



## Adoration of the Shepherds

*Bronzino, Agnolo*  
(b. 1503, Firenze, d. 1572,  
Firenze)  
Oil on wood, 65 x 47 cm  
(1539-40)  
Szépmvészeti Múzeum,  
Budapest

According to Vasari, this  
small devotional painting

was commissioned by Filippo  
di Averardo Salviati (1513-  
1572). It was most likely  
destined for a private chapel in  
the Salviati villa.  
This jewel-like painting  
displays the extreme  
refinement of execution  
and luxury of materials

characteristic of Florentine  
Mannerism, with 'disegno'  
(drawing), sculptural  
modelling of forms, and  
enamel-like finish apparent in  
every detail. The entire upper  
half of the composition is a  
deep landscape of lakes and  
hills, above which stretches

a vast blue sky that Bronzino  
painted in expensive lapis  
lazuli. To the right, an angel  
announcing the birth of Christ  
to a single shepherd hovers in  
the sky, and in the foreground  
five putti fly in celebration  
directly over the Nativity  
scene.

## COLUMNIST

# Crusts? No crusts?

WE JUST HAD our annual Christmas Bazaar here at St. Bart's. It was it's usual success with lots of donations for the sale and lots of funds raised for the Parish. Some would prefer to call this our Advent Bazaar but we know that the word "Christmas" has a much more saleable sound to it than Advent. We had for sale the Advent calendars our Sunday School family make with their pictures and treats for every day leading up to the BIG one. The difference between our home made calendars and those sold in the Malls is that ours start on the very first Sunday in the Advent season whereas the secular ones always begin on December the first. Ours are made with homemade cookies and or chocolates, all wrapped up and sealed with the sticky hands of our junior congregation. They are a 'sellout' every year.

We also have the usual tables of hand crafts and baking found at most church sales. There is one table worth special mention and that is the fruit cake and plum pudding table. This is a tradition that is as old as the recipes used to make the festive treats. Members of the Parish family come together for a day of



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

intense chopping, mixing and baking. The kitchen in the Parish Hall is the site of this baking bonanza and the smells coming out of the back door are enough to set even the coldest heart beating a bit faster. The back door is always found propped open as the heat rises inside and the bakers begin to wilt. At that moment some of the men arrive with jugs of cold drinks and tea, another tradition of ours.

On the afternoon before the sale the ladies gather to prepare the sandwich fillings for the Tea that is served during the sale. Once again tradition is there in full force.

There are special sandwiches that we are known for, our chicken salad with a hint of curry, our asparagus and cream cheese roll-ups, the egg and watercrest treats that have been a part of our Teas ever since we had a rector's wife who was from England and shared this secret with us. We make peanut butter and banana roll-ups too, just for the kids but some adults have been known to enjoy them. My mother said that once, long, long ago a former Bishop of ours, Bishop Waterman, told her that there were two things he would not eat; one was peanut butter, the other... banana! Mum would share that bit of folk lore with us as we prepared those special treats and they were to become known as "Wathermans" at St. Bart's, and another tradition was born.

On the morning of the sale the final preparation of the food began. Sweet trays were set up and covered in plastic wrap for the Tea, the small card tables, were put up in the middle of the room and decorated with a bit of holiday whimsy. Then the annual debate began....Crusts?~No crusts? This had been going on for years, one camp favoured the tradition of an

elegant tea sandwich with no crusts in sight. The other camp (usually the younger members) favoured the more 'earth friendly' way of serving food...crusts on so there was no waste. And as happened every year, we came to the conclusion that some crusts could stay on, others should be trimmed. In the mean time the flock of Gulls hovering outside the Hall awaited their own special Advent treat... the trimmings! Once the final decision was made, the sandwiches put on large plates and wrapped to be served later in the day and the gulls fed, the ladies of the parish sat down to a lunch of chowder brought in for them by the Men's club and the Sale was soon in full swing.

Year after year we do the same thing, the same way as we prepare ourselves and our community for the coming of the Christ Child. Tradition can be a crippling thing at times but a very empowering thing at other times and as we are in a period of change her at St. Bart's the old things comfort and strengthen us to go forward as a Parish.

