



## Black History Month Celebrated in The Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Article by Elizabeth Saunders Buckle  
Photographs by Melvin Gill

St. Michael and All Angels' Anglican parish in Corner Brook, NL, held a beautiful evening of Black history and culture on Wednesday night, February 25th, 2026. We came together in joyful praise and thanksgiving with singing, playing guitars, and drumming in a special service of Holy Eucharist. The service was officiated by the Rev'd Mickton Phiri, parish priest of St. Michael and All Angels', and currently also the Administrator of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, with assistance from the Venerable Edward King, Archbishop Percy Coffin, Archdeacon Charlene (who are all from Corner Brook), the Rev'd Kennedy Phiri (from the Parish of Bonne Bay South), the Rev'd Kudawashe Madzime (from St. James the Apostle, Port aux Basques), the Rev'd Denford Tiriabaya (from the Parish of White Bay), the Rev'd Dr. Simon Muwowo (from St. Paul's United Church in Deer Lake), Canon Joshua Haggstrom (from the Parish of Grand Bay), and laypersons.

The Rev'd Kudawashe Madzime (Rev'd Kuda), gave the message for the evening. He gave an uplifting sermon of how we portray the image of God not by outward appearances, but by our inward selves. He said, "It is the Spirit of God that is in you and me. In the image of God we are equal."

We celebrated the evening in song with UnCommon Praise (our St. Michael and All Angels' guitar group) who played the congregational hymns. The Zimbabwean community delighted us with two selections of drumming, and dancing from the young children.

See *CELEBRATION*,  
page 4



From left to right: Rev'd Kennedy Phiri (Bonne Bay Parish); Canon Joshua Haggstrom (Grand Bay); Archbishop Percy Coffin, retired (Corner Brook); the Venerable Edward King (St. Michael and All Angels'); the Rev'd Mickton Phiri (St. Michael and All Angels', and Diocesan Administrator, Western NL); Archdeacon Charlene Laing; the Rev'd Kudawashe Madzime (St. James the Apostle, Port aux Basques); the Rev'd Dr. Simon Muwowo (St. Paul's United Church, Deer Lake); the Rev'd Denford Tiriabaya (White Bay)



The Zimbabwean Community

### Easter Messages From The Three Dioceses in Newfoundland and Labrador



- Bishop John Watton: Resurrection Hope In A Time Of Strife ⇒ 2
- Bishop Samuel Rose: The Radical Logic of Easter ⇒ 5
- Western NL Diocesan Administrator, The Rev'd Mickton Phiri: The Stone Rolled Away ⇒ 6

- Youth Band Visits Seniors
- "Refuge" at Bay Roberts Retirement Centre, and Stays For A Chat ⇒ 9

- News From Grand Bank
- A Winter Wonderland Celebration at St. Alban's ⇒ 10



"He wept over it," by Enriquet Simonet (1866 - 1927), public domain from commons.wikimedia.org



Bishop John Watton  
Central Newfoundland

# The Hope Of The Resurrection In A Time Of Strife

Brothers and Sisters,

I always write my Easter message with a sense of joy, expressing thanksgiving for our shared faith in the story of new life, resurrection, reconciliation, and our hope for peace throughout the world.

With faith unwavering, I write this to you with a heart joining our beloved siblings in deep pain. As you would know, in the early hours of February 28, at the dawn of Shabbat, a large-scale coordinated military attack by the United States and Israel on a number of cities and facilities within

Iran began.

Those in Iran, and throughout Cyprus and the Gulf, across Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria, are forced to face unprecedented threats of military violence.

As more and more innocents suffer, lose all hope, and die, I find my heart resting outside Jesus' tomb, thinking of how Jesus himself longed for peace when he gazed upon Jerusalem, weeping from the Mount of Olives.

On Easter Day, in my own devotion, reflection, and prayer, I must intentionally enter

a time of quiet, going about the day in prayer. On Palm Sunday, we cried "Hosanna"... Save us, Lord. Let us pray for a greater understanding of what it means to ask God to be faithful and rescue us all.

His answer is, and forever will be, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let's look to the tomb, wait for the stone to be rolled away, and cry with hope and joy... "He is risen!"

