



Cutler elected on first ballot



Photo: Newly elected Coadjutor Bishop Ron Cutler after the results were announced.

Highlights of the electoral synod

By REV. RALPH MOORE,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
SYNOD

On November 22, 2013, late registration and check-in began at 7:30am in the Great Hall at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax. At 11:30 am 129 clergy and 218 laity were checked-in prior to the first vote being called at 11:32am.

Synod began at 9:30am with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Archbishop Claude Miller, Metropolitan Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, and Bishop of Fredericton presiding.

In his sermon Archbishop Miller said that the work of

God is the worship of God. Therefore, it is only right that we begin Synod with a service of worship.

Prior to the first ballot being called a Notice of Motion of Consent was moved by Archdeacon David Garret and seconded by Rev. Lori Ramsay. The motion carried.

The motion was then moved by Archdeacon David Garret and seconded by Rev. Lori Ramsay, "Resolved that the time within which a nominee's Diocesan Care 2 Screen accreditation or police record check and national child abuse registry check be submitted to the Executive Secretary of Synod be extended to December 20, 2013, and that the final determination by the Metropolitan in respect of

the validity of the election, in consultation with the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, will be sought after the earlier of the date of such submission or December 20, 2013. Motion carried.

A break for lunch was called at 12:00 noon. Synod resumed at 1:08pm with Ron Cutler being declared elected Coadjutor Bishop on the first ballot. Bishop Ron consented. He gave thanks to all who put their trust in him. The process was overwhelming. To God be the Glory.

A motion of consent was moved by Pam Barkhouse and seconded by Rev. Ralph Moore. The motion carried.

The motion was then

moved by Pam Barkhouse and seconded by Rev. Ralph Moore: Resolve that, in view of the study of the roles and responsibilities of two Bishops and Executive Director of the Diocese being undertaken by Diocesan Council (the "Study"), Synod concurs with the opinion of the Diocesan Bishop and the newly elected Coadjutor Bishop that a (Suffragan Bishop) or (Assistant Bishop) is required subject to the completion of the Study and the agreement of Diocesan Council at that time that there is a need for a Bishop and that funding for the position is available.

When asked whether or not Diocesan Council's decision at a future Diocesan Council meeting could override

the decision of Synod, the Diocesan Chancellor stated that it could and that the Study is currently in the works.

People spoke for and against the motion with the motion being carried.

Archbishop Miller said it was a pleasure to be present today and to know of the strong leadership in this part of God's Vineyard. Bishop Sue gave thanks to Archbishop Miller for chairing so graciously; our Synod is larger than General Synod!

Synod was declared adjourned at 1:37pm.

Congratulations Bishop Ron!

COLUMNIST

Settling in for a long winter's nap

WE HAVE HAD a wonderful and blessed holiday season here By the Bog. We had an Advent that was busy with preparations for the "Coming". Then we shifted into the full glory of Christmas with all the wonder that comes with the birth of Christ.

This year we had crèches on the front lawn and in the church; beautiful manger scenes with the Baby arriving just in time for the early service on Christmas Eve. Rev Billie was adamant that there be no sign of a baby in any manger until the 24th of December. Her man James had been well schooled in the traditions (new to him) of the Anglican Church. He said it was a crash course but the teacher was cute so he didn't mind attending classes! He is a 'card'! Many of the families in the community had Manger scenes on their front lawns as well, thanks to James who had his own crash course in woodworking. Several of the men in the parish and the wider community benefitted from his talent.

We plan to welcome the three wise men to St. Bart's



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

again this year and then everything will begin to settle down for "a long winter's nap" as a famous poem says.

Billie and James are heading down to Florida and the condo that James has there. They will be away for almost two months, coming back in mid Lent. The old folks have decided to stay here with us while the "young'un" have a holiday. To be honest, the trip south last year was not a success for Mom and Pop. Friends that they had known were either gone or had moved

into a sheltered residence as they call them. Pop especially came home vowing to stay put up here with his buddies, his large flat screen TV, his green leather recliner and his seed catalogues.

He has become a hockey fan as well and sports a Maple Leaf cap where ever he goes. He picked the Leafs to support because one of his closest friends is a Canadiens fan and they now have something to bicker about over morning coffee at the rectory table, Mom says that the rectory kitchen has become the "Timmies" of The Bog.

Billie is now part time here, but she seems to be working as much as ever. She had said that she would take some long breaks throughout the year so we as a parish are glad to see her keep her promise. Somehow she managed to work in an annual meeting, a visit to most of the shut-ins and a Parish council gathering wherein she gave that committee their marching orders. We have Sunday supply coming out to take services three weeks out of four and the Lay Readers get to strut their stuff on that

fourth Sunday. Everyone has promised to stay healthy, no one plans to "shuffle off this mortal coil" while the rector is gone and if anything bad or sad should happen, our beloved Bishop has promised to come out and look after us.

I guess I am sharing the trivia of our life here at St. Bart's so that you can feel a part of the Parish. We are small in numbers, we are, for the most part, well past our Best By date, and we struggle with finances and property maintenance. We have the oil bill and the power bill to pay, the snow to plough and the walks to shovel in the winter, the grass to mow and the gardens to weed in the summer. We seem to shuffle along, thanks to the leadership of Rev. Billie and the devotion of a few parishioners who know that they are part of a wider family than their own personal kin. They know the love of being part of a worshipping community and we will keep the home fires burning while Billie and James bake in the Florida sun and recharge their batteries.

