



Jesus' supper at Emmaus



THE SUPPER AT EMMAUS is a painting by the Italian Baroque master Caravaggio, died 1610, and now in the National Gallery in London. Originally this painting was commissioned and paid for by Ciriaco Mattei, brother of Cardinal Girolamo Mattei.

The painting depicts the moment when the resurrected but incognito Jesus, reveals

himself to two of his disciples (presumed to be Luke and Cleopas) in the town of Emmaus, only to soon vanish from their sight (Gospel of Luke 24: 30-31). Cleopas wears the scallop shell of a pilgrim. The other apostle wears torn clothes. Cleopas gesticulates in a perspectively-challenging extension of arms in and out of the frame of reference. The standing

groom, forehead smooth and face in darkness, appears oblivious to the event. The painting is unusual for the life-sized figures, the dark and blank background. The table lays out a still-life meal. Like the world these apostles knew, the basket of food teeters perilously over the edge.[1]

In the Gospel of Mark (16:12) Jesus is said to have

appeared to them "in another form", which may be why he is depicted beardless here, as opposed to the bearded Christ in *Calling of St Matthew*, where a group of seated money counters is interrupted by the recruiting Christ. It is also a recurring theme in Caravaggio's paintings to find the sublime interrupting the daily routine. The unexalted humanity is apt for this scene,

since the human Jesus has made himself unrecognizable to his disciples, and at once confirms and surmounts his humanity. Caravaggio seems to suggest that perhaps a Jesus could enter our daily encounters. The dark background envelops the tableau.

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Parishioners of the Year at St Francis by the Lakes

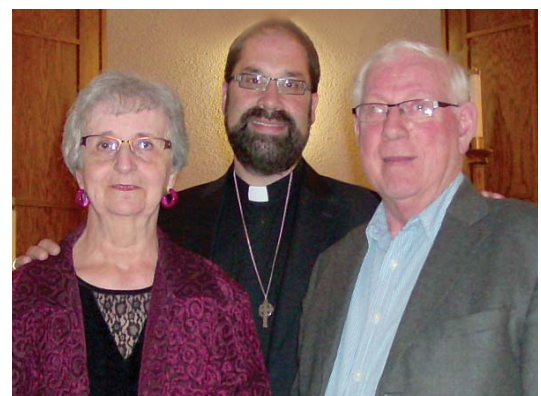
BY DONNA PARSONS

Every year at our annual meeting, the parish of St Francis by the Lakes in Lower Sackville gives out an appreciation certificate to parishioners for their service and ministry to Christ through the Church. This year's recipients were Harold and Lorraine Irving. They have

been active and central to the life of the Church throughout their lives, and have been one of the original families of St Francis. They have each served in a variety of different capacities, giving of themselves for the building up of the parish, the community, the region and the diocese. It is a thrill and an honour to stand with them and say our

deepest thanks for many years of dedicated ministry.

Photo: Lorraine and Harold Irving being presented with "Parishioners of the Year" certificate by Archdeacon Mark Kingsbury from St. Francis by The Lakes, Lower Sackville. This took place at the Parish Annual Meeting on January 26, 2014.



COLUMNIST

When The Bog turned red for 16 days

EVERYONE HERE By the Bog has had it with winter. Lent is in full swing and we eagerly await Spring and Easter. The one bright light in an otherwise bleak season has been the Winter Olympics. The residents of the Bog have become experts on such sports as Luge and Skeleton, Biathlon and Snowboarding. We have cheered on both the women and the men on the ice in curling and hockey. A few have been inspired to get out and walk more and folks are sporting red shirts, especially on game day.



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

Pop has become a fan of Curling, he calls it a game of Chess on ice and the family hear him yelling SWEEP when he thinks it is needed. Now we must remember that Pop lived most of his adult life in the southern United States where Hockey has just shown up and Curling is still something that the ladies have done to their hair at the Beauty Parlor.

James has done some curling in the past and took on the job of explaining the sport to Pop. It is never easy to instruct Billie's beloved father-in-law in anything. He assumes that he knows how things work and if they don't follow his plan then that "thing" is at fault,

not him! We all can follow the line of the rocks as they come down the ice, we can understand that the frantic sweeping keeps a slow rock moving and the "take-out" shot is everyone's favourite. Just try to explain the strategy of placing guards in front of the house or leaving a rock to be used at a later time as a tap-in to the local expert on all things Olympic ,and as far as blanking an end???? Don't even go there! Pop's watchword is "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush!"

