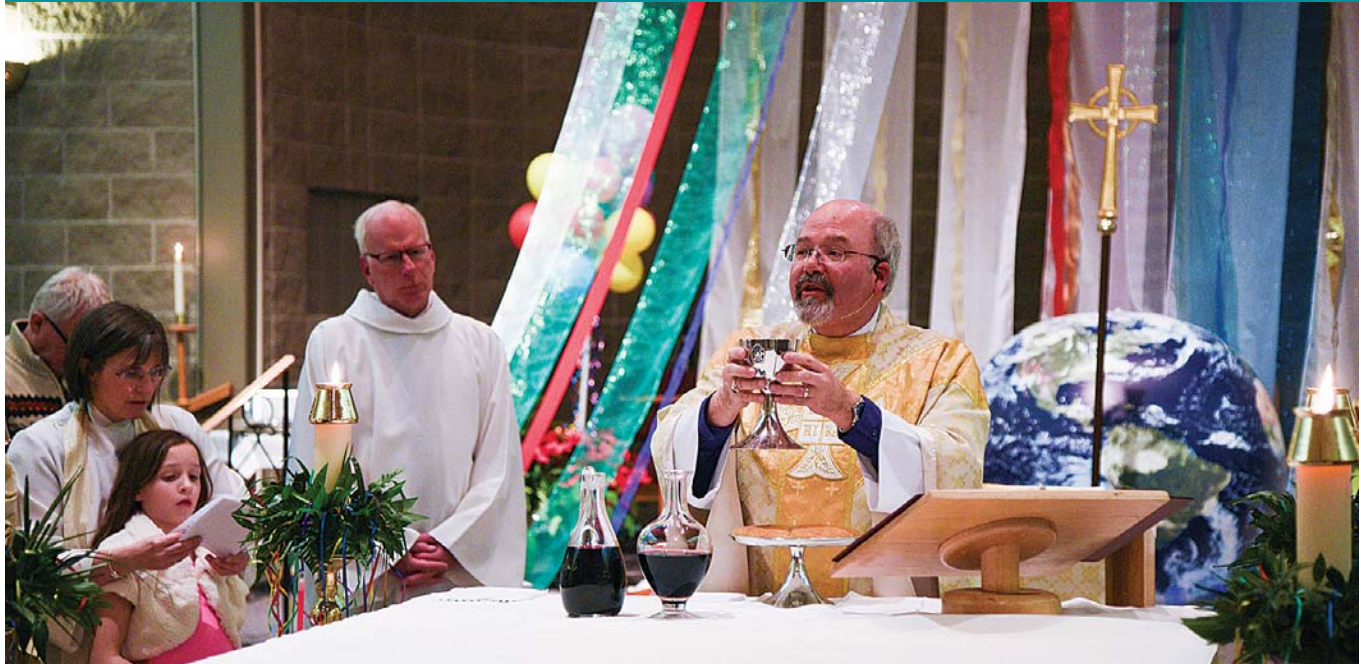




An uncommon service of consecration



THE CHURCH of Saint Andrew celebrated an evening service of consecration on February 25, 2015. Bishop Ron Cutler was the celebrant and homilist (a video excerpt from his sermon can be found at www.facebook.com/diotimes). The parish took 27 years to finally pay off its mortgage and the journey was not without trials and tribulations. In the Anglican tradition, churches consecrated only if they are not indebted by mortgage or

other encumbrances. In his address to the assembled congregation, Bishop Cutler remarked that “through the ages, Almighty God has moved his people to build houses of prayer and praise, and to set apart places for the ministry of his holy Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for the building of The Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour, we are now gathered to consecrate it in God’s name.

This service of consecration celebrates the spiritual grace of this community. Although we consecrate our physical building, we do so recognizing the gifts God has given us to share with this community and the world at large. May we be always willing to be nourished here and sent into the world on God’s Mission to spread the love of Jesus Christ. As each one of us is nourished here, we are sent out to the world, to both share our

blessings and in return, be further blessed! The outreach from this congregation is unmeasurable! As part of our celebration of ministry tonight we send our collection into the community. The collection is given to the Glory of God and the IWK Foundation, directed to programs in Cole Harbour supporting youth with mental health difficulties. God be with you all! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

Photo above: Bishop Ron Cutler celebrates the Eucharist during the service of consecration.

Below left: The church was transformed inside to show how the parish sees its mission in the world.