I'll keep you posted, Aunt Madge



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Letters & News Items:

Paul Sherwood, Editor
PO Box 8882,
Halifax, NS B3K 5M5
diocesantimes@gmail.com
902.477.3040

Advertising:

Harold Irving
(902) 865-4795
cell (902) 489-4795
hIrving@eastlink.ca

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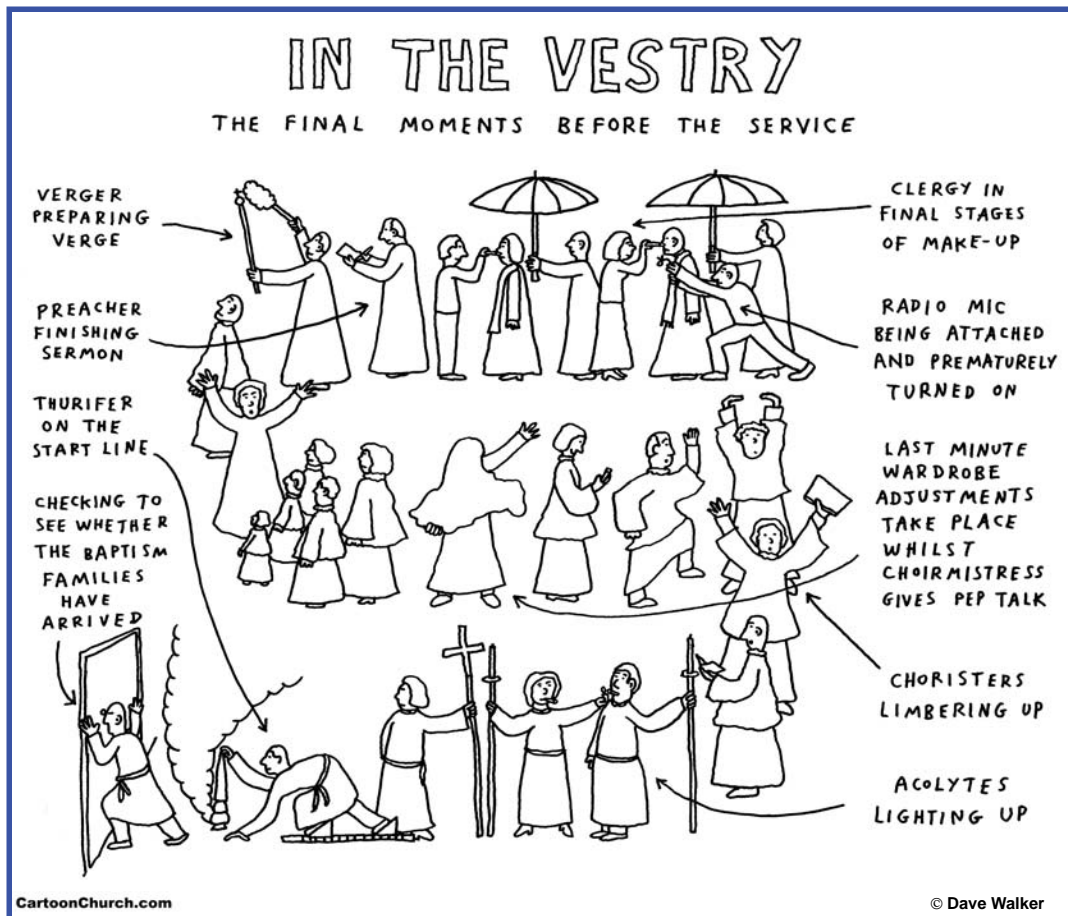
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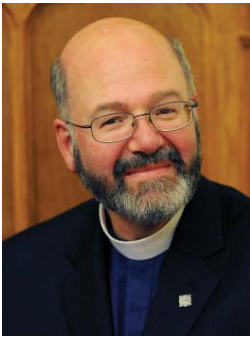
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The first week of the month preceding the month of publication: e.g., the deadline for the February edition is the first week of January.



BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Something new



*The Right Reverend Ron Cutler,
Coadjutor Bishop of Nova Scotia
and Prince Edward Island.*

"See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them." Isaiah 42:9
– Reading for Baptism of the Lord Year A

I am writing this column during the first week of Advent – the church's New Year. It will appear in print around January 1 – our culture's New Year. So I have newness on my mind as I write. A new year brings with it the potential for new action, new experience, and new relationship. Who truly knows where this new piece of time will take us? Perhaps this is why the New Year is often depicted as a baby. When a child is born we are filled with hope for a new life which has only begun. No one knows what this child will do or be, yet there is an expectation that what the years will reveal will be good, better than what went before.

As we enter into the season of Epiphany we begin to explore what the birth of one child in particular would mean. When Jesus was born his parents had a hope for his life, but it would not be long before the hopes of many people would rest on him. In the birth of Jesus, God was doing something new. Herbert O'Driscoll writes of the significance of the visit of the wise men to the young child: "When the child was born of Mary, a strange thing happened. Visitors, unknown, exotic, unexpected, came and knelt with gifts. Their coming seemed to be a hint, even a warning. It seemed to warn that, while this birth seemed merely a rustic, local event, it was more. While it seemed to be within Judaism, it was somehow also beyond it. The stable and the village were greater than they seemed, they were capable of being inclusive of much more." ('A Year of the Lord', Herbert O'Driscoll, Anglican Book Centre, 1986, p.47)

Literally, this new life would offer the possibility for all of life

to be seen in a new way. Our scripture readings in the season of Epiphany do not let us stay at the manger, or with the visit of the wise men. They quickly move along to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his teaching and the impact of his life. It is not long before people begin to see in Jesus 'the Lord's servant' described in the book of Isaiah, the one who comes to inaugurate the kingdom of God. Jesus is firmly rooted in what has gone before him, yet does do something new, and he proclaims that God is continually doing something new. His actions were startling and disturbing to people of faith who had only seen God in terms of what God had done in the past. Jesus' use of everyday events in the parables he tells about God's kingdom, open the eyes of his hearers to the ways in which God continues to be revealed around them. Jesus certainly saw the way in which God's grace is abundant and that God's kingdom is breaking into the kingdom of this world. He challenged his followers to live accordingly.

In this time of the year when we mark the passing of the old year and the coming of the new, let us celebrate the new hope, the new vision, the new possibilities, in short, the new life which comes to us in Jesus.

What is the response to this new thing which God is doing?
– "Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth!" Isaiah 42:10

+Ron

Fresh year - fresh expressions of prayer



Prayer

Steve Laskey

*is Rector of Christ Church,
Dartmouth and the diocesan rep for
the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer.*

At the beginning of a new year or a new stage of life many of us want to start afresh on all kinds of things. For some it will be looking for a fresh expression of prayer. Prayer can bubble and emerge from the depths of our life in places and ways that we may never have imagined. Conventional places like churches or our own prayer corner are not always the spot we meet God afresh in prayer. All prayer begins with God who leads us to that place within ourselves where we are able to understand, connect and flourish as people of prayer.

