



Golden Jubilee in Central Newfoundland

Article by Archdeacon Terry Caines
 Photographs by Corey John Dwyer

The Diocesan milestone was celebrated on June 6th and 7th at St. Martin's Cathedral. The 50th anniversary commemorates five decades of spiritual growth, evangelization, and service to the people of God.

The Golden Jubilee celebration brought together parishioners, community leaders, and visitors from throughout the diocese in a joyful expression of gratitude and faith. The occasion was enhanced by the presence of distinguished guest speakers from Jerusalem: Dean Richard Sewell and JulieAnn Sewell.

The anniversary festivities began on Saturday with two workshops. The morning session opened with a welcome from Bishop Watton to attendees and introductions of the guest presenters, Dean Richard Sewell and JulieAnn Sewell. Also in attendance was Bishop Sam Rose, Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Rev'd Mickton Phiri, Administrator of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland, each of whom brought greetings on behalf of their respective dioceses.

Dean Richard delivered the first presentation, focusing on the current situation in Israel, its effects on the people living there, and its impact on St. George's College. At noon, participants enjoyed an excellent lunch prepared by St. Martin's Ways and Means Committee.



Dean Richard Sewell



JulieAnn Sewell



Dean Sewell and Bishop Watton

The afternoon session began at 1:00 p.m. with a presentation by JulieAnn Sewell of the Princess Basma Hospital. She discussed the impacts of war, the challenges families in the region face, and the need for continued prayer and financial support to sustain the hospital's ministry.

Their presentations were among the highlights of the celebration. Drawing on their unique experiences in the Holy Land, Dean Richard and JulieAnn shared profound insights into Jerusalem's Christian heritage, the importance of preserving sacred traditions, and the ongoing need to foster unity and peace in today's world. Their combined voices were a call to us all to be more than lukewarm, passive Christians.

On Saturday evening, the 50th Anniversary Banquet at the Gander Curling Club featured a three-course meal, with the diocesan Archdeacon serving as Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed those gathered and read greetings from former bishops of the diocese. Local MHA Bettina Ford also offered greetings. During the banquet, Bishop Watton paid tribute to former bishops, clergy, and faithful laity whose dedication and service laid the foundation for the vibrant faith community that exists today.

The keynote speaker at the banquet was Dean Sewell, who spoke about

the importance of advocating here, where we live, and for those who need to hear our voices. He noted our deep sense of hospitality and the Diocese of Central Newfoundland's widespread recognition for its warm welcome, outreach, and generosity.

On Sunday morning, Bishop Watton began the worship service by reflecting on the faithful. The guest homilist, Dean Sewell, reflected on Matthew 9:9–13 and 18–26, and spoke of how Jesus calls the unlikely, welcomes sinners, and responds to genuine faith with compassion and power. These stories remind us that God's mercy extends beyond our expectations and that trusting in Christ opens the door to healing, hope, and new life, no matter where we live. The presence of guests from Jerusalem added a special dimension to the occasion, strengthening the diocese's connection to the roots of the Christian faith. This message must be our goal for the future, and we pray in faith for a revival in our midst.

As our diocese looks toward the future, the Golden Jubilee celebration served not only as a remembrance of past blessings but also as a renewal of its commitment to spiritual formation, faithful discipleship, and service in the years ahead.

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Bishop Samuel Rose
Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador

Showing Christ’s Love On Social Media

Friends, I’ve been reflecting a lot lately on how we stay connected and how we communicate, especially online.

Social media has become one of the main ways we communicate online, yet it is all too easy to interpret someone’s words through the filter of our own assumptions or past hurts, and respond in ways that wound rather than heal. We often reply to the post rather than listen to the person. I’m as guilty as anyone of getting angry and hitting reply in order to justify myself.

While we cannot always have face-to-face conversations online, we can still choose the Way of Love.

As followers of the One who “spoke the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15), we commit to doing better together. Let us read generously, always assuming the best intent until proven otherwise. Let us pause before replying, and ask whether our words will build up the Body of Christ.

Before responding, maybe take the time to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your words. If possible, reach out to the person directly or comment with grace rather than criticism. Behind every screen is a friend in Christ—someone who Jesus loves.



photo by Sincerely Media on www.unsplash.com

In a world quick to divide and cancel, perhaps we can be known for patience, humility, and the kind of love that “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:7).

What would it look like for us, in our little corner of the internet, to be known for that kind of love?

On our Diocesan Facebook page, the following social media etiquette guidelines from the Anglican Communion Office have been very helpful. Perhaps you might find them so too.

Community Guidelines: We believe that respectful dialogue enriches us all. Our community includes people from various theological traditions, cultural backgrounds and life experiences.

If you interact or comment with this page, we invite you to follow our community guidelines:

- Be respectful: Treat others as you’d like to be treated. If you disagree, challenge ideas thoughtfully.
- Share your perspective and leave others room to do the same.
- Listen generously: Seek to understand before seeking to be understood. Ask questions with genuine curiosity rather than making assumptions.
- Stay kind: Behind every comment is a real person with their own story, struggles, and sacred convictions. Consider how your comments might impact someone else before posting.
- Be aware of misinformation: Consider or check what gets posted, and if you cite facts, please share a reliable source.
- Please note that: Personal attacks, harassment, hate speech, or content that demeans others based on their identity, beliefs, or background have no place here. Similarly, please keep these pages clear of spam, promotional content and phishing. Unhelpful comments of this nature may be hidden or blocked and reported.
- Thank you for helping make this a welcoming space for all.

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These policies were adopted by the Anglican Life Committee.

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

DEADLINES FOR FALL SUBMISSIONS:

October’s print issue: 1 September
November’s print issue: 1 October
December’s print issue: 29 October

Please email your parish submissions to the Editor at:

anglicanlifenl@gmail.com

CORRECTION: In the June issue of Anglican Life, Archdeacon Edward Keeping was credited as “The Rev’d” and not “The Venerable.” My sincere apologies for this error. - The Editor

NEWSPAPER FOR THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Holy Trinity Meadows Celebrates 75 Years!