Below right: The assembled choir added a strong musical presence from their loft above the congregation.

There are more photos and a video on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/diotimes



COLUMNIST

Tears of Gethsemane followed by 'He is Risen' at St Bart's

The third week in March saw the return of Rev. Billie to a very white Bog. We had just survived one of the worst Februaries in living memory as far as snow was concerned. We had kept most of the horror stories away from those in Florida. Mom and Pop had shared some stories during their weekly phone visits but Billie and James were sure that Pop was exaggerating when he spoke of snow drifts that filled the rectory driveway up to 6 feet in places. Benny Smith would not comment on snow, just muttered that it had been an old fashioned winter and left it at that. James and Billie had never lived through an old fashioned winter in The Bog so they had no reference to compare the amount of snow. Benny assured them that everything was well in hand... and it was... and to enjoy the warmth and sunshine while they could. That had an ominous sound!

The travelers returned just in



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

time to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Billie said she had hoped to have a "Reader's Digest" version of Lent with some Bible Study around the Rectory kitchen table when she got home.

She soon realized that Bible Study was not on folks' minds as they licked their wounds and nursed sore shoulders and

bad backs and struggled to recover from the epic winter. Instead Billie turned her eyes to the drama of Holy Week. She had always tried to show us that the joy of Easter is only fully received if we had walked behind our Lord through the days of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We could not sing "He is Risen" with vigour if we had not sung "Go to Dark Gethsemane" with tears in our eyes.

Billie wanted to return to her people and her beloved St. Bart's with renewed energy. She did return to us full of love for us and passion for her calling as our Pastor. The voice coach had been a great idea on James part and the familiar voice was back at 90% strength. Billie had also lost a few pounds and seemed the better for it although no one here would ever say she needed to trim down. We all know that extra weight does not help blood pressure.

And so life returns to normal for us here By The Bog. Billie's father in law and his cronies are planting seeds for their garden Mom is complaining because every south facing windowsill in her house has trays of egg cartons filled with soil and tiny seedlings. Billie is back on the roads of our community, visiting the sick and shut-ins with their Easter Communion. James is working with the choir and the Sunday school to present an old fashioned hymn sing and Benny Smith has stayed at the rectory just in case we get a freak April snow storm with six foot drifts in the driveway. After all, it would be fun to show Billie and James just what is meant by and old fashioned winter!

I'll keep you posted.

Aunt Madge



THE DIOCESAN TIMES

VOLUME 70 NUMBER 4

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Published monthly except in July and August by The Diocesan Times Publishing Company.

Printed by and mailed from:
Webnews Printing Inc.,
North York, ON

Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the management board of The Diocesan Times, the diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island or any representative thereof, except where expressly stated.

All material subject to editing.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

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.

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Subscription rate for The Diocesan Times and the Anglican Journal:

\$20 per year
Single copies: \$2

The benefits of Christ's passion

THE CORNERSTONE of Christianity is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Those who have sought to debunk the Faith have known that this pivotal fact must be disproved. One 19th British Justice set out to do just that! He made a thorough study of the primary resource material – the Gospels – and came to the following conclusion:

I have made a careful study of the material describing the resurrection presented by the original witnesses. I have come to the conclusion that this event in fact happened. I have secured a verdict in court on much less compelling evidence!

So... a skeptic becomes a staunch believer! Lucid presentations are available today, describing the resurrection event, including Anglican writers C.S. Lewis ("Mere Christianity") and John Stott ("Basic Christianity"). However, no presentation is quite as compelling as the original



Rev. Dr. John Roddam

eye-witness accounts in the Gospels!

This is why the "Jesus Film" – a two-hour presentation of the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection – is one of the most powerful evangelism tools around the globe! Just the facts (according to the Gospels) with no editing, offers a compelling argument for Jesus' claims with an invitation to follow Him as Lord.

What's the big deal about this anyway? Jesus' victory over death is the beginning

of a revolution. We too can enter into what our Lord has won for us. Jesus stated: I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, even though he may die, yet shall he live! (John 11:25)

There are many "benefits" of entering into covenant with God through Jesus Christ! Psalm 103: 2-5 lists some of the benefits the First Covenant people enjoyed with God -

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

Hebrews 8:6 opines – He (Jesus Christ) is also mediator of a better covenant! The Prayer Book's Eucharistic Prayer invokes this petition –

And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion...

