

ANGLICAN LIFE

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

SEPTEMBER 2025

Diocese of Central Newfoundland Holds Two Synods

Article by The Ven. Terry Caines,
Press Secretary to Synod (CNL)
Photographs by The Rev'd Hannah Dicks

From May 30th to June 1st, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland held its 49th and 50th synods at St. Martin's Cathedral in Gander. The 49th synod began with registration at the James Reid Center, and following that was the opening Eucharist at St. Martin's Cathedral. On June 1st, the 50th diocesan synod held registration following the Sunday morning Eucharist at the cathedral, with the focus on the second reading of the constitution.

The main purpose of both Synods was to review the diocesan constitution, which had not been updated since 1998. Early in Bishop Watton's tenure, the constitution was placed in abeyance for review and revision to update its language. Bishop Watton stated that this was the reason for holding both Synods back-to-back: an update to a constitution requires reading and approval from two synods before it can be implemented in the diocese.

For the 49th diocesan synod, Bishop Rose was present and brought greetings from the Diocese of Eastern NL, and presided at the opening Eucharist using the Eucharist Prayer from Jerusalem. Bishop Organ was unable to attend due to another commitment, but did send his regrets which Bishop Watton shared with those present. Bishop Watton began



his Charge by asking all present to "be aware of all the love that Christ has planted in our hearts, and that he is here with us, right now." And he shared a reading from Proverbs 4:20-21: "Pay attention to my words; turn your ear to my sayings. Do not let them out of your sight; keep them within your heart." Bishop Watton stated that "This message is only able to be offered in this way because of all of the gathering, teaching, sharing, struggling, and working together we have

done over the past nine years."

Then Bishop Watton went on to say the role of this synod is:

- To build community by being attentive to and passionate about scripture and the revealed laws of love Jesus has given us.
- To take counsel, pray, and become one in being bravely and sacrificially sustainable because of our devotion to the Mission of our Lord.
- To call the leaders to stand for the Gospel

•To rebuild our very own guidelines for the community of faith: our constitution. When the people of God poured out the longing of their hearts to the leaders of the Church, the leaders were able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. That is what we are doing here. Our constitution, will give us the common foundation we need to establish unity and purpose for our diocese.

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CENTRAL SYNODS

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The Bishop stated “From this synod, we will be able to build his city on the hill and shine for the world to see. Let us recommit in this synod, and beyond to let our light so shine before others, so they may see our devotion to Jesus, and with us, glorify our Father who is in heaven.”

The diocesan chancellor presented the constitution at both the 49th and 50th synods. Synod delegates moved and second all 22 chapters on the first reading and the second reading, with Bishop Watton concurring after each motion.

The Diocese of Central Newfoundland, in its 50th Synod now, has this new constitution to help the diocese to move forward into the future. To reiterate from Bishop Watton’s Charge, the diocese is now able “to rebuild our very own guidelines for the community of faith.”



St. Paul’s in Summerside celebrates the beginning of summer together



On June 11th, 2025, the people of St. Paul’s Summerside, in the Parish of Meadows, celebrated the start of the summer with a meal together at Brockways Restaurant.
-submitted with photograph by the Rev’d George Critchell

Anglican Life is the official newspaper of the Anglican Church of Canada in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador. This publication is a collaborative effort of the three Dioceses within the province and operates with an independent editorial policy, publishing ten issues annually. *Anglican Life* is a section of the *Anglican Journal*.

Editor:

Emily F. Rowe

Email: anglicanlifenl@gmail.com

Advertising Rates and information may be obtained from:

The Rev’d Fred Marshall

22 Church Hill

St. John’s, NL

A1C 3Z9

Phone: (709) 727-4346

Email: fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com

Paid Subscription Rates:

Newfoundland and Labrador,

suggested yearly donation: \$15.00

Outside the province: \$20.00

International: \$25.00

Layout & Design by: The Editor

Printed and Mailed by:

KT Web Printing

287 Bridgeland Ave, Toronto, Ontario M1P 1Z6

Subscribers are responsible for managing their subscriptions to Anglican Life.

New subscriptions, cancellations, & address changes should be sent to:

Fe Bautista, Circulation Department

The Anglican Journal

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2

Phone: (416) 924-9199, ext 245

Email: circulation@national.anglican.ca

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These policies have been adopted by the Anglican Life Committee.



Heartwarming Mother’s Day Tea

Article and photographs by
Dale Decker

The Parish of Bonne Bay North Fellowship Group hosted a Mother’s Day Tea Party, in celebration of mothers both past and present, on Saturday May 10th. There were 106 people in attendance, all dressed for an afternoon tea. It was a wonderful event with poems, skits, recitations, prize draws, stories, music, and even a few dances.

