

ANGLICAN LIFE

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

MAY 2023



ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, we are taught by thy holy Word, that the hearts of Kings are in thy rule and governance, and that thou dost dispose and turn them as it seemeth best to thy godly wisdom: We humbly beseech thee so to dispose and govern the heart of CHARLES thy servant, our King and Governor, that in all his thoughts, words, and works, he may ever seek thy honour and glory, and study to preserve thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace, and godliness: Grant this, O merciful Father, for thy dear Son's sake, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Bishop's Letter Written To You From The Holy Land

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton
Bishop
Central Newfoundland

Friends, as I write this, it is Wednesday March 15th, and I write to you from the town of Nazareth.

It is getting late here, and I need to rest, I am tired, but I cannot rest just yet—not until I send you my thoughts and love; I am thinking about home but I'm not homesick. I am thinking about the whirlwind of places I have been through over the past days.

I have been to the Wilderness where Jesus was challenged and tempted, to the church where Mary sang the Magnificat, and the church where John the Baptist was born. I have prayed on the Mount of Olives, and then I was off to a refugee camp before going to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. The next stop was the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Pool



The Judean wilderness
photograph by J. D. Rowe

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

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These policies were adopted by the Anglican Life Committee.



HOLY LAND

from page 1

of Bethesda for a healing service, on to Capernaum where Jesus called the disciples on the Mount of the Beatitudes, and then to Peter's house in Caesarea Philippi where Jesus asked, "Who do You say that I am?"

This very morning, before we returned here to the guest house of the Sisters of Nazareth, we sailed on the Sea of Galilee. There, Archdeacon Terry led a prayer that we shared for you: the people of Central, Eastern, and Western Newfoundland. We were both overwhelmed by joy and love for you all, and sensed that our friends were here with us.

On Saturday at the Aida Refugee Camp, my heart was prepared for this pilgrimage because it was broken.

Aida camp was established in 1950, and it sits between the municipalities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. It is partially surrounded by a huge wall known as the West Bank Barrier, and people there cannot move without being inspected and directed and ordered about by the Israeli military. They do not have the same rights or access to employment, healthcare, housing, and education that Israelis have. Every day is a struggle for these people to eat, live, work, and build homes. Thousands of Palestinians in different camps live this way. There is a story that



Photo of Bishop Watton from Facebook

needs to be told about these living stones. Many people, Jews, Christians, and Muslims (many of whom are children), are asking us to listen to their stories, and pray for peace.

Everywhere I have been you all have been in my heart. Everywhere, I hear the voice of Jesus, and see his tears in the eyes of all the living stones I have met here. I remember that Jesus and his parents were refugees in Egypt.

There is so much to say—so much to share. I feel a little released now that this is written and off to you. Let me remind you as I go of one more thought: no one

needs to go to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, or Galilee to find Jesus. It is powerful here as I encounter the "first land" of the Incarnate Christ, and visit the places to hear the stories where they happened, but I am very aware that Our Lord is with us in Newfoundland and Labrador, and our Land is Holy too, because he dwells here with us, as one of us.

May God bless you all, followers and friends of Jesus as our pilgrimage continues together.

Here is a hug from me, as we pray for the Peace of Jerusalem.

+John, Central Newfoundland

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

June's print issue: 1 May



ONLY ONE ISSUE LEFT UNTIL THE SUMMER BREAK!

September's print issue: 1 August

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ANGLICAN LIFE



St. Alban's ACW Hosts Rice Supper to Support the Work of PWRDF

Article and photographs by
The Rev'd Charlie Cox

After the Lenten service on March 8th, St. Alban's (Parish of Grand Bank) Anglican Church Women (ACW) hosted a rice supper in the church's auditorium. Most of the people who attended the worship service stayed to enjoy the great variety of rice dishes and desserts prepared by the women.

The Worship, Education and Mission Committee, under the direction of their chair Velma Stewart, planned and coordinated the supper.

A free will offering

with matching funds from the ACW was donated to the Primate's World Relief Development Fund in aid of the Turkey and Syria earthquake disaster. ACW President Shirley Rose explained it was a successful initiative.

"The ACW would like to thank everyone who supported the rice supper. It was a great evening of church, food and fellowship. We raised \$354 and that was matched by the ACW. A great outreach project! Well done, everyone!"



ACW Treasurer, Mary Keeping, makes a donation of \$708 to the Rector, The Rev'd Charlie Cox, to be sent to PWRDF



Top photo: everyone is eager to sample the delicious food

Above: people enjoying the meal and the fellowship

On the left: the great variety of rice dishes that were prepared for this event by members of the ACW of St. Alban's

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Shrove Tuesday in Rocky Harbour

Article and photographs by Dale Decker

St. Matthew's Church, Rocky Harbour, hosted a delicious Shrove Tuesday supper of baked beans, baloney, and pancakes, along with dessert, tea, and coffee at the church hall. More than 50 people were able to attend, and a wonderful evening of food and fellowship was had by all.



