



# Much more than money

BY REV. LAURIE OMSTEAD

IT ALL BEGAN with a mysterious 'phone call, from a seemingly 'low key' parishioner. Our conversation spawned a brief and exciting, yet clandestine (under the cover of night) meeting, with our two parish wardens who gave their blessings (and the necessary commitment to silence) to the proposed project. Next came this invitation in my Thanksgiving letter to everyone in our parish:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Inspired by my pre-Easter 2014 letter to all of you, as well as the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30 or Luke 19: 12-27), one of your fellow parishioners is bringing a pile of money to Church for the next two Sundays!

There will be a five-dollar bill waiting for each of you at either St. Mark's, Mill Cove, or St. Luke's, Hubbards, on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and again on Thanksgiving Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in case you miss your first investment opportunity!

The Instructions (via this

Then, each participant will lay his or her gift under the Christmas tree at either St. Mark's or St. Luke's.

And so, on behalf of our parish wardens, and a very generous, anonymous, prayerful and hopeful giver, I am extending an invitation to each of you (whether you are a regular worshipper or not), to come out and join in this fun-filled parish project with a Spirit of Generosity!

In the Spirit of Thanksgiving, and in Christ's love, for each of you,  
Laurie+

The Reverend Laurie E. Omstead

The donor provided 113 five-dollar bills for a total of \$565. We distributed 68 for a total of \$340. (It seems that many couples only took one bill between themselves and that most visitors declined the offer.) The remaining bills were returned to the donor.

It caused pure joy in my heart to witness the peoples' reactions to receiving crisp and newly minted five-dollar bills at church! Whether

parish offerings on that day.

If I sound excited, I am! But my joy, and that of our parish wardens, does

offering a Wine Connoisseur Seminar!

- Sharon and Kurt made \$205 by



Photo: Parishioners sharing their stories about talents and investment.

not begin to compare to the elation of the still anonymous, generous giver! Nor does it compare with the excitement and energy that this fun-raising venture generated in and around our parish.

Here are a few highlights that this gift-giving generated:

- In addition to doing some custom knitting, Marlene (inspired by her sister Joan and other friends) created her own Walk-a-Thon from Queensland to Hubbards and raised a whopping \$1,065!
- Susan taught many of us how to make "No-Sew" Fleece Blankets charging \$5 or \$10 at a crack (depending on the size) for a total of \$280!
- Robert (a newly welcomed parishioner) earned \$256 selling beautifully designed and printed "frame-able" Blessings!
- A large contingent of bakers including Sandra, Jerry, Brenda, Sanny, Joanne, Marsha, Ann and Bill, Gloria G. and Jane, made \$1316 with their Loaves of Bread, Pies, Christmas Cake and Cookie proceeds!
- Aubrey and Dick both collected their "Spare Change" for the duration and turned in a combined \$171!
- Local artists: Janet, Doris, and Marilyn earned \$275 selling their individually unique and beautiful cards.
- Hilda walked her neighbour's dog (charging because it was "for the church"! She also did up "pancake mixes" for her son handing in \$85!
- Peter and Judy totaled \$210 by

sharing a Gourmet Dinner with friends and also doing some odd jobs on the side!

- Peter S. designed and hand-crafted a "Lobster Trap Bow Mirror" which he sold for \$50!
- Jennifer's crazy, and very creative, knitted Christmas Hats gleaned \$30!
- Brian offered "Custom Christmas Tree" services to the tune of \$130!
- Peter G. netted \$420 selling his Hallelujah CD!
- Carol loves to walk the beach and collect Sea Glass, which she then turns into one-of-a-kind necklaces. She donated \$310 from her proceeds to the church!
- Catherin and Rev. Laurie supported others and their projects in addition to donating their "Christmas Shopping Savings" back to the Church (\$150)!
- Gloria K. put aside \$10 each week whether she was able to attend church or not, which became \$120!
- Carol and Donnie donated \$100 (a percentage of their pay for leading music)! Dora made \$200 selling things she didn't want anymore!
- Jackie knit and sold some "pocket-prayer shawls"...

There were, of course, many others who didn't stand up and share, and so we assume that they don't want their names mentioned publicly.

The initial gift of \$340 has been set aside and is still available for future ventures into creativity and generosity!



Photo: Rev. Laurie Omstead listening to parishioners telling their stories.

very generous and anonymous donor) are that you will each be challenged to take your \$5 and multiply this money, according to your own imagination, gifts, and talents, and then bring your results back to church (either St. Mark's or St. Luke's) on Advent Four, Sunday, December 21st, 2014.

During the 9am and the 10:45am services that day, parishioners will be asked to share their stories ~ about how they "invested" their \$5 to create more monetary gifts so that God's Work may continue to be accomplished in this parish.

youngful or elder, male or female, affluent or financially-challenged, long-time residents with historic roots in the community or fairly new CFAs (come-from-aways), we all received identical blue bills (a slight, but meaningful, variation on the Biblical versions of the story!)

Two months later, on December 21st (Advent Four), parishioners returned \$6,158 under our two Christmas Trees!!!

(That means \$6,158 - \$340 (the original investment) = \$5,818.

This was in addition to the regular

## C O L U M N I S T

# Wood piles and black ice

WE HAVE SENT Rev Billie and James off to warmer climes for a few weeks and St. Bart's will hang in there with help from the Diocesan Office for Sunday worship.

