin Smith  
Columnist

A number of years ago, I wrote a column about Andrew A. George of New Harbour, Trinity Bay, which included his observations on the 1930s regarding who attended church and who didn't. When World War II broke out in 1939, Andrew volunteered for service in the Royal Navy and was part of the first 200. He served on a number of ships and was involved in the Allied invasions of Italy. Well, I recently came across an article that he had written about the Battle of Salerno in 1943. At the time, he was serving on the RN's LST 322 (landing ship tank), which was responsible for ferrying tanks, munitions and troops to the beaches of Salerno. They were under heavy fire from German occupation forces. Here is where I pick up his story as the troops were getting ready to go ashore into what he called "the unknown dangers of an enemy held country." Andrew's powers of observation and writing skills are incredible:



*"One had not much time for observations, but as one saw the expressions on the faces of the soldiers who were writing last letters to wives, mothers and sweethearts, one could see the more serious side of the drama. They were writing in pencil with dog eared pads balanced on knees, thoughtfully rubbing the rubber over their chins with a far away look on their faces. For many this would be the last letter home, and glancing at their thoughtful faces, one recalled the day before we left Tripoli when all ships company were issued "Next of Kin" forms to fill in. Yes, it was a grim*

*business. It was war, and there were no illusions in the minds of those soldiers about the dangers involved."*



The "Next of Kin" form had to be completed by military personnel before they were engaged in a war situation. I suspect that many of the 3000 plus Newfoundlanders who volunteered with the Royal Navy never had a legal will and the "Next of Kin" document was a good substitute in the event that the person was killed in action. In other words, it served as a type of will. In addition, many of the people serving were unmarried and anything left in their estate would be passed on to their parents.

In today's military, it is mandatory for members to complete a legal will as part of the recruitment process. One retired soldier told me that after he was married and still in the army, his wife came across his will and saw that the beneficiary of his estate was his mother. Needless to say, they weren't long in changing that will.

June has finally arrived and the next few months are a time of relaxation, reflection and enjoying time with your families. But please find time to protect yourself and your family by ensuring that you have a legally drafted will. And, prayerfully consider leaving something in that 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: [kevinsmith709@gmail.com](mailto:kevinsmith709@gmail.com)



# Giving Away Glasses Changed Their Lives, And Changed Mine Too

Article By Taylor Fry  
Photographs by YWAM  
Medical Ships

Eye glasses—you may need them or you know somebody who does. 75% of the world has vision impairment. Personally, I got my first pair of glasses when I was twelve; I had trouble seeing the board in class so I went to one of the many optometrists which Newfoundland had to offer. I remember putting them on, and the whole world around me changed. Everything was so detailed; it felt like an alternate reality. I asked my dad, "Is this how people see the world?" In two seconds my life had changed. That's why when I had the opportunity to volunteer on YWAM PNG, a medical ship providing free health care services to rural Papua New Guinea, out of all the teams on board, the Optometry Team sparked my interest. I knew the miracle that glasses could become, and I wanted to be a part of it.

I spent six weeks on YWAM PNG with my fiancé, and I was on the Optometry Team for all of it. In total we gave out 1,096 pairs of glasses (reading, and prescription). This is a big number, but my leader Ken always told us not to focus on the number, but what it represents—the lives that we changed and the people who we helped. One afternoon in Western

Province, I met a lady who had the same eye glass prescription as me, when she put her glasses on she went quiet and I could see her holding back tears taking in her surroundings. One man was looking forward to reading his Bible again; another lady told me that now she could finally follow along at church.



Umami

Then there was Umami (pictured above). It had been 18 years since he could see clearly. He had heard that we



Taylor, on the right

would be in a nearby village, so he took the opportunity to come get help. After putting on his glasses he smiled and said, "It's like waking up from a dream." Umami was also looking forward to being able to see his grandchildren playing together. These are only a few of the many stories I have from my time on board. It's amazing what a pair of glasses can do.

Volunteering on the ship was definitely an eye opening experience. Some of us Newfoundlanders take way too much for granted, and the gratitude I found being in PNG thankfully followed me back home. Having an income, my health, a home, a hot shower, a loving fiancé, a healthy family, the ability to live an active life, an education, etc. The list goes on and on. These things seem simple but they are blessings, and realizing this has made me a much happier person. You don't need to join YWAM PNG and travel across the world to figure this out, but I totally recommend you doing so. Lastly, I thank God everyday for leading me to where I am today. You see, I went on this ship to help people, but they've helped me way more than I did them.

