



## Speak up! Your voice can make a difference

BY SUSAN NAYLOR

IT'S FUNNY, sometimes, how diverse an array of information comes to us through the internet. Today, as I am writing this article, a friend on Facebook just pointed out that it is World Suicide Prevention Day and a few minutes later, I was asked to write this article. A few months ago, I noticed an advertisement for a conference on anti-bullying. I didn't know what it was all about and wondered whether or not it would be a worthwhile. It was free and generally, things that are free aren't really all that great, especially when you hear about them on the internet. The event was called, "Speak up! Your voice will make a difference". Frankly, I wasn't so sure that my voice would make any difference

at all. As it got closer and closer to the time of the conference, I must admit that I was thinking to myself that I wished that I could just skip it. I didn't really feel like going to a conference in the middle of August. When I heard that the conference was fully subscribed, I wondered if it would be better to give up my seat to someone who really wanted to be there. Well, as I am sure you have figured out, I did attend the meetings and, I must say that I am glad that I did.

I've never really seen such a diverse group of people gathered around a single issue like anti-bullying. There were members from a variety of police forces and justice agencies. There were social workers, youth workers, community support workers, and representatives

from community agencies and youth programs like the YMCA and Girl Guides. Principals, guidance counsellors and teachers made up a large proportion of those in attendance. Many of the participants were parents. The Honourable Ramona Jennex and the Honourable Marilyn More took part in all aspects of the entire event. The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable JJ. Grant, joined everyone for a luncheon and announced a new Respectful Citizenship award for students from Primary to Grade Twelve. I was really impressed to see grade 7-12 students and young adults at this conference. So often, we talk about them but do not invite them into the conversation. The younger participants held their own. They pointed out problems in logic. They showed the adults

... continued on page 5

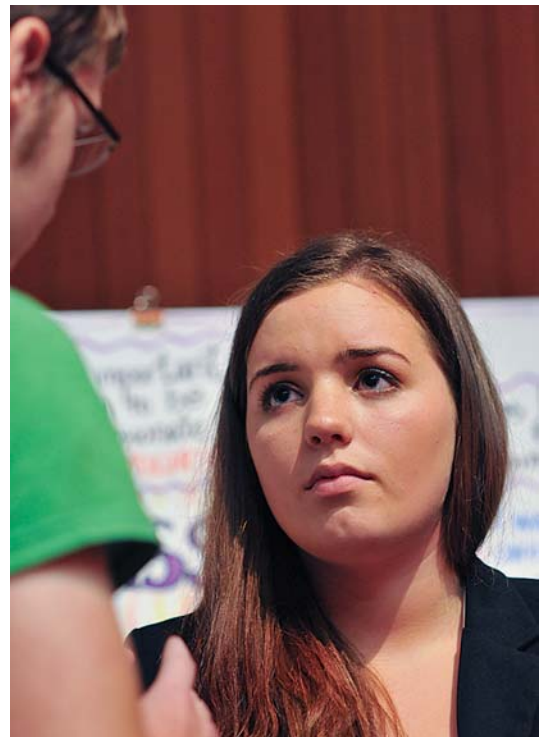


Photo: RitaClare LeBlanc, one of the keynote speakers at Speak Up!, talking to an audience member after her presentation. RitaClare was the victim of an online attack in high school.

## Society renews life vows



SUBMITTED BY JAN CONNORS

ON THE FEAST DAY of St. Mary the Virgin, August 15, 2013, at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, N.S., Bishop Sue Moxley received Life Vows from Sister Barbara of the Society of Our Lady Saint Mary. The Society has a house of prayer and hospitality established by the Bishop Leonard Hatfield in 1979 located in Rossway, Digby County, N.S.

Photo left: Sister Bonnie, S.L.S.M., Rev. Mel Malton, Parish of Digby-Weymouth, Rev. Peter Malton, Sister Barbara, S.L.S.M. and Bishop Sue Moxley.

### This month:

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COLUMNIST



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**PAUL SHERWOOD**  
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# Bless this house

Some say that summer is the best time of year; others love the first promise of spring. Not many would say that the cold and snow of winter is their favourite season. For me and many of us here By the Bog, autumn is without a doubt the very best time of the year. The colours of the trees around the church and the bright reds of the Cranberry bogs below the hill signal a time of harvest and rejoicing. At St. Bart's we take great pride in decorating the building for the Thanksgiving service. Every window sill has a bunch of grapes and a few shiny apples nestled in amongst the coloured leaves that the children have gathered and waxed for us. Waxing the leaves has been part of our tradition here By the Bog for as long as I can remember. As a Sunday school student I helped to gather the nicest leaves we could find. Then we took them into the rectory and with sheets of wax paper and a very hot iron, we pressed our treasures. I guess we went to the rectory because there wasn't any electricity in the

hall when I was a young girl.