Everyone enjoyed a cup of tea served in beautiful tea cups, and an abundance of delicious sandwiches, cakes, loaves, cookies, squares, fresh fruit, and much more! A Mother’s Day cake was cut by two dedicated Fellowship Group members: 91 year old Doris Pittman, and 87 year old Annie Shears. It was a most enjoyable afternoon!



Above: Heartfelt thanks to the Rev'd Wilhelmena Green for her organization of the Fellowship Group, and hard work and dedication over the past two years which have ensured that each week when we meet, it's the best evening possible!

Right: dancing and fun
Far right: The cake being cut by two dedicated members: Doris Pittman (left) and Annie Shears (right)



New ACW members in Port Blanford



St. Aidan’s ACW president, Gloria Penney, welcomed two new members to our ACW group formally in June by presenting Mary Penney and Elizabeth (Buffy) Frampton with their official ACW aprons that we wear at various functions. Many thanks and blessings to you both.

- article and photographs by June Holloway




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October's print issue: 1 September
November's print issue: 1 October
December's print issue: 30 October



The earlier that you submit your stories and photographs, the more likely they are to be included in the next issue of Anglican Life.

Please email your parish submissions to the Editor at: anglicanlifenl@gmail.com

75 Years for St. Swithin's!

Submitted with photographs
by Madeline Osbourne

St. Swithin's Church in White Bay marked its 75th anniversary on June 27th, 2025, with an enthusiastic celebration that brought many people together. The special event saw friends of the church reunite to commemorate this milestone. The presence of numerous clergy members, in addition to our rector the Rev'd Nancy Hulan, added to the significance of the occasion, highlighting the church's enduring legacy. It was a day of joy and reflection, celebrating decades of faith and fellowship at St. Swithin's.



Here are some of the photographs from this wonderful celebration, including one of the special banner made for the 75th anniversary of the consecration of St. Swithin's, the congregation that was present that day, and also the cutting of the anniversary cake.



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Port aux Basques Confirmation

On May 11th, 2025, St. James' Church in Port aux Basques had a service of confirmation. Bishop John Organ administered the sacrament of confirmation. Eleven children received the laying on of hands. A beautiful lunch was provided after the service in our Memorial Centre.

A special thank you to Gail Northcott, who is our confirmation teacher. Her dedication does not go unnoticed, and she was presented with a gift from the class.

-submitted with photographs by Lisa Brown



Two Retirements in Port aux Basques

On Sunday, June 22nd, St. James' Church in Port aux Basques had a service of prayer and praise followed by a potluck luncheon in the Memorial Centre. This was to wish the Rev'd Jane Allen, priest-in-charge, and the Rev'd Faye Coffin, assistant priest, a farewell on their retirement. It was also to thank them both for their ministry to St. James'. They will certainly be missed, but we wish them well in their future endeavours.

- article and photographs by Lisa Brown

On right are Rev'd Jane (left) and Rev'd Faye (right) cutting their cake
On the far right is ACW president, Diane Hewitt presenting gifts on behalf of the ACW



ACW Summer Closing Supper, Port aux Basques

The ACW ladies of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques had their closing night before the summer break. They met at St. Christopher's Hotel for a delicious meal, followed up with a game of cards at the Memorial Centre.

- article by Lisa Brown; photograph by Barbara Hardy





Emily F. Rowe
Editor, Anglican Life

Rooted, Growing, and Changing

In *For All The Saints*, a publication from the Anglican Church of Canada giving us the readings and explanations for each feast day in our Church calendar, September 18th's entry notes that we remember the "Founders, Benefactors and Missionaries of the Anglican Church of Canada." It was on this day in 1893 that the first General Synod of the Church of England here in Canada held its closing service. The Canadian Church had transformed from three separate provinces under the Archbishop of Canterbury into an autonomous national Church, and was made a full member of the worldwide Anglican family—much to be grateful for at the time, and we are, of course, still grateful for our Anglican Church of Canada today.

The Gospel lesson that is appointed for this commemoration is John 4:32-38, a passage in which Jesus tells his disciples that his "food" is to do the will of God and finish his work, explaining that the spiritual harvest of people coming to faith is ready—both those who sow and those who reap will rejoice together in eternal life. Jesus emphasizes that they are entering into a harvest for which others have already laboured, which naturally fits well with the idea of an Anglican Church in Canada built on the work done in the Church since its beginnings (especially within our "mother," the Church of England). The Church needs this "firm foundation," to quote the familiar hymn. A strong root makes for a strong tree. But while roots anchor and nourish, for the

plant to thrive a gardener needs to look beyond them to the whole plant. Neglecting leaves, stems, or flowers can lead to unseen diseases, pest infestations, or structural weaknesses that hinder growth and fruitfulness.