I'll keep you posted, Aunt Madge



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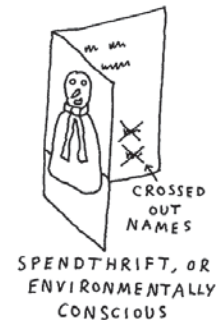
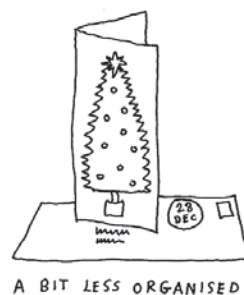
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## BISHOP'S MESSAGE

## The reality of God's dream for the world



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

*"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty one has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promises he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his descendants for ever."*

St. Luke 1:46-55

Luke tells us that this was the song that Mary sang when she greeted her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth knows as soon as she greets Mary, that Mary's child will be the Lord, the one who comes in fulfillment of prophecy. The two women share a time of wonder as they both struggle to understand that the lives of their respective children will bring God's kingdom into being.

Christmas is the incarnation- the reality of God with us, of God's love for us and God's call to us. It is about scattering the proud, bringing down the powerful and lifting up the lowly, filling the hungry with good things. It's not about the little baby Jesus in soft focus in a nice clean manger.

The Incarnation is about vulnerability, it is facing the trials of this world, it is flirting with the possibility that people won't get it, but showing every person that it is possible to live the reality of God's dream for the world. The dream is not forced or enforced, after all it does come to birth in a stable. This is the surprising way of God.

Joseph decides not to marry Mary because she is pregnant. A young woman earns 'God's favour'. The messiah is born in a stable, after his parents are forced to make a long journey to comply with an edict from the occupation army. Sometime following the birth of Jesus, Joseph, Mary and Jesus have to flee

**"There are better ways to show someone that you love them and that they mean something to you"**

to Egypt in order to escape the paranoid rage of the king.

It all sounds so contemporary. A young, pregnant unmarried woman, not sure she will be supported, a government focused on record keeping for the purpose of taxation, a family with a young child out in the cold and then seeking refuge from a violent regime. This was the world into which Jesus was born, this was the world in which he would live, this was the world God loved so much...

As I write this column, the annual culture war about the place of the Christmas holiday in North American culture has begun. I am beginning to think that being denied use of 'Merry

Christmas', or public displays of Christian symbols is in keeping with the biblical narrative of the birth of Jesus. Will a lack of public support, in a multi cultural society, stop our celebration of the incarnation? How will we keep this feast?... By lifting up the lowly, filling the hungry with good things, doing something to care for those left in the stable. I know that I risk destroying western civilization by saying this but, don't celebrate Christmas by going into debt buying stuff! There are better ways to show someone that you love them and that they mean something to you. The gift that God gave was a hope for the world, it was healing and peace it was a re-orienting of values. Values like: resisting evil, proclaiming Good News by word and deed, serving all persons, loving, striving for justice and peace, respecting, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth.

God still loves the world, and the incarnation is still a reality for those who take the time to see it and live it. This Christmas we need to invite everyone to come to worship and welcome the birth not only of Jesus but of his world changing message and we need to let our 'Merry Christmas' be proclaimed in the way that we show that we too love this world.

+Ron

## O Little Town of Bethlehem ... be born in us today

It was Phillips Brooks (1835 -1893), the much loved Rector of Boston's Trinity Church and also briefly Episcopal Bishop of Massachusetts, who penned the well-known Christmas Carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

This beloved carol culminates with these words in the final stanza -

*O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter  
in,  
Be born in us today...*

Brooks' carol offers here a significant petition. Carols and hymns are not only poems of the faith but they are often prayers, asking God to do things.



Rev. Dr. John Roddam

Despite the fact that the words of Christian hymns are clear, we often gloss over them as we sing. I had a ministry peer in Seattle who had his parish sing the Creed because he did not believe it... go figure! He said people don't really pay attention to the

words they sing!

I describe many of the Church's prayers, especially the weekly collects as being "dangerous." They are asking God to do things - often asking God to CHANGE us!

