



Serving the Anglican Church in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Making Christmas puddings in Bridgewater for 25 years

It takes a village to raise a child but it takes a parish to make nearly a ton of Christmas puddings!

Started in 1991 by Dale Wentzell and sister Marjorie Theakston as a fund raiser for the parish, the idea came from an Ontario Anglican church that offered their own pudding process as gift. It included their secret recipe and a 'how to' instruction manual for mass producing the puddings.

The ingredients are carefully

weighed and measured by a team of some 70 volunteers over a 4 day period. However, the actual planning, pre- and post-sales efforts go far beyond that.

The parish encourages anyone who wants to participate in the pudding process. They include parishioners and non-parishioners, males and females and all age groups.

The parish was approached by several churches many years ago about the possibility



Photo: Some of the dozens of volunteers at the pudding party at Holy Trinity, Bridgewater. Dale Wentzell seated wearing a blue top while Jocelyn Wentzell looks on at right.



Photo: Some of the hundreds of Christmas puddings waiting for delivery

of them purchasing their puddings and reselling as a means of raising funds within their own churches. They are receptive to selling a portion of their puddings to aide others. They are sold at reduced price for churches; however, they prefer that the churches are outside their own customer range and are using it as a fund raising event.

The parish sells 1 lb & 2 lb puddings with or without hard

sauce and as gift baskets in both sizes.

This year the parish will produce between 1500 and 2000 pounds of puddings and will sell all of them! The proceeds from the sale go back to the parish treasurer to use for parish work. This year's efforts will add nearly \$10,000 to the church's coffers.

As with many church activities, it takes many

hands to make it all come together. After 17 years of organizing the pudding event, Dale Wentzell handed over her duties to daughter-in-law Jocelyn Wentzell who continues the tradition.

They've sold out for this year so to order your Christmas puddings for next year, call the parish office at 902.543.3440.

Christians share Advent experiences on social media

By MARTHA HOLMEN

With Advent underway, Christians and Anglicans around the world are turning to social media to share their common experience of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.

The Anglican Communion, partnering with the Society of St. John the Evangelist, is once again inviting Anglicans to join its global online Advent calendar. Everyone who signs up will receive a daily prayer and photo based on a different word each day. They'll also be invited to respond on social media with their own prayers and photos using the hashtag #AdventWord and the word of the day (for example, #Shine, #Hope or #Awaken). Those contributions appear with others from around the world

in the Advent calendar at www.adventword.org.

For those not sure where to start, the Anglican Communion has provided resources explaining how to contribute and encourage others to join in. Newcomers can watch a tutorial video, clergy and parish leaders can download posters and bulletin inserts, and participants can see the full list of daily words so they can plan ahead. To see the resources or sign up for daily emails, visit www.aco.org/adventword. Participants can choose to receive emails in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Tamil or American Sign Language.

Those looking to explore the meaning and mystery of Advent through social media can also join the

Occupy Advent movement. Entering its sixth year, it describes its purpose as "reclaiming the holy season of waiting and watching for the Lord." Using the hashtag #OccupyAdvent, social media users share their thoughts and reflections as they try to resist commercialism and focus instead on Advent as a time to slow down and simplify their lives. To join the conversation, visit Occupy Advent at www.facebook.com/OccupyAdvent or follow @OccupyAdvent on Twitter.

Photo: The Diocese of Toronto responds to the word "Invite" in last year's AdventWord calendar.

Martha Holmen is the Digital Communications Coordinator for the Diocese of Toronto.

Anglican Diocese TO @anglicandioTO

#AdventWord #Invite



COLUMNIST

A new broom sweeps clean

I FIND IT fascinating to see the stamp our new priest is putting on St. Bart's. We had such a wonderful spiritual leader in Rev. Billie for so many years that it seemed almost impossible to picture St. Bart's without her. I remember her telling me that she would never forget her twelve plus years with us but that we would go on as a parish and flourish under new leadership....and she was right.



ST. BART'S BY THE BOG

Sarah Neish

Father J is young and full of ideas and dreams. He seems to see us growing where we had become used to the idea that we are a parish of "oldies" just keeping the doors of our church open. Jason has come from his life as a student with so much enthusiasm and energy and his head seems to be ready to explode with 'new'.... My Orin has warned him to go slow with change and his two retired brother priests have shared the same thoughts. We are a parish of older folks, our energy levels are not what they once were and our staying power seems a bit shorter than it once was. Jason likes to dream big and wants us to go on this journey with him.

His hope is to get a community Sunday school

going in the New Year, a Sunday school that will welcome all of the children in our area. He has the support of the other local clergy and congregations in the community and it has been decided to have classes on Sunday afternoons so that no one church feels that they are going to lose worshippers at their morning services.

St Bart's has the physical facilities to hold such classes; we have the largest Parish Hall in the Bog, so this experiment will begin in the hall on the

second Sunday afternoon of the New Year. We will see who comes, and what the community reception for such an effort is like.

There are young children living here By the Bog, we see them waiting for the school bus every morning, but they seem to disappear once they are delivered back home at the end of the day. Jason says they are the children of the electronic age, they are looking at screens and are on social media or playing video games once they are home. His dream is to see them interacting with each other face to face; playing street hockey in the Hall parking lot, sitting on the church steps laughing together or sharing time in other fun activities. He has this idea of a homework club that would meet in the rectory kitchen a few afternoons a week. We will see.

Not to exclude the adults of the community, a Senor's drop in afternoon has been started. Any excuse to share a cup of tea and a chin wag is never amiss. Some of us here By the Bog are caring for very elderly parents and respite care is always needed, This can be a time

to put their loved ones in the hands of caring friends and run important personal errands

We have dug out checkers and cribbage boards and packs of cards for recreation geared to our age and energy level. These afternoons have taken off and we have set out a schedule for sharing 'treat time'. Some of the ladies have set up a quilting frame and there are people sharing the job of either trying or quilting a new creation. Often the highlight is when Miranda comes over for a visit with baby Charlie. Talk about respite time....Miranda says that is what this is for her; many arms more than anxious to hold the wee fellow! He loves it, we love it and Miranda really loves it.

Father Jason is full of ideas and dreams, he says some will work, some will not but we won't know until we try! He has ideas of changes in worship too. That will be a challenge for us.

I'll let you know how that goes over here By the Bog.

Aunt Madge.