I wish you, one and all, a blessed, happy Easter.

+John, Central Newfoundland

**O GOD, WE GIVE THANKS THAT YOUR DEAR SON HAS GATHERED US IN THE EMBRACE OF HIS REDEEMING LOVE AND SENT US TO MAKE THAT LOVE KNOWN TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. WE PRAY YOUR CONTINUED BLESSINGS ON THE STEADFAST WITNESS OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM AND THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST. GIVE YOUR DEEP JOY TO THOSE WHO WELCOME THE PILGRIMS SEEKING TO KNOW THIS LAND AND ITS MANY PEOPLES. GRACE THOSE WHO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL. GUIDE ALL WHO TEACH A NEW GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE. DRAW NEAR TO THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND BLESS THOSE WHO TEND THEM. SUSTAIN THE HOPE IN ALL WHO LONG AND LABOUR FOR A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE LAND OF THE HOLY ONE. AND MAY THE COMPANIONS OF JERUSALEM BE MANY AND FAITHFUL. WE PRAY IN THE NAME OF OUR MERCIFUL SAVIOUR, FRIEND AND BROTHER, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.**



This prayer, written by former Primate Fred Hiltz, reflects on Christ's redeeming love while seeking intercession for the Church in Jerusalem, local caregivers, pilgrims, and those striving for peace in the Holy Land.

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# Anglican Parish of Port de Grave Marks 200 Years of Faith and Community

## Bicentennial Celebrations Honour History and Hope in Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

Article and image by  
The Rev'd Jason Haggstrom

The Anglican Parish of Port de Grave, nestled in the scenic Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, is celebrating its remarkable 200th anniversary this fall. Established in 1826, the parish has been a steadfast spiritual home for generations, supporting the local community through times of change and growth.

Over the centuries, the parish has witnessed countless moments of joy, sorrow, and resilience, becoming a cornerstone of communal life in Port de Grave. To commemorate this bicentennial milestone, parishioners and clergy have planned a series of special events, including historical displays, musical performances, and a service of thanksgiving attended by local dignitaries and visitors from across the province. The preacher at the service will be the Most Rev'd Shane Parker, the 15th Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada. The service will be on September 20th at 7pm. Everyone is invited to come, and the clergy are invited to vest. The colour will be red for St. Luke's Day.

"This anniversary is not only a reflection of our past, but a celebration of the people who have shaped our parish and community," said the Rev'd Jason

Haggstrom, current priest-in-charge of St. Luke's Parish. "We honour those who came before us and look forward to continuing

our mission with faith and compassion."

The festivities have also highlighted the parish's church

building, which celebrates its centennial this year as well, and the rich traditions of worship and outreach that have defined its legacy. Local historians have shared stories of the parish's founding families, the impact of the fishing industry, and how faith has woven itself into the fabric of daily life.

As the Anglican Parish of Port de Grave enters its third century, leaders and parishioners alike are hopeful for a future rooted in community and service. The bicentennial serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of the Gospel's message and the importance of passing on the faith to the generation to come.

Our collect for our bicentennial year:

Almighty Father, we give thanks and praise for guiding this Parish through two centuries of faith, community and service. By your grace, our ancestors built a foundation upon Christ. By your Spirit, we have grown as His Body in love and in worship. Grant that as we celebrate our 200th Anniversary, we be strengthened to serve our neighbours, proclaim your Gospel, and bear steadfast witness to you in our generation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



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# Celebration of Black History and Culture

from page 1

At the closing of the service, Ivy Danquah (from Ghana) sang an inspirational rendition of "Sanctuary".

The festivities continued after the blessing with a tea in the hall. Many stayed to enjoy the taste of some Zimbabwean and Nigerian foods, including boiled peanuts which seemed to be a favourite with the children. As we say in Newfoundland and Labrador, "A good time was had by all!" which can be compared

to an African saying that Rev'd Kuda shared, which translated it means, "I Am because We Are." As Rev'd Mickton expressed this feeling wholeheartedly on St. Michael and All Angels' Facebook page "...prayers rose to God in different languages, reminding us that the Church truly speaks with many voices, yet shares one Spirit."

