



## Adoration of the shepherds



Above: *Adoration of the Shepherds* by BRONZINO, Agnolo (1539–40)  
Oil on wood, 65 x 47 cm  
Szépművészeti Múzeum, Budapest

Agnolo di Cosimo (November 17, 1503 – November 23, 1572), usually known as Il Bronzino, or Agnolo Bronzino was an Italian Mannerist painter from Florence.

## COLUMNISTS

# Advent by the Bog

BY THE TIME this is being read the season of Advent has passed into the joy of Christmas. Even if the 25th hasn't arrived yet, our thinking is of nothing but tinsel and fruit cakes and turkey. Oh yes, and that special birthday we are celebrating.

Rev. Billie does her very best to keep us centered on Advent with all that goes with the season. The colour purple on the altar, the lack of flowers on the Holy Table, the singing of all those glorious hymns telling of John the Baptist and all of those other 'here He comes' hymns. Billie tries to keep our eyes on the true reason for the chaos that surrounds December 25th but, as she says, the world crowds in on us, even here By the Bog and the fever of shopping and baking seems to overshadow our Advent.

The old folks like to blame Television for most of the Christmas hype. I remember my dear mother saying that more snow was falling inside her new TV than she had ever seen in real life and that no



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

one seemed to get stuck in the stuff or have to remove it. Just lots of Carollers standing under street lamps singing and little children building huge snowmen! And this all started by mid October!

Who knows where or when the world took over the celebration of Our Saviour's birth, it is now a fact of life and we need to do our part to hold on to our Christian traditions. Billie has urged us to send out cards with what some might call 'religious'

messages rather than elves and red nosed reindeer; a manger scene instead of a dancing, decorated evergreen. Ever try to find those cards now days? It isn't easy! They can be found hidden on the bottom shelf...if you are lucky! I'm sure we all will have at least one such card to send to our Rector.

We are busy baking our fruit cakes and fancy cookies here By the Bog but we also are lighting Advent candles in our homes and feeling pangs of guilt when we get the urge to put up that tree by the end of November. Some are calling them Advent trees until December 20th.

My Orin has taken advantage of the unseasonably warm November weather to hang our outside lights on the bushes and around the windows of our house. He says he cannot remember ever before doing this job in shirt sleeves. Usually his fingers are numb by the time the final string of lights has been hung.

We all love Christmas. It brings out the child in us with its magic and wonder.

No one gets into the spirit of the season more than Billie. But she does wait until December 24th before she allows the purple of Advent to be replaced by the white of Christmas. Somehow our Christmas Eve service is all the more special for the waiting. We do not sing the first Nowell until the first Noel, if you get my drift. We come to our beloved little church and see the flowers that surround the altar and steps to the sanctuary that are there in memory of long gone worshipers at St. Bart's. We rejoice in the full church that happens only at this service when family come out to join the regulars. We sing the beautiful hymns of the season and look as Rev. Billie blesses the cradle and has one of our youngest worshipers place the figure of the baby in the manger.

Christmas by the Bog is such a special time of year!

We wish everyone the joy of a Blessed Christmas.

I'll keep you posted,  
Aunt Madge

# Praying through the darkness

ADVENT IS ABOUT OUR HOPE in the Light of the World. But as the daylight hours of the season grow shorter and darkness gains the upper hand, these long evenings and nights may serve more to remind us of that darkness rather than light and lead to hopelessness.

How we think about our circumstances often affects how we pray. There is darkness all around as we wait for the fullness of the Kingdom of God to come in. With terrible stories of conflicts, natural disasters, and fragile economies; with personal circumstances of illness, issues of employment and family crisis, some of us might be spurred on to more fervent prayer. Others are led to an overwhelming bleakness that hinders their ability to pray. So how can we continue in prayer at this time?

There was a man who desperately needed to return home. He was not in his own community and he lived where the only way to get between home was to travel by snowmobile. It was a



Prayer

Steve Laskey

moonless night and as it was early December, there had not yet been much snow. The trail was still quite rough with small streams to get through and trees and rocks to get over or around. But he knew the route and in spite of it being quite late, he decided to leave just the same.

Halfway through the 80km journey the light on the snowmobile gave out. He was left in complete darkness and

knew he would not get very far before getting tangled up. He weighed his options. Go back; 'stay put' and wait for the light of day to come to him; or, he could try to go on. He took out a small flashlight he kept in his pack and remounted. With his thumb on the throttle he steered using his right hand. In his left hand he held the flashlight to shine on the path ahead. Slowly, very slowly, he made his way through the woods. He had to stop many times to look more closely to see he was still on the trail. It took six hours but he did get home to his family.

His knowledge of the trail through the woods, of all its obstacles and challenges, even in the depths of darkness, allowed him to keep moving forward. He did not retreat. He did not stand still. He knew the path and knew what he was about.

As people of prayer it is important for us to know the circumstances of the path on which we journey. We need to know what we are about so that even in the darkest of times we have the confidence

to persevere in prayer. Perhaps all we have is that little light but that is enough to help us pray through the hurts and pains, the struggles and pitfalls of this world. As we travel the path, in darkness or in the full light of day, we will come across people who are hurt and broken. We will come upon situations that need our hands to help or our voice to speak.