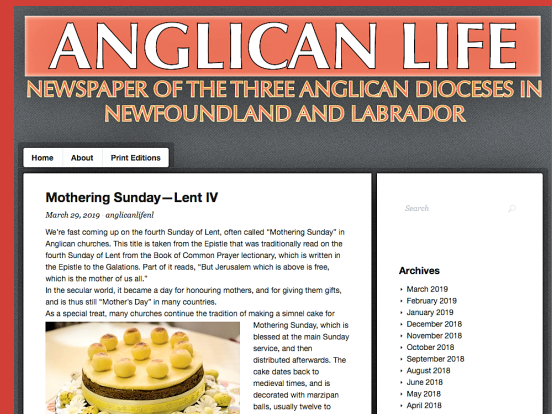


Taylor, seated on the ground in the middle

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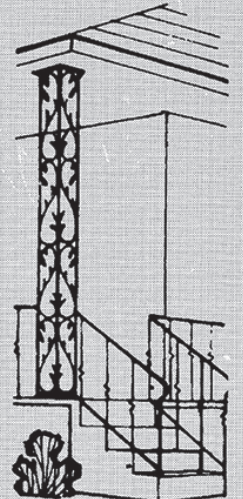
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# As I End My Term as Prolocutor

Cynthia Haines-Turner  
Columnist

Spoiler alert! This column is going to be all about gratitude. As my term as Prolocutor concludes when General Synod is prorogued, I am grateful. I am grateful for the opportunity to see our Anglican Church of Canada at its best. As Prolocutor, and before that as Deputy Prolocutor, I have had a bird's eye view of the ministry of General Synod and of the committees and structures which 'house' that ministry. Some, at first glance, may seem rather prosaic or even tedious. Take for instance the Financial Management or Pension Committees—they are all about numbers and budgets and the bottom line, right? Not so, for I found the Financial Management Committee to be a kind of modern day inversion of "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Luke 12:34), in that where our heart was, that is where our mission was, and was where we invested our finances. Likewise, the Pension Committee may hear from actuaries and accountants and work through the minutiae of Government regulations, but at its core, the Committee caringly provides for people who have served this Church faithfully. Ensuring that ministry is



funded or that people can retire with some security is anything but mundane. Tending to the communication needs of our Church and ensuring the most effective and efficient means of creating a community where the members speak and listen to one another did require some concentrated work. The Communications and Information Resources and the Anglican Journal Coordinating Committees together did some tough slogging that resulted in some proposals coming before this General Synod; these proposals will, we hope, allow for a diversity of voices to be heard, and that will provide an effective vehicle through which we connect Anglicans from coast to coast, and through which we communicate. As General Synod meets and considers the resolutions and

reports from Faith, Worship and Ministry, Partners in Mission, Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice, and the Resources for Mission Coordinating Committees, the scope and breadth of our collective ministry should encourage and hearten our spirits. I am grateful that our Church is serious about the work of reconciliation. I was reminded recently of these words from Michael Peers when he delivered his apology in 1993: "I know how often you have heard words which have been empty because they have not been accompanied by actions." I am grateful that together with Indigenous peoples, our actions are leading us ever closer towards a truly self-governing Indigenous Church within the Anglican Church of Canada. I am grateful for so much more—for those with whom I have served and whom I now call friends, in this Church and in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. I am grateful for the privilege of having served in this capacity. As the thanksgiving prayer in our BAS says, "We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts." And I am ever grateful for the gift of God's abundant grace in this Anglican Church of Canada.



## Reaching Out To Others A Lenten project

Article and photograph by  
Jean Nash

The mission statement of the Church of the Ascension is "Reaching Out to Others." With our mission statement guiding our actions, at specific times of the year we undertake projects that focus on groups in our community that would benefit from our help. This Lenten season, our project was to collect donations for The Single

Parent Association: items such as baby's needs, recess items, and some basic baking products. Thanks to our parishioners, donations quickly filled the shelving provided in the foyer! A sampling of the donations received was placed before the altar, blessed, and accepted by a leader from the Association.

Go where life takes you, but plan ahead.

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

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# PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief  
and Development Fund

## Calling Friends of PWRDF

Article by the Ven Charlene Taylor  
PWRDF Representative,  
Anglican East NL

The work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund depends on many individuals to enable its life changing ministry to happen. If you pray, if you share the good news of PWRDF's work or if you financially contribute—then you are a friend of PWRDF.