As a teenager, I would daydream in Church, often wishing I was elsewhere. However, the phrase, "and all other benefits of his passion..." would pique my interest. What are the benefits of Christ's passion? For me? For others?

Sadly, many do not enjoy the benefits of what Christ has accomplished on our behalf. If we began to enumerate and celebrate these, our Churches would be overflowing. This is happening in the 2/3's world, even where Christians are being persecuted. Why? The Gospel is Good News for all!

BISHOP'S MESSAGE



The Right Reverend Sue Moxley,
Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince
Edward Island (retired)

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

FOR ALL THE WEEKS OF LENT, we did not say, "Alleluia!" (Except maybe by accident when we got excited and forgot the Lenten discipline.) But now it is Easter and we want to shout out, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" And we hope someone will respond, "The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

How often does that happen?

For the rest of the Easter season, until Pentecost, we can add Alleluia's around the Gospel proclamation, we can add them in Morning and Evening Prayer, at the dismissal and other times as well, presumably because we have something to celebrate! Well, we do have something to celebrate! Resurrection!

Looking at some Christians, it is hard to tell that there is something wonderful, amazing and incredible that God has done for us - resurrection, God's triumph of life over death! Here is God's promise that death is not the last word, not for the human Jesus, nor for us. Here is the offer of eternal life. Surely that is something we should celebrate! Surely that is something about which we should exclaim,

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Why is it so hard to recognize the joy and amazement of the resurrection in those of us who are supposed to be Easter people? Do we look any different than other people? Do we speak differently? Are our actions any different than those of others? The answer to all those questions should be YES!

Look different? Is the joy of being one of God's beloved children evident in our face? Do we smile more than frown? Is our joy and confidence in the Lord evident in the way we stand? Do we move as

if we are moving toward a loving God?

Speak differently? Are our words compassionate, kind and gentle even when they are critical? Do we easily commend the faith that is in us to others? Do we speak of our loving, merciful and forgiving God in ways that people can hear?

Act differently? Do we take control of our time and stop to pray? When the person begging asks for money, do we stop to talk with them or buy them a cup of coffee? When someone is being bullied at school or work, do we take action to interrupt the cycle? Everyone needs a chance for "new life" and we have a responsibility to live in the image of God helping new life to happen.



Resurrection is a fact of history for Jesus. It is also a way of life, always looking for the new life that God is bringing and believing that the gift of eternal life is real. I recently had a funeral for a woman named Jean. She had brain tumors. She was preparing for surgery that did not have high odds of curing her. When this was explained by her doctor she said, "Well if the surgery works and I'm cured I will have a new life. If the surgery fails and I die, I will have eternal life. Either way, I win!!!"

Around the world millions of Christians are sharing the joy of the Good News of Jesus Christ risen from the dead. They are sharing God's power to bring life out of death. You can be of them.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

+Sue

Everyone needs a chance for "new life" and we have a responsibility to live in the image of God helping new life to happen.

Now is the winter of our discontent ...

HOPEFULLY this past winter has long passed and by the time you read this, the signs of spring are everywhere. It was a long and arduous slog through these past few months of unrelenting snow and ice and more snow and more ice. A winter that is best viewed in the rearview mirror of the mind.

Many church services were cancelled or rescheduled and the annual Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers were nearly non-existent due to hazardous road conditions. Annual general meetings fared no better and many were delayed until weather conditions improved. Parish snow removal budgets had to be revised to keep the parking lots cleared and sidewalks safe for travel (which wasn't always possible with a built-up layer of 6" solid ice.)

And many parishioners & clergy were struck down by the latest flu bug making its way through the towns and cities in our diocese. The



Paul Sherwood

Editor

combination of winter weather and another flu season meant pews were more sparsely populated than normal.

But throughout the trials of winter, our parishes continued to offer worship services as best they could. Choirs and musicians and priests and layreaders gave their best on Sundays to provide a spiritual

space where parishioners could gather as a community for worship. Anglicans are as diverse a group in worship as in individuality.

