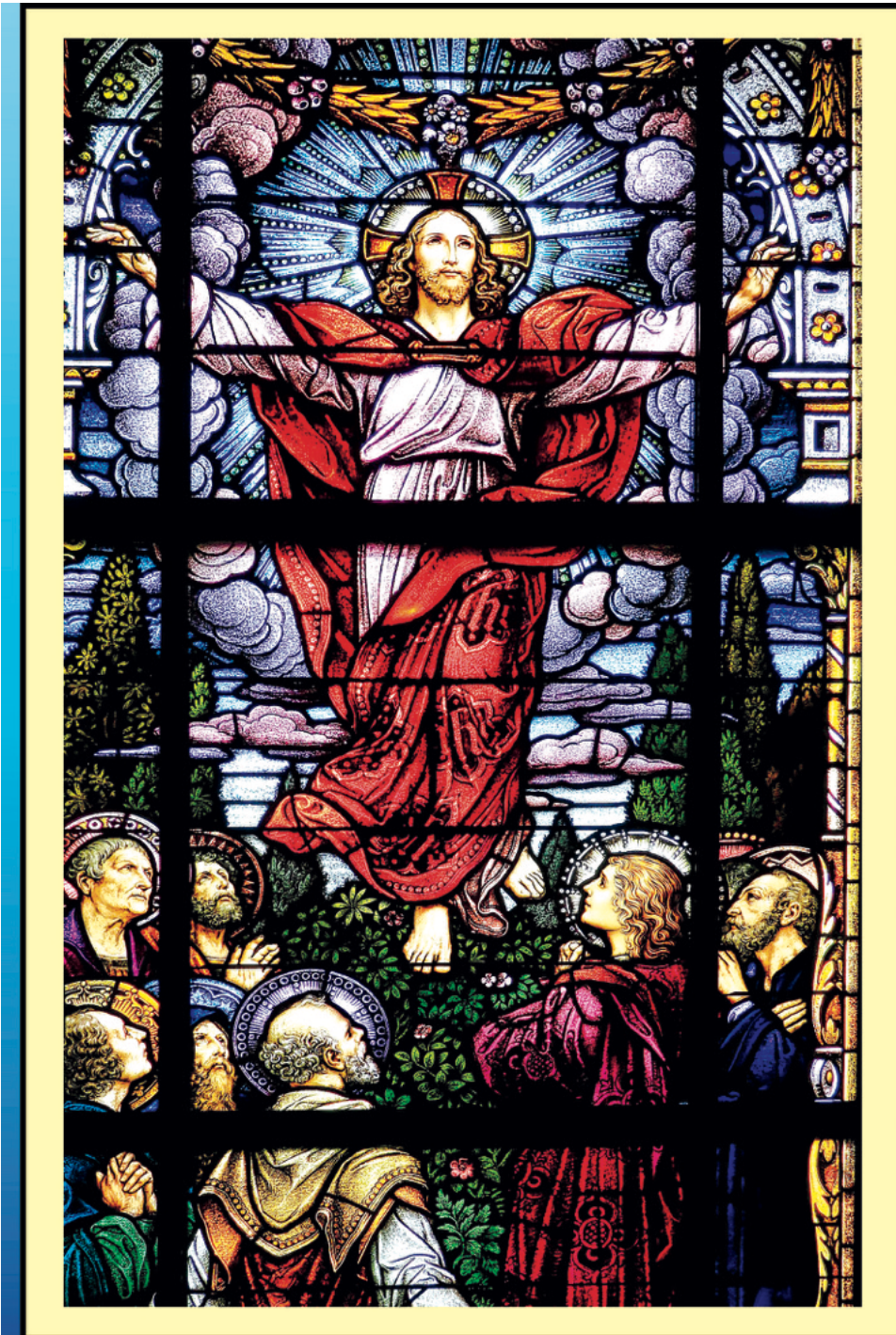


ANGLICAN LIFE

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



MAY, 2026



May 14, 2026 Ascension Day

Ye men of Galilee, what do ye stand gazing at up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.
- Acts 1:11

photo of Ascension window in Saint Francis de Sales Church, Lebanon, Ohio, by Nheyob on commons.wikimedia.org

Two Important Celebrations

■ The Rev'd Kenneth Abbott receives certificate and celebrates his 90th birthday

⇒ 5

The Holiness of Creation

■ From the new Canon Creation Care and Stewardship in Eastern NL, David Morgan: learning to live in harmony by the grace of God

⇒ 7

Lenten Quiet Day in Cow Head

■ Time for prayer, silence, relaxation, and meditation in a Holy season

⇒ 8

Grant Received for Mobile Ministry Bus

■ The Anglican Foundation of Canada helps the new wellness bus in Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and their commitment to community-based ministry.