Thank goodness the Canadians won Gold in Curling! Pop takes most of the

credit for the wins. He is a fan of the Women's team, calling them "Darlins" and "Cuties". Mom, on the other hand is full of admiration for the Men's team and the way they fill out those curling shirts. She is quick to point out that the Canadian boys never need a long sleeved jacket because, they are hot stuff! Billie would wink in her direction as the two local "cuties" teased their men.

Even four years ago our ability to share the life of an Olympic athlete was not as real to us. The advent of satellite coverage, HD and huge flat screen receivers has brought those young people right into our homes, here By the Bog. The daily topic around the rectory kitchen table over Ma's fresh coffee and cinnamon buns was the latest results from Sochi.

When we heard that the gold medal game for our Men's hockey team was due to start at 8am on Sunday morning there was great consternation from a few fans. They knew they would be able to see the first two periods before the 10am service started but what if we were behind, what if the score was tied at that time? Well....some said "to heck with

church, they would stay home and watch the game".

Billie and James assured everyone that James would keep his cell phone on and he had the right app to show the score. Billie agreed that regular updates would be given but she drew the line at special prayers for those fine Canadian boys!

Just after the Psalm was sung by James and before Betty Chambers came up to read the second lesson someone at the back of the church gave a muted cheer. James checked his app and with a huge smile announced that Canada had just won the gold medal. We all cheered; some clapped and Billie went on with the service as if things like this happened on a weekly basis at St. Bart's.

We were all proud to be Canadians, a winter people as some of the TV advertisements have been calling us during these past sixteen days but we would all agree that enough is enough and we are ready to be Spring people!

I'll keep you posted,

Aunt Madge



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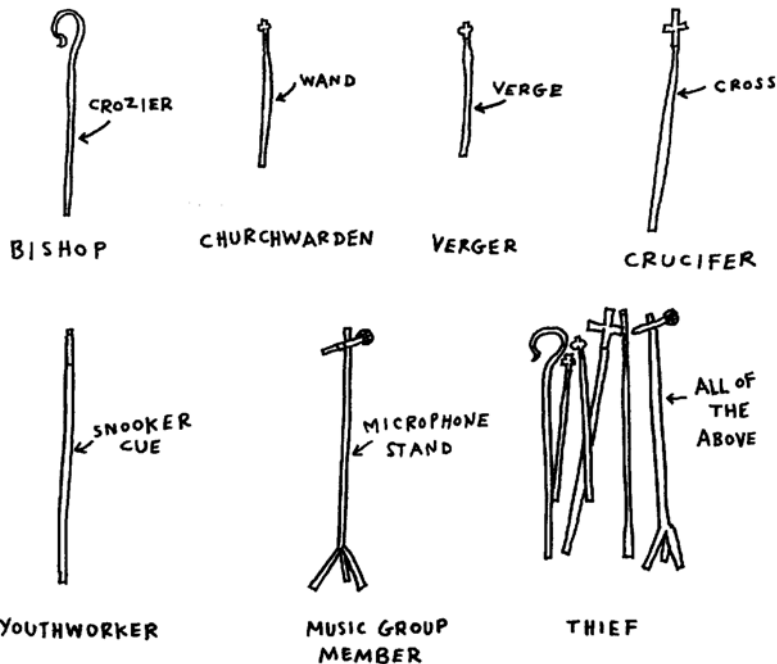
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The first week of the month preceding the month of publication: e.g., the deadline for the February edition is the first week of January.

HOW TO RECOGNISE PEOPLE BY THE KIND OF STICK THEY ARE CARRYING



BISHOP'S LENTEN MESSAGE



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

As we walked along, taking turns carrying a large wooden cross, people reacted in a variety of ways: from respect to laughter, tourists taking our picture! and "Do you want to buy an umbrella?"

"We follow him... from the glory of the palms to the glory of the resurrection by way of the dark road of suffering and death. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life." *The Liturgy of the Palms*, BAS p.297

"So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called the place of the skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them." *St. John 19:16b-18*

Lord Jesus, you embraced the cross that we might learn to give our lives for the sake of love: God of compassion. **Hear our prayer** "Litany for Lent"