ACW Touton Brunch: A PWRDF Fundraiser

Photographs and article by Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen

It was a joyful occasion when the ACW of Corner Brook's Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist was once again able to serve their ever popular Saturday touton brunch, a fundraiser for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). After a COVID-19 hiatus (since 2019), the women donned their ACW aprons, which were donated by the late Sterling Randell, and served toutons, baked beans, fried bologna, and sausages (not to mention juice, and tea or coffee), for only \$15.00 per person. The March 18th event raised just over \$1700 for PWRDF, well above the \$1300 that previous touton brunches had raised.



The Cathedral's ACW—Sybil Piercey, Muriel Randell, Connie Lamswood, Marsha Keeping, Norma House, Mona Carey, Sheila Crocker, Effie Humber, and Katie Watton; they are shown as they served a meal for the National ACW Presidents' and Vice Presidents' Conference, September 29, 2022.



Seen above are Jean Buckingham, Irene Grandy, Rowena Laing, and Patricia Day, serving two of Archbishop Stewart Payne's children at the ACW touton brunch, March 18, 2023.



HAS YOUR PARISH HAD AN EVENT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH US?

SEND IT TO ANGLICAN LIFE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

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Grand Bay Hosts World Day of Prayer

Photographs and article by
Eileen Keeping



St. Paul's Anglican Church in Grand Bay, hosted the World Day of Prayer-2023 service, for the participating churches in the Port aux Basques area on March 3rd. The churches were well represented and engaged in the evening service. The focus of this year's service was Taiwan: "I Have Heard About Your Faith."

Our music was provided by the New Wine Gospel Group, and a luncheon followed the service. A heart-felt thank you goes out to all who participated in the service, and to all who helped in any other way to make for an enlightening evening.

Photographs, left to right: Linda McIsaac and Norma Simms; the luncheon; World Day of Prayer 2023 art by Hui-Wen Hsiao

The St. Lawrence Thrift Store—Some Great Bargains To Be Had

Article by Anglican Life, with information
from St. Lawrence's website
Photographs by Ellen Reid



Recently, Ellen Reid visited the thrift store that is run out of the parish hall at St. Lawrence's Church in Portugal Cove. She took these photographs, and said, "Kathy Rowe and her team are doing a great job! Amazing community fellowship and sweet bargains!"

The parish website says: *The St. Lawrence*

Thrift Store raises funds to support both the parish and our outreach initiatives in the community. The store is open from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturdays, and we accept donations during open hours or on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8 pm.

For more information, have a look at their

Facebook page by searching for "St. Lawrence Thrift Store," or by going to facebook.com/stlawrencethrift. And give yourself lots of time to look through all that they have, because there are true treasures to be found!



TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
CONSECRATED, LORD, TO THEE.



Confirmation in The Parish of Port Saunders

Article and photographs by
The Rev'd Marie Smith

The Rt. Rev'd John Organ held confirmation on November 20th, 2022, in the church of St. John the Divine in Port Saunders. This fine group of nine young men and women from Port au Choix, Port Saunders, and River of Ponds, enjoyed their time with our bishop, and the following celebration with family and friends in the hall, while sharing in the refreshments and cake. Certificates of completion of the confirmation program and

certificates of confirmation were proudly presented and received. During the stewardship unit of the course, the students raised funds, in the amount of \$287, by selling their homemade cookies (with help from their families, of course). The money will go to PWRDF to aid of Ukrainian children. We wish them many blessings, and pray that this experience and learning is just the beginning in their faith development and journey.



Above: the confirmands with their lap quilts, a gift made by their confirmation class teacher, Gail Northcott (The Lord's Prayer)



On the left: the confirmation class with Bishop Organ and Rev'd Allen, cutting their cake



The confirmands posing for a photo following the service.
In the back row, left to right: Jake Biggin, Harlee Plowman, Kira Mitchelmore, Carter House, Brett Allingham Payne.
In the front Row, left to right: The Rev'd Marie Smith, Jayden Walters, Melissa Taylor, Mason Gaulton, Katie Alyward, The Rt. Rev'd John Organ.



The group together at the reception

Confirmation in The Parish of Port aux Basques

Submitted with photographs by
Lisa Brown



On March 26th, Bishop John Organ visited St. James' Church in Port aux Basques for the sacrament of Holy Confirmation. After the church service, there was a lunch in the Memorial Centre which included cutting a cake and the presentation of gifts to the confirmands. In the group photo in front of the altar, from left to right, are: Rev'd Jane Allen, Kyle Osmond, Patrick Collier, Claire Kinslow, and Bishop Organ

In Search of Perfection

Melanie Clarke
Columnist

When springtime comes to Newfoundland and Labrador, we are never sure what to expect. The weather is certainly very unpredictable, and one day it could be sunny and delightfully warm while the next day could be snow flurries with bone chilling northerly winds. The fog could roll in on May 1st, and could stay until July! Most people can agree that the worst part of living in our glorious province is the weather.

In 2018, a friend of mine visited, for the first time, from England. Her plan was to continue on from St. John's to Ontario where she was staying in one of the national parks for a three week camping trip. Her trip happened near the end of May and into most of June, so I advised her to prepare mostly for the camping portion of her trip as I could provide her with anything she would need for the weather here. I was hoping the weather would cooperate and it would be relatively temperate while she was



*A bit of fog in the harbour in St. John's, taken from Signal Hill
Photo by E. F. Rowe*

visiting. However, "good" weather was too much to hope for and the highest the temperature reached was 10 degrees Celsius! It rained cats and dogs—all the animals really—during her vacation, and the north winds gusted to

80kms for the entire week she was here! I had to break out the mitts and scarfs and winter coats for every excursion that we attempted.

