



Witnesses of the Christian message in the marketplace



Photo: The Honourable Mayanne Francis, Diana Ginn, Glenna Paynter-Parsons, Dianne Swinemar.

The Anglican Church Women hosted a panel discussion on October 4, moderated by Olga Milosevich, featuring women who have been successful in living their faith in the secular workplace.

Panelists included The Honourable Mayanne Francis, 31st Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia,

Diana Ginn, Professor of Law at Dalhousie University, Glenna Paynter-Parsons, Controller Autism Nova Scotia, Dianne Swinemar, Executive Director Feed Nova Scotia. The discussion was open to the public and was held in conjunction with The National Executive Conference of Anglican

Church Women Presidents and Coordinators. Their conference theme was *Come to the Water: Women of Faith, Women of Courage*.

During the discussion, each panel member gave a first-hand testament on the challenges and rewards of witnessing their faith. Each member spoke of the

hurdles to success that needed to be cleared, including education, gender, race, sexual orientation and childhood adversities.

The Hon. Mayanne Francis recounted the surprise reaction she got after asking about the church service for her installation. And how she simply stated that there would

be no installation without a church service; she got her wish and had a service at the Cathedral Church of All Saints the morning she was installed.

After sharing their individual stories, the floor was opened to general questions from the assembled ACW members and general public.



Annual shoebox campaign kicks off

The Halifax Mission to Seafarers is again holding their shoebox campaign to provide warm clothing and personal hygiene items: such as hats, scarves, gloves or mitts, socks, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, lypsyl, playing cards or a momento of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward

Island or Canada. For safety sake, please do not include liquor, sharp objects or flammables. The Mission thanks everyone for thinking of seafarers from all over the world who call at the Port of Halifax. For them, a shoebox may be the only gift they receive, and they are simply overjoyed.
www.missiontoseafarershalifax.ca/

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C O L U M N I S T



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The Fall Bazaar: when church and world collide

NOVEMBER IS THAT TIME of year when the Church and the World seem to be at odds. The World is saying "Oh look, it is time for tinsel and carols and shopping non-stop." The Church is saying "Stop! Take a deep breath, and begin to prepare yourself for the coming of God Incarnate". And we mere mortals are caught in the middle...credit cards one hand, prayer book in the other...wondering if we can fight the pressures of the world and prepare ourselves for the true meaning of Christmas.

Rev. Billie fights the good fight every year and does her best to make our Advent season one of true preparation. Of course, the parish has its annual Fall Bazaar and the tables are spread with handmade decorations, Christmas baking, packed and ready for freezers, crafts that make 'the perfect gift' for that one person who has everything, and all sorts and sizes of mittens and winter caps.

The choir has been making Advent calendars for several years and they are always very popular. Some have little



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

chocolates hidden behind the daily picture; others, for us adults, have small Bible verses concealed behind the picture. We save our cards every year and the choir use some of the beautiful images found there for the calendars. As in years past, the men's club made Advent Wreaths to be sold, some with candles perfect for the middle of the table, others full of greenery and ready to be hung outside.

Into this tradition our new 'man in the rectory' James ventured with some ideas of his

own. James is a woodworker at heart. He may have made his living in the real world in finance but his true gift is with wood and tools. He started building the most magnificent crèche for the front lawn of St Bart's in early October and by the first of November it was painted and ready to be put on display. Billie didn't want to rain on his parade but she pointed out that the manger scene couldn't go out until mid-December. James came from a different church tradition where Christmas was celebrated for weeks before the 25th. He is rapidly becoming an Anglican, happy to be an Anglican and willing to accept our traditions so the timing of the appearance of his work of art was fine with him. He did make smaller crèches to be sold at the Bazaar. He also began to have evening classes when he taught the art of wood carving and so more and more crèches began to appear.

We also had small bookcases, children's wooden toys and intricate shelves offered for sale. James was a very talented man.

Our Fall Bazaar was a huge

success; we sold everything that was offered. Families come from the city for our sale. Our grown children and their friends expect nothing but the best from the good folks at St. Bart's. Many handmade items go home with them to be lovingly wrapped and put away for Christmas morning. Lots of city tables have Advent candle holders burning through the four weeks leading up to the big day and grandkids look forward to the Advent calendars that show up every year with those chocolates hidden behind the pretty pictures.

Some city properties will also have beautiful crèches on their front lawns or on their porches. We cannot dictate when they will go on display and I imagine many will be out in full view for weeks before Christmas Eve. But!! If the new owners of these manger scenes read their instructions, the baby Jesus will not be present until Christmas morning and we here at St. Bart's will know that we have had a small part in finding the true meaning of Christmas.

I'll keep you posted,
Aunt Madge

Sow the seeds - reap the harvest

DURING THIS PAST HARVEST my thoughts had turned to all the prayers that have been sown many times, over many years. Everyone with their own patch have, over many seasons of prayer, have planted, tended their prayers to bear fruit. Over time, as the focus of prayer has changed, so the garden where those seeds have been sown has changed. There have been the usual staples of prayer: well-being, safety, direction, family etc. but there have been specialty prayers too. Along with many other people at present, I have been sowing prayers for peace for the people of Syria. It is a prayer easily sown but a most difficult seed to cultivate to fruition. In these times we might wonder if our prayers are seeds that are simply tossed to the wind. We need to remind ourselves of the fruit that has come from past prayer as an encouragement to continue to pray. What have past harvests looked like and what shape will it take this time? The UN resolution regarding Syria and chemical weapons is a green shoot springing forth.

The Fruit of Prayer: As a youngster, I enjoyed picking strawberries at 'U-Pick' farms. It was fun to eat just as many strawberries off the vine as I



Prayer

Steve Laskey

picked to take home. It was pure joy to have the ripe fruit falling into my hands. This wasn't work. It was play. My grandparents had a number of apple trees and plum trees. I would climb these to pick and eat the fruit. Again, apples and plums just fell off. The fruit of the earth was there for the taking without any effort on my part at all. It was the fruit of the labour of others who I had not seen at their work.