True friends depend on each other, and being a friend of PWRDF is no different. As a friendship develops we learn more about each other and the more we learn the deeper the friendship grows.

Have you ever wondered about how the ministry of PWRDF works?

When you give or fundraise for PWRDF do you know the impact your contribution makes?

Do you know the impact PWRDF is making in the lives of others?

Are you seeking to enhance your friendship with PWRDF? If so, come and join us!

As friends of PWRDF the three Dioceses of Newfoundland and Labrador invite you to a Day of Sharing and Learning to celebrate 60 years of commitment and connection.

Come and learn about: partnerships, development programs, emergency response, work in Cuba and

Tanzania, youth engagement and much more.

This day event is being offered at no financial cost to you—just your time and love for PWRDF. We will gather at All Saints', Conception Bay South June 8th from 9am to 3:30pm.

To register please call your Diocesan PWRDF Representative by June 1:

Diocese of Western Newfoundland: Mona Edwards 709-635-4606 or monacedwards@nf.sympatico.ca

Central Newfoundland; Sheila Boutcher 709-424-3417 or boutchersheila@gmail.com

Eastern NL: Archdeacon Charlene Taylor 709-237-1877 or revcharlenetaylor@gmail.com

Jesus said, I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know the master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15)

If you are a present friend of PWRDF, or if you are new to PWRDF and its ministry, come and share in this event. May we be about the Father's business in fellowship and friendship!

## Lavrock Camp and Conference Centre 30th anniversary—2019/2020

Article by  
the Rev'd Canon Ed Keeping  
Chair, Lavrock Board of  
Management

The Board of Management of the Lavrock Centre is planning a year-long celebration of special events from June 2019 to June 2020!

The year 2020 will mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Lavrock Centre. On June 15th, 2019, each parish in the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador is invited to come and celebrate with us at the Centre for a day of special activities. Beginning at 10am, there will be many games for children such as a fish pond, races, and a bouncy castle, with many other activities as well. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to register with the camp manager if they plan to attend with their children. Please email our manager at: lavrocknl@gmail.com. The day of fun and fellowship will close with an outdoor Eucharist at 3:30pm. There will be an opportunity to purchase t-shirts, hoodies, and sweaters marking this milestone in the history of Lavrock.

During the month of July, through our camping programs, we will welcome former campers to come by to visit with new campers. We will be asking the leaders of these camps to bring people together and celebrate our first thirty years. Much more news will become available as we prepare for these camps.

On August 3rd, we will be asking all those who



use the camp to come for day of visioning to help us move forward to our next thirty years. Previous days of visioning in the past have proved to be successful as we garnered input from our users. There have been many improvements over the past few years, and perhaps the greatest of these has been the hiring of a manager for the Centre.

The most important celebration will be remembering those who were instrumental in the visioning and the building of the Centre. Without their vision and commitment, our camping program and youth ministry would not be as strong as it is.

I would encourage all parishes in Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador to rethink and begin to use the Centre as they did in its early days. Many parishes use it as a retreat for their confirmation classes, youth programs, and Alpha programs as well as others. Vestries, groups, and families within your parishes are encouraged to use the Centre as a place to come relax, renew, and to then go back to continue the work within the parish.

We have over the past thirty years had people who believed in Lavrock and desired it to move forward to become truly what we

have always thought it could become: "a conference centre" as well as a camping centre. The more that we can get our parishes involved, the more that we can accomplish these goals.

Once again, I say to the people of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador: "if we lose this place as a place for spiritual growth and helping our young people to respect each other and the Christian faith, we will never ever see again in our diocese a place like the Lavrock Centre." As Anglicans throughout this vast diocese, we must never allow this to happen!

Thank you for your past support and for your continued support as we work together to celebrate the past thirty years and to envision together the next thirty years. I hope we can see you on June 15th at Lavrock for a day of fun and fellowship.

Have a blessed, safe, and relaxing summer.

The Rev'd Canon Ed  
Keeping

Chair  
Lavrock Board of  
Management



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# 122 Years of Ministry in Coley's Point

Article and photograph by  
Doreen Russell

St. John the Evangelist ACW, Coley's Point, celebrated 122 years of ministry in the Church and community.

The ladies attended church on February 10th, 2019, the actual date of its inception in 1897, for their Corporate Communion, and actively participated in the service.