Article by and photographs by
Ethel Brake

The cornerstone of Holy Trinity Church in Meadows, Newfoundland, reads “June 1951,” so on June 28, 2026, we celebrated 75 years of faith, hope, and love. The church was built by Murdock Brake Sr., Frank Brake, Rouse Brake, and Lloyd Anderson, along with a great deal of volunteer labour and love.

Our minister, The Rev’d Greg Loder, was the officiant at the celebration, assisted by several past ministers who have served at Holy Trinity. The sermon was preached by The Rev’d Malcolm Palmer, and Holy Communion was presided over by Archdeacon Charlene Laing. Also in attendance were The Rev’d Allan Brake and The Rev’d Madonna Boone, both born and raised in Meadows, and both ordained right here at their hometown church.

Music for the service, which was attended by more than 100 people, was provided by Emily Bolt and Ted Taylor. Following the service, a catered meal was held at the Meadows Community Hall.

It was a beautiful afternoon and a glorious service! It was wonderful to see so many filling the pews of Holy Trinity. It was truly a blessed day in the life of our parish, and many thanks go out to the committee who organized such a memorable event.



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New Rector Inducted in Carbonear

Article by Elsie Fudge
Photographs by Archdeacon Christine Lynch

On Sunday May 31st, 2026, at 3:00pm, the St. James' congregation in Carbonear, was honoured to take part in the induction of the Rev'd Maxine Drover as their new rector. The service was led by Archdeacon Christine Lynch. Many visiting clergy and parishioners took part in the service. This was followed by a lovely potluck dinner. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. We wish Rev'd Maxine all the best as we work together for the extension of God's kingdom.





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ANNIVERSARY

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A Blessing for the Future of our Diocese

Come, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit, enfold this diocese, encircle every parish, every congregation, and every soul.

May your Creator’s hand bless the ground we walk upon, may the Son’s resurrection raise us up, and may the Breath of the Spirit be always at our backs.

Should the path ahead be steep or storms arise, cause hope to be the lamp before us, with faith our steadfast light.

Ground our clergy with courage, fill our leaders with wisdom, and build our communities into sanctuaries of faith, welcome, and healing.

Come, Son of God, be the light that guides our going forth, be the warmth that unites our coming together. Until the road brings us home, to Jerusalem, O God, hold our diocese in the palm of your hand. Amen.

– Bishop John Watton



Left to right: The Ven C. Laing (WNL), Bishop J. Watton (CNL), The Rev’d M. Phiri (WNL), Dean Sewell, JulieAnn Sewell, Bishop S. Rose (ENL)



Banquet



Left to right: Dean Sewell, Bishop J. Watton, JulieAnn Sewell, The Ven. T. Caines



Congregtaion at St. Martin’s

Archdeacon Caines and Bishop Watton, In Conversation

Archdeacon Caines: Bishop, we are now in the 50th year of acknowledging and celebrating our incorporation and life as an independent Diocese in Central Newfoundland. Has it been easy?

Bishop Watton: Many doubted that Central Newfoundland would have the resources to sustain itself as a diocese, let alone grow and prosper. We had a small overall population and were a diocese without a city. But the leadership of our diocese was noticeably confident, believing in the principles of Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens,” and Philippians 4:19: “God shall provide!”

Caines: What stands out to you?

Watton: Our relationships with the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, and with the Diocese of Western Newfoundland remain unbroken, and we celebrate our history of partnership, mutual support, and trust.

Caines: Bishop, you spoke about the diocese surviving. Can you speak a little more to that?

Watton: Sure! Our diocese did much more than survive: it prospered and was second to none in growth, outreach, ministry, and evangelism. We are known for inclusion, partnerships, and our values of love, advocacy, and tolerance. Our 50th Anniversary celebration is

also a clear call to be realistic about the changes and challenges occurring in each of our three dioceses in Newfoundland and Labrador, across the country, and indeed around the world. We restructured into three separate dioceses only because of rapid growth and optimism. The bonds of love certainly remained, and now new, honest conversations are happening about what God is calling us to be and become in our time.

Caines: What has been the focus over the past 10 years?

Watton: Over the past decade, we have focused on two key words: Mission and Sustainability. What must we do? What must our Church look like to expect God’s blessing for the future?

Caines: Can you talk about the leadership in the diocese?

Watton: Our diocesan leadership began by looking at ourselves. With a focus on helping parishes, we worked to reduce annual financial assessments and enable struggling parishes to share ministry and housing costs, so we would have time to work together as parishes to talk about what our Church was becoming. These shared ministries and lower assessments were never intended to “save” anything, especially buildings, but to call us to consider what it means to be the people of God in our time.

Caines: Bishop, we have special guests with us from Jerusalem for our 50th Anniversary. Dean Richard Sewell of St. George’s College and JulieAnn Sewell of the Prince Basma Hospital. Could you share a little about that?

Watton: We have been gifted by God with a relationship with St. George’s College and the Princess Basma Hospital in Jerusalem. Their presence in our diocese has given us something we truly needed on our anniversary. From Jerusalem, we have heard their stories. We have reached out to them, and they have reached out to us, and we have heard, without doubt, how important it is for our diocese to return to the heart of what it means to be Christian. We must reclaim the essence of what it means to follow Jesus.

Caines: How so, Bishop?

Watton: Quite some time ago, we issued a statement of solidarity with those precious “living stones” and promised to advocate for the peace and justice mandated by Jesus’ teachings. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to be a visible sign of the presence of Jesus Christ in our land, as they are in the land where he was born, lived, died, and rose from the dead. We have been unmistakably and prophetically addressed by the voice of the Land of the Holy One. An incredible gift, as an answer to the prayers of the faithful.