Brooks' carol asks, "Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today." The traditional Gospel lesson at Christmas reads -

He (Jesus) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

(John1: 10-13)

When we "receive Jesus" and "believe in His Name" we become Children of God. Human beings, are all made in the "image and likeness" of God (Genesis 1:26). There is a prevalent cultural belief that we are all "Children of God." Some have dubbed this - FOGBOM - "The Fatherhood of God/The Brotherhood of Man" This popular, widely-held belief was coined in none other place than the halls of Harvard Divinity School in the 1960s. However, this does a disservice to our high calling and ignores the costly gift of Jesus' death which wins us this status as Sons & Daughters before our loving Heavenly Father. To become Children of God according to the Biblical witness is a transaction offered

through Jesus Christ and in response to Him. This is **not** part of our original nature. We are not intrinsically Children of God! We are called to respond to the grace and mercy of God expressed in the life and death of Jesus Christ! THEN as we have received Christ and believe (not simply intellectual acquiescence but a change in allegiance and behavior) in Him **we become children of God!**

To be truly "born of God" means that we have welcomed Jesus into our lives and live for Him. That is what Brooks' simple prayer "Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today" denotes. May He truly be born in each of us this Christmastide!



Photo: This year's participants at DYC in Pugwash, NS.

# Youth meet to “Make It Known” at DYC

BY ALLIE COLP

The annual Diocesan Youth Conference is a weekend for youth and leaders to come together to explore their faith, meet new people, and have fun. This year, with the theme Make it Known we explored evangelism and how we can #makeitknown about the good news of our faith, through three workshops: Evangelism, National Youth Project: Right to Water, and Holy Hashtags: A Guide to Social Media. In October, we gathered at Pugwash at Camp Pagweak;

it was an incredible weekend spent enjoying the outdoors and getting to know each other.

Coming up: CLAY 2016 in Charlottetown!

Some feedback from conference attendees:

DYC is always a great experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow in Christ, make new friends and have lots of fun.

- Bridget MacKellar

I enjoy helping with DYC because I feel the youth in our diocese need a place to get

together for, learning, fun and to build friendships through Christ!

- Judi Colp

“DYC is such an important event: it brings people together in ways that can't really be explained. New friends, great food, and plenty to think about, DYC is all that and more.”

- Noah Wiegiers

This year at DYC we got to learn social media safety, evangelism and about right to water. Through all three of these subjects we learnt how

to make our faith and voice known.

- Ally Marshall

I had such a good time at DYC!! I think that DYC is important because it gives Christian youth time to spend time, and learn together. I really enjoyed the workshops, and got a lot out of them! I know about evangelism, [Pikangikum], and how to use social media in a positive way! Spending time with people my age that share similar beliefs is awesome!

- Cassidy Coombs

It brought a lump to my throat at the closing service to hear us all, young voices and old, pledging that we won't let up, back up, give up or shut up but we will make it known. Make known the love of God to a world that needs it. Amen!

- Michelle Bull

“A few words that explain DYC: inspiring, faithful, hopeful, loving, caring, friendships, empowering, awesome, and unique.

- Becky Coholan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kristin MacKenzie was ordained priest on Sunday, November 22nd at St. Luke's Liscomb.

Rev. Matthew Sponagle appointed regional dean of Dartmouth, effective immediately.

Nicholas Hatt ordained deacon on Wednesday, October 28th at the Cathedral Church of All Saints. At the ordination liturgy, Bishop Cutler welcomed Ms. Allie Colp and Rev. Lisa Vaughn in their new diocesan ministries and installed Rev. Katherine

Bourbonniere as archdeacon of Dartmouth.

Rev. Deacon Al Meloche retired from active ministry October 1st, 2015.

St. Mark's Church in north-end Halifax celebrates the 150th Anniversary of its

founding in January, 2016. Their first anniversary event will be an Epiphany Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, January 10th beginning at 3p.m. They are interested in contact information for former theology students, clergy, individuals and families who

would like to be informed of the forthcoming events, including special events in 2017 marking the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion. Email stmarkshalifax@bellaliant.com or call 902-454-0207 Also www.stmarkshalifax.ca

# MISSION (is) POSSIBLE:

## Diocesan stories of people responding to God's call

### Feeding and being fed

by Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

Summerside Saturday nights are simmering with a new community-building initiative called "Supper and Service." This alternate worship time is answering the need for some who cannot connect with the church on Sunday mornings.

Since September 19, rector Rev. Jenny Sharp and some helpers put on a simple family supper and share in Holy Eucharist in St. Mary's Hall at 74 Summer Street.