Throughout the year, the ladies prepare lunches for bereaved families, attend funeral services for departed members, serve

on the altar guild and vestry, volunteer at the local food bank, and visit our oldest members on their birthdays (Greta French who is 93, and Phyllis Parsons who is 89). They also held a very successful fundraiser. In addition, as a Lenten project, the ladies support the ministry for the deaf.

Our membership is declining. However, our faith in fellowship is strong, and we will continue to support the Church's ministry.



*The ACW with the rector of the parish, the Rev'd Kenute Francis.*

## Ten Years of Marriage, With The Ups and Downs Included—And With Faith in God

Allison Billard  
Columnist

As I sit to write this, my other half and I are celebrating 10 years of marriage. I really wanted to say "wedded bliss," because that's what people always say, right? Put the best foot forward and suppress anything that doesn't resemble nice, happy, perfect, etc. Well if you've read my columns you know that's not really my style, for better or for worse I suppose.

No, I won't say it has been 10 years of bliss. That is completely impossible given that we are both stubborn, headstrong, opinionated individuals (ok, maybe me more than him, but one of those is probably more than enough). There have been many, many, many blissful moments. We have two beautiful, clever, healthy, boys. We have a nice house, and good jobs. We have a wonderful, supportive family. We are very, very, very blessed.

But there have been some very difficult times as well. Luckily, we are both the "hang on by the skin of your teeth" kind of people, and we barrel on through the tough times and come out the other side appreciating all we have even more, which I



choose to believe is how God intended it to be.

Surely, having given humans the gift of free will, he knew it wouldn't always be easy. When two people

decide to marry and spend their lives together, there will be conflict amidst the love and desire and fun. There will be challenges to overcome, and heartache and loss as well. That is the story of life. Luckily our creator also made us resilient and strong and faithful. And as many of us have seen first hand—anything is possible with a little faith.

As a parent of small children, it is my job, my responsibility, my duty, to raise them to realize their gifts of strength and resilience. I want to

teach them to be kind and respectful, but also to stand up for what is right, to protect the environment, and help others whenever they can. I want them to know that it is ok to experience conflict, frustration, disappointment, grief, loss, anxiety and the whole spectrum of the human experience and that no matter what, they can get through it. The best way I know how to do that is to live it, let them experience those things, and be there to support them through it—just like my partner and I help each other through life's ups and downs. We

must also endeavour to do all these things through a lens of faith, so that even when they feel all alone, they know that they are not—they can pray and have faith that God will see them through.

Some days it is a tough gig. So today we celebrate the first 10 years, and we pray that we get to have another 10, or 20, or 50+ like our parents. No one knows how much time we get, so we best make the most of every moment, even the difficult ones, wouldn't you agree?

“Suddenly nothing made sense anymore...”



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Photo by Emily F. Rowe

Installation of Cathedral Chapter and  
Commissioning of Mission Deans

## News From Topsail

Article by  
Louise Smith

As I sat down to collect my thoughts tonight, a news flash came over the air waves—the great 800 year old most notable monument in Paris—Notre Dame Cathedral was on fire.

It was just a week earlier that I had had the privilege of attending a service at our own Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which is a cornerstone of the city of St. John's, Newfoundland.

Still fresh in my mind was the significance of its structure, the gothic architecture and the resounding acoustics.

But its significance to us might have paled in the eyes of the administrators of Notre Dame as they faced the possible loss of precious artifacts stored in its archives for centuries.

However, our function at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on the night in question, April 7th, 2019, had very new and purposeful spiritual connotations. It represented opening the door of a year long preparation for the need for change in our churches—the development of a mission approach.

The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Geoffrey Peddle, Bishop and Dean of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, commissioned the Mission Archdeacon, and four Mission Deans. Our own Rev'd Jolene Peters was assigned as Mission Dean to Conception Bay South and the North East Avalon.

Also, at that same service, several priests were bestowed the designations of Archdeacon, Mission Dean, and Canon.

Then also while still in April, we evolved through a busy but prayerful forty days of Lent, while participating in a mid-week service every Wednesday.

Commencing with Palm Sunday, Rev'd Jolene planned a special service each night leading up to Easter Sunday, including the traditional three-hour service on Good Friday.

To conclude the April activities, on Saturday, April 13th, the ladies of our parish were invited to and attended a quiet day at the Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Norman's Cove, hosted by the Anglican Church Women there.