⇒ 9

Dignity and Health For Mothers and Newborns in Lesotho's Remote Areas

■ Alongside Hope provides support for those in need

⇒ 11

World Day of Prayer, Carbonear

Article and photograph by
Elsie Fudge

A beautiful World Day of Prayer Service was held at Bethany United Church, in Carbonear, on Friday, March 6th, 2026. Ladies from St. James' Anglican Church, the Salvation Army, St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, and Bethany United Church joined together in a time of worship and fellowship. The Rev'd Maxine Drover, priest-in-charge at St. James', was the guest speaker. The service this year was entitled "I will give you rest. Come." It was prepared by the World Day of Prayer



Committee of Nigeria. Everyone enjoyed the worship, especially the

sermon by Rev'd Maxine. A big thank you to the women of Nigeria for

sharing their stories with us. We will keep them all in our prayers.



The Rev'd Mickton Phiri
Diocesan Admin.
Diocese of Western Newfoundland

Trusting the Promise Hidden in Loss

The feast of the Ascension often meets us in a tender place. The disciples have known the joy of the risen Christ. They have seen him, heard him, and eaten with him. After the grief and confusion of the cross, his presence has steadied them again. Just as suddenly, he is taken from their sight. A cloud hides him. The moment passes. What they had come to rely on is no longer before them in the same way.

It is not hard to imagine the weight of that moment. Nor is it far from our own experience. There are times in life and in the Church when something real and life-giving seems to be taken from us. A chapter closes. A voice is no longer heard. A familiar way forward gives way to uncertainty. We are left looking, as the disciples did, into a space that feels both full of meaning and strangely empty.

The Ascension allows us to stand there for a moment to acknowledge the loss. Yet it also gently turns us toward what is hidden within it. For what appears to be absence is not the end of Christ's presence, but its transformation. The risen Lord is not leaving us behind. He is drawing us into a deeper way of being with him. He is present in all places. No longer seen with the eyes alone, he is known in word and sacrament,



Detail from *The Ascension* by Gotti
from commons.wikimedia.org

in community, and in the quiet work of the Spirit.

This is not an easy shift. It asks something of us. It asks us to trust. The promise of the Ascension is not that we will always feel certain or see clearly, but that Christ remains faithful even when he is hidden from our sight. "I am with you always," he says. That promise does not depend on our ability to perceive him, but on his enduring love for the world he has redeemed.

In ascending, Christ carries our humanity into the very life of God. Our struggles, our joys, and our fragile and finite lives are not left behind. They are gathered up and held within the communion of the Trinity. In him, our future is already secured, even as we continue to walk through

the uncertainties of the present.

The disciples are told not to remain staring into heaven. They are called to return, to wait, to pray, and soon to go out as witnesses. The space left by Christ's going becomes the space in which their calling takes shape. Perhaps that is where this feast meets us most clearly. In the spaces where something has changed, where something has been lost or loosened, we are also being invited into a deeper trust and a renewed calling. The absence we feel may, in time, reveal itself as a different kind of presence. The uncertainty we face may become the ground in which faith takes root more deeply.

As a Church, and as a people, we do not move forward with everything resolved or made clear. We move forward with a promise. Christ has gone ahead of us. Christ remains with us, and Christ is drawing all things toward their fulfilment in God. So, we hold on to the promise of the Ascension with honesty and hope. We name the sense of loss, but we do not stop there. In that trust, we continue on together, sustained by the promise that nothing given in Christ is ever truly lost. In that promise, we find our hope.

Blessed feast of the Ascension.

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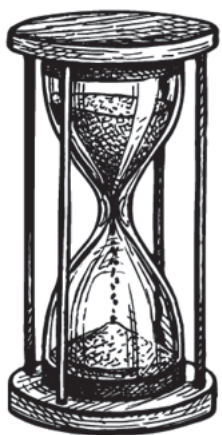
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June's print issue: 1 May
September's print issue: 1 August
October's print issue: 1 September

ANGLICAN LIFE
NEWSPAPER FOR THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

SEND DOWN YOUR HOLY SPIRIT UPON YOUR
SERVANT WHOM WE CONSECRATE IN YOUR NAME



The Diocese of Central Newfoundland's Newest Priest

Article by Archdeacon Terry Caines
Photographs by Joan Hoffe

On March 18th, 2026, The Rt. Rev'd John Watton ordained Carol Manning to the priesthood in the Parish of Lewisporte. Rev'd Carol had been faithfully serving the parish as Deacon-in-Charge prior to her ordination.