At 4:30 p.m. people begin gathering to set up the tables and prepare food, which is usually a hearty spaghetti dinner, complete with meatballs, Caesar salad, garlic bread and dessert. Once all hands are gathered around the table and eating there is an opening prayer, and the reading of several Sunday scripture passages. After each reading everyone is invited to talk about them. Rev. Jenny says the voices of adults and children of various ages are heard and valued.

When discussion wanes, then the priest leads them in a



Photo: A Supper and Service new worship time in Summerside with Rev. Jenny Sharp.

family-friendly Eucharistic prayer. Then they administer the consecrated bread and wine to one another in a big circle. Everyone is invited to join in the food, conversation and communion. "We're feeding each other and being fed," said Rev. Jenny.

The children especially love the relaxed, inclusive atmosphere. There's always an activity, a toy train set, special crafts and colouring for all ages with crayons and coloured pencils. Youngsters with special needs are free to wander and play, as well as be

included with all the others.

Almost everyone who attends Supper and Service is there because of the workable time of Saturday evening. Melissa and Mark Robinson bring their two young sons, age 6 and 9, who play hockey on Sunday mornings. The kids

love it and the family is keen to invite their friends.

Rev. Jenny said one time she told the story of Job in her own words. The gathered were in silent awe. "The kids were laying on their elbows intently listening to every word," she said.

One regular attendee is a woman with some health issues and her caregiver cannot get her ready in time to participate in Sunday morning worship. Another faithful woman at Supper and Service is not a morning person and enjoys the convenience and company on Saturday nights.

Offering bowls are set up on a table by the door, collecting church envelopes and a freewill donation towards the food. The giving covers the expenses. Each week about 20 people participate.

By 6:30 p.m. all the dishes are washed and tables put away. Rev. Jenny says already Supper and Service is gaining a reputation as a new community that is in communion and not just receiving communion.

## Cathedral welcomes new organist

PAUL HALLEY is the Director of Music at the University of King's College, and Organist and Director of Music at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax. Born in Romford, England, Halley received his early musical training in Ottawa, Canada. At the age of sixteen, he was made an Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. He was awarded the organ scholarship at Trinity College, Cambridge, received his M.A. with prizes in composition and performance, and was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, winning first prize in the College examinations. Halley became Organist and Choirmaster at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City where he served from 1977 to 1990, transforming the Cathedral's music program into a rich combination of classical and contemporary music.

Following his departure from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in 1990, Halley settled in rural northwestern Connecticut and founded

Joyful Noise, Inc., the non-profit organization which administers the children's choir, Chorus Angelicus and the adult ensemble, Gaudeamus. Halley also served as Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church, Torrington, CT where he conducted a 30-voice, semi-professional choir, and mentored Organ Scholars from Yale University's Institute of Sacred Music. In July 2007, Halley relocated to Nova Scotia.

Halley's compositions and recordings are produced and distributed by Pelagos Incorporated. ([www.pelagosmusic.com](http://www.pelagosmusic.com)). Halley is frequently commissioned to write new works in a range of genres. Compositions have been commissioned, performed and licensed by many notable artists and organizations.

Halley's recordings and performances are frequently broadcast on NPR and the CBC.

Photo: Paul Halley ready to play at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax.



# It's A New Day!

## Vision: How's Your Driving?

by Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

"Happiness is a full tank of gas!" There is so much potential for adventure, purpose and fun when the fuel gauge is topped up!

I love to drive, but not for the sake of driving. Let's identify a destination and then head for it. To me aimless motoring around is a waste of precious time and costly resources. And besides, directionless driving could result in hesitancy on the road, thus a possible accident, or the squandering of precious fuel that might be needed later (and it hurts the environment too).

Congregations can be viewed in terms of driving. Some are swiftly and intentionally moving along towards a purpose and plan. Others may be stalled, but hoping to rev up and go. Some may have their ignition firmly in park with a cold engine. Some might be touring around in circles. Still others may be idling, sensing they need to hit the road but have no clear direction in mind.

Many of us in life have a deep longing for movement forward, but don't know how to approach it. Whether it is a career change, a relationship that needs strengthening, a diet or fitness goal, or a church that wants to be more vital and relevant, we have the sincere desire for progress. We can wander around haphazardly trying things, but it has been my experience that a structure or planned process is the most effective way to approach achieving a dream. In other words, we need a map to help us reach our destination.