It was a long but very inspirational day starting at 9:30am and concluding at 4:30pm.

The Rev'd Daphne Parsons was the main speaker, delivering a series of thought provoking reflections. In each, she emphasized and never deviated from the theme "The Hands of the Master Potter." As an added bonus, Bishop Geoff attended with his wife Kathy, and administered the Eucharist.

The warm welcome which we received, and the food for both body and soul was overwhelming and appreciated. It gave us a lot to digest on our 90-minute drive back home to Topsail.

*Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands and purify your hearts. James 4:8*

## News From St. Mary The Virgin, St. John's

Articles and photographs by  
Melanie Clarke

### Oh what a night

On March 15th, the leprechauns of St. Mary's at 1 Cornwall Crescent, celebrated their annual Paddy's Night. There was music, friends, food, dancing, singing, and entertainment.

Irish stew was the meal of choice. There were two kinds of stew: moose and beef, with homemade biscuits—and dessert was green cake!

Music was supplied by the "Sweet Forget Me Nots" and "Eastern Gate." You are all invited to join in the fun next Paddy's Night at St. Mary's. Get ready to "Kiss Me I'm Irish!"



### Partnership with Corpus Christi helps our neighbours in need

In early February, a week or so before the Food Bank fire, the congregation of St. Mary the Virgin on Craigmillar Avenue decided that one of their main outreach areas would be assisting the food banks, especially Corpus Christi with whom they had partnered early in the New Year.

The congregation, led by the Ways and Means Committee, devised a plan to fundraise by selling tickets on \$1000.00 prize of gift cards. The cost of the gift cards would be paid for by the congregation.

The money acquired from the sales would be shared 50/50 with Corpus Christi Food Bank.

The winner of the gift cards was Judy Roache, and the winning ticket was drawn on April 10th, 2019. The proceeds from the sale were \$4000, and on April 11th, 2019, this amount was given to the Corpus Christi Food bank.

Corpus Christi Food Bank supports about 250 clients every month. This month they are making an extra effort to help support the Gathering Place by

having a toiletry drive. Toiletries are always in demand as most donations are of actual food. The Food Bank saw a need so they have fundraised specifically for this purpose. The Food Bank is appreciative of the new partnership with St. Mary's Church. If you wish to help with this, please bring your donation to the Corpus Christi Food Bank, behind Corpus Christi Church on Waterford Bridge Road.

Thank you for all who in any way helped make life a little better for our neighbours who need help.



From left to right: Everett Russell, Austin Benson, Rev. Nancy March, Louise Moores (President of the Society of St. Vincent the Paul Corpus Christi Conference), Fred Tulk (Chair of the Ways and Means Committee), Shirley Castella, Ruby Williams, Paul Williams, Cathy Fleming (Secretary of the Corpus Christi Conference)



# Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World

The Rev'd Canon  
Gerald Westcott  
Columnist

I've 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 article knows that the church and society they once knew is no more. That realization 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 daily meditations (that I would highly recommend subscribing to at [www.cac.org](http://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 to 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."



## JA in Spaniard's Bay

Article and photographs by  
Laura Parsons

Christian youth groups are a thing of the past for many communities and are struggling to keep children interested while staying true to their Christian roots. To our knowledge, there are only two JA troops in Atlantic Canada (Spaniards Bay and UIC); with this in mind, we have had to revamp the way our JA is run as the mandates for the JA were last updated in the 70's. This year we decided to have all the girls work as a group on a common theme: "Every girl can change the world." In keeping with this we have done our best to show our girls and the community how working together we can accomplish amazing things.

This year started with just 2 leaders (Laura Noseworthy and Nikki Dawe) with 30 girls registering. As the year went on, we had a few more helpers come along to join us when they could: Mackenzie Neil, Florence Leech, and Lori Pike have become invaluable assets.

### Spaniards Bay Junior Auxiliary Year in Review

- The girls painted rocks and hid them around the local communities for others to find and enjoy. Keep looking for them!
- Attended local church services and shared their love of music and their talent with the congregations. As well as completing requirements to be enrolled in JA.
- Hosted an "Open House Newfie Kitchen Party" with the local band The Islanders, had a Screech-in, and welcomed all who wanted to join the festivities.
- Donated and delivered Thanksgiving vegetable hampers to families in need in the local area.