WHILE I WAS ON SABBATICAL I attended the *Palestine of Jesus* course run by St. George's College, Jerusalem (along with four other bishops from the province of Canada). Among many profound experiences was walking the "Way of the Cross". The first record of this pilgrim practice, walking the way of the cross in Jerusalem after the death and resurrection of Christ, comes from the Spanish pilgrim Egeria. In 381 A.D. she made a Good Friday pilgrimage from the Mount of Olives to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where she joined other Christians in a three hour liturgy. I didn't have to go to Jerusalem to find his devotional practice. A number of the churches in our diocese have physical representations of the stations of the cross and in many places it is the central act of worship on Good Friday. In his little book *A Walk in Jerusalem*, Canon John Peterson writes: "the Crusaders had taken the idea of Stations of the Cross home to Europe, where murderous struggles between Church and State, wars among nations, the Black Death, and famine had given the people of medieval times a new appreciation for Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. These particular attributes of Christ became the principal focus for medieval spirituality. Walking his Way of the Cross was a meaningful expression of the penitent's pain and of ultimate healing through resurrection." In 1563 Jan Pascha wrote in his book *Spiritual Journey*, "Those who cannot go there in person can still make this voyage by the grace of God, through devout and pious meditations as follow". The original 9 'stations' of Jesus' walk from the place of judgement to the point of his burial, found in the gospels, were supplemented by 5 more from popular medieval piety.

The day we walked the Stations of the Cross was cool and overcast and it rained sporadically (the only rain in nearly two weeks). The walk took us along the Via Dolorosa, the Suq Khan ez-Zeit and Suq Ed Dabba Gha, ending at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We were not the only group of pilgrims who

were walking the Way, periodically we could hear voices raised in song or prayer, but it wasn't easy to hear because the 'Way of the Cross' takes place along the narrow crowded streets of the old city of Jerusalem: Food is cooking, merchants are calling out to tourists, children are playing, the call to prayer echos from minarets and car horns are sounding. As we walked along, taking turns carrying a large wooden cross, people reacted in a variety of ways: from respect to laughter, tourists taking our picture! and "Do you want to buy an umbrella?"

Whenever I had prayed the stations of the cross before, it has been in the quiet of a church or among a small devotional group. The atmosphere had been hushed, reverent, as we focused on the intensity of emotion as Jesus walks to death. I suspect that what we experienced in Jerusalem is a lot closer to the reality of Jesus' walk to Golgotha than our worship would make it. The way of the cross is not reserved for a special holy time or place but is found in the middle of the everyday. The words "Father forgive..." lost in the clamour of the market.

In these final days of Lent, our worship encourage us to continue to walk with Jesus as he heads toward Jerusalem, a journey that will end with his way of the Cross, his death and his resurrection. So much of our devotional life encourages to rush to the 'Alleluia' (oops... I'm not supposed to say that word during Lent) of Easter without confronting the reality of Jesus' cross. The theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer referred to this as 'cheap grace'. The cross is the implement of torture and death, it is the worst that the world can do, it is the great 'no' in the face of Jesus' proclamation of God's kingdom. At the same time the cross liberates that proclamation from an earthly body, from a single time and place. The Good News overcomes death on the cross, but you cannot get to the resurrection without going through the cross.

What are the ways that we have allowed the Good News to be restricted, robbed of its power to transform? What are the things that we have to die to, either as individuals or as congregations, in order that the power of God's love may be freed? Jesus gives a challenge but also an option to those who think about walking in his way. If we want to be his disciple, it means "taking up the cross" (not simply accepting an unavoidable difficulty), intentionally choosing a death to this world's glories in order to find abundant life in God's kingdom.

+Ron

Lord, may I remember your presence



Prayer

Steve Laskey

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

So here we are in the middle of Lent. Where has prayer been taking you on this journey? I hope it has been a prayerful journey to grow closer in your dialogue and conversation with God to know at a deeper level who you are and how you might grow in your faith and discipleship. It is important to remember that prayer reminds us that we always journey with, and not apart, from our Lord who invites, rather than demands that we make this journey.

I have found, and many others confirm this for themselves, that rather than being told what to do, we often grow much better when we are in dialogue and get feedback in our day to day life. It isn't just talking to ourselves but interacting with others. Hopefully, it is the same in our conversations with God. Some of us will be quite excited about what we are exploring and learning about in these dialogues while others may be wondering where God is. Is God there or here at all?