Billie's health scare put the fear of God into us all. She is much too precious to even begin to think of losing her. These "out of the blue" happenings are a warning that we are not immortal and that the world can and will go on even if those we treasure are taken from us. I think Billie's brush with serious illness made us all take a closer look at the ones we hold dear.

Billie left Benny Smith in charge of life in the rectory. Benny is such a treasure to that family, and if the truth be told, that rectory family is a blessing in Benny's life.

No one can handle Pop better than Benny. Pop will listen to him and follow his orders without question...in most things... Pop is now using a cane to get around when he is outside but the spark of independence still glows within him. He is convinced



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

that he alone can set a fire that will burn brightly all day. He was in charge of the insert stove in the sitting room for several years and hates to give up that job. Benny has made it very clear that Pop is NOT to go out to the wood pile and bring in the days' supply. Ben is very good at keeping the wood box filled up. He does this job at least twice a day to remove any excuse that Pop might use to venture out the back door. Still, it can become

a battle of wills between these two men with Mom caught in the middle.

Now, Mom would never step outside between the months of November and April unless she was bundled up to her eyebrows and her 'creepers' on her boots. She had lived in the southern United States for the first 60 years of her life and snow and ice were her biggest fears, especially ice! We used to laugh as we watched her shuffle along a bare walkway. She shuffled because she was convinced that once November came so did ice. She had heard of black ice and that became her biggest fear. That ol' black ice was out to get her and she was not taking any chances. It became a struggle to get her outside no matter how clear and warm the day. If it was between November and April she was doomed to fall and break a hip...or two! And forget the thought of driving anywhere because that ol' black ice was worse on roads than on walkways! She had read that some place and no one could convince her differently.

So Benny Smith had his hands full while Billie and James were away. He had an old man who wanted to venture outside no matter what the weather and an old woman who wouldn't even open the door if there was a sign of a snow flake in the air. Benny rose to the occasion. He made sure there was a clear pathway right up to the back door of the rectory. He had extended the driveway so that, with a strong arm around her, Mom could get to the car safely. He also moved the wood pile out of sight of the back door so that Pop wasn't tempted to go out for a few sticks of kindling. He drove them to and from church even though it was just next door; to shopping and any appointments in the city and he kept the home fires burning and a firm hand on both of his charges. In return Mom cooked and baked and cared for her "Big Ben" as she called him. They made a good team and that ol' black ice never claimed a bone, not a one!

I'll keep you posted,  
Aunt Madge.

## Lord, would You love them through me?

THE OFTEN DREARY February days are interrupted by a special date – Valentine's Day! This day is enshrined in our culture as a bright spot, centering on love. It provides a welcome respite in the midst of a bleak winter landscape. Couples reflect on the love they enjoy by exchanging romantic gifts and arranging a special date! Many exchange Valentine Cards as a way to affirm special friendships. It is a day to celebrate the important people in our lives and to affirm the gift of love shared in those meaningful relationships.

Valentine's Day has a particular poignancy for me. My mother died on February 14th, 2012. I miss her! She demonstrated love by serving her family and her Church. Her life has helped me understand the power of serving others as a means of expressing care and love.

Valentine's Day is a time when we reflect on love. In that vein, I offer two vignettes on love that changed my life -

My Seattle Parish hosted



Rev. Dr. John Roddam

a Friday Lunch for over 100 people each week – street people, the homeless, seniors on fixed incomes, etc. These folks became a family through the years. After a wonderful home-style meal was prepared each week, the team would pray for our "guests" before they were welcomed into the dining area. One day, the godly head of this ministry prayed, "Lord, there are some of the folks we'll be serving today that I don't

like..." Instantly, my bowed head snapped up and my eyes opened in shock! What she said next changed my life! "Lord," she humbly asked, "would You love them through me?"

That simple, yet profound prayer taught me a key to loving in difficult situations. Jesus wants to love others THROUGH us. We cannot do this on our own. Yielded vessels allow God's love to manifest through us!

The second life lesson on love came to me through God's Word. 1 John 4:19 states, "We love because He first loved us." Interestingly, there is no object in this sentence. Some translators write, "We love others..." or "We love Him (God)..." because He first loved us. However, I believe the best rendering of this passage from the original Greek text is "We have the capacity to love because He first loved us!"

When we experience the love of God in a direct and personal way, it transforms our lives! AND it frees us to love God,

ourselves, and others!

St. Catherine of Sienna, the gifted 14th C. spiritual guide and mentor was approached by a novitiate that was overwhelmed by the love of God. This woman had lived a very ungodly, self-serving lifestyle but Jesus in His mercy met her and transformed her life through His grace and forgiveness. She asked Catherine, "How can I ever express appropriate gratitude to my Saviour Jesus for what He's done for me?" Catherine's response was, "Love and serve those who do not deserve your love just as you do not deserve God's love."

As Jesus transformed the lives of the leaders in the Early Church and ordinary folk through the centuries, He is the same today. We are invited to turn to Him day by day and discover the profound, life-changing love He has for us PERSONALLY! This will ground us in His grace and mercy and give us the capacity to love those around us passionately, even those difficult to love! Try it!!



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## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# Viabile and/or vibrant



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

*"Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever."*  
Collect for Epiphany 4, B.A.S.