- Took part in Remembrance Day ceremonies in school as well as at local legions.
- Hosted and served their grandmothers and sponsors at a grandmothers' tea party.
- Raised over \$600 and donated it along with two new collection plates to the Tilton church for its repairs.
- Hosted a teddy bear wellness clinic and spa night to learn about self care and the importance of our physical and mental health.
- Made, donated, and delivered 30 infant and family care package stockings to the Janeway NICU. This was one Christmas package for every NICU bed the Janeway has.
- Took part in and placed a float in the Spaniard's Bay Christmas Parade.
- Assisted the Salvation Army and manned the Christmas Kettle at Powells in Bay Roberts.
- Attended safety training at the Port de Grave fire hall and Bay Roberts RCMP.
- Attended a Town Council meeting, learned how the town works, and asked questions to the councillors; the girls became Junior Councillors for the night.
- Attended a session at the Public Library and learned how it services the local towns.
- Hosted "Career Night"

and had NTV field reporter Melissa Jenkins come by and tell the girls about her career, and how no career is off limits to women.

-Made a monetary donation to the family of Harmony Jones, sent along a care package and made personalized cards for Harmony to help cheer her up as she is on her cancer journey.

Along with all these activities, the girls had many parties celebrating their friendships, Bible study time as group activities, and a full year of fun.

To say we are proud of their accomplishments is an understatement. Each and every girl has worked to make their community a better, kinder place to live in. Hats off to these mighty little girls.



We are anticipating feedback from the families to see where we can improve our group, but so far the year has been quite a success. They are planning a mother daughter banquet next month, and we are still working on group events for this summer. The 2019 registration will take place in September, and we look forward to seeing the girls return with any new members we can accommodate.



# Planting the Seeds of Wellness: Harvesting Health and Hope

This story was written by Hannah Tilley, social marketing consultant with Health Promotion, Population and Public Health, in consultation with Brenda Halley, social worker with Mental Health and Addictions with Eastern Health, and parishioner at the Cathedral. It was originally published on Eastern Health's blog, StoryLine: Our Voices, Our Story on April 12, 2019 at: <https://storyline.easternhealth.ca/2019/04/12/planting-seeds-of-wellness-harvesting-health-and-hope/>, and it is reprinted here with permission from Eastern Health.

When you think about community gardens, you probably think of a garden's ability to grow flowers, vegetables or fruits. What you may not think of, however, is a community garden's ability to foster personal growth within those who tend to its crops.

That growth was evident in downtown St. John's in the summer of 2018, thanks to a budding partnership between Eastern Health and The Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and a grant from Eastern Health's Healthy Communities Partnership Fund. Through the grant, the partners were able to support two groups: *Wisdom to Wellness* and *Gender Journeys*. These groups offered health, hope, and the opportunity for growth, among members and within their beloved community garden.

*Wisdom to Wellness* is a program designed for people who are living with addiction and/or other mental health issues. Based on principles of recovery and harm reduction, participants in the program explore ways to live healthier lives in recovery.

*"The Wisdom to Wellness program made me feel in control of my own recovery, while providing tools to make that recovery possible."* – Participant

*Gender Journeys* is a program designed for adults who represent a range of gender non-conforming identities and the wider trans communities. The program provides a positive space for people who are exploring their identities and who may be dealing with transphobia in their lives.

*"Gender Journeys was a valuable and productive experience for me as a participant," said a Gender Journeys participant. "The guided facilitation on important and sensitive topics created a safe space for myself and other participants to engage with challenging issues*



Group activities range from season to season

*related to our transitions, while having access to a social work professional as well as a facilitator with lived experience."*

The Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist is no stranger to partnerships and community development. The Venerable Roger Whalen, the Archdeacon of the church, said that churches like his are "trying to focus more on mission – the connection and engagement between the church and the community." He said that "partnerships allow us to facilitate some of the important work done in our community, by using the expertise that is already present."

In fact, both *Wisdom to Wellness* and *Gender Journeys* followed in the footsteps of another well-established and successful group known as the *Friday Wellness Group*. This Eastern Health-led group has been operating for eight years and, depending on the activity, takes place in partnership with different community groups and organizations. The Anglican Cathedral hosted the *Friday Wellness*

Group members on different occasions over the summer months for outdoor yoga, gardening, and cooking. Other activities of the group include indoor yoga, hiking, and snowshoeing and participants in *Gender Journeys* and *Wisdom to Wellness* are encouraged to attend.