PAUL SHERWOOD
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THE CHRISTMAS CHECKLIST

FOR CHURCHES

 DIG OUT THE CRIB FIGURES <input type="checkbox"/>	 DECORATE THE TREE AND CHURCH <input type="checkbox"/>	 CHOOSE PEOPLE TO READ THE LESSONS <input type="checkbox"/>	 MAKE SURE THE CHOIR IS READY <input type="checkbox"/>	 DELIVER THE CHRISTMAS PUBLICITY LEAFLETS <input type="checkbox"/>
 CLEAN EVERYWHERE <input type="checkbox"/>	 DECIDE WHICH CLERGY DO WHICH SERVICES <input type="checkbox"/>	 BUY PRESENTS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED HARD <input type="checkbox"/>	 CARRY IN EXTRA CHAIRS <input type="checkbox"/>	 REHEARSE THE NATIVITY PLAY <input type="checkbox"/>
 WRITE ALL OF THE SERMONS <input type="checkbox"/>	 PREPARE THE CANDLES <input type="checkbox"/>	 MAKE THE CHRISTINGLES <input type="checkbox"/>	 COPY THE ORDERS OF SERVICE <input type="checkbox"/>	 ORDER SUPPLIES FOR VICAR'S POST-CHRISTMAS BREAK <input type="checkbox"/>

Dave Walker © 2016

BISHOP'S MESSAGE

The stars in the sky



Rt. Rev. Ron Cutler, Bishop of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Twice recently I have had the opportunity to worship at St. John's Church in Lunenburg. One of the wonderful features of this truly beautiful building is the scattering of stars on the dark blue ceiling above the altar. When the church was being rebuilt following the devastating fire fifteen years ago, there was a desire to reproduce the interior as accurately as possible. Among the many tasks of restoration, research was done to determine if the 'stars on the ceiling' represented a particular starscape - the answer was 'yes'. Remarkably the ceiling portrays the stars as they would have been seen over Lunenburg harbour at sunset on the night of Jesus' birth. It is amazing to me that these 700 stars (yes they have been counted) should so accurately portray the celestial arrangement of an event long ago and far away from its home. This ceiling is not a decoration but a testament to the generations of seafarers for whom the stars were reliable guides as they made their journeys around the world and a statement of their faith.

When our children were quite young, every day ended with a bed time story, a song and a prayer. For a whole year our son insisted on 'Away in A Manger' as his bed time song of choice. It is a good song for bedtime with a lovely lullaby tune. Perhaps though, there can be too much of a good thing. Singing 'Away in a Manger' on a hot July night struck me as being completely out of place, even if it was an effective means to encourage sleep. The second verse of the familiar carol is: "The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay" The anonymous writer obviously drew inspiration from St. Luke's version of the birth of Jesus, a scene reproduced on countless Christmas cards. Though St. Luke does not mention the stars, it does not take too much imagination to see his angelic chorus announcing the birth of the messiah to the shepherds, as seen against the backdrop of a starry sky. St. Matthew does draw attention to the star which led the "wise men from the east" on a long journey to worship the one who was born to be "King of the Jews", another favourite of Christmas card artists (though really belonging to the feast of the Epiphany). There is no manger, animals or angels in St. John's account of the incarnation however we can still glimpse the stars as he writes "All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did

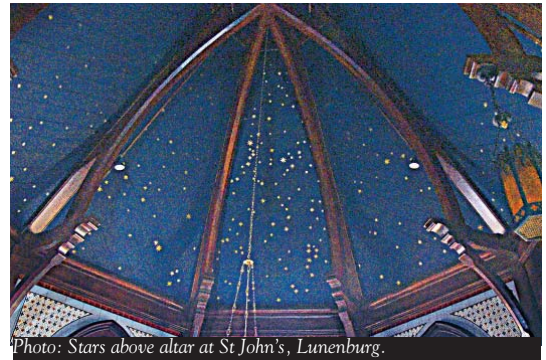


Photo: Stars above altar at St John's, Lunenburg.

not overcome it." John 1:3-5

For many years the accusation has been made that the goal of Christianity was to prepare its members for a life beyond this one, beyond the stars, beyond time and space. Yet Jesus very birth challenges that perspective. The stars in the highest heaven look down on something very earthy. The birth, life and death of Jesus bear witness to the way that life in the here and now does matter. The kingdom of God, that Jesus speaks of so often, is not hidden beyond the stars but is found in this world. Jesus' teaching about the truths of the kingdom are revealed in the most simple acts and articles of everyday life. Seeds, pearls, a lost coin, a lost son, a labour market, a debtor, all say something about God's dream for the world. It is simple human attitudes: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, that we find God's gifts and the signs of God's spirit at work in our hearts, homes, churches and communities. (Gal 5:22,23) They are also (mostly) the hallmarks of this season.

In the incarnation God comes into our world, not to lift us out of the world but to unite the heavens and the earth.

Every blessing as you journey through Advent to the celebration of the birth of the Messiah

+Ron

"Most people today do not see their need to be reconciled to God"



Rev. Dr. John Roddam

As we move towards the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, gratitude is the emotion that should fill our minds and hearts. Jesus came for a specific reason. The Comfortable Words in our Prayer Book capture this: "This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world TO SAVE SINNERS." (My caps - 1 Timothy 1:15) For many, that's a large and bitter pill to swallow! ME, a sinner? The popular understanding of a sinner is a bad person or someone who does bad things! Most don't see themselves as "bad" or having done "bad things!" However, the Christian Faith asserts that Sin is a state of alienation from our Creator through rebellion, breaking of laws, etc. We have found ourselves apart from God. The mercy of

God was expressed as our loving Heavenly Father sent His Son to rescue us and to redeem us from our sin-filled state.

The editors of the Red Hymnal (remember that one?) refused to include the beloved hymn "Amazing Grace" because the committee got hung up on the lyric "who saved a wretch like me!" Most moderns have little sense of their wretchedness before a holy God.

The theological slide began decades ago. Karl Menninger, a leader in US psychiatry entitled his 1973 book "Whatever Became of Sin?" The same is reflected in what some assert a dumbed-down series of Prayer Book confession prayers starting in the mid-20th C. Many contemporary mainline Church leaders even deny the plausibility of the atonement

- Jesus' work of addressing the sin of the world through His death on the cross! If we are not sinners or if there is no Sin, why was Jesus' horrific death necessary?

I remember a conversation I had with a parishioner in my US parish - Dr. Peter Toon, a world-class Anglican Theologian and President of the American Prayer Book Society. He said categorically that most people today do not see their need to be reconciled to God. Despite having penned one of the best known 20th C. theological works on the atonement, he was perplexed as to how one might bridge to the modern mind their need for Christ AND the fact that they were "dead in sin!" One early 20th C. preacher stated - "you must understand the Bad News in order to appreciate the Good News!" When we grasp the depth of

despair our alienation from God elicits and our personal culpability - the grace of God (undeserved love in addressing our sin-problem) stands in stark contrast. If the Lord gave us what we deserved, we'd be in big trouble!

However, there is forgiveness and new life offered through our Saviour Jesus Christ as we turn from our sin, welcome the Lord Jesus to reign in our lives and walk with Him in joyful obedience - the path of true peace and love! That's what Christmas is about - the true "reason for the season!" Will you receive the ultimate gift of Christmas? Jesus our Blessed Saviour and Redeemer and embrace the gift of forgiveness and new life in Him? Why wait for Spring (as the old advert states!) DO IT NOW!!

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I am writing as a member of St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Middle Sackville who serves on our Communications Committee.

I am looking for some information to assist us in any submission of articles for The Diocesan Times from our parish. These are some of the questions I have in mind to help us with this.

(Editor's response in italics)

- **What are the standards/criteria to write an article for publishing?**

The Diocesan Times is always looking for news stories from parishes or the diocese that stand out. Stories telling about the difference an activity/event made in someone's life or the life of the parish. Or a story that tells of the unique way a celebration happened.