To continue in prayer as we travel our own trails brings the light of our Lord to shine on all those dark tangled places. Our own knowledge and experience of the trail gives us the confidence to persevere and to keep moving forward even if it is very slow. The light that shines in Advent is our Lord who is always with us. We are able to pray in all circumstances and we do not lose heart. We continue in hope for ourselves and for others.

Steve Laskey is the rector of Christ Church, Dartmouth and the Diocesan Rep for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer.



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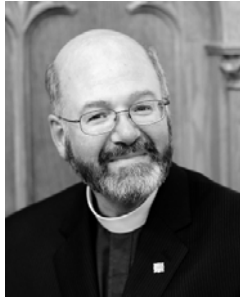
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BISHOP'S MESSAGE

# What are we afraid of?



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

I HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED my first Christmas card this year. That may not surprise you if you are reading this column in mid-December, but I am writing it in mid-November. This card was given to me at the Diocesan Youth Conference by the enthusiastic group from the South Shore and the Eastern Shore regions of the diocese. At the Saturday lunch, the participants are in table groups by region and each group was encouraged to decorate their tables with a theme. The South Shore and Eastern Shore delegates were anticipating Christmas a little early at their table, complete with Christmas crackers and candy canes!

The card made me think of the various portrayals of the nativity that I have seen over the years. Most of them seem to attempt some kind of historical rendition of what the birth of Jesus might have looked like. Many contain the scripturally inaccurate addition of the wise men (or magi) at the birth. It strikes me that they are all remarkably sanitized versions of a birth under extraordinary and very unsanitary conditions. Many years ago I saw a different portrayal of the birth of our Lord. It was on the cover of "The Living Message" Magazine. The magazine was a periodical published by the Anglican Church of Canada, its name was later changed to "The Anglican Magazine" before it ceased publication. One year, the cover of the December edition featured a painting depicting the nativity in a very unusual way. The artist showed the birth of the infant Jesus taking place in a gas station service bay in a frozen Canadian winter. It was an attempt to contextualize the traditional image of Jesus' birth for a generation which could not truly grasp the idea of a birth in a stable. The image, predictably, garnered its share of both acclaim and criticism. Though I do not remember the artist's name or the year I first saw it, that image has stayed with me. It awoke in me some sense of what God was doing in the Incarnation, which all the air-brushed portrayals could never convey.

Saint Luke tells us that Jesus was born in a stable (probably a cave), far from the hometown of his parents. The holy family was caught up in a geopolitical decision of the Roman Empire. It forced them to travel at a time that could not have been worse for a woman so far advanced in pregnancy. Saint Matthew tells us that the family became refugees, fleeing their homeland for safety, following Jesus' birth. Their flight was the result of the paranoid fears of a despotic king. This is the reality of the world that God enters through the Incarnation. The scriptures do not paint a pretty picture of an angelic Mary cradling her newborn child under both full moon and softly falling snow. Instead, they show a world where government decisions create disruption in the lives of families who are simply struggling to survive and where the most common, yet profound event, the birth of a child, brings joy even in the harshest of conditions.

So much of our culture's portrayal of Christmas is scrubbed clean. What are we afraid of? The Incarnation reveals something very powerful about God in the midst of us - under the worst of conditions. The joy and hope in this season are not found in a sentimental story, but in the way that the kingdom of God, and the kingdoms of this world are contrasted. God's kingdom and power are revealed in what is perceived as weak, vulnerable and of little account. This is a theme that Jesus will later explore in many of his parables and it is revealed most profoundly on the cross.

My wish for you and your loved ones is that you may experience the true power of this season with the realization that the 'perfect' Christmas is not found in escape from the realities of the world but from God's love and grace made visible in the most unlikely times and places.

# A time to welcome and give thanks

This the second month in a row to introduce a new feature to The Diocesan Times. Last month we showcased Dave Walker's church cartoons. This month we welcome Steve Laskey's column on prayer. Steve is the rector of Christ Church, Dartmouth and the Diocesan Rep for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Look for both to continue in the new year.



EDITOR

*Paul Sherwood*

As 2010 comes to an end, it is time to offer heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed to The Diocesan Times throughout the year.

Bishops Sue and Ron offered reflections on theology and topics that engaged our diocese.

Our regular columnist, Sarah Neish, has shared her stories from The Bog for more than a decade. Through good times and bad, the parishioners and clergy have thrived in their rural setting at St. Bart's.

Paul Friesen's reviews column provided a look at books that were insightful, thought-provoking and sometimes simply entertaining. Like Sarah, he's written his reviews for more than 10 years.

Maureen Yeats continued to offer crossword puzzles that use Bible-based clues to successfully solve.


Susan Naylor continued to keep youth events coming.

Harold Irving offered businesses and organizations an opportunity to advertise their specialties in the paper at competitive rates.

And our many parish correspondents and diocesan groups told their stories with words and pictures. They continue to play an important role in sharing the events across our diverse diocese.

And finally a large *Thank You!* to all our readers. Your feedback, comments and support are integral to our work in communications. But The Diocesan Times relies on your ongoing financial support as well. Our Synod finance office reports that our financial situation needs additional funds or runs the risk of not printing the paper. So we ask you to use the enclosed donation envelope to offer your financial support. Or visit CanadaHelps at [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org) and donate electronically. Enter "Diocese Nova Scotia" in the "I want to give to" box.

