



photo submitted by G. Critchell

A NEAR CAPACITY CROWD attended an Indigenous/Anglican service at Holy Trinity Church in Meadows on June 25th, 2023. The service was led by the Rev'd George Critchell.

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The National Day For Truth and Reconciliation

Article by
Canon Tom Mugford

September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. It is a day that honours the children who never returned home and the survivors and former students as well as their families and communities. Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30. Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous led, grassroots, commemorative day that grew out of Phyllis Webstad's account of losing her new orange shirt on her first day at residential school.

From 1831 to 1996, over 130 federally funded, church-run residential schools were attended by more than 150,000 Indigenous children. The goal, as Canada's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald, so succinctly



put it, was to "take the Indian out of the child," or forced assimilation. It was a cultural genocide that has reverberated through generations of Indigenous Peoples through intergenerational trauma.

Newfoundland and Labrador had five residential schools that were administered by the Government of Newfoundland, and operated by the International Grenfell Association and the Moravian Mission. Canada's role was to provide funding to the

province to be used for educational needs of Indigenous students in Labrador.

Newfoundland and Labrador was left out of the 2008 apology by then Prime Minister Stephen Harper. However, after a class action lawsuit settlement hearing in 2016, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau traveled to Happy Valley-Goose Bay on November 24, 2017, to deliver an apology on behalf of the federal government. An excerpt from his apology includes, "To the survivors who

experienced the indignity of abuse, neglect, hardship and discrimination by the individuals, institutions and system entrusted with your care, we are truly sorry for what you have endured. We are sorry for the lack of understanding of Indigenous societies and cultures that led to Indigenous children being sent away from their homes, families and communities and placed into residential schools. We are sorry for the misguided belief that Indigenous children could only be properly provided for, cared for, or educated if they were separated from the influence of their families, traditions, and cultures."

See *TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION*, page 2

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TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

from page 1

As part of the journey of Reconciliation, the Diocese of Eastern NL, under the leadership of Bishop Sam Rose, has appointed a Lay Canon in the office of Indigenous Ministries and Advocacy in the Cathedral Chapter. As someone who is proudly Indigenous and also an active member of the Anglican Church, I am grateful that our bishop, has created this role and has chosen me to be in this role. It is my role to work with the diocese and our congregations as we journey to reconciliation.

Bishop Sam makes it clear in his ministry and episcopacy that rebuilding and deepening relationships with Indigenous peoples is a priority for him and the diocese. In the rebuilding and repairing, it is the intent that Indigenous spirituality in whatever form, is not in addition to the worship or liturgy, but an integral part of the worship and liturgy.

June is identified as National Indigenous History Month in Canada, a time to recognize the rich history, heritage, resilience and diversity of First Nations, Metis and Inuit. National Indigenous Day takes place on the summer solstice, June 21. It is a day set aside to learn more about the rich and diverse cultures, the various voices, experiences, and histories of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit. Learning about and



with Indigenous peoples, places, and experiences is a step forward on the path to reconciliation.

Well-known American poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou said, "Do the best you can until you know better, and once you know better, you do better." How could we begin to do better? You could, build right and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous peoples and organizations. You could take time to familiarize yourselves with the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and you could use your voice. Often marginalized people have limited or no voice. Add your voices to theirs. Use your inherent privilege to build a more fair and equitable community.

Reconciliation by definition is an ongoing process through which Indigenous Peoples and settlers work together, cooperatively, to establish and maintain a healthy relationship.

As the national church, dioceses, and

parishes continue to find ways to rebuild and deepen relationships with Indigenous peoples and organizations, there will be opportunities for everyone be active participants on the journey.

Mark's Gospel tells us "and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Wherever you are on the journey to reconciliation, remember: if it is not about love, it is not about God. Because, with God, it is all about love.

Canon Mugford is also a facilitator for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, and is able to bring their "Mapping the Ground We Stand On" workshop to parishes and groups in NL. This workshop is "education for reconciliation," and was developed in response to the final report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He is one of only two facilitators in Atlantic Canada, and we are fortunate to have this resource available to us.

For more information about "Mapping the Ground We Stand On," you can go to the PWRDF website: pwrdf.org/mapping-exercise/

UPCOMING DEADLINES:

October's print issue: 1 September

November's print issue: 27 September

December's print issue: 1 November

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ANGLICAN LIFE



25th Anniversary of Men's Service Club

Submitted with photographs by
The Rev'd Irving Letto

St. Peter's Men's Service Club (Upper Gullies) proudly celebrated its 25th Anniversary on May 7 with a church service where the Ven. Ed Keeping delivered the sermon. The service was followed by a gathering in the parish hall. At the service deceased members of the club were remembered by family members or close friends who lit candles in their memory. Music was provided by The Pearwinds of The Church of the Good Shepherd.

The first meeting of St. Peter's Men's Service Club was held on October 19, 1997. In his annual report for that year the rector, Rev'd Allan Brake, wrote:
"I am very pleased that we are able to start a Men's Service Club in our parish... The men who

are presently members are very excited and we can expect to hear much from the Club this year. It seems that the Club will focus on three principles: helping our parish in every way possible, helping the less fortunate in our community, and helping enrich the lives of the members."

Fellowship is the focus of the club, and through their bi-weekly meetings, visits to Ray's cabin, and other activities, close friendships have evolved among the members. They plan and/or assist in several fundraising activities each year which support the regular church budget; they directly carry out various maintenance needs; and they support the broader church and community. By working together in these projects,

the club members are able to share their skills; they value the bonding and friendships that develop as the members join hands in the kitchen or serving tables. The members contribute \$2 at each meeting to cover the cost of special club celebrations like the year-end barbecue and their annual Christmas party.

Over the past 25 years, the Men's Club has raised \$100,000, which has gone to such worthy causes as church repairs, Guatemala/Belize mission projects, PWRDF, CLB and youth programs, and child sponsorship (to name but a few). We believe that every social gathering has helped make our community a more friendly and caring place. Thank you and thank God.



Past presidents of the Men's Club: Dennis Morgan, Robert Hillard, Rev'd Bill Strong (Chaplain), Jack Morgan, Ralph Drover, Robert Hillier (Vice President)



Lighting memorial candles



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Building the Future

Parish of Burin's Lego program

Article and photographs by
The Rev'd James Spencer

The Anglican Parish of Burin recently began an after school Lego program entitled "Building the Future," open to children and parents of all ages who have a passion for Lego creations. The program has been running twice a week at each of its two locations, Holy Trinity church in Burin and St. Matthew's church in St. Lawrence. The response to this new community outreach program has been incredible, with up to 24 children in attendance on a given day. The participants enjoy individual creativity, Lego trains and roller coasters, and even programmable robotic constructions.

The program was conceived by Rev'd James Spencer, with the support of the parish

council and vestries of the Parish of Burin, as a means of providing fun and educational activities for the young people of the local communities. The funding was provided through a generous grant from United Way NL, without whom the project would not have been possible to accomplish at this level.