The Church, though strongly rooted in its foundations, must continually evolve to remain vibrant and relevant. While we aren't called to follow every trend, which would be impossible, we cannot afford to be out of touch with a changing world. A lack of transparency and a history of intolerance have, to our shame, often led the Church to cover up its faults. Too often, those in authority have mistakenly believed that their actions were above question or correction.

Today, we need to be better than that. The wider world can see everything, and will no longer indulge the Church as it once did—nor should it! Discrimination, intolerance, and prejudice were never acceptable, and there can be no excuse for them. We are called instead to embody Christ's love through justice, compassion, and integrity in all that we do.

As we mark September 18th we are called to honour our heritage while boldly moving forward, ensuring that we remain connected to a world that demands authenticity. We must be rooted, but also growing and changing. It's only through acceptance, humility, and a willingness to change for the better that we can continue the spiritual harvest and fulfil God's work in Canada today.

A Night of Tradition in Fortune, Hosted by All Saints' Church

Article and photographs
submitted by
The Rev'd Charlie Cox

On May 23rd, 2025, an old tradition of the Church was re-lived at All Saints' Anglican Church auditorium in Fortune. Earlier this year, the ACW had discussed the possibility of hosting a "old fashioned concert." This idea was well received by the group

and the congregation. Even the response from the community was excellent with many wanting to volunteer as musicians, singers, and actors. It was a great event that brought nearly 180 people together for an evening full of laughter and fun, and it

was followed by a cup of tea, which is also a great tradition. This initiative would not have been possible without the dedication of those involved in the planning and preparation of this wonderful evening. A sincere thank you to all of you!





Bishop John Organ
Western Newfoundland

Discipleship in Difficult Times

I am mindful that when it comes to personal emotional, psychological, and spiritual seasons, some of us may be in the midst of a winter storm while others are enjoying the warmth of summer. Some of us are in a season of sorrow, and others a season of joy. Some are experiencing anxiety, and others are filled with tranquility. There are these contrasting seasons for all humans on this journey of life.

Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, go through these seasons as well. Walking with Jesus does not mean we will have only happy days. Being a disciple of Jesus is not freedom from difficulties. In fact, a life of faith will have its share of troubles and challenges. There will be a cross to carry.

When in stormy seasons, when going through bad times, the Christian has Jesus, the Good Shepherd, who knows firsthand just how bad things can get. He had his own cross to carry and death to die. He had everything thrown at him: his friends scattered, he was ridiculed, denied, betrayed, rejected, abandoned, shamed, disowned, condemned, and killed. He experienced the worst human beings could do to other human beings. He knew we are “a species that will tie one of its own to a stake and strike the match.” That we hang fellow humans on a tree. Bad times and excruciating experiences were not foreign to him. He faced them all. In fact, he triumphed over them all, exchanging good for evil and conquering death with life. He showed us a new way to live. As followers of Jesus, we have before us his transformative, triumphant modelling, especially through the bad

seasons. He has walked the walk. He broke the pattern of hate for hate and death for death.

It demanded all he had. He carried his cross and even fell beneath its weight. He sweated drops of blood. Christians are not greater than their master. Following him will have a Via Dolorosa, a way of suffering, a way of sorrows. But, in the very midst of that suffering and sorrow, with our eyes fixed on him, there will be the experience of grace. We will not feel totally without help or care. As if in the eye of the storm, we will know and feel God’s calming embrace and know for certain that we will make it through. Like he did! And making it through, we will be transformed and made new!

Being a disciple of Jesus is not all sunshine. There are dark, cloudy days. There is not abounding happiness every day either. There are heavy, painful days. There is not always understanding and glowing light. Sometimes there is no understanding and no light. It is on those low and dark days, though, that we lean on our Lord totally and completely. We can reach for him, and if only able to touch the hem of his garment, we will experience compassion flow from him to us, and we are strengthened. And like Julian of Norwich, we come to trust that “all will be well and all manner of things will be well.”

We then rise with his compassionate lift. We are held in his loving care, even on the most horrible days. He is our genuine God-friend, and we faithfully follow him because he is truly way, life, truth, love, peace, joy, healing, and reconciliation.