From all of us at The Diocesan Times, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.



*Merry Christmas from*

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# Becoming an altar

PICTURE A NORMAL Liturgy meeting. A group gathers to discuss Lent 2011 and the various themes the Church of St. Andrew in Cole Harbour could consider. Journey, wilderness and outreach are mentioned, comments are made and suddenly what appears to be an outrageous idea starts to take form and the group is electrified. By meetings end it has been decided...we will build an Altar of Outreach to the world. We will, as a parish, collectively become an altar of sacrifice as we bring our gifts, matched weekly to the gospels.

On the first Sunday of Lent parishioners arrived with their gifts of Kraft Dinner expecting to find our traditional Lenten church; brass switched out to black wrought iron and gray vestments. They did not expect to find the sanctuary bare. The altar had been removed and there was a general air of concern, bewilderment and confusion. We are used to moving the altar for theatrical offerings or placing it in different areas for liturgical emphasis but this time it was completely gone. The space where it sat was bracketed by two lonely black candle

stands lifting their arms in supplication. Where was the altar? Why did we move it? Having experienced various liturgical offerings in the past the parish must have wondered WHAT we were doing this time?

A prayer in the bulletin set the stage. "God, you call us to journey with you into the unknown. Help us to respond in faithful obedience. Strengthen us for what lies ahead so that, secure in the knowledge of your loving care, we like Abraham may be a blessing for all."

So how do you prepare the Eucharist without a table? The hands of the people became the missal stand. The hands of the people became the altar as the gifts were prepared and consecrated. We became a true interpretation of the word "liturgy" - the work of the people.

What no one anticipated was that the empty space between the candles became sacred space as if the altar was still there. This space was not willingly trod upon. We were confronted with a need to discover what the altar meant to each of us. Certainly as the "altar" grew, the consternation

lessened and the excitement built. Week by week gifts were laid on the sanctuary steps and week by week the "altar" was reconstructed. By Palm Sunday our altar of outreach was complete and we sent out to the world:

- 233 boxes of Kraft Dinner for the lunch at a local high school and the Food Bank
- 15 boxes of diapers and 115 assorted baby items for Holy Trinity's Layette Program
- 93 cans of Apple Juice for the Food Bank
- 159 pairs of eyeglasses for the Lion's Club Eyeglass Recycling Centers.
- 549 books for the Head & Neck Cancer Support Group at the QE II hospital
- 87 balls of wool and 199 knitted squares for the Mother's Union Blessing Blankets for the homeless, distributed through Adsum House, Metro Turning Point and the Salvation Army. These became 24 blankets which were blessed in October.

Visit the church web site for photos showing the full story of our Lenten Altar. <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Religion/TCOSA/index.html>

## Stellarton celebrates 160 years

CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH in Stellarton celebrated its 160th anniversary with several events during the month of October. The celebrations began Oct. 2 with a youth service and two baptisms.

On Oct. 16 the official anniversary was celebrated, as is customary every year on the third weekend of October. This service involved former rectors of the church - Rev. Captain Jim McCorriston and Rev. Ron Walker - along with retired Archbishop Arthur Peters, who preached. Current rector Rev. Peter Armstrong and associate priests Rev. Aidan Kingsbury and Rev. Bill White also participated.

An anniversary dinner was held

on Oct. 22, catered by First Presbyterian Church, with 116 people attending.

On Oct. 23 many parishioners dressed in 1851 attire for the 11 a.m. service.

A fun night was held on Oct. 29, with congregational members and guests enjoying musical selections, a scavenger hunt, a cake walk and other entertainment.

On Oct. 30 a prayer service took place to mark the end of the celebrations. Donations were made to support ministry in northern Canada.

Gladys MacKenzie composed a poem for the anniversary, and the Sunday School is making a banner to present to the congregation.