If it is a news article of general interest, it might include eyewitnesses' accounts of the event. It can also contain photographs, accounts, statistics, graphs, recollections, interviews, polls, debates on the topic, etc. Headlines focus the reader's attention on the main part of the article. You can also give facts and detailed information following answers to general questions like who, what, when, where, why and how. Quoted references are also helpful if they add to the account. A good conclusion is an important ingredient for newspaper articles. However, newspaper reporters write in inverted pyramid style, with all the most important information in the first paragraph or two. The less vital details are shown towards the end of the story in the event copy editing might remove them in order to fit the story within the allotted space.

Parish contributions can be just a photo with a cutline. More substantial articles generally run from 500 – 700 words and longer articles might span two or more editions of the newspaper.

- **Are photographs always required?**

Photos are an excellent way to draw the reader's attention to the story. And they can add an extra dimension that words alone fail to convey. If you send a photo, please do not place it inside the document but send it separately. However, photos encouraged but not required.

- **What is the time frame to submit an article in time for printing?**

The deadline for submissions is the first week of the month before; that is, for the December paper, submissions must be received by the first week of November.

Electronic submissions are preferred – as an email or an attached word processing file. Please do not put photos within the document.

There are a variety of word processing programs and we can open most of them. If there are any problems, you will be notified and requested to resubmit in another format. But that is unlikely.

- **How are we notified that an article has been received?**

Most submissions come via email. Those that request confirmation of receipt are sent one; most do not. Submissions sent by regular mail do not receive confirmation.

- **How are we notified an article would be published and in what edition of the newspaper?**

This is a tougher question to answer. Sometimes news stories will bump previously planned article insertions and that means we occasionally are not able to run a story due to space constrictions. This is an editorial decision made to present the most relevant stories in any given month. However, usually stories run in the upcoming edition of the Diocesan Times. That means an article received in the first week of November would not appear until the December edition of the newspaper.

- **Is there anything else we should know?**

Yes. Photos add visual impact to a story. Please send them as separate files and at least 300 dpi. The larger the image size, the more likely it will reproduce properly in the newspaper.

Also, try to limit the number of people in the photo 5 or 6 at most (large group photos are the exception) and get close to your subjects. Finally, if possible, take a photo of people 'doing something' that relates to your story.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Debbie Gascoigne

Background: The Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB) was founded in 1983 with the mission to work towards ending global hunger. Its vision is a world without hunger. The charity's international programs include food assistance, agriculture and livelihoods, and nutrition. The Anglican church supports this mission through the Primate's World relief and Development Fund. Rev Marian Lucas-Jeffries was invited to see first-hand the impact of the mission during a trip earlier this year. This is her story.

Dear Diocese,

After visiting partnership projects in the mountains of northern Laos and surviving a hair raising boat ride down the Mekong River, we took advantage of a one day stopover in a tourist town for some souvenir shopping, an elephant ride, a visit to a bear sanctuary and a descent down a dozen or more rickety bamboo ladders to what would have probably been a stunning waterfall if it hadn't been the end of the dry season.

The next day we flew to Vientiane for a debriefing over lunch with people from various denominations, members of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, each in their own way working to carry out God's call to love our neighbour.

I chose a vacant chair, sat down at the table, turned to the man next to me, introduced myself and asked where he was from. Truro Nova Scotia he replied. Of course we had friends and colleagues in common. (Contact me if you are interested in opportunities to travel and study food security with CFGB.)

The next day with God as our compass and Eastern China airlines as our carrier we flew a convoluted route to Kolkata, India that included two stops in China. Air Canada food isn't that bad after all. An over packaged lunch in a fair sized box included a small plain white roll, (no butter) as the main course, three gummies of an unidentifiable flavour for desert and a small bottle of



Photo: The Canadian Foodgrains contingent at an airport in China.

water.

Arriving in China we stepped into a grey, foggy world (pollution?). Immigration officials, to our surprise, asked for our visas. Visas? We were not entering the country. As it turned out, China requires visas for everyone landing in the country including those just passing through. Ooops!

The manager was called. She politely explained the regulations hoping I'm certain that we would be able to produce documents. When was obvious that wasn't going to happen, she paused, then asked how long we would be in the country? We leave for India at 11 pm we said. She paused, then to our relief, said if we promised to leave China by midnight she would issue visas. Promise? Sure.

The next airport was enormous. After walking through a sea of people,

avoiding the KFC and McDonalds on either end of the airport, we entered a restaurant and sat next to a Chinese couple. To our surprise, this friendly couple had vacationed the summer before in Fredericton. The only Chinese people we spoke to in that country, we sat and viewed photographs of the St. John River on his cell phone, as he chatted away with an incomprehensible accent and we sipped traditional Chinese tea.

A few hours later, on the last day of the journey through Lent, living up to our promise to the customs manager, we were in the air and on our way to Kolkata and the next leg of this very special spiritual journey, Holy Week.

Rev Marian Lucas-Jeffries
(retired diocesan priest now living in New Brunswick)

UP TO 3 BILLION PEOPLE in the world are **malnourished***.

*Includes undernutrition and overweight/obesity.

One-third of children in the developing world are **underweight or stunted.**

Malnutrition is a cycle which perpetuates poverty & deprivation. Malnourished adults are less able to work, provide for their families, & contribute to local economies.

Malnutrition costs the global economy up to **US\$3.5 trillion per year.**

Agriculture can help unlock the potential of millions of food insecure people around the world, enabling them to live healthy, productive lives. **There are three main ways in which agriculture is essential to improving nutrition:**

Shoebboxes for seafarers

BY MAGGIE WHITTINGHAM-LAMONT

I remember my father telling me that as one gets older time seems to pass more quickly. Of course as a young woman I did not believe him but now I know it is true. Christmas 2016 will be my 26th Christmas at the Mission and I have no clue where the time has gone. Indeed, Christmas will soon be here and I will be wondering what happened to 2016!

Every year leading up to Christmas Day and for a couple of weeks afterwards I, along with select volunteers, have the privilege of distributing shoe-box gifts to the seafarers. For the uninitiated this is what giving a shoe-box gift means and what it entails.

The seafarers we encounter are often at sea for up to a year at a time, facing danger from weather, piracy and unforeseen factors such as mechanical issues. Seafarers also suffer

tremendous isolation issues and despite advancements in technology enabling more frequent conversations between family member and friends a seafarer still goes back to their lonely cabin at the end of their watch. Christmas is probably the most poignant of holidays and so the cheer we are able to provide with the gifting of a shoe-box filled with what to us, are everyday items, is a most wonderful thing.

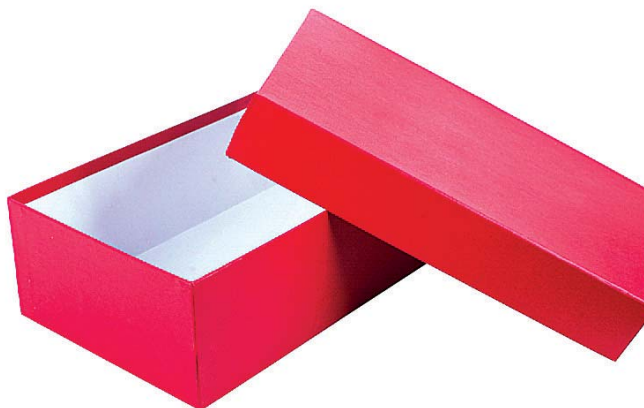
The parishes of NS and PEI have been most generous in previous years and have provided us with enough gifts to enrich the life of an average of 1500 seafarers each Christmas season. We are hoping that once again this year parishioners will consider giving towards our shoe-box programme.