“Flowers in May Cafe” at St. Peter’s, Upper Gullies

Article and photographs by
Ruth Crews

Bearing in mind the weather in our province in May, many people are anxious to see evidence that spring is in the air. Scientists have established a correlation between the brightness of spring and certain changes within our brain which lead to improved mental health. With that in mind, our ACW planned our Flowers in May Cafe to include bright images of the season which we hoped would help people capture the spirit of spring. We had approximately 90 people in attendance—many of



whom wore fancy dresses and hats. With many of our active members now in their 80s, this event was made possible because of the kindness of younger members of our church

family, who helped to serve and clean up while us older folks enjoyed a cup of tea with friends. Their help was greatly appreciated.

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The Rev'd Joshua Haggstrom Ordained a Priest

On April 10th, 2025, the Rev'd Joshua Haggstrom was ordained to the sacred priesthood at Holy Trinity Church in Codroy, NL, by Bishop John Organ. The service was well attended by clergy and lay people alike. A supper was served at the fire hall for all before the service, and a luncheon was served at the church after the service. This gave everyone a chance to have fellowship with Rev'd Joshua and also Bishop John. It was a very beautiful service, and Holy Trinity was so pleased to be able to host it. Rev'd Joshua is now the priest-in-charge at the Parish of Grand Bay, which consists of 3 churches: Holy Trinity in Codroy, St. Paul's in Grand Bay, and St. John the Evangelist in Cape Ray. We want to wish Rev'd Joshua all the best as he starts this new chapter in his ministry.
-submitted with photograph by Linda Kendell



The Rev'd Valerie Pearce and The Rev'd Byron Smith Ordained Deacons



On May 14th, Bishop Rose ordained the Rev'd Valerie Pearce and the Rev'd Byron Smith to the sacred order of deacons in Bay Roberts. Pictured here in the photograph on the left are: Pamala Norman, Rev'd Jason Haggstrom, Archdeacon Christine Lynch, Rev'd Valerie Pearce, Bishop Sam Rose, Rev'd Byron Smith, Florence Morgan-Thom, Karen Dawe, (Eucharistic assistant)
- article by Florence Morgan-Thom; photograph by Barry D. Thom

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The Rev'd Steward May Ordained a Deacon

On June 11th, 2025, Steward May was ordained to the diaconate at St. Lawrence Church in his hometown of Belloram by Bishop John Watton. Steward had been a licensed lay minister for 40 years, and has completed a Diploma in Theology, and the Associate in Theology, both from Queen's College. Rev'd May was surrounded by his family, and many friends, along with many members of the clergy, licensed lay ministers, and eucharistic assistants. During his homily, Bishop Watton expressed the importance of deacons in the community, and in essence that deacons in the Bible are servants, called to serve the needs of the Church, ensuring that the community is cared for. Bishop Watton shared that all priests must never forget that they are always deacons.

- article and photograph by Archdeacon Terry Caines



Mother's Day in Ramea

A very moving Mother's Day service was held at St. Boniface Church (Ramea) on May 11th, 2025. The officiants were our lay readers, Fran Scott and Laura Kendall. White roses were placed on the open Bible in memory of mothers who have been called to their heavenly home. We wished all mothers a happy and blessed Mother's Day! - submitted with photograph by Sarah Sibley



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The Rev'd Terry Rose Retires

Article by Karen Bennett
Photographs by Marie Rose

On April 12th, 2025 a celebration of Rev'd Terry Rose's eleven-year ministry in the Parish of Cow Head, and also his retirement as an active priest, was honoured with a celebration. Members from the churches served by Rev'd Terry were represented: St. Paul's, Parsons Pond, Daniel's Harbour, Portland Creek, Bellburns, and Cow Head. Friendly banter filled the church hall in Cow Head as worshipers filled plates with assorted dishes while enjoying a delicious supper. A lot of mingling occurred during the evening as folks from various churches sat with each other, renewing ties and sharing incidents when Rev'd Terry had been so helpful in good times and during bereavements. Rev'd Terry's wife, Marie, was by his side whenever she could be, serving the

Holy Eucharist, singing in the choir, doing so many helpful things over the years—and isn't she a marvellous cook! Ruth Payne, parish treasurer, also retired that night from her position of many years. Gifts were presented and short speeches made, many of them quite emotional. Rev'd Terry and Deacon Nora Shears had shared this ministry, and Nora will continue as deacon in charge.

On the right: Rev'd Terry with guest and long time friend, Canon Jeffery Petten, and the Rev'd Nora Shears (deacon-in-charge of the parish)

Far right top: Parish Treasurer, Ruth Payne, began her position when Rev'd Terry did, eleven years ago, and also retired on April 12, after a job well done.