Quite a few years ago when I was not all that long ordained, I made a visit to a friend where I grew up. It was a surprise visit and he was just going out the door to visit his father. I tagged along, for this man, now retired, had been one of my mentors in our youth group. When we arrived, we found him in his small workshop beside the garage sitting at a table surrounded by chunks of wood. The floor was

covered in wood-shavings and the atmosphere had fine dust still floating from using his pen-like power sander. On the table was a carving of a duck and he was now working on the intricate feathering details. I was quite impressed and said 'Wow! When did all this happen?' He chuckled and said 'a few years ago when I retired.' He was eager to share and told me about how he had fallen into it. It became clear that where carving had led him was very important to him.

Al had wondered what to do in retirement. One day he got himself a simple set of carving tools, a couple blocks of wood, and a book on instruction for beginning carvers. Once home he sat down, leafed through the 'getting started' section of the instructions and launched in. Over the next few months he was surprised how his hands were able to guide the carving tools and soon a few blocks of wood were transformed into a duck and a few birds.

Then Al turned to talk about how the carving opened up to

him the way of prayer. He had always gone to church where he saw friends and shared in the life of the community but the sense of personal prayer and prayerfulness had always eluded him. For him, carving opened the door to a deeper understanding of personal prayer.

One day he found himself sitting and looking at a piece of cedar. It had just been removed from his church of St. James built in 1826. Considering the size of the beam, how old must that tree have been when it was felled. Perhaps two hundred years earlier? He found himself meditating on God's work through the people so long ago and the work of God's people today. What could this piece of cedar become now through his hands and what could God's people become now as God reshapes, refashions and repurposes his children today? He prayed then and there and realized in an instant the power of personal prayer. That piece of beam eventually became a

loon and the church... 'Well, God is still reshaping his children' he said. Al continued, 'God is reshaping me. We are all like these half-finished carvings on the shelf here. In my shop I pray for people with each cut of the carving knife. Sometimes it is for big chunks that need to be cut away from their life. Other times it is for the fine touches to bless or new directions when something isn't working out. Even the dust from this little sander in the air around us is like incense to me.'

Personal prayer is just that; personal. It has its foundation in the collective wisdom and experience of the faith community but it is shaped by our own personality, experience, and senses. Beginning to find the way for you may be as close as what you do that opens the door to meditation and reflection. There is a door for each of us to grow into a deeper relationship with our Lord through prayer. You may be very surprised where you find that door.



Diocese of
Nova Scotia
and
Youth and
Family
Ministries
Prince Edward Island

“Generation to Generation” Fund

We are seeking funds to have a *Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries* in the diocese. The resources required to sustain and grow this ministry: \$60,000 per year.

One time donations are gratefully accepted or choose to divide a gift into monthly withdrawals via postdated cheques or pre-authorized debit or credit card payments.



Donations can be made by Visa, Master Card or telephone:

Call Jana O’Neil at the Synod Office at (902) 420-0717

To donate by cheque, mail or deliver a cheque payable to The Diocesan Synod of NS and PEI, to the Synod Office:

Diocese of NS and PEI, 1340 Martello St., Halifax, NS B3H 2Z1

Email inquiries: youth@nspeidiocese.ca

Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Ephesians 3:21

Reimagine your church during Lent

The solemn season of Lent, a time of self-examination and spiritual growth begins in a few weeks. Is your congregation looking for an enrichment program for the Lenten season? Are you seeking transformation as a faith community? Why not consider the free five-part series "Reimagining Church in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince

Edward Island"? The entire video teaching, participant hand-outs, facilitator's guide and much more are available to download for free from the Diocesan website. See: www.nspeidiocese.ca. Check out our

Facebook page too for interesting articles and resources. Search for: "Reimagining Church - Diocese of NS & PEI."



An Altar Guild Workshop – all are welcome

Hosts: Anglican Church Women NS Board & St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Halifax

Date & Time: Sat., Jan. 25, 2014 from 9:30 – 3:30

Place: St. Margaret of Scotland, 3751 Robie St., Halifax, NS

Cost: \$15 (includes lunch):

Registration: (provide your name, parish, and contact information)

Registration deadline: Jan 15/14; cancellation: Jan 20/14

Registrar: Charlene Day 902 443-6508 cday@ns.sympatico.ca

Blessing of Vows liturgy at Annapolis Royal



On Friday, October 18, 2013, as they celebrated the 10th Anniversary of their civil marriage, Wayne Smith and Paul Paquette received the Blessing of their Vows with the Holy Eucharist in St. Luke’s Church Annapolis Royal. With a liturgy drawn from

the Diocese of Niagra, adjusted for their use, and approved by the Diocesan Bishop, the celebration was a joyful occasion shared among their friends in the community and followed by a reception in their home in Annapolis Royal.

Front: Wayne Smith and Paul Paquette
Back: Rev. Canon Donald Neish, Rev. Canon Ken Vaughan, Barb Vaughan

Groundhog Day: seeking signs of hope

Vital Church Maritimes 2014 Conference

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

Like our beloved furry forecaster Shubenacadie Sam, it is time to emerge from a VERY LONGGGGGG winter and scout out signs of life! The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island's first Vital Church Maritimes Conference is set for the day after Groundhog Day at All Saints', Bedford. This is being co-sponsored with Wycliffe College, Toronto.

This multi-day gathering for both lay and clergy leaders is shaping up to be an exciting event to help identify and work towards new forms of ministry in local neighbourhoods. Do you ever feel like Bill Murray's character Phil Connors in the 1993 comedy "Groundhog Day"? Are you doing the same thing every day with the same results? Break out of the rut! Come and hear down-to-earth stories of church members who discovered signs of new life and branched out in fresh new directions. Spend time with others passionately discussing with optimism ways to rediscover church and creatively offer ministry to your wider community. VCM 2014 features relevant teaching and dynamic workshops on approaches to 'fresh expressions' of church, as well as 'inherited' church.

The Rev. Dr. Michael Moynagh, at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, is our keynote speaker. He is employed with Fresh Expressions (UK) as Director of Research and also advises businesses and government on social trends. Rev. Michael has authored several books including "Working in the



Twenty-First Century", "Going Global", "Changing Lives, Changing Business", "Changing World, Changing Church: and "emergingchurch intro." His most recent project is the massive "Church For Every Context: An Introduction to Theology and Practice" (2012, SCM Press), a whopping 447 pages!

He will be presenting four times (two of his four plenary talks set for the evening), plus a workshop entitled: "Digging In – Introducing Fresh Expressions in the Local Church."