LAST SUMMER I SPENT a good deal of time reflecting on how I could fulfill the ministry of the diocesan bishop if there was only going to be one bishop is the diocese for the foreseeable future. Our diocese has had two bishops since the early 1960s, and I can assure you through personal experience that there is enough work for two. To employ a phrase used all too often "things are changing". Yes they are in many ways in the communities of these provinces and in parishes and congregations across the nation. It is time to face this fact head on and that perhaps the best way to lead the diocese is not with two bishops. The decision to go from two to one was not based on finances as much as a recognition of the changing need for Episcopal ministry and a vision for leadership in diocesan ministries.

My thoughts did not stop at: two bishops or one? The bigger question was and is: "what are the biggest challenges in our diocese at this time and how can the diocesan structure address these challenges?" My answer to this question is actually the same as the first one "things are changing". The communities where we live and work and carry out ministry are changing – rapidly. My visits to parishes week by week around the diocese make this even clearer to me. Populations are moving and changing, the way people earn their living is changing, social structures and the desire to be involved in community organizations (including church leadership) are changing. Not all change is bad and the change is very uneven across Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In many places people are migrating away, in small pockets there is immigration. In some places traditional industries are shutting down and all over there are people who are trying new ways to make a living. The provision of public services is also changing. All these changes are affecting our parishes.

I think that the best part of this ministry is the Sunday visits to parishes. Joining in worship is really who we are as a church. However in the back of my mind every week, as I travel from place to place, there are another two questions. The first is: "Is this parish viable?" This seems like a dry question - is this parish capable of growth and development, does it have the necessities of income and leadership to live? Can the buildings be maintained in good shape, can they meet their payroll? This is a question about structure.

The second question is: "Is this parish vibrant?" This question is quite different and not so easy to answer. It has to do with

energy and joy, with the way that the parish engages in God's mission. With an optimism and hope which is built on faith. People are truly present in worship. There are still challenges but there is a desire to face the challenges knowing that God's Spirit continually makes things new and empowers God's people to meet the challenge. "Vibrant colors are bright. Vibrant sounds are loud and resonant. Vibrant people are ones you remember—they're bright and full of personality." (Vocabulary .com) It doesn't matter if a parish is rural, suburban, ex-urban or centre of a city, large or small, new or founded before the diocese existed - It may or may not be vibrant.

For a decade we have been using the 5 Marks of a Healthy Congregation, presented to our Synod by Alice Mann. It seems to me that the question about viability is number 3 on her list. All the other marks are about vitality.

1. Our congregation's members know who they are before God.
2. Our congregation knows what it is called to do.
3. Our congregation has the resources and leadership necessary to carry out its calling.
4. People experience the power and energy of the Gospel in their worship and life together.
5. The activities of the congregation make a discernible difference in individual lives and in the larger world around us.

Despite all the change going on around us and within our parishes, what we need are not just parishes which are viable but parishes which are vibrant. Where there is life, the joy of the Good News of Jesus, where our faith impacts the community around us in a positive way. It is wonderful when both qualities are found in a parish, but this is not always so.

As a part of the Diocesan budget for 2015 the Diocesan Council approved the creation of a new position- Parish Vitality Coordinator. This person will be available to work with parishes around the diocese to explore ways that parishes might become more 'alive'. This will mean very different things in different parts of the diocese and I believe that a big part of the work will be listening to the unique situations of the parishes where they will work. There is no program which by itself will provide viability or vitality to a parish. They won't do the work single handedly. Their ministry will be to coordinate the variety of resources available and the proposals for becoming more vibrant may mean substantial change for parishes.

I hope that by the time you receive this edition of The Diocesan Times we will have posted the advertisement for this new position and for the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator.

+Ron

What we need are parishes that are vibrant!

## God only knows ...



Paul Sherwood

Editor

THAT PHRASE has been ringing around in my head for some weeks.

As the local news with the Dalhousie dentistry students unfolds, it looks more and more like the outcome will please no one and damage nearly everyone involved. An act of immaturity and extremely poor judgement that cannot be forgiven is contrary to my understanding of Christian values. Repentance and contrition are cast aside for calls of expulsion and segregation. What the outcome will be to this terrible mess, God only knows. I can only pray that some good may come of it all.

Bishop Ron writes a column each month for The Diocesan Times. His schedule sometimes makes this task more demanding and he occasionally gets his column finished just in the nick of time. To ease his burden, I am petitioning all Archdeacons, Deans, retired Bishops and Archbishops or any other members of the House of Clergy to offer a column on behalf of the bishop. If this piques your interest, please contact Bishop Ron with your idea for a column; he will be very happy to hear from you.

With Synod fast approaching, I thought it might be interesting (and informative & entertaining) to look back at "who was who" in the diocese some 25 years ago. I found the Clergy Photo Directory from 1989 then scanned and repaired the pages. If you are interested, all 16 pages are available on our Diocesan Times Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/diotimes](http://www.facebook.com/diotimes)

Note: you do not need a Facebook account to view the images.

Perhaps it is time to update the clergy photo directory at this year's synod?

Finally, it is time again to ask your financial support for The Diocesan Times paper. There will be a donation envelope in the March edition and all contributions are welcome.

As the late Canon Rev. David Reid once quipped to his audience:

"I have bad news, good news and bad news.

The first bad news is that the church needs a new roof.

And the good news is that we have enough money to pay for it.