In Churchland, most of us know we should be driving, but we are at a loss as to where to go. This is where vision\* comes in. A congregation's vision is the beginning step in this journey. It is a tool similar to a compass that assists us to set the direction and road for the future. A vision reminds



**“When a faith community accurately names and begins moving in that direction then amazing things happen.**

us of who we are - God's vehicle that exists to help bring about the transformation of the world God loves - and our unique route or course of action.

There are various definitions of a vision, but two of my favourites come from contemporary church leaders. Andy Stanley says, "Vision is a clear mental picture of what could be, fueled by the conviction that it should be." Bill Hybels describes it as "a picture of the future that creates passion in the hearts of people." Both of

those explanations reveal that a vision is empowering. People get positively energized (fueled-up) by this future outlook.

The inspiring vision within a church is grounded in a deep desire to make a difference in people's lives and to cooperate with God as the Spirit works in the world. It involves a demand for change in the wake of a recognition that "something needs to be done." Quite simply, every vision is a solution to a problem. Vision answers the dilemma of, "If we don't act something unacceptable will happen." Healthy vision is outward-looking (it is not about maintaining the status-quo and looking after insiders).

Our Diocese's vision is "to create and sustain Christ-centered, mission-minded-ministering communities of faith." That statement encompasses an intention to plant and foster vital congregations, serving to share the Gospel in word and deed, all while founding that ministry on the life and grace of Jesus Christ.

Here are some interesting church vision statements:

To turn people who think

God is irrelevant into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ through high-impact churches. (Kensington Community Church, Troy, MI)

We believe all people matter to God and that Christ's message and ministry through the local church is the hope of the world. (Willow Creek, South Barrington, IL)

Loving people to life. (City of Grace, Phoenix, AZ)

Some vision statements of Canadian Anglican Churches:

- "A welcoming Christian Church providing spiritual and caring support to the community." (St. Stephen's, West Vancouver)
- "Grounded in Anglican tradition, we are a loving, inclusive, Christ-centered family that celebrates each individual and ministers to their needs." (St. George's, Saskatoon)
- "Seeks to provide a welcoming home that encourages spiritual growth and that inspires us to use our gifts to serve Christ in the wider communities of God's world." (St. Matthias', Ottawa)

Some visions of congregations in our Diocese:

- "Striving to be a church whose doors are open and welcoming to all. Our belief in God as Creator and Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour compels us to turn our faith into action such that we are a beacon of light in the community where the Holy Spirit is alive and at work in all of our lives." (Church of Saint Andrew, Cole Harbour)
- "To show the transforming love and justice of God in action." (St. Paul's, Charlottetown)
- "Inspired by God to know, sow and grow." (St. Timothy's, Hatchet Lake)

Vision statements in and of themselves are not the magic quick fix to all the challenges faced by a congregation. However, they are a strategic tool that lay and clergy leaders use to help guide a direction and focus for decision-making about energies and resources in a church. Again, this is just a beginning step for churches to start charting a course of action.

It is most important that a parish's vision is firmly grounded in intentional prayer and it is God's idea, not just a good idea. There are many noble, wonderful visions for churches, but they may not be the right fit for that particular congregation. The church may not possess the gifting and resources necessary and it may not be the right timing.

When a faith community accurately names and begins moving in that direction then amazing things happen. A divinely-designed vision is one where doors are opened and needs are supplied. It is like the old Christian saying, "Where God guides, God provides." Saint Paul writes, "For it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

Next month we will explore more about vision and direction-taking for congregational leaders.

**\* Confused? What is the difference between a mission statement and a vision statement? Mission is what we do, our reason to exist. Vision is a desired end-state, the result of a hoped-for change.**

Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn is the Diocesan Parish Vitality Coordinator. For articles, inspiration and insights on congregational vitality and mission see the Facebook page "Parish Vitality Coordinator - Diocese of NS & PEI."