The first year my parents kept a vegetable garden was another matter. I was expected to spend time planting, weeding,

and tending the young plants. More than once my complaints about unfair labour practices were answered with 'Eating from the garden means helping with the work'. The work was hard and tedious but upon reflection I realize I did not enjoy the garden that first year because I had never experienced the process of working a garden over a season of sowing and planting, tending and harvesting.

The growth that first year had been slow. It seemed nothing would ever be ripe. Now, after many growing seasons, I realize joy does not come at harvest time alone. Joy is in the labour, watching for and recognizing the small signs of growth. Joy is in the anticipation of the results and in working alongside others sharing the work so that we might share the harvest together. Our family shared our joy and the fruit of the garden with our neighbours, (even though they had not helped with the weeding!) Those who have sown seeds and laboured in a garden know what to expect so that when the harvest is finally in, the joy spills over to everyone around.

To pray is to sow seeds, to plant and to cultivate. As

we pray we may wonder if there will be fruit or anything worth harvesting. Prayer is not wishful thinking, seeking answers that simply fall into our hands like the fruit of the 'u-pick' farm. As we pray we watch for the signs of growth. Though our prayer may be for extremely delicate matters, there is joy in the labour. Those who have laboured in the prayer garden know it will take time and we know there will be fruit. Even in the dry times when we have only our tears to water our prayers, we labour on.

As we grow in experience at tending to our prayer we can see how to take on the challenges of the complicated varieties of seeds that must be sown through prayer. Take a few moments today to reflect on the fruits of your prayers over the years. Have you seen and experienced the joy that a constancy of prayer has brought about? What will the harvest be as we pray for Syria and all the other delicate matters that need to be in the garden of prayer? Whatever the fruit, may it be fruit that falls into the hands of the children that brings the joy of peace. They, in their turn, will learn to sow and pray.

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

Discern — to sift, separate, distinguish between, from the Latin 'certus' - 'to sift'



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

One of my responsibilities as suffragan bishop has been to provide oversight to the process of discernment, training and formation for ordained ministry in the diocese. For many years (really since our very beginning) we have had clear processes and expectations for the way that clergy are educated, trained and formed for ministry. Over the years those processes have been changed in response to the changes in our society and the changing needs for leadership in the church and in the community. In recent years, both streams of preparation for ordained ministry (stipendiary and non stipendiary) have been reviewed. Our diocesan council mandated a review of non-stipendiary priestly ministry in April 2010. The review and subsequent recommendation for the future of the program have been accepted by the council. This past summer, the General Synod accepted a document entitled "Competencies for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada". For the first time in a very long time, our national church has a document that sets out, in a clear way, what our church believes clergy need to know in order to minister and provide leadership at this point in time. Both of these developments will help us in preparing ordained leadership for the church - neither is the final word.

While identifying what people need to know, in order to lead, is hard work; it is something that we can analyze, evaluate and to some extent measure. The other part of this work - the first part in fact, is not so easy to define. How do people discern a call to ministry - any ministry? It was this area of the work that I had the most to learn

“ It begins with taking the time to ask the questions about where we see God ... then discerning within the community of faith, the ways that we can get on board with what God is doing.

about when I started as suffragan bishop. To be sure, I had entered a time of personal discernment many years ago when I first felt the stirrings of a call to ordained ministry - how to separate God's call on my life from my own will, my own likes and dislikes and my own desires? I had followed the tried and true disciplines of discernment, prayer, spiritual direction, reading and conversation with the wider church community who knew me. All of this required, first and foremost, an openness to even consider that God was calling me to do anything with my life. In my experience, St. Paul's call, being physically knocked off a horse, is not typical. God's call is usually much quieter and we must be open, listening, willing to engage, if we are to have any hope of hearing it. It is then we need to give attention to

discernment; the sifting and separating of our own personal motives from those of God. Discernment does not go away and it does not follow a predictable timetable. It takes the time that it needs to take. It is not neatly packaged in a program and it takes more than a weekend retreat to attend to it. Discernment is not just for people exploring a call to ordained ministry, it is something that every Christian needs to engage in because every Christian is called into some kind of work or witness for God in the place where they find themselves. Not all people are called to every kind of ministry and not everyone has the same gifts. Here are some questions to reflect on....What are your gifts? What is your call? What is the ministry to which

God is calling you? Are you open to hearing God's call? How are you discerning the nature of your call?

Something I have learned over the years is that once begun, discernment never ends. Once you turn to God for guidance in those large questions of life, you can never stop. There are always other decisions to be made. Answering a call can lead us to places we never anticipated and keep us asking questions about where we go or what we do next.



While all of the foregoing has been about personal discernment, in the past year, I have begun to think a whole lot more about the role of discernment in our life together. How do groups of Christians discern God's will? How does discernment fit with our models of decision making at the level of a congregation or parish?

I first became aware of this question when I attended the Vital Church Planting conference in Toronto last winter. The keynote speaker, Bishop Graham Cray, gave many examples of 'Fresh Expressions' in the Church of England. These are ministries that look very different than traditional parish life. He made it clear that 'Fresh Expressions' of church is not a program to solve problems that parishes may be experiencing and it is certainly not a 'one size fits all' model for how to be the church in the 21st century. It is based on a deep discernment of where God is working in communities; in places where there is little presence of the church now and in places where the work of the church is struggling. It begins with taking the time to ask the questions about where we see God and then discerning within the community of faith, the ways that we can get on board with what God is doing.

I think that there is a big difference between discerning and visioning. In a very general way, visioning seems to be more of a 'political' process, where we gather up individual hopes or dreams or plans for a group or parish and then somehow distill them down to a plan or statement that all can agree to, even if the final result doesn't really represent anyone's individual point of view. Visioning exercises can be useful for an organization to set priorities and to test the opinions of the group. There are many different exercises that can be used to gather the opinions, the hopes, dreams and fears of groups. Visioning is usually a well structured program. I don't think that it is the same as discernment.