The Rev'd Andreas Thiel
Columnist

From “In The Red” to Infrared: Heating Holy Cross Church For The Future

“Don’t you dare turn on that breaker again!” With that unmistakable warning, our long-serving, though expensive-to-run, forced-air oil furnace was condemned. We had to find a new source of heat. This article tells the story of how Holy Cross Church in Eastport, NL transitioned from oil heating to infrared heat, the challenges we faced, and what we learned along the way.

Heating the church in winter was extremely costly and threatened to permanently put us “in the red.” The furnace had to be started more than 12 hours before a service and consumed about five gallons (25 litres) of oil per hour. As a result, winter use was not practical, and for more than a decade we had worshipped in the church hall during colder months.

Heating Holy Cross presented some real challenges. Built before modern insulation, the late-1800s church was barely warmed in winter by its congregation’s wood stoves. The building is more than 50 feet high at its peak, totally uninsulated, and sits over an unfinished, unheated basement. The electrical service required upgrading, and while there was no running water that could freeze in winter, the church was used regularly each week for Sunday services and other special occasions.

To plan for a new heating system, a Maintenance Committee was formed. They set clear criteria for the new system: it should allow the church to be used throughout the year in an environmentally and cost-effective way, ensure the cost of installation remained within budget, and complement the beautiful 130-year-old structure. A careful survey of the building found it to be in good



condition with only minor repairs needed, making it well worth the investment.

With a relatively small congregation in an aging community that is regularly challenged to meet its annual operating budget, finding the necessary funds was a significant task. A fundraising committee was formed, which labeled our initiative “The Future Fund” and set about raising \$150,000.

We hired a heating consultant, and our initial options were oil-fired hot water or hot air furnaces, propane furnaces or space heaters, and commercial heat pumps/mini-splits. However, the consultant came back with an unexpected recommendation: infrared heat! Regrettably, the specific heating units recommended were intended for industrial settings and certainly

would not complement our historic property.

Infrared? Why infrared? It uses electricity rather than oil. It warms people and surfaces directly rather than heating large volumes of air. It operates only when the church is in use, installation and operating costs are manageable, and the fixtures can complement the church’s décor.

We had some learning to do. A web search quickly took us to Britain, where the Church of England was encouraging its churches to become environmentally sustainable by 2030. Many were turning to infrared heat, and as a result, units were being designed to complement historic buildings. This led us to Herschel Infrared Heating and their “Halo” design.

We contacted Herschel, spoke with a British heating

consultant, and interviewed the wardens of two churches that were now heated through infrared units. There were few detractors, and one warden pointed out that some members of the congregation were not even aware of the change. Another commented that the new system had encouraged their congregation, previously scattered throughout the sanctuary, to sit closer together, which he considered a very positive outcome.

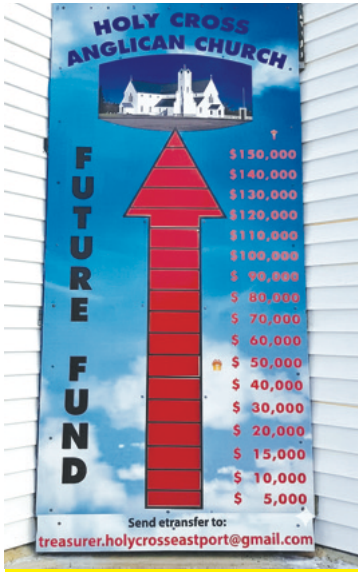
Dealing with Herschel’s North American representative in North Carolina, we discovered that we would be the first church in Canada to make this change! We were breaking new ground in an environment markedly different from Great Britain. There were unknowns: would these heaters work in a drafty, 130-year-old

wooden building at winter temperatures that dipped into the double-digit negatives? The exchange rate between the British Pound and the Canadian Dollar was volatile, especially in these uncertain times. Herschel assured us that delivery would not be a problem, but import duties and taxes remained unpredictable.

We reviewed Herschel’s recommended heating plan and found that it was more expensive than our budget would allow. Furthermore, it was unnecessary to heat the entire space, as the regular congregation could be accommodated in the nave of the church. Heating the whole church with Halos would also demand an electrical service upgrade that presented a financial challenge. In consultation with Herschel, we developed an alternate design that, while not ideal, would likely meet our needs. One question remained: what size heaters would deliver the necessary heat to the congregation? We settled on 4.8 kW units, and the order was placed.

The equipment arrived in early August 2025. Our able and eager electrical contractors began installation. It was no small task: the whole building needed rewiring, a new electrical service was installed, and additional poles were placed outside. By early December, we were ready to return to worship in Holy Cross Church.

We soon ran into a problem: with only one exception, Sundays were proving to be the coldest days of the week, and the winter of 2025 was unusually cold. The new Halos were not powerful enough to keep the congregation comfortable.



continued on the next page ➡

In consultation with Herschel, it was agreed that we needed larger heating units and should upgrade to 7.6 kW models. The replacement parts were ordered, expedited, arrived within a month, and installed. The increase in power proved essential in a building of our size and age, particularly during sustained sub-zero temperatures.

This resulted in a marked improvement for members of the congregation. Now they could feel the heat. We opted for six Halos in the nave of the church and 12 smaller ‘Manhattans’ for the chancel and transepts. This configuration was not our first choice, but it was close to the maximum number of units our new electrical service could handle. The fine-tuning continues, but feedback from most members of the congregation has been positive.

Infrared heat does take some getting used to. If you are within the range of the units, you are warmed; outside the range, the air remains cold. That is a new experience. In addition, as several members of the congregation pointed out on cold days, “if you leave your coat on, you are actually insulating yourself from the heat!” Without heat in the basement, the floor remains colder than the pews, which continues to

be a challenge. Nevertheless, the project successfully achieved all three of its primary goals: enabling year-round use of the church in a cost-effective and eco-friendly way, keeping installation costs within budget, and complementing the beautiful 130-year-old structure. Mission accomplished!