And the Lambeth Conference 1998 Resolution 1.10, calls us to recognize that: "there are among us persons who experience themselves as having a homosexual orientation. Many of these are members of the Church and are seeking the pastoral care, moral direction of the Church, and God's transforming power for the living of their lives and the ordering of relationships. We commit ourselves to listen to the experience of homosexual persons and we wish to assure them that they are loved by God and that all baptized, believing and faithful persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are full members of the Body of Christ; And ... calls on all our people to minister pastorally and sensitively to all irrespective of sexual orientation and to condemn irrational fear of

homosexuals, violence within marriage and any trivialization and commercialization of sex"

But in spite of nearly two decades passing, there are still those who do not welcome all into our worship community. Some even hold irrational fears from dated articles that have since been disproven many times over.

For example, some conservatives argue that scientific research supports their claim that homosexuality and pedophilia are linked. The Family Research Council produced what is perhaps the most extensive attempt to document this claim; it is an article by Timothy J. Dailey titled *Homosexuality and Child Abuse*.

However, according to Professor Gregory Herek (Ph.D., University of California, Davis), empirical research does not show that gay or bisexual men are any more likely than heterosexual men to molest children.



This is not to argue that homosexual and bisexual men never molest children. But there is no scientific basis for asserting that they are more likely than heterosexual men to do so. And, as explained in a survey conducted under the auspices of the Kinsey Institute (Klassen, Williams, & Levitt, 1989), many child molesters cannot be characterized as having an adult sexual orientation at all; they are fixated on children.

It is time to welcome one and all and put our misconceptions and irrational fears behind us. Would Jesus have it any other way?

Fond farewell for Peter and Nancy Armstrong



Photo: Rev. Doug Pilsworth makes presentation to the Armstrongs in March on behalf of the Pictou County Council of Churches.

Parishioners of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County held a joint service and gathering to bid farewell to rector Archdeacon Peter Armstrong

and his wife Nancy recently, prior to his departure for a new position in the Diocese of Algoma. The Anglican Churches of Pictou County is a

federation of four churches — Christ Church in Stellarton, St. Alban's in Thorburn, St. Bees' in Westville and St. James' in Pictou.

LETTERS

To: Paul Sherwood, Editor
The Diocesan Times.

As the minister who served the congregation of St. Andrew's United Church in Wolfville for 13 years, I read with interest the March 2015 article describing the removal and reconstruction of the organ. I am glad to know that this instrument and the organ from St. Paul & St. Stephen United Church in Kentville will be used and enjoyed. However, I'm disappointed that the article used the word "rescue" in its title. To rescue by definition means "to free or deliver from confinement, violence, danger, or evil." This seems to infer thoughtless abandonment or deliberate neglect on behalf of the people who were formerly responsible for the building and its contents. I trust this was not your intent. Perhaps the word "relocate" or "rehouse" might have been used instead.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt

Ed: There was no disrespect intended toward the organ or its original family. The story was meant to honor the new home and new life for such a venerable instrument.

St Nicholas dinner theatre strikes again

The parishioners at St Nicholas Anglican Church in Upper Tantallon are at it again! Preparations are currently under way for their second annual Dinner Theatre!

Titled Uncle Phil's Diner, this production is sure to bring lots of laughs as you find yourself about to have a nice meal and some musical entertainment in a 1950s diner, however, the band is late! The wait staff will have to pull out their hidden talents to keep their customers laughing and engaged until the band arrives!

"We had an awesome time and grew some amazing friendships last year," says Rev Tammy Hodge, who is part of the cast. "We are starting to build a theatre tradition here at St Nicholas."

With 21 cast members and many more participating in supporting roles, the theatre bug seems to be spreading in this parish. With that being said the cast is still filling minor roles and especially need some more males to step in. Rev Hodge also mentioned they are always looking for folks who are willing to help with set up, tear down and clean up. With over 300 in attendance last



year, the cast and crew are anticipating an even bigger crowd this year, so all hands on deck!

One thing St Nicholas is already known for is putting on great meals and this dinner theatre will be no exception! With a long history for preparing meals for large groups, the St Nicholas kitchen staff will be serving a delicious salad followed by a full chicken dinner and ending with cake for dessert.

After an extremely successful first run at a dinner theatre in 2014, the St Nicholas cast is thrilled to offer again, three shows on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd at 6 pm. Tickets are \$25 and are available in advance through the St Nicholas website www.stnicholasanglican.ca

or through the box office by leaving a message at (902) 826-1156. Goodness gracious great balls of fire! This is not an evening to be missed!