Each shoebox we give out contains the following: a hat, gloves, scarf, socks, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, hard candy, and a small memento.

We love to see the bottoms and lids of the boxes wrapped separately and fastened with a rubber band or string so that the boxes can be checked to ensure they comply with customs restrictions. Some donors enclose a Christmas

card with their name and address and each spring we hear from people who were thrilled to receive a thank you note from a seafarer. We are also pleased to receive individual items that are used to augment incomplete boxes.

The staff and volunteers involved in the shoebox programme wish everyone all the joys of the Christmas season.



Increase your parish visiting

Our Diocesan website features three new resources to assist parish leaders to identify and train for the ministry of visiting. There is a brochure for clergy to help determine who may be a suitable candidate for this important pastoral work. Two other documents outline Friendly Visiting for casual connections within a parish, and the other for Pastoral Visiting, which calls for more intentional spiritual and emotional care. These two are for lay and clergy leaders.

Each resource includes some practical tips and suggestions for increasing capacity for this ministry in church communities. Visit the Diocesan website at www.nspeidiocese.ca, then click on the 'LEADERSHIP' drop-down bar and go to 'VSST & Task Groups' to 'Healthy Parishes.' Under 'Diocesan Programs and Resources' click on 5.3 - 'Building Up Lay Ministry.' Have questions? E-mail lvaughn@nspeidiocese.ca or phone 902-420-0717.



Ministry in action in Beaverbank



Photo: Rev Cathy Lee Cunningham and parishioner Tony Dean, Jr making an appeal for clothing.

Over the past 6 years, since I was 7, I collected over 800 pairs of new pajamas to donate to Adsum House for kids and their moms who don't have the resources to get them on their own. This year I am once again looking for help from my friends and family in collecting these items. We will be delivering them in early December in time for

Christmas. Any size would be great. If you would like to help by donating a pair please call or text my mom [Sharon - 499-0639] and she will make arrangements with you for us to pick them up. Thank you for your continued support. Love, Tony Dean, Jr age 13

Adsum House operates from different locations in and around Halifax by supporting women and children who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, through short and longer term housing, programs and resources. More information on this organization can be located at adsumforwomen.org

Back to medieval times for dinner



The Cathedral Church of All Saints held its third annual Medieval Banquet on Friday, October 28. Guests congregated in the Great Hall for a reception prior to a Grand Medieval Feast in the Cathedral at 7pm. All were welcome to come in costume and the proceeds

will support the Cathedral Outreach programs. Medieval food fare of chicken, lamb and roasted vegetables were served followed by a desert of stuffed apples. Entertainment consisted of a page making appropriate announcements, a dedicated dean singing songs from the day and a harpist who played

softly in the background in the candle-lit space. In spite of the inclement weather, more than 100 hungry patrons arrived to celebrate this third annual event.

There are many more photos on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/diotimes



Photo above: One of the dozens of costumed diners at the Medieval Dinner.



Photo left: Diners were entertained by the soft sounds of a harp during dinner.

Ray and Heather go for a walk; a long, long walk.

In October, Rev Ray and Heather Carter embarked on an 800 km hike along the

famed Camino de Santiago trail in Spain. Many follow its routes as a form of spiritual

path or retreat for their spiritual growth. It is also popular with hiking and cycling enthusiasts as well as organized tours.

Dean Paul Smith and members of the Cathedral Church of All Saints wished them well on the journey and presented them both with pewter crosses and scallop shells. The crosses will be returned to the Cathedral along with the story of their journeys.

Ray Carter will share their story in an upcoming edition of The Diocesan Times in the View from the Deacon's Bench.



Photo: Close up of the pewter commentaries for the walk.



Photo: Ray and Heather Carter with their scallops shells and crosses.



Photo: The Diocesan Youth Conference attendees in Lunenburg - both young and young-at-heart.

DYC examined the BIG questions

BY JUDY STEERS
DYC GUEST SPEAKER

In the Western world, science and theology are too often assumed to be at odds. Yet even within a post-modern, secular, technological society, religious beliefs and practices remain a vital sphere of human existence

and experience – shaping our decisions, politics, opinions and social/cultural movements. And yes – our views of science shape all of those things too!

How do you see science and religion? Enemies? Friends? Or perhaps they are threads in a bigger tapestry? Equipped

with wonder, stories, and a little bit of math, we spent the weekend taking a romp through: How our world views are shaped and how we see them interacting with one another, Creation narratives, Myth as a 'truth-bearing story', Big Moments in history, and Quantum (vs Newtonian)

theology. Sound complicated? Not really. Basically, it means that how we see the world, and God's relationship to it, is affected by how we understand how the physical world works. From Greeks to Galileo to Gluons and other sub-atomic particles, we explored these questions and more with both

sides of our brains - through contemporary and ancient writers, lectures, audio visual and creative arts. This was not just a weekend for geeks, but for any seeker wanting to dig deep into BIG questions. And, there may have been some paradigm shifts along the way.

How do you spell love? It's PWRDF!

In the beginning it is spelled LOVE - God's great love freely given to us as the children of God. Then there is the love that we return to God in our prayers and in our actions. For many Canadian Anglicans part of that loving action includes giving money to the PWRDF. Over the past few years I have met many of those loving folks as part of the PWRDF Anniversary celebrations. They give to support projects for relief and development out of their deep love for others because God first loved them.

I was one of those people giving to the PWRDF over the years because I understood it was the right thing to do! If I could not do relief or development work myself, I could at least help fund those who did do it. My giving was based on faith because I had never seen the actual work of PWRDF on the ground at the local level. Then I had the chance to see it in Tanzania.

Love is not simply a warm fuzzy feeling. However, we did

receive many warm greetings as we visited PWRDF/CIDA projects in the Diocese of Masasi in Southern Tanzania.

Love in action - helping partners there to accomplish their dreams for a better life with food and health care for their families, education for their children.

Love shown in commitment over time – consistent support for 5 years accomplishing objectives and steadily building confidence in self and in community

Love in laughter and tears – giggles over learning to drive a power tiller, tears when the part that holds the tiller breaks. Joy when the land tilled increase from 4 acres to 40 acres, and there is extra money to be shared among the group.

Love is a Grandmother living with AIDS raising her 3 grandchildren because their parents have died. Love is PWRDF/CIDA providing her with 2 goats so she has milk to improve the nutrition of herself and the children so



Photo: Bishop Sue Moxley sees hands-on the work of PWRDF at a well in Tanzania.

the anti retroviral drugs can work effectively. She sells the extra milk to her neighbours improving their nutrition and giving her money to pay school fees for the 3 children so they may be educated and have a different future.

Love is PWRDF/CIDA

providing a well in a local community saving the women and children 8 to 10 kilometres of walking each day.