A very memorable night of celebration for all!



Ivy Danquah singing "Sanctuary"



Left to right: Rev'd Kuda Madzime, Rev'd Denford Tiriabaya, Rev'd Mickton Phiri, Rev'd Kennedy Phiri



Rev'd Kuda Madzime

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Bishop Samuel Rose  
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

# Inside Out and Upside Down: The Radical Logic of Easter

*“But, as Paul put it... God chooses what is weak in the world, what the world counts as foolishness, to put to shame the power and wisdom of the world. That is part of what Easter is all about. God is doing a new thing, and, as Jesus said earlier in the story, the first shall be last and the last first. Easter is a day to put everything upside down and inside out.”*

(N.T. Wright – Lent for Everyone: Matthew, Year A, 2011)

“Easter is a day to put everything upside down and inside out,” writes Bishop N.T. Wright.

This is Good News! In a time in our history when it seems that those in positions of power are too often misusing authority at the expense of the vulnerable, this gives us hope! But, as Christians, we know that this hope comes at a cost.

The cost is the Cross. Jesus, the very wisdom and power of God, embraced what the world despises: weakness, suffering, and apparent defeat. He stood with the poor and the oppressed. He allowed the powers of this age to do their worst. On Good Friday, it looked as though the strong had triumphed and the upside-



photo by P Maxwell Photography on www.shutterstock.com

down kingdom had been crushed.

Yet on the third day, God overturned everything. The tomb was empty. The crucified one was raised in glory. What the world called foolishness proved wiser than human wisdom. What the world called weakness was stronger than human strength. The last became first, and death itself was put to death.

This is the heart of Easter: resurrection is not the denial of suffering but its transformation. The

same God who raised Jesus from the dead is at work even now. Mourning is turned into dancing, despair into hope, and this broken world into the new Creation.

My friends, we are Easter people. We are called to live this upside-down reality in our own time and place. That means following the example of Jesus, who chose service over status, generosity over greed, and love even for those who oppose us. It means standing

with the vulnerable, not because we are strong, but because we have met the one whose strength is made perfect in weakness.

In the days and weeks ahead, may you know the presence of the Risen Christ who meets us in the ordinary and the unexpected. May the joy of his resurrection fill you with new life and send you out as witnesses to the new thing God is doing.

Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

Alleluia!

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Alleluia! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

+ Samuel, Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

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The Rev'd Mickton Phiri  
Diocesan Administrator, Diocese of Western Newfoundland

# The Stone Rolled Away

All four Gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the stone was rolled away. What seemed sealed and final was opened. What looked like the end became a beginning.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the women approach the tomb carrying grief and uncertainty. They were not expecting resurrection. They were simply showing up in love. Then the earth trembled, the stone was moved, and the angel spoke words that echo through history: "He is not here; for he has been raised." (*Matthew 28:6*).

The stone was rolled away not so Jesus can get out, but so the disciples can see in. God makes space for them, for us, to witness new life. Easter asks us gentle but searching questions: what stones feel heavy in our lives and in our Church right now? Where do we feel sealed in by fear, fatigue, or doubt? Where does the future seem unclear? Resurrection does not pretend that those stones have never existed. Good Friday was real. The cross was real. The grief was real.

We are living in a season that calls for patience, humility, courage and deep trust in God. Across many parts of the Church, communities are discerning what faithfulness looks like in changing times. It can be tempting to hold tightly to what once felt strong and secure, or to become anxious



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about what the future may bring. In places where numbers have declined and familiar patterns have faded, hope can feel fragile.

Yet the empty tomb speaks directly into that space. The risen Christ remains faithful when we feel uncertain. He is present when energy feels low. He goes ahead of us into a future we cannot yet see clearly. Resurrection does not deny loss but proclaims that none of those realities are ultimate. God is still able to move what we cannot.

The stone rolled away is a sign of divine initiative. Before the

disciples organized themselves, before they understood what had happened, God had already acted. Resurrection is not our achievement. It is God's gift. That means we do not have to solve every problem or map out every step before God begins to move. The first Easter did not wait for clarity, consensus, or confidence. It unfolded while hearts were still confused and plans were still undone. God intervened in the middle of their uncertainty.