The parish marked this joyful and sacred occasion with warm hospitality, offering a wonderful lunch for the visiting clergy, followed by a congregational meal so the whole community could celebrate together.

Bishop Watton, serving as homilist, shared a timely and meaningful message centred on the love and support which is so essential to ministry today. He reminded those who were present that, as pastors, we are granted the profound privilege of entering into people's lives at their most intimate moments—birth, marriage, sickness, and death—bringing Christ's ministry of presence through listening, compassion, and care.

As a diocese, we rejoice with Rev'd Carol and commit to upholding her in prayer and support as she begins this new chapter in her ministry.



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The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

Spring and Hope

Back in March, when friends from other parts of the country spoke of spring, I told them that in Newfoundland and Labrador, Spring is just a date on the calendar. But by now, we are starting to see warmer days and to believe that we may just have a summer after all. I am not a fan of winter so I look forward to those warmer and longer days. We would all admit that this past winter was long and brought with it more storms than we care to recall. But it doesn't last forever. That's a good thing to remember as we deal with yet one more of those winter storms. What seems like it will never end, actually does. And yes, of course, we know that winter will end even when it doesn't feel

like that.

Life is like that sometimes. When things are particularly difficult, time seems to stand still. I read recently that pain gives the illusion that this moment will continue forever. That is particularly true with the pain of grief. It is hard when you are grieving to imagine that there will come a time when you won't feel this way: when you won't feel bereft. Just as it is hard to imagine, when you look outside to see the mountains of snow, that they will, one day, be gone, and in their place there will be green grass, and flowers, even though you know with certainty that it will happen. Like we sing in the hymn *In the Bulb, There is a Flower*, written by



photo by E. Rowe

Natalie Sleeth, "In the cold and snow of winter, there's a Spring that waits to be."

Where this becomes even more difficult to believe is when we look around this world and hear the stores of war and conflict and violence, of racism and discrimination, of human beings exerting power over others. Especially when we know that this has been the way of the world for a very long time. But we also know that we are called to proclaim a different vision and that there are people in this world who work for peace, who believe in peace, who promote peace. Sometimes they are well known leaders, like Pope Leo and sometimes, they

are people working quietly to bring food or medical supplies to those who are suffering.

We are still in the great fifty days of Easter, a season that reminds that there is hope and there is life, even when it doesn't feel like it. We know that we have to believe in the message of the resurrection is that life is stronger than death. At the end of May, we mark the feast of Pentecost, a celebration of the power of the Spirit of God that will keep that hope alive in us, that will encourage us to work and pray for peace even when it seems elusive because, again as the hymn says, "there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me."



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Archdeacon Charlene Taylor presents the Rev'd Kenneth Abbott with a certificate from the Dioceses of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador to mark his 67th anniversary



The Rev'd Kenneth Abbott cuts his 67th anniversary cake

Two Celebrations For Rev'd Kenneth Abbott

Article and photographs by Edwina Scott

On the 17th of March 2026, the Rev'd Kenneth Abbott celebrated 67 years of ordained ministry serving our Lord and faithful parishioners. Archdeacon Charlene Taylor attended the service on the 22nd of March, representing the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador. It was a beautiful service and a very inspiring message from Archdeacon Charlene. Rev'd Abbott continues his service in ministry as the Priest-in-Charge in the Parish of the Holy Cross, Norman's Cove.

Then, on the 27th of February 2026, the Rev'd Kenneth Abbott celebrated his 90th birthday. An open house was held on Saturday, 28 February, at the Good Shepherd Anglican Church hall in Norman's Cove.

Clergy from various parishes attended to honour him on this special occasion.



The Rev'd Kenneth Abbott and his fellow priests at his 90th birthday celebrations

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The Rev'd James Spencer
Columnist

The Carpenter Just Keeps Working

There's an old movie, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long, called "The Money Pit." It's a comedy about a young couple who, in a moment of perceived good fortune, buy a house (practically a mansion) for a relatively cheap price. As it turns out however, they've been duped, and the house in question is falling apart. Their dream home is a veritable death-trap and they find themselves sinking further and further into debt as they try to repair the place.