I must take time to recognize the many volunteers who contributed to this success—from those who anonymously volunteered to remove the old furnace and oil tank to those who helped swap in the new heating units. Then there was the Future Fund Committee, which reached its goal of \$150,000 in just over a year. What an exceptional group of people! In the words of Psalm 126:3: “The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.”

Beyond efficiency and sustainability, this project has allowed us to gather again in our beautiful church year-round: it is a gift that cannot be measured in dollars or kilowatts.

Wayne Hallett and Cynthia Bull serve as churchwardens at Holy Cross Church in Eastport (Diocese of Central Newfoundland). Together with an energetic team, they addressed a failed heating system with a new and innovative solution.



The full group, including Lou the dog

Prayer Walk in Upper Gullies

Article by and photographs by
The Rev’d William Strong

The Men’s Service Club of St. Peter’s Church, Upper Gullies, held its third annual Prayer Walk on Saturday June 20th, along the Conception Bay South Shore Walk at Seal Cove.

We were blessed once again that Bishop Sam Rose joined, along with 25 other participants, and a dog named “Lou,” in the 90-minute walk that was filled with prayer,

singing, and great fellowship. Everyone returned to the parish hall to enjoy a great lunch of soup and sandwiches. A great time was had by all!



Along the Conception Bay South Shore Walk, Seal Cove



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The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist

More Than An Institution

For many churches, September's schedule includes "Welcome Back Sunday" or "Back to Church Sunday," an initiative that started 17 years ago. The idea is to welcome back regular attendees, as well as to invite people who may not have been to church for years or who may have never regularly attended. On that day, we try to ensure it is a special experience for those who are there, in the hope that they will return.

But why? Why do we want people to come back? To what are we inviting people?

In answer to those questions, I have fears, and I have hopes.

My fear is that sometimes, in the Church, we look for bodies. We have this idea that our success is measured by the numbers in our pews. Or we think that if we get enough people, it will help us with the financial burden of running a parish. This means that those who come are valued for what they bring to us, not for who they are. When that is the case, the Church becomes a transactional institution rather than a true church, an institution or an organization that exists merely for its own survival. That's not



photo by E. F. Rowe

a value judgment; it's simply a fact.

The Church is undoubtedly an institution. It needs to be, since so much of what we rely on comes from it (our liturgy, our hymnody, our structure), all of which gives us the shape and form that makes us distinctly Anglican.

But the Church must also be more than an institution. It is a community of people who are bound together, not so much by what we have in common, but by a common faith and

belief in a loving God whom we come to know through Jesus Christ. In Jesus, we see the face of God. We see someone who showed love and compassion to everyone, who did not look at status or place in society, and who saw each person as an individual worthy of attention, not because of what they could give, but simply because of who they are.

To be a church means to live that reality in everything we do. It is why we uphold people in prayer, why we take time to visit those who are sick, why we help feed those who are hungry, and why we minister to those who are unhoused.

My hope is that we see those who come through our doors, on Back to Church Sunday and on every Sunday, as belonging to our church community. This is a community of people from all walks of life: young and old, rich and poor, ordinary and extraordinary. All people of God coming together to hear the word of God, to pray for and support one another, and to be encouraged as we try our best to negotiate this complicated thing called life, relying on the gift of God's Spirit to make it through, knowing that it is God's love that gives us the strength and power to do so.



New Eucharistic Assistant

Article and photograph by
The Rev'd Maxine Drover

On Sunday July 19th, 2026, the congregation of St. James' Church, Carbonear, welcomed Greg Meadus as a Eucharistic Assistant. Rev'd Maxine presented Greg with his license from

Bishop Sam Rose. Greg is also doing the Licensed Lay Ministers course that is offered by Queen's College. We wish him all the best, and we look forward to his ministry.

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Submitted with photographs by
Madeline Osbourne

The ACW of St. Swithin's, in the Parish of Seal Cove, was quite busy over the past year knitting various items for hospitals and "Open Door;" our blankets are sent to any of the different places in Newfoundland and Labrador where they are needed. The finished items were placed in the church, and were then blessed by the Rev'd Madonna Boone.



“ Suddenly nothing made sense anymore... ”

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Faith, Fun, and Fellowship

Children’s Ministry at St. Augustine’s Church, Stephenville

Article and photographs by
Canon Dawn Barrett, and Jennifer Rose (Sunday School Coordinator)

At St. Augustine’s, we are blessed to have five adults directly involved with children’s ministry. Jennifer Rose serves as Sunday School Coordinator, Emma House as Children’s Music Director, and Shauna Elliot, Shara Shears, and Kim Osbourne as teachers. Together, these five leaders rotate teaching duties once a month, with the rest of the team helping out with crafts and snacks.

There is also a Christian Education Committee that provides additional learning experiences for children and adults alike, as well as an Outreach Committee that involves younger parishioners in its activities wherever appropriate. In addition, the clergy take time during each worship service to focus directly on the children.

Our Sunday School reopened after the summer break with 19 students between the ages of 3 and 11, organized into one large class. To start the school year, Rev’d Kay blessed school bags and prayed for a safe and happy year of learning.

Before heading to Sunday School, the children attend the start of the main worship service, where one of the clergy chats with them and introduces the Gospel story of the day. This is followed by prayer and often an action song. Then it’s off to class, which begins with an opening prayer, an offering, and a music session with Miss Emma. The children enjoy playing various musical instruments, including an electric keyboard, and learn a new song each month. This routine leads into the lesson, drawn from the Virtual Church School curriculum, and concludes with the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostles’ Creed. Afterward, the children enjoy an activity and a snack—with treats and juice generously



Sunday School teachers



provided by parents, teachers, and the ACW. The children and teachers then rejoin the congregation for communion during celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

Children’s birthdays are recognized with a new pencil and a small gift, and each child has their photo taken for the birthday board. The photos remain on display throughout the year, and the children love comparing their new picture with last year’s to see how much they have grown.