This Easter, we are invited simply to look into the open tomb and listen again. To hear the

promise that life is stronger than death. To trust that even where we see obstacles, God sees possibility. To step forward, as the women did, with fear and great joy intertwined.

May we have the grace to see what God is opening before us. May we walk into that future together, trusting that the One who was raised from the dead is still living and leading amongst us.

The stone has been rolled away. Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Mickton+



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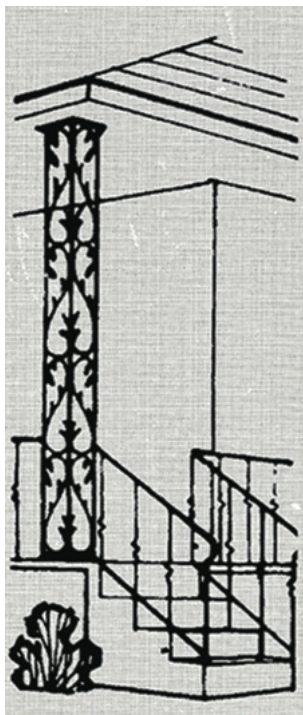
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# The Christingle Service

## St. John The Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith  
Photo by Pauline Noel

Hanging prominently on my kitchen wall is a very large calendar. Each block or date has four lines—most of which are filled with reminders of approaching Church activities.

The calendar is a recurring Christmas gift I've been finding in my stocking for the past several years.

Here at St. John the Evangelist, Topsail, our rector, Canon Jotie Noel, also makes sure that we celebrate each red-letter day on the Church's calendar.

The day that I am writing this article, Sunday, February 1st, as our congregation gathered together in our place of worship, we were happy to be welcomed to and participate in the annual Christingle service—symbolizing God's gift to us as the Light of the World, and as an aftermath to the winding down of Advent. Christingle serves as a reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

At the foot of the altar this morning, with three of our younger members of the congregation participating, Canon Jotie once again



used the analogy of an orange as a motif to demonstrate the best gift of all.

Each child displayed an orange, which represented the concept of a circle—round like the world. A candle at the top represented God's Light. A ribbon around the orange represented the love of God that goes around the world. Toothpicks are a symbol of love pointing in all directions.

The demonstration was greatly enhanced by the involvement of the three children as they joyfully assisted Canon Jotie while he explained the biblical meaning of the multiple components displayed on the table.

After an uplifting service, the Anglican Church Women of our parish invited everyone downstairs to participate in fellowship and food.

A rewarding day was had by all.

*The Lord is my light  
And my salvation  
Whom shall I fear  
- Psalm 27*



The Rev'd Jeffrey Blackwood  
Columnist

## Safety Nets

At the time of writing this for you all, we have only just begun the Lenten season. It has only just started to get busy for your parish clergy; be gracious to them all during this time, friends.

I find when I get particularly busy and need my brain to relax, nostalgia is a powerful tool. Personally, I turn towards the music and TV shows of my teenage/undergrad years and just let it filter in my brain for a while. If you had to see my Spotify playlist from my post-teenage years, many of you may be shocked at the amount of classic rock and metal that I listened to.

But it brings me into a safe place mentally.

We all have our safety nets: seemingly mundane or odd activities that we do because they re-centre ourselves. Whether it is



photo by Andres Canchon on [www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com)

the twelfth time doing the same 500-piece puzzle, or the hundredth listen through of a favourite album, there is something to be said about having a safety net.

However, when we think to what we are called to as disciples of Christ, safety nets are

what we are told to avoid.

Think to the first followers of Christ: leave home and don't turn back. Leave it all behind.

And then when Jesus was arrested, they had nowhere left to turn. They'd abandoned their old safety nets years ago, and now their new one

was in federal custody.

Talk about a free fall!

As a Church, we are challenged constantly to search for the way forward and forget about our safety nets. We are called into the new and the foreign, and not to turn back. It is easy to want to turn back though. We like comfort! The same worn-out pair of shoes that would be useless in the current winter weather feel just right for any activity. We love that favourite t-shirt or sweater that has worn so thin that it would scarcely function as a rag.