Rev'd James says of the project: "God invites us all to be active, positive participants in his continuing creation. Through the "Building the Future" project we are hoping to inspire our youth and help them grow into creative adults whose brilliant minds will do wonders in our communities and in the wide world."



Fellowship in Foxtrap



On April 27, the ACW ladies of All Saints' Parish, Foxtrap, invited the ladies of St. Peter's, Upper Gullies, and those from St. John the Evangelist, Topsail, to join them for an afternoon tea and fellowship entitled "A Blast from the Past."

The ladies dressed to suit the occasion and there was a display of various items that were used in the past.

They enjoyed a sing-a-long with music provided by two ladies, also some poems, some jokes and lots

of memories were shared. Minutes from previous years were read, and it was interesting to learn how different everything was back then. But we have one common goal: that is to love and serve God's people at home and away.

To conclude our afternoon, a lovely cup of tea and a lunch were served, and all agreed it was a wonderful afternoon and that they should get together more often.

- photograph and story by Sandra Taylor

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Deepening Relationships, Part II

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

In June's issue of Anglican Life, Bishop Samuel Rose began a two-part article called "Deepening Relationships." In this continuation, he delves again into our baptismal covenant, picking up where he left off in the spring.

For those seeking to refresh their memories, the first part can be read on our website at: anglicanlife.ca.

How is your relationship with God? In other words, "Do you love Jesus?" It is a personal question, but one that is so important. We go to the doctor occasionally for a physical or a check-up. Our spiritual health is no different.

We can do this spiritual check-up by looking at what we are called to be and to do as baptized Christians. That will mean inviting every baptized person to renew their faith by regularly examining the Baptismal Covenant.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

What does this mean?

This promise means that we recognize the presence of Jesus in everyone we encounter and treat them with the love and respect that Jesus himself would. When we love "our neighbour," which is everyone we meet, we do so with compassion, to put the needs and well-being of others before our own, and to actively work for the betterment of all people. If God loves everyone, so should God's people. We

must be reminded that as followers of Jesus, we are called to love and serve others in the way that Jesus did and taught us.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being?

What does this mean?

We are all too aware of the problems in the world: violence, poverty, hunger, injustice, and so many more. As Christians, we commit to actively creating a more just and peaceful society and treating all people with dignity and respect. We work with God to be part of a community where everyone is treated fairly and conflicts are resolved peacefully. It involves standing up for the rights of the marginalized, promoting equality, and working to end discrimination and oppression. All are made in the image of God, and we promise to respect each individual's inherent worth and value, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. We reject the evils of prejudice and mistreatment of others and challenge systems and structures that corrupt and destroy God's people.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the Earth?

What does this mean?

We are all too aware that our climate is in crisis. We commit to actively protecting and preserving the natural environment and treating



photo S. Rose

it with respect, care, and good stewardship. This world is a gift from God. We must protect it from pollution and harm and take steps to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Our Earth is interconnected, and human actions significantly affect it. Respecting, sustaining, and renewing God's creation means sustainably using its resources, restoring and conserving natural habitats, and taking measures to ensure the continuation of life on Earth. This promise is a reminder that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be good stewards of God's creation and to actively work towards protecting and preserving the natural environment for future generations.

If we want to know God more deeply, it means taking what we promise more seriously. To grow in our faith as Anglican Christians is a lifelong journey. We have made growing faith



"When we collectively commit to the Baptismal Covenant as a Church family, we embrace the call to be disciples seeking and serving Jesus in all places, at all times, and for all people."

designed by E. Rowe

important to our young people as a Church. We have Sunday School and Confirmation Classes, but continuing Adult Faith Education is essential. I have asked every parish in this Diocese to commit to ongoing Christian education for all those of every age who wish to take seriously the Baptismal Covenant and the promises they make at their baptism.

And if we are to take this seriously, it will mean more than renewing our faith. God calls us as individuals, but we are part of a broader and diverse family of believers called the Church. And in this Christian Church—made up of all who have placed their faith and hope in Jesus—we strive to welcome all people, as God has welcomed us.

I call all our congregations to be renewed in faith and relationship with God and others. Churches should stand out and be leaders in the local community, especially in showing care and compassion for those in need. A missional church connects personal faith

with social action. When we collectively commit to the Baptismal Covenant as a Church family, we embrace the call to be disciples seeking and serving Jesus in all places, at all times, and for all people.

We work to become inclusive, supportive, and non-judgemental communities of faith as we continue to seek and serve Christ in all persons: those already identifying as part of our faith communities, those looking for connections with our faith communities, those against whom wrongs have been done in the name of our faith communities; and the broader community outside of our faith entirely.

There are so many in the world that are looking for hope. With God, we can be that hope. I believe the foundation lies in deepening relationships—with God and one another. This needs to be at the very centre of the life and ministry of this Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador.



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Diocese of Central Newfoundland Holds 48th Diocesan Synod

Article by Archdeacon Terry Caines
Photographs by The Rev'd Hannah Dicks

From the 26 - 28 of May, 2023, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland held its 48th Diocesan Synod at St. Mary's Parish in Clarenville. All six deaneries were well represented by clergy and laity. The theme chosen for this synod was "We are Living Stones." This 48th synod had the pleasure of hosting our Primate, The Most Rev'd Linda Nicholls, The Rt. Rev'd John Organ (Bishop of Western Newfoundland) and The Rt. Rev'd Samuel Rose (Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador).

During the opening eucharist, Archbishop Linda presented Ms. Debra Gill with the Award of Merit for her ministry when she lived in the Artic.

The bishop's theme for synod, "We are Living Stones," was chosen, and he asked synod to reflect on 1 Peter Chapter 2: As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

The Bishop's Charge was dedicated to those people who are found, week by week, in the pews in every corner of our diocese: to those turning on the heat; listening to announcements; contributing to fundraisers; listening to sermons; singing choruses and hymns; kneeling or standing to pray; rising to say the creed; smiling at babies who are brought for baptism; extending hearts of sympathy at times of death; breaking bread; and drinking wine from tiny cups. It was also dedicated to those who do not share in any of this.

He also stated it was for to those who need love, meaning, hope, healing, and reconciliation and for those who are called to serve as followers of Jesus. The Charge was offered in hope that we who belong to Jesus and share in the life and flow of his Church, will once again take to heart his claim upon us, and answer the Spirit's call to live for our Lord on land and sea, in our shopping centres, schools, hospitals, workplaces, prisons, shops, vestries, ACW's, men's groups, committees, and in our own hearts



Bishop John Watton



Ms. Debra Gill and Archbishop Linda Nicholls



and homes.