I have given notice that I will be taking a sabbatical, a study leave, from January 1 2014 to March 30 2014. These dates were chosen in discussion with Bishop Sue when she returned from her sabbatical in 2012. During this time, I want to study the practices of group discernment. I want to test the differences between visioning and discernment to see if there are ways congregations, parishes and the diocese may use the disciplines of discernment as we seek to respond to the changes in our communities. I believe that God is continuing to call us to proclaim the good news and to live lives of faithfulness but I also believe that God is calling us to 'a new thing' that we must discern together.

It's A New Day!

Facing the cost of change and growth

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

Winston Churchill said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

DOING MINISTRY IN THIS ERA is definitely an act of courage. The rapidly changing culture and the dramatic shift in traditional church involvement has thrust clergy and lay leaders into new modes of being church. The fourth mark of a healthy parish according to Robert Warren's book "The Healthy Churches' Handbook – a process of revitalizing your church" is connected to a costly calling. These are congregations that face the cost of change and growth, rather than resisting change and fearing failure.

Life is about change – whether that be growth or entropy. Rarely does any living organism remain the same for very long. Warren says most of us in Churchland misunderstand change. We think it's tweaking an aspect of liturgy or making a small policy recalibration. He says, "The truth is that real change is a change of heart." It's

about a fresh and substantial transformation of approach. Genuine change also takes time. It requires an intentional period of discernment, a conscientious attitude and a heart adjustment; in other words, prayerfully seeking the mind of Christ.

Change is also so much more than just being busy. A frantic attempt of doing more, especially more of the same, is not authentic change either. Author Loren Mead says, "busyness is the escape mechanism most people use to avoid the pain of learning and change."

There are four descriptors of this mark of congregational wellness. The first is that while embracing the past, healthy churches dare to take on new ways of doing things. That means members aren't afraid to try stuff! This improvisation is manifest in two ways – evolution and revolution. Evolution is about taking what is good and reworking it to adapt to a changing culture. This is taking the best of "inherited church" and translating it to help connect with members

of contemporary society. This is how, in many ways, the Anglican Church was born during the Reformation. Revolution means starting over, sometimes from scratch. This mode of change includes a new setting with new participants and a fresh method to nurture faith. Generally, a new way of doing things most likely would include both evolution and revolution.

The second characteristic is a church that takes risks: admits when things are not working and learns from experience. This is the ability to strike out with an idea, not knowing for sure if it will work. It's also about a frank and fair evaluation of the fruit that's being borne of a ministry, worship service, organization, etc. It's like what my husband says about his favourite sport, "Who are we trying to fool when we cheat on our golf score?" Honestly measuring the effectiveness of what we do in churches means we can gain insight and constructively build on our outcomes, especially our negative ones.

Healthy churches, when facing a crisis respond

creatively. These members refuse to give up or give in and instead actively adapt. Similar to the bridges over Halifax harbour, both the Old Bridge and the (so-called) New Bridge bend with the wind and frigid temperatures. Rigid structures and congregations are at risk of fractures and even breakdown if they fail to be flexible and responsive in the midst of challenges.

The last descriptor of Christian communities who face the cost of change and growth relates to positive experiences of change. These, however small, are affirmed and built on. Congregations that have successes should regularly share these favourable stories. It's about building self-esteem and reinforcing the vision principles and benefits of a new approach. Encouraging experiences are the stepping stones to constructing a new and revitalized path of ministry life together.

Robert Warren writes, "Certainly churches on the journey to health are ones that have come up against costly experiences of pain,

puzzlement, change and conflict. In them health is evidenced by their willingness and capacity to face uncomfortable truth and real obstacles, but to keep going. They are the churches that reap the rewards of staying faithful to the costly call to follow Christ."

Church members who face the cost of change and growth know this is not for the faint-hearted. However, it is for the faith-hearted. A radical trust in the leading and power of the Holy Spirit is required.

Next month, our series continues with the fifth mark of congregational health: operates as a community.

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.

Planting seeds – branching out

by Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."
Luke 13:19

New life is springing up in a project initiated by members of the parish of St. John the Baptist in North Sydney. On the site of the former hall youth and adults from the neighbourhood are nurturing newfound relationships and a community garden.

The Rector, Rev. Carl Fraser, says the plot of the old building, torn down in 2010, is being re-visioned as a gathering place for all ages once again. Constructed in 1960, the hall had been used by congregants of St. John the Baptist and many community groups and organizations. About 15 years ago members recognized that with its high heating costs and wheelchair inaccessibility the building was not sustainable. This space, which had been home to many a social dance, public

meeting and neighbourhood celebration, is now literally being reworked to branch out to non-church members.

It started with a conversation. Several in fact, between parishioners and outside community members. Consultations were hosted and various ideas put forth. Organizers considered making a skateboard park or paving to create a parking lot. They decided on a community garden.

It became a partnership between the congregation, kids and leaders at the nearby Clifford Street Youth Centre and participants in the Youth Inclusion Program (a Safer Communities initiative for at risk youth). Last spring four 8-foot by 4-foot raised garden boxes were erected in the lot and more than a dozen youth and a hand-full of adult volunteers planted seeds. Over the season they harvested carrots, turnip, beans, green onions, potatoes, cucumbers, radishes, green peppers and tomatoes. Relationships were forged as this group weeded and watered their crop together.



Photo: Gathering the harvest from the new community garden.

On Sept. 27th, the Friday before Back to Church Sunday, Rev. Carl said the youth and leaders completed the final harvest and made ready the garden beds for winter. That Saturday volunteers peeled, cut and prepared a feast, complete with donated roast ham. After Sunday worship close to 150 people gathered to share in the banquet, including 15 kids and other community members. Extra servings were delivered to some of the seniors in the area by the young people.

"The youth know that they

belong and that they have a place at St. John the Baptist," said Rev. Carl. "They know that we care about them."

He said this community garden project and a connected campaign to send some kids to Christian camp has resulted in making a spiritual difference in several of the local families. At a recent political event at the Clifford Youth Centre, one candidate asked the youth who they would name as a good role model. Several spontaneously said in unison, "Jesus!"

Rev. Carl remarked that some members of the parish weren't sure the idea would work, citing concerns about vandalism and a possible lack of youth interest. It became a cherished part of neighbourhood life. "This initiative has helped the congregation see themselves in a different light, especially in terms of what we have to offer to the kids," he said.