Truth and Reconciliation Day was observed on September 28th at St. Augustine’s. The service began with an outdoor smudging ceremony. Then, instead of the regular class, our Sunday School welcomed Kim Golder from the Munsee Delaware First Nation Band, who serves as the Elders and Youth Program Director for NAWN. She brought drums, sang songs, and read stories with the children. All the children and teachers wore orange shirts or traditional dress for the occasion. The children had a wonderful time while learning about the significance of the day, with a special focus on forgiveness and love. They learned that every child has the right to be happy, safe, and loved.

Advent began with the annual Family Day on November 29th, when the entire church family was invited to work on crafts together using materials supplied by the Education Committee. Christmas cards and ornaments proved to be the most popular projects. There was even a challenging craft for the adults—a foot-high wooden tree outline adorned with carved nativity figures to paint or varnish. Even the youngest children joined in the fun with colouring sheets and homemade play dough in various colours, complete with Ziploc

bags to take some home. The morning concluded with a community lunch of hot dogs and cookies.

On December 7th, the Sunday School teamed up with the Outreach Committee for a field trip to the Acadian Village Seniors’ Home. Dressed in adorable nativity costumes, the children sang songs and listened to the Christmas story. Miss Emma and her husband Louis, also an accomplished musician and singer, put on a special musical performance for the residents. All of the Sunday School teachers were on hand to help coordinate the event, making it a wonderful way to teach the children about the spirit of giving.

The children presented their Christmas pageant, “The Biggest Gift,” on December 14th, telling the Christmas story entirely in rhyme. Miss Jennifer and Sawyer, one of the older students, served as narrators while the rest of the children acted out the story, each contributing a speaking part. The children performed four songs, delivering an amazing show that impressed everyone present. The performance was followed by a celebration in the church hall hosted by the Education Committee, where the children enjoyed games, crafts, and a lunch complete with mini-pizzas, juice, and a make-your-own sundae station.

The Christmas festivities concluded on Christmas Eve with Baby Jesus’ Birthday Party, an event especially for the younger children. As always, they were joined by young out-of-town guests visiting grandparents for the holidays.

continued on the next page ➡

The gathering began with a procession, in which one of the younger children had the honour of carrying baby Jesus and placing him in the manger scene. Following the singing of “Away in a Manger,” Canon Dawn led the children in prayer and retold the Christmas story using figures from the nativity set. Afterward, everyone headed downstairs to the church hall for party games, crafts, and treats.

At St. Augustine’s, we believe in fully including children in worship and learning experiences at their own level, inviting them into the life and work of the Church every step of the way.



Alongside Hope: Walking the Path of Truth and Reconciliation in Mi’kma’ki

Article and photograph by
Emily F. Rowe on behalf of Alongside Hope

On the morning of May 13, 2026, international visitors, representatives from the Anglican Church of Canada, and members of Alongside Hope gathered to learn about the former Indian Residential School (IRS) in Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia, and the Mi’kma’wey Debert Cultural Centre (MDCC).

Our visit began along the banks of the Shubenacadie River with a welcome from Tim Bernard, Executive Director of the MDCC, along with Dorene Bernard, an IRS survivor, and Sunshine Bernard, a descendant of survivors. Beside the tidal river, the group took part in smudging and water blessing ceremonies led by Dorene and Sunshine.

In September 2021, the site of the former residential school was reclaimed by the community and designated as a protected area when the Government of Canada placed commemorative plaques along the driveway. Every September 30, survivors gather at the location to share their experiences, marking the field with a giant heart of orange flags. Dorene emphasized the vital importance of ongoing Truth and Reconciliation efforts, noting that: “people need to understand what they’re healing from.”

Standing at the commemorative plaques, Tim Bernard shared stories about his father and uncle, both IRS



Statue at Nora Bernard Commemoration Park: “Wejkwa’lukwet: Dancing Toward Us,” by Mi’kma’w artist Ursula Johnson

survivors who had chosen never to speak of their time at the school. The plaques themselves represent a historic milestone: they are written in five Indigenous languages alongside English and French, a unique step in federal recognition.

The journey continued to the nearby Nora Bernard Commemoration Park. Designed in consultation with survivors and descendants, the park honours Nora Bernard, a Mi’kmaq activist from the Millbrook First Nation. She spearheaded the largest class-action lawsuit in Canadian history on behalf of residential school survivors, which directly led to the 2006 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