Bishop Watton reminded Synod to recall the two promises of Philippians:

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The bishop emphasized that many present are well aware of the changes that are taking place in their own context. It is important that we see this change with a broader perspective. But we need to know that we are facing some huge changes—that some new conversations are beginning, and some of the concerns are becoming urgent. We are talking about some huge church and parish buildings that need, literally, hundreds of thousands of dollars in repairs; many of our church buildings, rectories, and halls are due for some major repairs and upgrades. Some of these buildings were built for congregations of hundreds and are now visited by a couple dozen at most.



On a positive note, throughout each deanery laity are not just talking about survival, but stepping up to ask about vocation, and communities are embracing the need to empower lay ministries and raise up deacons and priests for local ministries. Things are happening, and people are responding, so we need to be ready to be risk takers within our hearts and in our parishes for the sake of the Gospel.

The bishop stated that he takes "great" hope because there is a tangible movement in our diocese. People are responding to the Holy Spirit's calling us to new expressions of ministry and vocation. Bishop Watton reminded synod, and asked members of synod to remember when they'd gone home, that God is leading us, and that we are the ones chosen to present and represent Jesus in our time.

Anglican Life (“The Churchman”)—Still In Print And In Need of Your Help

You may remember that back in 2019 there was a campaign to get everybody to confirm their subscriptions to Anglican Life and The Anglican Journal. There was a feeling at the national level that the subscription lists that existed at that time were not as accurate as they should have been, and that papers were being wasted (as was the money spent on them). To a certain degree, this was true. Many papers were being returned with “no longer at this address” written on them, and that was indeed a waste of money, and in fact a waste of paper, and the Church needed to be more



responsible. However, as a result of that campaign, we still have people who think that Anglican Life no longer publishes in print form. Every time that we produce a reminder for our parishes to “please let people know that they can still get their papers,” we are swamped with requests to get back on our mailing list. Four

years later, we are still seeing the effects of this extreme measure that was taken—the cancellation of *all* subscriptions with the expectation that everyone had to re-subscribe.

As the Officer of the Anglican Joint Committee, Rev’d Fred Marshall and I spend considerable time trying to come up with new ways to reach out to those Anglicans in this province who still are without their subscription to Anglican Life. The problem is this: you who are reading this are the ones who are getting the paper, and not the ones that we need to get back on the subscription list.

So I am asking you,

all of you who read this, *please* check with your friends and neighbours. Let them know that Anglican Life—“The Churchman”—is alive and well. We are planning to keep publishing print papers for a good few years yet, but we can only do that with your help. We need you to spread the word!

And one more thing: if you are able, and you haven’t already this year, can you please help to support Anglican Life with a donation? You can cut out the form at the bottom of this page, or send one in from a past Anglican Life. I put them in every issue. While Anglican Life is delivered to any

Anglican in Newfoundland and Labrador at no cost, we still depend on the free will financial support of our readers to fund the printing of this paper, and any donation that you are able to make is very much appreciated.

Thank you so much for your help and support. This paper means so much to all of us, and is such a valuable tool in connecting us and helping to spread the good news of our Church. Help us to be a light in the darkness, pointing to our Lord, Jesus Christ, and his Church. Yours in Christ,

Emily Rowe
Editor, Anglican Life



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Lost Sheep

Melanie Clarke
Columnist

When I was a teenager, I was a Sunday School teacher. Part of the curriculum was to teach the parable of the lost sheep. In preparation for the lesson, I brought in pictures of sheep from *National Geographic* because I was unsure if all the students had seen pictures of sheep. These were the days before the internet and I was teaching in St. John's. The students were only six years old, and many had not seen live sheep before. The students always enjoyed looking at the photos and were amazed to see herds of sheep from places such as Australia.

I explained about the shepherd and how he was responsible for thousands of sheep. He had to make sure they were all in the pasture and at the end of the night, he had to bring them all into the paddock for safety, so predators wouldn't take the sheep for food. The children were astonished that one man, usually with his dog's help, could possibly get all the sheep back each day. They couldn't understand how the shepherd could possibly be able



to count all the sheep to know one was missing! I explained that the shepherd was so familiar with his flock that he knew each and every sheep. He knew what they looked like and could tell every single sheep apart from the other. To the students, all the sheep looked the same. They were all white and fluffy, and of course very cute in their opinion. They told me the shepherd must be very smart to know all of them so well! I explained that he watched each sheep being born and he watched them all grow up. He spent every day with them and cared for each and every one. One child said, "just like a mommy or daddy!"

"Exactly!" I replied. "The shepherd knows his sheep as well as your parents know you."

"And God is just like the shepherd in the story. God knows and loves each and every one of us."



designed by E. Rowe

I then proceeded to tell them the story of the Lost Sheep, and how the shepherd went looking for the one lost sheep, and how he wouldn't stop searching until he found the lost sheep. One child piped up and said, "he had to look for the sheep just like my mommy and daddy wouldn't stop looking for me if I was lost!"

"Yes!" I said enthusiastically, "And God is just like the shepherd in the story. God knows and loves

each and every one of us. He knows when one of us is lost and he will look for us. But sometimes, when God finds us, we hide and pretend we don't see him. We know he can see us but we turn away from God and walk the other way."

One little boy looked at me and said, "We should help God and speak to the lost person! We should show them how to come with God and bring the person back to the church with us!"

I knew then that the lesson was over. The children all agreed that they would help people, God's sheep, to come back to his flock!

The next week, I had an extra student: a friend of the boy who had made the suggestion.

We all know lost sheep. Maybe we could find a lost sheep or two to bring back to the flock if we tried. Sometimes, all that people need is for someone to remind them that the flock misses them, and they are not forgotten. Let's all find some of our lost sheep and return them to our flock; we are incomplete without them!

God Bless you all!



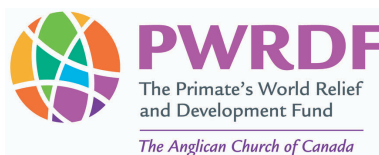
Mother's Day at St. Andrew's, Fogo

A beautiful parish service was held on Mother's Day at St. Andrew's church in Fogo. Rev'd Neal Buffett got Martin to help read the book called "Love You Forever" by Robert Munch. The book was how the mom took care of the son, the son took care of the mom, and the cycle goes on. Rev'd Neal reminded us how God takes care of us from beginning to end. Audrey Nippard read a poem which was dedicated to the mothers. Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there of humans and fur babies, and to all the women who played a role. God bless you all.

- article and photograph submitted by Lisa Snow

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Nora Shears ordained deacon

Article and photograph by Karen Bennett

On May 6, 2023, catechist Nora Shears was ordained as a deacon in the community where she lives. The Rt. Rev'd John Organ, Bishop of Western Newfoundland, presided over the service at the Anglican Church of St. Mary the Virgin, which is located in Cow Head. Those in attendance included priests, lay readers, eucharistic assistants, members of the local congregation, family, and friends.