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

The tradition lives on even though it is harder to find good quality wax paper in these days of plastic wrap and aluminum foil! Harvest Sunday and the preparations leading up to this special service have been a part of autumn By the Bog for as long as I can remember. We once had a service at the end of September for this festival but the secular world has moved

into our church calendar and for the past years, the Sunday in the Thanksgiving weekend has become the time for us to gather in the fruits of our labours and to give thanks to our Maker.

Last year for the first time we had a Turkey dinner following the service, sort of a grand Pot luck with turkeys being roasted in the hall ovens and the rest of the traditional food being brought in by any and all who wanted to share this time with the family we call The Boggers. It was so successful that we have decided to double the number of turkey being baked and will plan for two sittings. Those who eat first will do dishes when they are finished, those who will be second will look after things in the kitchen and serve for the first sitting. Sound confusing? Well it works for us, don't ask me how it does, it just does.

This year we are blessed to have a new set of hands and a strong back to help out. James, Billie's husband has proven to be a wonderful asset in all

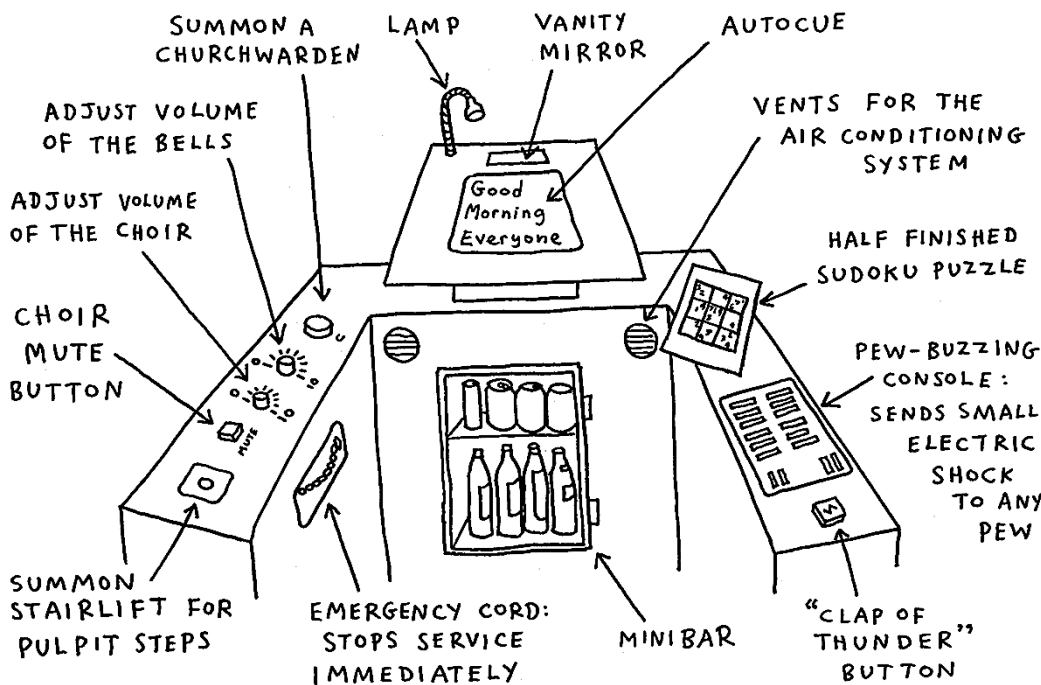
aspects of the planning and preparation for the dinner. He and Pops and a few other men have taken over the vegetable prep. Potatoes and turnip have been peeled and sliced and put to soak until it is time to boil. For a city type, James has taken to country living with great joy and gusto. He has also given us a wonderful gift of his voice. The "James Gang" he calls himself and Irene James our organist. For this special service we got to listen to his beautiful tenor voice singing "Bless This House".

So I guess you can see just why this season of harvest and feasting and gathering into our nests is a special time of the year for me personally and for us as a parish and community. We count our blessings, we share our gifts and we give thanks to the One who is our Creator. May the joy that fills our hearts keep us warm through the cold days of winter.

I'll keep you posted,  
Aunt Madge

## THE PULPIT

THESE ARE THE TYPICAL CONTROLS



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## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# When the clergy move...



*The Right Reverend Sue Moxley,  
Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince  
Edward Island.*

HOW HAVE I SPENT a lot of time these last 6 months? Well I did have 2 excellent weeks of vacation! But other than that, I spent a lot of time overseeing clergy moves! (Canon 25) Perhaps your parish is one of those in transition. You will not be surprised to know how much work is involved for everyone during this time! Just so you have an idea, here is who is involved when there is a clergy move!