These are all practical ways that we, through PWRDF, show love in our world, ways that we do what Jesus said in

Matthew 25 about caring for the least of the brothers and sisters.

For the opportunity to see love in action through PWRDF, thank you!

SUE MOXLEY

It's A New Day!

O Holy Night – opportunity knocks!

By Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

A December 2013 poll by Angus Reid Global showed that almost a third of all Canadians attend a special Christmas church service. Sunday worship attendance more than doubles on Dec. 24th and herein lies a fabulous opportunity to showcase what the Christian faith community is about.

On Christmas Eve our churches host not only our regular faithful parishioners, but also their family members, those who have a connection but rarely connect (the lapsed), and also spiritual 'seekers.' They take the time to enter our worship spaces and they have expectations. Most are looking for a festive atmosphere and a sense of the Holy. Many returning church folks are longing for a positive experience, often associated with warm memories of Christmases past and a message of God's hope for the future.

Our Anglican churches have a unique chance to build relationships with non-active church people on Christmas Eve like no other time of the year. The Rev'd. Dr. Gary Nicolosi, in an Anglican Journal article in 2010, said,

"Christmas is an opportunity for churches to seize upon the folklore, myths and glitter of the season to do some effective evangelism. Special holiday services that offer a wide variety of worship styles and music will attract people who would ordinarily ignore your church."

What kinds of things can we do to contribute to deeper connections with newcomers before and after December 24th? Here are some ideas:

INVITE:

Make the invitation to Christmas services intentional and easy. Post the celebration times clearly outside your church on signs and/or posters. Provide invitation cards to your regular parishioners so they can share them with family, friends, coworkers, neighbours, etc. A brightly-coloured, not-too-wordy paper card is an effective method to personally invite someone to holiday worship. Remember to include your Christmas Eve service times on your office phone message.

PROMOTE:

Get the word out about

your church's special service through the Internet (your website), Facebook page, the neighbourhood bulletin board, local radio station and community newspaper. Keep the information simple and include your church name, address, worship time, driving directions, web address, phone number, and a brief description about what to expect. For example, a children's story, favourite Christmas carols, etc. Do not use 'insider' jargon, like "HE from the BAS".

CAREFULLY PLAN YOUR SERVICE:

Consider what your guests' needs might be this busy day. Early worship times are attractive to families with young children and seniors are reluctant to drive after dark. Remember, many people are tired, have short attention spans (especially kids exited for Saint Nicholas), and have other important commitments that evening. Try to limit your worship to an hour. Also, this is not the service to expound an academic theological sermon for 35 minutes on St. Paul's challenges with women. However, people are still intrigued and moved by the nativity story. Find a

fresh angle for the message part of the worship and keep it simple. Liturgy planners cannot go wrong including lots of familiar carols. Christmas music touches people like few other things on this holy night.

IMPRESS:

Ensure you have a number of cheery greeters welcoming folks at the door. Some churches even have greeters outside to help attendees navigate the walkway and steps. If your parking is limited get volunteers to help direct drivers in the lot. Post greeters at the door *after* the worship is concluded too. Do a refresher training with your greeters to help them be aware of newcomers questions about washroom locations, if or how to receive communion, what might be available for small children, etc. And of course, decorate tastefully inside and out.

THE BULLETIN:

Include simple and important information for your guests to be able to follow the liturgy. Not everyone knows what the Creed is or where it is found in the service book. If you are

celebrating Eucharist, explain what it is and how to receive. Highlight upcoming events in your parish by including concise, interesting notices in the hand-out. Refrain from asking for money. (This is one of the top complaints by non-church people.) Insert a separate contact card that visitors can return at that service to share their names and how to connect with them (especially e-mail and phone number).

THE NEXT STEPS:

Give clear information so potential new parishioners can explore their next steps with your church community. For example, promote an engaging sermon series in January on New Year's resolutions. Or tell them how to join a fellowship gathering or study group. Another great idea is a "Meet the Minister Reception" in early January. Here parishioners and clergy host an event to introduce visitors to the congregation's leadership and ministries. Additionally, it is important to provide information about upcoming baptisms, Life in the Eucharist program, confirmation, etc.

FOLLOW-UP: Use your newcomer contact information to continue to build their relationship with the faith community in the New Year. Do a brief front-door visit, complete with a welcome package of homemade treats or some other small gift, and an information brochure about your church. A friendly phone call asking the new people if they have prayer requests or any other needs, may also be helpful. This follow-up is best done by congregation members, not the clergy or paid staff.

Think about these and other ways to make a positive impact with potential new parishioners at Christmas. This opportunity comes once a year and it is worth it for churches to pull out all the stops to celebrate our Lord's birth and communicate the message, "We are happy you are joining us!"

(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.")



Why PWRDF matters

Mike MacKenzie joined the just generation. ca PWRDF youth council this fall, and attended the PWRDF National Gathering in November with youth council members, diocesan representatives and the board of directors. New youth council members were asked to reflect on why PWRDF matters to them. Below is Mike's reflection.

PWRDF is an organization with a long and proud history, and I think over the past 50+ years it's come to mean many things to many people. Some may resonate with initiatives surrounding food security and food aid, while others may connect with PWRDF's work on health, justice, or its advocacy for the right of all peoples to have access to clean, safe drinking water.

In other words, we all have reasons why PWRDF



Allie Colp

matters.

For me, PWRDF is a way that we as Christians fulfil the baptismal covenant to care for all creation. We follow in Jesus' footsteps to make the world a better place in really tangible, urgent ways for people who live on the margins – the exact people that Jesus, through his own teachings and ministry, taught us to care for.

And yet, while we're a

faith-based organization, we recognize that Jesus was pretty clear in saying that we need to take care of everyone, regardless of who they are or what they believe. For me this is a really important part of why PWRDF matters. We don't make decisions about aid projects based on anyone's religious background, nor do we use international development as a 'foot in the door' to convert people to Christianity. But at the same time, through our actions, we still manage to proclaim the message of God's love and care for all. When people know we choose to do good works as a way of following Jesus' footsteps, we hope it reminds them of His kind and loving nature. We hope it reminds them of the radical thing He did in dying for us, so that we may do radical things to change the lives of others.



Photo: Mike MacKenzie

A season of story



Photo: Allie's niece taking time to pause and reflect

BY ALLIE COLP
When I was in church on Christmas Eve last year with my very curious and active two-year-old niece, she picked the angel to add to the nativity scene. In the midst of doing some serious and enthusiastic exploring of the church, she paused and looked at the angel for a long time and didn't say anything. Then, before rushing off to play, she looked up at me and smiled.

I keep thinking about this story and this moment, not just because Advent has been coming closer and is now here, but because, though I may not be a two-year-old anymore, I'm often busy and constantly going from one thing to the next. My niece in this one, simple moment reminds me of the importance to pause and recognize the beauty

that is before me. My niece may not have been thinking about the wonder of what she held in her hands, or have been giving thanks to God for the moment, but this story reminds me that I need to always be doing those things, no matter what else is going on.

During Advent, I'm always reminded of the importance of stories. So much in our lives in general, and in the life of the church is based on stories – everything from the stories in scripture to the story of why we do things a certain way. Often these are stories that people outside the church don't know, or even stories that people in the church don't know. At this time of year though, the story that defines what we do is a story that captivates most of our communities beyond the church.