I was so disappointed, thinking that the weather had ruined her trip, but



she told me that the weather added to the mystique of our rugged province, and she admired the tenacity of those she met who had smiles on their faces in spite of the miserable weather. Despite the rain falling sideways, something she had never seen before, she loved her visit to our province, and was amazed by our culture and very friendly citizens. While I focused on what was going wrong with the trip, she coped with the weather and enjoyed the uniqueness of our province.

Looking back on my friend's trip, I realized that my perspective on her trip was tainted by my desires for everything to be perfect when she

was here. Yet logically, nothing is ever perfect in our world. Our world is complicated and inundated with all the things that are wrong—things that we focus on which torment us and make us feel terrible.

In my life, only one thing is perfect. My relationship with Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, is the one thing which always makes me feel good! Jesus never disappoints me. God never lets me down. The Holy Spirit is always with me! I am in no way, shape, or form in any way close to perfect, but my faith and belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit gives me the strength to accept disappointment, no matter how small, and continue to look forward to a greater future in the life hereafter. Despite my many failings, God is always there for me even when my expectations are too high and I disappoint others and myself!

Go where life takes you, but plan ahead.

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A Fond Farewell To The Crypt Tea Room

Article and photographs by
Ellen Reid

The Crypt Tea Room at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John's has been a summer time institution for well over two decades. In late February, it was decided by the cathedral parish to end this beloved annual summer tradition on a high note. It's certain that a huge number of volunteers and patrons enjoyed the treats, fellowship, and ambiance that the crypt offered each year. Here are some memories of the tea room's early days featuring some of our favourite friends.



These photos were taken in the summers of 1997 and 1998.

After the Great Flood

The Rev'd Michael Li
Columnist

The narratives in Genesis 1-11 are highly figurative in their language. They introduce the story of God's people which begins with the call of the historical Abram/Abraham in Genesis 12.

The great flood (Genesis 7:17-24) finally came after Noah's preaching God's righteousness and human sin for 120 years. The flood story is probably an interpretation of an actual historical event retold in the theology of ancient Israel. The purpose of the story is to tell the original hearers a message about God and humanity. God did not give the ancient people scientific data. On Good Friday, God took the judgment for sin upon himself rather than humanity. Thus, through

the lens of Jesus, the flood story tells us the news of God's grace and love for his people.

After the great flood, God made a promise that he will never destroy the earth by flood (Genesis 8:20-22) until the final judgment. God commanded humanity to "increase in number and fill the earth" (Genesis 9:1). Noah had three sons born to him: Japheth, Shem, and Ham. There are seventy nations from the three sons of Noah (Genesis 10:32). Genesis 10 is a remarkable historical document. But some names are left out. Perhaps, the Bible writer has included no more than he actually knew to be the case.

Genesis 10:2-5 tells us about the sons of Japheth.

Japheth is the father of what are called the Indo-European peoples. Genesis 10:21-24 tells us about the sons of Shem. Shem produced the Semites from which Israel came. Genesis 10:6-20 tells us about the sons of Ham. From the city of Babylon in the valley of the Euphrates, the Ham's family was divided into two parts, one migrating southward into Africa, and the other going east.

There is one omission: the people of Asia. Where do they fit in? It is possible that we cannot know, since the lists of Genesis 10 are not complete.

Humanity began to spread throughout the entire world (Genesis 11:7-9). Humans continue to be on the move. Every group of humans has immigrated at some point. We all are

immigrants, refugees or their descendants.

Today's Canada is unique in the world. The Canadian people include descendants of the First Nations, Inuit, and Metis; descendants of French settlers (Acadians, Quebecers, other French-speaking communities); descendants of English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish people; and all newcomers after the Second World War. Until the 1970s, most immigrants came from European countries. Since then, the majority have come from Asian countries.

Today's anthropologists would like to divide humanity into five races: Caucasoid, Negroid, Capoid, Mongoloid, and Australoid. According to the Bible, there is only one race—the human race, not



five different human races. Humans are all the same race. Race should not be defined according to skin tone or eye shape (as stated in Joseph L. Graves' "The Race Myth and A Voice in the Wilderness," 2004). We are all created by the same God. We are all created for the same purpose—to glorify God.

In the beginning, God created Adam (Genesis 2:7) and Eve (Genesis 2:22) and all other humans came from those first parents. We are genetically related through Adam and Eve. Let us fast forward to the future! In heaven, we will see a vast number of people "from every nation, tribe, people and language" praising God at his throne." (Revelation 7:9)

Stewardship Project Completed!

Article by Lisa Brown
Photograph by The Rev'd Jane Allen

The confirmation students of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques just completed their stewardship project, and they raised a total of \$604. They decided to purchase from PWRDF: a full farm (\$530), and three new baby kits (\$75). Included in these kits a receiving blanket, a onesie, a baby romper, a hat, and a set of cloth diapers.

In the picture, from left to right: Patrick Collier, Claire Kinslow, and Kyle Osmond.