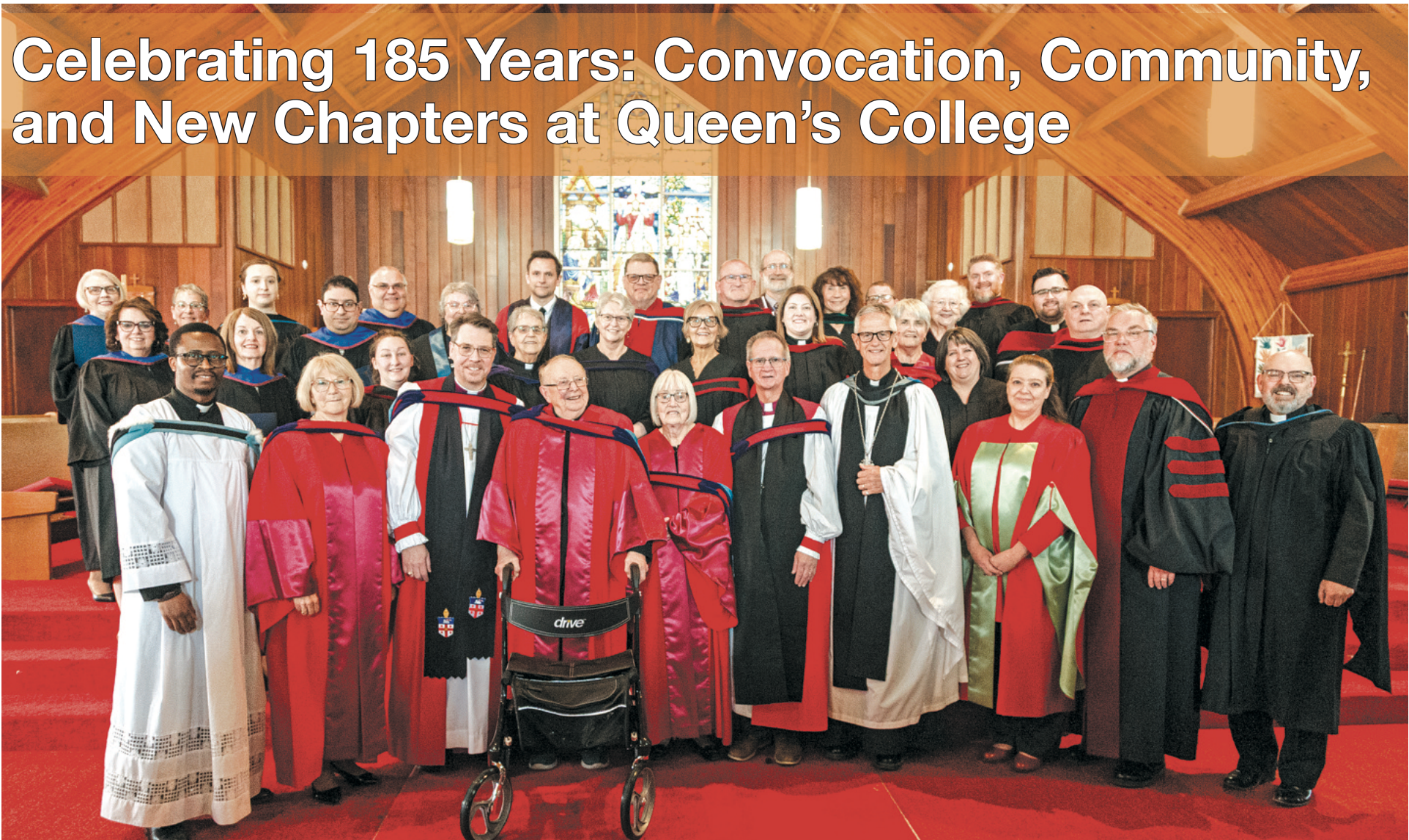
The park serves as a sanctuary for reflection and healing. As the morning sun rises, three metal structures created by Mi’kma’w artist Ursula Johnson cast a star-shaped shadow in a traditional basket-weave pattern. The space features semi-circular benches designed to embrace visitors, a sacred fire area, and a mural representing the Wolastoqiyik people. An inscription by artist Michelle Sylliboy embedded in the pavement translates to, “We are strengthened because they call out in one voice,” alongside a message from Nora Bernard encouraging visitors to “look straight ahead to the road you are on.”

To conclude the day, the

group explored a portion of the Mi’kma’wey Interpretive Trail in Debert. Archaeologist Leah Morine Rosenmeier, Director of Operations at the MDCC, presented replicas of ancient artifacts found on-site that date back 11,000 years to the retreat of the glaciers. Visitors also had the opportunity to practice using an atlatl, a traditional spear-throwing tool designed for efficiency.

The upcoming Mi’kma’wey Debert Cultural Centre represents a long-standing commitment to Indigenous leadership and cultural revitalization. Predominantly staffed by Indigenous people, with a majority fluent in Mi’kmaq, the centre will offer year-round educational programming, a gathering space for Chiefs and Councils, and a permanent home for repatriated cultural belongings that support healing and community learning.

Indigenous oral tradition holds that the Mi’kmaq continuously occupied the island of Newfoundland since before settlers arrived. With the demise of the Beothuks in the early 19th century, Mi’kmaq trappers and hunters expanded their range from the southern region of Newfoundland to include much of the interior of the main portion of the island, where they trapped beaver, otter, fox, lynx, and muskrat.



Queen’s College Convocation, 2026, Parish of the Ascension, Mount Pearl

Article by The Rev’d Dr. Robert Cooke
Photographs submitted by Queen’s College

Queen’s College, Faculty of Theology marked 185 years of theological education with our annual Convocation events. On June 3rd, the Queen’s College Alumni Association hosted an educational event at St. Mark’s Church in St. John’s. The event was entitled “Reflections in Faith, Hope, and Love: The Life and Witness of Palestinian Christians.” It included a presentation from our Convocation speaker, The Very Rev’d Richard Sewell (Dean of St. George’s College in Jerusalem), and JulieAnn Sewell (of The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre). Richard spoke to us of the constant resilience of Palestinian Christians living in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with the ongoing violence of both the Israeli Defence Forces in Gaza and Settlers in the West Bank. JulieAnn spoke of the work of the Jerusalem Princess Basma Hospital which treats Palestinian children with disabilities, while hosting their mothers and empowering their families. It was a powerful morning of listening and learning as both Richard and

JulieAnn called us into hopeful solidarity with our relations in Palestine and with all those who suffer unjustly. On June 4th, the Queen’s College community gathered at the Parish of the Ascension for our Convocation proceedings. The proceedings were led by our Chancellor, Bishop John Watton of the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, with prayers offered by Bishop Samuel Rose of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador and Rev’d Mickton Phiri, Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Western Newfoundland. Fourteen students graduated from six programs. This included students from all three of the Newfoundland and Labrador dioceses, plus students from Nova Scotia, Ontario, Alberta, and a local student from the United Church of Canada. Also, many students were awarded scholarships and awards for their academic, ministry, and community excellence. We are so proud of our students and give God thanks for their many gifts of ministry and academic excellence. We also presented