The story of the birth of Christ is undeniably central to who we are as Christians, but there are so many other stories that influence who we are as people of faith. Lots of those are obvious and shared, like stories from scripture and stories of baptism, and others are entirely unique to us as individuals. Stories of profound experiences while hiking or holy moments that occur while you're stuck in traffic or a sacred moment with a toddler can inform your faith in unimaginable ways.

So as we begin to dig deep into this one holy story again, as we do each year, take time to think about your own story, and how all of your experiences have shaped you and your understanding of God, and think about how to honour that story as you share it with the world around you.

MISSION (is) POSSIBLE:

Diocesan stories of people responding to God's call

"Walk through Bethlehem"

By Rev. Lisa G. Vaughn

The nativity story comes to life in an Eastern Shore rural community. This is the second year that local churches around Lake Charlotte have offered visitors a pilgrimage to experience "Jesus is the Reason for the Season."

More than 100 congregation members are involved, from the Anglican Parishes of Ship Harbour & Musquodoboit, Jeddore United Baptist Church, St. Genevieve Parish East Chezzetcook with its Mission of St. Philip Neri, Musquodoboit Harbour (Roman Catholic), Marine Drive Pentecostal Church, and Musquodoboit Harbour Pastoral Charge (United Church).

In 2015, 400 people from far and near took in the dramatic five-scene production of Jesus'



Rev. Lisa Vaughn
Diocesan Parish Vitality
Coordinator

birth, held at Memory Lane Heritage Village. The festive mission project is designed to tell the holy Bethlehem story from the census to the cradle. Scenes include live sheep, a donkey, cows, chickens, and actors as shepherds, an angelic choir, Roman centurions, wise men, and even a first century

Jewish marketplace, complete with dates and figs. Children also play roles as young shepherds and angels.

The ecumenical outdoor event was the idea of United Church minister, Rev. Joan Griffin. She brought the concept to the local ministerial and they embraced it. Anglican Rector, Rev. Andrew Mortimer says 'Walk Through Bethlehem' serves as a "planting of seeds around Christmas" to those who are unfamiliar with the gospel story and are un-connected with a faith community.

Although the three-hour dramatic reenactment is a great deal of work, any potential positive outcome is beneficial. Roman Catholic Pastoral Assistant, Diane Nolet says, "If I knew we were able to impact one family - either to bring them back to church or to want to explore their faith more or for the first time - it is worth it."

Retired Anglican priest, Rev.

Tricia Ingram says, "It is not just a story. (The Nativity) comes alive when people encounter it like Mary and Joseph did. They get to live it and they might never be the same after this experience."

Associate priest, Rev. Marilyn Murphy, was pleased by the reaction of the kids. "The children were so fascinated," she said.

Organizers have no budget for the pre-Christmas pilgrimage-play. In fact, they raise hundreds of dollars for the local food bank. Local businesses and citizens, as well as the staff at Memory Lane Heritage Village are gracious givers and fully support the event.



Photos: All photos are from the Eastern Shore nativity story. Hundreds of people take part to produce this dramatic re-enactment of the Christmas story held at Memory Lane Heritage Village.



Friends of the Bishop awards 2016 bursary

The Bishop's Men of the Anglican Diocese of NS/PEI was founded in 1974 with a mandate "to assist the Bishop with both finances for a discretionary fund and advice". Since that time, the Friends of the Bishop (the name was changed in 2008) has indeed provided the Diocesan Bishop with discretionary funds, general support and advice.

The Friends of the Bishop holds one meeting a year - an annual dinner with members to provide opportunities for fellowship and support to the Bishop. Membership fees raise much-needed funds and raise awareness of the wonderful work carried

out by the Diocese of NS/PEI. As part of membership, Friends are asked to contribute to the Pete Stanfield Bursary.

This bursary was begun by the Bishop's Men and named for one of their founding members. The Bursary is awarded annually to an AST student to help further their education, helping to ensure parishes continue to receive gifted leaders to help guide and assist parishes achieve their full potential. The 2016 recipient is Caitlin Ratcliffe.



Photo: Bishop Cutler presenting the 2016 AST bursary to Caitlin Ratcliffe.



Photo: Some of the many patrons enjoying a hearty breakfast at St John the Baptist Anglican Church in North Sydney.

Successful summer breakfast program

By PHYLISS RENO
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST ANGLICAN
CHURCH, NORTH SYDNEY

The breakfast Program started in July 2015 under the encouragement of the late Rev Debbie Strickland as a Mothers' Union

project. It was initially directed to children but there wasn't great success. As a result, this year it was offered to anyone interested in coming. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the months of July and August,

the program served all who came from 10 a.m. - noon. The meal consisted of various cereals, toast, bagels, muffins, waffles, milk, juice, tea and coffee; and fresh pancakes on Fridays! With four volunteers each day, the program worked well. Over

the two month period, breakfast was shared with more than 400 patrons from 3 years to 90 years in age. With such a success, the parish decided to plan ahead for the next year!

To 2015 and beyond ...



150 years has come and gone for All Saints Church. As we move on we are very aware that the building which we celebrate stands as a beautiful beacon on the shore of Saint Margaret's Bay. More important than the building, however, is the Faith for which it stands. When Europeans arrived on these shores they brought their belief in God and their church community with them. The Anglican expression of Christian Faith has become very rooted here. It continues to play an important part in the life of the Aspotogan. As thousands of motorists and cyclists go by during all the seasons of the year -our small church building in its robes of white and black says: "We are here and we continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

Many of the names of people we find worshipping at All Saints are the same as the ones who were here 150 years ago, but many are new. All Saints continues to be one of three buildings in which the Faith Community called the Parish of Blandford meets and celebrates.

We are here once every three weeks at 10 o'clock in the morning to celebrate our

faith by gathering for Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer. The church building continues to provide a place for the choir of our parish to meet. In it we not only to prepare the music for our liturgies, but also share in the fellowship and laughter which the gathering provides.. The long serving Warden on the Parish of Blandford Parish Council representing All Saints is Malcolm Boutillier. He and other members of our Parish Council who live in Bayswater continue in their contribution to our entire parish which extends from Deep Cove to Fox Point.

At a time where so much is changing so quickly, it is good to know that All Saints continues to be what it was meant to be: a place for us to gather for the celebration our faith. As the Parish of Blandford looks to the future, we know we are richer for the presence of the heritage and the people here. We go forth from All Saints nourished in our Faith by our worship to serve the larger community in which we live. We proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ and the Good News of Salvation for all people!



Photo: All Saints Anglican Church in the Parish of Blandford celebrates 150 years.

38th Cursillo in Debert for women and men



Photo: Some of the Cursillo attendees at the Debert Conference centre.

Diocese of NS & PEI
Mission School

God wants
Are you ready for

MORE

The Nova Scotia Anglican Cursillo Movement held its 38th set of weekend retreats at the Debert Conference Centre this past October.

Nearly 70 attendees came together for a Christ-centered time of fellowship, prayer and worship during their 4 days together.

Are you Christmas shopping with Jesus in mind this Advent season?