The final bad news is that money is still in your wallet."

# Go for it! Fill your boots! - VCM 2015

OUR DIOCESE is taking strides in our vision of creating "Christ-centered, mission-minded, ministering communities of faith." Explore the opportunities for revitalized congregations and innovative forms of Christian community at the Vital Church Maritimes 2015 conference this spring.

Lay and clergy leaders are invited to pilgrimage together over three days with the theme "Fill Your Boots: Stepping Out Into Mission." It takes place April 21 to April 23 at Quality Inn & Suites Halifax.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Judy Paulsen, Professor of Evangelism at Wycliffe College of Toronto. Her series of talks entitled "Spirit of Invitation" will encourage us to broaden and be empowered in our understanding of what it means to follow Christ as an invitational people. She will help us answer the question



of how we can share our wonderful faith with others in ways that are natural, gentle and kind. Using Christ as the prime model, Dr. Paulsen will speak to corporate and personal evangelism, using Biblical and contemporary

narratives.

An additional plenary speaker will be Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle, Congregational Development Officer with the Diocese of Algoma. His talk is called "Shaped by a Living

Hope: Fostering Renewal in the Small Congregation."

Workshops and panel presentations include:

- Arts in Mission: Taking Creative Strides
- Boots On: Examples of Fresh Expressions of Church
- Re-Boot: Parish Website Essentials
- Not Every Shoe Fits: Generations, Community and the Church
- Men's Boots: Where Are All the Guys?
- Calling All Feet: Empowering Lay Leaders.

There will be ample time for participants to discuss the teaching, share ideas, ask questions and discern future plans together.

Registration Costs (including refreshments, some meals and materials):

\$140 Early Bird registration (by March 15)

\$150 for entire conference (after March 15)

\$25 for one evening keynote address

\$40 for two evening keynote addresses

\$25 for two evening keynote addresses for students

Registration is open to anyone, but it is limited, so sign-up early! Visit the Diocesan website: [www.nspeidiocese.ca](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca). Accommodations may be booked (discounted room rates under the Diocesan name) at Quality Inn & Suites, 980 Parkland Drive, Halifax. Cost is \$99 plus HST for a double room with continental breakfast. The facility is wheel-chair assessable. Phone 902-444-6700 or see [www.qualityinnhalifax.com](http://www.qualityinnhalifax.com).

## 36th Women's Cursillo Weekend at Bayside Camp

BY DON BRUSHETT

THE NSPEI Anglican Cursillo Movement held the Women's 36th Cursillo weekend in November at Bayside Camp in Sambro Head. Thirty nine women came together to learn more about living with Christ in today's world. The warmth and love of the Holy Spirit was felt by all. As the picture shows they also had a fun filled weekend. The Cursillo Movement started in our

diocese in the mid 1980s and over 1500 men and women have enjoyed their Cursillo experience in our diocese. For more information about Cursillo and how to get involved, visit our website: [www.nspeicursillo.chebucto.org](http://www.nspeicursillo.chebucto.org). Keep an eye out for our 2015 men's and women's fall Cursillo weekends.

*Photo: This group of smiling faces led the latest Cursillo weekend last November at Bayside Camp.*



## Cursillo gathers for Annual General meeting

BY DON BRUSHETT

On January 13th dozens of people from the NSPEI Anglican Cursillo Movement gathered at St. Francis by the Lakes in Lower Sackville for an Ultreya gathering. An Ultreya is a monthly gathering of people from the wider Cursillo community and is also open to anyone who would like to attend. The Ultreya is a time for Christian music, witness talks, prayer, food and fellowship. At this gathering, people came from throughout the metro Halifax area, Bridgewater, New Ross and Western Shore.

This Ultreya also offered Cursillo's annual meeting where members of the

Cursillo Movement had the opportunity to celebrate the year that was and to see what is planned for the coming year. New members of secretariat (Cursillo's equivalence to parish council) were elected to serve for 2015. In the metro area ultreyas are held the second Tuesday of the month at various locations in metro Halifax. Cursillo offers a way to deepen our personal relationship with Christ or as some have simply put it – It allows us do what we do with a greater sense of joy and love. To learn more about Cursillo or where our monthly ultreyas are being held, visit our website [www.nspeicursillo.chebucto.org](http://www.nspeicursillo.chebucto.org).

*Photo: Cursillo group praising in song at St Francis by the Lakes.*





# It's A New Day!

## LOVE WORKS

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

Someone wisely said, "People don't care what you know until they know you care!"

Radical hospitality and pastoral care are often overlooked as initiatives for mission. However, when a church is committed to them they can have a powerful impact on their community. Plus, relatively speaking, they are inexpensive and easy to do.

Think back to a time when you were bowled over with knock-your-socks-off service. Perhaps it was a visit at a friend's house or a dinner at your favourite restaurant. The key to excellent hospitality and compassionate care is grounded in our attention. The best hosts are tuned in to their guests and try to anticipate their needs. They listen and actively show they care.

Let's put this in the context of churchland. When you hold a potluck supper, hymn sing or summer fair and you have new people in attendance, how are they treated? When you have an immigrant family who recently purchased a home down the street from your church, how do you welcome them to the neighbourhood? A member brings a co-worker to Sunday morning worship, how is he/she included?