Of my several guitars, my safety net is a Yamaha F310 that I've had for over 30 years—it's beat up and splintered in places, but brings me back to when I was still learning my first chords.

As a Church, our safety net may be an 11am

Book of Common Prayer Eucharist that we have memorized by heart. It might be the same five hymns that mean so much to us. It's what's familiar and comfortable.

It's long time we got rid of our safety nets, my friends. The Church for centuries has called the faithful into uncomfortable places and yet has survived it all! The first church in the post-resurrection era lived with the constant fear of arrest, persecution, and conviction; yet it continued to press forward without looking for a safety net.

As our hearts prepare to celebrate in the resurrection of Christ, let us be willing to shed our safety nets as a Church, continue to step bravely forward, and trust that the only safety we need is the Light of the World.



The Rev'd Canon Jeffrey Petten  
Columnist

# The First Hymn At My Funeral

I know, the title of this article may seem a little strange for an article to be written for and about the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Yet, for me, it is not. Every year, whether it be during the celebration of The Great Vigil of Easter or anytime during the Easter Season, when I announce the hymn "The Strife Is O'er The Battle Done," I always say to the congregation: "Sing it good now, because it is the first hymn at my funeral! I won't hear it then because I will be dead." I guess because I deal with death and funerals so often in my ministry, I do have my own funeral liturgy preparations made. When it arrives, in the fullness of time, the day of my burial is to be a celebration of the saving grace found in the Resurrection of our Lord. I want the readings of Easter Day to be proclaimed and the first hymn is to be "The Strife Is O'er The Battle Done."

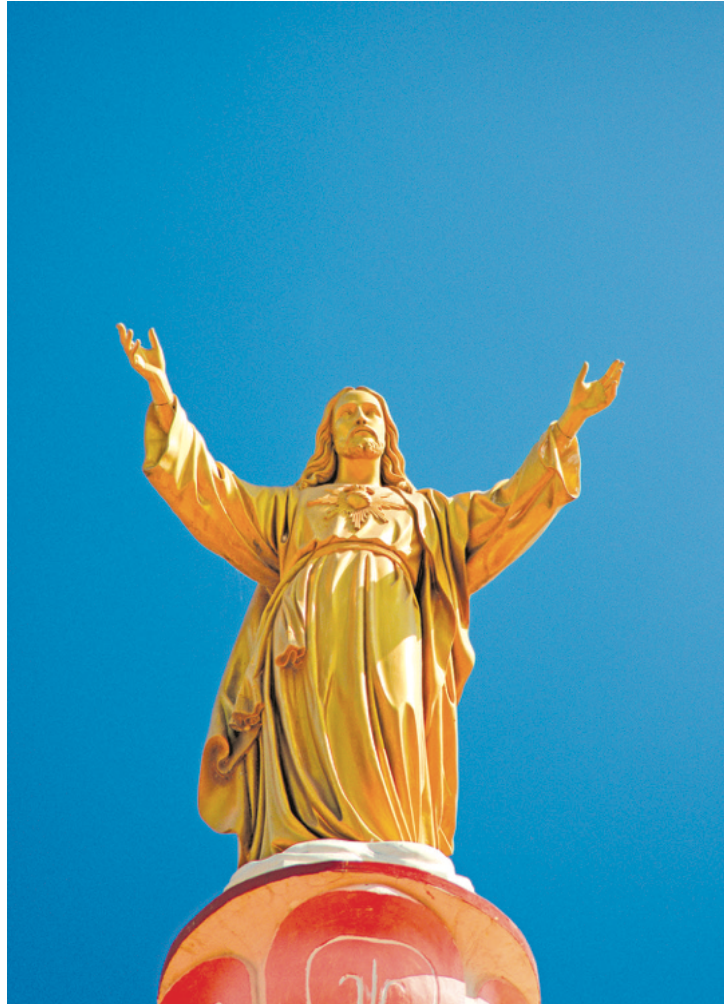


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As parishioners both past and present are quite aware, I LOVE EASTER. I love Easter because of

the fact that it is the day in which Jesus rose from the dead and because of that fact there is hope in