BY CATHY LEE CUNNINGHAM, PART-TIME RECTOR OF THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, BEAVER BANK AND FOUNDER, THE VOCAPEACE INSTITUTE

Warm Advent Greetings to all of you in the name of Christ the King, as, once again, we hear the call of our Lord to use our lives and thoughtful decision-making to build a better world in His name!



Rev. Cathy Lee Cunningham

OUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING CHOICES HAVE POWER

For the last few weeks, I've been conducting research for a free e-mail program that I'm offering through my School for Worldchanging during Lent 2017. God's guidance led me to a page on the World Vision website, dedicated to raising awareness about the ongoing prevalence of slavery in the clothing industry (it was written in 2013):

We are no strangers to terrible news from around the world. But the recent garment factory collapse in Bangladesh—that killed more than 200, injured over 1,000, and has left many more trapped in the rubble—heightens awareness about how Canadians' purchasing power can affect the lives of people thousands of miles away. Let's start making better decisions about what we buy, so we can help improve living and working standards for people around the world. Check out our Shop For Change guide below to get started!

As Anglicans and followers of Jesus, through the good work of the Primate's Fund and the wonderful publication, Gifts for Mission, we are no strangers to the knowledge that we live in

a world that is full of injustices, poverty, indignity and cruelty born of the fact that the major parts of our global economic system are predicated on perpetuating these things.

If we truly long for the world that Jesus has taught us to build, one of the greatest opportunities to successfully do that - to transform the unjust structures of the world - is to think for it and then live for it. In this world in which we live, a great deal of our power to do this can be channeled through our shopping list. What better a time to grow our impact for a better world than at Christmas, when we are typically consuming more material goods and foods?

WHAT IS YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING LIST VOTING FOR?

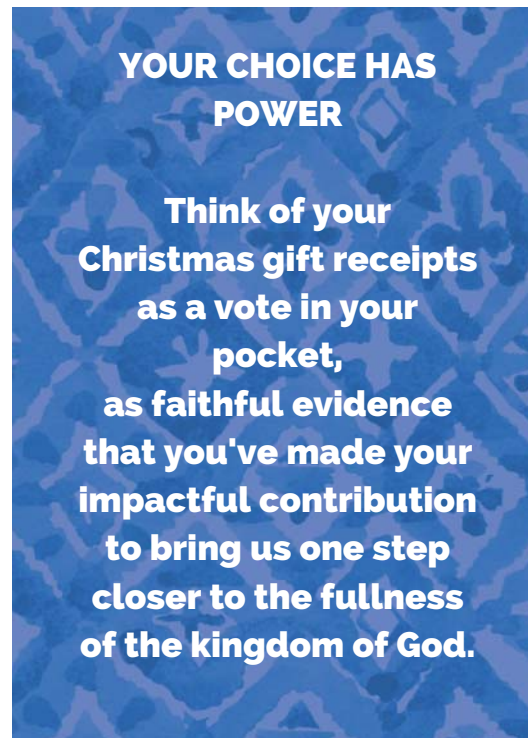
The first step for the transformation of our shopping list's ability to change the world lies in educating ourselves about how to do this. The World Vision shopping guide suggested www.ethicalconsumer.org and www.goodguide.com, both excellent sites for information. Two other places for us Canadians

to gain awareness (aside from the Primate's Fund website and Kairos) are www.fairtrade.ca and www.foodgrainsbank.ca. I was moved by the suggestion at Ethical Consumer that our shopping receipts are "a vote in our pocket", a powerful reminder of the reality that, "while we might be saving money (buying cheap clothes or food), there's always a cost somewhere down the line."

SOME QUESTIONS TO HOLD AS YOU PLAN AND SHOP

- Were those who built that new TV working as slaves? Did the manufacturer do as much as possible to reduce their negative environmental impact?
- Did the goose that gave the down for that new winter coat have a happy life, free from suffering? the same goes for any animal products on our Christmas celebration plates.
- Are those sweet potatoes organic and local?
- Were those new books under the tree produced in a way that didn't damage ancient rainforests and the habitats of endangered species?
- Did the dye from those new blue jeans kill and poison the ecosystem around the factory where they were made?
- Was that beautiful new garment or rug made by tiny, enslaved hands in an unsafe, locked factory with no labour laws?
- Did that body lotion, cosmetic or new pair of shoes cause suffering for our animal friends?

Before you buy, do your research. Look for companies



that have Corporate Social Responsibility programs and that have clear statements of how and where their materials were produced. Buy from a one-for-one company like TOMS or WARBY Parker; what you buy one, one is given to someone in need.

When our Lord comes again, let's make sure that He finds us having cast our vote for the world that He dies to save. May He find us faithful to our calling, seeing the evidence of our devotion to Him in our wallets and under our trees, on our plates and covering our bodies, furnishing our homes and filling our book shelves: ending cruelty,

abolishing slavery and bringing compassion and justice to every creature in all we do.

MORE RESOURCES FOR YOU!

Please visit my new website, www.vocapeace.com, to join the growing global community of subscribers! You'll also receive my weekly multimedia newsletter, a practical and spiritual toolkit to help you learn, lead and rise to build a better world, right where God has planted you to serve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev Chad McCharles appointed rector of the Parish of Mahone Bay, January 1st, 2017.

Rev David Dellapinna announced his

retirement effective February 28th, 2017.

The ordination of Michelle Bull and Susan Slater as transitional deacons on Thursday,

November 17th at 7:30 pm at the Cathedral Church of All Saints.

The ordination of the Rev. Colin Nicole to the priesthood, on

November 30th, the Feast of St. Andrew, 7pm at St. Mary's Church, Summerside PEI.

Effective immediately, Rev Rachael Parker appointed Regional Dean for the Region of Chebucto.

Teach us to pray: embracing Advent while we can

By the time this article is in your hands, Advent will have already begun. This year, for the first time in several years, the season lasts a full four weeks, so even if you haven't already started, there is still ample time to embrace the gifts Advent offers.

The Advent season is an invitation to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. While the invitation is essentially a call to prayer and reflection, the world around us bids us to enter headlong into the frenzied pace of the approaching holiday season, making it easy to get caught up in and distracted by all the hype. As a result, the reflective origins of Advent



Rev. Frances Drolet-Smith
Diocesan Representative, the
Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

can easily get lost somewhere between the super-market, the shopping mall, the kitchen and the parties. None of these

activities are intrinsically wrong – far from it, for they call us out of ourselves and into community – often into hospitality in serving others. But together, if unchecked, they can take up so much time and energy that we find ourselves unable to make the spiritual preparations which enable us to enter more deeply into and receive more fully the true blessings of Christmas. Being attentive to Advent is crucial therefore, not only for the potential deepening of our own prayer lives but also for our overall well-being.

Like each season of the Church's year, Advent has several traditions to help us mark the days as we journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Some are described here, with some on-line links adjacent to the article. Liturgies for the lighting of the Advent wreath often bring the weekly themes of hope, peace, joy, and love to the fore. What if we were to use the Sunday theme and pray for the gift of hope everyday during that first week? What if we did the same in the succeeding weeks, with peace, joy and love? "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," declared Alfred Lord Tennyson. Advent wreaths most often form part of congregational Sunday worship, but they can also be used at home, and easily constructed.