His proposed keynote topics are:

- SIGHTING NEW LIFE – Introducing Fresh Expressions
- WHERE IS GOD IN THIS? – The Theological Rationale
- D.I.Y. – A Methodology for Mission

- GO FORTH AND MULTIPLY – How to Make Disciples

Another guest speaker will be John Bowen, Professor of Evangelism and Director of the Institute of Evangelism at Wycliffe College (University of Toronto). Other featured workshops include:

- LEADING IN CHANGING TIMES: We live in an age where things are fluid. How do we lead? We have to understand what we face. Many people are grieving a lost culture and others are either impatient to change or uninterested. Can we lead from the middle? How do we stay motivated? (Presenter: The Ven. David Edwards, Parish Development Officer, Diocese of Fredericton)
- REVITALIZE YOUR CHURCH: Discover how to use the seven marks of
- SENIORS - THE FORGOTTEN POTENTIAL: Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island have growing numbers of seniors, many of whom are newly retired. They seek meaning in life, asking existential questions and want to share their gifts to make a difference in the world. Explore how to minister to and build up thriving faith communities with those in their riper years. (Presenter: not confirmed.)
- ENGAGING THE YOUNG: The needs of younger generations

a healthy parish to name your church's strengths and set a course to explore new territory. Focus on the quality of your church's life rather than just the numbers attending, and avoiding 'quick-fix' solutions. (Presenter: The Rev. Lynn Uzans, Congregational Consultant and Task Group Leader of the Church Revitalization Process)

and especially children are vastly different than generations ago. Life is busy and time is limited. How can church leaders come to understand the needs of today's active families? Where can we meet them in ministry and worship? (Presenter: not confirmed)

Other workshop topics may also include how to coach new disciples to engage in life-giving prayer, and creative uses for underutilized parish buildings.

Vital Church Maritimes 2014 starts at 1 p.m. on Monday, February 3 and runs until Wednesday, February 5 at 12-noon. Some meals will be included. The facility is wheelchair accessible.

Registration, including the exact cost (very reasonable) and other conference details will be published soon. Watch the Diocesan website (www.nspeidiocese.ca) and the weekly notices of the Anglican Net News. Registration fee incentives are being offered for parishes to bring a team.



In the meantime, be sure to join our Facebook group "Vital Church Maritimes 2014" to learn about the latest developments. Got questions? Contact Rev. Fran Boutilier (francesboutilier@eastlink.ca) and Rev. Lisa Vaughn (lgvaughn@eastlink.ca and 902-852-4580).

Mothers' Union adds three more



Photo: Gerald Nelson, Lloyd Snyder and John Stone at the enrollment ceremony.

At the Fall Rally of the Diocesan Mothers' Union held at St. George's Church, Parish of French Village, three men were enrolled as Diocesan members. Some people were surprised since

they didn't realize that men could be members. Diocesan membership is for people who want to support the Aim and Objectives of Mothers' Union. These three are the first Diocesan members in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. They receive information on projects,

programs and diocesan events but do not attend branch meetings.

For further information go to www.canadianmother-union.ca



**CANADIAN
MOTHERS' UNION**

Christian
Care
for
Families
Worldwide

We Day at the Metro Centre



BY SUSAN NAYLOR,
DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

WE DAY ATLANTIC was an experience like no other! From the minute the 8,000 children and teens started flowing into the Metro Centre until the last ones caught their buses in the pouring rain, it was an energy filled experience. Sometimes it felt like being at a pep rally and other times like being at a revival. To see and hear 8,000 young people screaming as they stood up as one body at the sight of an image of Martin Luther King Jr., was a revelation. These young people knew who he was and what he did and they were eager to hear his son speak. Things only got better! The day moved quickly with speakers and videos and music all highlighting how a movement of young people, through Free The Children, is leading local and global change.

We Day is tied to the year-long We Act program, which offers educational resources, campaigns and support materials to help turn the event's inspiration into sustained activation. Through We Act, students commit to taking one local and one global action to better the world. Each one present earned their ticket to We Day this way. Many youth from Anglican churches around the Diocese of NS and PEI took part in We Day. One of them, a grade six student, Dani Bruce, had this to say.

The best part was seeing all the speakers. The two speakers that stood out for me were Spencer West and Molly Burke. They told amazing stories. Spencer West has only half a body and he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. I was so inspired because you wouldn't think that he could do that with only half a body but he did. He overcame an obstacle. He proved people wrong. And that made me think that no matter what anyone says, even if they doubt you, you can do anything. We can change the world.

Molly Burke was bullied. She told us a story about when she was fourteen, how some popular girls asked her to come hang out with them. She was so surprised that they wanted to hang out with her and she felt so important, so she said yes. Molly had just recently broken her leg. They took her to a forest where she sat down on a rock to rest. At that point in the story, she told us SHE WAS BLIND. You wouldn't think she was and when she told us this, everyone gasped. She kept speaking, saying that when she sat down on the rock to rest, she couldn't see anything but she could hear that they took her crutches and broke them across a tree. She felt so alone and so unimportant. But then she told us, "I'm a normal person. So, I'm blind. That doesn't mean I'm any different from any one of you." She brought out her seeing eye dog named, "Gypsy". It was so amazing.

I was inspired to make a difference. We are a new generation. All 8,000 of us can make difference. I also got the We365 App and I intend to use it!

The We365 App is an initiative of Free The Children and TELUS. It is a free mobile app, website and social network that's all about helping young people change the world. Users can choose the causes they are passionate about, and complete challenges related to their causes. One of the most exciting parts of We365 is that change starts as soon as you sign up. Thanks to a generous donation, for every sign up on We365, Free The Children will immunize a child overseas.

Any adults who were at We Day Atlantic could not help but be encouraged by the energy and positive spirit that was present. These young people have been challenged to make a positive difference in the world and to use their power to make a difference through service. It was an amazing and inspiring day. It was a celebration

of accomplishments and was filled with hope for a better future.

The following people were a part of the We Day Atlantic lineup.

