

ANGLICAN LIFE

NEWSPAPER OF THE THREE ANGLICAN DIOCESES IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

A Section of the ANGLICAN JOURNAL

November 2021



Generations of travellers, historians, and pilgrims have worn these two parallel tracks into the ground on the way to Mistaken Point, NL, to see the fossils there, where you are able to stand on what was an ocean floor almost 600 million years ago.

An Extraordinary Pilgrimage

Moving forward amidst changes and new opportunities

The Rt. Rev'd John Watton
Bishop
Central Newfoundland

In August of this year, my wife and I made our way to Trepassey. We checked in to the local hotel and settled in for a couple of “together days” of beach-combing, local sights, and quiet meals together. One of the “must do” items on our list was a visit to Mistaken Point.

This marvellous place is located at the south-eastern tip of our Newfoundland island home. There is a narrow 17 km-long strip of rugged

coastal cliffs that were, at one time, at the bottom of an ancient ocean. How long ago? Try to think of the Ediacaran period, which was 580 to 560 million years ago. At some point, volcanic action caused both the death and preservation of the life that dwelt there. The fossils of Mistaken Point are amazingly well preserved, and they are plentiful. It is a unique place. We are told that they represent the earliest of multi-celled

organisms in the narrative of life on our planet.

Every culture, tradition, spirituality, and religion has pondered in some way, and struggled with, a goal of getting somewhat close to answers about origin, destiny, identity, and meaning. I found that the 3-km hike to the site connected me to some of that. A trek of curiosity surprisingly turned into a deeper pilgrimage than I had anticipated.

Here are a few images

for you that emerged during, after, and even now as I write this for you.

First of all, it was a warm, rainy day. Warm rain always reminds me of my childhood—of playing in puddles, drawing hopscotch games, and all of the beginnings of different stages of my life. But that’s me. Warm rain always helps me remember what was good,

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What Am I Doing?

Emily F. Rowe
Editor

That's something that I often wonder: what am I doing as the editor of a tri-diocesan newspaper? I'm especially thinking about it right now because (as I write this) I have just attended, through the magic of Zoom, the annual conference for the Anglican Editors Association. Like the song "This Land is Your Land," the Anglican Church of Canada was represented from coast to coast. As always, we had workshops and also time to learn about what other dioceses were doing, and how our fellow editors are doing in the middle of the crazy pandemic world that we are living in. I have always found great support in this group, and we always learn a lot from each other. God willing, we will be able to meet in person soon, because that's where the real fellowship happens with shared meals, and fun outings.

Different Anglican publications have different ways to cover news in their parts of the country. Some editors are professional journalists, and they travel a lot, covering stories for the publication, in the



style of a more secular newspaper. That's not entirely possible for me—this paper covers three dioceses and a huge geographical area. I do what I can, but it's not practical to fly me all over the place to every anniversary, celebration of new ministry, or ordination. Thankfully, I do have many trusted contributors. When I get stories from across Newfoundland and Labrador, it's like I do get to travel around and experience your church stories, and so do the readers of the paper. It's a connecting web for us all.

So I take all of those stories, and I put them together into a newspaper, and then that goes and gets printed and sent out. I also upload the paper to the Anglican Life website, and share more photos and stories that don't

make it into the paper. Some people might think that the website is more important than the print paper is, but I think that they are just different ways of getting things out to readers. As time goes by, we may see an increase in the online readership, but I don't think that print is going anywhere right now. Many people predicted the end of print books when e-books were introduced, but Chapters is still full of books. In much the same way, Anglican Life, and its cross-country counterparts, will be around for a while yet. More than 3,300 families have a subscription to Anglican Life, and since those subscriptions have had to recently be confirmed, it means that those are papers that are wanted, and that are getting read.

While there are other things that I do, like maintain the Facebook page for Anglican Life and create original content for it, I still see this paper as my main occupation. I try to publish as much news from the three dioceses as I can, and I hope that you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoy making it.

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Editor:
Mrs. Emily F. Rowe
3 Carpasian Rd.
St. John's, NL
A1C 3T9
Email: anglicanlifeNL@gmail.com

Advertising Rates and other information may be obtained from:

The Rev'd Fred Marshall
22 Church Hill
St. John's, NL
A1C 3Z9
Phone: (709) 727-4346
Email: fred.marshall@nljointcommittee.com

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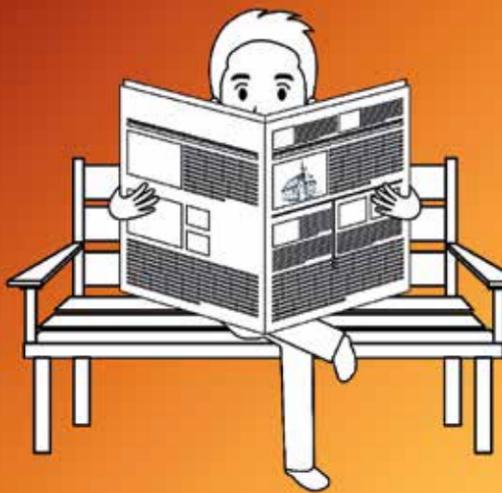
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ANGLICAN LIFE
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NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Have You Donated to Anglican Life This Year?



It's been a tough year for many in the Church, and Anglican Life is no exception. As we near the end of the year, please consider a financial gift to support the Anglican newspaper in Newfoundland and Labrador, its website, and its outreach through social media.