Father Tom and A Sense of Humour

Kevin Smith
Columnist

The web is loaded with stories about weird clauses in wills that defy common sense. Some of them are funny. Some are not.

One story told of an uncle who left his entire estate to an Elvis impersonator. Another lady left most of her money to a local donkey sanctuary while comedian Jack Benny inserted a clause that stipulated that a rose would be delivered to his wife every day for the rest of her life. Billionaire Leona Helmsley left instructions for \$4 billion fortune to be spent caring for her dogs. And, finally, a Portuguese aristocrat left his

considerable fortune to 70 strangers randomly chosen from a Lisbon phone book.

Sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction.

What precipitated this train of thought? Well, my March column featured a story on Father Tom Hiscock who passed away in 1950 in Catalina. In his will, he left a bequest for the diocese to establish a pension fund for retired clergy. And, as the Rev'd Fred Marshall pointed out, this legacy has lasted for 73 years.

After my article was published I received a note from Bishop David Torraville who commented

that he had just read my piece on Father Tom, and laughed saying that it brought back a wonderful memory of a story. This is what he wrote:

Mom and Dad were in Catalina in the 70's and I would visit occasionally. On one visit we were sitting with Clayton Bursey. Father Tom's death came up and Clayton had a story to tell. His father must have been a pallbearer at Father Tom's funeral. According to Clayton, Father Tom left a note with money. A particular lady was to make her fruit cake, a gentleman was to take the train to Clarenville to



pick up a bottle of rum. The pallbearers were to dig the grave, and after the funeral, were to eat the cake, drink the rum and sing, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

Clayton said they ate the cake and drank the rum, but thought it disrespectful to sing, so

they quietly recited, "For he's a jolly good fellow."

It must have been Clayton's father's story but Clayton told it with such joy and if it's true, it shows a wonderfully playfulness in Father Tom.

Well, if indeed the story is true, it must have caused quite a chuckle at the time of Father Tom's funeral.

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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10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRAYER QUILT GROUP IN BONNE BAY NORTH—March 5th, 2023 was the 10th Anniversary of the Parish of Bonne Bay North’s Prayer Quilt Group! Over the 10 year period, the group has given out more than 580 prayer quilts to the sick. Congratulations to the most amazing, talented, wonderful group of ladies!
- article and photograph submitted by Dale Decker

Let There Be Greening!

Anglicans and Lutherans working together

The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

For the second time in history of our churches—the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Church in Canada—delegates will gather together for fellowship, worship, Bible study, and conversation. This year it will happen in Calgary from June 27-July 2. Both churches will also meet on their own during that time for legislative matters and for elections, but there will be considerable time as Assembly. The theme for the Assembly is “Let There be Greening.”

Our churches have been in full communion since 2001 when in Waterloo, ON, the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada both approved the agreement. Many of us have, imprinted on our hearts and minds, the joy-filled concluding service where the agreement was signed and where the Primate of the Anglican Church, Michael Peers, and the Presiding Bishop of the Lutheran Church, Telmor Sartison, danced in the recession as the worship concluded with “We are Marching in the Light of God!”

It was a time of great celebration and great

promise. And our full communion relationship has more than lived up to that promise as we have met and engaged in ministry together over the last 22 years, and as the relationship between our two churches has grown and deepened. Our respective executive bodies have a member from the other Church. We uphold each other in prayer regularly. There are ministries where Anglican and Lutheran communities share facilities or programs or worship, where they share priests, pastors and/or deacons, ministries where a community is served by a priest, pastor or deacon of the full-communion partner and merged or combined communities.

Rejoicing in the richness of our relationship and building on it, this summer both churches will consider a motion to approve full communion with the Moravian Church in North America, as laid out in a document entitled, “One Flock, One Shepherd: Lutherans, Anglicans, and Moravians – Called to Walk Together in Full Communion.” This will further enlarge the circle of ministry and cooperation among our churches and follow the lead of other agreements around the Communion, including



between the Church of England and the Moravian Church in Great Britain, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern and Southern Provinces of the Moravian Church in North America (1999) and between these provinces of the Moravian Church and the US-based Episcopal Church. There may not be, across our country, as many Moravian churches as there are Lutheran ones, or as many opportunities for cooperation as there are with the Lutheran Church but a full communion agreement is still a powerful, visible sign of the unity for which Jesus prayed. The theme, “Let There be Greening,” speaks of our call to care for our creation, something which is becoming increasingly urgent as our planet faces this climate crisis. But it can also speak to the promise of new life and hope that comes when we minister together as fellow servants of God.

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The Rev'd Nicole Critch ordained priest

Photographs by
Bishop John Organ



On March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rev'd Nicole Critch was ordained a priest by Bishop John Organ of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. The ordination took place at St. Augustine's Church, Stephenville.

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World Without End: Letting Go of Permanence

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost...'

Since the 16th century, Anglicans have said those words at the end of psalms and canticles. They are usually followed by '...as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.' The church's obsession with permanence is a deterrent for some, and those who find it comforting can develop unhealthy attitudes to tradition, as if it were the *church* that ought to be the same for ever, world without end.