Naturally, this puts a great deal of strain on their relationship. As the movie progresses the two reach a point where they can barely stand to be in the same room with one another, as they wait for the house to be completed so that they can sell it and go their separate ways.

Spoiler alert... ultimately, they reconcile, their love being rebuilt like the house around them, and they decide to stay together living in what is now truly the home of their dreams.

There's a line said by the contractor near the end of the film that has always stuck with me. He says, "No, this wasn't an easy one, but the foundation was good, I'll say that. And if that's okay, then everything else can be fixed."

The Church (note the capital "C") can often times seem like a house that is slowly (or swiftly) falling apart. Sometimes it seems like the roof is leaking, the walls have started to sag; maybe the wiring isn't what it could be, and there's a draft coming from somewhere bringing an odd smell. We get worried about the state of the liturgical framework, fearful that a wall of doctrine that we particularly liked may fall, or that



Jesus the Carpenter window, St Mark's Church, Remuera; from commons.wikimedia.org

we might find holes appearing the floor of the Church Canon.

In our anxiety we begin to grumble at one another, losing patience and starting to blame one another for the state of things. The anger grows, the yelling starts, and before you know it: schism!

"I'm not staying in this Church with you any longer!"

"Fine by me!"

And in the midst of all our emotional drama the Carpenter just keeps working, doing the things which need to be done, whether we take notice or not. Because the foundation is good. The chief cornerstone is solid and will not be moved.

Christ gives us a foundation of love. It is upon that base everything else is built. Our liturgies, our worship, our canons, doctrine, and every program and prayer that we do. And yet time and time throughout the Church's history we keep thinking that these things that we have built, the walls, the roofs, the pillars and the pulpits of our faith, etc...that *these* are the true foundations. Whenever we see them threatened, whenever we see them shake or begin to crack, we think the whole structure is coming down. We panic and prepare to either defend some precious edifice, or we get ready to move house.

But the true foundation hasn't changed. It's *always* been there, as solid as ever. And it's the only thing that's truly important. Everything else can be fixed, or discarded, or rebuilt in a different way. As long as the foundation of love holds us up we never need to worry. The Church will always stand.

“ Suddenly nothing made sense anymore... ”

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Dr. David Morgan
Canon For Creation Care and Stewardship,
Diocese of ENL

The Holiness of Creation

We've all sensed the holiness of Creation in one way or another. The comfort of a babbling brook flowing over stones. The beauty of a spider's web glistening with morning dew. The majesty of a grand building catching light and casting shadows. The nourishment of a carrot just pulled from the earth. The power of wind racing across tundra. The inspiration of a poet. The rhythm of ocean swell. The love of friends.

I could go on all day.

Through Creation, God expresses and reveals himself to everyone, everywhere, every moment of every day. We might not always pause to fully experience God in Creation, but he is ever-present. The smell of summertime crowberry bushes mixed with salt sea air is the Creator's way of saying that he is with me. The peace of still woods in winter is the Creator's way of reminding me of the importance of Sabbath. The sight (and smell) of a working farm assures me that the Creator will provide. Indeed, Creation is God's loving gift that keeps on giving, not just for you and me, but for everything in it.

And we are part of it. Humankind created by the Creator. An integral part of Creation. Just like stars and moons, sea and sky, eagle and moose, cod and seal, and fern and fungus. Inseparable. Kin.

But nobody is perfect. We sometimes allow ourselves to get separated from Creation and the Creator, failing to live in harmony with Creation as stewards. We treat Creation as if it is ours, exploiting it. Bulldozing forests, flooding river valleys, polluting skies, and filling oceans with garbage—usually unjustly, at the expense of "others" who are



Heart's Content Newfoundland, as seen from the top of the Mizen; photo by E. Rowe

"elsewhere". Acting with little to no thought of sustaining and renewing the life of the earth for all the generations to come. Some of this is the product of our governments, institutions, and economies. Some of this is the product of our technologies. Some of this is the product of our day-to-day choices.