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Thank you for
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185th Anniversary at St. Thomas's

Celebrating the years and giving back to the local community

Article and photographs by
The Rev'd Jolene Peters

When you walk inside the doors of St. Thomas' church in St. John's, you can't help but pause and admire the beautiful architecture. Each time I sit in the pews I find myself reflecting and thinking about the many people who have sat there before me over the years. I think about those who built this church and began ministry here 185 years ago. Their passion, dedication, and hard work built these walls that have housed so many ministries over the years. My own grandparents were married here 78 years ago, and I am in awe of the many others who stood in the front of this church and made a commitment to each other, or the many families who brought their new born babies here to receive the sacrament of Baptism and be welcomed into this church family. So many families have come here in their grief as they've said farewell to those whom they loved, with the promise of being together one day again in that place that Jesus has promised is prepared for each of us. Countless people of all ages have come to these altar rails and joined together in the Eucharist to be fed and nourished by God's word and sacrament.



Over the decades, there have been laughter and tears, ups and downs. Many changes have taken place; we have seen people leave for

one reason or another; we have welcomed new people into the fold. We have had many people give leadership here, and have been blessed by the

various gifts of the clergy and lay leadership in this place over the years.

What I wholeheartedly know has remained true for all of those years is the

faithfulness, generosity, and love for God's people.

⇒ see ANNIVERSARY page 5

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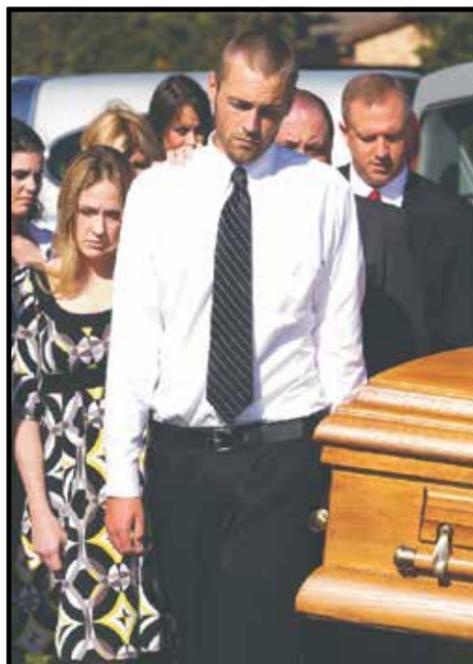
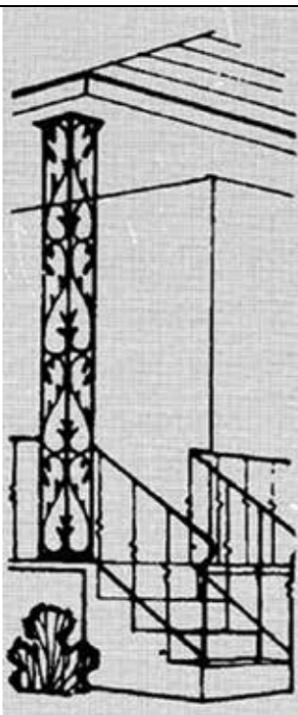
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Pilgrimage

from page 1

and not traumatic, in my younger days.

A small group had gathered at the Interpretation Center. There are only twelve people taken for one tour at a time. This is to allow the guides to ensure the safety of the visitors, and to protect the fossils at the site. At first, we didn't know each other. All of us met at the interpretation centre, with masks on, and waiting for our leader to lead and teach us. We became pilgrims on a path.

As we walked along the 3-km trail, the tour interpreter and I found time to chat. She mentioned that she had just come from church. You know where that led!

As you walk along you will notice that the only substantial marker is the trail itself. It is comprised of two parallel tracks. I asked her if this was an old logging or ocean access road. She replied, "No; these tracks are from those who have been walking in and out of here for years to see the fossils on the point."

I shared how psalm 23 speaks of being "guided along right paths", and without being too detailed or boring, explained that the Hebrew word describing these paths is as "well-worn paths;" they are those that have been used by many pilgrims

along the way, for many years—paths that can be trusted.

You pass through a landscape of berries, foxes, petrels, and running water, and finally arrive at "The Point."

Before going on the assemblage, you are told to remove your shoes. You cannot stand on the ground with shoes on because the fossils need to be protected from the sand, gravel, and other bits of abrasive or corrosive material that have been carried there. For me at least, the biblical image of being in a Holy Place immediately filled my heart. "Take off your shoes, for the ground upon which you stand is Holy."

So as a group, we removed our shoes and stood upon what was an ocean floor over 600 million years ago. What you see is absolutely amazing.

I thought of these as living ancestors of ours: those ones formed by the Spirit of God, as Genesis 1:1 teaches:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be"

Remember, 600 million

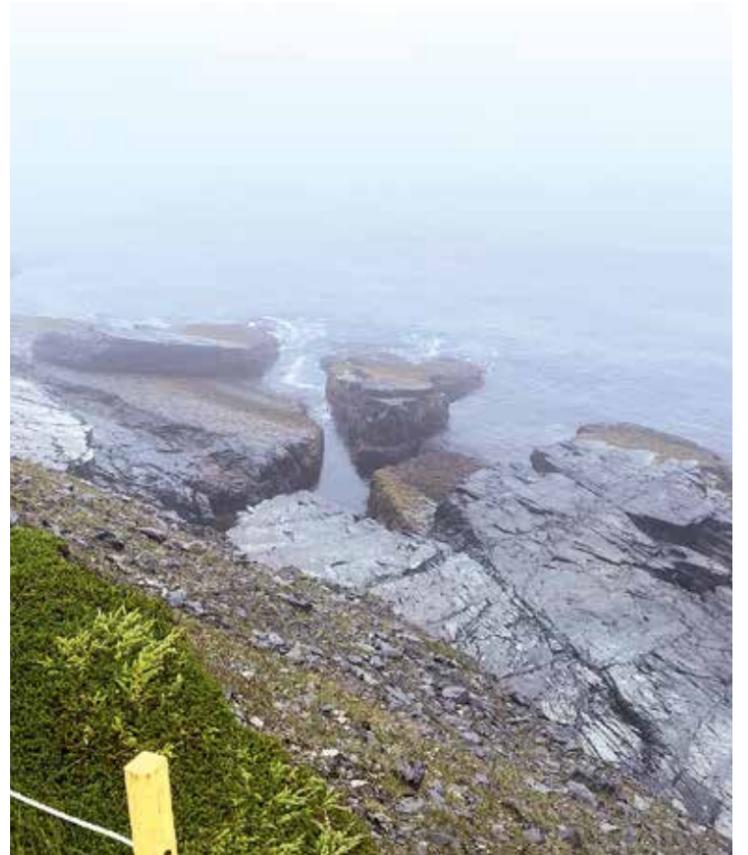
years ago, our world was very different indeed. There were no plants or animals on the surface; it was far too hostile. But the ocean, God's primordial sea, was teeming with life.