**Bishop** – with other Synod Office staff, reviews the Parish Profile; has the opening posted; reads the applications; meets with the Parochial Committee to review the applications; notifies those chosen for interview and those not chosen; receives the recommendation from the Parochial Committee and contacts the prospective new Rector; receives the letter of resignation from the clergy; notifies the Archdeacon when there is agreement; offers the position to the clergy chosen; notifies those not chosen; officiates at the Institution of the clergy person to the parish; finds a Priest in Charge for the parish being vacated

**Clergy** – requests the Parish profile for consideration; discerns and prays with spouse and/or spiritual director; fills in the application and submits to Bishop's Office; possibly goes for interview; possibly gets rejected; writes letter of resignation to the Bishop; other clergy take on role of Priest in Charge for the interim time

**Wardens** – receive mail from the Bishop; work with the Bishop on appointment of a Priest in Charge; make sure leadership for services are covered during the interim; work on the Terms of Appointment and the Covenant in Ministry with the Archdeacon and the potential Rector; participate in the Signing Out process with the clergy leaving and the Regional Dean; sign the appointment letter on behalf of the Parish; help to plan the Celebration of New Ministry

**Parochial Committee** – prepares the Parish Profile; meets with the Bishop to review the applications;

interviews prospective candidates; makes a recommendation to the bishop.

**Archdeacon** – conducts the Exit Interview with the Clergy who is leaving; chairs the congregational meeting to elect the Parochial Committee; helps the Parochial Committee to develop the Parish Profile; reviews the proposed Profile with the Parish Council for Council approval; officiates at the Celebration of New Ministry in the Parish

**Regional Dean** – conducts the Signing Out process with the clergy who is leaving; does the Rectory inspection with the Parish Wardens or reviews the Housing Allowance prior to the signing of the Terms of Appointment

**Human Resources Synod staff:**

~ Christine Newcomb prepares the letters of appointment; advises clergy and wardens on the Moving Policy and other benefits; ensures Priest in Charge gets paid and new clergy are put on central payroll;

~ Jana O'Neil receives the Parish Profile; posts Parish Profile in order to receive applications; receives application forms; checks for Police Record Check; copies application forms for the Bishop for meeting with Parochial Committee

**Parish Council** – keeps the parish going during the interim; approves the Parish Profile; receives the Rectory inspection report or Housing Allowance report; arranges for work to be completed on the rectory

In 2013 alone, 17 parishes have been, or are, in the process of a clergy move. It is a time of great change and great excitement for new beginnings. Please keep all of us involved in your prayers.

+Sue

## From 15 minutes to 15 seconds



Editor

*Paul Sherwood*

MARSHALL McLuhan quipped that the media is the message. And in 1968, Andy Warhol revised it saying "in the future, everyone will be world-famous for 15 minutes." I wonder if they could have foreseen the fame and infamy our present day media brings. From revolutions to revulsions, our connected society can bring about change in a heartbeat. What once went unnoticed is now given microscopic investigation and evaluation: too often without benefit of context or compassion. Social media never sleeps and streams data to us at an alarming speed. But without context, it is all too easy to make snap judgements or give knee-jerk reactions that prove embarrassingly incorrect. Recent events in The Middle East demonstrated the power and reach of social media. It allowed fragmented and disconnected members of

society to join forces and bring pressure to bear for change. But this media coin has two sides. And a dirty little secret. Social media can be used to target individuals anonymously; it can be a coward's best friend to cause pain or embarrassment without fear of reprisal. Our lead story speaks to that point. It is too easy to vent abuse or accusations on another and never have to face the consequences. But the targets of such abuse feel the pain. It is sharp and goes deep. The results of these attacks can be life-changing: dropping out of school, turning to substance abuse to dull the pain or taking life-ending decisions. As Susan Naylor wrote in her piece, there is no quick fix to end anonymous attacks but there is something we can do for those are victims. Show them your support, learn about online bullying and refuse to be a bystander.

The diocese called a electoral synod in November to elect a coadjutor bishop. Since we already have two bishops, you might be curious what's going to happen in November. Since our diocesan bishop, Sue Moxley, is retiring next March, a replacement will be elected in advance to begin his or her new duties April 1st. Ron Cutler is our suffragan bishop. In Anglican churches, the term suffragan applies to a bishop who is an assistant to a diocesan bishop. But a suffragan has no right of succession. Therefore, we are going to elect a coadjutor bishop who will automatically succeed the current diocesan bishop upon the latter's retirement, removal or death. In this case, retirement (thankfully). There was no information available at the time of printing for the names of those who are standing for election in November.

The Diocesan Times is looking for Good Samaritan stories from parishes. In the famous parable, Jesus asks the lawyer "Which of these three [men] was a neighbour to him who fell among the robbers?" The lawyer replied "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." One of our advertisers will be featured in this new series of articles that tell the story of showing mercy to a neighbour. These stories are worth telling and can be inspirational to others. Please share your story.

Finally, next month is our annual fund-raising drive for the Diocesan Times. We will include an envelope for donations and new subscriptions. Please help us to continue to share the news and events from across our diocese with your financial support.

PAUL

# It's A New Day!

## Seeks to find out what God wants

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

Courage. *"The mental or moral strength to venture, persevere and withstand danger, fear or difficulty,"* according to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. The Book of Acts describes members of the Early Church as steeped in it.