Am I indeed just talking to myself? Over the years in speaking with many people about prayer and their experience of God's presence, people have shared the times when God has seemed absent or far away. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to that sense of absence. These can be times of great difficulty or when everything is going quite well. But that sense of absence has been there and it has been challenging. In my own life there have been times when I have been far from those I love; both family and friends. I have felt their absence in difficult times, in the wilderness, when even a telephone call was not an option to connect. I have had times of celebration when I wished they were with me to share the jubilation. All I was able to do at those times was hold them in my heart knowing that I was held in their heart. I could always remember the comfort and love I received in the past as well as look forward to the

time that we could speak or see one another. Knowing this brought a certain degree of peace and satisfaction but it was never quite the same as sharing in the moment. So it was a matter of focussing on knowing their love is there no matter what; and this I never doubted or forgot. In our faith and prayer life, we might look to the past when we have felt God's presence and rely on that to get us through. We might also look forward to the time that we will experience God's presence once again. Perhaps it is not quite the same as sensing God in the moment but just as we can focus on the love of family and friends, we can focus on God's promised presence even when God seems inaccessible. Jesus, in the wilderness, during his ministry, in the final week and on the cross relied on this. As the Lenten journey stretches out over time and distance, we can take a moment to prayerfully reflect and remember that God is present in every moment of this journey.

I offer this simple reflection in the middle of Lent and especially for those who question whether they have ever felt God's presence. It is to remember that God is with us now, in this moment, and for all time.

Are you there Lord?
I sought you in the past but somehow, I missed you...
I hope to see you in the future but I never seem to get there...
And now, here you are with me in the present.
When did you get here?...
What? You've always been here?...
Never left?...
Well, where was I, or am, or will be?
In the palm of your hand?
Oh yes, right...
Yes...I was, and am, and always will be.
Now I remember.
Why do I forget?
I will remember.

The Annual General Meeting of all Anglican Church Women on PEI

will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014 at St Paul's Church, Charlottetown. Our theme for the year is "Anglican Church Women Make a Difference".

We would like to put together a newsletter once or twice a year with news and stories from all the Anglican Church Women across the island. Please send your news to acwpei@gmail.com

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More details coming in the May edition!

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Anglican Church Women NS Board and the Cape Breton Region

WHAT: Faith & Fellowship Gathering, with Annual Meeting 2014
Come to the Water: Women of Faith, Women of Courage with Rev. Cathy Lee Cunningham
WHO: For all women, all ages and stages
WHEN: Friday, April 25 (afternoon & evening) and Sat. April 26 all day (8:30 - 4:30)
WHERE: St. George's Hall, Nepean St, Sydney, NS. Parish of the Resurrection
WHY: to celebrate Women of Faith & Courage
HOW: by pre-registering (\$20 each day or \$40 both days). Send your cheques to the ACW Nova Scotia Board by April 15/14. For more info, call or write:
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Local priest championed for Marks of Mission project

BY CLAUDIA ZINCK
PARISH OF BLANDFORD

One of Marian's (Lucas-Jefferies) earliest memories of her connection with nature was in her grandmother's garden. Grandma believed in composting. The white specks of egg shells and dark brown used tea bags dotted the vegetable garden. Carrot peels added bright colour. Everything was used and reused. From these early times, came concerns for the environment.

As a young mother, her family was always interested in recycling. Sorting the trash is not a new action for Rev. Marian. Her youngest son Andrew was always interested in the recycling, encouraging the family to learn new methods to help the environment and her husband Graham challenged himself each week to reduce the amount of waste on the side of the road on garbage day.

In 1999, a trip to Africa to study food security allowed her to see the health effects GMO's (genetically modified organisms). And then she was able to see the benefits of organic farming practises in India in 2003. That trip along



Photo: Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies with her Champion award for the Marks of Mission work

with the significant influence of a farm women's organization in New Brunswick, was a turning point in her

understanding of how we must tread lightly on the planet. The effects on the health of the people and the planet were undeniable.

In 2006, Marian was ordained as an Anglican priest. During her time as a student, care of the land, the food for the people became increasingly important. Her course load included God's call to be stewards of creation. She was influenced by church organizations committed to caring for creation and eco-justice like Kairos.

Sitting on the Board of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, her education continued. How does starvation affect the person, the family and the community? With the ever increasing shrinking of farmland in our own region, Rev. Marian saw the need to pass on knowledge to the next generation about sustainable agriculture.

As priest, Rev. Marian took her post in the Parish of Upham in New Brunswick. By the time her contract ended, gardening, parish gardening, was a norm. A piece of rectory property was used for a garden. One farmer plowed, another fertilized, another tilled. Then came a planting day where the crop was put in. In the fall

the children made pickles that were sold to raise funds for the church.