While we were assembled on Mistaken Point, we soon found ourselves sharing observations and thoughts with one another. It became wonderfully personal. We discovered that among us were farmers, geologists, anthropologists, and theologians. We also discovered that despite our varied perspectives, we shared in the awe and wonder of the place. We were connected, each one a pilgrim in their own way.

As I walked back to our vehicle, I offered some very diverse prayers of reflective thanksgiving, and continue to do so every day.

As we travel through our lives, may God bless the path of our personal and community experience. Together, through age and illness, changes in wealth and opportunity, and new discoveries, we move forward.

May each day become a pilgrimage of growth, wonder, arrival and departure, led by the spirit of Jesus.



In the above photographs, we see the beach at Mistaken Point from above, Bishop Watton (from the back and with his shoes off), and an example of a fossil

Go where life takes you, but plan ahead.

As a free spirit, you rarely look back. But you should look ahead - especially to protect your loved ones when you're no longer there. All it takes is a little preplanning.

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Confirmations



Summerside

Above is a photograph from St. Paul's Church, Irishtown, Summerside, NL. This confirmation group raised \$586 during their instructions, and donated it to the church as a thank you.

Pictured left to right are: Deacon Karen Loder, the Rev'd Kay, Marcus Wells, Lindsey Wells, Selina Cunning, Molly Buffett, Ava Janes, Zackary Gushue, Keira Hann, Taylor Clearance Loder, and Bishop John Organ.

Submitted with photograph by Willie Loder



St. James and Holy Trinity, Parish of Meadows

Three confirmations took place in the Parish of Meadows on Sunday, September 12th. Bishop John Organ was in the parish to administer the rite of confirmation to 21 of our young people in the three congregations.

It was a wonderful spirit filled day. Thanks to all who continue to support these young people in their Christian journey.

St. James photo by Pam Park; Holy Trinity photo by Sheila Tucker. Submitted by the Rev'd K. Osmond



Above: members of the congregation from St. Thomas' Church stand in the chancel with the bags of groceries that were collected for the Emmaus House Food Bank.

Below: The Honourable John Abbott presenting a certificate of congratulations to Rev'd Gail



Anniversary

from page 3

The parish could never celebrate such a milestone as this without all of those who have made it possible to get here. St. Thomas' congregation has remained blessed throughout the many years that people have come here and called St. Thomas' home. Whether you have been here your whole life or have just joined us, we are so glad that you are part of our parish family and give thanks for the many gifts we have received from your dedication, love, and support of this parish and its ministries.

It may not have been the anniversary service that would have been planned had it not been for the current COVID-19 restrictions, but nonetheless, on Sunday September 19th, this parish family came together in celebration with a beautiful

worship service. We welcomed Archdeacon Charlene Taylor, our Diocesan Administrator, as the guest preacher, and we had the MHA for St. John's East-Quidi Vidi, the Honourable John Abbott, in attendance to present the Rev'd Gail MacDonald, our rector, with a certificate of congratulations. As this parish family always does, parishioners came through on the request to fill bags with groceries for the Emmaus House Food Bank, a special project to celebrate 185 years and give back to our community. A total of 95 bags were collected!

As we continue on the journey may we do so giving thanks for our history and all that has shaped us and let us look forward with faith for all we will experience together in this part of God's kingdom in the years to come.



Photo by R. Whalen

The 7pm Spectacular

How the Sundays@Seven services are changing the face of worship

Claire Donnan
Guest Columnist

On Sunday evenings in the fall to the spring, a variety of fascinating music emanates from the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. This is the result of the Sundays@Seven services, a variety of alternative worship services that occur thanks to the contributions of David and Jan Buley, musicians and Christians themselves. But what exactly are the Sundays@Seven performances, where did the idea come from, and why should you go to see them? That's what I wanted to find out when I sat down with David Buley today.

"I look at the options that we have...for having diversity of experience, of worship and meditation; they're designed to be kind of open ended" says Buley when asked of the designs of the Sundays@Seven performances. Wait, performances? "People can approach that in their own way," Buley says. The services can be considered

performances, services, even something different, and have been created to fill a spiritual void in the community. They're a service for people who have interest in worship that's a little different from the standard Sunday morning service

As for the content in these services, it varies! Everything from Taize-style meditation, to traditional evensong services and compline, to vespers and jazz vespers services, and more! Every type of service has its own distinct style and tone, and they're all different, so there is certainly something for everyone. As for picking a favourite? "Oh my dear, [laughs] I don't think I can. Frankly Claire, I think they all have their own kind of flavour," Buley laughs.

This year, there will hopefully be some new services! Buley has been in conversation with Deantha Edmunds about a project for spring 2022: "A great piece in Lent...It's a piece

called The Confession Stone by Robert Fleming... it's a cycle of songs from the point of view of Mary [Jesus' mother]". Additionally, many of the services from past Sundays@Seven will be returning. How exciting!