The ceremony was very impressive. As people followed along in the service bulletin, there were hymns, readings, prayers, and a homily by the Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten, who was also the organist. The congregation listened attentively as Nora, the ordinand, was presented then questioned (the examination part of the service), after which came the litany with the

response, "Lord, hear our prayer." The bishop placed his hands on the ordinand, said a prayer, and the new deacon was vested by

her family. How special a moment was that! Bishop John also presented a Bible to Nora, as the sign of her authority to proclaim

God's word and to assist in the administration of his holy sacraments.

The offertory hymn, "Come and Journey with

a Saviour," was very appropriate for Nora's expanded ministry within the Anglican Church. Holy Communion was then received by the congregation, during which Nora led in the Lord's Prayer. The recessional hymn was, "Sing a New Song Unto the Lord." Deacon Nora completed the ceremony with the words, "Go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit." The response of the people was, "Thanks be to God."

A reception was held in the church hall, where many folks congratulated Nora. Appreciation was acknowledged to those who had helped out in any way, and a delightful "church family" luncheon was enjoyed.

Yes, indeed, "Thanks be to God."

Matthew Squires ordained priest

Article and photographs submitted by The Ven Terry Caines



At St. Martin's Cathedral in Gander, on the 24th of July 2023, The Rt. Rev'd John E. Watton, along with assisting Bishop, The Rt. Rev'd Nigel Shaw (Bishop of the Anglican Military Ordinate) ordained Matthew Glynn

Squires to the Priesthood. Rev'd Matthew was surrounded by family, friends and clergy. Rev'd Matthew will continue to serve as an Anglican Chaplain at the Canadian Armed Forces Base in Petawawa, ON. While Matthew's residential

Diocese is the Diocese Central Newfoundland (where he may one day retire from the CAF and return to civilian ministry), he is on loan to the AMO and will serve where he is posted.

Fisherperson Blessing

Article and photographs by
Jessie Ann Marsh

Garnish is a fishing town which is located in Fortune Bay, NL. Lobster is the largest species fished in this area. Each day, nearly 70 people leave the harbour to haul in their pots and return at the end of day. This year has been quite challenging with persistent winds and swell. St. Giles' ACW decided to show their concern for their safety on the water by packing a lunch of bottled water, muffin and molasses jimmie, and a prayer for their safety on the water.

We packed more than 70 treat bags and headed for the wharf to see the boats arriving and have a chat with the fishers

It was a lovely day, we felt blessed to share God's love with these hard-working men and women, and it was greatly appreciated. Several ladies that helped bake the sweets and helped bag up the items weren't present when the picture that is included with this article was taken.



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The Assembly of General Synod: Both High Points and Low Moments

The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist


The Assembly and General Synod meetings have concluded. There were, as always, high points and low moments. During the times when we gathered as the Lutheran and Anglican Churches together, we engaged in worship and conversation, and we considered our common mission and ministry. Presiding Bishop Susan Johnson, and Primate Linda Nicholls, spoke with compassion and sensitivity, about the situation in Israel and Palestine, and about the need for us to pray and advocate for peace. We listened to people witness to all that we share as the Lutheran, Anglican, and Moravian Churches moved toward full communion. Rev'd Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the ELCIC National Bishop, shared how commitments made in 2013 around housing and resource extraction have shaped the work of staff

and included national expressions of this work around National Housing Day, Earth Day, and shared statements, calls to prayer, and advocacy from the Primate, the National Bishop, and the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop. We heard about dialogue with Canadian Muslims, and Scott Sharman, the Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada, reflected on some of the emerging interfaith and inter-religious work and dialogue that Anglicans and Lutherans are doing together. It felt like the Church at its best. People of faith worshipping together and reaching out to other people of faith, across boundaries, across differences. It was also the first General Synod for National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Chris Harper, whose message of healing and peace and



friendship emphasized reaching out a hand in partnership and friendship to all. We are, he said, all in this together.

Sadly, though, it wasn't all harmonious. When we considered legislation and entered into debate, the cracks started to show. We have had many acrimonious discussions at General Synod, often blamed on the issues we're discussing—the BAS, the remarriage of divorced persons, the blessing of same-sex unions and then same-sex marriages. I am no longer convinced that the divisions are a result of the issues. Each time



"I don't think Jesus called us to engage in power struggles and fighting among ourselves"

designed by E. Rowe

we come together and have these debates, we say the same thing—we need to find a better way of being together, of having dialogue with one another. But still, we revert to old patterns of parliamentary debate and engage in power struggles, bound by canons that were developed for a different time and a different Church. As we face the fact that our numbers are dwindling and we are becoming more and more irrelevant to so many, we need to consider what our

message really is. I don't think Jesus called us to engage in power struggles and fighting among ourselves; I think he called us to be messengers of hope, and reconcilers in a world of hurt. If our structures do not facilitate that, then we need to seriously reconsider what we defend and what we work so hard to protect. Jesus didn't live and die to preserve canons but he did live and die to show us what love looked like and what it means to live the way of love.

New Server in Port de Grave

Article and photograph by
Florence Morgan-Thom

St. Luke's Church, and the Parish of Port de Grave, are so proud to welcome a new crucifer to our group of servers. Chloe Dawe, our youngest youth has joined our small group.

How fast time goes! We all remember her as baby in her parents' arms sitting near the entrance. We watched her grow up, colouring books and playing with dolls—especially the dolls, which were like little babies to her. She treated them with such loving tender care, as a precious gift to protect and love.

Her presence in church along with her excellent

behaviour has been a good example to other youth, and a proud reward for her parents. Her younger brother sat beside her with decorum. He too may one day choose to join our servers in our beautiful service.

The years have rolled (or rather flown) by, and Chloe has reached the tender age of a teenager. Still the sweet caring, loving girl she has always been. What a joy for her whole family.

We welcome her with open arms, grateful hearts, and good wishes in her new duties to the church and God.



Left to right: Karen Dawe, eucharist assistant; Fr. Paul Thoms, parish priest; Chloe Dawe, our new crucifer; Florence Morgan-Thom, eucharist assistant; Marjorie Tucker, one of our choir members.

A Nap And A Snack

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

In 1 Kings 19, following Elijah's confrontation with the prophets of Baal, he flees from Queen Jezebel, finding solace in the wilderness. Overwhelmed by despair and feeling like a failure, he seeks refuge under a broom tree and falls into a deep sleep. During his slumber, the angel of the Lord appears, bringing sustenance and quenching his thirst, renewing his strength for the journey ahead. (I have heard people refer to this as a reminder to "never underestimate the spiritual power of a nap and a snack") Empowered by this divine provision, Elijah continues his trek to Mount Horeb, also known as Sinai, in search of divine guidance and purpose.

When he reaches

the holy mountain, God poses a profound question to Elijah, "What are you doing here?" This is a nudge to redirect Elijah's focus and reevaluate his purpose. In his desolation, Elijah believes himself to be the last remaining faithful servant of God, overlooking the presence of any others who share his devotion. His despair has become intertwined with pride and arrogance, blinding him to the full story of what is happening.