Photo left to right: Keith Campbell, St Bees', Pastor Keith Hazzard from the Life Shelter and the Roots for Youth Shelter, Charlotte Munroe, St Alban's, Loretta Armsworthy, Christ Church, Barb McPhail, St James, Mike and Donna and Hasiuk, St Bees.

Undies for Sunday project a hit

BY KEITH CAMPBELL

On February 15, the congregations of the Anglican Churches of Pictou County (ACPC) reached deep into their warm hearts to help out

those who are most in need. Over 370 items were collected and delivered to Pastor Keith Hazzard's Life Shelter and the Roots for Youth Shelter in New Glasgow. They provide temporary help to those who

are most vulnerable to the winter cold. New underwear, socks, hats, gloves and other items were collected in the four churches Undies for Sunday project.

It's a new day!

Rediscovering the 'M-word'

By Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

Mission. Misunderstood. Misapprehension. The word 'mission' can also be mystifying. The new buzz word in Anglican circles is mission, but what does it mean, really?

Author David Bosch in his book "Transforming Mission" defines it this way: "Mission is...the good news of God's love, incarnated in the witness of a community, for the sake of the world." He says, "to participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love towards people, since God is a fountain of sending love."

Mission involves discerning what God is already doing in the world. It requires that Christians need to prayerfully engage in the Creator's initiative and call.

As the 2004 groundbreaking Church of England report, "Mission-Shaped Church" points out (citing a quote by Tim Dearborn), "It is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission who has a Church in the world."

In 1983, The Anglican Consultative Council provided a framework based on this truth, "The Mission of the Church is the

mission of Christ." Their priority list, the Five Marks of Mission, has become for many churches in the Anglican Communion, a key reference point for setting priorities and focusing ministry initiatives. In the final report from the Anglican Church of Canada's General Synod in 2010 entitled, "Dream the Church -Vision 2019," members vowed to embrace a fresh approach to ministry based on these Five Marks of Mission.

The Five Marks of Mission

- 1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**
- 2. To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers**
- 3. To respond to human need by loving service**
- 4. To seek to transform the unjust structures of society**
- 5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

The "Dream the Church -Vision 2019" document urges all Anglicans in Canada to reset our compass in terms of focus and direction of our energies. It says, "The Marks of Mission

are an invitation to the whole church, a challenge and an opportunity to ground our common life and ministry in mission - in what God is doing in and for the world."

The report says this call to clarity involves all levels of Anglican organization when it says, "Inhabiting the present - with its elements of loss and hope, of weariness and renewal, of dying and rising - is the work of the church in local congregations, in dioceses and regions, and in the national work associated with General Synod and other nationwide expressions of the church."

When we examine them closely, the first two marks of mission (proclaiming, teaching, baptizing and nurturing new disciples) lead to bearing fruit of the last three (responding in loving service, bringing about justice and proper stewardship of creation). Numbers 1 and 2 are the rock foundation in which to build compassionate

care for people, God's creatures and the earth.

So if we are compelled by God's Spirit to share the Good News, teach, baptize and nurture, we



need to turn our attention to those who do not know Christ and are not yet His followers. This requires a reorientation from insider focus to outsider focus. For generations we have assumed that a recognizable Anglican Church sign and a church building would 'bring them in.' More recently many of us have assumed that a little tweaking of the worship here and there would be the answer to connecting with non-Church people. However, writers of "Mission-Shaped Church" say that 'attractional' methods will only connect with a wee-small percentage of potential Christians. They say a new perspective is required. The authors write, "The change is to an outward focus: from a 'come-to-us' approach to a 'we will go to you' attitude, embodying the gospel where people are, rather than embodying it where we are, and in ways we prefer."

This mission-minded, mission-oriented change

in ministry direction is not an easy one to make. We have been so accustomed to doing what we have been doing, and doing it well. This fresh focus outside of our church walls can be a challenge, but it is what the church was intended to be, joining God who is present and busy transforming the world.

Consider these questions for you and your local congregation:

- Where can you see the God of mission already at work in your community?
- In what ways does your church need to catch up with what God is doing?
- How are we listening to God and actively responding to his call to mission?

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.