The parish plans to expand their outreach project over the next several years, adding more garden boxes and erecting some type of memory piece to honour those who had been part of the life of the church hall in previous generations. They may also involve the local garden club members and invite folks who live in apartments to grow their own food.

This example of a healthy parish facing the cost of change and growth all began with leaders at St. John the Baptist vowing to bring forth life out of death. "We set out to redevelop this property to be used to serve the community and not just ourselves," said Rev. Carl.

Re-Imagining church—nothing to be afraid of

BY REV. ED TREVORS

Changing how we do things, how we operate can be incredibly frightening. Taking steps into unfamiliar surroundings and environments can be terribly uncomfortable. Shifting our idea of why we as a church exist in our communities can take our breath away. Shoot, I remember when I first started to truly subscribe to the process described in Re-Imagining Church, I literally felt as though I was about to experience a panic attack.

Yes, even the title of Re-Imagining Church evokes anxiety in that it calls us to take another look at who we are and what we do. It asks us once more to examine how we live out our faith and for some it may even make them think that they are doing something wrong that needs to be corrected. After I regained my composure and dug deeper into the program I saw how it could potentially reward our parish and community and quickly realized that my anxiety was ill-placed. There was nothing for me to be afraid of. This program works and we already have some really awesome ministries here in NS and PEI to prove it. See a long time ago, long before I ever arrived, this parish had been engaging in these sorts of ministries and they were having a profound impact with little risk and only positive results to parish health.

I'd like to briefly share two

Shelburne ministries that epitomize this movement.



Photo: Grampy's Store

The Shelburne Foodbank operates every Wednesday morning out of our church hall. A few years back a gentleman of our parish, Lawrence Bruce, saw a need. He realized two things; that the clients had needs that the foodbank was not equipped or designed to meet and that they were bored out of their minds waiting for their turn. With support and assistance from the rector and parish, Lawrence took possession of one of the unused rooms in the basement and opened what is best described as a thrift store where everything is free. Lawrence stocks the shelves weekly with donated items such as clothes, shoes, toys, dishes and the like, and each week dozens of people visit and "shop". This is Grampy's Store.

As time went on Lawrence

began providing for needs well beyond clothes and dishes. He has found and received donations of refrigerators, stoves/ovens, televisions, computers, desks, beds, and just about anything else you can imagine. His store has allowed him to build strong, respectful relationships with most of the foodbank clientele – several of who now come to Christ Church for worship and/or counsel. His existing relationships in the community helped Lawrence to help people feel as though they are making real and personal differences in Shelburne when they donate their things to him.

Lawrence saw a need, realized that the parish could meet it, and when they did, found that they were opening the door for other loving and caring ministries.



Photo: Bible Fellowship

When I first arrived here I was under the impression the Bible Fellowship was a Bible study; I was wrong. After attending, it seemed a lot like a support group to me.

Wrong again.

No, Bible Fellowship is a wonderful combination of these two things with a healthy amount of social justice and outreach thrown in for good measure. It provides an opportunity for its members to gather together regularly where they follow a pre-prepared Bible study (most weeks), ask each other about their lives and share how things are going for them (the good and bad), pray for each other and the community, and actively seek out opportunities to support and participate in parish ministries and local charities. Oh and then there is the Birthday Party for Jesus they throw annually...

They have grown together into an intimate church community of disciples, loving and supporting each other as they pray, work,

study, and grow closer to Christ. Their model works so well for them that they have been invited into neighbouring communities to assist in helping other people form their own version of

this ministry.

The Bible Fellowship-pers realized they needed more Christian community than they were receiving on Sunday mornings, they saw how they needed to surround themselves with people who were willing to listen to, care for and love each other and so they came together while also remaining open to anyone who might want to stop by.

While Re-Imagining Church seeks to encourage and empower your congregation to expand its footprint in the community, and attempt new ways of making disciples of Jesus Christ, an adventure that may feel counter-intuitive and frightening, my guess is that you already have a lot of experience doing these sorts of ministries. I suspect that if you look at what your parish is doing, and has been doing for years, you too will see that you have already taken the initiative to launch programs just like the ones you have been (and hopefully will be) hearing about through Re-Imagining Church.

There is nothing to fear – we can do it; we've proven it. This program will help us to develop and focus our energies, to hone our gifts, and assist us to step out in faith and launch effective ministries that meet the needs of our communities and share Jesus' light with our neighbours.

Parish of Annapolis bids fond farewell

BY REV. KEN VAUGHAN

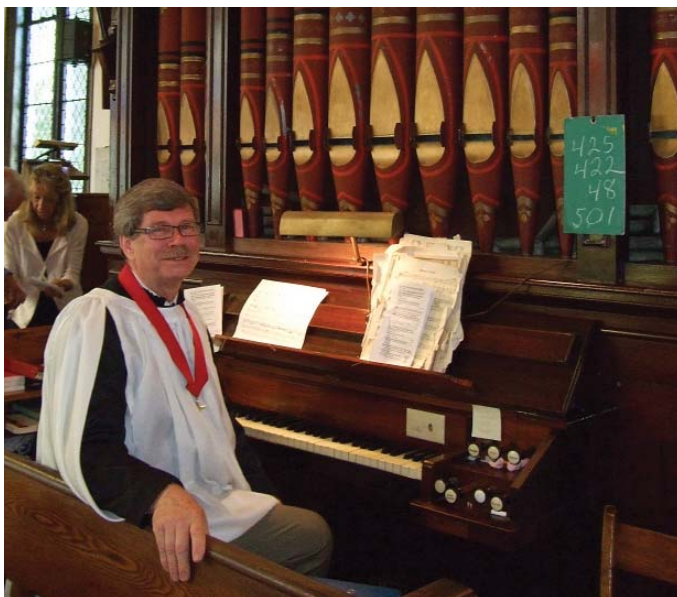


Photo: Organist Leslie Langille

AFTER 18 YEARS of leadership from the organ in St. Luke's Church, Annapolis Royal, Leslie Langille chose to retire. With more than 50 years of ministry as church organist in a variety of Anglican churches, Leslie decided in May to step back from the professional exercise of ministry in church music. The parish community and friends gathered at St. Luke's on Sunday, Sept. 29, for Leslie's last Sunday service as parish organist. The entire liturgy was sprinkled with Leslie's favourite hymns. Following the liturgy, and a gathering for photographs, a reception was held in the parish. At Leslie's request, formalities were held to a minimum; but of course, there was cake! Earlier in the week, at a supper held at the local golf course, over