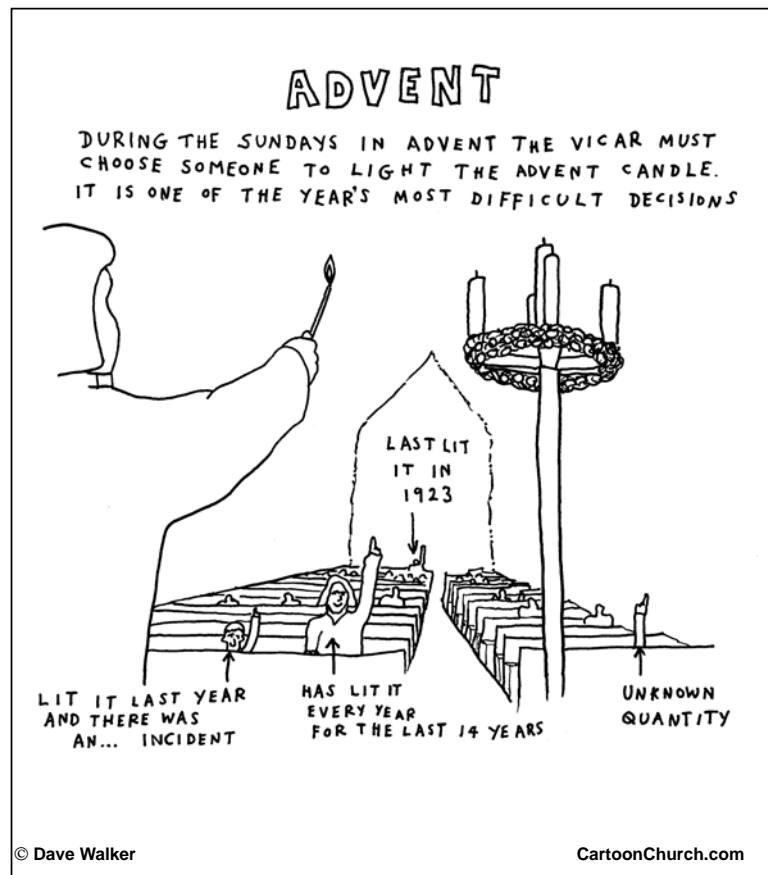


Photo: Parishioners dressed in 1851 attire for anniversary service.

## Archbishop delivers Watson lecture



Photo: Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada delivered the annual Paul Watson Lecture on November 7 at Saint Mary's University. The year's theme was Holiness, Hospitality, Hope. Archbishop Hiltz spoke on the challenges facing the Christian churches and detailed some of the ongoing collaborative ecumenical works.



# Truth & Reconciliation Commission comes to Nova Scotia

**RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS** for Aboriginal people in Canada date back to the 1870s. Over 130 residential schools were located across the country, and the last school closed in 1996. These government-funded, church-run schools were set up to eliminate parental involvement in the intellectual, cultural, and spiritual development of Aboriginal children and to assimilate Aboriginal children into mainstream culture.

**DURING THIS ERA**, more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were placed in these schools often against their parents' wishes. Many were forbidden to speak their language and practice their own culture. While there is an estimated 80,000 former students living today, the ongoing impact of residential schools has been felt throughout generations and has contributed to social problems that continue to exist.

**IN 1993**, the Anglican Church of Canada issues an apology for their role in residential schools.

**IN 2006** the Government of Canada signed the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement with legal representatives of survivors, Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives and church entities.

**ON JUNE 1, 2008**, the Government of Canada launches the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Visit [trc.ca](http://trc.ca) for more information on the TRC's mandate and activities.

**ON JUNE 11, 2008**, the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government of Canada, delivered a formal apology in the House of Commons to former students, their families, and communities for Canada's role in the operation of the residential schools.

**ON JUNE 16-19, 2010**, the first national TRC National Event in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**THE KAIROS 2011-2012** Action and Education Campaign is called Truth, Reconciliation, Equity: They Matter to Us. Join KAIROS as we work towards equity for Indigenous people in Canada. Visit [kairosCanada.org](http://kairosCanada.org) for more information.

**A VIDEO WILL** soon be available of a conversation between Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Bishop Sue Moxley taped at the Atlantic National Event of the TRC. Watch Anglican Net News for the announcement.



*Photo left: Bishop Sue addresses the TRC National Event during the Circle of Reconciliation.*



*Photo right: Caption: Drummers lead off the procession to the conference site at the World Trade and Convention Centre from the Sacred Fire location at Nova Scotia's Province House.*



*Photo left: The Bentwood Box was carved by Coast Salish artist Luke Marsten whose grandmother attended the residential school in Kuper Island, BC. The box is present and receives all Expressions of Reconciliation.*

# Diocesan Youth rocks th



THE DIOCESAN YOUTH CONFERENCE was a hit in PEI this November. Some 175 people attended this year's conference with youth delegates from across our diocese and the Diocese of Fredericton. The photos shown here capture only a part of the fun and excitement from the weekend. From

the kitchen crew to the organizers to the folks who ran the many workshops, there was a positive energy that permeated the camp. The photo below shows an attempt to spell "DYC" with all the participants forming the letters. It was one of those "you had to be there" moments.



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# What To Do With The Kids:

## Top 10 Family Christmas/Holiday Movie or Television Shows

WHAT TO DO WITH THE KIDS (WTDWTK) released its latest Special Report just in time for this festive season. WTDWTK contacted parents from around the world through LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook as well as email, and asked them to submit their list of favorite Family Christmas/Holiday Movie or Television Shows. A copy of this special report is available on [www.whattodowiththekids.com](http://www.whattodowiththekids.com). WTDWTK received over 440 movie and television

suggestions of programs that date back as far as 1946 and as early as 2004. The most number of comments were by far for the classic black & white Frank Capra movie "It's a Wonderful Life." Many people commented on how their family would get together just to watch this movie, including the younger ones.

The original Chuck Jones animated "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" beat the Ron Howard live action movie "The Grinch" by a 3 - 1 margin.

The voting however was very close with a number of tied results in the top 10 list with 13 entries.

The Top 10 Family Christmas/Holiday Movie or Television Shows are:

1. "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" (1966 - Animated)
2. "It's A Wonderful Life" (1946)
3. "A Christmas Story" (1983)
4. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965 - Animated)

5. "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) / "A Christmas Carol" (1951)

6. "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer" (1964 - Animated)

7. "Frosty the Snowman" (1969 - Animated) / "White Christmas" (1954)

8. "The Polar Express" (2004 - Animated) / "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989)

9. "Home Alone" (1990)

10. "A Muppet Christmas

Carol" (1992)

Honorable mentions go to "Holiday Inn" (1942); "Elf" (2004); "The Santa Clause" (1994); and "The Grinch" (2000).