Rev. Marian arrived in the Parish of Blandford in 2011. Her appointment as the coordinator of the Task Force in the Environment began in 2012. The Parish Garden, the Parish Heritage Seed Project and the Do It Ourselves Club all sprouted from a desire to work with the environment.

In our parish, the Friday nearest Earth Day each year, the children from Messy church, their families and friends join together to plant the seeds. Parent and grandparents help with the planting, teaching how to grow a garden. "Grandma", a parishioner with a passion for caring for creation, is a main organizer. Bits of white egg shells still show up in the soil. The cycle continues; a cycle to positively impact on our environment

Congratulations to Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies for receiving the award for the 5th Mark of Mission: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth, from the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Church Lady from Rustico

St. MARK'S Anglican Church in South Rustico, Prince Edward Island has been fortunate to have Alberta Buntain as its faithful servant for more than 65 years and this commitment was recently recognized. On behalf of Bishop Sue Moxley, the Rector, Rev. Ralph Moore, presented Alberta with a certificate of appreciation at the annual 'Hanging of the Greens' service on December 1, 2013. In the beginnings Alberta accompanied her father, the late Victor Buntain, when he attended to the duties encompassed in his title as sexton of the church. As a thirteen-year-old she would sweep and dust inside while Victor built the fire in the coal-fired space heater. In her early twenties she took on the duties of cutting the grass around the church and tombstones in the cemetery, a job she continued to do until it was contracted out in 1999.

Having reached the age of 78 in January this year Alberta continues to care for her church. She lives just a few hundred yards from the church so is able to see if anything is amiss during the winter months when the church is closed. She anticipates the reopening of the church each spring and eagerly continues to prepare for the services by turning on the power and setting the communion table. She arranges for the Scripture readers and welcomes each and everyone at the door for each service. She takes great pride in showing visitors from 'away' her church and has a wealth of information which she shares gladly. She has kept a journal for many years and records weekly what has taken place at the service. Never having married, St. Mark's, its parishioners and extended parish family truly are her family.

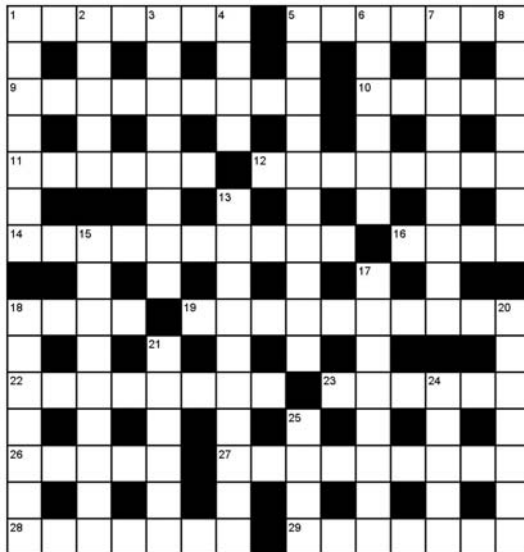
SUBMITTED BY ANNA CARR



Photo: 'Church Lady' Alberta Buntain in front of her beloved St. Mark's Church in Rustico, PEI.

Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



April 2014 Clues

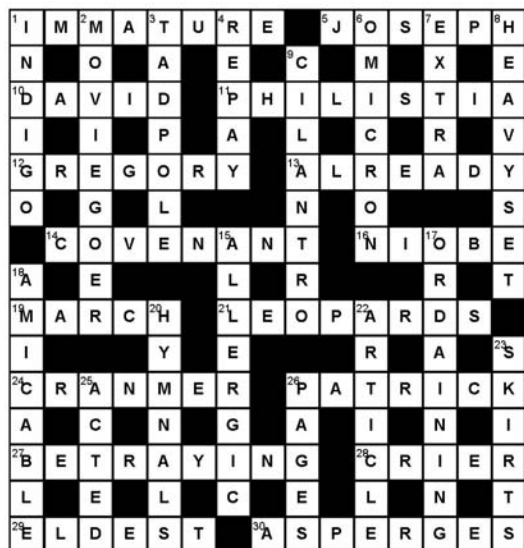
ACROSS:

- 1 - Early bishop of Milan, died 397 (7)
- 5 - "From ivory _____, stringed instruments make you glad", homes of kings (Ps. 45:18) (7)
- 9 - Operations (9)
- 10 - "_____ Showers bring May flowers" (5)
- 11 - Most important Christian festival (6)
- 12 - Logs for burning (8)
- 14 - "...to those who are _____ in Christ Jesus", made holy (1Cor. 1:2) (10)
- 16 - "For _____ are called, but few are chosen", large number (Matt. 22:14) (4)
- 18 - Gospel writer (4)
- 19 - Did arithmetic (10)
- 22 - "God of Israel who is enthroned above the _____", order of angels (Isa. 37:16) (8)
- 23 - Patron saint of England (6)
- 26 - Covered with vines (5)
- 27 - Relation of two or more compounds made of the same kind and number of atoms (9)
- 28 - Exaltation (7)
- 29 - No longer practiced (7)

DOWN:

- 1 - "The god who _____ by fire is indeed God", replies (1Kings 18:24) (7)
- 2 - "..._____ of the air have nests..." , creatures that fly (Matt.8:20) (5)
- 3 - Kind of cooked eggs (8)
- 4 - Way out (4)
- 5 - "The hand of the Lord will strike with a deadly _____ your livestock", epidemic (Exod. 9:3) (10)
- 6 - Yeast (6)
- 7 - Seabird considered unclean by Israelites, see Lev.11:17 (9)
- 8 - Soundly (7)
- 13 - Quality of being cordial (10)
- 15 - Places where young children are cared for (9)
- 17 - One-piece garment with feet, worn by small children (8)
- 18 - Mechanical apparatus (7)
- 20 - "... (Jacob) _____ that there was a ladder", had a vision in the night (Gen. 28:12) (7)
- 21 - Arctic region, treeless and with permafrost (6)
- 24 - "You have laid his stronghold in _____", destroyed property (Ps.89:40) (5)
- 25 - "...they offered him gifts of _____, frankincense and myrrh", precious metal (Matt.2:11) (4)

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IT'S A NEW DAY!

It's planting season

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

Breaking News... The church is growing! Two recent academic research projects out of the UK report widespread flourishing within Christian churches there. Signs of vitality and growth have been present for decades, but have usually been discounted because they were of the non-traditional type.

A February 2014 story in The Church of England Newspaper by David Goodhew shares the results of a study entitled, "Church Growth in Britain from 1980 to the Present" written by a group of researchers at Cranmer Hall, Durham. Amongst the media reports of church buildings being closed, they say that there have been more than 5,000 new Christian communities birthed. Many of those within the Anglican tradition are those referred to as "fresh expressions" of church. The study also stated there were substantial increases of membership, especially within communities of ethnic minorities.

In his article Goodhew lists several "lessons for the Church of England" which are applicable in our context in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Some of them include*:

- There is hope – despair is both wrong theologically and flies in the face of evidence
- Church planting is

the most effective single strategy for growing the church. Every diocese needs a church planting strategy.

- Church growth most often happens where there is population growth, immigration and economic prosperity.
- There is a need for a theology of church growth. We need to articulate plainly why growing the church is what God wants.

(*Taken from www.churchnewspaper.com/26119/archives)

A second report released this year called "From Anecdote to Evidence: Findings from the Church Growth Research Programme 2011-2013" considered the elements that spurred church growth within the Anglican Church. This team of researchers included members from the Institute for Economic and Social Studies at The University of Essex; Cranmer Hall, Durham; Church Army's Research Unit; OxCEPT (The Oxford Centre for Ecclesiology and Practical Theology), Ripon College, Cuddesdon, and several other experienced scholars. They examined statistics (church and civic), congregational profiles and surveys, and structures including cathedrals, fresh expressions, amalgamations



and team ministries.

The systematic multi-method study revealed that there is no one, single or simple answer to church growth. However, they did uncover some general fruitful approaches that churches which were thriving had adapted. They are:

- Good leadership
- A clear mission and purpose
- Willingness to self-reflect, to change and adapt according to context
- Involvement of lay members
- Being intentional in prioritizing growth
- Being intentional in chosen style of worship
- Being intentional in nurturing disciples.

One of the study's authors, Professor David Voas said, "The road to growth depends on the context, and what works in one place may not work in another. What seems crucial is that congregations are constantly engaged in

reflection; churches cannot soar on autopilot. Growth is a product of good leadership (lay and ordained) working with a willing set of churchgoers in a favourable environment."

We can give thanks that our Diocese is entering a new season in which our structures, programs and even our stewardship efforts are reflecting the values of this new era of planting and re-planting seeds of growth. Our establishment of Vision Strategy Support Teams is intended to create an environment whereby we are more "Christ-centered, mission-minded-ministering communities of faith."