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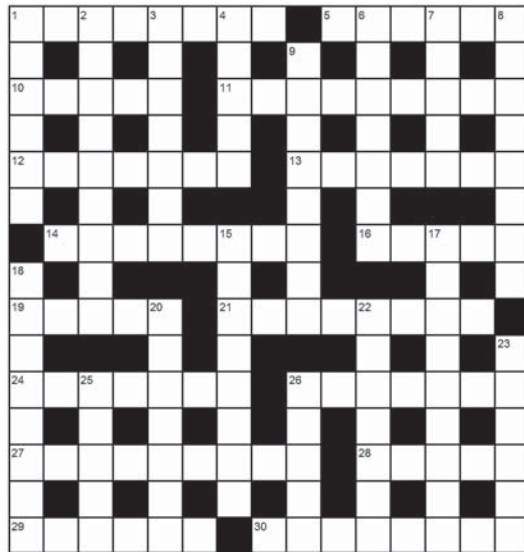
- ACROSS:
- 1 - The \_\_\_\_, birth of Jesus (8)
  - 5 - An important prophet (1 Kings 17 and on) (6)
  - 10 - Dance craze of the 1970's (5)
  - 11 - \_\_\_\_ Day, December 25 (9)
  - 12 - Distinguished (7)
  - 13 - Connection (7)
  - 14 - "A woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly \_\_\_\_" medicinal cream (Mark 14:3) (8)
  - 16 - Jewish mourning period (5)
  - 19 - Fibre used for making ropes (5)
  - 21 - Complete (8)
  - 24 - "What must I do to inherit \_\_\_\_ life?" everlasting (Mark 10:17) (7)
  - 26 - French inn (7)
  - 27 - Tennis-like game played with a shuttlecock (9)
  - 28 - Standards (5)
  - 29 - Available power (6)
  - 30 - Drifting organisms, usually in the ocean (8)
- DOWN:
- 1 - Moved one's head up and down (6)
  - 2 - "He \_\_\_\_ to what he has seen..." gives witness (John 3:32) (9)
  - 3 - "But soon a \_\_\_\_ wind, called the northeaster" severe (Acts 27:14) (7)
  - 4 - Silent (5)
  - 6 - East Indian sailors (7)
  - 7 - A disciple, brother of John (Matt. 4:21) (5)
  - 8 - " \_\_\_\_ in the highest heaven!" shout of praise (Mark 11:10) (8)
  - 9 - A group of bishops (8)
  - 15 - Ornamental shoulder pieces (8)
  - 17 - "you know how to \_\_\_\_ the appearance of earth and sky..." explain (Luke 12:56) (9)
  - 18 - Gather into one place (8)
  - 20 - "For the creation waits with eager \_\_\_\_" earnest desire (Rom. 8:19) (7)
  - 22 - "The Lord breaks the cedars of \_\_\_\_" Middle East country (Ps. 29:5) (7)
  - 23 - "For everything there is a \_\_\_\_" period of time (Eccl. 3:1) (6)
  - 25 - Endow with some gift (5)
  - 26 - Abolish (5)

# Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



### November Puzzle




### October Solution




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Prayer the Church's banquet, angels' age, God's breath in man returning to his birth, The soul in pilgrimage, the heart in paraphrase ...

*George Herbert*

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# A day in the life

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord.*

Isaiah 55:8



BY REV. MAGGIE WHITTINGHAM-LAMONT

Every day I start my day with a similar routine. I am an early riser and love to catch the sunrise and lately have been taking a photo of it and posting it to Facebook. I had not realized how many people look out for this morning picture until I failed to post for a few days and was inundated by enquiries about my wellbeing because there had been no sunrise pictures appearing on my Facebook page. Whilst I am heartened that so many people look for my pictures; that is not why I take them. I have always loved sunrise and sunset and to me those times signify a fresh start each morning, and at the end of the day, a time to put all the stress and negativity of the day behind me. When my father died in 1990 I was enveloped in grief and all that sustained me was my faith and driving to

the Look-Off in Herring Cove to watch the sun come up. It is a habit that has stayed with me.

During and after the sunrise I can be found walking the four dogs that employ me (without payment) to be their staff person. A hasty breakfast follows and then a quick shower and I'm off to brave the Armdale Roundabout as I make my way to work. Whilst driving to work along the Purcell's Cove Road I make my plan for the workday.