- The Right Honourable **Michaëlle Jean** – Former Governor General of Canada
- **Mike Savage** – Mayor of Halifax
- **Classified** – Canadian hip-hop artist and producer
- **Hedley** – Multi-platinum, JUNO Award winning pop group
- **Kardinal Offishall** – Award-winning Canadian rapper and record producer
- **Shawn Desman** – Platinum-selling, JUNO and MMVA award-winning recording artist and co-host of We Day Atlantic Canada
- **Martin Luther King III** – Human Rights advocate and eldest son of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- **Kenyan Boys Choir** – Traditional African male choir, who sang at the 2009 inauguration of President Obama
- **Craig and Marc Kielburger** – International activists and co-founders of Free The Children
- **Spencer West** – Me to We inspirational speaker, Free The Children ambassador, author and double amputee who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro on his hands and in his wheelchair in June, 2012
- **Molly Burke** – Visually impaired Me to We motivational speaker who speaks out against bullying and the power of hope
- **Robin Wiszowaty** – Me to We motivational speaker, author and Free The Children Program Director in Ghana and Kenya
- **Chris Tse** – Me to We inspirational speaker, national spoken-word champion and humanitarian

Cathedral service for half-dozen newly ordained



Front row: Myrna MacMullin (priest), Helen Chandler (deacon), Vivien Hammon (priest)
 Middle row: Dorothy Tay (deacon), Fred Grainger (priest), Nicole Uzans (priest)
 Back row: Katherine Waterbury, Bsp Ron Cutler, Rev. Lori Ramsey, Bsp Sue Moxley and Jordan Waterbury

SIX NEW ORDINANDS were ordained at an evening service on December 6 (The Feast of St. Nicolas) at the Cathedral Church of All Saints; four priests and two transitional Deacons were ordained. Rev. Lori Ramsey

was the preacher for the service and the offering was designated for the Generation to Generation Youth Ministry Fund. During the service, Bishop Sue Moxley gave thanks for Canon David Fletcher's work as

coordinator of the diocese's non-stipendiary ministry (NSOM) program and for his ability to work with parishes, postulants and NSOM clergy over the years. In particular, she recognized his unique set of weekends that

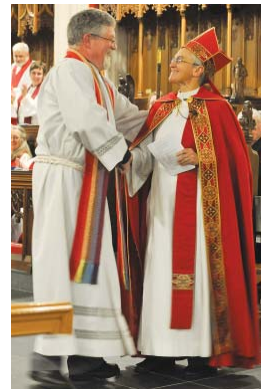
brought the non-stipendiary priests and their spouses together for a deeper understanding of their ministry. Canon Fletcher resigned as NSOM coordinator on Dec 6th.



Bishop Ron presents a chalice and paten to Rev. Nicole Uzans.



Bishop Sue lays hands on Rev. Helen Chandler.



Bishop Sue congratulates Canon David Fletcher.

Summerside sends off a time capsule at 175th anniversary celebration

BY JENNY SHARP

IT WAS A LOVELY SERVICE but the highlight was the time capsule the Sunday School class presented to be opened at the 200th Anniversary. The letter they wrote to be included in the capsule follows.

*To be read November 24, 2038 by the Congregation of St. John's Church, St. Eleanor's PEI

Dear Congregation,

This letter to the future is from the 2013 Sunday School Class of St. John's Church on South Drive in St. Eleanor's PEI. We hope this letter finds you all well!

This year, The Reverend Jenny Sharp is our Minister and our Associate Priest is The Reverend Ned Henthorn. Every Sunday, during the offertory hymn, we leave Sunday School to join the Congregation. Reverend Jenny or Reverend Ned then have a children's talk with us. We do a lot before that. A typical Sunday School class begins upstairs with us gathering around a small worship table to light a candle to remind us that God is always with us and to recite The Lord's Prayer together. As soon as we say 'Amen' everyone blows out the candle! When church is all over, the Sunday School families as well as other congregants often enjoy heading out to a local restaurant to enjoy some

breakfast together.

To give you a sense of what life is like for our Sunday School kids in 2013, we asked them what they like to do for fun. The MacNeill boys all like to dress up with capes and pretend they are Ninjas. Everyone likes music! Some popular songs are 'Gangnam Style' by Psy, 'Inner Ninja' by Classified and David Myles, 'Cobra' by Winnebago Deal and 'Our Rest Papa' by artist unknown and anything by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis. J Some or our Sunday School's favourite TV shows are NHL Hockey and anything on Teletoons such as Max Steel, Scooby Doo, Doc McStuffins and the Bugs Bunny and Tweety Show. In 2013 it seems that every teenager wants to have a cell phone and an Xbox game console. iPad tablets are also very popular now.

We imagined in Sunday School what we will all be doing in 25 years when this capsule is opened....:

- Ethan Buchanan hopes to be playing in the NHL with his neighbour Christian Cameron
- Cody Rogers would also like to play in the NHL, but questions the likelihood of this J
- Keira Rogers plans to open up her own animal adoption centre
- Ben MacNeill would like to be an inventor
- Thomas MacNeil thinks being a 'Police Man' would be fun

· Matthew MacNeill declared his future 'unknown' (direct quote)

- Sam MacNeill wants to be his puppy dog Neika
- We hope that Hollee Tanton will be our Sunday School teacher
- And Rachel Rodd wants to just stay a kid!
- Teachers and Moms Helga Reisch-MacNeill and Susan Tanton hope to be here to see this time capsule opened, and to have a laugh reading this letter and comparing these predictions with what the now all-grown-up kids are really doing!

A few items in our time capsule include:

- Some pennies since these were discontinued in Canada last year in 2012.
 - Some other common coins in 2013
 - Some birthday candles from our birthday cake we had for St. John's Church's 175th anniversary
 - Some silly bands which were quite the fad with the elementary school crowd a few years back
 - Some artwork by Jodi Cameron and a picture and letter from Keira Rogers
 - A Walmart flyer to show how much things cost in 2013
 - A newspaper
 - A church bulletin.
- Imagining life in 2038, we



Photo: Rev. Jenny Sharp with two proud Sunday School members and their time capsule for 2038.

wonder if there will be flying cars, fully automatically controlled cars, and if coins and paper currency will be replaced by an electronic currency system.

Whatever surprises await in the future, we hope that you the congregation of 2038 are

like us in enjoying fellowship with each other as we all try our best—as we say in Sunday School- to Live in God's way!

Yours in fellowship,
The 2013 class of St. John's Sunday School!"



St. Thomas' honours breast cancer survivors

BY LOLA MEEK OGILVIE

St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Spring Brook, PEI (part of the New London Anglican Parish) recently held a "Pour for the Cure", a fundraiser for Breast Cancer and also a chance to honour our Breast Cancer survivors.