It's been said that people come to the Christian community for a variety of reasons, but they only stay when they have made friends with others and feel they belong. This mission opportunity is the responsibility of the entire existing congregation and not just the job of a chosen few – the greeters and the minister.

In fact, radical hospitality is just the first step in building relationships within the church. For congregations to foster authentic, thriving Christian gatherings members



need to move beyond being friendly and polite. A depth and honest quality is vitally important in these relationships. And this applies to interactions between long-time parishioners too.

Robert Warren\*, author of "Developing Healthy Churches: Returning to the Heart of Mission and Ministry", says a church's culture has to extend past "niceness" to create a pastoral culture. This is the call of all Christians to newcomers and old-timers.

Warren defines pastoral care as "paying loving attention to one another" and says it's not just for the needy or those in crisis. Everyone in the faith community needs compassionate support in order to help them grow in holiness as disciples.

The author says, "It is about helping one another to hear how God is calling us to respond to the grief, puzzles, joys and challenges of life, as well as helping us to receive God's grace in these situations."

Obviously some people possess more ability than others in pastoral care, but it cannot be limited to just a few 'professionals' like clergy and extroverts. Everyone can learn skills to build and deepen relationships. However, a

few gifted people can model, energize and inspire others. Robert Warren lists four main characteristics for those with pastoral care gifts:

1. a good listener
2. a growing person
3. has a good self-knowledge
4. is well grounded in the Christian faith.

No matter how big a congregation, the size or shape of the building or the state of their finances, radical hospitality and pastoral care can be carried out flourishingly. Even a small group of faithful, loving Christians can make a difference in a neighbourhood.

Imagine, a bunch of humble, deeply caring people, striving to grow spiritually and helping others grow too. That's attractive. That's the real deal! That's what Jesus did.

\* Robert Warren is also the author of "The Healthy Churches' Handbook: a process for revitalizing your church" (outlining the seven marks of a healthy congregation).

(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.)

# Mission to Seafarers Christmas boxes

BY BILL MACDONALD  
FOR ST. LUKE'S OUTREACH

Having a long and colorful history in the fishing industry, this south shore village and surrounding area has a strong affinity with the loneliness and difficulties of making a living at sea. No small wonder there is strong support for the **Christmas Boxes** project sponsored by **The Mission To Seafarers**.

The Outreach Committee of St. Luke's Anglican Parish including

Areas covered by St. Mark's Church Mill Cove, and St. Luke's Church Hubbards has participated in this project for many years.

Due to an innovative change last year, the number of boxes delivered to the Mission in Halifax more than doubled, and set a new record again this year.

The change was:

- Contributors are offered the option of donating multiples of one or more articles such as gloves; scarves; etc., rather than filling an individual box.
- An information board showing which items have been received, and those needed is displayed in the Churches for a

period leading up to the final week.

- The pre-gift-wrapped boxes are then filled in a work-party "Assembly Line Style".

This process significantly increased the number of boxes the Parish was able to send to the Mission. A total of 43 boxes were completed this year, accompanied by a good quantity of extra socks, toothpaste and toothbrushes to help The Mission supplement additional boxes.

The project has also gained the support of the wider community, with monetary and merchandise donations received from the Area Lion's Club as well as from the Volunteer Fire Department.

This fall Maggie Whittingham-Lamont, Seafarer Coordinator spoke at both Parish Churches, giving an insight into the work carried out by The Mission.

Judging by the support shown again this year, this project will continue to be an important part of our outreach efforts.



Photo: "Christmas Boxes Assembly Line"  
L to R Mike Eagles, Rev. John Mills, Marsha Mills

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Simon Davies appointed rector of the Parish of Bridgewater/Conqueralls effective July 1st, 2015.

Archdeacon Peter Armstrong resigned as rector of ACPC effective February 28th, 2015. Peter will be entering into new ministry in the Diocese of Algoma.

Rev. Julio Martin appointed rector of the Parish of North Sydney effective March 1st, 2015.

**Notice of Diocesan Synod**  
The 146th Session of Synod of the Diocese of NS and PEI will be held from Thu, May 28th, through to Sat, May 30th, 2015.  
All motions and resolutions to come before that SYNOD

should be received by the Executive Secretary of Synod no later than Friday, February 27th, 2015 at 5 p.m. at reception, in the Synod Office, 1340 Martello Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 2Z1, or emailed to: [execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:execsecsynod@nspeidiocese.ca)  
No resolutions will be accepted after the deadline or from the floor of Synod.

## Friends of the Bishop 2015 Fund Raising Dinner 'Friends with Vision'

TODAY YOU HEAR A LOT about groups like '100 Women Who Care' and '100 Men Who Give-a-Damn'. These groups have a vision: they get together three or four times a year and each time generates \$10,000 for a specific charity. Groups such as these are relatively new, when it comes to fulfilling their vision.

On the other hand, The Friends of the Bishop and its predecessor The Bishop's Men, a project of the Diocese, have been carrying out a similar vision for decades.

The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island is comprised of many committed Anglicans of vision. One such individual was Peter Stanfield, who helped to found what was then called the Bishop's Men. It's vision, much like that of '100 Women Who Care' and '100 Men Who Give-a-Damn', was to support their chosen cause by meeting for dinner once a year and raising monies through donations. In this case, the cause is to support the Bishop with both finances for a discretionary fund and advice. Although the name of the organization was changed in 2008 to the Friends of the Bishop the vision of the organization today has not changed from its founding principles: to support the Bishop with discretionary funds primarily to build a better Christ Centered Community through special support and care for Clergy and their families and special projects not covered in the Diocesan budget.