All three groups are facilitated by social worker, Brenda Halley. Patricia Waddleton, a clinical dietitian, also co-facilitates the *Friday Wellness Group*. Both work with Eastern Health's Mental Health and Addictions program. Though the three groups have a different focus, the facilitators ensure that the programs – and their participants – connect with each other.

"The intent was for the programs to flow together," said facilitator Brenda Halley. "Participants from either group could attend some, or all, of our many sessions – like yoga, meditation, and cooking – depending on their interests. I used the garden to connect everyone, because food connects us all."

The community garden, which was built right on the grounds of the Cathedral, has had a huge role in fostering those connections, as well as allowing for hands-on learning opportunities, and facilitating growth – in more than just vegetable crops.

"This not only provided a food source for people. The tending and care of the garden, over several months, lead to a sense of commitment and pride for those involved," said Patricia Waddleton.

Planting, tending and seeing growth in a real garden inspired and often mirrored personal growth in the lives of the program participants.

*"Gender Journeys* has had a positive impact on my life in so many ways, mostly in terms of how I see myself living with mental illness," said one of the program participants. "The support I have felt from the members of the groups at the beginning of my transition has been absolutely amazing!"

In October 2018, all of the vegetables were harvested, but the group didn't stop there! Participants used the vegetables to prepare a meal together. The overall "food-to-table" experience was a great one, especially for those who didn't always have the means to access healthy food, or food at all.

According to Waddleton: "Cooking sessions are a great opportunity to educate, in a practical way, about food preparation methods of healthy, affordable meals." She recognized that many of the program participants were often hungry and isolated, and that cooking and eating together often helped them meet those needs. One participant said that "the availability of healthy foods during our sessions meant the difference between having access to food and not."

Though the cold temperatures have put a pause on the garden for

now, personal growth has not been stunted! With continued support from the Anglican Cathedral and Eastern Health employees, the groups help to grow and strengthen social networks by providing open and inclusive spaces where relationships are nurtured and supported.

"We each bring something valuable into the partnership, a combination that provides something even more valuable and useful for the community," said Archdeacon Whalen. "We all want to work for the benefit to the community, and partnerships make that work more efficient and effective."



Program participants made mason jar salads using crops from their community garden and other nutritious ingredients

The church will continue to apply for community grants like the Healthy Communities Partnership Fund, established by Eastern Health's Board of Trustees, and partner with local organizations to have a positive impact.

All those involved are keen to continue working together to promote health and wellness in their community, according to Brenda Halley.

"We are building community, one group at a time."



# Church of the Ascension Highlights

Article and photographs by  
Jean Nash

The Ascension in Mount Pearl congregation is feeling quite honoured—honoured that:

- Pastor Kent Sceviour from Park Avenue Pentecostal Church was guest speaker for Palm Sunday evening IONA Quiet Service, as well as Monday and Tuesday Holy Week evening services;
- Bishop Geoffrey was

with us on Good Friday for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion;

- Primate Fred Hiltz was our guest preacher for all services on the second Sunday in Easter;
- On that Sunday afternoon, there was the ordination of the Rev'd Neil Coffin to the Diaconate.



At the ordination of the Rev'd Neil Coffin



Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz



Bishop Geoffrey Peddle

## Between the Lessons—The Business of Being King

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe  
Columnist

At the beginning of 2 Samuel chapter 10, David continues the business of being king: he is keeping Israel engaged in the political world of their neighbours. Something peculiar happens, though. Nahash, king of the Ammonites, dies, and David sends messengers to bring his condolences to Nahash's son. He says 'I will deal loyally with Hanun, as his father dealt loyally with me.' The Hebrew word here translated as 'dealing loyally' is usually used to refer to loving-kindness or grace. It's one thing to talk about *God's* loving-kindness (as the Bible often does), but it's something much more peculiar to talk about loving-kindness from Nahash the Ammonite!

Careful readers might remember that Nahash was the first foreign enemy that Saul led the Israelites into battle against. When Nahash had besieged the Israelite town of Jabesh, he would only grant them a



peace treaty if all the men of Jabesh would gouge out their right eyes in disgrace. This man was *not* a friend to Israel; it's hard to imagine what kind of loyalty he could have shown to David that David would be prepared to deal loyally with his son Hanun.

Hanun's advisors seem just as suspicious of David's motives as I am. They suggest that David's messengers have come not as diplomats bringing his condolences, but as spies looking for the Ammonites' weaknesses. Hanun violates

ancient laws of hospitality by heaping insults upon his guests. He shaves off half of each man's beard and cuts off their clothes at the waist, sending them home to David half-naked and disgraced.