Following the regular

Church Service, the parish held a BBQ and served "pink" treats.

Photo from left to right: our survivors, Joan Cole, Janet Murphy, & Leslie Arsenault.

YOUTH ALPHA – helping teens explore Christianity

“How do we fit into all of this? There must be more to life.”

These are questions posed by one young teen from St. John's, Newfoundland. Alpha's Youth Film Series is twelve episodes designed to engage high school students in some of life's biggest questions. At Alpha there are no masks or agendas. Meaning, purpose, death, life, good karma. No question is off-limits.

This Alpha Course for a new generation was filmed by a Canadian crew and is available free to download and run from the Alpha Canada website (www.alphacanada.org). Just released in September, the two hosts, Jason Ballard and Ben

Woodman explore the main Christian themes with fun and engaging illustrations, props and locations. The series will equip youth workers, students and volunteers to create safe environments for high school students to explore the Christian faith and discuss life's biggest questions.

More than 20 million people around the world have experienced Alpha. It is one of the best tools available for people to explore their faith and for people to share their faith. The youth film series is designed to take the weight off your shoulders and allow you to create the atmosphere, invite friends, and be fully present during each session. Every episode has breaks for discussion, and shows a

variety of youth and young adults from around the world speaking their minds about faith and God. This will set the stage for honest and open dialogue.

There are 12 episodes (25 minutes each), filmed in Vancouver, London, New York, Paris, and Jerusalem. There are also three training sessions. When you register to run a course you will be given free online access to all the video talks, promotional materials, and other tools to help you plan.

Youth in Grades 9 to 12 in Halifax Regional Municipality are invited to attend this series in the Prospect Road area (a 10-minute drive from the Armdale Roundabout). It

begins Monday, January 13th, from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the Prospect Road Recreation Centre, Hatcher Lake (Last day to sign up is Jan. 20th). It is non-denominational and open to all youth regardless of any faith background. Leaders are Jessie Bower, Kendra Mahar and Ashley Morash. There is no cost. For more information or to register, e-mail: saint_tims_youth@hotmail.com or phone 902-852-4580.

Submitted by Alpha Canada Coach, The Rev'd. Lisa G. Vaughn



Friends hit the road together

WITH JESUS we never walk alone. When our Lord began his ministry here on earth, even he did not walk alone. The apostles walked with God to spread the good news. What we can take from this is that everyone needs a friend, even a Bishop, and we all need to go out to spread the good news.

The goal of Friends of the Bishop is to support the bishops in building a stronger Christian faith-centered community throughout the Diocese, one that is prepared to face the challenges of today and those to come in the years ahead.

The good news is the Friends of Bishop has hit the road to spread the word about how they - and you - can support the bishops of the diocese.

Members continue to gather annually in Halifax to celebrate the work of our organization and look to the future. A recent initiative to have gatherings in other areas of the Diocese has led to several wonderful regional events that have helped to expand the support base and spread the message throughout the Diocese. The regional events have also helped foster a sense of belonging and actually being part of shaping



Photo: This year's Halifax meeting of the Friends of the Bishop happened to fall on Bishop Sue's birthday. Not only did the Friends provide a cake (made by Sue's daughter, Ruth) but also had Steve Beeler sing a solo 'Happy Birthday' song in her honour.

our future.

The first regional gathering was held in the South Shore Region in October 2011 with 105 in attendance. During the past year regional events were held in the Valley Region on October 18, 2012

at the beautiful Falcourt Inn outside Middleton with 60 in attendance and in Cape Breton Region on May 15, 2013 at St. John the Baptist in North Sydney, with 75 in attendance. Our next regional event is scheduled for Prince Edward Island in 2014.

Presently our bishops operate with a very modest budgeted discretionary fund of \$2,000. The demands on this fund far exceed its means. These funds are used by the Bishops for items that support priests and parishes with a specific need and for which no other funding exists, usually on an emergency basis.

The Diocese, like all of us, has to stretch its financial resources as best it can and it has no additional funding for this important piece. That's where the Friends of the Bishop come in: through our annual dues and targeted appeals we provide the Bishops with desperately needed funding for the discretionary fund.

As a consequence of hitting the road with regional events the Friends of the Bishop was able to contribute \$10,000 in 2012-2013 toward supporting this ministry throughout the diocese.

Some examples of how these funds have been used:

- To cover uncovered medical expenses for priests or their families
- To cover unfunded educational opportunities for priests

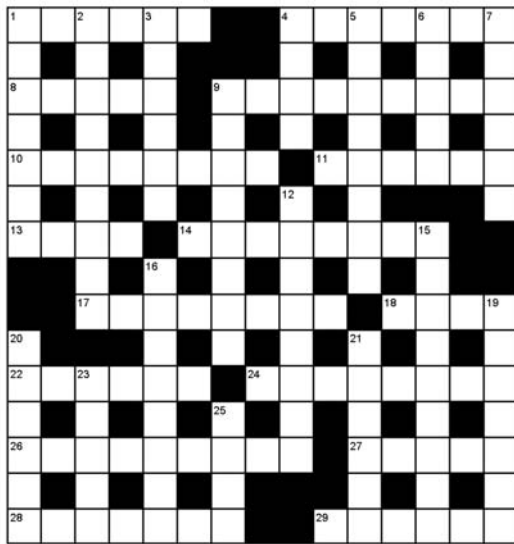
- To provide travel funding to youth to attend Christian educational opportunities
- To recognize major milestones
- To fund counselling opportunities

One of the other major ways we help ensure the future is bright is by helping to provide our leaders with the training they need to cope with the demands of tomorrow. The annual Pete Stanfield Scholarship is awarded to an AST student to help further their education, thereby helping to ensure parishes receive gifted leaders to help guide and assist parishes achieve their full potential. This year's recipient was Lorraine Otto.