Launched January 15, 2011, What To Do With The Kids is the website for adults who want to know what to do with the kids. The website features games, crafts, special events, party ideas and downloads including activity sheets, birthday cards, party invitations and personalized awards.

## Anglican Church Women kickoff Regional Gatherings

THE INAUGURAL REGIONAL Gathering for Anglican Church Women from the Chebucto and Fort Sackville Regions was held at All Saints, Bedford on November 1st. This successful gathering was a great start to future annual regional meetings of Anglican women. The evening began with a service followed by a meal

prepared and served by the men and the youth group of All Saints. After a short information session, the guest speaker for the evening was the Rev. Dr. Jody Clarke, Academic Dean, Atlantic School of Theology. His remarks were challenging, inspiring, and delivered with his usual good humour.



Photo: Rev. Dr. Jody Clarke, Academic Dean, Atlantic School of Theology, and Cynthia Pilichos, President, the Nova Scotia Board of Anglican Church Women.

## Estate gift enables hospital redevelopment

BY DONALD LAWTON

BISHOP SUE MOXLEY visited Queens General Hospital as part of her visit to the South Shore Region. At the hospital, she was briefed on the Hospital Redevelopment project, which will be starting soon and is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2013. This \$16 million project is to be largely financed by the people of Queens County, with a \$2.5 million commitment from the Nova Scotia Government.

What was of particular interest to Bishop Moxley is that a very significant portion of the \$7 million commitment from the Queens General Hospital Foundation has come from the estate of Peter and Eleanor Seeley, who were parishioners of the Anglican parish of South Queens. Another multi-million dollar donation was made to the hospital project by an anonymous donor.

Planned Giving, whether in the form of a bequest or an

outright donation using stock or other means, is one way to support one's community, and may have beneficial tax implications for the donor. Not everyone can make a seven-figure donation, but every contribution makes a difference in our community. A bequest or other type of contribution supporting one's Church or community allows one to create a personal legacy reaching well into the future. Such generosity becomes a symbol of one's values, character and faith.

## WWII vet on a mission to help others

85-YEAR-OLD VETERAN, John Burke, hasn't let vision loss slow him down or keep him from helping other veterans in his community adjust to blindness or partial sight. Burke lost the majority of his sight to glaucoma in the 1970s. He has since made it his mission to inform others of the free, vision rehabilitation and support available to veterans, so they too can lead fuller, more active lives with vision loss. The Truro native is a regular volunteer at his local legion and four nursing homes. He is also the face of a national campaign that connects veterans with vision loss with CNIB services that are delivered right where they need them - over the phone, online, and in their own homes and communities.

Burke enlisted in the army in 1941 at age 15 and joined the Princess Louise Fusiliers, a machine gun regiment at the time. After completing basic training, he was deployed overseas in 1942. With the support of CNIB - a charity dedicated to helping Nova Scotians who are blind and partially sighted gain the confidence, skills and opportunities to fully participate in life - and Veterans Affairs Canada, Burke's retirement life has remained just as busy. "I was always an avid reader and loved keeping up-to-date on the world, but as my glaucoma got worse, I couldn't read the newspaper," says Burke. With funding from Veterans Affairs Canada, Burke received a CCTV through CNIB, an electronic magnifier with a large, video screen that enables individuals to read books, magazines, letters and newspapers.

"I'm still able to continue my same routine of waking up at six every morning to read the paper," says Burke. "No one has to read to me - my

CCTV has helped me keep my independence."

"When I meet other veterans, I always tell them that there are solutions that can ease the stress and frustration of vision loss," says Burke. "There's a lot of things I can no longer do because of my own vision loss, but helping others isn't one of them."

For information, visit [cnib.ca/veterans](http://cnib.ca/veterans) or call 1.800.563.2642



Photo: In the early 1940s, Nova Scotia's John Burke was on a mission that led him to storm the beaches in Normandy; today, he is on a mission to help veterans with vision loss. (Credit: Paul Darrow)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dean Paul Smith of the Cathedral appointed for one year as the Acting Archdeacon for Chebucto Region.

On Sunday, December 4th at Trinity Church, Digby, Mel Malton will be ordained to the Priesthood.

On December 7, at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, the following will be ordained:

to the Priesthood  
David Chapman  
Roslyn MacLeod  
Debbie Strickland  
Faye Wheatley  
to Transitional Deacon:  
Gordon Relf.



# PWRDF reps gather for annual workshop

BY CHRIS PHARO

PARISH REPRESENTATIVES from throughout the diocese gathered in Charlottetown on October 15 for the Annual Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) workshop.

There was an opportunity for some fun and fellowship before the workshop with a "meet and greet" social on the Friday evening. This was a great chance to renew acquaintances and meet new parish representatives.



Photo: Gary Loo, member of the Parish of New London sharing his experiences in Guatemala

The objective of the workshop was to help equip parish representatives with information, awareness of PWRDF resources and knowledge of the work of some of PWRDF's partners. The gathering was also a time of renewal and encouragement for all.