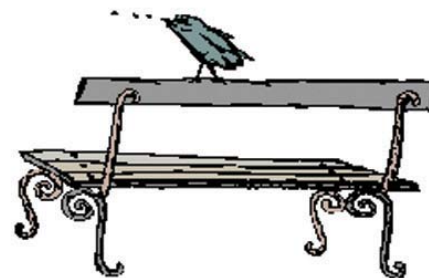
I arrive at work around nine o'clock or shortly after depending on the traffic and at that point my plans usually fly out of the port-hole. Life as the Mission to Seafarers Chaplain is very unpredictable as the occurrences on a recent Monday will attest. The morning was taken up with ship visiting; 60 steps up the first gangway and then off to the mess to talk to a crew who were visiting Halifax for the first time. **They had lots of questions, can we get internet onboard? (no), can we go shopping? (yes), do you have a phonecard? (yes), will you say a prayer for me? (definitely).** The next ship was one that had confided a problem on a previous visit and I wanted to check how

the crew were fairing. I could tell immediately that things were better. After years of ship visiting I can usually gauge the mood on a ship very soon after signing in and on my previous visit I had discerned that there was an issue onboard and soon after arriving various crew came and confided their worries. The source of the problem was no longer onboard and everyone was relaxed. I told the crew about praying for them at the Cathedral and during my own prayer time and they said they believed that the issue had been resolved because of this.

On the way back to the Mission I made a quick visit to a security guard that I talk to on a regular basis who derives some comfort from our relationship. The Mission Chaplain is the Chaplain for more than the seafarers and I will often be approached by port workers who will ask for a prayer or confide a worry.

By now it is past lunchtime but there are crew who need to go to the bank to change money so I make two trips to the bank before returning to the Mission to talk with more seafarers and make a much desired cup of tea.

Bill MacIntyre who had been assigned to the Mission by AST for the previous two years dropped in and we



## The view from the Deacon's Bench

decided to go to Tim Hortons for lunch, it is 4pm by now! We decide to walk through the tunnel to Tim's and are almost there when my phone rings. It is a Mission volunteer asking if I could call an agent who was requesting help. I called the agent and we quickly turned around to return to the Mission as a young gentleman was coming over. He had slipped onboard ship and had cut his finger. We arrived back at the Mission just ahead of the young man who was holding a blood soaked cloth around his hand. I took a quick look at it, giving thanks for my volunteer's and my own previous nursing experience and it was clear that a hospital visit was in order.

The young man's first language was Spanish so on the way to the hospital I called Aurora Parsons, our Spanish speaking volunteer and she was able to tell me the medical history and allergy situation of the young man as I knew this would be asked at the hospital. It is very daunting for a seafarer to find themselves ill or injured far from home so I helped facilitate the admission procedure and we

then began the wait. The ER was very busy so although we were given a bed very soon after arrival we were in for a long wait. Eventually the doctors came and assessed that the injury might be a little more severe than first thought so it was off to x-ray. Once the x-rays were read some extensive suturing took place and I transported the young man from the hospital. It was ten to midnight.

So my plan for the day had not gone quite as expected. **I truly believe that God knows what he wants for us, not only in the big picture but on a day to day basis. There are so many events in the course of a day in the port and the Mission is there to help and I often marvel at the timing.** I have often arrived onboard at a time of great strife or at exactly the right moment to say a much needed prayer and almost always these occurrences have been when I have just changed plans so I am convinced in these situations that I am privileged to see the Holy Spirit at work.

## New ministry abounds

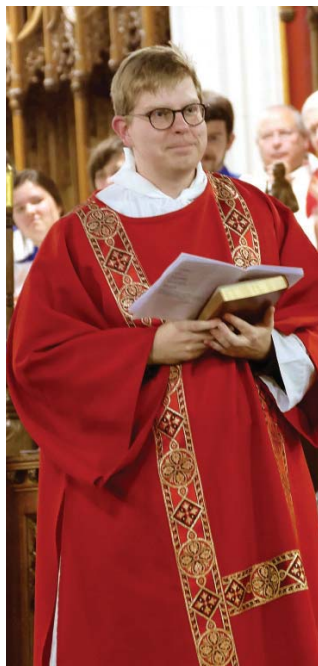


Photo left: There was a celebration of a new deacon when Nicholas Hatt was ordained on Wednesday, October 28th at the Cathedral Church of All Saints.

Photo right: Rev. Leonard Bednar with his three church wardens, Evelyn Lewis, John Dumford and Kathy Scanlon at a service to celebrate the start of his new ministry at Trinity Church, Main St, Halifax on Sunday, Nov 1st. The new rector for the parish, Capt. Rev. Leonard Bednar, was supported by Dean Paul Smith and Rev J.K Morrell at his welcoming service. The wardens and parish offered a warm welcome and reception for their new parish priest.





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