We welcome new members at any time, so why not Friend a Bishop today?! If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions regarding the work of the Friends of the Bishop please feel free to contact Steve Beeler 455-7482 or check us out on line: [http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/page/Friends of the Bishop](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/page/Friends%20of%20the%20Bishop)

Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



JANUARY Clues

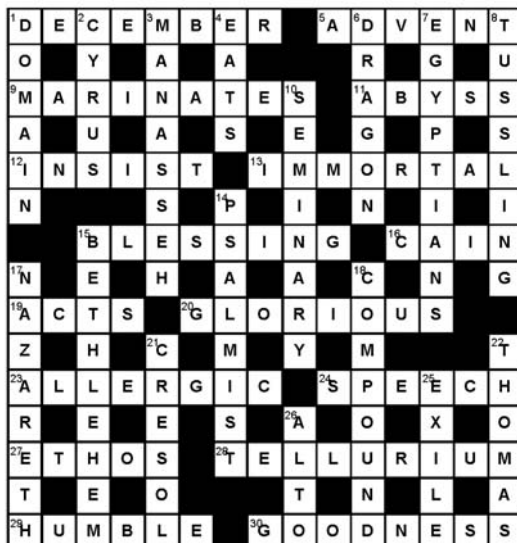
ACROSS:

- 1 – Warnings (6)
- 4 – A companion of 18A (7)
- 8 – Also a companion of 18A (5)
- 9 – Farthest inward (9)
- 10 – Garment worn over a cassock, usually white (8)
- 11 – Hebrew title of reverence for God (6)
- 13 – “Seven days passed after the Lord God struck the _____, river in Egypt (Exod. 7:18) (4)
- 14 – “God gives the _____ a home to live in”, forsaken (Ps. 68:6) (8)
- 17 – Broadway musical by Bernstein, _____ Story (4, 4)
- 18 – Writer of many epistles (4)
- 22 – A spice (6)
- 24 – “For the _____ waits with eager longing...”, universe (Rom. 8:18) (8)
- 26 – Overflowed (9)
- 27 – Male duck (5)
- 28 – “But strive first for the _____ of God...”, domain (Matt. 6:33) (7)
- 29 – A mighty warrior whose story is found in Judges 6, 7, and 8 (6)

DOWN:

- 1 – “The _____ encourages the goldsmith...”, craftsman (Isa. 41:7) (7)
- 2 – Sky glow seen after sunset (9)
- 3 – Strength or brawn (6)
- 4 – Melody (4)
- 5 – A great circle of the earth (8)
- 6 – “...a _____ was given me in the flesh...”, source of suffering (2Cor. 12:7) (5)
- 7 – Yttrium oxide (6)
- 9 – “He must _____ but I must decrease”, become greater (John 3:30) (8)
- 12 – “But Mary treasured all these words and _____ them...”, thought about (Luke 2:19) (8)
- 15 – Destroy utterly (9)
- 16 – One of a group of minor planets (8)
- 19 – A case for enclosing a light (7)
- 20 – To open with a key (6)
- 21 – Indira _____, Indian political leader (6)
- 23 – A moon of Saturn (6)
- 25 – “And they filled (water jars) to the _____”, top (John 2:7) (4)

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It's A New Day! so make room for all

By Rev. Lisa G. VAUGHN

It sounds so easy. A healthy church is one where its members make room for all, being inclusive rather than exclusive. It is much easier talked about than lived out. Truly welcoming and integrating new people are costly endeavors and a great deal of hard work.

In Robert Warren's book "The Healthy Churches' Handbook: a process for revitalizing your church," he names this type of radical admittance as the sixth mark of congregational wellbeing. To authentically welcome fresh faces into a faith community the members must intentionally work to include these newcomers into the life of the church.

The author describes several responses to the integration of new people:

- Current members experience being welcoming because they are 'in'. They often neglect to imagine what it is like to be a first-time guest. Newcomers quickly realize they are 'outsiders' and probably always will be (ex. 'C.F.A.' - Come-From-Away).

- If you walk, talk and look like the present membership you're in. Warren says, "These churches want more people like us, but have subtle and effective ways of freezing out anyone who looks, dresses, or sounds different from us."

- What's after "hello"? These are congregations who smile warmly, greet the visitor with a few kind words, make a few introductions, but fail to go any farther. The guest is not included beyond this beginning point.

- Sit down and enjoy the show. Potential new members may be welcomed to church activities, worship services, etc., but only as the audience. The invitation is to

share their offerings (especially their money), but not much more.

- Genuinely and effectively welcoming new people requires active and intentional incorporation into the lives of the present members, their ministry and their celebrations. Warren describes this in sacramental language. "This is a costly task for it means making others enjoy to be taken, broken open, blessed and given to others with whom the only thing we may feel we have in common is our faith in Christ." These members understand this on a deep level, and embrace the richness of diversity as well as our common humanity.

Time and time again, research shows that new attendees who form solid, growing relationships with existing church members are much more likely to remain in that faith community.

The second descriptor of this mark of a healthy church involves children and young people. They are helped to belong, contribute and be nurtured in their faith.

This means connecting the generations. The author points out that even though some congregations dearly long to have kids in their churches, there will be no changes made to accommodate them.

Robert Warren writes, "This can easily be a pipe dream rather than a vision. What they would actually like is for children and young people to join us in what we are already doing - but staying quiet and attentive whilst doing it."

He suggests that the leadership, instead of trying to bridge several generations, that they aim for the one younger than them. For example 70-year-olds should work to integrate



Photo: Actively and intentionally working to include all generations is a sign of a healthy congregation. Rev. Mark Pretty talks with a group of children at St. George's, New Glasgow.

60-somethings, then gradually work to younger and younger age groups.

Another sign that churches are making room for all is when enquirers are encouraged to explore and experience faith in Christ. Newcomers receive teaching in the basics of the Christian faith and practice. This is offered in a way that is easily accessible to them, especially in terms of life application and helping to answer the major questions. Warren suggests that Sunday service is often not the ideal place to start. Enquirers need a safe space to explore their deep theological and philosophical struggles, free from judgment and pressure to conform.

The final descriptor for genuinely welcoming new members into a faith community relates to diversity. In these churches different social and ethnic backgrounds, mental and physical abilities, and ages, are seen as a strength. Members of these healthy churches are rarely heard saying, "us" and "them." They truly comprehend and express the love of God that embraces and unites all people.

Noting a 2002 study by the Church of England called "Hope for the Church", Warren says congregation members who had a definite plan to integrate new members were much more successful.

"It was discovered that churches that had some engagement with young people, churches that had an ethnic mix and churches that were using the Alpha course, were all more likely to be growing than the average church," he said.

Next month's column will feature the last of the marks of a healthy church - does a few things and does them well.

Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn is pastor and priest in Hatchet Lake and Terence Bay, and Team Leader of the Building Healthy Parishes VSSST of the diocese.