Far right bottom: Bernard House of Daniel's Harbour presented a gift to Rev'd Terry



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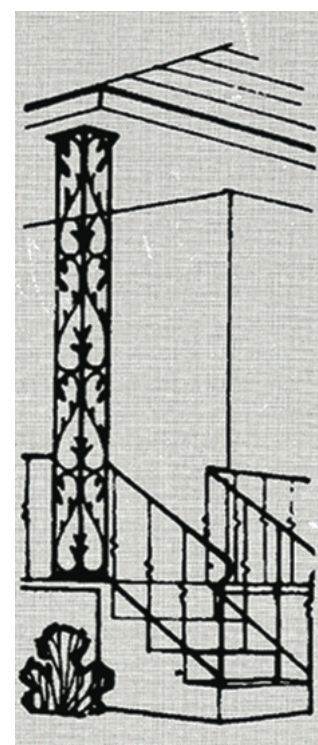
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A Spiritual Walk on the Trailway

Article and photographs by Gary Parsons

The St. Peter’s Men’s Service Club hosted a prayer walk on Saturday, June 14th. It was an absolutely beautiful day as we walked along the CBS Trailway. The walk was about an hour and a half long, with resting, prayers, and song. Prayers were said for various people and situations. Rocks with biblical sentences printed

on them were given to all walkers to place along the trail as a spiritual and uplifting token for other walkers. Attending the walk with us was our bishop, Samuel Rose. The morning concluded with soup and sandwiches back at the church hall. What a beautiful morning of spiritual fellowship.



Time and Tide Wait For No Man

Article by Louise Smith
Photograph by Pauline Noel

In the rush and flow of one’s daily commitments, it has often been expressed and repeated that time is just a fleeting moment. Then, as we look back at the past eight months since starting our busy yet enjoyable calendar year here at St. John the Evangelist, Topsail, to us the expression is recognizable—not a cliché, but indeed a truism.

In harmony and fellowship with affiliated teams of the ACW, choir, altar guild, and the congregation at large, it’s been a busy time, but an exceptionally rewarding journey. The many spiritual and holy occasions listed in our Church calendar were all recognized and duly celebrated with worship, thanksgiving, food, and fellowship.

On the secular spectrum, such as the fall fair, the flea market, the Holly Tea, and take-out dinners, events were similarly celebrated, all relevant to the sustainability of our mission to the glory of God.

We are now winding down to make way for a brief diversion into a



Canon Jotie preaching at the Old Heritage Church, Topsail

summer hiatus, which began with a closing dinner at Ye’s Wok on Topsail Road on May 12th, where our altar guild, ACW, choir, and Canon Jotie and Pauline all gathered for a relaxing time, sharing food and informal conversation.

As I write this, I have just witnessed an estimated 200 people file past the wrought-iron gate of the cemetery, emerging from the flower service. Rain threatened but held off, and made way for brilliant sunshine. Music echoed throughout, and speakers enabled the multitude to hear the service loud and clear. Canon Jotie delivered a message of encouragement and hope

in his usual inspirational way.

Again this year, our Old Heritage Church was painstakingly prepared for the regular summer Eucharist service on July 20th. We look forward to greeting the many visitors, as well as the local residents, who join us in celebration of this annual summer worship.

Then, just like a fleeting moment, the fall season is catching up with us, and with it regular activities are prepared and will be embraced.

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might. For man does not know his time.”
—Ecclesiastes 9:10, 12

Port aux Basques’ Sewing Group



St. James’ Church in Port aux Basques has a sewing group—about 12 ladies—who meet every Wednesday at the Memorial Centre. They just finished making 30 adult bibs to be donated to the Long Term Care Unit of the Dr. Charles L. LeGrow Health Centre. I am sure these will be greatly appreciated.

- article by Lisa Brown; photograph by Barbara Hardy

God is Not Complicated

Article by Fred Tulk

Photographs by Ed Matthews

In October of 2024, the Parish of St. Mary the Virgin (St. John's) developed its education courses starting with "The Leadership of Women in Scripture." This course was well received and led to a study of Marcus Borg's work, "The God We Never Knew," in the spring of 2025. Once again students were delighted with short but pointed lectures, lively but relevant discussions, refreshing humour, and muffins to die for. Operating under the theme similar to that of the Oak Ridge Boys, we are becoming firm believers that God is not complicated.

Pictured receiving certificates on June 1st, 2025, from left to right are: Fred Tulk (facilitator), Evelyn Benson, Jane McDonald, Marie Snow, Kay Billard, Josie Dyke, the Rev'd Karen Mitchell, Shirley Jackman, the Rev'd Eli Evans. Unavoidably absent that day were: Sarah and Wayne Dawe, Wayne Andrews, and Viola Bemister.