In addition, in honour of Pete Stanfield, a bursary was established to help an AST student further their education. The bursary

is awarded annually and members are encouraged to contribute annually. Previous recipients of the Pete Stanfield Bursary include, Kyle Wagner, Nicole Uzans, Nita Bartheaux, Mel Malton, Dave Puxley and, most recently, Kristen Mackenzie. The support provided to these individuals helps to ensure parishes receive gifted leaders for their parishes that will help lead the diocese for years to come.

In order to fulfill its mandate for 2015, the Friends of Bishop has set a goal of raising \$12,000 in support of the Diocesan Ministry this year. In order to do that, we are seeking at least 100 Anglicans who care - Anglicans who care about the diocese, its future, and building a brighter vision for tomorrow.

Funds are generated in two ways through memberships or direct donations. Donations can be made directly to the Diocese or through attendance at our annual dinner in Halifax or at a regional event.

We'd love to see at least 100 caring Anglicans at the annual dinner to be held Friday February 13th at the Ashburn Golf Club. The cost of the annual dinner is normally \$50.

If you want to be part of building a new vision, come and hear Bishop Ron on the future of the diocese. You can attend the dinner without making any further donation or becoming a member, but we sincerely hope you will be moved to do both!

To reserve a seat for the dinner please contact Jana O'Neil in the Diocesan office at (902) 420-0717, extension 1152 or e-mail at [joneil@nspeidiocese.ca](mailto:joneil@nspeidiocese.ca).

### LENTEN QUIET DAY 2015 Anglican Church Women NS Board

<b>What?</b>	Lenten Quiet Day 2015 – <i>Bread of Life</i> with meditations offered by AST postulants
<b>Who?</b>	All are welcome - women and men All ages and stages
<b>When?</b>	Saturday, March 21, 2015 9:30 am – 3:30 pm; program start – 10:15 lunch provided
<b>Where?</b>	The Cathedral Church of All Saints and the Anglican Diocesan Centre 1330/40 Martello St., Halifax
<b>Why?</b>	For spiritual renewal in preparation for Holy Week
<b>How?</b>	By pre-registering (\$15.00, cheques payable to the ACW Nova Scotia Board) before Mar. 11/15 with Marjorie Davis at 902-462-3637 <a href="mailto:davisnow@ns.sympatico.ca">davisnow@ns.sympatico.ca</a>

## ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Cathedral Church of All Saints (Anglican), Halifax, Nova Scotia is seeking an Organist and Director of Music.

Under the direction of the Dean and Rector of the Cathedral, the Organist/Music Director will provide music at the principal Sunday service, at monthly Choral Evensong, and at special Cathedral and Diocesan services throughout the year. She/he will provide leadership to, and encourage the growth of the Cathedral choir (approximately 20 voices with paid leads), oversee rehearsals, maintain the music library and in consultation with the Music Committee seek ways to enhance the overall profile of the music program.

Experience and knowledge of Anglican liturgy will be a key consideration as well as an appreciation for both traditional and contemporary music as befits a growing and dynamic Cathedral congregation in the heart of Atlantic Canada's largest city.

All Saints Cathedral is home to a Casavant Frères pipe organ installed for the opening

of the Cathedral in 1910, with upgrades added in the 1960s, and in 2010 a newly refurbished and modernized 4 manual movable console with multiple memory levels and a sequencer was installed. A Yamaha grand piano and a Yamaha electronic piano are also maintained by the Cathedral.

We are seeking a person with a minimum RCCO level 4, or equivalent, and an expectation of 25-30 hours per week. Additional information regarding the current music program and Cathedral congregation can be viewed at our website: [www.cathedralchurchofallsaints.com](http://www.cathedralchurchofallsaints.com)

Applications will be received until March 15, 2015, with anticipation of a start date in August 2015. Please address all applications or information inquiries to: The Very Rev. Paul W. Smith [cathedraldean@eastlink.ca](mailto:cathedraldean@eastlink.ca)

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by Heather D. Veinotte, Playwright

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Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes out all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end.

~Author Unknown

## Senior Guild celebrates Christmas with a social



Photo: Some of the many community member who gathered for Christmas with the Senior Guild

SUBMITTED BY ANNETTE BOUTILIER

On Monday December 8th, 2014 the Senior Guild of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Glace Bay invited the congregation to their annual Christmas Social. A large crowd attended and when Santa everyone received a small gift and

candy. Christmas music was provided by Bob MacLean and Syl Phalen. The evening ended with the community forming a circle around the hall and wishing each other good wishes for Christmas and for the New Year.



# Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



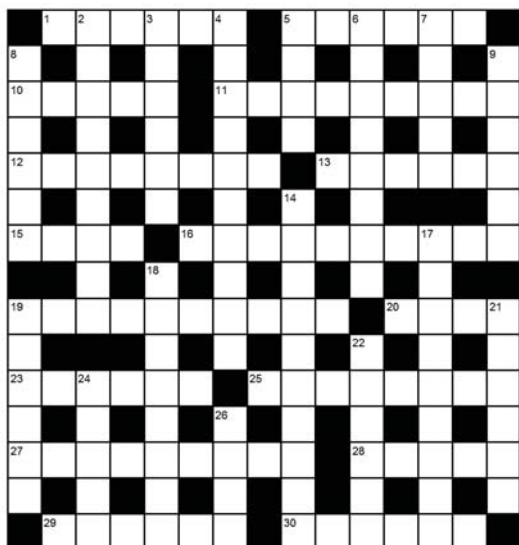
## February 2015 Clues

ACROSS:

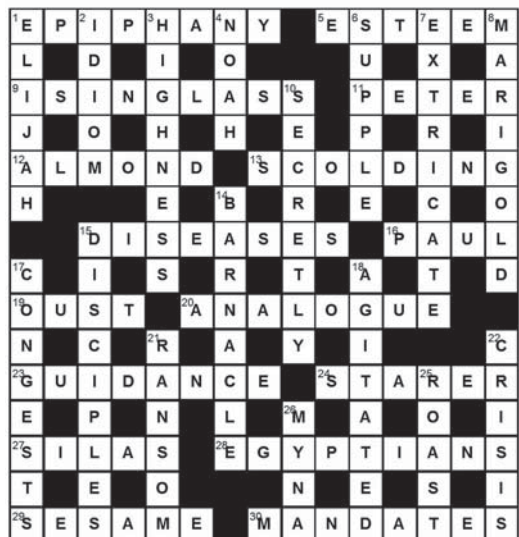
- 1 - Sister of Mary and Lazarus (John 11) (6)
- 5 - Smoothly, musical term (6)
- 10 - Musical instrument often found in churches (5)
- 11 - Old name for Presentation of Christ in the Temple, February 2 (9)
- 12 - "Bring me a \_\_\_\_\_ and let me see it", Roman coin (Mark 12:15) (8)
- 13 - Chin beard (6)
- 15 - Town where Jesus raised a young man from the dead (Luke 7:11-15) (4)
- 16 - "Bring the full tithe into the \_\_\_\_\_", building in which things are kept (Mal. 3:10) (10)
- 19 - "They poured out a prayer when your \_\_\_\_\_ was on them", discipline (Isa.26:16) (10)
- 20 - Large continent (4)
- 23 - "It is I; do not be \_\_\_\_\_", scared (Mark 6:50) (6)
- 25 - "I was stupid and \_\_\_\_\_; I was like a brute beast", unlearned (Ps.73:22) (8)
- 27 - "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another with these words", inspire (1Thess. 4:18) (9)
- 28 - Sesame Street character (5)
- 29 - Trees with trembling leaves (6)
- 30 - Governing bodies of dioceses (6)

DOWN:

- 2 - Country in South America (9)
- 3 - Treeless plain found in the Arctic (6)
- 4 - "Give me an \_\_\_\_\_ of your management", explanation (Luke 16:2) (10)
- 5 - Season of the church year, often starting this month (4)
- 6 - Place of the Skull (John 19:17) (8)
- 7 - "... so that Satan may not \_\_\_\_\_ you because of your lack of self-control", lead astray (1Cor. 7:5) (7)
- 8 - River where Jesus was baptized (Matt. 3:13) (6)
- 9 - Member of a Jewish sect active in the first century C.E. (6)
- 14 - "My mouth does not \_\_\_\_\_", break the law (Ps. 17:3) (10)
- 17 - "... to keep oneself \_\_\_\_\_ by the world", without moral blemish (James 1:27) (9)
- 18 - Manner toward someone (8)
- 19 - "Then he got into the boat with them and the wind \_\_\_\_\_", stopped (Mark 6:51) (6)
- 21 - Piece sung by the choir (6)
- 22 - Grave or sober (6)
- 24 - Running contests (5)
- 26 - Small domestic pets, but not dogs (4)



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# Jesus gave us a clear and simple path

BY REV. MADONNA FRADSHAM

THIS IS THE MONTH when it is assumed all hearts turn to love. It's a month of flower and chocolate giving, fund raising for the Heart and Stroke Foundations and perhaps many other events tied up with big red hearts. All of these things meant to tug on our heartstrings and encourage us to become part of the party and buy, or give.

Christmas has just passed. The same tactics are used to engage people in generous acts of love and charity for their fellow citizens. It is a time when the focus is on making sure everyone has a good Christmas and millions of dollars are raised to do that. For many of the thousands of people served in this way at Christmas, the following weeks they are deciding if they can heat their home or feed their children. This is true not only of people using the social assistance services but of many people who live below the poverty level but are working for ridiculously low wages.

The results are that some parents turn to petty theft in order to try and provide for them. When the thief is caught, encouraged to plead guilty and sent off to jail for whatever sentence, the family is further disrupted and there is increased stress. Often the

parent is single which creates other issues which might include the children being taken into protective custody while the parent is away.

As a former Chaplain to female inmates incarcerated for such crimes, I believe a restorative justice model would serve very well both the perpetrator and the victim. Terms of repayment or restitution would be found, children would have their parent and definitive structures could be put in place to assist the family and victim.

As Christians, we need to be in the forefront of efforts to have restorative justice readily available for most of the crime that is committed. Statistics show that violent crime has continued to decrease yet our

prisons are overflowing with inmates. Somewhere there is a disconnect between creating a safer community and sending more people to prison.

Jesus gave us a very clear and simple path when he told us if you have been wronged.