When we read Luke's recording of the Acts of the Apostles (or perhaps more accurately, the Acts of the Holy Spirit) we see amazing examples of boldness, sacrifice, risk-taking and bravery. Whether it's Peter's passionate preaching at Pentecost, Paul's relentless travelling and teaching, members turning away from outdated religious traditions, Lydia's hosting of secret house churches, and in general devoted followers of Jesus' vowing to live a radically different life than those around them – these are not accounts of lukewarm disciples. Much to our surprise when the first Christians did this the Holy Spirit moved in miraculous ways too. Throngs were converted, chains were literally broken, prison doors were opened, the sick were healed and most importantly the church grew like wildfire. There was also the cost of personally claiming Christ as Lord – ostracism, arrests, beatings and even martyrdom. Yet, these disciples were willing to courageously give of themselves to embrace the Kingdom of God.

The next two marks of a healthy church point to a **costly calling**. They are about having the courage and willingness to pay the price of responding to God's unfolding plan for the church in the world.

This series on "The Healthy Churches' Handbook: a process for revitalizing your church" \* names the third mark as **"Seeks to Find Out What God Wants – discerning the Spirit's leading rather than trying to please**

**everyone."**

Author Robert Warren says this characteristic can make members uncomfortable because it means we have to discover God's agenda and let go of our own preferences. He writes, "...the Church is first and foremost God's Church. Christ alone has died for his Church. It belongs to him. It is 'his Church' long before it was ever 'my church' or 'our church.'"

A sense of prayerfully wrestling to accurately identify God's intentions in a particular congregation is an indicator of health. Disease is apparent when we think we confidently know it all.

One sign of a church seeking to find out what God wants is in their sense of identity and **vocation** (being and doing). Its members naturally draw from a passionate, lively faith and offer their unique gifts. Absent from the leadership is a sense of desperation and franticness.

Warren says, "Where churches are seeking to discover God's will rather than get their own way, there is usually plenty of prayer, personal and corporate, conversation and consultation about the church's direction."

The question is humbly asked and devotedly answered, "What is God calling **this** church at **this** time to be and do in **this** place?" This requires courage to avoid inner-church power and politics, and the pressure of long-time members who gave substantially and seek to drive their own agenda (usually to maintain the status quo).

The second evidence of healthy churches in seeking God's will involves the development and implementation of a prayerfully designed **vision**. This directional course for ministry is communicated well, received input from and owned by its members.

The next characteristic is connected in that **mission priorities** of a healthy church results in consciously setting immediate and long-term goals. This means members take action in concise ways, not trying to take on too many things at once. (We'll discuss this more with the last mark – doing a few things and doing them well.)

Like the times of the Early Church, congregants are **able to call for, and make, sacrifices, personal and corporate, in bringing about God's call and living out the faith**. When people know the direction and focus for their ministry life together there is a sense of excitement and passion that leads to them giving of their time, talents and money. In other words there is active commitment to Christian community and making a difference.

"Essentially what is happening when this mark is evident in a church is that the church's spirituality (first mark) is engaging with its sense of mission (second mark)," says Warren. "By a process of prayerful reflection, a corporate sense of direction emerges and people discover their own sense of vocation within that broader vision."

The November column will consider the other part of costly calling – healthy churches **face the cost of change and growth** (rather than resisting change and fearing failure).

*NOTE: The Healthy Churches' Handbook: A process for revitalizing your church, is by Robert Warren, former National Officer for Evangelism, The Church of England, Church House Publishing, London, 2004, 2012*

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

## A vision of greater inclusion



Two years ago parish council at St. Peter's, Eastern Passage, experimented with a more flexible space in the back of the church. The idea was to create a centre for small receptions and coffee time on the main level. The increase in young families with small children created a pressing need for a toddlers and baby play area.

The leadership began by removing two and a half pews and turning two pews to face the rear. Today there's a special coffee hub with a small fridge on one side. The other side features a wool rug, four toy boxes constructed to fit under the back pew, filled with soft, quiet toys. Additionally there are two children's craft and colouring stations.

The rector, Rev. John Ferguson says, "The space has been a blessing to the ministry beyond our wildest dreams and in ways we could not have envisioned when it began. Many more people can be included in receptions, at everything from weddings to funerals; the space has

become a real witness to our welcoming of children and all ages."

He said, "It's moving and humbling to see how thrilled parents of toddlers and infants are to discover the space will allow their children to roam, crawl, play and be part of the family during a special time!"

The renovated location had the unplanned benefit of heating fuel savings, converting to a spot for small studies or meetings of up to 20 when that level had already been heated. Rev. John says everything was done by volunteers.

"The costs were minimal and as people caught the vision of what could be done, they keep responding with new gifts to improve the new space," he said.

Recently the youth group bought a camera that connects to large screen in the hall to broadcast large services.

"We continue to work together to discover what God is calling us to do and find new ways to reach our community," Rev. John added.