When David hears how his messengers have been treated, he flies into a rage. He sends them to wait in Jericho until their beards grow back and they don't have to be exposed to public shame in Jerusalem. Then he sends the two brothers, Joab and Abishai, out to attack the Ammonites. Hanun realizes his mistake, and in fear for his kingdom, hires Aramean mercenaries from the north as reinforcements. But Joab and Abishai make short work of both armies. The fleeing Arameans try to gather up reinforcements of their own, but David himself leads the Israelite army out against them, and defeats them so soundly that the Arameans were too frightened to help the Ammonites any more.

But notice a small detail in the story. David's first

reaction is not to lead the Israelites into battle himself, which, as we have seen, was understood to be the real business of being king. Just like Saul began to send his commanders into battle while he himself watched from safety, David's first reaction is to send Joab and Abishai instead. True, he does go into battle himself *eventually*, but already he is starting to show Saul's disturbing tendency to neglect the real business of being king. And that's another story... that we actually have time to start telling this month!

In the next chapter of 2 Samuel, we begin the story of David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba. That's *not* a 'Between the Lessons' story: it's one that we read in the Revised Common Lectionary last July, and will read again in July of 2021. Although David has sometimes been a bit of a rogue before, in this story, there's no way around it. We are seeing a real moral failing on his part.

And it's a story that begins precisely because David sends someone else to fight his battles.

Chapter 11 begins, 'In the spring of the year, *the time when kings go forth to battle*, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they ravaged the Ammonites... *But David remained at Jerusalem*'. This is not just a stray detail. The author is intentionally pointing out that David is not doing what he ought to be doing. Because he has stayed home instead of going to battle, he happens to catch a glimpse of Bathsheba bathing on the roof of her house. Because he has not been doing his job, he becomes caught up in a web of sin and deceit that leads to murder and a confrontation with his own guilt. It will take quite a while for David to live down the consequences of his actions, but *those* are a whole new set of stories, for another time.



# Looking For Nominations for Standing and Coordinating Committees

Submitted by  
Peter Wall,  
Deputy Prolocutor,  
General Synod Planning Committee

Are you interested in offering your skills for the ministry of the General Synod through its Coordinating and Standing Committees? Please read further to see how that may happen.

## Nominations at General Synod

One of the triennial acts of the meeting of General Synod is to elect members to the various Standing and Coordinating Committees which oversee the work and planning of the many and varied ministries of the General Synod. A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Council of General Synod, toils away night and day at General Synod, receiving nominations from across the church, and preparing recommendations for the Synod to receive.

It is so important for these Standing and Coordinating Committees to represent the length and breadth of our church from coast to coast to coast. For the most part, those elected

by General Synod need not be members of General Synod, so nominations are sought far and wide.

Indeed, the more diverse the membership, the better the work, often! I was lucky enough to be a member of different Standing Committees (as they used to be called) or Coordinating Committees (as they are now called) over the years, and I always found those experiences to be rich and rewarding, - challenging me, and putting to use my good senses and my creativity, such as they are.

So, we invite you to nominate yourself and/or nominate others. Nomination forms along with descriptions of the work of the committees and some of the skills/abilities that would be helpful for committee members, will be available online at: [gs2019.anglican.ca](http://gs2019.anglican.ca) or from your own diocesan synod office.

Peter Wall,  
Deputy Prolocutor  
Chair, General Synod

## Planning Committee

The committees that will be elected at General Synod are:

### Standing Committees:

- Pensions and Financial Management (note: the Pensions Committee is the only committee elected by General Synod solely from among the members of General Synod)

### Coordinating Committees:

- Communications
- Faith, Worship and Ministry
- Partners in Mission
- Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice
- Resources for Mission

When forwarding a name to General Synod for election, the Nominating Committee will take into account the following:

- Geographical representation and reflecting the diverse groups and individuals within the church and society.
- Expertise, experience

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and interest in the areas related to the particular focus of the committee. Knowledge of and commitment to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. Ability to work collaboratively and consultatively.

- Committed to full participation in the work of the committees, including being prepared to commit to the meetings of the

committees, either face-to-face, by telephone or by video-conference (some committees meet quite frequently by phone or video-conference) and to work on sub-committees or task groups as needed.

- Possess gifts in listening and discernment.

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