The morning session focused on the work of PWRDF and kicked off with a wonderful presentation from Zaida Bastos, CIDA Coordinator for PWRDF. Zaida described in considerable detail some of her first hand experiences of working on projects in the field. Zaida's presentation emphasized concrete results of many PWRDF projects such as ones involving maternal health, HIV/AIDS, sustainable agriculture, malaria eradication and micro-credit cooperatives for women.

Zaida's presentation was followed by a presentation by Sharon Macleod, Diocesan Refugee Coordinator and Ekatrina Pak who spoke on efforts to find sponsors for families from Iraq.

Chris Pharo spoke on his role as Diocesan Representative and efforts to help parishes organize events. Chris outlined a strategy of working towards developing a network of "regional representatives" to help overcome some of the challenges presented by a Diocese as large as that Nova Scotia and PEI. At present, he is looking for regional representatives for the Valley, Cobequid/Cumberland, Chebucto, Northumbria and Eastern Shore regions. He also

described the regional event held last May for the South Shore as being a good model as it reduced travel time and costs for those representatives in this region.

The morning concluded with a presentation from Cydney Proctor, member of the PWRDF Youth Council. Cydney outlined the new confirmation resource from PWRDF, "Living Justice", and provided updates on other youth initiatives such as 50 Leaders.

The afternoon session focused on very interesting presentations from PWRDF partners. Bev MacDonald, Atlantic Representative for KAIROS, provided an overview this organization's focus and priorities. Kent Myers, PEI Representative for the Canadian Food Grains Bank spoke of this group's operations and described how local projects are contributing to help alleviate world hunger.

Gary Loo a member of the parish of New London spoke of his personal experiences of teaching carpentry skills in Guatemala. He described how he had to learn the hard way about the needs and customs of the local population. He told the story of working very hard to build bunk beds for children of a small village only to be told by the mothers, after the beds were completed, that they wouldn't permit their children to sleep that high off the floor! He also described how the image of Canada and Canadians in general has been tarnished in this country by the environmental damage



Photo: Paula Evans-Bragg (l), of St. John the Baptist, North Sydney, presents a cheque for over \$2600 raised through its "Lenten Lunches" program to Zaida Bastos, PWRDF CIDA Program Coordinator.

caused by Canadian mining companies.

Bev Macdonald and Sharon Macleod then presented on their trip to Palestine in February of 2011. Bev and Sharon described some of the realities of life for the typical Palestinian living within Israel.

The event ended with a benefit concert Saturday night at St. Paul's Anglican Church featuring "Kendall Docherty

and friends". Kendall had the crowd rockin' to his upbeat renditions of some old gospel favorites. A few Van Morrison and Leonard Cohen tunes were thrown in for good measure and the evening with a heartfelt performance of Johnny Reid's "Today I Am Going to Try to Change the World". What a fitting conclusion to a PWRDF event!

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## Women's Ministry Sunday

THE NOVA SCOTIA BOARD of Anglican Church Women is asking each and every parish to have the first Sunday in February (or any other Sunday that is more practical) focused on the ministry of women of the church, as all baptized Anglican women are Anglican Church Women. Women of the parish are encouraged to talk to their rector or priest-in-charge to plan such a service for February 5, 2012.

The Fall 2011 ACW Newsletter, "Keeping in Touch..." will have some suggested ways of participating with the liturgy in discussion with the priest. Please feel free to use any, all or none of it, but do what seems right for your particular parish. It is suggested that women may participate within the Service in various ways, as greeters, sides persons, presenters of the offertory, eucharistic ministers, readers, and reflec-

tion/sermon. The focus will be on all the women of the parish and all the many ways they contribute to the life and well being of the church. For more information, contact Rev. Mary Wilkie, ACW Chaplain, 477-2256 or Ethel Nelson, Education Chair, 434-3658 genelson@ns.sympatico.ca or Donna Parsons, Newsletter Editor, 865-8169.




Gary Cox

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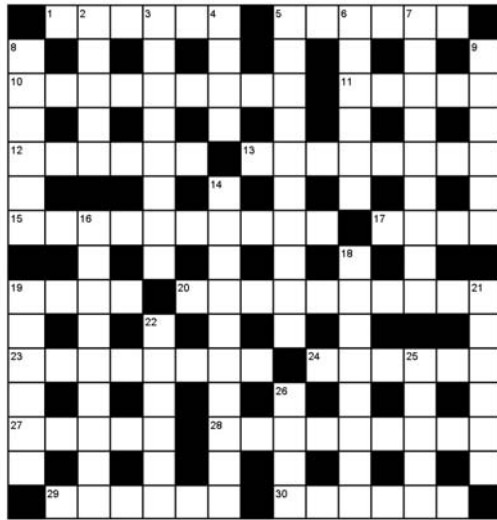
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# Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