life that is on the other side of this thing that we call death. Easter Day is the one day in the year, I do not even need coffee as a pick-me-up. I can literally bounce off the walls with excitement. I will admit there are times when life is a struggle, and sometimes there is strife and it can certainly feel like a battle. Then again, this are also my CLB roots showing (I was in the CLB in Upper Gullies Company No. 1004 from 1990-2002). Yet because of this, because I deal with death on a regular basis, and knowing how in the past that I have dealt with the processes of grief in my personal life, there is something just beautiful knowing that that bad has ended, and there is something good, hopefully, that is awaiting each and every single one of us.

There is much to celebrate in the life of the Church in the Easter Season. It is why Easter

is celebrated for 50 days. 50 days to focus on the most excellent gift that God has given to creation and to people; the hope in that there is something more exciting, more wonderful, more hopeful in the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In celebrating such an event in the history of our salvation, let us be exuberant, let us be joyful and let us celebrate it with every fibre of our being.

C.S. Lewis, in his book *Miracles* said it best: "A new Nature is being not merely made but made out of an old one. We live amid all the anomalies, inconveniences, hopes, and excitements of a house that is being rebuilt." (*Miracles*, chapter 16, para. 21) The strife is indeed over, the battle is done and let us celebrate with joy the house that is being rebuilt, without human hands. The strife is over, the battle done: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

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# Harmony Across Ages: Refuge Visits With Bay Roberts Retirement Centre Seniors

Article and photographs by  
The Ven. Christine Lynch

On Friday, February 20th, 2026, the Parish of Bay Roberts / Coley's Point Youth Band, "Refuge," visited the Bay Roberts Retirement Centre. The band usually practices each week, but this week they spent their rehearsal time singing for the residents at BRRC. It was an enjoyable time for everyone. The residents loved hearing these young people sing contemporary and traditional Christian music. The band members also enjoyed performing some songs they love. They were treated to some Rice Krispie cookies which were delicious, and we shared some valentine chocolates with the residents.

We are building

intergenerational relationships and understanding as this is our second visit. Each were asked what do you enjoy doing? Our youth enjoy dance, hockey, and playing guitar. When the seniors were young, among other things, they enjoyed playing tag, copy house, tiddlywinks, and with dolls. Times have changed!

The young and young at heart had a chance to mingle and chat. The youth band and leaders then enjoyed a supper at a local restaurant for more relationship building among the group. Our parish is blessed to have such a wonderful group of youth. Their kindness and care for others is inspiring.



# Captain Dawe Awarded Special Honour

Article and photographs by  
The Rev'd Jason Haggstrom

Recently, Captain Karen Dawe, a member of the Church Lad's Brigade (CLB) in Bay Roberts and a member of St. Luke's Port de Grave, was awarded a special honour. She has served in the CLB for the past 25 years, and in recognition of her devotion to the work of the

CLB, and in the wider community, she has been awarded the Brigade's Cross Medal. As the citation for the award says, "Captain Dawe has shown Christian responsibility and public service through the following ways: She has been a Sunday School teacher for 15 years, as a

leader in the Junior Auxiliary and the Youth Group Association. She has led Vacation Bible Schools for many years. She has been on the vestry for the last 20 years, and for the last 10 years has been the secretary. For more than 27 years, she has been a server and an Eucharistic Assistant. She is

a part time, volunteer Sexton at St. Luke's and she has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 32, for the last 32 years.

Congratulations to Captain Dawe and thank you for how you serve in the CLB, the Church, and the wider community.



The Rev'd Canon Amber Tremblett  
Columnist

## Free Lunch and Assumptions

A couple of months ago, I went to lunch with several clergy colleagues in my area, all of whom were men. We had a fabulous lunch, and were at the cash to pay when a woman approached and informed the server she wanted to pay the bills of “the three men behind that lady,” and pointed to me. I witnessed the entire exchange, felt extremely embarrassed, paid quickly, and left in a hurry. Once in my car, I felt an overwhelming amount of rage. Not because I didn’t get a free lunch, but because of the assumptions and societal norms that had to be at play for the entire exchange to take place. I’m sure the whole thing was innocent and good-willed on the part of the woman, but the assumptions behind the moment—whether or not the woman was aware she had them—are not.