Instead of manifesting through grand displays of power, God chooses to speak to Elijah in a whisper—a voice of sheer silence. Through this gentle voice, God reminds Elijah of his mission and instructs him to anoint new leaders who will continue

the work of faithfulness. It is a challenge to Elijah's despair and a call to empower others, shifting the focus from his individual role to the collective efforts of a faithful community. However, it is worth noting that the text never explicitly shows Elijah carrying out these orders. Perhaps he has found new strength and courage during his encounter with God.

More importantly, God reveals a significant truth to Elijah—he is not alone. Despite his feelings of isolation, there remain 7,000 faithful Israelites who have not joined the worship of Baal. This revelation dismantles Elijah's claim of being the sole remnant, dispelling



his sense of despair and offering him an unseen network of support.

In our current context, where the Church may appear diminished and where isolation can breed despondency, we need to guard against the temptation to believe we are the last surviving bastions of faith. Despair can fill our hearts with pride and prevent us from recognizing the steadfastness of others

around us.

In order to hear God's voice of sheer silence amidst the chaos, we need to focus on humility and openness. By acknowledging the wider community of believers, both seen and unseen, we discover a renewed sense of hope and strength for our individual faith journeys. It is a reminder that we are part of a collective pursuit of faith, united by our devotion to God's calling. We need to listen for the gentle whispers of God. We need to share our support with the wider community of believers, trusting in our interconnectedness and finding comfort in the knowledge that we are never truly alone on this journey of faith.



End of Year Fellowship For Grand Bay ACW

Article and photographs by
Eileen Keeping

The ACW of St. Paul's Church in Grand Bay, after a successful year, had their last meeting before the summer on Wednesday, May 10. Before the meeting, there was a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. The dinner was served and the cleanup was done, by some fine gentlemen from our congregation. At the meeting, our President (Norma Simms) presented a cheque to the Rev'd Faye Coffin.

The evening was a great time of fellowship and fun.





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Confirmation in Foxtrap

Article and photograph by Sandra Taylor

Fifteen confirmation candidates gathered for a luncheon and rehearsal on May 6, 2023. They were fortunate that the Bishop could join them and spend time with the candidates.

On Sunday, May 7, at 6:30pm, a beautiful confirmation service for the Sacrament of the Laying on of Hands was celebrated by Bishop Samuel Rose. God Bless the newly confirmed.

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Recreating the Many Spring Activities

St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by
Louise Smith

There is a saying that, “from the chorus of minds comes a reflective voice.” As I sat under an umbrella on the patio, with laptop in hand, recreating the last few months at St. John the Evangelist, my thoughts somehow parallel that expression.

I commenced on May 13, when the parish hall was all aglow with preparations for our traditional spring flea market fundraiser. It was well attended and quite successful due to the generosity and participation of our church family.

Immediately following, on May 14, members of our congregation shared their time between celebrating Mother’s Day and supporting our Rev’d Jotie Noel as he was installed as the Canon for Creation Care and Stewardship at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

Two days later, on the 16th, as a minor reprieve, the ACW, the altar guild, the choir, Rev’d Jotie and his wife Pauline all relaxed in fellowship at Shenanigans, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner.

With batteries charged, and after weeks of confirmation preparations, two candidates from



photo by P Noel



photo by S. Smith

our parish family received the laying on of hands by Bishop Sam Rose, under the supervision of Rev’d Jotie.

One week later, on May 28, which was Pentecost Sunday, Bishop Sam gave us permission to lift the restrictions on the common

cup and on the waters of baptism, and return to the common cup. While not all parishioners complied, they were assured that just the bread was adequate for communion.

Maybe one of the most significant events that our church

had the privilege of celebrating this year was the 70th wedding anniversary of Audrey and Cliff Petten. Audrey is a lifetime member St. John the Evangelist, and Cliff for the 70 years of their marriage. Over 100 family members and friends attended to congratulate them on their remarkable milestone. Lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Our cemetery was a sight to be proud of on July 19 when we had the privilege of having an open air flower service. Throughout the evening, the blazing sun lit up and captivated the brilliant landscape of flowers that enveloped each beloved memorial site.

As I write this article, we are preparing for and looking forward to catering our town’s 50th anniversary on August 9. And by the time that this goes to print, and for the next few months, our concentration will focus primarily on worship and thanksgiving, before preparing for our traditional, busy fall.

*“In all labour there is profit;
But idle chatter leads to poverty.”
Proverbs 14: 23*

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Octogenarians taking part in Isle Aux Morts



On Sunday, May 21st, Holy Spirit Church in Isle aux Morts held a beautiful service in which three octogenarians were front and centre. Deacon Herb Park with the Rev'd Kathleen Knott performed a beautiful eucharist service, and Russell Strickland provided the music. What a joy to see these people being so active in their community and doing God's work.
- photographs and story by Karen Simon

Reasonable and Probable Grounds to Believe

To live and to die

Ford Matchim
Columnist

None of us have much to say about how we are born. It happens. The love and nurturing of our parents provide a foundation on which to grow and flourish. And as we start to get out and about, we soon become the recipients of advice from elsewhere. We learn to beware of absolutes and to avoid extremes, yet it is our very nature to often strike forth in certainty and ignorance. The many uncertainties we face are managed by our individual coping mechanisms. Some of us try to mask it all through bluster and superficial certitude, as it's not easily manageable, and certainly not comfortable living in emerging uncertainty. Yet, we frequently declare that we know, when really we do not know at all. And attempts to prop up our inner unease of really not knowing, often result in behaviour of being "often in error but never in doubt," a common defence mechanism we apply to cope with such uncertainties. In other words, it's growing up.

The views of others can easily be shared

and the sharing of such information can result in too many of us accepting everything at face value. It seems we instinctively strive to conform to the will of the many. Does our basic follow-the-herd-instinct sometimes unduly sway us into entertaining outlandish views? In our time, are we really better equipped to understand life's age-old questions, with our ever-increasing communications, or are we simply sharing our levels of collective ignorance at a faster pace? And gathering too many encyclopedic collections of piffle and piddle?

The matter of dying, and particularly the issue of life-after-death, is a puzzle to everyone who cares to give it much thought. Prior to scientific cosmology, many held the view that heaven was located in the sky—always above our heads—and hell in the ground—always below our feet. Nowadays, heaven very much remains a subject of awe and wonder, and is sometimes conceived of as the enjoyment of the full consciousness of God's presence, in the here



and now, that represents the fulfillment of God's purpose for his creation. Hell is viewed as the self-exclusion from any of this. Of course, these are perennially debated issues, with very little clarity in sight.