The Rev’d Dr. Joanne Mercer



Tharuka Kannangara and Sharon Anne Bartlett

three honorary doctorates. The Rev’d Canon Reuben Hatcher received the Doctor of Divinity (*Honoris Causa*) for his many years of parish ministry and hospital chaplaincy. Ms Ina Kearley received the Doctor of Canon Law (*Honoris Causa*) for her work in church music and music education. Ina currently serves as the organist for both the Parish of the Ascension in Mount Pearl and Queen’s College. Ms Emma Marsh received the Doctor of Canon Law (*Honoris Causa*) for her many years of ministry in spiritual direction. This is a ministry that she currently continues by providing spiritual direction for many locals, as well as many

from around the world via Zoom. The Very Rev’d Richard Sewell spoke to the convocation gathering with an inspiring address on spiritual resilience and hope in these troubled times in which we live. This convocation also marked the last for our Provost, the Rev’d Dr Joanne Mercer, as she retired on July 1st. Joanne has served as Provost since 2021, and led the College with care and compassion, with a deep commitment to contextual theological education, and with a spirit of innovation and creativity. Faculty and students thank her for her relational approach to leadership. We will certainly miss her and wish her all the

best in her retirement. The Corporation of Queen’s College has since announced that the Rev’d Dr Robert Cooke has been appointed as Interim College Administrator, and will launch a comprehensive strategic planning process. This initiative will clarify the college’s vision, strategic directions, and pathway to long-term sustainability over the next five to ten years. The college has also announced the appointment of Dr Michelle Rebidoux as Associate Professor starting August 1, 2026. This is a full-time appointment for one year, with the possibility of extension for two years.



Welcoming Archdeacon Edward Keeping St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by Louise Smith
Photograph by Sharon Smith

I’m not a zealous Facebook observer, but one night a while ago, I was searching through the weather channels as I was planning a short trip the next day. During that observation, I caught a glimpse of a 101-year-old man who was bragging that he could remember eighteen reigning Presidents of the United States in his lifetime.

I might not be in that person’s age category, but I can almost match his record regarding the number of priests that I’ve encountered while worshipping here at St. John the Evangelist in my more than 60 years as a parishioner, each one displaying his/her own individual delivery, which combined have intensified our belief and faith.

On June 7th, 2026, we had the pleasure and opportunity to welcome our present and new priest, Archdeacon Edward Keeping. On that Sunday, he preached from the pulpit, in our midst for the first time.

The emotional

intensity of the spiritual message was overwhelming. The delivery was most distinct and audible throughout the church—displaying his own special gift of conveyance. After Holy Communion was served and Rev’d Lisa announced the closing hymn, the congregation was ushered downstairs to the peal of the organ.

At this juncture, the whole assembly received a personal introduction to Archdeacon Edward Keeping and his wife, Joyce. Then together, in his honour, we all mingled in conversation and fellowship while enjoying a delicious lunch prepared and served by the Anglican Church Women.

In the meantime, we look forward to the longevity of Archdeacon Keeping’s tenure here at St. John the Evangelist Church, Topsail, CBS.

*Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,
For praise from the upright is beautiful.*
- Psalm 33:1



Emily F. Rowe
Editor

Being Together Matters: The Power of Gathering in Person

In May, I was able to attend the annual Anglican Editors’ Association Conference in Ottawa. The conference moves around the country: different dioceses host year by year. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic we met only online, as so many around the world did. While digital conference options are certainly cost-effective and offer convenience, there is no replacement for meeting with people face-to-face. Online meetings and gatherings come with screen fatigue and a lack of the depth that you can only get from really spending time with other humans.

Physical presence removes the digital filter. Discussions flow naturally, body language is clear, and the focus stays on the actual message rather than the tech driving it (or glitching, as the case may be). How many times have we faced poor connections, bad sound quality, and other problems? Here in Canada, we often struggle with time zones: what works in Vancouver isn’t necessarily a good time for anyone in the Atlantic time zone! Online gatherings are too often defined by technical issues of one kind or another, even if it’s just remembering to unmute yourself.

On the other hand, when you meet in person, you get to have more meaningful connections; you can continue discussions past the official end of the presentation or meeting, and keep talking in less formal spaces. Many of the best conversations happen in the margins: a follow-up question in the hallway, an idea shared over lunch, or a casual chat over a meal.

And this gets me thinking about the importance of attending



photo by Natalya Ukolova on www.unsplash.com

church in person. Online services end with the click of a button. In-person church offers the casual moments at coffee hour, the parking lot chats, and other spontaneous check-ins that truly build community. Screens can make us visible (though many just watch church online and aren’t visible to the people in the building except as a number in a statistics report), but being visible is never the same as being *known*. When we only attend online, we lose the chance to spend time with other participants, making it much more difficult to form any real attachment or feeling of belonging. Watching worship online makes you a spectator; sharing space, singing side-by-side, and worshipping together is what makes you a part of a living community.

Of course, online worship has its place, and we have all invested a great deal of time and money into making our livestreams as good as they can be. There are those in our communities who cannot make it to church for any number of reasons, not least of which is weather

(because winter is always just around the corner in our part of the world). Also, online worship allows us to check in with worship in communities that we used to be a part of, or those where friends of ours live or go to church. We can “travel” all over the world without ever leaving our couches. That can be a real gift, for sure.

But there is a big difference between being unable to attend local worship and just choosing not to. When we remove ourselves from the community, when we refuse to receive the sacraments, what does that say about our faith, about our commitment to Christ, and to his Church?

So by all means, tune in to online church services, especially when age, sickness, or poor weather make that the best and safest option for you. But also try to get out when you can, and if you can’t, then invite people over. Make sure that your priest visits you to bring you communion. Be a part of the Church community as much as you’re able to be, because we are called to be more than just spectators.