Of course, to talk about these assumptions, I have to make some assumptions of my own. I am assuming she paid for the lunches of my colleagues

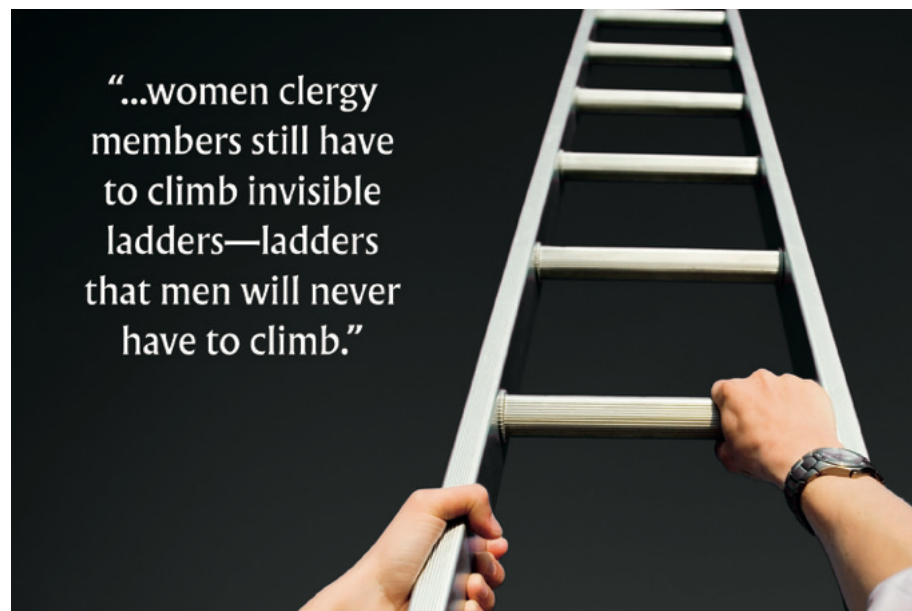


image by E. F. Rowe in Canva

because she knew or assumed they were all clergy. My rage was ignited because her generosity towards them meant she, for some reason, assumed that I was not a member of the clergy. I wondered: what about the situation spoke to this being the truth? Was it the fact that I wore leggings and a sweater (which are the only clothes in my closet that my pregnant body

will currently accept)? Was it the fact that I was younger than my ministerial colleagues? Or was it because I am a woman? Maybe it was some combination of all three. Or maybe it was none of these things at all.

Regardless, the moment was a jolt to the system. It reminded me that, no matter how far we’ve come in the world of equality for women, women clergy members

still have to climb invisible ladders—ladders that men will never have to climb. These assumptions, those first thoughts that people have, the ones that will either guide their actions or at least cloud their perception of the women clergy they meet—we will always be fighting against them. This playing field is not yet equal and, quite honestly, I’m not certain it ever will be.

I lament this truth. I lament it and I accept it. I will keep showing up. I will keep claiming the space and the call that God has given me. I will be gracious and courageous. I will not allow the people in my communities to keep holding onto assumptions that harm women, regardless of how harmless they seem. And I will do all this in the name of making it at least a little easier for the next woman who hears God calling her to this vocation, in the hope that one day she can be with a group of male colleagues and be seen as an equally important part of the ministry of God.

## Winter Wonderland in Grand Bank

Article and photographs by  
The Rev'd Charlie Cox

St. Alban’s Anglican Church Hall in Grand Bank was transformed to a Winter Wonderland on February 3rd, as the ACW ladies/snow/ladies hosted an ecumenical women’s gathering. The scene was enhanced with servings of popcorn and hot chocolate.

The devotion was centred around winter and snow. The hymn, “*Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow*” was sung, and it reminded

us how wonderful it is to visualize how God can take imperfections in our hearts and turn them into something pure, clean, and lovely.

The evening included snow games, action games, winter pokey, and singing. Even Frosty the Snowman made a visit!

Refreshments included charcuterie treats. With over 140 ladies present, it was a beautiful evening with lots of fun and laughter.