As for turnout and impact? "It's a small crowd who attend but those who do, really appreciate it," Buley says. He hopes that Sundays@Seven has touched those who have attended, and will continue to do so. Sundays@Seven returns this fall, which is sure to be full of fascinating Sunday evening services! The fall program will of course include services seen in previous years, as well as some never-before-seen experiences like The Confession Stone! Make sure to check them out at the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Sundays at 7pm of course! It's clear they're going to be something you won't want to miss.

No Person Should Be Homeless

The Rev'd Cynthia Haines-Turner
Columnist



The season of winter doesn't officially begin until December 21st, but by late October or early November, we are beginning to feel the bite of cold weather, wind, and snow. Snow storms are not unusual—I think back to the many times when going trick-or-treating on Halloween involved braving the cold temperatures in coats, mitts, caps, and scarves on top of our costumes.

Bundling up in bad weather is a nuisance for most of us—but it's just that, a nuisance. It's not an impossibility or even a challenge. However, there are those for whom warm clothes, coats, boots, mitts, and scarves are simply out of reach. In October, those involved in the ministry of the Open Door in Corner Brook will, for two weeks running, offer coats and boots for the guests who visit weekly. These are people who are food insecure, who live below the poverty level or who are homeless.

A visit to the Statistics Canada Website turns up this: "Homelessness is a widespread social concern in Canada and many other developed countries. More than 235,000 people in Canada experience homelessness in any given year, and 25,000 to 35,000 people may be experiencing homelessness on any given night. Homelessness can encompass a range of circumstances, including living on the streets or in places not meant for habitation; staying in overnight or emergency shelters; living temporarily as a "hidden" homeless person with friends, family or strangers, or in motels, hostels or rooming houses; and residing in precarious or inadequate housing."

Those are sobering statistics. But it gets worse. The resource on homelessness on the Anglican Church of Canada website, www.anglican.ca

estimates even more: "An estimated 400,000 people in Canada do not have a healthy place to live. Many in our society, notably the working poor, are unable to find affordable housing while others who are amongst the most vulnerable in our society lack a place called 'home.'"

In 2013, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada gathered in Ottawa for Joint Assembly. Together, Anglicans and Lutherans unanimously endorsed a shared commitment to:

- learn more about the issues contributing to poverty, homelessness, and substandard housing
 - to act to support existing initiatives
 - to advocate renewed federal funding and a national housing strategy
 - to pray for safe, affordable housing for all
- As winter approaches, homelessness becomes an even more serious problem, especially in our country, prone to such extreme weather. Some will experience frostbite or die of exposure.

All of this should make us feel very uneasy. In fact, we should feel outrage that in a country as rich as Canada, this would be the case. We know that our province of Newfoundland and Labrador has its challenges but compared to so many in our world, we are still very well off. And no person, no child of God, in this province, or any other, should be homeless. We should and can do better than that. God calls us to do better than that.

Helping Others With The World of Gifts

PWRDF

Sheila Boutcher
PWRDF Representative,
Central Newfoundland

One of the things I look forward to at this time of year, is receiving the PWRDF World of Gifts Christmas Campaign Guide. I enjoy getting the snapshots of our work toward breaking the cycle of poverty among some of the world's most vulnerable people. I like to reflect on each project, pray for the individuals involved, and see which opportunities speak to my heart, as I choose which ones to support each year. I appreciate the opportunity to make what is a small sacrifice for me, but that can improve or even save someone's life. I am always impressed with the way our staff and partners can weave multiple components into one project.

The World of Gifts campaign is tremendously

important in enabling PWRDF to fulfill its vision of a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world. Here are a few highlights from our 2020 campaign:

- More than \$437,000 was donated—that represented almost 10% of the donations received from individuals and parishes
- You purchased over 3,800 gifts - the average gift amount was \$110 per transaction
- I assume it is the sustainable nature of livestock and farming gifts that makes them so popular—you bought 752 goats as well as cows, pigs, chickens, and 99 “whole farms”
- You purchased 117 pipes for water wells and 20 complete water wells, in addition, you bought 83 donkeys to make it easier for Kenyan families to

carry clean water from community wells to their homes

- You gave \$72,000 toward supporting health clinics in Africa through the All Mothers and Children Count COVID-19 Extension Program; that amount was matched 6:1 by the Government of Canada, for a total of \$432,000
- You donated \$26,000 for disaster relief via the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, these funds are eligible for up to a 4:1 match from the Government of Canada

Many individuals and families use the World of Gifts instead of, or as part of, their Christmas gift exchange. Many churches use the World of Gifts during Advent to help focus on the true meaning of Christmas.

There are many ways to order from the World of



photo by PWRDF

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be sent to someone to let them know you have made a gift in their honour

PWRDF's World of Gifts is available all year long and can make great gifts for Easter, birthdays, weddings and anniversaries.

A huge thank you on behalf of PWRDF and our partners for your generous support! I pray God will continue to bless you this Christmas season as you continue to bless others!

22 Points For Consideration

Kevin Smith
Columnist

*How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon.
December is here before it's June.
My goodness, how the time has flown!*

- Dr. Seuss



This month—November—begins my 22nd year in the ministry of planned giving. My goodness, how the time has flown! 22 is the number of my birthday so I thought I would focus this column on 22 points that I have raised since November of 2000. Most of these will be familiar to many of you, but I feel that they are worthy of repeating.

1. Planned giving is all about stewardship, which is defined as all that we do with all that God gives us in thanksgiving for all his blessing and in obedience to God's will for us.

2. A large number of Anglicans do not have a legal will.

3. Many Anglicans do not have a bequest in their will for their church.

4. Why? Because they have not

been asked, or they don't know how.