... continued from front page

great wisdom and were not afraid to speak up about the injustices that are present in their schools.

I believe I was the only church youth worker there. Outside of government institutions, the inviting process was rather random, so I am not totally surprised. But time and time again, it came home to me that the church has a lot to offer on this topic. We heard about the difference between being a bully and exhibiting bullying behaviour. Back in the day, people knew who the school bully was and you just hoped that you wouldn't be the victim. Today's equivalent might be the "mean girl" title that is given to those who perpetually act as the bully. But many times, regular people take on bullying behaviour and, often without a whole lot of intention, head down the path of victimizing someone. While the victim may not have a lot of control in the situation, the bully's actions can almost always be changed by those who witness the bullying, these are the bystanders.

As I have reflected on the issues, I've realised that almost all of the parables that Jesus told seem to hold out a special message for those who are the bystanders. How many times have we heard the story of the Good Samaritan? It is the ultimate story of how to behave as a bystander. But there are many more examples of Jesus taking the side of the person who has become

a victim and calling the community, the very ones who are judging and taking sides with the bully, to a higher standard of behaviour. We say that Jesus calls us to be salt and light in the world and I think that in today's terms, that must mean to not only be individuals who stand up for the victims and but to also be people who confront those who bully. People who are bullying are heavily influenced by the actions of those around them. If we have any chance of making a difference, it must be by changing how we react when we see intimidation or belittling behaviour. I'd love to see a world where no one felt that they had to bully but we aren't there yet. I remember when WWJD bracelets used to be all the rage among youth groups. What Would Jesus Do? doesn't just mean that we don't act like bullies it means that we become excellent community members who speak up and who don't tolerate bullying behaviours. We're in an era where many are overwhelmed with their situation and see suicide as the only way to stop the pain. Surely we can each do more to create communities that are safer. Over thirty-five different groups and organizations presented workshops at this conference and many are working to prevent suicide. Clearly people are trying. But, as Rita-Clare LeBlanc told us in her workshop, bystanders can be the enablers that allow bullying to happen. Silent inaction gives a bully the support to harm another

person and allow violence to continue. Rita-Clare's words were sincere and clear, we must do better and we must speak up.

A big topic at the Speak Up! Conference was the subject of Cyber Bullying. When most of us were younger, if we were picked on or bullied, it didn't follow us everywhere. Things are very different today. The internet has opened up the opportunity for people who bully to do so anonymously. No longer do you necessarily know who is attacking you. Another difference is that bullying can occur 24 hours a day. It takes very little to create a password that can't easily be hacked but many don't take the time to make sure that they have a secure password. This makes them even more vulnerable. We've probably all been misunderstood in an email message. Usually, the problem is easily remedied through a phone call or clarification. With social media though, before there is a chance to remedy the situation, many other people have joined in to support one side or the other. This inadvertent bullying can cause real harm to people. Those who seek power and those who in real life have little power but who are computer literate are two more types of people who resort to cyber bullying. The keynote speaker, Parry Aftab, has recently moved to the Maritimes and plans to continue her efforts to fight cyberbullying from Canada.



The Province of Nova Scotia has made efforts to try to address some of the issues by ensuring that there will be a place to turn when cyberbullying goes too far. There is a new CyberSCAN unit and new ways of working with schools to try to better protect victims and to hold cyberbullies accountable. The Province is also making efforts to help people learn more about bullying. You can find more information on print and web resources here <http://antibullying.novascotia.ca/>.

I'm not sure what difference two days of meetings will make to this issue. But I know that I experienced a deeper understanding of the issues and of the urgency to improve things. I do feel much more hopeful about the possibility

of change. One of the favours that we were given at the conference was a Seeds of Change paper wristband. The hope in providing these to all of the participants was that they would be planted and that flowers would grow from them. These would be a tangible way for people to understand the hope that the discussions and work at the conference would grow. I discovered my wristband as I dug out the materials that I received at the conference so that I could write this article. I'll go plant it now, confident that I've done at least something to help spread a few seeds. If you could find a way to plant some seeds in your church and community, please let me know!

## ACW awards annual education bursary

SUBMITTED BY DONNA PARSONS

The Nova Scotia Board of Anglican Church Women presented an Anniversary Bursary cheque for \$250 to Nancy Armstrong of Christ Church, Stellarton on April 21st, 2013. The bursary fund is for women who wish to continue their education, after having been away from the classroom for over five years. The Anniversary Fund was established in 1985 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's ministry in Nova Scotia. Ladies were asked to donate \$2 each to establish the fund. In 2010, to celebrate the 125th anniversary, donations of \$5 were requested to keep the fund going. Ann Sheck, Regional Representative on