Dying is pretty straight forward and we all have to embrace the inevitability, sooner or later, of our own demise. In an earthly sense, death is simply going out of existence. When I think of my own death, I accept its inevitability similar to the way I would have accepted an unpleasant transfer whilst a member of the RCMP. While I would have unease whenever the high command ordered me to a new posting, especially to unfamiliar surroundings, the challenge was to accept the new duty and get on with it. And surprisingly, things always

had a way of working out. I know, comparing dying to that of a transfer is a stretch, yet it represents the changing ways of life. I am reminded of that great line in the well-known Newfoundland song "Let me fish of Cape St. Mary's" wherein it states "...let me be a man and take it / when my dory fails to make it..." What a great attitude, eh? And I believe as the person in the dory, that as we traverse this journey of life on earth, we become inclined to accept the natural state of earthly beings—to be born, to live, and to die.

Now as for me, a well-established octogenarian, my most fearful thoughts on dying occurred away back in my early teens. Hearing such lines as "... even in blooming we die..." was so scary. And thankfully the march of time has a marvellous way of levelling off such fears, and death itself, is no longer such a big deal. The matter of how I die though is, and my preferred option (very few of us will have one) would be "dying with one's boots on" perhaps the best of all.

While we are very

much alike in so many ways, yet we are so individually constructed to interpret the world around us as we feel it, hear it, and see it. And then to further compound things, many of us have eyes that cannot see and ears that cannot hear. For believers, without faith in God nothing makes sense—it's as simple as that! And that there's a prevailing belief that our lives are more than an ant-like quality of being activity oriented, where we just keep on going until we run out of heart beats. Fathoming-out our roles in how we relate to God transcends our common understanding. And one has to ponder the simple fact—if we were presented with an absolute certainty of God's presence and power, would we really be able to cope with it, to handle it, and carry on in our day-to-day living anywhere near as naturally as we do? And should we not also ponder the thought that there may well be good reason, beyond our human comprehension, that requires us to have the limited understanding of God that we do?

The Call of Abraham

The Rev'd Michael Li
Columnist

Terah had three sons: Abram, Nahor, and Haran (Genesis 11:26). Abram was probably born in Ur (near present day Basra in Iraq). He married Sarai prior to moving to the city of Haran (Genesis 11:29, 31). Both Ur and Haran are cities in Mesopotamia. Please note that Haran was located some 600+ miles northwest of Ur. The journey from Haran to Canaan is about 400 miles.

In Genesis 12:1-3, we see the call of Abram by God. God calls Abram out from his home in Haran and tells him to go to a land that he will show to him. God also makes three promises to Abram: (a) The promise of a land of his own; (b) the promise to be made into a great nation; and (c) the promise of blessing. What makes Abram special is that he

obeyed God (Genesis 12:4). He left behind everything and migrated to Canaan (Palestine) when he was 75 years old.

In other words, God has spoken (Genesis 12:1-3), and Abram responds by believing God (Genesis 12:4). This is faith. God made a promise, and Abram showed a saving faith in God's promise by turning his back on his past and setting out for Canaan.

God called Abram out of a pagan culture. Abram was a Gentile who was chosen by God to be the ancestor of the Jewish people. He lived in Canaan as a stranger, and God promised that his descendants would own it (Genesis 17:8). His descendants (12 sons of his grandson Jacob and their descendants) would become God's chosen



people. By the time of Exodus 1, the descendants of Jacob were recognized as a distinct nation in Egypt. No one was called a "Jew" before the exile (II Kings 25:25). The Jews came from Abram/Abraham because he was chosen by God from among the nations to be the origin of a new nation.

Why did God choose Abraham? God wanted to make him a blessing, first to the nation that would come from him—the Israelites—and ultimately to all the people of the

earth. Also, God chose Abraham to prepare the way for the Messiah. God used him to play an important role in the story of redemption, culminating in the birth of Jesus.

But Abraham was far from perfect; he was a sinner like us. Before God changed his name from Abram to Abraham in Genesis 17:5, he had sex with Hagar (Genesis 16:4) and Hagar conceived. Later, Isaac was born to Abraham in his old age (Genesis 21:2).

The Arabian peoples are mainly descendants of Abraham's son with Hagar, Ishmael. The Jewish people are descendants of Abraham's son Isaac. Arabians and Jewish people are Semitic by race. Today, generally speaking, some Arabians have a dislike of and

distrust for some Jews, and vice-versa. However, we must be careful to avoid stereotyping people. Please note that life of Abraham is taken as an example of outstanding faith in God (Hebrews 11:8-12) by both Arabians, Jewish people, and Christians.

Indeed, from the very beginning, God had in view that Jesus would be the descendant of Abraham and that everyone who trusts in Jesus would become an heir of Abraham's promises. God blesses people from all nations through Abraham. After we become the disciples of Jesus, we must learn to live by faith. We must continue to trust God in all situations.

Home Away From Home: Bishop Jones Hostel

Article by
Verna Bishop Smith and
Marge Brown

The Bishop Jones Hostel operated on 55 Rennie's Mill Road, in St. John's, from 1930 until the mid 1960s. It provided accommodations to 1359 Newfoundland and Labrador girls. Many of these former residents remain active and contribute in leadership roles in community life at home and abroad.

In July 2008, a group of girls who resided at the Bishop Jones Hostel (Spencer Lodge) held a reunion in St. John's. The objectives of the reunion planning group were to renew old friendships, to make new ones, to establish a contact network, and to initiate a Bishop Jones Memorial Scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving student attending Memorial University.

The 2008 reunion was an overwhelming success. It resulted in the creation of the Bishop Jones Memorial Scholarship (awarded annually at MUN). The initial award in 2009 was valued at \$500. Last year's 2022/23 winner received approximately \$2300. The



photo by E. F. Rowe

scholarship is now fully funded, and will continue in perpetuity. To date, in excess of \$17,000 has been awarded to 13 deserving Newfoundland and Labrador recipients.

For more information, you can go to the website www.envision.ca/webs/bishopjoneshostel, or you can contact Shirley Cooper by email at this address: bjh2008@ng.sympatico.ca.

Contributions to the BJM Scholarship can be made by contacting Verna G. Smith, the scholarship coordinator, at: 267 Elizabeth Ave., St. John's, NL, A1B 1T8.

Our Girls' Groups at St. Lawrence, Portugal Cove

Article by Ruth Bugden and Jocelyn Miller
 Photographs by Elaine Beckton

St. Lawrence Parish in Portugal Cove is proud to boast 4 girls' groups, ranging from ages 5 - 18. They start with Sunbeams, then on to JA (Junior Auxiliary), then on to YGA (Young Girls Auxiliary). Each group has its own opening/closing prayers, colours, and themes designed specifically for its age group.

Throughout the year, they play games and enjoy the activities created and led by their dedicated longtime leaders, Heather Greeley and Sylvia Greeley. During Hallowe'en, they invite their dads to a Hallowe'en Party, complete with games and costumes. During Christmas, they have a Grandmother's Tea, providing entertainment such as singing, skits, etc. Then at the end of the year, they have a Mother and Daughter Banquet where they are presented with awards for their work throughout the year. These groups attend an Initiation Service in February, which they attend in their respective colours, from Sunbeams through to YGA. Each group has their own banner, which is brought to the altar during this special service.