Once upon a time, a couple might move to a new community and start going to the local church. As they settled in, they might be given opportunities to get more involved. They might join the ACW and the Men's Association. When they had children, they would



go to Sunday School, and eventually grow up to follow their parents' examples. Grandchildren would be born, and older members of the congregation could step back from leadership, confident that younger generations would take their place. The institution could continue, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

Except the world no longer works like that. People change careers and move more than ever before: to a different

community, a different province, or a different country. Joining a church is not necessarily the lifelong commitment it once might have been. Investing time and ministry in 'the youth' needs to be seen more as an investment in them as individuals, or the communities of faith they will one day be a part of, and less as an investment in *our* future.

When I went to university, my vocation was nurtured in the college chapel. The vibrancy of that faith community came from the fact that we were all students, and only there for a short time. Within three or four years, the congregation was almost completely replaced, as senior students moved away and new ones arrived. Wardens, servers, choir and altar guild members all served for a year or two, and then

graduated as others took up leadership roles. There was enough continuity that a sense of tradition was maintained, but the overall atmosphere in the chapel changed and evolved with each new class of students.

In contrast, some churches are so dedicated to 'the way we do things' that they stagnate. Aunt Mary might hold the same position year after year because others think that they couldn't possibly do as good a job as her. New members need to spend enough time (sometimes twenty years or more!) before they're established enough in the congregation to be trusted with leadership. Or worse, as soon as they arrive, people swarm them, happy that "new blood" has arrived to take over from exhausted seniors, but also ready to criticize them

because 'that's not the way Aunt Mary did it.'

What would the church look like if we were able to trust that God will always provide us the leaders our churches need, if we would only give them the opportunity to lead? What if we recognized that the youth and young adults in our midst might only be with us for a short time, but can still have a profound impact on our life as a church *while they are*? What if we embraced the fact that impermanence in the church is just as natural as it is in every other part of life, from our growing and aging bodies to the change of seasons? What if we were content to say that God's glory is the same, world without end, even if the church is constantly growing and adapting to the changing world around us?

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Emergency Relief

News from PWRDF

Sheila Boutcher
 PWRDF Representative
 Central Newfoundland
 Image from PWRDF

One of the motivating factors for the creation of PWRDF, back in 1959, was “emergency preparedness”... not in the sense of ensuring there are batteries in your flashlight, but in the sense that, when emergencies happen we are poised to respond immediately, because we have funds on hand. In emergency situations there is an immediate need for food, water, clothing, shelter, and medical supplies. That is why your monthly donations to PWRDF are so very important.

As you know, PWRDF always works with partners, here in Canada and abroad, to respond to the immediate, and longer term, needs created by these events. Here is one example:

On February 7th, 2023, **one day after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey and Syria**, PWRDF allocated **\$35,000** to our partner, **ACT**

Alliance, to support the emergency response of its members working in the area:

ACT Alliance member, the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East-Department of Ecumenical Relations and Development (GOPA-DERD) is providing food, blankets, mattresses and medical aid in affected communities.

PWRDF partner, the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) is working with partners to assess the safety of building structures, prioritize housing and repair needs, distribute food and non-food items to existing shelters and look for ways of getting cash assistance to people.

An additional **\$5,000** was allocated to the **Diocese of Jerusalem** to provide food, water, clothing and medical supplies to those affected by the earthquake in northern Syria.

In addition to using



People digging through the rubble to rescue survivors of the February 6th earthquake

“funds on hand” for immediate response, when the disaster is of the scale of this recent earthquake, there is usually an appeal, providing us with a vehicle to support those impacted by the catastrophic event. In this case, PWRDF participated in the Humanitarian Coalition (HC) appeal, as a member of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. On February 24th, the Government of Canada announced that donations

made to the **HC and its members**, between February 6th and 22nd, would be matched up to \$10 million. At time of writing, late-March, the HC appeal raised more than \$12 million! Your donations to the PWRDF for this appeal have reached \$143,000.

The death toll from this earthquake has topped 56,000; an additional 107,000 people were injured; and 2.2 million people were displaced.

The need continues to be incredible and PWRDF continues to accept donations from people wanting to help. Please continue to pray for those affected by this devastating earthquake. If you would like to donate you may do so online, or over the phone by calling 416-822-9083 (or leave a message toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and they will return your call.) You can also donate by mail. Send your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto, ON, Canada, M4Y 3G2. Please indicate Syrian Earthquake in the memo field.



FELLOWSHIP/FUNDRAISER POTLUCK - As a part of the Port aux Basques winter carnival, St. Paul's ACW held a potluck fellowship/fundraiser on March 1st. They would like to thank everyone who helped in providing the food and serving it. It was a time for laughter and good food.
 -submitted with photographs by Eileen Keeping

The Ladies of Port aux Basques Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and A Special Birthday Too

Article by Lisa Brown
Photographs by Barbara Hardy

The ACW Ladies of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques had a fun-filled afternoon and evening on March 17th. The afternoon started with a surprise 80th birthday party for one of our ladies, hosted by her family. Then we got to the evening, and had our Wake-a-thon and St. Patrick's Day Party. The Wake-a-thon started with a pot luck supper, and included games, dancing, it and ended with a good game of cards. The ladies raised a grand total of \$4813. A big thank you goes to all who sponsored our ACW, and helped to make this a great success.