50 members of the parish gathered to honour Leslie, and to present a financial gift in appreciation for his faithful and dedicated ministry to the choir and people of the parish. As testament to his service, it was said that in the worst Sunday weather imaginable, unless services were cancelled in time, there would be at least 2 people at the 10 am service: the rector (who lived next door)] and the organist (who lived 10 miles away)! Because he generously gave the parish 3 months' notice of his decision to retire, parish council carried out a search for a new organist, interview and engage a new organist to take up this ministry immediately upon Leslie's completion of his last service. On Sunday, Oct. 6, Ms. Elizabeth Harwood of Hampton will take up the ministry of parish organist and choir director.

photo by Paula Hafting

Little known **FACTS**

(and opinions)

about Bishops Sue & Ron

Have you ever wondered what life of a bishop is really like? How much time they spend getting around to visit parishes? Or how many of those meetings they attend -

one-on-one or in groups?
Well, wonder no more!
We bring you the most up-to-date information about our bishops and how they

spend some of their busy days. Plus a little insight into what they would change if given the chance.

Questions? <i>(Oct 2013)</i>	Bishop Sue <i>(Diocesan)</i>	Bishop Ron <i>(Suffragan)</i>
1. What's the most rewarding part of being a bishop?	Seeing God at work in sometimes surprising ways in individuals and congregations.	Visiting with people in the parishes of the diocese.
2. How many nights are you away from home in a year?	55-65	About 50
3. How many kilometers do you drive for work in a year?	15,000km	12,000
4. How many evenings do you work in a month?	10-12	10
5. The Healthy Clergy initiative promotes a healthy lifestyle and work style. How do you accomplish this in your role as bishop?	Family time, jog/walk daily, garden, symphony, friends	Try to walk daily, play golf weekly in season, make sure to spend time each week with my wife and do Cont.Ed. each year.
6. How many church services do you attend or celebrate in a month?	12-20	9 – 10
7. How many meetings do you attend in a month?	24-30 (individual and group)	25 – 30
8. How many total hours for those monthly meetings?	30-45 hours	40 – 50
9. How many plane trips do you take outside the country in a year for work?	4	0
10. How many plane trips inside Canada in a year?	6-8	6
11. If you could change just one thing about the role of the bishop in our diocese, what would it be?	Have a highly-skilled secretary to the bishop or have a staff person for discernment whether call to be ordained or call to move parish or call to different vocation.	The amount of time doing Human Resources work.
12. What advice would you give the new coadjutor bishop?	Keep focus on God and begin and end every meeting with prayer.	Pray, pray, pray!
13. What's the mostly widely held misconception about our bishops?	That we have a way of knowing things without anyone telling us!	That the bishop has far less power than people think.
14. Anything else you'd like to add for our readers?	Being able to serve God's people is a gift, not a right. Bishop's role is enabling all God's people to become all that God called them to be and do in sharing the Gospel with new people. Bishop's role now is also to stop the misuse of power in the church by lay people and by clergy; and also to model a counter cultural way of settling differences and building right relations based on respecting the dignity of every human being.	It is a tremendous privilege to be 'bishop' of this diocese. We are facing some great challenges but at the same time we have a great opportunity to witness to our faith at a time when many people are looking for hope.

A TIP of the HAT! *and a heartfelt Thank You! from*
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Newspaper for the Diocese of Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island

Thank you for your generous support throughout the years. We are asking you once again for your donation so we can continue printing The Diocesan Times. For a tax receipt, please include this envelope with your parish church offering. Or mail it direct (no receipt issued) to:

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Thank you in advance

It's time once again to ask our readers for their financial support during our annual Diocesan Times appeal.

There are many other people and causes asking you to donate your resources. But The Diocesan Times is the only one bringing local Anglican news stories and photos in print, online and with videos (see our Facebook page) each month.

Our dilemma: the diocese says The Diocesan Times is freely available to all identifiable givers. But the funds need to come from our readership to continue.

The facts: only one in ten readers send in donations and that isn't enough money for us to continue. Our funds from advertising, the Journal Appeal and diocesan grant fall short of our expenses. We work diligently to keep costs to a minimum, including 0% increase in the editor's compensation since 2000.

The solution: the envelope in this month's paper asks you to support the paper and place your donation in your parish offering plate or mail it in the diocese. However, tax receipts are only provided for those donations made through parishes.

PAUL SHERWOOD, EDITOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Rev. Lynn Uzans appointed priest-in-charge of the parish of Hubbards, Sept 23 to Dec 31, 2013, while Rev. Laurie Olmstead is on sabbatical.

Rev. Marilyn Haugen Strand appointed priest-in-charge of the parish of Liscomb/Port Bickerton effective Sept 16, 2013 until Dec 31, 2013.

The Youth and Family Ministry Co-ordinator position will continue; funding from the Leap for Faith money designated for Youth will enable Susan Naylor to continue a further 4 month contract to December 31, 2013. She is still at work on Diocesan Youth Conference, workshops such as Messy Church, cataloguing the diocesan Youth Ministry resources and helping the Youth Ministry Funding Task Group to do their work.

This Task Group was set up by Diocesan Council in June following the Synod directive to do so. The Task Group is composed of Bishop Ron, Kathy Petite, Bonnie Skerritt, David Warner and Revs. Rev. Fran Drolet Smith, Sandra Fyfe and Brianna Andrews. They will report to the next Diocesan Council meeting.