When a girl is finished with YGA, she graduates to



GA (Girls Auxiliary). GA was started at St. Lawrence in 1964 by Mrs. Enid Smith, who was the wife of the Rev'd Thomas Smith. Ruth Bugden, the current leader of GA, has been involved with this group since its inception. She helps with Sunbeams, JA, and YGA as well. Many of our parish families have seen 3 generations work their way up through the Girls' Groups.

GA carries out a variety of outreach projects in our parish, and many of these

programs have been in effect for years. On Good Friday of every year, you will find these teenagers preparing fruit baskets and delivering them to those who are 70 years of age and older in Portugal Cove, regardless of their denomination. Before they start the preparation of the fruit baskets, they do the Children's Liturgy, complete with costumes and script, a crown of thorns, the tomb, and so on. They also carry out the Children's Liturgy

on Christmas Eve, again complete with costumes, script, Baby Jesus, and so on. They enter a float in our community Santa Claus Parade, and have won first place many times.

At the end of their year in May, at the Mother and Daughter Banquet, earned badges and others awards are presented. The girls put off a play during the banquet, which is put off again as a dinner theatre in September of each year as a major fundraiser for our parish. There is a group

of volunteers who come together to take care of the cooking and clean up to help these fantastic young people.

One of the awards which is presented during the annual banquet is a 'GA Honour Ring'. These rings are presented to the girls for outstanding attendance, involvement, and co-operation since their enrolment in the Girls' Groups at the tender ages of 5 or 6. GA Honour Ring Girls are invited back each year for this banquet, so it is a reunion of sorts among 'older' GA girls. Among these 'Honour Ring' girls, you will find both mothers and daughters who have been awarded a ring in their respective years.

For the past 59 years, this group has met at 8 pm at our parish hall. 2024 marks their 60th Anniversary, so you can be sure there will be a celebration like no other. They already have a committee of 30 volunteers (GA girls/women) to get started on the celebration.

“ Suddenly nothing made sense anymore... ”

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Join the PWRDF Wild Ride While There's Still Time!

Rev'd Debbie Pantin
PWRDF Representative
Eastern NL
Image from PWRDF

The second annual PWRDF Wild Ride in support of work with refugees and internally-displaced persons in countries such as Tanzania, South Sudan, Jordan, and Ukraine, began on World Refugee Day, June 20th. It runs until Thanksgiving Day, October 9th. If you haven't registered a team or supported an existing one yet, there is still time. Let's make a difference in the lives of others over the next month!

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in 2023 approximately 177 million people—more than three times the population of Canada—will be forced to leave their homes or countries. It is the highest number in history. The journey to safety can often be very perilous, all-too-frequently meeting a tragic end. According to the United Nations International Organization for Migration, migrant

deaths in the Central Mediterranean hit a six-year high in 2023.

"The majority of refugees are...living in exile for more than five years, and often decades," says Carolyn Cummins, PWRDF's Director of Fundraising and Supporter Relations. "The number of refugees in need of resettlement to another country has increased significantly, but unfortunately only a fraction will ever be offered an opportunity to relocate to countries such as Canada. The rest remain displaced, mostly in low to middle income countries which do not have the resources to care for their needs. PWRDF partners [such as the Act Alliance, the Anglican Alliance, and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank] are caring for displaced individuals and families with support for income generation, improved food security, medical care, counselling, and more."

Naba Gurung, Humanitarian Response Coordinator at PWRDF, reports that many refugees at the Nyorugusu Camp in Tanzania have been there since the 1990s and know no other life. The camp is underfunded and overcrowded, and currently filled to three times its capacity.

The fundraising goal for the 2023 Wild Ride is \$50,000. You can register a team, register as an individual, or donate to an existing team or individual. Or just simply "donate now"! There is at least one team registered from our province so far, Book-lovers with Heart, (<https://www.canadahelps.org/s/nMCxZf>). If you form a team, how you raise the money is completely up to you. You can walk, run, cycle, bake cakes to sell, or anything you please. As the campaign says, "Put your stamp on it!"

Especially as we lead up to Thanksgiving, participating in this

campaign would be a wonderful way to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives, especially those of us who have the luxury of living in our homeland, free of the fear of violence and persecution. Check out the website (<https://pwrdf.org/wild-ride>), speak to your rector or parish PWRDF representative, and let us push this Wild Ride right over the finish line.

PWRDF Materials for you:

Did you know that PWRDF has printed materials available to every parish each year? Make your PWRDF awareness/fundraising events more informative and inviting with specially-created brochures, bulletin covers, laminated placemats, bookmarks and donation envelopes. You can download and print your own or order them for delivery straight from PWRDF on the downloadable order form: <https://pwrdf.org/get->

involved/resources/annual-resources/. Then, plan your special PWRDF Sunday or other event.

Your support of PWRDF is an excellent way to give life to at least three of the promises of our Baptismal Covenant:

- Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself;
- Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being; and
- Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

Whether you participate in this year's Wild Ride or plan your own unique fundraiser, please continue to support the work of PWRDF through your prayers and your donations as we work towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Mother's Day: Isle Aux Morts News



On Sunday, May 14, St. Augustine's Church, celebrated Mother's Day. The ACW presented woman in the church with carnations. It was a lovely service with the Rev'd Kathleen Knott and Deacon Herb Park officiating at a service of the Holy Eucharist. Two of the photograph with this article show our ACW president, Carol Ann Keough, distributing the flowers to the women in the congregation. The other photograph is Rev'd Knott and Deacon Herb. - *photographs and story by Karen Simon*

St. Alban's Anglican Church in Grand Bank Celebrates 70th Anniversary

Article by The Rev'd Charlie Cox
Photographs by Carl Rose

The weekend of June 16-18 will be remembered by the congregation of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Grand Bank for years to come.

The occasion was the celebration of the 70th anniversary of their church. The cornerstone for the first St. Alban's was laid by Archbishop Barfoot on June 17th, 1953.

It was a weekend packed with emotion, nostalgia, memories, reflections, laughter, tears, and prayer. The Rev'd Charlie Cox, rector of the parish, was overwhelmed, and explained that it was "A true celebration is the greatest statement I could make as I summarize the events of the 70th anniversary celebrations. From the initial planning stages to the conclusion of the celebrations, I believe we were blessed beyond measure."

The weekend started with a gospel concert setting a deep spiritual tone for the celebrations. A family day on Saturday, engaged the youth and their parents in a variety of fun activities.

This was followed by the banquet where people shared a beautiful meal and memories of days gone by. The congregation was joined by past rectors and members of other churches and denominations, as well as politicians from provincial and municipal levels.

Rev'd Charlie thanked the Rev'd Canon Reuben Hatcher for agreeing to be the guest speaker at the banquet, referring to his presentation as "the highlight of the evening."