Mrs. Betty Keeping



Annie Patey and Barbara Hardy



Classie Marshall



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News From the Parish of Meadows



NEW GOSPEL CHOIR - Pictured here above is the newly formed Parish of Meadows gospel choir. Accompanied by local musicians, they have been busy in the last three weeks with services of prayer and praise in all three churches in the parish. The services of gospel music and prayers were well attended and enjoyed by all of those who were involved; refreshments and social time followed the services. -submitted by the Rev'd George Critchell and Audrey Park

NEW LAYREADER - On Sunday, March 26th, our newest layreader, Stephanie Legge, was presented with her license and layreader's blue scarf during our morning service. Congratulations to Stephanie: we are very happy to have you! -submitted by the Rev'd George Critchell and Audrey Park



Here we see Stephanie receiving her layreader's scarf from her uncle, the Rev'd Ed House



VESTMENTS GIVEN IN MEMORY - Sunday, March 26th was a lovely day at St. James' in Gillams, when two new chasubles and stoles were given to our church in memory of Veda Hann by her children Lorraine, Everett, and Leroy. -submitted by Audrey Park



Above is pictured The Rev'd George Critchell, Stephanie Legge, and The Rev'd Ed House



Do you know someone who is being ordained or someone celebrating an ordination anniversary? Give them a Clergy Bear with surplice and stole in a colour of your choice.



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I Wasn't Looking For A New Job!

Photograph and article by
Dr. Doreen Helen Klassen

When Patty George began work as office manager at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Corner Brook in 2008, she had no inkling that it would be a 15 year commitment. She had just retired from a 30 year career in banking, and was looking forward to volunteering in her own parish and having some leisure time.

But, it was in her own parish, St. Michael and All Angels, while serving coffee "to a number of priests who were there for a meeting and meal [that] Dean Michael Rice, whom [she] had never met, called [her] over."

She says, "He held out his coffee mug and at the same time, asked me how come I hadn't applied for the job. I asked, "What job?" and he said, "The Cathedral office." Despite telling him she wasn't looking for a job, he persuaded her to come for an interview.

Returning home from the interview, she told her husband, "I have a job." and he said, "You just came from church," and she replied, "It's at a church."

Working in a church environment was one of the highlights Patty mentioned in her farewell speech to parishioners at the Cathedral's AGM on March 19th, 2023.



Dennis Porter (People's Warden), Patty George, Katie Watton (Rector's Warden), and Dean Catherine Short at Patty's Retirement Celebration, March 19th, 2023

In fact, she says, "It filled my soul." Other valued aspects of her work included listening to and assisting those who called or visited the office, clerical/computer work, listening to the choral scholars, and encouraging people to honour loved ones with memorial gifts to church ministries.

Lastly, Patty expressed her appreciation for those with whom she had worked most closely. She mentioned the Cathedral's three Deans (Michael Rice, Baxter Park, and Catherine Short), the Wardens, the head of worship (Valerie Pretty), and several Cathedral musicians, noting that there are both joys and challenges when people work together.

Reflecting on Dean Michael's insistence that Patty come for an interview, one realizes that discipleship often happens that way. Someone sees certain skills and gifts in another, identifies them, and invites them to specific ministries. As a cathedral, we are grateful that Dean Michael sensed not only Patty's clerical expertise but also her commitment to discipleship and parish ministries as Cathedral Office Manager. We wish her a joyful retirement.



PALM CROSSES IN PORT AUX BASQUES - On March 30th, the Altar Guild ladies of St. James' Port aux Basques gathered to make palm crosses in preparation for the Palm Sunday service.
- submitted with photographs by Lisa Brown

Reasonable and Probable Grounds to Believe

Believing and doubting

Ford Matchim
Columnist

Perhaps we could not continue the way we are if we had constant, hands-on reminders of God's existence. If God in all her majesty stood ever present before us, would we not be duty bound to do all things out of fear? Not a pleasant thought. Holy doubt is as widespread now as ever, and for many, doubting is an integral part in the development of a strong spiritual belief. Could it be that temporary relief "and that escape-hatch feeling from worldly misdeeds" is more easily manageable when we have doubt? If we entertain thoughts such as "God is perhaps not watching right now," or that "maybe there is no God," then such doubting, even if only fleeting, can offer momentary ease and freedom from responsibility. It is as though this pattern of doubting and questioning is necessary, and may even be helpful in coping with such seriousness. After all, life is too serious a matter to be taken seriously.

For a long, long time this *pale blue dot* on which we live was believed to be flat and was considered to be the centre of our universe. There emerged a concept known as the *chain of being*, a comparative mindset envisioning the

world order of things as a vertical chain, having the Almighty right up there at the top, and every other recognizable form of life in descending order of importance. God in heaven was followed by angels and the like, and at the bottom of the chain was the lowest of invertebrates. In this scheme of things mankind was deemed to be at the centre of this great chain of being—a huge pecking order of who's who in the universe. Then, a couple of guys by the name of Galileo (who said that the sun is the centre of our universe and that our planet earth revolves around it) and later on Darwin (who said that all living things, including man, developed from a few extremely simple forms by a gradual process of descent with modification) came along. Their findings, along with those of others, who were eagerly comparing emerging differences between science and religion, caused upset in religious and spiritual values of the day. Many found themselves seriously questioning their faith.