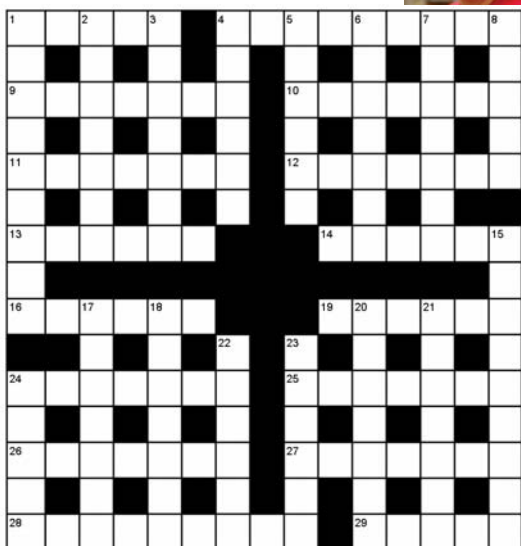
the Nova Scotia Board of Anglican Church Women, presented the bursary to Nancy. Gladys McKenzie, President of the Christ Church Anglican Church Women congratulated Nancy on her continuing with the Education For Ministry studies.

*Picture, left to right – Gladys McKenzie, President of Christ Church, Anglican Church Women; Nancy Armstrong; Anne Sheck, Nova Scotia Board of Anglican Church Women.*



# Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



## October 2013 Clues

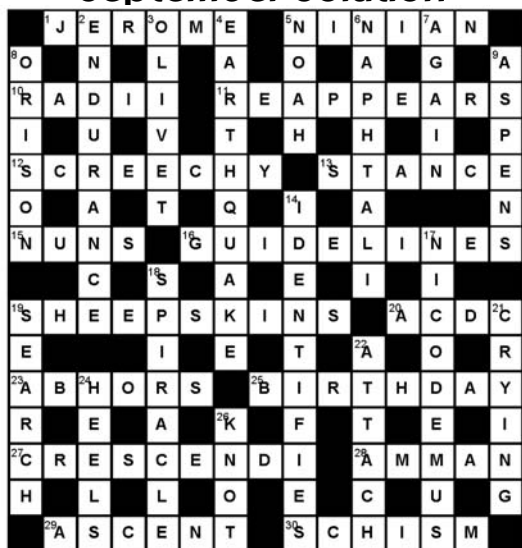
**ACROSS:**

- 1 - " \_\_\_\_\_ in me as I \_\_\_\_\_ in you", remain (John 15:4) (5)
- 4 - All of them have contributed out of their \_\_\_\_\_, plenty (Luke 21:4) (9)
- 9 - Animal-loving saint (7)
- 10 - "I was far more \_\_\_\_\_ for the traditions of my ancestors", diligent (Gal. 1:14) (7)
- 11 - State of being very cold (7)
- 12 - " \_\_\_\_\_ from every form of evil", hold back (1Thess. 5:22) (7)
- 13 - Topics (6)
- 14 - "Our \_\_\_\_\_ Lazarus has fallen asleep", comrade (John 11:11) (6)
- 16 - A major prophet (6)
- 19 - King of the West Saxons, called "the Great", died 899 (6)
- 24 - Knives, forks and spoons (7)
- 25 - Preamble for an acid of boron (7)
- 26 - Like a lion (7)
- 27 - Japanese paper-folding (7)
- 28 - Imaginary lines on which bottoms of primary letters align (9)
- 29 - An apostle, also known as Peter (5)

**DOWN:**

- 1 - "He does not forget the cry of the \_\_\_\_\_", distressed (Ps.9:12) (9)
- 2 - Form mental images (7)
- 3 - Eliminate (7)
- 4 - Where 9A lived (6)
- 5 - A king of Judah (2 Chron. 26) (6)
- 6 - Possible start of correspondence (4, 3)
- 7 - Newborn child (7)
- 8 - Industrial city in Germany (5)
- 15 - Subtraction (9)
- 17 - "Declare his glory among the \_\_\_\_\_", countries (Ps.96:3) (7)
- 18 - A major prophet (7)
- 20 - British motor trucks (7)
- 21 - Recover (7)
- 22 - Two-legged winged dragon (6)
- 23 - Heads of monasteries (6)
- 24 - One of the men Moses sent to spy out the land of Canaan (Num.13) (6)

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## BOOK REVIEW

# Read good books, rather than be smothered in books about good books

*C.S. Lewis—A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet* by Alister McGrath. Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013, 431 pages, and *The Intellectual World of C.S. Lewis* by Alister E. McGrath. Chichester, West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, 191 pages.