Fortunately, we have forgiveness and absolution through Jesus, who once walked among us. And, by the grace of God, we will learn to live in better harmony with Creation, honouring the Creator in the process. Sometimes we will get this right, and we should celebrate

that. Other times we will get it wrong, and we should learn from that. On a day-to-day basis, there isn't a "best" way or a single "right" way to live in harmony with Creation. But, if we are guided by the commandments to love the Creator with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbours as ourselves, that will set us on a good path.

As the somewhat newly-appointed Canon for Creation Care & Stewardship for the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, I hope to connect with you all from time to time through Anglican Life. Some articles will highlight environmental

issues. Others will offer tips and strategies for living in good relationship with the rest of Creation, or highlight examples of great practices from around the province—there are many wonderful things happening. Or, if the Holy Spirit moves me, you might get a reflective piece like this one. In the meantime, if you would like to continue exploring your relationship with Creation, I encourage you to check out the work of the Diocesan Creation Care & Stewardship Team online at: <https://anglicanenl.net/creation-care-stewardship/>



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Lenten Quiet Day in Cow Head

Article and photographs by
Edwina Scott

To quote the Revd Marie Smith, the leader for the Lenten Quiet Day in Cow Head on March 21st, “We are happy to have you join us today in this peaceful, beautiful space to relax, pray, share and take time for yourself away from the noises of the world around us and our busy lives.”

Step by step: that is what those attending achieved.

We enjoyed quiet contemplation periods over the afternoon: times of silence, of prayer, of meditation and relaxation, and choosing our own quietly-done options, like just sitting, doing some artwork (materials were provided), writing in a journal, reading, or praying.

Musical interludes brought us back to “togetherness” as we sang,

“This Is The Day,” we “Counted Our Blessings,” and we “Journeyed With A Saviour.” We were very contented to “Be Still and Know That I am God.”

There was time for shared conversations, through back-and-forth questions and comments from the women in our semi-circle sitting arrangement and Rev’d Smith. An appetizing lunch of soup, sandwiches, dessert, coffee, and tea also gave us relaxing time for conversation and laughter.

The afternoon began with further time to just relax and take the day as it evolved. This was followed by a “Lecto Divina,” meaning a Bible discussion. Next, we took part in the Holy Eucharist, in which each person in our half-circle fed each other the bread and wine from the cup. Sharing like this, I thought, is what people everywhere should do for and with each other.

I shall quote from the end of the Communion service:

*“Go now, and go in Christ’s own peace and in your going do not cease to love yourself – you are God’s treasure, and love the world – it is God’s pleasure, and love the Lord in greatest measure.
Amen.*

Surely, this was a day of reflection and peace for every person at St. Mary’s, a time to be remembered. The take-away: relax, pray, and share. (Every day would be great, wouldn’t it?)



Emily F. Rowe
Editor

The Heavy Burden of Grudges

I want to talk for a minute about grudges. For a community of people who follow Jesus (who quite famously did not hold grudges) we sure are good at it, and it’s time we were called out on it.

Grudges are something we all carry as humans, often for seemingly good reasons. It is the old saying, “Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me,” taken to the next level. We hold such resentment that it clouds every interaction involving that person. We carry a persistent ill will that gnaws away at us. We might say, “I don’t even think about that person anymore!” yet we spend a vast amount of energy saying that to anyone who will listen.

Make no mistake: maintaining anger and grudges takes energy. They suck the joy from our lives and, most importantly, they separate us from the forgiving love of God. How



The Raising of Lazarus by William Blake (1800), public domain from commons.wikimedia.org

often do we pray, “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us”?

But let me be clear: we are not forgiven because we have forgiven. God’s love and forgiveness are not a transactional service. We are asked to forgive because that is what Jesus does, and we are called to do likewise.

I was recently reading the story of the raising of Lazarus and was struck by Jesus’ command to “unbind him.” Isn’t that exactly what Jesus asks for all of us: to be unbound? To let go rather than hold on; to put down rather than carry. Holding on and carrying rob us of the energy we could put toward a far better use.

We are, after all, being watched by the next generation. I may not be over the hill yet, but I have definitely crested it, and I see younger generations coming to the Church seeking

something that’s missing in their lives. They hear the Gospels and Jesus’ teachings, sometimes for the first time in their lives, and they will decide whether our community, is following those instructions or not. We are told in Matthew’s Gospel (5:23-24): “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

Our identity as Christians cannot encourage grudges, but by grace and love. We are called to be living examples of the Gospel, so put down the weight, be light, and be free of it. Lazarus was unbound so that he could truly live. What grudges are your grave clothes? Unbind, forgive, and follow Christ.