Shaped by a Living Hope:

Fostering Renewal in the Small Congregation

St Mary's Hall, 74 Summer St., Summerside, PEI
 Fri April 17th at 9:30AM for clergy and Sat April 18th at 10AM for clergy and laity.
 Lunch is provided and accommodations can be arranged. No cost.
revjenny@gmail.com
 or 902-439-6797 to register

We live in a time of uncertainty and challenge in the life of the church. Many congregations wonder what their future holds, or if they have a future at all. Yet there are examples of small congregations that are thriving, experiencing robust hope and fresh vitality. What factors are fueling such renewal?

How might we encourage similar conditions in our churches? Participate in a workshop that will inspire you as it provides insights and strategies to address these important questions. Discover what's possible when a congregation allows its life today to be shaped by God's promised tomorrow.

Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle has a long and fruitful history of fostering congregational vitality and growth in the life of the church. After many years' experience as both a parish priest and a professor on a Faculty of Theology, Jay now serves as Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese of Algoma. In both Canada and the United States, he has been acclaimed as an inspirational speaker who brings a terrific sense of humour and an uplifting Christian message.



Photo: Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle

Hurry to register for VCM 2015

RUSH! There are only a few more days in which to register for Vital Church Maritimes 2015 conference set for April 21 - 22. Registration closes on April 6 (if it hasn't already filled up). See the Diocesan website to sign up: www.nspeidiocese.ca.

This year's learning event features The Rev. Dr. Judy Paulsen of Toronto, as keynote presenter. Her focus will be on Christian invitation. Besides an exciting line-up of workshops we have a bonus plenary speaker on Tuesday.

The Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle, Congregational Development Officer of the Diocese of

Algonia, will offer a session, "Fill Your Boots: Stepping Out Into the Promises of God." Explore how "living in tippy-toe expectation of the Kingdom provides sure footing for stepping out into vital mission today."

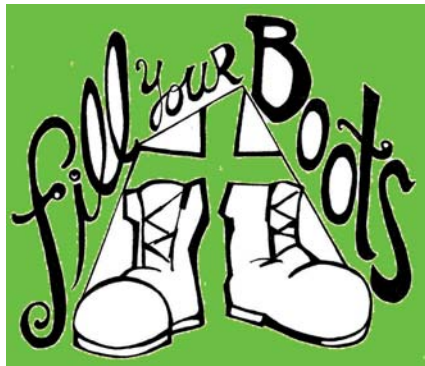
Koyle claims that awakening a fresh glimpse of God's promised kingdom is essential for inspiring and equipping congregations to step into mission with faithful vitality in the present. He will introduce perspectives and practices that cultivate such a posture of hope in churches. He will suggest a different set of questions that he is convinced



churches must ask themselves as they make decisions about matters as diverse as budgets and bazaars, worship and work projects. Throughout the session explore how the kingdom of God might become the reality out of which our congregations live.

Jay Koyle was in parish ministry for 22 years and served on faculty in a theological college for seven years. His doctoral work considered the relationship between preaching and congregational renewal.

VCM 2015 conference is being held at Quality Inn & Suites Halifax. This year's theme is "Fill Your Boots: Stepping Out Into Mission." The event is a project of the Building Healthy Parishes Team (VSST) of the Diocese.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Robert Elford resigned from the parish of Trinity, Halifax effective June 30th, 2015.

Rev. Dr. Wayne Short appointed priest-in-charge of the parish of Cherry Valley March 1st, 2015.

Rev. Lynn Uzans appointed Vocations Coordinator, March 1st, 2015. Lynn will be working on a part time basis in this position and will be based out of the Synod Office. She will be working with discerners and postulants for stipendiary ordained ministry.

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. No resolutions will be accepted after the Feb 27th deadline or from the floor.

Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the souls blood, The land of spices, something understood.

Prayer - George Herbert

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Faith & Fellowship 2015

hosted by Anglican Church Women NS Board

- What?** Faith & Fellowship Gathering, 2015
The Bread of Life: Feeding Our Ministries with Bishop Ron (keynote) on Saturday followed by workshops
- Who?** All are welcome - women and men
- When?** Friday, April 24 (4:30 - 9:30) and Sat. April 25 (9 - 4:30)
- Where?** St. Peter's Birch Cove, Halifax
- Why?** to enhance our ministry in the service of God's mission
- How?** by pre-registering (\$20 each day, \$40 both days. cheques to the ACW Nova Scotia Board) by April 15/15 with Marjorie Davis; (902) 462-3637; e-mail: davisnow@ns.sympatico.ca