To say that God's will, alone, is sufficient to account for things being where and what they are may be accepted by many believers, but for those



of us who find ourselves thinking and searching for more—be it some elusive proof, or simply more reason to believe—the struggle is ongoing. There is a collective acceptance and acknowledgement of all those physical forces that can be measured scientifically, such as the speed of light, gravity and so on, but with only limited progress being made to understand the cause—the why? We know that each one of us is but a temporary guest on this planet; however, as to the why of it all, one could argue it's an ongoing miracle.

Theists, atheists, agnostics, and those in between make up a mix of believers and non-believers. Many of those folks who reject the common concept of God, adopt beliefs that appear to believers as being strange and outlandish. Faith-based living is rejected for some form of secular belief, such as

humanism, rationalism, positivism, materialism, or whatever. And then there is a more pronounced belief, referred to as philosophical anarchism, that those who obey their natural inner light need no authority over what they already have.

While our levels of communications have grown in leaps and bounds, our levels of ignorance over life's basic questions are still very much in evidence. For example, out in the wilderness on a clear and dark night, you can experience one of the greatest shows on earth by simply looking up into the starry sky. No matter how often we do it, this continues to be an awesome experience. And, as we stand and stare, we realize over and over just how little we know about the great beyond.

A lifespan, in the eons of time, does not even have as big an impact as the proverbial drop in a bucket. Whether young or old we are aware of time, and that we all grow older at the same pace. The extreme urgency of *now* is of little concern, yet our lives will be over sooner rather than later, and as Shakespeare wrote, "*as the waves make toward the pebbled shore / so do*

our minutes hasten to their end."

On coping with our own spirituality, we are often riddled with anxiety over the need to know and the fear of knowing. Can such a state cause us to sometimes strike out defensively against the notion of a divine power? Our faith has, and can continue to help us grapple with such uncertainties. There is a strange irony surrounding faith: while it can lift us up and give us meaning and purpose, it can also saddle us with increased responsibility, as in fighting the good fight of life.

An unbeliever who struggles to understand the merits and values of faith-based living often comes up empty handed. The futility of trying to examine and assess the meaning of our spirituality, without believing in a greater power, can perhaps be likened to someone who is tone deaf and just not hearing the *music of faith*. It would simply be futile, without having faith, to try and understand anything of a supernatural source. St. Augustine sums it up well: "*Believe in order that you may understand; unless you believe you shall not understand.*"

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ANGLICAN LIFE

The Blessing of Modern Technology

St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith
Photograph by Pauline Noel

This year, February 23rd, 2023, marked a special day on the church calendar. It was Ash Wednesday, and the antecedent (or starting point) of worship during the holy season of Lent.

Canon Jotie, Deacon Lisa, and members of the altar guild diligently prepared the elements for the ceremony of anointing with ashes as a prerequisite of our duties which would be maintained during the next forty days, leading up to Good Friday and Easter Week. Unfortunately, not unlike neighbouring churches, a severe winter storm caused a postponement of this special ritual until March first.

But there's an old adage that something good comes out of every disappointing incident, and this imposed replan was no exception.

Because of the gift of modern technology, Canon Jotie had the capacity to grace us with a special Compline sermon—live streamed from his home to ours—while one hundred kilometre winds bolted down our chimneys, and with blinding snow and ice pellets rattling every window pane.

His text for the sermon concentrated on the book of Matthew—particularly on chapter 25: 14–“Farewells and Food.”

It was delivered in a context appropriately permeating both the



spiritual and temporal realms.

When referring to the secular world, farewells can be measured with a very modest yardstick, like maybe graduation from high school, retirement from a lifetime career, or moving to a new location. Then, in a more elaborate context, measured by the accomplishments of some of the world's greatest artists, writers, musicians, scientists, etc. But regardless of one's position on the continuum, all milestones deserve equal recognition.

Most importantly, and in the context of spirituality, the Gospel of Matthew exquisitely reveals the

many farewell stories of Jesus:

- (a) The final words of Jesus to his disciples: Behold the hour is at hand.
- (b) The kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling to a foreign country. Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.
- (c) When Jesus finished commanding the twelve, he departed from them to teach and preach.
- (d) The eleven disciples went to the mountains in Galilee, which Jesus had appointed for them.

There is one particular period in our twelve month calendar where food is probably

emphasized the most: the forty days of Lent.

So wrapping up the pronounced features of Canon Jotie's discourse, I believe the topic certainly deserves the elaboration he duly bestowed—no matter on which rung of society's ladder one is fortunately or unfortunately placed, everyone is entitled to adequate food.

For most Christian people, fasting in Lent has been an established custom—like giving up something important for the sake of something more worthy.

Personally, despite the fact that I have a very long sweet tooth, I have resisted for eighteen days as of writing this. Although, I must confess that if it weren't for that special service on February 23rd, I was almost ready to relent.

With so many millions of people in the world hungry, and most of us know very little of that deprivation, Canon Jotie reiterated that we should consider fasting as a gift of Lent.

In our community and Church, helping to maintain and support food bank demands is a top priority.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.”
-Matthew 25:35.