5. Having a will can result in immediate tax reductions.

6. Why bother with estate planning? It reduces uncertainty and minimizes tax.

7. Canada Revenue Agency is the first beneficiary of any estate.

8. Obtaining a will is easy and inexpensive.

9. A legal will ensures your wishes are looked after.

10. Having a will is a tremendous benefit to those left behind.

11. In the event of death or divorce, the will needs to be updated.

12. You really need a lawyer to help with your will.

13. We ask that you prayerfully consider leaving a bequest for your church.

14. Your church needs your support.

15. You can also buy a life insurance policy for your church.

16. A life insurance policy will provide a tax receipt for you now, and a gift for your church after you die.

17. You have the option of designating how the church will use these funds.

18. You can stipulate that your part of your RRSP or RIF account be directed to the church after you die.

19. Making a planned gift is a spiritual decision on one's personal journey of faith.

20. Making a gift using your computer or cell phone is becoming a popular way of supporting your church.

21. You will pay more taxes in the year of your death than any other year.

22. When someone dies, it brings out the worst and/or the

best in people.

Well, that's 22 of the points I have raised since my beginning. I could have mentioned another 22, but in keeping with the theme of this column, I didn't. However, I could have pointed out relevant ideas such as having an executor for your will, or enduring power of attorney, or having your will sent to probate. All are important stuff and worthy of consideration.

I conclude with these often quoted words of St. Francis of Assisi:
*Remember that when you leave this earth,
You can take with you nothing that you have received –
Only what you have given: a full heart enriched by
Service, love, sacrifice and courage.*

Kevin Smith is a gift planning consultant for Anglican East NL. He can be contacted at 709 739-5667 or by email: kevin.smith709@gmail.com

Generation to Generation

The Rev'd Jonathan Rowe
Columnist

Over the years, I have watched a lot of grandparents take their grandchildren to church with them. Often, they do so apologetically, saying, "If I didn't take them to church, no one would," or with an edge of judgement, saying, "I keep telling my kids to take them to church, and I got sick of arguing with them." There are plenty of exceptions, but overall, when children are in church, they are probably more likely to have been brought by their grandparents than by their parents. This is part of the reality of the church in the 21st century, and we can treat this as a problem to be solved, or a blessing to be appreciated.

Without a doubt, having *both* parents attend church regularly is one of the strongest indicators of whether children and young people will continue to attend church once they are able to "choose for themselves." These days, however, most Christian families do not have the opportunity to all work together. Both parents might not have come from the same Christian tradition. One parent might not even be a practicing Christian. Either or both

parents may have to work on Sundays, since the changing nature of work in the 21st century does not privilege Sunday as a day of rest for everyone.

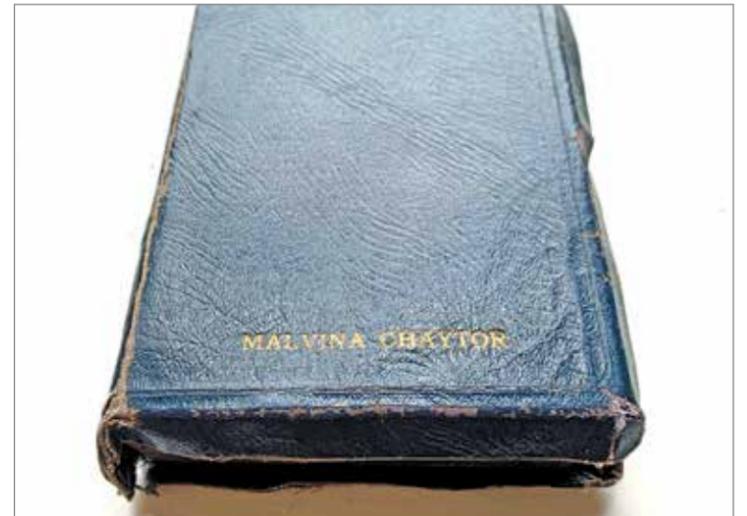
But even if your family cannot meet such an ideal, it would be a mistake to assume that it is less able to pass on the faith to a new generation. It is not just having the example of parents going to church every Sunday that leads to children continuing to practice their faith. Just as important, perhaps even more important, is the example of people who take their faith seriously, beyond just going to church. Who do children see talking about their faith, putting their faith into action in their everyday lives? Sometimes grandparents have an even better opportunity to set an example for them than their own parents do.

While my own parents certainly took me to church, and talked about what they believed, and made it clear that their faith was an integral part of everyday life, I also saw the example of my grandparents. Every time I spent the night at my grandparents' house, I would watch in the morning as they sat on the couch



after breakfast, read their Bibles, and said their prayers. My own trip to the Holy Lands a few years ago was in part inspired by my other grandfather's own desire to "walk in the place where Our Saviour walked." Many people that I talk to share stories of the influence their own grandparents had on their sense of what it means to be a Christian. If that was the case in previous generations, how much more influence could grandparents have these days, when they are increasingly involved in taking care of grandchildren after school?

If you have started taking it upon yourself to take your grandchildren to church, please don't do so grudgingly. One thing your grandchildren do **not** need to see is you fighting with your own children about who should be taking



Pictured above are the two wooden cups, used by Fr. Jonathan's paternal grandparents in the Holy Lands, and his maternal grandmother's Bible.

the children to church. In a best case scenario, regular worship should be an opportunity for multiple generations to practice their faith together, rather than a source of strife. Give thanks for the influence and example that you are

able to provide. When our faith as Christians is handed down from generation to generation, it can be handed down from grandparents to grandchildren just as much as from parents to children.



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Diocese of Central Newfoundland Holds 47th Synod—“Welcome To The Future”

Article by The Ven. Terry Caines
Photographs by Hannah Dicks

On September 24th-25th, the 28 Parishes of The Anglican Diocese of Central Newfoundland gathered at the Parish of Gander for the 47th session of the diocesan synod. In Friday afternoon’s opening service at St. Martin’s Cathedral in Gander, Bishop Watton started his Charge to Synod with these words: “My COVID weary brothers and sisters, my relatives in Christ, welcome to the 320th year of the Anglican Church in Newfoundland, our 47th Diocesan Synod, and to the 45th year that we have been our own diocese.