Canon Hatcher explained, "I was, indeed, pleased to be asked to be the guest speaker for the anniversary celebrations. I was a bit reluctant at first, since it's been a long time since I served the parish in 1968. But I am glad I came."



Top left: Photo taken after the Thanksgiving service, including former rectors: Rev'd Ronald Lee, Rev'd Neil Kellett, Canon Ruben Hatcher, Canon Wilson Tibbo, and Bishop John Watton. Behind Canon Hatcher is Cindy Graham, widow of Rev'd Tim Graham.
Top: Jeanie Bobbett and Winston Walters cut the anniversary cake.
Left: The banquet



Top left: Canon Ruben Hatcher and the current rector of the parish, The Rev'd Charlie Cox
Top: Many took the time to renew old acquaintances, including Stella Cumben, who was delighted to share the evening with her long time friends Canon Wilson Tibbo and his wife Lillian Tibbo.
Left: Some adults joined in with the kids and enjoyed themselves on family day.

He added, "It gave me an opportunity to reflect on the beginning of the church and its growth over the years and to share that with those assembled at the banquet."

And share he did, beginning when "the church" existed with no building, and worshipers assembled in places like the Temperance Hall, the Orange Lodge and Harry Grandy's Theatre for services.

The big break came when resettlement of some communities took place from Brunette and other places along the coast.

Canon Hatcher noted, "It was this influx of these people, their strong will and deep faith that led to the construction of the church in 1953." The first service was held in the basement on Thanksgiving Day, 1953.

That church served the needs of the congregation

until 1975, when the vestry decided it was time to build a new church.

Canon Hatcher also shared some of the experiences he had during his tenure in the parish. Many of them were happy, but others very sad, especially the loss of life to the fury of the sea with the sinking of the Blue Mist and Blue Wave.

He spoke of one lady who lost her husband, her son, and her son-in-law

in the one disaster. "Her response to me was, 'Well, I guess God wanted them more than I did'. What faith! What faith!" explained a tearful Canon Hatcher.

Interspersed with the sad experiences, Canon Hatcher related numerous light-hearted experiences that kept his audience in stitches.

He told of one incident when he and his friend Tom Pope got stuck in the middle of the road between Hungry Pond and Lorries while returning from a Lenten service in Lamaline.

"We got so far but the storm got worse, and we got stuck. With no plow on the road we had no choice but stay in the car all night. Then after a while we saw lights of a truck coming towards us.

"Hardly seeing through the snow, I saw this man driving the truck; he had his stocking cap down over his head. I soon recognized him; it was my rector coming to look for us. Needless to say, I never got aboard the truck with him; I got in with the snowplough operator."

The rector that he referred to was, of course, the Rev'd Wilson Tibbo. He spoke of the same incident at the 50th anniversary of St. Alban's. "I needed confession and absolution after that night because I do believe when we found him, I used some not so nice language on him which he has never forgotten," he joked.

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton, the rector of the parish from 1990 to 1996, brought greetings on behalf of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland and spoke of his experiences in the parish.

The anniversary celebrations ended with a Thanksgiving Service with Bishop Watton as the presider. Archdeacon Terry Caines, a native of Grand Bank, was the preacher.

The Spirituality of Walking

Article by
The Rev'd Everett Hobbs

I walk a lot—at least an hour daily. I grew up at a time when most of us walked everywhere. When I acquired a car, I walked less. Going to the U.K. in 1966 restored my habit of walking, and I have kept it up ever since. Over the years, I came to discern that walking and related physical activity contributes to my spiritual life.

It can be a time of silence, and silence has its own value. It can also be used for meditation and

contemplation. When we walk outside, especially in the “wild,” we can be more in touch with nature—God’s creation. I seem to be more aware, in particular of my body while walking. I walk no matter the weather, unless it is very severe, as I find that facing the elements in all its moods affects my well-being.

When I lived in the U.K. I discovered hiking which was commonplace there. My most ambitious hiking was in the Swiss

Alps. When I returned to NL in the 1970s, hiking was catching on here and the government was promoting the upgrading of old trails and the construction of new ones. We have a lot of hiking trails today, and over the years I have used many of them—five to ten kilometres normally. The East Coast Trail comprises 270 kilometres of coastal hiking from Topsail Beach to Cappehayden, and 66 kilometres of community walks. There are also

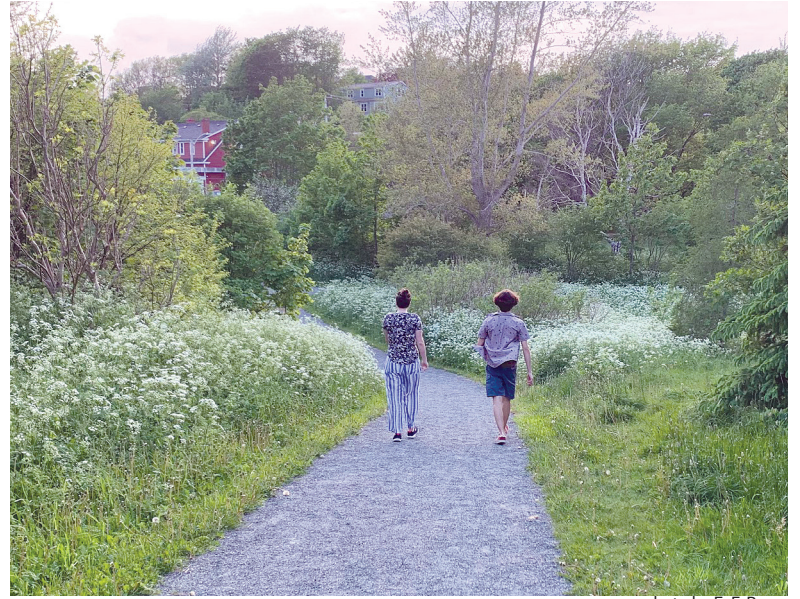


photo by E. F. Rowe

trails in ever so many communities on the Avalon. I have walked trails in Bay Roberts, Heart’s Content, Norman’s Cove, Chance Cove, Arnold’s Cove, Sunnyside, and Chance Cove, all within a 90 minutes’ drive. The most popular trail in NL is Skerwink in Port Rexton/

Trinity East. What I have said about walking can also apply to swimming and skating, skiing and snowshoeing. When I retired 20 plus years ago, I took up kayaking. I find this another instrument of spirituality.

Island Service With Two Baptisms

Article by Lisa Snow
Photos submitted by Rev'd Beverly Buffet



An Island Service was held on July 30 at Church of Holy Spirit, Fogo. The Rev'd Neal Buffet and the Rev'd Beverly Buffet performed two baptisms. Rev'd Neal read to the kids about the mustard seed; how by nurturing the seeds of faith that we have, we can grow to the full potential that God would have us to be. It was a beautiful service, and was followed by a fellowship lunch at the hall. What an amazing God we serve!