## DECEMBER 2011 Clues

**ACROSS:**

- 1 - "the truth that \_\_\_\_\_ in us" (remains) (2John 2) (6)
- 5 - Sister of Moses (Exod.15:20-21) (6)
- 10 - Book that is not a paperback (9)
- 11 - "How the animals \_\_\_\_\_" (make a deep mournful sound) (Joel 1:18) (5)
- 12 - Half-notes (6)
- 13 - Those who gather grain after the reapers (as in Ruth Chapter 2) (8)
- 15 - Place in which things are kept (10)
- 17 - Priest under the bishop and in charge of a Cathedral (4)
- 19 - Spaces (4)
- 20 - A houseplant grown for its foliage (10)
- 23 - One who cares for the sheep (as in John 10:11) (8)
- 24 - Literary works (6)
- 27 - Stand for supporting artist's canvas (5)
- 28 - Feast of the birth of Jesus (9)
- 29 - Subterranean chambers under churches (6)
- 30 - Where Jesus slept as a newborn (Luke 2:7) (6)

**DOWN:**

- 2 - Chemical element (5)
- 3 - Month which has shortest day of the year (8)
- 4 - To deliver from sin (as in Matt. 1:21) (4)
- 5 - Trying to regulate the behaviour of others (10)
- 6 - Kind of popular music originating in Jamaica (6)
- 7 - Reparation for sin (see 2 Chron. 29:24) (9)
- 8 - Archbishop \_\_\_\_\_ Becket, English martyr, died 1170 (6)
- 9 - Singing in \_\_\_\_\_, i.e. all singing the same notes (6)
- 14 - Builds (10)
- 16 - One who exerts harsh authority (see Zech. 9:8) (9)
- 18 - An organ stop (8)
- 19 - The Good News (6)
- 21 - To aid (6)
- 22 - A disciple (6)
- 25 - River in France (5)
- 26 - Country from which Naaman the Leper came (2 Kings 5:1) (4)

## November Solution



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Prayer - George Herbert

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REVIEWS



Review Editor  
Paul Friesen

How is it that a Dutch-Canadian boy from a good Christian Reformed home became a Mennonite? How is it on his way to being ordained an Anglican Deacon he found himself a pilgrim on the Camino de Santiago? After all, during the protestant Reformation the Christian Reformed establishment drowned Mennonites. And in the same years English Roman Catholics committed Anglicans to the flames and Anglicans executed Roman Catholics—dependent one which royal house set the religious tone of the country in which decade. Well, the ways of God are unfathomable. But, in the providential mercy of God, goodness leaks out of human tragedy as the centuries creep by. It is not necessary to be a promoter of the sloshing together of the contradictory streams of

Western Christianity to enjoy the idea of them feeding quietly into each other for the holy growth of the religious meadows at their edges. That's why it's quite possible to enjoy this book by a religious pilgrim named Paul Boers. On his way to deliver lectures at Acadia Divinity School, Arthur will preach at St. Paul's, Halifax on its feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (5 February 2011 at the 10.00 a.m. Eucharist) When I say 'preach' I mean he will address us in a substantial illustrated sermon on the topic of pilgrimage and conversion. Feel free to join other pilgrims at St. Paul's, Halifax that Sunday; it is a church that welcomes thousands of pilgrims every year.

PAUL FRIESEN

# 'I once walked five hundred miles to attend church.'

Arthur Paul Boers, *The Way is Made by Walking* (InterVarsity Press, 2007).

'THE WAY' IS AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION of the Spanish word 'camino'; the *camino de Santiago* is an ancient Christian pilgrimage route running (mostly) through northern Spain. So don't get distracted by the old *Proclaimers'* tune for more than a moment when the first words out of the author's mouth are these: 'I once walked five hundred miles to attend church.' (p.17) You've probably heard the response from some priest or another which I myself repeat too often (I'm sure) to the embarrassment of my parishioners: 'We

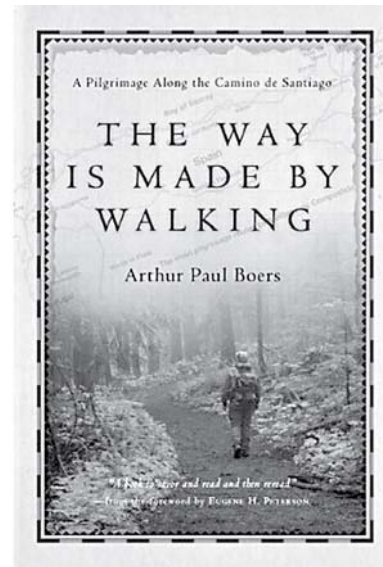
are the church which has gathered in this building to worship the Lord on the day of the Resurrection' ...or words to that effect. And yet Boers' first line is the best first line of a book on faith I've read in a long time. It was a wonderful coincidence that my wife almost gave me the book last Christmas; something she recalled when I told her a few months ago that I had gotten hold of a really interesting book.

Boers continues his thought a few paragraphs later. 'I had many reasons for going on this trip: meeting pilgrims, seeing a new country from ground level, reflecting on church history, practicing a classic spiritual discipline...But without finally getting to Santiago at the end of the route visiting the Cathedral and attending the service there...it would not have been a pilgrimage' (p.17-18.) The *camino de Santiago* is not for him a cultural phenomenon to be plumbed for the edification of scholars, nor a blank religious slate on which to sketch random 'spiritual' thoughts. It was an act of faith only consummated in worship. Whether or not two films of earlier this year—Lydia B. Smith's *The Camino Documentary* and Emilio Estevez and Martin Sheen's *The Way* — accomplished this would make for a worthwhile separate discussion.