We Are All God’s Beloved

Article by Fred Tulk
Photograph by Ed Matthews

At St Mary’s Church in St. John’s, in the fall of 2025, we started our third session of book reviews using “Looking for God in Messy Places” by Jake Owensby. After several weeks of lectures, small and large discussions, as well as muffin and coffee breaks, the participants gave their reflections. Listed below are some comments:

- Lots of thoughts to ponder great discussions I really enjoyed the course and book.
- Jake Owensby brilliantly relates how important love and hope are in this world Thank you for such an inspiring book study.
- Jake Owensby exposes the gospel message of hope and redemption through compassion.
- A very interesting book as we move through our spiritual journey.
- The presence of God has always been with me but now it has been reinforced by reading and discussion.
- This was a powerful book; it deepened my faith and made



Pictured in photo from left to right: The Ven. Eli Evans, Fred Tulk (Facilitator), Marie Snow, Jane MacDonald, Georgina King, Shirley Jackman, Josie Dyke, Mona Hall, Wayne Dawe, Sarah Dawe, Evelyn Benson, Viola Bemister, Wayne Andrews. Absent: Trudy Bradbury, Joanne Moss, Kay Billard.

me more aware of God’s love for us.

- The course was well planned, very thought provoking and well worth attending. Looking forward to another course.

- How rewarding it is for us to be reminded that we are God’s beloved. The more love we give, the more God gives us.
- Jake Owensby doesn’t handle hide from the messiness of life.

I enjoyed the book very much.

The course completion certificate presentation was made during our worship on Sunday April 19th, 2026.

The Work and Ministry of the ACW: Alive And Well in Central Newfoundland

Submitted by Daphne Parsons, ACW Coordinator, Diocese of Central Newfoundland and Frances Pickett, ACW Diocean Treasurer, Diocese of Central Newfoundland

In recent years in the Diocese of Central Newfoundland, a Sunday in the calendar year has been designated as ACW Sunday, usually the Sunday after Easter. The purpose is to focus on the work of the ACW, with appropriate resources prepared for the day. Ladies throughout our diocese, in each primary branch, lead or participate in the worship.

This year, the theme was “Moving Forward in a Changing World.” It was a very fitting theme, as over the past couple of years our model for moving forward has evolved. We no longer have an ACW diocesan executive or district branch committees, as it became too difficult to fill those roles. Instead, a diocesan coordinator was appointed by Bishop John with assistance from outgoing members

of the executive. The coordinator then chose an ACW diocesan treasurer and a coordinator for each of our six districts.

It is with much thanksgiving, joy, and excitement that we can say we are indeed moving forward. The hard work and commitment of all our members remain as strong as ever. They continue to be the “Hands and Feet of Christ” to many, both near and far.

In spite of these changes, we have been able to honour our financial commitments at the diocesan level, including the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund, The Gathering Place, Grace Sparks House, Council of the North, and Cara Transition House. Our primary branches remain faithful in submitting

their assessments and continuing their essential work at the local level. It is truly a team effort and beautiful to behold!

At the primary level, branches continue donating money, clothing, and toiletries to The Gathering Place, the Janeway, Ronald McDonald House, Cara House, Grace Sparks House, local churches, schools, and other worthy causes. Members also visit the sick and shut-in, prepare funeral receptions, send birthday cards, and knit essential items. Recently, several primary branches began supporting the Eastern Diocese’s “Community Connector Bus.”

In the first year of our model change, the coordinator and treasurer traveled to five of our District Fellowship Meetings, as well as enjoying a

wonderful visit with the ladies in Hermitage-Sandyville. Each gathering began with worship, followed by a delicious meal, information sharing, fun, and fellowship. In 2025, a total of 315 women throughout our diocese attended these meetings, and attendance this year was remarkably similar. Everyone was delighted to gather in person and encourage one another. Offerings from some of our worship services were donated to the Janeway, Alongside Hope, and the Children’s Hospital in Jerusalem.

Much of our communication happens through phone calls, which is proving to be far more effective than texting or email. There is truly something special about hearing a human voice, and it gives us a wonderful opportunity to really get to know and

appreciate one another.

While some of our primary branches have had to close over time, it is worth noting that a few have since reopened, and several active branches are even growing in membership!

Both the coordinator and treasurer extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Bishop John, Archdeacon Terry, and Crystal for their unwavering support. Thank you to all our clergy who support our ACW members and recognize the value of their ministry. Thank you as well to our district coordinators, primary branch presidents, every member of our ACW across the diocese, and all who support this work in any way.

With God’s help, and with the support of one another, our good works and ministry will continue to thrive.



Burying the time capsule



Celebration of Youth and Community in Meadows

Article and photographs by
Stephanie Benoit

On July 5th, the Holy Trinity Anglican Church children’s program in Meadows celebrated Youth Day and the conclusion of their “Making a Bible Garden” program. Youth Day was open to all communities and to anyone who wanted to attend. At 11:00 a.m., there was a small service for the children and community, where beautiful music was played and certificates were handed out to those registered in the program. Afterward, we had a BBQ, a bake sale, buried a time capsule, and enjoyed fun activities like a craft table, a bubble station, water fun, and so much more.

The church program, “Making a Bible Garden,” started on April 5th, 2026 (Easter Sunday), and ended on July 5th, 2026. The program involved learning about the four gardens in the Bible:

- 1. The Garden of Eden
- 2. The Garden of Gethsemane
- 3. The Garden of Golgotha
- 4. The Garden of Paradise

While making the Bible garden, the children learned that a garden is a place of creation, stewardship, and perfection, as well as the place of the first sins of man. They also learned that Jesus prayed, cried, suffered, was crucified, was buried, and was resurrected in or near a garden. Additionally, the children



learned what plants grew in those gardens and how to plant a garden. By focusing on these four gardens, the children learned a lot about the Bible. Hopefully, it is something they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The Bible garden that the children made features plants that are all mentioned in the Bible.





Flower Service in Rocky Harbour

Submitted with photographs by
Dale Decker

On Sunday, August 2nd, 2026 the annual Flower Service was held at St. Matthew’s Anglican cemetery in Rocky Harbour. We had approximately 100 people in attendance. Thank you to all who came out.

On the left: Rev'd Wilhelmena Green held a wonderful service



Musicians: Paul Green, Colleen Rose, and Guy Rose

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