The theme for Synod 47 was “Welcome to the Future.” Bishop Watton stated that over the past few years, we have certainly been talking about change and what we thought the future would look like. We have been talking about buildings, money, aging congregations, young people who don’t care, and what’s wrong with the world.

It’s time to get focused as one diocesan family, and he can quickly outlined three types of responses that are unfolding in the diocese:

1. We have had to respond in relation to buildings and ministry, because some congregations just can’t carry on.
2. Leaders in our synod office, and throughout the diocese through our committees, have been faithfully looking at diocesan life through practical eyes. We have moved mountains to give our parishes time to keep moving forward and talk about the future.
3. We have responded out of an honest desire to be faithful to the call and mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Bishop Watton offered thanksgiving to the diocese for all that they have done, in heart, body, and

“ I KNOW THAT IN THE MIDST OF CHANGE, PEOPLE WHO “FIGHT FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES” SEEM ALMOST HEROIC. BUT THEY ALSO SEEM STUBBORN, UNYIELDING, AND NARROW IN RELATION TO A BIGGER PICTURE. THAT IS NOT THE WITNESS WE NEED ANYWHERE IN THE DIOCESE.

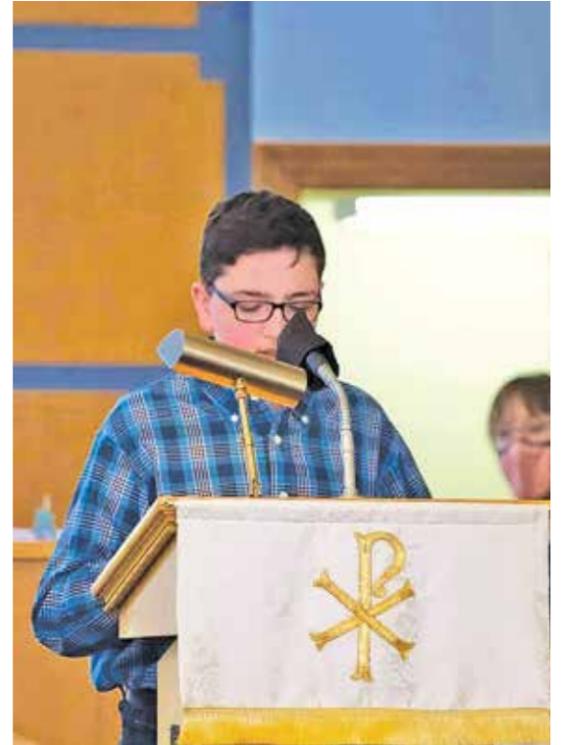
soul. Also, for the grace in following our protocols within the church, and out in the public. But above all, for not giving up.

At the heart of the Bishop’s Charge was his statement that it’s time to listen to the Holy Spirit calling us back into right relationship with Jesus, so that we can, as the Church, be part of “a Jesus shaped response” to what is happening around us. Wherever Jesus went, his purpose was not to form institutions or to put up buildings, but to meet people right where they were, and draw people together in community. Wherever Jesus went, he brought people together.

As we move forward, there are going to be all sorts of new and unique questions, and we are going to have some difficult discussions. To those of you who have made some heartbreaking choices, the bishop said that it was, and is, an honour to stand with you and weep with you through them.

Bishop Watton shared that, as diocesan bishop, he must remind the synod that in their parish and diocesan discussions, some of people tend to be protective about their buildings and boundaries. That is understandable. It comes from the years of devotion, proven by what people have given to support the Church and community over the years.

⇒ see *SYNOD* page 12



In The Beginning God

The Rev'd Michael Li
Columnist

The simple statement: "In the beginning God" (Genesis 1:1a) suggests at least three negative statements.

First, it denies atheism. Atheism is the view that God does not exist. About ten percent of people worldwide are atheists. But atheists cannot honestly prove that God does not live in any part of the physical universe. Genesis 1:1a states it very clearly that God was in the beginning. If God was in the beginning, then there was and is a God.

Second, it denies materialism. Materialism is the belief that only physical entities exist. There is no reality beyond the physical. The material universe is all there is. Genesis 1:1a states that God was in the beginning before creation. This sets God apart from creation and apart from the matter of which everything is made. Matter did not always exist.

Third, it denies pantheism. Pantheism is the idea that everything, the entire universe, is God, or is part of God. God is everything. But Genesis 1:1 tells us that God created the entire universe. If God created matter, then he is separate from it.

The simple statement: "In the beginning God" also suggests at least three positive statements.

First, it suggests to us that God is self-existent. God could not have derived His existence from anything else. He continues to exist independent of everything else. He is the uncaused cause. He is the source of all things. He is the eternally self-existent being who always was and always will be. The Bible never tries to prove the existence of God. It assumes his existence from the very beginning.

Second, it suggests to us that God is self-sufficient. Self-sufficiency means that God has no needs and therefore depends on no



one. God does not depend on oxygen, light, heat, gravity and the laws of nature. He does not need any created being. He does not need helpers.

God has chosen humans to fill the earth (Genesis 1:28), and he has given Christians a commission to evangelize the world (Matthew 28:19-20), but he did not have to. God could have done this in other ways. He can do what he alone wants. Humans can count on God. We can rest in God's self-sufficiency and so work effectively for him. God does work in and through his spiritual children.