This book is not a guide book to the *camino de Santiago* though it provides helpful appendices with lots of information on websites and books needed for would-be *camino* pilgrims. Some of the appendices provide similar information for other pilgrimage routes one might want to undertake—such as the 'Pilgrim's Way' (i.e. the Canterbury Trail) leading across the south of England the tomb of Thomas Becket, the Archbishop murdered by intentional order of the king in 1170 A.D. This book is in fact a series of *en route* spiritual meditations on all aspects of the author's pilgrimage, from the feet of the pilgrim to the God of the pilgrimage.

Before you decide whether or not you might want to read this book a peek at the chapter titles, and their subtitles, might be helpful. Here they are: 'I Want to be in that Number' (Drawn to Pilgrimage); 'Seeking God's Homeland' (Christian Roots of Pilgrimage); 'Lord, Teach us to be Prayerful' (Spirituality Lessons); Your Pack's too

“  
The author is drawn back and forth from the realities of the pilgrim's walk to the life he has left behind and will again resume.”



Big (Simplify, Simplify, Simplify); 'The Road that Leads to Life' (Challenges of Faithful Pilgrimage); 'The Journey is Long' (Camino Confessions); 'Well, That's the Camino' (Hospitality and Solidarity); 'No "Ustedes" por Favor' (The Rules are Different Here); 'Secular Seekers' (The Disconnect of Pilgrims and Church); 'Focal Ways of Life' (Putting Pilgrimage into Practice); 'Walking in Faith' (Walking as a Spiritual Practice); 'Here I Walk, I can do no Other' (Keeping Faith with our Feet).

As you might gather from his titles and headings, the author is drawn back and forth from the realities of the pilgrim's walk to the life he has left behind and will again resume. He meditates on the significance of putting all one's possessions in a pack, and then lightening it. He meditates on the meaning of a journey in which many of his companions either had foggy 'new age' spiritual goals or lacked any spiritual interpretation of their life or their trek. And he meditates on the meaning of the many things the Scriptures have to say about feet and walking in our world of cars and rapid transit. He came back a changed man.

When I phoned Arthur Boers for a chat I wondered how he could keep up his practice of spiritual walking after his move to the giant urban sprawl of Toronto. He had, after all, taken up a seminary teaching post with commensurate salary (wasn't it Erasmus who said 'scholars are beggars?'). And he had taken it up in a high priced housing area. It was easy, he said; "I walk to the closest Anglican church." And the seminary? "I walk; it's only eight kilometres one way." Apparently the pilgrim's way is addictive, in the best possible way.

PAUL FRIESEN

# Friends of the Bishop holds annual dinners

ON NOVEMBER 14, the Friends of the Bishop held their second annual dinner at the Ashburn Golf Club in Halifax. For the first time, a separate regional gathering was held in Bridgewater the following evening.



Photo: Bob Howell presents Bishop Sue Moxley with a cheque on behalf of the Friends of the Bishop.

At the event in Halifax, the 2011 G.D. "Pete" Stanfield Bursary was presented to Dave Puxley, a third year student at the Atlantic School of Theology. Named after the founding member of "The Bishop's Men", Friends of the Bishop's predecessor organization, the bursary is awarded each year to recognize academic ability and demonstrated contributions to the building up and support of the Anglican community at AST. The presentation was made by Bishop Ron Cutler and Brenda Cowie, secretary for Friends of the Bishop. Dave will be ordained in the spring of 2012 and is currently serving as a student minister at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Halifax.

In addition to awarding the bursary, Friends of the Bishop presented a cheque to Bishop Sue Moxley for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. At the Bridgewater event the following evening,

an additional donation was made to the fund by the people gathered there. The discretionary fund is used to help clergy and their families in emergency situations and to support clergy and postulants in taking advantage of unique opportunities that become available and are not within the normal budget.

Bishop Sue was the guest speaker at both the metro and the Bridgewater events. In Halifax, she reviewed the uses that were made of the funds raised by Friends of the Bishop the previous year and congratulated the organization on continuing this important ministry. She also discussed the plans for the new building on the site of the old Diocesan Centre and showed the members the architect's designs for the building.

Steve Beeler, Chair of the Friends of the Bishop, then addressed the meeting on future initiatives such as additional regional gathers of the Friends of the Bishop. Rather than issuing a financial challenge this year, he issued an "each one bring one" challenge, asking each member to bring

one new person to next year's annual gathering.

Funds raised by the organization for the Discretionary Fund come primarily from membership fees to Friends of the Bishop. Steve stressed the importance of this ministry and the other good works the Friends have accomplished, such as raising funds to purchase a car for Bishop Griselda of Cuba and contributing generously to the Leap for Faith campaign and the new Bishops' Action Appeal, as well as supporting the Pete Stanfield Bursary.

Friends of the Bishop, while only two-years old, is the successor organization to the Bishop's Men which carried out the ministry of supporting the Bishops in this way for more than 30 years.



Photo: Brenda Cowie, secretary for Friends of the Bishop presents AST student Dave Puxley with the Pete Stanfield Award as Bishop Ron Cutler looks on.

Interested in learning more about the history of the Friends of the Bishop and the work this group supports? Please visit our website at: <http://www.nspeidiocese.ca/bishops/FriendsoftheBishop.htm> New members are welcome and the application details are also on the website.




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