Spring Tea Outreach

At the Church of Good Shepherd's Spring Tea in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, held this past May, attendees were asked to support the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador Mobile Wellness project. This bus provides vital outreach services to people experiencing homelessness in our community.

Pictured below from left to right are: Archdeacon Amanda Taylor accepting the gifts from COTGS vestry members Christine Greene and Rhonda Noseworthy.

The donations included: socks, hats, mittens, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and much more!

- article and photograph by Kimberly Yetman Dawson



Sunday School Creates Fairy Gardens in Meadows

On Sunday, June 1st, Holy Trinity Church in Meadows Sunday school children, led by Stephanie Benoit, relocated their activities outdoors to collaboratively build enchanting fairy gardens. It was a lovely early summer activity on a beautiful day.

-submitted with photograph by The Rev'd George Critchell

Do you have a story and pictures from a recent event in your parish?



SEND THEM TO:
anglicanlifenl@gmail.com

The Rev'd George Critchell Retires

Submitted with photographs by
Audrey Park



On June 29th, 2025, The Rev'd George Critchell held his last service in the Parish of Meadows. We wish Rev'd George and Kathleen enjoyment in their retirement, and time with your family!



The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

Working and Walking Alongside Each Other

A year ago, the membership of PWRDF was presented with the proposal to change its name. Over the years, a growing number of people advocated for us to choose something simpler, a name easy to understand and to pronounce and without a clumsy acronym, one that reflects who we are and what we do. In 2022, a Task Team of staff, board members, and volunteers from across Canada began meeting. They deliberated and consulted; the Board met and considered their recommendations. The theme of partnership emerged, and last September, the name Alongside Hope was proposed. It is true that not everyone was enthusiastic about the name chosen, or even about the need for a name change. However, in October, at a special meeting of members, "Alongside Hope" was approved by a large majority. In the end, as one wise person said, you choose a name and live into it. Those two simple words—alongside and hope—say so much, and we continue to live



Cynthia and a young girl at a water project/garden in Kenya (photo C. Haines-Turner)

into all they contain. Two examples come to mind. This past June, I was part of a delegation that traveled to Kenya. So many of our partners appreciate the simplicity of the name and how much easier it is to remember (there were still 'insiders' who got the acronym mixed up, even toward the end). Yet, the name is much more than an easy-to-remember title. For many years now, our emphasis has been on working with partners, truly coming alongside, walking, discussing, and sharing this journey with others, which follows so very much the example of

Jesus walking alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus. And as we journey together, as we learn from each other and share, we plant seeds of hope. Hope is not wishy-washy thinking; it is one of the three Christian virtues which Paul says will abide and which he says is produced by character, which is in turn produced through suffering and endurance. It is something we need and something we cling to when all else seems lost. "Hope," said Desmond Tutu, "is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness." The "Wild Ride" campaign for 2025 has been launched, and this year, the proceeds go towards solar suitcases. Members of General Synod this past June would have been able to see a demonstration of a solar suitcase. Its premise is simple and a testament to human ingenuity. For families in off-grid parts of Mozambique and Madagascar, nighttime deliveries can be challenging and even dangerous. Connected to a

solar panel on the roof of a clinic, the suitcase contains power outlets for portable lights, a headlamp, a fetal Doppler (a hand-held ultrasound used to detect the fetal heartbeat), and cell phone chargers. Medical attendants have the tools they need to

support women through labour and delivery, especially at night. Alongside Hope is our new name, but our ministry remains the same—we walk and work alongside each other to bring hope to our hurting world. That says it all.

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Celebrating the Ascension at The Church of the Ascension, Howley, NL

Article by Canon Jeffrey Petten
Photographs by Peg Stroud-Mountain

The Church of the Ascension in Howley is one of the two points that make up the Parish of Deer Lake, with the other being the Church of St. Michael & All Angels in Deer Lake. I like to say that I am the only priest in Newfoundland & Labrador who has to drive the 401 to get to one of their churches! Twelve kilometers from the Trans-Canada Highway is the tucked-away community of Howley. It was once a railway town, but its claim to fame is that Howley is the community in which our beloved four-legged speed bumps, also known as moose, were let off a train in 1904. Thirty years after the moose were introduced, the local people built a church, placed under the patronage of the Ascension of our Lord. This beautiful wooden structure and its cemetery sit on the same property, not too far from the spot where the train stopped in 1904. Built in 1934, the building has certainly had its share in the joys and sorrows of the lives of people.