- 1: Meet with the other party and try to resolve the matter between you
- 2: If you are unable to, bring in a third party to help
- 3: If still unable, bring it to a group of your peers
- 4: If you must, take it to a judge as a last resort.

Imagine what a different world it could be if we adapted those principles. Imagine if a person living with drug or alcohol addiction had the opportunity to get the services

he/she needed and did not end up in prison. No criminal record would result. Prison is a place where first time offenders are introduced to hardened criminals. It is a breeding place for increased crime and taking away whatever little bit of dignity a person might have. It is a place where young men and women can be honed and trained to become more involved in the drug trade, robbery or other things. Imagine, if instead, that young man or woman had a community that decided the status quo was not OK and demanded more and better services to help then become strong productive members of society.

My first experience with Restorative Justice practises was in Amherst, Nova Scotia in the mid-late 80s. The local YMCA approached our Christian Council for support for a youth project designed to help restore harmony between youth offenders and their victims. It was a brave new idea and met with mixed reviews but it did result in successfully creating a restorative process for several people.

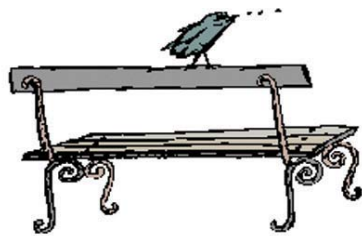
It continues to be used mostly in youth related offenses. I have seen it used in Ontario for people who are living with intellectual disabilities

and all of us are aware of its use in South Africa and in the Residential Schools Issue. It's proven itself to be a good model to increase safety and accountability in our communities.

December's From the Deacon's Bench by Kathryn Cook prompted me to reflect on this issue once again. Dealing with the fallout for several years with young men and women who became trapped in a sinister world of drugs and petty crime which has robbed them of all dignity and self-respect; has convinced me there has to be a better way. Restorative Justice for any crime is a great step forward.

Finally, I applaud the Dalhousie University students who are willing to engage in a restorative justice model to resolve the current dispute. It is easy for everyone outside looking in to attempt to put their own spin on the case. Ultimately, it is indeed between the offenders and the victims. They along with University Counsellors are in the best position to make decisions which will affect the rest of their lives and possibly their careers.

As Jesus said, let you who is without sin throw the first stone. Surely he was talking to us when he said that.



## View from the deacon's bench

# The virgin birth

BY ROGER BUREAU

THERE ARE TWO ANCHORS to our faith which give credence to the journey we take in Christ and the hope that we have in Him. The first is his birth as God the Son. And the second is his resurrection. The latter demands the former and both together complete the story of "Immanuel" "God among us."

Let's deal with the virgin birth. In an earlier article (Thanks to Dr. Peter Elwood) we were given a revealing interpretation of the biblical events which clarify and makes sense of a series of events that would otherwise be obscure to say the least. For Mary the journey to her cousin Elizabeth and her reaction at seeing Mary, confirms in her mind the understanding she had of the Angel's message

and the event of the Holy Spirit surrounding Mary and planting the divine seed in her body (The immaculate conception). The scripture is at this stage clear about how the conception of the virgin birth came about.

The question is why is the virgin birth essential to our understanding that Jesus is in fact the "divine son" of "the father" i.e. God?

Let's begin at the beginning. How can a virgin birth have occurred? For many such a concept is an impossibility. The argument goes that to produce a child requires the interaction of the seed of a man and the womb of a woman. This is what I call "thinking within the box". But in this case we are not dealing with two human beings we are dealing with God and a

human being. And in dealing with God where there is no need to "think within the box". With God there is no "box"

If we accept that God created the world and created "Man" and out of man made a "woman" where does the act of procreation occur in that equation. It does not, because "out of dust" God created man and woman.

In the conception and birth of Jesus, Karl Barth\*, the eminent German theologian, puts it this way. "God has taken the initiative....once more God acts as the creator." The origin of Jesus is "...simply in God (no man involved)." God needed a vehicle for the birth of a human being who in fact is also God. Another way to put it is to say that instead of pro-creation this is an event

of re-creation.

Barth summarises it this way "God of free grace became man, a real man."

The question then becomes.

Why? Why is it necessary for God the Son to be born of a virgin. For this we can go back to an explanation best quoted in Habakkuk (Ch.1 V 13). Speaking of God Habakkuk says "Your eyes are too pure to look on evil: you cannot tolerate wrong."

If God is pure love, perfect and absolute in every way, then he is unable to countenance sin. For Him to come to earth in the form of Man but still be the divinity which he is, he cannot be (or even be seen to be) conceived in human sin. It is for this reason that the virgin birth is the only option for God the son to become human. God wanted himself to be "man" and to experience all he physical and mental attributes of being "a human being." Only in this way could

God, once and for all, provide the bridge that is necessary between man and God. As John puts it in 1 John 1 chapter 1. "In Christ we have the intercessor." Starting at verse 7 John puts it this way "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us from every sin." This is why God became man in the form of Jesus-namely to act as the bridge between man and God. If we accept him he will intercede for us.

So we come back to the resurrection. In the act of resurrection we see the divinity of Jesus, the man, confirmed. So the reality of the virgin birth is a given if we are to accept and understand that divinity. As Karl Barth puts it "...true divinity and true humanity in sheer unity."

\*Karl Barth. Dogmatics in outline- Harper and Row-1959 Page 99 ff.





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