Mobile Ministry Bus Brings Hope to The Streets of St. John's

Article by Michelle Hauser
Development & Communications AFC

A new wellness bus in Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador reflects a growing national commitment to community-based ministry.

On the streets of St. John's, a bus is now doing more than moving people from place to place. Outfitted with cabinets, counter space, and supplies for daily outreach, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador's mobile wellness platform is on the road—bringing meals, basic care, and human connection directly to those who need it most.

The initiative emerged in response to urgent, visible need.

"In 2022, Newfoundland and Labrador experienced one of its coldest winters in recent history," writes The Rev'd Canon Amanda Taylor, Canon for Justice and Peace. "As a result, many people were concerned for those in our community experiencing homelessness."

The question that followed was a practical one: "What can we do to help fill this gap?"

The answer, now operating as the Community Connector, is rooted in presence as much as service. Taylor explains the bus offers "daily meals, housing support, basic health care, assistance with government documentation, clean needle supply, and distribution of personal



hygiene items," alongside something less tangible but equally essential—"a safe and welcoming space for street-involved individuals to access holistic wellness and community connections."

For Bishop Samuel Rose, the ministry reflects both local experience and a broader theological commitment. "This initiative embodies the Church's call to serve the marginalized and build inclusive communities where all are valued."

The project is also deeply collaborative. Developed in conversation with outreach agencies, advocacy groups, and government partners, the initiative builds on existing work across the city while extending its reach.

"Our partnerships with organizations like End Homelessness St. John's, and various outreaches underscore the

collaborative spirit of this ministry," Bishop Rose says.

With the bus now in operation, the program is supported by a combination of diocesan funding, community partnerships, and a \$15,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC), awarded in 2025. That investment situates the Community Connector within a broader national shift in how AFC is supporting ministry across the country.

"In recent years, community ministries have become an increasing priority in the Foundation's grant awards," says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director of AFC. "In 2025, they represented approximately half of all grants awarded nationwide, reflecting a growing emphasis on projects that extend beyond church buildings and into direct engagement with local needs."

Brubacher adds that, like

the mobile wellness ministry in Anglican East NL, these initiatives often take shape through partnerships with health providers, social service agencies, and community organizations, and are rooted in long-term presence rather than short-term response.

From mobile outreach in Newfoundland to parish-based community hubs, newcomer support programs, and Indigenous-settler partnerships in other regions, AFC's investments are helping to reimagine how the Church participates in community life across Canada.

For Taylor, the vision is both immediate and enduring. "We envision a society where no individual is left behind or overlooked," she writes. "Through our mobile wellness platform, we strive to create a safe and welcoming place for street-involved individuals to access holistic wellness, build connections, and regain hope for a brighter future."

Now on the streets of St. John's, that vision is no longer theoretical—it is in motion—one stop at a time.



A Recapitulation of Spring Activities

Article by Louise Smith
Photograph by Sharon Smith

Here at St. John the Evangelist, we endeavour to seize every opportunity and circumstance to expand outreach outside our own parameters. Through an active Anglican Church Women's association, we are cognizant of the many needs that exist in our environment, including food banks and the Gathering Place—just to mention a few.

At the ACW meeting of March 10th, our group gathered at the church hall in fellowship and prayer in an effort to plan fundraisers to meet our many commitments before the season stealthily comes to a close, with spring around the corner and summer approaching. Before preparation



starts for this busy time ahead, the course will be altered momentarily to pamper the women of the parish with a Quiet Day filled with enjoyable activities.

We will invite ACW members from other active parishes to participate,

which is customary. This activity affords us the pleasure of interaction with other faiths outside our own church. We likewise reciprocate and acknowledge our neighbouring churches.

This has been scheduled to get underway

during the last week in March—just before our two major fundraisers: a lasagna take-out in April and a chicken dinner in May. These fundraisers will enable our association to continue supporting much-needed charitable organizations.

When all these various proposed activities come to fruition, our ACW ladies will enjoy a short reprieve during the months of July and August.

We hope that more younger women will join us to participate in church activities. However, in today's world, many are often too involved with work and family commitments. We hope that since the seed is sown in baptism, that seed will help germinate and eventually evolve into the spiritual commitment of more young families returning to church.

Then Peter said, silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have, I give to you.

- Acts 3: 6.