We draw near this academic term, as we do every fall, to that remarkable date, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, on which John F. Kennedy, C.S. Lewis, and Aldous Huxley died, a congruence turned into a 'purgatorial dialogue' authored by the well known theologian Peter Kreeft in *Between Heaven and Hell* (1982). That all three died the same year as well (1963), and that this particular 22<sup>nd</sup> of November marks the fiftieth anniversary of that date, has not been lost to admirers and critics of C.S. Lewis in particular. Lewis was no martyr, at least in the manner of the primitive Christian church which kept, with much passion, the death dates of her 'bloodied' martyrs. But the death-date of this Christian writer hasn't lost its magnetic tug. Conferences have been organized (such as 'Both Sides of the Wardrobe: CS Lewis, theological imagination, and everyday discipleship,' a symposium planned for the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, 2013, at the Atlantic School of Theology). And the pace of books about Lewis from serious publishers has been building, including *C.S. Lewis and the Church: Essays in Honour of Walter Hooper* (London: T & T Clark, 2011), edited by Judith and B.N. Wolfe, and Rowan Williams' *The Lion's World: A Journey into the Heart of Narnia* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), released in the last months of its author's tenure as the 104<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual leader of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

The most recent oars to hit the water have been Alister McGrath's. His two books, released with a few months of each other in the first half of 2013, in spite of one bearing a publishers' date of 2013 and the other 2014 (!), are not surprising. The quantity of McGrath's theological and journalistic output is staggering; his current academic appointments at Oxford University and King's College, London account for only part of his ambitious intellectual life. As an atheist turned Christian (and then Anglican priest), and as a biochemist turned theologian (and then religious controversialist) there seems to be little he is not willing to write about, and few arguments he is not cheerful to enter.

In *C.S. Lewis—A Life* McGrath, not a biographer by experience or instinct, does a fair job of retelling the story of Lewis' life; its continuities and its turning points. This road has been well travelled by many authors as the first works about Lewis' thought predated his death by more than a decade, and there are already a large armful of biographies and several truckloads of books and articles about aspects of Lewis' life and thought. But McGrath does a wonderful job of summing these up, and addressing (or at least acknowledging) Lewis' own books, essays, stories, letters and conversations that were in print in Lewis' day or have been found and published in the decades after his death.

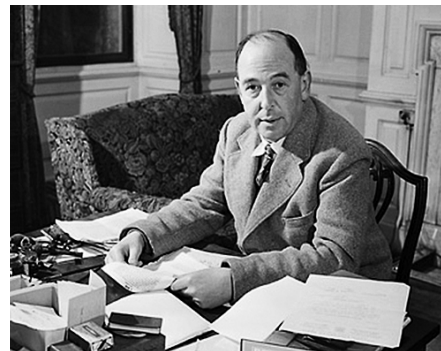
Of particular interest is McGrath's intention to 'set the record straight' on certain matters, some of which will be more interesting to some, others to others. This includes the significance of Lewis growing up as 'Ulsterman' (as McGrath did) ensconced in the midst of 'the Protestant establishment in Belfast' (p.16) in a Roman Catholic country before an adulthood spent in England; Lewis' complicated relationships with his father (of whom he saw very little after his mother's death when he was age ten), with J.R.R. Tolkien (the great Roman Catholic scholar and *Lord of the Rings* novelist, close Oxford colleague, and estranged friend), with Mrs. Moore (Lewis' war comrade's mother, sometime lover it would seem, and then mother figure in his home until her death), with his brother 'Warnie' (talented scholar, devout Christian, and severe alcoholic), with Joy Davidman (the Jewish, former communist American woman who divorced her husband after meeting Lewis and eventually married him), and with his Oxford University colleagues (some of whom loved him, and others who detested him).

And *C.S. Lewis—A Life* allows McGrath to weigh in on the politics of Lewis' academic career and publications; truths and falsehoods in the popular accounts of the 'Inklings' at whose centre Lewis was; and the full and precise account of Lewis' conversion from atheism to theism and then to Christianity at the end of an irreligious decade (the 1920s), as he joined a handful of other famous and surprising converts from atheism to Christianity—either to Roman Catholicism (G.K. Chesterton, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh) or to Anglicanism (T.S. Eliot). It's a biography well worth reading if one is new to the life of C.S. Lewis, and helpful if one is returning to Lewis after some years.

*The Intellectual World of C.S. Lewis* is meant by McGrath to be a companion volume to his biography of Lewis. It's not that McGrath thinks that Lewis' ideas are contingent on the biographical details of Lewis' life. But McGrath feels that ideas raised in the course of the biography deserve focused treatment. This book includes quite helpful chapters on Lewis and 'myth', Lewis on metaphors of light and sun, and Lewis' changing philosophical context in the Oxford University of the 1920s.

Among the remaining chapters, *The Intellectual World of C.S. Lewis* also includes essays on Lewis' apologetic method, his theological mood, and his relation to the Anglicanism of his youth and later life—this latter chapter being unfortunately the weakest in the volume, possibly because of the particular contours of McGrath's own Anglican identity. At its best this volume catches up some of the central intellectual issues raised by reading Lewis (his fiction, his popular Christian writings, and his academic publications) and offers some preliminary insights. Yet even the footnotes in most of the chapters are worth perusing for the avenues they offer into related 'Lewis Scholarship'.