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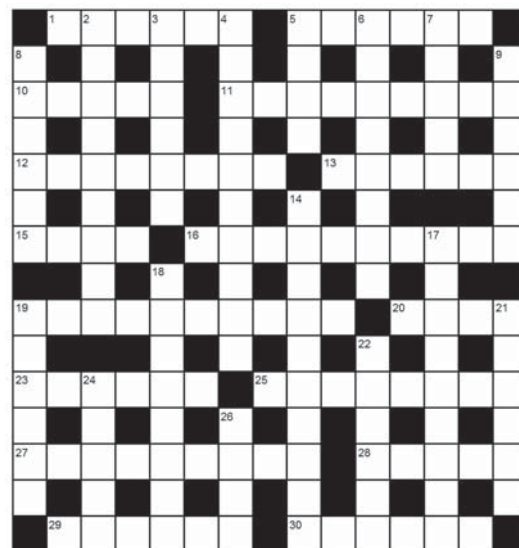
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April 2015 Clues

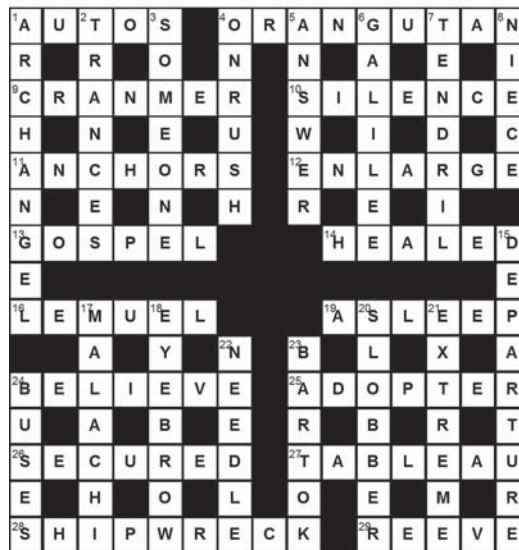
- ACROSS:**
- 1 – Most important Christian Festival (6)
 - 5 – Heads of monasteries (6)
 - 10 – Hits hard (5)
 - 11 – "What are you to me... regions of ____?" region containing Tyre and Sidon (Joel 3:4) (9)
 - 12 – Refrains from (8)
 - 13 – Stick fast (6)
 - 15 – "I am standing at the ____ knocking" moveable barrier for an entryway (Rev. 3:20) (4)
 - 16 – "Is this not the ____ son?" woodworker's (Matt. 13:55) (10)
 - 19 – Special room in a monastery (10)
 - 20 – Separate article (4)
 - 23 – Change of position (6)
 - 25 – Small southern African antelope (8)
 - 27 – "There came a rich man from ____, named Joseph..." home of a secret apostle (Matt. 27:57) (9)
 - 28 – "The ____ grew and became strong in spirit." young person (Luke 1:80) (5)
 - 29 – Kind of African fly that carries sleeping sickness (6)
 - 30 – Surge or foam as if boiling (6)
- DOWN:**
- 2 – "...our ____ have told us what deeds you performed" forebears (Ps. 44:1) (9)
 - 3 – People from a region in Italy that includes Florence (6)
 - 4 – "I have come to call ... sinners to ____" contrition (Luke 5:32) (10)
 - 5 – Surrounded by (4)
 - 6 – Depriving of vision (8)
 - 7 – "Whose head is this, and whose ____?" distinguishing name (Mark 12:16) (5)
 - 8 – "We then learned that the ____ was called Malta" land surrounded by water (Acts 28:1) (6)
 - 9 – "Then the servant took ten of his master's ____" beasts of burden (Gen. 24:10) (6)
 - 14 – Types of religious songs (10)
 - 17 – "I will ____ my covenant between me and you." set up (Gen. 17:7) (9)
 - 18 – Insolently proud (8)
 - 19 – Vertebrate with hair (6)
 - 21 – "The ____", a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta (6)
 - 22 – To free from danger (6)
 - 24 – A name for the constellation Gemini (5)
 - 26 – External covering for a foot, often made of leather (4)

Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats

March Solution




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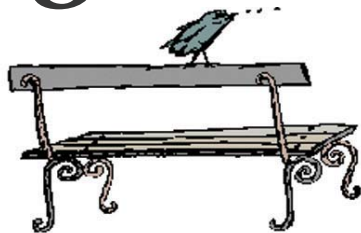
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Leading a sheltered life

By RAY CARTER

*"Oh, a storm is threat'ning
My very life today
If I don't get some shelter
Oh yeah, I'm gonna fade away"*



View from the deacon's bench

Keith Richards and Mick Jagger penned these lyrics to the Rolling Stones hit song "Gimme Shelter", way back in 1969. You may be forgiven if you don't know this, because according to the old saying about the '60s, if you remember you probably weren't there.