Third, it suggests to us that God is eternal. God has no beginning and no end. He was, he is, he will be. He will continue as the eternal God even when history has ended. God created the world with space and time. Before he made the universe, there was no matter. The study of physics tells us that matter and time and space must all occur together: if there is no matter, there can be no space or time either. Thus, before creation, there was no "time", at least not in the sense of a succession of moments one after another. Also, the God who never was born cannot die. When we abide in God, we are partaking of the eternal.

Our God is not an imaginary God. He is not a god of our own inventions. God was in the beginning. He created matter. He is not in matter or is matter. Also, God is self-existent, self-sufficient, and eternal.



In the top photo, you can see the parish hall in Port de Grave, all fixed up.

Bottom left: Barry Thom and Paul Dawe repair cracks in the foundation

Bottom centre: Karen Dawe and Jennie Dawe sealing the deck

Bottom right: Peter Travis, power washing the siding

St. Luke's, Port de Grave, Fixes Up Church Hall

Community comes together to complete repairs in time for St. Luke's feast day

Article and photos by
Florence Morgan-Thom

Our church hall committee, has been busily cleaning and painting the exterior of our hall. The work is completed now, in time for the colourful season of autumn and the upcoming celebration of our patron saint's day.

Between COVID-19, aging church congregations, and busy lives, it is becoming harder as time passes to find volunteers who are willing or able to give time to assist with church work. I am so pleased and thankful for the men and women from our declining



Barry Thom and Edward Travis work on the foundation

congregation, who are mostly seniors, who came out and worked with me and my committee to paint, power wash, repair the cement foundation, and clean up the grounds around the building. It was an act of love and pride for

our church and community that this work took place.

I, Florence, would like to thank my committee and volunteers who took time out of their busy lives to work on this project. We are so blessed to have you.

Parish of the Resurrection Has Congregation's Home—The Oratory—Consecrated

After delay due to COVID-19, the congregation was finally able to gather and consecrate the building with the same bishop who turned the sod in 2004

Article submitted with photographs by Archdeacon Gerald Westcott

In the period from 1999 to 2006, the then four point parish of Brigus-South River was recreated into the one congregation to become the Parish of the Resurrection. In that same time period, the new congregation was housed in the building that we now call our home. In 2004, the sod was turned to begin the new project. The Oratory of the Resurrection was dedicated on the 24th of September 2006.

In February of 2020 (just before the COVID-19 lockdown began), the facility was paid off, and, free of debt, was ready to be consecrated. On Sunday, the 26th of September, Bishop Cy (who turned the sod in 2004, and who dedicated the Oratory in 2006) was here, and consecrated the house for the Church of the Resurrection to the Glory of God.

Many people in many ways have made this possible, and we are grateful for their love and commitment to Christ. There continues to be much good and important ministry that happens under the roof of this house for the Church. We are grateful for this house where the Church, in all its different forms, gathers. And we are grateful for the love that we call Christ, that continues to emerge as our shared life.



The above photographs were taken in 2004 when the sod was turned for what is now that Oratory of the Resurrection. Bishop Cy Pitman, then the Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, can be seen with Archdeacon Gerald.



These photographs are from September 26th, the consecration of the now finished and paid off building. Bishop Pitman was once again on hand, accompanied by the Administrator of the Diocese, Archdeacon Charlene Taylor.



Left to right: Archdeacon Gerald Westcott, Bishop Pitman, and Archdeacon Charlene Taylor



The outside of the Oratory of the Resurrection in 2021



Some of the parishioners who attended this service for The Season of Creation



Left to right: The Rev'd Marie Smith (Parish of Port Saunders), The Rev'd Terry Rose (Parish of Cow Head), and The Rev'd Wilhelmena Green (Parish of Bonne Bay North)

Prayer Service Held For The Season of Creation, 2021

Article and photographs by Dale Decker

On Friday, September 17th, 2021, in the beautiful Botanical Gardens which are located in Cow Head, three parishes came together to hold a special service for the Season of Creation. It was led by clergy from the three parishes: Port Saunders, Cow Head, and Bonne

Bay North. Approximately 20 people from the three parishes attended. The service was beautiful.

The Botanical Garden in Cow Head is adjacent to St. Mary's Anglican Church, and was begun in 2001. It contains 43 flower beds, and is a peaceful and

beautiful place to spend some time in prayer and contemplation in this garden beside the sea.

There is no fee to go to the Botanical Garden, but donations are appreciated. For more information, visit their Facebook page, "St. Mary's Botanical Garden."

Synod

from page 9

It is also as response, against what communities have lost as our federal and provincial governments have had to adjust finances, health care, administration, and community services. Bishop Watton said that he understands people wanting to preserve their identity and heritage. He was very clear in stating, "We must never place our parish boundaries and buildings, as important as they are, above the needs of proclaiming the Gospel and doing active pastoral ministry."

"I know that in the midst of change, people who 'fight for their communities' seem almost heroic. But they also seem stubborn, unyielding, and narrow in relation to a bigger picture. That is not the witness we need

anywhere in the Diocese. We need to be building a Christ shaped Church."

The Bishop's Charge was a preamble into a workshop on Saturday which was based around the concept and reality of a "Lean Canvas."

The idea of the Lean Canvas workshop was to focus on Mission, Resources and Process. The workshop discussion topics related to who is your target group; what are your current problems; who are our people; do we offer a healthy environment; what measurements do we use to gauge success; just to mention a few. Synod concluded with a final question to the parishes: "What are your next steps going to be? The Diocese of Central Newfoundland eager to work with you!

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Ordinations

The Rev'd Vernon Short Ordained Priest



Photo from Bishop John Organ

On September 8th, 2021, Bishop John Organ (Western Newfoundland) ordained The Rev'd Vernon Short to the priesthood at the Church of St. Barnabas, Flower's Cove, NL.

The Rev'd Arthur Kinsella Ordained Priest



Photo from Bishop John Organ

On September 14th, 2021, Bishop John Organ (Western Newfoundland) ordained The Rev'd Arthur Kinsella to the priesthood at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Anthony, NL.