News From Port aux Basques



WAKE-A-THON 2026 - On March 13th, the ACW of St. James' Church, in Port aux Basques, held their annual Wake-a-thon. The amount raised was \$4069. Many thanks to all our of parishioners who sponsored our ladies; it's your continued support that helps make these events a great success. - by Lisa Brown with photos by Barbara Hardy

COUNTRY CLASSIC MUSIC NIGHT - On March 20th, the ACW at St. James' Church in Port aux Basques, hosted a Country Classic Music Night. Many thanks going out to Ray Bown for organizing this event, to the musicians and singers who took part, and to Rev'd Kuda who did a wonderful job as our emcee. This event raised \$1433. - submitted by Lisa Brown with photos from the parish's Facebook page



PALM SUNDAY - On March 29th, Palm Sunday, at St James The Apostle in Port aux Basques, Rev'd Kuda held a beautiful service of worship, with Holy Eucharist and the installation of the vestry members. Following the service, we gathered at the Memorial Centre for brunch. - submitted with photographs by Lisa Brown



A map of Africa, showing the location of Lesotho



Moliehi Mohare is relieved to be preparing to give birth at the maternal waiting home in Bobete, Lesotho. Mpho Marole; photo by PIH

Alongside Hope Delivers Dignity and Health to Mothers and Newborns in Lesotho's Remote Areas

Article by Janice Biehn, Communications, Alongside Hope; with files from Partners in Health Lesotho
Other photographs by Alongside Hope

In hard-to-reach parts Lesotho, where steep slopes and winding footpaths make every journey a test of endurance, access to healthcare can mean the difference between life and death for expectant mothers.

Moliehi Mohare, 20, knows this all too well. She began her antenatal visits at a clinic closer to her home, unaware that the small facility didn't offer delivery services. When she learned the nearest health clinic where she could safely give birth was seven hours away, she braved the long, rocky journey through the mountains to reach the Bobete Health Centre's Maternal Waiting Home, supported by Partners In Health and Alongside Hope.

Upon arrival, Mohare was welcomed by nurses and received a baby starter pack containing a onesie, receiving blanket, hat, cloth diapers and baby shirts. "I didn't know that Bobete Health Centre provided these things," she said. "I had brought what I could from home, but it wasn't enough. I'm really happy and grateful for the support I found here."

Alongside Hope's World of Gifts has featured the new baby starter packs for the last three years and they are a favourite gift for donors and churches. During Advent in 2022, St. Andrew's in Cole Harbour, N.S. raised money to buy new baby kits for the Bobete Clinic. For every \$25 that was donated, a diaper was added to a display in the Narthex to encourage donations. At the end of the campaign, the diapers were donated to a local women's shelter and \$2,000 was forwarded to Alongside Hope. You can still support the program at



An aerial view of the clinic in Bobete in which you can clearly see the geography and remoteness of this location

alongsidehope.org/worldofgifts. (Makes a great Mother's Day gift!).

Like many women in remote communities, Mohare began her antenatal care late, not realizing she was pregnant until six months because her periods had continued. She arrived at Bobete in time to spend the final weeks of her pregnancy at the maternal waiting home, where she and other women received three meals a day and health education from nurses.

Lesotho continues to face one of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, an estimated 566 deaths per 100,000 live births. Given the challenges of inaccessibility to health care, many women must make a perilous choice between risking childbirth at home or enduring a dangerous journey to reach care.

Thus, Alongside Hope

has stepped in with crucial support. Working with Partners In Health (PIH) Lesotho, the project has helped ensure that expectant mothers like Mohare are not left behind. Through the starter pack initiative and covering transportation costs for appointments during the first trimester, pregnant women are not only encouraged to come to Bobete, but this has also extended the reach of the health centre beyond Bobete's usual catchment area.

Mojaba Mokoena, a registered nurse and midwife at Bobete, says the starter packs have a meaningful impact on the women she cares for. "These packs truly ease their worries," she explains. "Many arrive anxious because they don't have enough for their newborns, but receiving these items brings them relief and

restores their sense of dignity as they get ready to give birth."

Alongside Hope's support reaches beyond supplies, also covering emergency transportation for pregnant women when ambulances aren't available, and offering beds, mattresses, blankets, and food to those staying at the maternal waiting home. For mothers who must be referred to hospitals for delivery, financial assistance is provided to help cover their costs.

Through this support, Alongside Hope is helping women like Mohare bring life safely into the world, no matter how far or difficult the road may be.



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