I have been thinking a lot about shelter lately. I recall back in the mid 1960's teasing a young lady in my class, by asking her what the "facts of life were", and her reply was "food, clothing, and shelter". I guess she was right. The fact is all humanity needs food, clothing, and shelter. One of the things I am doing this year to fulfill duties as a Deacon ("In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely"), is volunteering at the Out of the Cold Shelter in downtown Halifax. This is the go to shelter for those who are not welcome at, or do not want to go to some of the other shelters in town. The "Guests" there are typically young, male or female, and homeless.

An average night begins with a line forming outside the door around 6:30 PM. At 8 PM a volunteer takes the names of the first fifteen people in the line and the Guests are taken in pairs into the office where intake forms are completed, rules read to everyone, and prescribed meds collected,

bagged, and locked up.

Some of the questions on the intake form are about the health of the guest. Do you suffer from any physical or psychiatric issues? Are you taking medication for any of these issues? By my rough calculations roughly 80% of the guests have such issues, ranging from Irritable Bowell to Psychosis. There is Tourett Syndrome, Epilepsy, diabetes, and a range of mental illnesses. The answer to "Are you taking medication" is almost always, with the exception of the diabetic, "no". The reasons for not having meds are legion.

As the evening wears on, guests go to the sleeping room and retire. But even when the fifteen beds are full, more guests come and knock at the door. These "drop-ins", as we call them, are looking for a bed where none exist. We invite them in, do a drop-in intake, and invite them into the common room. No lying down permitted here due to fire regulations. If you can sleep sitting up, go for it! We will call around to the other shelters to see if they have a bed available- most often not.

Drop-ins come all night. On a recent over night shift I

worked, we had twelve people come to the door. It was -25 with the wind chill and a truly bone numbing night. One young couple had walked from Dartmouth! The young woman was wearing flimsy running shoes and I was afraid she would have frostbite, but did not. (She left in the morning with warm boots that had been donated). Everyone huddled into the common room, ate what food we could give them, and watched movies until they were asked to leave at 7 AM. Four young men came to the door around 2 AM and told me they had beds at another shelter, but that shelter had run out of food. Can we get something to eat? Fortunately the good folks at the Anglican Church of the Apostles had dropped off the regular Wednesday evening sandwiches and supplies; so bagged lunches were handed out and thankfully received.

The people with beds are awakened at 7 AM, take turns in the two bathrooms, (no showers here), are given breakfast and a lunch, and out the door by 8 AM.

Here are a few more facts courtesy of the good people at www.homelesshub.ca.

- The latest report from 2014 tells us there is an estimated 1716 people staying in shelters in Halifax.
- There are 4184 public housing units with a vacancy rate of 3.2% (about 134 units).
- Average rental cost in Halifax is \$976/mo. Income assistance (single person/mo): \$538.

issue of homelessness is, in my humble opinion, how do we make it go away? Is it even possible to eradicate homelessness? It is not a problem unique to Halifax, and many things have been tried in many places. In the United State last year alone over 100 cities banned sitting down or sleeping in public in an effort to "criminalize" homelessness. Guess what? Jails are bursting at the seams. One experiment started in Utah appears to be working in a cheaper and sustainable way. It seems it is easier and

Lately in the news here in Halifax we have heard about perhaps getting some



"warming stations" set up in the city for the homeless to use when the weather is dangerously cold. Such a thing would normally take months and years of talk and studies. Fortunately someone at the city realized there was a real danger to people being out in the brutal cold we have been having and the libraries were pressed into service. When I lived in Winnipeg, where the cold is deadly, volunteers in vans prowled the backstreets and allies picking up the homeless and delivering them to shelters.

The question around the

considerably cheaper to give the homeless homes! If you have access to a computer I suggest you Google "Utah Homelessness" and you can see it is working.

Until that wonderful day when the problem is eradicated we can all do our part, with donations of time or treasure, as a parish or as individuals. Remember Matthew 25:40:

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me."

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