In the age of the Internet

BY REV. PAUL SMITH

There was a time, not that long ago, when sermon preparation was akin to a major school research project. With a Bible, concordance, *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, and perhaps a well-worn copy of a *Barclay's Commentary* spread out on the table, one would leaf through pages making copious notes (I'm talking pen and paper) as the sermon grew. It was a time consuming, though informative, process. Today one is far more apt to begin in front of a computer screen to google their way along the path. In fact the transitive verb "to google" was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* on June 15, 2006, (something I learned from a *Wikipedia* article!).

Over time I have accumulated and bookmarked an extensive list of 'go to' websites and continue to discover more as every foray into cyberspace seems to lead to new discoveries and favorites. I have no desire to bring down the book publishing industry by recommending online research, a look at my sagging bookshelves at home and office attest to that, but even a hard to find or out-of-print book can be delivered instantly to your computer, (any number of book reader programs are available for free download, no special equipment required). For the past four years our congregation has subscribed to an electronic version of our Sunday school curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*. Each teacher can "log in", at their convenience, review, and download materials for their class as needed, greatly reducing waste.

Following are just a few web resources that are favorites of mine. If you have discovered something you would like to share why not post it on the diocesan Facebook page? Just google; "Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island Facebook page" and you are on your way!

BIBLES

Oremus Bible Browser allows you to type in a passage or a key search word and then displays the passage(s) in your choice of translations.
<http://bible.oremus.org>

Synoptic Parallels allows you to read, side by side in columns, the four Gospels. How does, for example, the Parable of the

Mustard Seed differ between Mark and Luke?
<http://www.utoronto.ca/religion/synopsis>

LECTIONARIES

Wonder what lessons to use for morning, evening, offices or a Eucharist on a given date, or when to commemorate a saint?
<http://satucket.com/lectionary>

For BCP references:
<http://www.lectionarycentral.com>

PRAYER

Looking for some inspiration for your day (or while surfing the web)?
<http://prayer.forwardmovement.org>
or have a message delivered daily:
<http://inwardoutward.org>

CHILDREN'S RESOURCES

Linking children's books to the lectionary:
<http://storypath.upsem.edu>
Free to download Sunday school materials based on the Revised Common Lectionary:
<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons>
Ideas for worship and children's talks:
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.ca>

SERMON AND WORSHIP PREPARATION

My favorite place to dive in for a great place to find endless links to meet your needs
<http://www.textweek.com> or
<http://www.gbod.org>

LEADERSHIP AND STEWARDSHIP

A great compendium of resources:
<http://www.ecfvp.org> and <http://www.tens.org>

NEWS

What's going on in the diocese
<http://www.nspeidiocese.ca>
the Canadian Church;
<http://www.anglican.ca>
the world-wide Anglican Communion:
<http://www.anglicancommunion.org>
"Learning never exhausts the mind."
(Leonardo da Vinci) <http://www.brainyquote.com>

Happy searching!
Paul

Both sides of the wardrobe

C. S. LEWIS THEOLOGICAL IMAGINATION AND EVERYDAY DISCIPLESHIP – A SYMPOSIUM
Sat, Nov 23, 2013
St. Columba Chapel, AST Campus, 634 Francklyn Street, Halifax, NS

Are you a fan of C. S. Lewis, author of the beloved *Chronicles of Narnia* and *Mere Christianity*? Atlantic School of Theology (AST) is hosting a one-day symposium marking the 50th anniversary of Lewis' death on Sat, Nov 23. Scholars, pastors, and students will be speaking on a variety of topics, including *Narnia*, everyday discipleship, and Lewis' connection to J.R.R. Tolkien. A special feature of the event will be a dramatic presentation by "Professor Lewis" (the Rev. Mel Malton) entitled

What Christians Believe. This performance will be suitable for all ages. Tickets for the evening show may be purchased separately (special group rates apply). Both the full day symposium and the evening performance take place in AST's St. Columba Chapel. For more information, including registration information, visit the AST website: <http://www.astheology.ns.ca/home/CSLewis.html>
Registration Fees
FULL DAY SYMPOSIUM \$75 (or \$20 for full-time students or unwaged)
EVENING ONLY Performance & Reception \$10 advance / \$12 at the door \$40 Group Rate for 5 tickets
For information: Prof. Rob Fennell Symposium Convener rfennell@astheology.ns.ca 902-425-3298

The beacon on the hill



Photo: 160th anniversary celebration at St Paul's, Terrance Bay.

ON SEPT. 8TH, local residents and members of St. Paul's, Terrence Bay, celebrated 160 years of worship and ministry. The service began at the foundation site of the first and former church, which burnt down in 1942. A procession of singers including these choir members and scores of others walked to the present St. Paul's for a traditional service of Morning Prayer and a festive

reception. The theme of the day was "The Legacy of Faith." Historic photos and articles are posted around the walls of the church this season as congregants give thanks for the generations of families and clergy who have nurtured a vibrant community of ministering people.

Photo by Judi Eld

The fair trade initiative and the Parish of French Village

BY HARRY COOKE

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO the Parish of French Village was having issues resulting from an ageing and declining congregation. A parish visioning study questioned whether the parish was an "inward-looking" parish or an "outward-looking" parish. Several years later the idea of a Fair Trade Initiative was proposed taking the bigger view and raising the awareness of the importance of helping others.....to be an "outward-looking" Parish and reaching out to those less fortunate than ourselves rather than being "inward-looking" and concerned only with the day-to-day operation of the parish. The congregations of the four churches in the Parish embraced the idea and have been supporting a Fair Trade initiative for the past seven years, by merely subscribing to buy a bag of Fair Trade coffee or package of Fair Trade tea per month. The profits from the initiative are sent back to the village of Buena Vista high in the mountains of Oaxaca in central Mexico whose economic base is the production and sale of Fair Trade Coffee. These funds have been applied to improve the infrastructure of the village and the lives of the villagers including: purchasing a satellite dish, computer & training; building



a kindergarten; purchasing a community generator; purchasing and erecting eight street lights in the village; supporting three young women to receive post-secondary education; a medical pilot project providing medical care to remote villages and most recently the establishment of an aquaculture project raising Tilapia...a fast growing fresh water fish...which gives the village a new source of protein and a new source of income. This latter initiative has "spawned" a mini-industry which is improving the lives, diet and income of the local villagers. As a result of this initiative eight other villages have started their own aquaculture projects raising Tilapia.