With my arrival in the parish in September of 2021, I quickly fell in love with this building, but most of all with its people—the true Church. As I got to know the handful of people who attend worship, I was quick to discover that one could not only easily spiritually feed the people present, but that the people present also spiritually feed their priest! To put it in terms of employment: to go to Howley is literally taking a vacation in the middle of a workday. As the liturgical year began to change from Advent to Lent in that first year, and then to the best season of all—Easter—to be in the oldest church of the three churches under the patronage of the Ascension that I am aware of (Church of the



Ascension, Wiltondale, and Church of the Ascension, Mount Pearl), I knew it just had to be celebrated all the more on the fortieth day after the Feast of the Resurrection. In my time of being a priest, I have always celebrated the Feast of the Ascension on the day on which it falls—a Thursday. The lectionary website of the Anglican Church of Canada states the following:

Of the seven Principal Feasts of our church, three occur on a Sunday: Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. Further, the BAS provides for one to be anticipated—Epiphany—and one to be transferred—All Saints. Although many worshipers

will no longer come to a weekday service, Christmas is an exception and so has been retained on the day of the week on which it falls. This leaves Ascension as the only Principal Feast that is no longer widely observed. Although many Anglicans and Roman Catholics were reluctant to “give up” on the expectation that the Ascension Thursday services would be well observed, most have now realised that the transfer to Sunday is inevitable. The Canadian Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops allowed Ascension to be observed on the Sunday over twenty years ago. Many Canadian Anglican parishes already observe Ascension Sunday

instead of the Sunday after Ascension. This ordo makes provision for this. This day is always kept as Ascension Day and if it is also observed on Sunday then this is in addition to its observance today.

Well, in the Parish of Deer Lake, at the Church of the Ascension, we celebrate the Principal Feast of the Ascension on the day on which it falls. We do so with a celebratory and spirit-filled atmosphere, and a good number of people make the pilgrimage from Deer Lake to Howley (which is a return trip of 93 km) with the good possibility of seeing the offspring of those first moose that were introduced back in

1904. With the celebration of the Holy Eucharist using the propers for the Feast of Dedication, we worship and pray around the font, the lectern, the pulpit, and the altar. After the conclusion of the liturgy, we go to the Howley Community Center and continue our celebration with, in good Anglican fashion—TEA!

It is said that after doing something for two years, it becomes tradition. I am proud to say that the pilgrimage to the Church of the Ascension for the Feast of the Ascension, falling on a Thursday, is a highlight not only for the congregation of Howley but for the whole of the Parish of Deer Lake!

Lighting the Way: Alongside Hope Wild Ride

Article by Jacqueline Tingle

Communications & Marketing, Alongside Hope

(with files from Lucinda Congolo, Mozambique Country Director for We Care Solar)

Alongside Hope's 2025 Wild Ride aims to raise funds to equip eight off-the-grid rural health clinics with life-saving renewable energy. And thanks to a generous donor, all gifts will be matched, doubling the impact!

At Muripotana Health Centre in Nampula, midwife Ancha Amido Abdala used to begin every night shift in darkness, with no lights, no power, and no possibility of admitting patients after dark. In 2022 that changed, when Alongside Hope and partner EHALE installed a Solar Suitcase—a bright yellow, wall-mounted box powered by solar panels. Inside, it holds LED lights, a fetal Doppler, headlamps, phone chargers and a thermometer.

Abdala says it made an immediate difference. “There was no way to handle medical materials in the dark,” she recalls. After lighting went live, women began coming to the clinic at night; births increased, and transparency improved because the patients’ companions could follow procedures clearly.

"I gave birth at night," said one new mother. "I felt very happy because I could see what the nurse was doing." In districts with installations, night-time births rose by about 17 percent, and more than 80,000 babies have been safely delivered since 2016, thanks to the installation of 80 Solar Suitcases across the province. The suitcases are made by We Care Solar.

Now in 2025, the Wild Ride aims to raise \$52,000 – enough for eight solar more suitcases. Thanks to a generous donor, all funds will be matched. So for every solar suitcase that is funded, another will be added.

The Wild Ride is part of a larger initiative to provide 35 Solar Suitcases in Mozambique and 14 Solar Suitcases in Madagascar. The Coming

Alongside Hope with Light project has a total budget of \$320,000. All donations will be matched, up to \$150,000, so \$170,000 needs to be raised to ensure all 49 suitcases will be installed. The Wild Ride has attracted fundraisers of all kinds from coast to coast. A veteran cyclist of the Wild Ride and its predecessor, the Ride for Refuge, Bishop Lynne McNaughton of the Diocese of Kootenay is ditching her bike this year in favour of walking 200 km. "I walk a fast 2 km up into the orchards near my house, a steep climb up onto the 'bench' where I can see a stunning view of Okanagan Lake. One Saturday at the end of the summer I'm inviting people to join me for a 5 or 10 km walk in a forest park in Kelowna." Bishop Lynne was inspired to get involved when seeing the Solar Suitcase demonstration at General Synod. "The suitcases are a brilliant design, portable and practical. They meet such a crucial need. I love walking and walk anyway so why not make that walk count for joining God in God's work of mending the world."