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The Art of Building Bridges

By MARILYN HAMLIN

FOR A NUMBER of weeks during the summer of 2013 traffic along Highway #3 in Timberlea was disrupted due to the replacement of the bridge over the Nine Mile River. The old stone bridge had served its time. In its shade, local fishermen tried their luck with rod and reel. Beavers, ducks and other wild life made their homes around its rocky foundations. Over the years children waded under its curved arches in their search for hidden treasures.

During construction of the new, stronger bridge many people were inconvenienced. Bus schedules were altered and vehicles rerouted. The drive to work each day took a little longer. Local businesses were concerned about the impact the bridge closure would have on their livelihood. Making a quick stop at the Farm Market, Gas Station or Pharmacy was out of the question. However, the neighbourhood Tim Horton's seemed to suffer no loss of customers. Everyone realized how vital and important the bridge was in their day to day lives. They counted on it to take them from where they were to where they wanted to go.

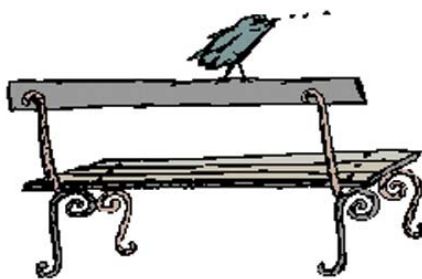
The nature trail that runs parallel to the construction site became a meeting place for interested onlookers. There were conversations about the progress of the new bridge and the usual complaints about the nuisances that accompanied any type of road work. But most people were fascinated with the machinery that was on site, the competency of the workers involved in the project, and the importance placed on protecting the environment of the river and surrounding ponds and lakes. The entire project was of considerable interest to me. I realized this bridge was a

big part of our transportation system, moving people and vehicles as safely and efficiently as possible. I was amazed at the time and nature of the preparatory work before the actual span could be put into place.

I am a deacon in the Anglican Church in Timberlea and I regularly travel back and forth on Highway #3. Since it was the summertime, I didn't mind the detour or the extra minutes it took to reach my destination. God's creation was beautiful to behold on an

I read that a person preparing for ordination might hear the following words, "I hear you are going into the church", to which one could respond, "Yes, but only in order to come straight back out again."

early Sunday morning with the mist suspended above Cranberry Lake. I appreciated the opportunity to reflect upon different kinds of bridges, from a beaver's log habitat across a stream to the sagging wires between telephone poles which provided a pathway for squirrels scurrying from place to place. I even thought of the way deacons might be called "bridge builders" as they go



View from the deacon's bench

about their ministries in the church, in the community and in the world.

During ordination of a deacon, there are specific statements found in The Examination on Page 655 of the BAS. Certain words in the second paragraph are especially meaningful for me... **serve, study, seek, model, make, interpret, assist, carry, show.** These words refer to the constant movement that takes place in a deacon's ministry, movement that bridges gaps, makes connections, reaches across chasms. This is the activity that occurs as a deacon moves in and out through the doors of the church building.

I have read that a person who is preparing for ordination might hear the following words, "I hear you are going into the church", to which one could respond, "Yes, but only in order to come straight back out again". I think this is particularly true of deacons. Their ministry takes them out of the church building into the world. They cross the bridge into the places "out there", to the people "out there", then they turn around and bring the needs that are "out there" into the church, making them visible.

According to Rosalind Brown in her book, **Being a Deacon Today**, there is a two-way movement...

"deacons leading the church into the world in mission and leading the world back into the church for prayer and actions"...deacons being the bridge-builders. Even during the reading of the Holy Gospel, deacons are creating a bridge over which the Good News travels entering into the hearts and minds of those who listen.

A strong bridge requires strong foundations anchored firmly in the ground. In 1 Timothy 3:8-12 Paul outlines the qualifications of deacons before they are ready to carry out their ministry.... qualifications that provide them with firm foundations based on a sound faith that will not crack or weaken. He stresses the importance of being rooted and grounded in God's ways. It makes perfect sense. How can we minister to others if our own spiritual lives are not strong and stable?

In my ministry as a deacon, there are two areas in particular where I have the opportunity to be involved in building bridges between the church and the community. Both are joyful ministries. One is with the young, the children in our local school. As the liaison between the church and the school, I help our congregation understand and meet the needs of that school's breakfast program. As a former elementary teacher, I know how important a healthy

breakfast plays in a student's ability to learn. During the year, representatives from the school often attend our worship services. They speak about the breakfast program and the impact it has on the lives of the students. The school's Honour Choir has attended our worship service, sharing their time and talents with us. A way has been opened between our church and the school, a connection has been made, a bridge has been built on which there is regular traffic back and forth.

The second ministry is also a joyful one for me. I bring music, scripture and Holy Communion into the lives of the elderly in a Nursing Home. It's another way of connecting the church with those who cannot physically enter its doors. They are drawn into the loving arms of Christ's body, the Church. By bringing their needs to members of our congregation, others have joined me and crossed that bridge to be present with the residents during this time of worship. It is a rewarding ministry appreciated by residents, families and staff. I am also privileged to be a member of the facility's Pastoral Care and Palliative Care Teams.

Whatever our ministries are and wherever they take us, deacons are charged to make "Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom we live and work and worship". We are charged to be Christ's hands and feet, and to reflect his light into the dark corners of this world. Following the service of worship each Sunday, we dismiss the congregation, sending them out into the world to love and serve the Lord...serving the Lord... creating structures over which his love is carried... Yes, I think I can say deacons are in the bridge-building business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Liz Earley appointed priest-in-charge of the parish of Timberlea, Jan 1, 2014, following the retirement of the Rev'd Mike Conrad.

Rev. Mark Pretty appointed rector of the parish of Timberlea effective Feb 16.

Rev. Marian Conrad resigned as rector of the parish of Fall River as of Dec 1, 2013.

Retirement Party

Planning is underway for a diocesan event to celebrate the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley at the time of

her retirement.

There will be a Dinner and Dance on Friday, March 21, 2014 at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel.

Tickets, \$60 each, will be on sale in early 2014 through the Diocese. Details will be

announced in January.

Also there will be a Holy Eucharist on the morning of Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Cathedral Church of All Saints Cathedral followed by a Reception. Times to be announced.

Photos of Bishop Sue

Those with photos of Bishop Sue, particularly at Parish or Regional events, are asked to send them to:

diocesantimes@gmail.com