LENTEN PRAYER AND PRAISE - On March 31st, the ACW ladies of St. James' in Port aux Basques held a Lenten Prayer and Praise service at the Memorial Centre. There were 23 ladies in attendance, and it was a wonderful morning of fellowship.
- submitted with photographs by Lisa Brown

From The Anglican Foundation of Canada

AFC celebrating more than \$257,000 in support of northern clergy housing fund

According to Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC), "There has never been a swifter or more generous response to the establishment of a new fund than the ACW Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund to provide financial support for housing and living expenses to retired non-stipendiary clergy in the Council of the North."

As of the end of December, more than \$257,000 had been donated, with \$250,000 having come from two donors. "The Diocese of New Westminster ACW provided \$100,000 this past spring to launch the fund. Other ACWs across Canada then took up the challenge to do

their part to support it as well. And then an incredible \$150,000 arrived in early December as a memorial gift, from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous," says Brubacher.

Brubacher says the speed with which this fund was established and the subsequent momentum to build it up has shown the power and potential of AFC to connect generous people to the philanthropic goals that are important to them. "In 2023 we will continue to work through the granting and disbursement process in partnership with the Council of the North. We expect to receive requests from retired clergy in need of assistance through the Council, and our goal is to

begin to disburse funds to beneficiaries this year."

It was in December 2020, in the wake of an article published in the Anglican Journal entitled "No Room in the Inn," when Canadian Anglicans began to learn more about the plight of northern clergy through the homelessness experienced by Rev'd Jonas Allooloo, former dean of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqaluit, Nunavut. Widespread concern about this systemic issue prompted the Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of New Westminster to act.

"Non-stipendiary clergy have made the church in the North viable and yet they will not receive a pension from the Anglican Church," says Gail Revitt,

Past President, New Westminster ACW. "They have served all these years and have asked very little of the broader church. Our members felt called to respond to this housing crisis in a meaningful and tangible way."

Proceeds from the sale of a property have put the ACW in New Westminster in the unique position of being philanthropic leaders in the church. In 2022, after consultations with Bishop David Lehman—Bishop of Caledonia and Chair of the Council of the North—the women voted unanimously to champion this cause. "We are greatly encouraged by the leadership gifts in support of this new fund, and we looked forward to working with ACW groups and

others to strengthen the financial support network for retired clergy in the North," says Brubacher.

"The council is very thankful to the New West ACW and the other visionary benefactors who have helped to launch and grow this fund so quickly," says Bishop Lehman. "The response to date has given so much hope that we may look to a future where those who have served the church are well-served in their retirement."

To make a gift to the ACW Council of the North Retired Clergy Fund please contact Michelle Hauser, AFC's Development & Communications Officer at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org or visit anglicanfoundation.org/donate.

Major changes to Anglican Foundation Grants Program

The Anglican Foundation of Canada's (AFC) grants program will look substantially different in 2023 thanks to some important changes approved by the AFC Board of Directors in 2022. Effective January 1st, 2023, AFC moved from a semi-annual grant cycle to a quarterly one, with application windows open on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 each year. According to Dr. Scott Brubacher, AFC's Executive Director, "This rolling entry to the grants program will give potential applicants increased accessibility and flexibility, which is intended to result in timelier decisions."

The Board also approved the introduction of Category A grants of up to \$5,000 with no matching local funds required. "These category A grants were introduced for AFC's 2021 *Say Yes! to Kids* Request for Proposal and proved very effective," explains Rob Dickson, Chair, Grants Policy Working Group. "That experience demonstrated how the infusion of a few thousand dollars can have an enormously positive impact on ministry."

The long-established traditional AFC grants—up to \$15,000 and no more than 50% of the project budget—will become

the new Category B grant.

Lastly, the Board approved the introduction of Category C grants of up to \$50,000. "This new third category will allow the Board greater discretion in approving larger grants where the impact will be most beneficial," explains Brubacher. "It will also allow AFC to be a more flexible funding partner in dioceses where a cornerstone project needs a major boost."

Rob Dickson says the new and much larger Category C grants have the potential to be a game-changer for smaller dioceses. "The opportunity to submit a \$50,000 grant request is well-suited to a diocese that may have the capacity to bring only one project per year, but a transformational project the entire diocese can rally around."

Dickson says the Category C grant will be the one application a diocese is allowed to submit in a calendar year. In terms of the matching funding requirement for such a project, that will be left to the discretion of the AFC Board. Dioceses will need to articulate a strong case for merit, and the Board will have to evaluate these applications very carefully.

The Board also approved removing the requirement that

Quarterly Grant Application Deadlines



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- January 1
- April 1
- July 1
- October 1

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grant applicants be current members of AFC. Dickson says, "It is more consistent with our value of generosity to invite applicants to donate out of a spirit of generosity to 'pay it forward'."

These changes mark the conclusion of AFC's Grants Policy Working Group's year-long review. "The Foundation's role in resourcing a change-minded church in the wake of a global pandemic is only beginning to be defined," says Brubacher. "We

hope our members and friends across the Canadian church will see in these changes to our grant program a deep and genuine desire to resource the church as faithfully and abundantly as possible, so that we may drive change, together, with hope, courage, and vision."

For more information on AFC's new grant categories or to apply for an AFC grant, visit anglicanfoundation.org/apply.

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