The Rev'd Marie Smith Ordained Priest



Photo from Bishop John Organ

On September 21st, 2021, Bishop John Organ (Western Newfoundland) ordained The Rev'd Marie Smith to the priesthood at St. John the Divine Church, Port Saunders, NL.

The Rev'd Deborah Pantin Ordained Deacon



Photo by Archdeacon Charlene Taylor

On September 21st, 2021, Bishop Cyrus Pitman (retired, Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador) ordained The Rev'd Deborah Pantin to the diaconate at St. Thomas's Church, St. John's, NL.

Faith

Trusting that God will guide us through life and help us on our journey

Ronald Clarke
and Melanie Clarke
Columnists

When I was growing up in Chance Cove, Trinity Bay, I decided I wanted to become a doctor. At the age of ten, I broke my hip and spent several months in the hospital. For months I was in St. John's, away from my parents, and I relied on the good natured nurses and doctors for my care. I was a little boy all alone. My parents couldn't afford to get the train to St. John's so it was a very lonely time for me. The only people I saw were those who worked at the hospital, and their kindness inspired me to want to be a doctor. By the time that I finished school, I realized how expensive it was to become a doctor, and knew I wouldn't fulfill that desire. Instead, I went to college for a year and became a teacher. At the time, I remember being

disappointed that I would not go into the medical field, and teaching seemed more practical. I was very lucky to have been able to afford a whole year in college as not many could afford more than six weeks in college. At the age of 17, I set off for Ireland's Eye to become a teacher. Luckily for me, teaching was something I truly enjoyed, and I spent over 40 years in the teaching profession.

I found, through teaching, my purpose in life. I loved reading and I quickly realized I had a knack for helping students. I loved seeing the students' knowledge grow and I was proud of my connection with them. It only took me a couple of months to forget about wanting to be a doctor, and to be honest, I never looked back. I think I was very lucky to



have found a career that filled my soul. Teaching didn't feel like work for me because I received as much from my students as they got from me. The connection I felt with my students was remarkable and even though some days were tougher than others, I never regretted not going to medical school.

I have thousands of former students who I remember very fondly, and even though teaching wasn't my first love, it

quickly became very rewarding. I truly loved teaching and I have often said I would do it again for free if the powers that be would let me! My chosen path for life was the medical field, but obviously it wasn't God's plan for me.

Through my teaching I could see that every one one of my students had a path to follow. Not all of them would go to university. Not all of them were academically inclined. Not all of them were successful academically, but all of them had an influence on me. Many students I taught gave me another perspective on life. They affected me, changed me and made me a better person.

I think my experience with my students, in many ways, parallels

my experience with my faith. I've spent a lifetime reaching out to God and Jesus Christ. I've tried to understand the teachings of our Lord and Saviour. I have spent many hours with my fellow Christians trying to live up to God's expectations for me and my life. I've trusted him to guide me through life and help me with my journey here on earth. As I tried to guide my students to be successful, God has guided my life and my deep faith.

As Christians, we need only to allow God to work through us and with us, to find our purpose. God provides the answers we are looking for to enrich our lives. As I often said to my students, just listen and open your mind: have faith and you will flourish!

God bless you all!

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High Hopes For The Fall

St. John the Evangelist, Topsail

Article by
Louise Smith

On Sunday, September 13th, 2021, the executive of vestry and members of our congregation assembled in the church hall after the 10:30 am service.

It was our first attempt at gathering for a congregational meeting since COVID-19 made its debut in our midst more than eighteen months ago.

While exercising strict precautions, by not abandoning the face masks and by social distancing, we managed to successfully deal with our annual reports for both 2019 and 2020.

A few days earlier, but not to stretch some acquired freedom, a cautious member of our Anglican Church Women group graciously offered to hold our first ACW get together since March 10th,

2020, at her home.

It was there that we comfortably planned the possibilities for some regular fall activities.

While movement had been practically dormant for over a year, and in an attempt to strengthen our diversified revenue stream, it was unanimously agreed that the parish would endeavour to sponsor a lasagna supper take out on September 25th. We pray it will come to fruition.

For the last two summers it was beyond our control to form the regular human chain in the cemetery in honour of our departed loved ones. But we are trying to remain optimistic that the COVID-19 situation will continue to improve so that we may join in fellowship for this celebration while



photo by Sharon Smith

the weather is still clement.

Also, prior to the pandemic, the highlight of our summer season was the traditional Sunday evening worship and song held at our old and cherished heritage church, still standing majestically. These services were acknowledged not only by our own congregation, but many people from other faiths and parishes, who joined us each Sunday

evening to enjoy what we offered in this unique atmosphere.

Needless to anticipate, our congregation remains hopeful that the cancelled flea market and fall fair of 2020 will rise from the ashes this year, as donations from optimistic patrons are pouring in.

These events are all occasions where we have also missed close fellowship with

neighbouring parishes.

We prayerfully look forward to our church returning to a beehive of activity, leading up to the fast approaching blessed, holy season of Christmas. In the meantime, *“May the God of patience and comfort grant us to be like-minded toward one another according to Christ Jesus.”*

Romans 15:5

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All Saints' Parish Welcomes Annmarie Turpin in Her New Roles

Article and photograph by
The Rev'd Tanya White

On September 19th, 2021, All Saints' Parish in Corner Brook was excited to welcome Annmarie Turpin as a lay reader/eucharistic assistant. Annmarie has completed the education for ministry diploma under the wise direction of Archbishop Stewart Payne, and is

a faithful member of All Saints' Parish as a choir member, outreach chair, and dedicated volunteer of her time. Annmarie, we welcome you in your new capacity, and we look forward to all that you will continue to do to build God's kingdom in our church family and beyond.



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