.....all of this from an outward-looking church community in a small village in Nova Scotia reaching out to a small village in Mexico merely by buying a bag of Fair Trade coffee or a box of Fair Trade tea per month, delivered to their homes.

These projects, costing \$2,000 to \$3,000 per year, are identified annually by the elders in the village through our contact, Father Francisco Vanderhoff a "worker priest".....and one of the founders of Fair Trade 30 years ago. Father Vanderhoff visited the Parish in early June of this year and conducted a joint service with Rev. Brianna Andrews.....the parish priest. This project is having such a positive impact...both in the compassion felt by the congregation here in Nova Scotia and in the improvements being made in the lives of others less fortunate in the mountains of Mexico.....that the organizers are expanding the initiative to all church communities across Canada who wish to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of others.

If you would like to get involved in an initiative in your parish please email the coordinator at: harrycook@eastlink.ca.



Photo: Harry Cooke delivers an updated report about Fair Trade Coffee to the congregation at St. James Anglican church in Boutlier's Point.

Mothers' Union marks 125th with celebration tea

ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2013, the members of St. John the Evangelist, Milton, P.E.I. and invited guests enjoyed a classy tea to commemorate 125 years of Mothers' Union in Canada. The celebration began with a prayer service and music. Rev Ralph Moore led the service of thanksgiving with a focus on World Peace. He wore, with honour, the Commemorative Priest's Stole, which is touring the diocese. Diocesan President Debbie Fice brought it to the celebration. Assistant priest Ken Williams and other Mothers' Union members led in prayer. Musical

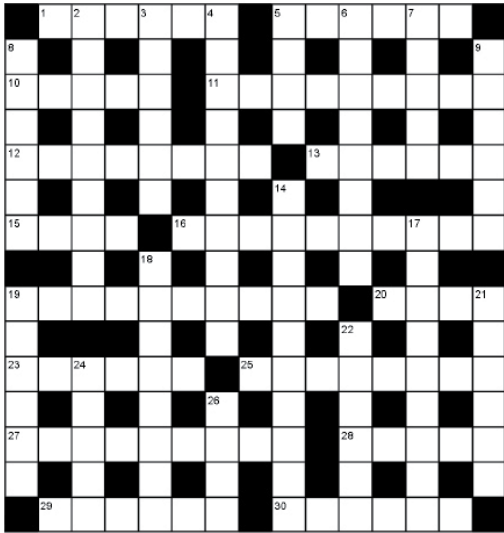
leaders were John and Lynn Hooper, the newest married couple in the MU church family. Canadian President, Margaret de Carvalho, gave a presentation about the Worldwide Mothers' Union, its history, who it is and what they do. It was an informative presentation that showed the best of this wonderful organization united in prayer and worship, in love and service.

Photo: Mothers' Union representatives with Rev. Ralph Moore in PEI.



Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



NOVEMBER Clues

ACROSS:

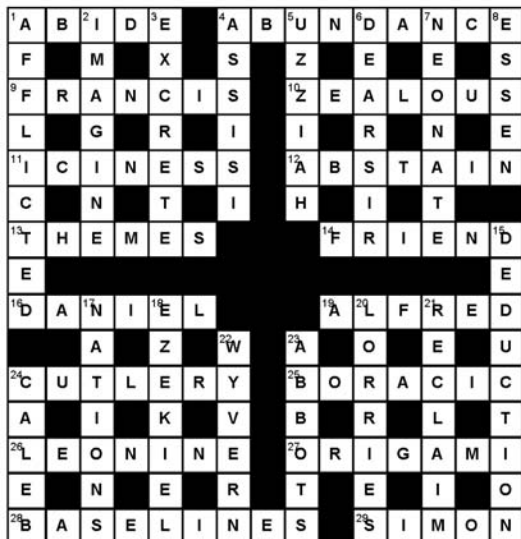
- 1 - Shrill, piercing cry (6)
- 5 - Forming (6)
- 10 - "...on finding one _____ of great value " , gem made by an oyster (Matt. 13:46) (5)
- 11 - "...God was pleased to _____ to himself all things", win over (Col. 1:20) (9)
- 12 - "...how _____ is your name in all the earth!", grand (Ps. 8:11) (8)
- 13 - Farewells, from the French (6)
- 15 - "...he saw James...and...John, who were in their boat mending the _____", fishing things (Mark 1:19) (4)
- 16 - Contracts (10)
- 19 - "I truly understand that God shows no _____", bias (Acts 10:34) (10)
- 20 - Bishop of Lincoln, died 1200, said to have had a pet swan (4)
- 23 - An apostle (6)
- 25 - Queen of Scotland, died 1093, wife of Malcolm III (8)
- 27 - Assistant bishop without right of succession (9)
- 28 - Cancel (5)
- 29 - "happy is everyone who _____ in you", has confidence in (Ps. 84:12) (6)

30 - Hate (6)

DOWN:

- 2 - Assistant bishop with right of succession (9)
- 3 - Sign up for military service (6)
- 4 - Part of harness for a horse (10)
- 5 - A spice (4)
- 6 - "(he) showed him all the ----- of the world...", monarchies (Matt. 4:8) (8)
- 7 - Harsh sound (5)
- 8 - Creature between ape and human (6)
- 9 - Wild animals (6)
- 14 - Held back (10)
- 17 - Subatomic particles (9)
- 18 - Small weapons, e.g. pistols (8)
- 19 - "_____ God in his sanctuary", give grateful homage (Ps. 150:1) (6)
- 21 - Inns (6)
- 22 - Horrified (6)
- 24 - "For my name's sake I _____ my anger", put off (Isa. 48:9) (5)
- 26 - "_____ ago, I was set up, at the first", a long time (Prov. 8:23) (4)

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Reimagining is ready to roll!

BY REV. LISA G. VAUGHN

THE COMMUNITY contexts of Yarmouth, New London and Port Hawkesbury are different. There is not one single approach that would kindle the fire of faith in all of them in the same way. That's why the Diocesan Building Healthy Parishes Team has produced a FREE new tool called "Reimagining Church in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island."