Recent initiatives like the parish revitalization process, led by Rev. Lynn Uzans, based on Robert Warren's book "The Healthy Churches' Handbook: a process for revitalizing your church," and the "Reimagining Church in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island" video series are helpful tools for leaders in parishes to use to help cultivate vibrancy in their local context. The Building Healthy Leadership Team is preparing a training resource for lay leaders on councils. Additionally, the "Rejoice Action Appeal 2014" launched by the Financial Management and Development Team is going to provide funds to germinate and mature leadership development. These are all signs of hope as we seek to proclaim the

gospel afresh in this rapidly changing culture.

Like the Church of England, we too are witnessing sprouts of growth in terms of "fresh expressions" of church. One common definition of that form of ministry is: "A form of church for our changing culture established primarily for the benefit of people who are not yet members of any church" (*Reimagining Church in the Diocese of NS & PEI*). Bishop Steve Croft describes it this way, "The attempt to go to where people are, listen carefully to the context and through service form new communities of faith which have the potential to grow into church in their own right."

'Messy Church' for families with children is blooming in several communities, along with other fresh forms of Christian community, including house groups who gather to study the Bible and gardening enthusiasts involved in growing vegetables for the community, just to name a few. In our Diocese, as we continue this focus of being mission-minded, and seek ways to revitalize and grow relevant forms of church, we too can have breaking news and report that the church is growing!

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

ALPHA JumpStart Event

Inspire. Connect. Grow. The annual Alpha Canada "JumpStart Event" is being held May 24th, in Halifax. Join with lay and clergy church leaders for an interactive session full of Alpha Course stories, inspiring talks, prayer and worship. The gathering, from 9am to 3pm, includes sessions on:

- Creating a Culture of

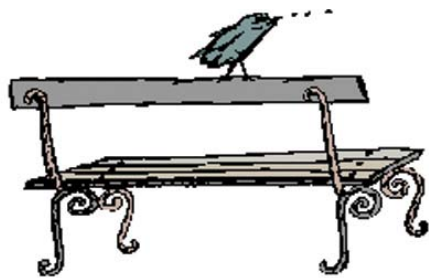
- Invitation
- Essentials for Radical Hospitality
- Transformational Prayer & Ministry
- Innovative ways to Run Alpha
- The NEW Youth Film Series
- Afternoon Training Workshops

The Alpha Course is a resource designed to help participants explore the Christian faith by asking any question. Over seven or ten weeks the series features relevant topics, relatable hosts, and a relaxed environment. More than 19 million people have attended Alpha courses in tens of thousands of churches, cafes, workplaces and pubs around the world.

The JumpStart event takes place in St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church, 45 Radcliffe Drive, Halifax. Pre-Register Online: \$30 full-day, including lunch (\$20 morning only); Walk-in Rate: \$35 full-day / \$25 morning only. Sign up by visiting www.alphacanada.org or call 1-800-743-0899.



'Such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up'



View from the deacon's bench

BY MAGGIE WHITTINGHAM-LAMONT

In Jonah Chapter 1 Verse 4 we read "Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up."

Valentine's Day is a huge

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There were huge vehicles smashed beyond recognition, combine harvesters compressed into huge cubes & huge earth-movers twisted off their tracks.

celebration in the Philippines but Valentine's Day 2014 was not the best day for the Filipino seafarers on the car carrying ship the MV Asian Emperor. That evening a severe storm blew in and

there were hurricane force gusts as high as 162 km per hour accompanied by snow, ice and rain. The waves were horrendously high. The ship was only about 65 km from Halifax when it lost power. In normal weather the engine crew could immediately get to work on fixing the problem and service would soon be restored but because of the weather the ship was pitching and rolling very badly and to compound problems large cargo items had shifted adding to the instability of the ship, the situation was dire!

The Captain used all of his training to keep the ship from listing so severely that it would sink but even so he took the precaution of ordering the crew into their survival suits and personal flotation devices. One can only guess what was going through everyone's mind at this point.

On Saturday the ship was piloted into port and docked close by the Mission to Seafarers. Because of everything that had happened there was an influx of people from various agencies waiting to talk to the Captain so the Mission left phones onboard to enable the crew to contact their family and obtain the reassurance that for most people life was going on as usual. An arrangement was

made to visit when it would be less frenetic.