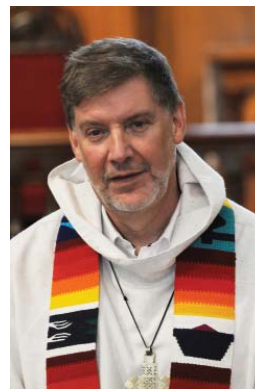
It could be asked in the end if it wouldn't have been better for McGrath to have had one



C.S. Lewis in an undated photo.

publisher and one book. But it's no time to quibble. A big day and a big anniversary are at hand. I think McGrath would want us to read Lewis himself as a result of his efforts. For it was Lewis himself who famously urged his students, above all, simply to read good books, rather than be smothered in books about good books. This would likely be the best way to commemorate Lewis' day. And McGrath's books would be a good preparation for this kind of reading.

PAUL H. FRIESEN



Paul Friesen is the Rector of St. Paul's Church, Halifax and an Adjunct Lecturer in Anglican Theology at the Atlantic School of Theology.

## C. S. Lewis Symposium

Mark your calendars now!

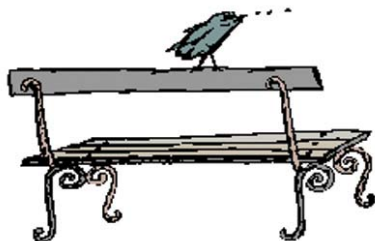
A one-day symposium on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of C.S. Lewis.

To be held on campus of the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax on Saturday, November 23.

More information on the symposium will be posted at a later date.

Visit our website at:

[www.astheology.ns.ca/home/UpcomingEvents.html](http://www.astheology.ns.ca/home/UpcomingEvents.html)



## View from the deacon's bench



BY HEATHER MACEachern

My apologies for not including this logo in September's article from the Deacons' Bench. Following is the logo and description:

I was in Berlin Germany attending Diakonia 2013, the 21st Diakonia World Assembly.

The theme of the conference was: Diakonia-Healing and Wholeness for the World. I think an explanation of the logo (above) designed by Beate Baberske-Krohs, diaconal sister, explains the theme much better than I.

Each piece has a different color; individuality causes liveliness. Violet stands for the

Protestant church. Blue is part of many deaconesses' habits.

Round and angled stand for male and female. D stands for diakonia. Each single letter is mingled with the other letters; everybody is relying on the other, all are linked, to be healed as a whole, to bring salvation. By turning the letters, there emerges a spiral.

The number of letters resembles the worldly aspects; four cardinal points- north, south, east and west and four elements: fire-water-air-soil.

Spaces of different size emerge; fields of diaconal work. New forms emerge by overlapping, international working together creates new, surprising results. New forms

of faith, life and work come to exist.

A cross is visible, also having two H's as in healing and wholeness. They stand inside the shape representing a globe, and are, with their straight lines – the center of the logo.

The arches of the D form a blossom; a sign of well being and fruitfulness, a sign for beauty, perfection and salvation. A logo that opens to the outside, but is still contained within itself.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Are you ready for 2014?

A good start to getting ready for next year is to purchase a 2014 Canadian Church Calendar. The Nova Scotia Board of the Anglican Church Women recently received a supply of these calendars. Along with having colourful pictures, the calendars also indicate "liturgical colors" for the various church seasons. For groups wishing to sell the 2014 Church Calendars as a fund raising project in their parish, now is the time to place an order. For more information please contact the ACW Calendar Chairperson, Anna Langille, at (902) 406-8981, or write to Anna at the ACW Room - 1340 Martello Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2Z1.

The diocese will hold a synod for an election of a Coadjutor Bishop on Friday,

Nov 22, 2013 to be held at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Martello Street, Halifax, NS. The Coadjutor Bishop will succeed The Right Reverend Susan E. Moxley effective, April 1, 2014.

Rev. Norma Mitchell appointed as rector of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Middle Sackville effective Nov 1, 2013.

Susan Naylor appointed as Youth Ministry Coordinator from Sept 1 to Dec 31, 2013. At the same time, a task group is working to find new funding for a new Youth and Family Ministry position to begin Jan 1, 2014.

Rev. David Dellapinna appointed rector of St. Peter's, Birch Cove, Oct 16, 2013. David is currently finishing an Interim appointment at All Saints, Bedford.

## Trinity celebrates 225 years in Digby



Photo: Rev. Mel and Loyalist Greg preparing time capsule for burying while Bishop Sue looks on.

Hard to believe it's 225 Years Later! Trinity Anglican Church in Digby held a BCP Holy Eucharist and Ceremony to commemorate the laying of the original church cornerstone in 1788 by the first Bishop of Nova Scotia, The Right Reverend Charles Inglis.



Sponsored by the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island through the Youth and Family Ministry VSSIT

**Where:** Camp Bayside, Sambro Head, NS and active missions in Halifax  
**When:** From Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 6 pm until Nov 10<sup>th</sup> at noon  
**Cost:** \$80 for youth participants (\$40 for youth workers)

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Youth Conference

to the

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[www.nspeidiocese.ca](http://www.nspeidiocese.ca)  
 by Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
 #divein2013