Also in the Diocese of Kootenay, Andrew Stephens-Rennie will walk 450 km in Rossland, B.C.

At St. Timothy's in 100 Mile House, B.C., the name says it all. Shelby Byer is organizing parishioners to walk 100 miles. And Joy Gothard is spearheading the Kamloops WaySeekers of St. Paul's Cathedral as she rides her e-bike from kamloop to St. Peter's in Monte Creek five times (200 km). She also plans to host a walk in the alpine meadows of Sun Peaks. Located in the Territory of the People, the people of St. Timothy's and St. Paul's are following in the footsteps of their Bishop, Clara Plamondon.

Bishop Clara is creating 50 prayer flags. "I love the idea of creating a

visual symbol of our prayer for the people and communities that will be supported and helped through this initiative,” she says. “I will be making the prayer flags from various fabrics and colours with a focus on Mozambique and Madagascar. As I create the flags, I will be taking time to learn about these two countries, their culture and ways. I will be praying specifically for those who will benefit from the gift of these solar suitcases.”

This connection between prayer and action is important to Bishop Clara. “The Wild Ride allows us to join our shared mission and ministry efforts with the global community. I have wanted to do something for the Wild Ride for quite some time, and I wanted to encourage others to do the same. My inspiration is Betty Davidson from Yukon who is known for crocheting baby blankets for Wild Ride. She reminded me that there are many creative ways to raise funds for this important work.”

Indeed, Betty Davidson has been crocheting baby blankets for the Wild Ride for many years and intends to again make 10 this year. "The solar suitcases provide the light needed to help mothers give birth safely and give them security and confidence," says Davidson. "During the year, I make baby blankets for those having babies, or who have family members or friends throughout Canada having babies."

Having a safe birth hits home for Davidson. “I was medivaced to Whitehorse when my son was born and I can’t imagine how difficult it would have been to have been in the situation I was in, if there had been no light and no electricity. I really want to be a part of helping Alongside Hope in their desire to help the mothers, doctors and nurses of Mozambique and Madagascar.”

On the east coast, the team from the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador has participants kayaking and hiking. Maxine Drover is Hiking for Hope and Christine Lynch is kayaking 200 km.

These efforts will make a big difference for midwives like Abdala. The Solar Suitcase is a tool that transforms the quality of care. She explains that even during suturing, the room is bright enough to explain and demonstrate each step to women and their companions. In one emergency, the light made it possible to resuscitate a preterm baby that wasn't crying and begin immediate skin-to-skin contact with the mother.

That visibility builds trust. “At first, community members didn’t always respect me,” Abdala says. “But when they saw what I could do with the Solar Suitcase, attitudes changed. Now almost everyone respects my work.” Even clinics that already have inconsistent grid power benefit from the solar backup. Abdala adds, “I ask that this be provided to other centres—

even those connected to the grid—because electricity alone isn't always enough."

How to Help

It's not too late to join the Wild Ride and help provide clinics with renewable energy in Mozambique and Madagascar! The Wild Ride continues until the end of October and anyone can take part—a group or an individual. Walk, cycle, knit, bake, paddle, pray, sing - choose any activity you enjoy. Register as an individual or as a team and help us raise funds for eight solar suitcases—which will become 16 with a matching gift!

Register today at AlongsideHope.com/Wild-Ride. And if you have any questions or need help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kim Umbach at kumbach@alongsidehope.org

Can't join the Wild Ride this year? You can still help provide solar energy in Mozambique and Madagascar. Give at alongsidehope.org/wild-ride.



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Rev'd Jane, and our ACW vice president, Cora Farrell.

ACW gives money to St. James'

On June 1st the ACW of St. James' Church in Port aux Basques presented the Rev'd Jane Allen with a cheque for our church from our spring donations for the amount of \$11,000. This money was raised from our online auctions, wake-a-thon, bake sales, and ticket sales. A huge thank you to all who keep supporting our ACW.

- article by Lisa Brown; photograph by Barbara Hardy

Cemetery Service in Gillams



Above are two photos from the Cemetery Service held in Gillams on July 13th, 2025 - photographs by Audrey Park

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