The five-part video series is designed to address the changing culture in which we do ministry, especially our local community culture. This project provides a beginning point for parishes as they consider their future ministry goals. Adapted for our Maritime Anglican context, it's a course created by Fresh Expressions Canada, an initiative of the Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism in Toronto.

The entire kit, including the taped talks and all the printed resources, is available to **Anglican members of the Diocese via the Diocesan website** (www.nspeidiocese.ca). DVD copies of the video portion were given out to



those who attended the Clergy Resource Day on October 10. The video segments run from 25 to 40 minutes (not including discussion and break times). We recommend planning for at least two hours for each session. A shorter time means there is not enough time for discussion. The most productive part of this series is the group dialogue. These opportunities to share experiences and brainstorm ideas are what it's all about!

Included with this Reimagining Church resource are a facilitator's explanation

sheet, an evaluation form, a graduation certificate template, as well as participant hand-out sheets for each session. A colour poster and brochure are provided too to assist in promotion of the course.

For many parishes who have not had an opportunity to consider how to revision their discipleship life and work in a new way, Reimagining Church will provide a foundation on which to build new forms of ministry and growth areas. There are also ideas and examples included in this series which will stretch

imaginations and provide jumping-off points for further discussion and action.

We hope that both clergy and lay people will take the initiative and explore this valuable program. It can be run at a Parish Council or committee meeting, an ACW group, a men's breakfast, as a small group enrichment program. It can be run anytime, anywhere. In other words, you don't need clergy – priests or deacons – to run this. Even if a parish is waiting for a new rector and is in a time of transition, this program can still be run and

help members begin thinking about doing church in their neighbourhood in a fresh way. Wherever you are – rural, town, suburb or city - you can offer this program and adapt it for your specific community.

Be sure to join us on Facebook: "Reimagining Church Diocese of NS & PEI". Several times a week there are ideas, resources and articles added to help our members to continue this work of reimagining.

HELP! VERY IMPORTANT! The Building Healthy Parishes Team needs to monitor the effectiveness of this program. We also require data in order to do future planning and to offer more resources to local Anglican churches. PLEASE collect and summarize your evaluation sheets and then INPUT it using Survey Monkey. See the link on the Facilitator's Notes page.

Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn is Team Leader of Building Healthy Parishes. Contact: lgvaughn@eastlink.ca

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The blessing of animals

It's a long held tradition to bless animals on Oct 4, the Feast of St Francis. And this year St. Paul's Anglican church in Halifax opened its doors to all animals large, small, finned, furry or feathered. More than a dozen parishioners and pets arrived for the evening blessing service; a very large Newfoundland dog and a goldfish swimming in its glass home were among the visitors. It was Rev Paul Friesen's first animal blessing service and both he and the animals did a superb job.

Photo right: Rev. Paul Friesen blesses a white terrier while his owner looks on approvingly.



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I was a stranger



Photo: Maggie Whittingham-Lamont is a postulant for the diaconate and chaplain at the mission to seafarers.

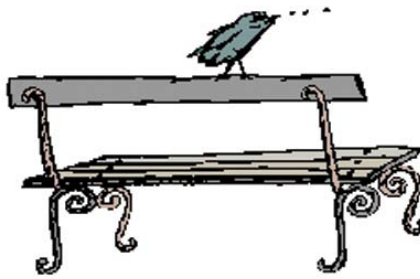
BY MAGGIE WHITTINGHAM-LAMONT

In Matthew 25:35 we read, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'. That is the tenet by which the Mission to Seafarers worldwide strives to live by.

Seafarers arrive on our shores in various vessels: cargo ships, auto carriers, oil tankers or cruise ships, to name just a few. These seafarers are usually from far away, from countries

such as the Philippines, India, China or any number of places in Eastern Europe so I try to imagine what it must be like to land in a country where everything is different. The climate is often not the same, the food is different, the social mores are different and you don't understand the language. For me this would be very scary so I am always overawed that these gentle unassuming people are brave enough to leave remote climes to venture to sea. The wish to care for their families is overwhelming. They are often subjected to ridicule, bullying, fatigue and isolation onboard but still they ply the waters of the world's oceans in order to care for their loved ones.

My job is to visit them in their temporary homes, that is, onboard ship. I sit and drink tea and coffee with them as they tell me about their lives and the loved ones they have left behind for up to a year at a time. I hear their problems, their aspirations and their frustrations. On a practical level I loan them the cell phones that the Mission provides to contact their loved



View from the deacon's bench

ones. I also try and advocate for them if they are having problems such as salary not being paid, insufficient food, denial of shore leave or any other problems. I do not do this alone, I have a whole network of people that have the expertise to help. New regulations in the form of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 came into effect in August 2013 and the contents of this legislation should prove beneficial to seafarers worldwide.

Some seafarers have shore leave whilst they are in

Halifax and this affords them the luxury of doing a little shopping or visiting a local visitor attraction such as Citadel Hill or the Titanic Gravesite. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is a favorite and the staff there are always very welcoming to visiting crews. These trips are also facilitated by the Mission staff and volunteers. For those that want to leave the ship but do not want to run errands or sightsee there is the Mission which is situated opposite Pier 24 in the port of Halifax. At the Mission crew can have a

free coffee, telephone their friends and family, surf the net, worship in our small chapel, buy a souvenir, partake in some recreation in the form of pool, darts or basketball and even pick up some warm second-hand clothes.

Perhaps the greatest example of our hospitality is about to commence. Each year with the help of churches in the Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI as well as some other denominations, service groups and the general public, the Mission is able to provide shoebox Christmas gifts to as many as 2000 seafarers. These boxes contain essentials such as socks, gloves, hat, scarf, toiletries, a small memento and a treat of hard candy. It is amazing to see the joy on the seafarer's faces as they experience the generosity of people they will never meet.

Holding the words of Matthew 25:35 in our memory and in our hearts helps the Mission to Seafarers in Halifax fulfil its mandate and encourages to care for all as we would wish to be cared for.