On Monday I went onboard and saw the devastating damage that had occurred. There were huge vehicles smashed beyond recognition, combine harvesters compressed into huge cubes, huge earth-movers twisted off their tracks and it felt so much like a movie set that I expected smoke to arise from the ruins. There were surveyors and stevedores trying to organize the chaos that not too long ago had been a well-organized bay of vehicles bound for various ports on the Eastern Seaboard. The elevator was out of commission, damaged in the storm so I set off up the ten flights of frigid metal stairs and made my way across the upper deck to the crew accommodation. As often happens I met with the galley staff first. They talked to me about the storm and the fear they had felt. I next talked to the cadet. It was his first sea-going assignment and we talked in depth about how he had felt and his future as a seafarer. By this time it was suppertime so I moved into the crew mess and listened as they recounted their experience. When I left the crew mess I popped my head into the Captain's office, inside I saw a very weary gentleman looking and sounding like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders. He had spent most of the time since arrival talking to the various agencies and organizations involved when a ship encounters an incident such as the one his ship had met with. I knew that the Captain was not up for more questions so I just reached out and hugged him. Sometimes there truly are no words to say and I knew that there would be plenty of time for talking once the



Photo: Storms at sea are a constant concern for seafarers.

pressure was off from all of the questioning, reporting and form-filing.

That evening several groups of crewmembers came over to the Mission from the ship and each group was keen to go into the chapel and give thanks. After a couple of hours all the crew that were free to leave the ship were at the Mission and the mood lightened to one of almost giddiness at the relief of being safe and once more on dry land.

But being on dry land also had its challenges. The crew were only supposed to be in Halifax for a few hours but were now facing at least two weeks in frigid weather that they were ill-equipped to deal with. Their ship had been due to continue south after its brief stop in Halifax but now the crew were faced with dealing with our cold weather whilst having no cold weather clothing. Our supplies were drastically depleted after a very harsh winter and so the call went out to the churches in the Diocese via the Anglican Net News and also to the general public via one of our well connected volunteers. We soon received plenty of warm clothing and would like to thank all who donated. What had looked like being a very uncomfortable time

for the crew soon turned into an adventure once they were adequately outfitted and those who were seeing snow for the first time enjoyed taking many pictures although they were puzzled that we did not seem quite so enthralled with the weather. One of the wonders of my job is that I get to see our corner of the world through different eyes almost every day.

I continued to visit the ship every couple of days and as the Captain's workload decreased we were able to have long conversations about the incident and how overwhelming it had been to feel responsible for all the men onboard and how he had prayed for them as the storm raged. He believed his faith had carried him through this incident and was keen to give thanks to God. As it was difficult for him to leave the ship I talked to Jim McLevey, the Roman Catholic Deacon who serves the seafarers and he was able to coordinate a mass onboard the following Sunday evening. Father Randall Doucette officiated at a very emotional service and Music Minister Karen provided wonderfully uplifting music. It truly was a turning point for the crew and especially the Captain as they once more felt confident to set sail.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Stephen Laskey from Christ Church, Dartmouth, resigned effective July 14, 2014. At that time Steve will become Rector of St. Helen's Anglican Church in the Diocese of New Westminster.

Save the Date: Tue, May 6, 2014 for the Installation of Bishop Ron Cutler as

Diocesan Bishop at All Saints Cathedral.

Teens Encounter Christ is choosing team for the 2014 TEC. If you are interested in serving on team please complete the application (linked here) and email it as directed to the Lay Director, nataliedawnmark@

gmail.com Haven't worked team previously and have questions? Please feel free to send questions.

Wait no longer to go to summer camp! On May 2-4, Family Camp is coming to St Nicholas Anglican Church in Tantallon as a dinner theatre. Set in a mountain camp in

1947, the sanctuary will be transformed into a lodge, housing guests at the last night celebration of a week-long camp at Camp Awannahikealotta (a-wanna-hike-a-lot-a). Show times are Fri and Sat, May 2 & 3 at 6pm and Sunday, May 4 at 4pm. Ticket prices are \$25 for

adults and a special children-priced tickets are available for Sunday showing at \$15 each. For tickets, email stnicholaswestwoodhills@gmail.com or stnicholasanglican.ca

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Sarah Myatt, mezzo-soprano
Daniel Taylor, countertenor
Marc Molomot, tenor

Saturday, April 5 at 4:00 p.m.

St John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg

TICKETS: \$10 student | \$25 general in advance | \$30 at the door
902 634-9994 | Shop on the Corner, Lunenburg | at the door

Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 p.m.

Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax

TICKETS: \$15 student | \$30 general | \$45 priority | \$100 patron
kingschapelchoir.eventbrite.ca | 902 422-1270 x 261 | at the door



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