Central Newfoundland clergy mapping exercise; photos by Archdeacon T. Caines

# A Journey Towards Reconciliation

## News From Alongside Hope

Article by Debra Gill  
 Alongside Hope Representative,  
 Central Newfoundland

Indigenous peoples in Canada have faced centuries of colonization, dispossession of land, cultural assimilation, and systemic discrimination. Supporting Indigenous programs is a way to acknowledge these historical injustices and work towards meaningful reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and settlers. Alongside Hope supports and accompanies Indigenous communities and organizations through our Indigenous Partnership Program.

The Alongside Hope Indigenous Partnership Program promotes partnerships based on recognition, respect, and support for the rights and wellbeing of the Indigenous partners.

Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions are invaluable and contribute to the rich tapestry of Canadian society. Supporting Indigenous programs helps preserve and revitalize these cultural assets, ensuring they are passed on to future generations.

### Mapping the Ground We Stand On

In 2015, following the final report of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission, Alongside Hope developed a narrative and a process called “Mapping the Ground We Stand On.” The resulting workshop explored Indigenous presence and Settler arrival on the map of Turtle Island/Canada.

Piloted at Alongside Hope’s National Gathering in the fall of 2015, this “education for reconciliation” resource was further developed and delivered in parishes and other venues. In 2019, Alongside Hope launched a new five-year strategic plan. The fifth goal is “Mutual Reconciliation: We will accompany and support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, guided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the priorities of Indigenous communities and organizations in Canada.” In 2019, a decision was taken by Alongside Hope to train a national network of Mapping Exercise facilitators.

### Bring a Mapping Exercise to your community

The map of truth and reconciliation in Canada is still very much incomplete. Alongside Hope remains committed to

being part of the journey towards finding a more complete map.

Each ecclesiastical province group has been equipped with a large floor map of Canada and is ready to bring this education for reconciliation resource to you. It is ideal for a synod, clergy retreat day, youth gathering, or Indigenous awareness event in your parish or community.

Archdeacon Terry Caines wrote that “during the annual clergy Lenten retreat, under the guidance of Canon Tom Mugford, an Alongside Hope representative, clergy of Central NL took part in a meaningful Mapping exercise designed to create reflection, awareness, and shared learning. Through visual storytelling and guided discussion, clergy looked at key moments and stories that have shaped our nation’s history, including lesser-known and often overlooked experiences.

The exercise encouraged clergy to engage more deeply with the historical truths of our country, including the lasting impacts of colonization and the experiences of Indigenous communities across regions such as Newfoundland and Labrador. By visually tracing

these histories, clergy gained new insight into how past events continue to influence present-day communities.

Beyond education, the Mapping exercise created sacred space for dialogue, mutual understanding, and collective growth. It offered an opportunity not only to learn, but also to listen—strengthening relationships and deepening commitment to reconciliation, compassion, and informed ministry within our communities.”

If you would like to host a Mapping Exercise for an Anglican entity, Alongside Hope will cover any travel costs for our volunteer facilitators. Local hosts are asked to cover any costs associated with the venue or refreshments and provide tech support. Non-Anglican entities are asked to cover both travel and hosting costs. For more information on the Mapping Exercise cost structure, please contact Abdi Ali [aali@alongsidehope.org](mailto:aali@alongsidehope.org).

Information taken from the Alongside Hope website ([alongsidehope.org](http://alongsidehope.org))

“ Suddenly nothing made sense anymore... ”



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You can also email any questions that you have about the submission process: happy to help!

# Faith, Fellowship, and Song in Upper Gullies

Article and photographs by  
The Rev'd William Strong

Forty-five people from St. Peter's, Upper Gullies, and the surrounding area came together on Saturday February 7th for a special prayer breakfast which was organized by the Men's Service Club. The session was led by Father Gerald Westcott, who led participants through a number of exercises focused on the topic of "Spiritual Awakening," in which we considered some verses from 1 John 4 :7 and 16, concerning love.

Jason Higgins, from the musical group Jacob's

Passage, led the us in lively gospel singing.

The session was considered a great success, and was very appreciated by all.



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