Of course, there Advent calendars that dispense a daily chocolate or Lego toy . . . but you may wish to access one of the several on-line Advent calendars, of daily prayers and readings.

Reading stories of various Advent saints and literary characters of Christmas and Epiphany can also give us pause for prayer – and lead us into action. The legends of St. Nicholas, La Befana, Martin the Cobbler, the Fourth Wiseman are among my favourites.

Whatever intentional Advent practice we undertake, surely the outcome of our prayerful preparations will be a deeper appreciation of the promise fulfilled at Christmas. Jesus, born in less than desirable circumstances in a stable, was in fact born into the sometimes messy midst of life. In all the hubbub, all the clamour made busy by our own choosing, let us, with the shepherds take time to step aside for a few moments each day to experience more fully the true Advent gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. As we seek to embrace the One who knows and loves us best, let us give thanks for the blessing and wonder that is ours as we celebrate anew Jesus' birth anew.

REV. FRANCES DROLET-SMITH,
DIOCESAN
REPRESENTATIVE, THE
ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP
OF PRAYER

PHOTO: VICKI FIORATOS

For on-line Advent Calendars of prayers & reading:

Sisterhood of St. John the Divine: <http://ssjadventreflections.blogspot.ca>

Society of St. John the Evangelist: <http://adventword.org>

Advent Wreath for home use: <http://www.buildfaith.org/the-advent-wreath-at-home/>

Advent Candle sets: <http://www.larchehomefires.org>

St. Nicholas: <http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/home>

La Befana: <http://www.italytravelescape.com/befana.htm>

Martin the Cobbler: http://hstrial-lpapes.homestead.com/Where_Love_Is.pdf

The Other Wiseman: <http://livros01.livrosgratis.com.br/gu010679.pdf>

Find additional Advent resources at: <http://www.anglican.ca/about/advent2016>




STAY IN THE LOOP!

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notices, programs, fundraiser events, and much more! To subscribe send your request to netnews@nspeidiocese.ca. For submissions to the ANN, the deadline is Tuesday (same e-mail address). Join our Facebook page.

Search for "Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island" and then click "Like." Ongoing activities, photos, prayer requests, news and inspirational images are shared regularly.



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The Office Manager works under the direction of the Rector and Executive Committee to ensure smooth overall operation of the Parish Office and extended church activities in compliance with and informed by Anglican ecclesiology. The position requires a strong sense of the Anglican tradition, a crucial requirement for this Church in the execution of duties of the Parish Office.

The Candidate must have advanced computer skills, particularly with Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook, etc.) Ability to multitask, establish priorities, work independently to meet deadlines and proceed with objectives under minimal supervision.

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Preferred start date of employment: 5 December 2016.

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December Clues

- ACROSS:**
- 1 – First Christian martyr (Acts 6-7) (7)
 - 5 – Ground cover of leaves, cedar bark, etc. (5)
 - 9 – “Can a blind person _____ a blind person?” escort (Luke 6:39) (5)
 - 10 – Feast of the birth of our Lord (9)
 - 11 – Edges of a highway (9)
 - 12 – Additional (5)
 - 13 – Soft, poisonous, heavy metal (4)
 - 15 – “Love covers a _____ of sins” large number (1Peter 4:8) (9)
 - 18 – Practiced (9)
 - 19 – What the Magi saw (Matt. 2) (4)
 - 20 – Instruct (5)
 - 22 – “Christ came so that we might be _____ by faith” defended as blameless (Gal. 3:24) (9)
 - 25 – Type of tree nut (9)
 - 26 – Mother-in-law of Ruth (5)
 - 27 – Aspiration (5)
 - 28 – Explanations (7)

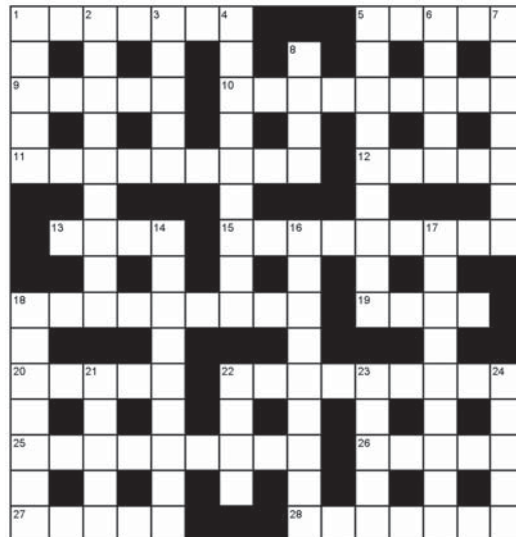
- DOWN:**
- 1 – Sweet crystals sometimes processed from beets (5)
 - 2 – Mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1) (9)
 - 3 – Gives careful attention to (5)
 - 4 – A Pharisee who visited Jesus by night (John 3) (9)
 - 5 – “(we are) servants of Christ and stewards of God’s _____” unexplained secrets (1Cor. 4:1) (9)
 - 6 – Boundary (5)
 - 7 – Person held by a kidnaper (7)
 - 8 – Parts of a circle (4)
 - 14 – Muscular partition that separates the lungs from the digestive system (9)
 - 16 – Piece of magnetite that serves as a primitive compass (9)
 - 17 – Of one mind (9)
 - 18 – Used the keyboard again (7)
 - 21 – Longitudinal space between pews in church (5)
 - 22 – King of Israel, responsible for the death of Ahab’s descendants (2Kings 9-10) (4)
 - 23 – Pertaining to Ionia (5)
 - 24 – Sheds drops of liquid (5)

Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



December Puzzle



November Solution



Prayer Book Society of Canada

NS & PEI Branch

learn more at:
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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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VIEW FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Dancing to the music of God

BY DEACON MARILYN HAMLIN

MUSIC AND DANCE have always been pretty important in my life. When I was a young girl, I so wanted to be a ballerina. I imagined myself as Vicky, the flame-haired dancer in *The Red Shoes*, a ballet based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. I was the White Swan in Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, pirouetting around the stage surrounded by my faithful corps de ballet. The magic of *The Nutcracker* still takes my breath away every Christmas.

I did not become the dancer in my dreams, nor did I ever slip my feet into a pair of red ballet slippers, but my love for dance has never waned. These days I dance for exercise, for recreation and to let my mind lead me where it may. I have been told that learning the many different patterns of dance steps is good for my brain. Frequent movement of arms and legs can keep arthritis at bay. Dancing helps with posture and balance. Gliding, twirling and tapping my feet in time to a variety of rhythms and melodies brings pleasure, satisfaction and much joy.

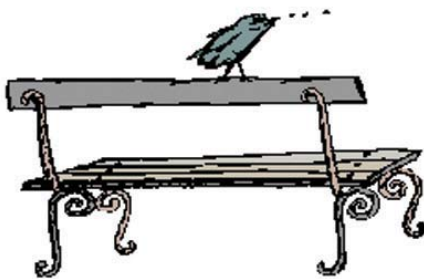
A simple definition of "dance" describes it as moving a portion of, or the whole of one's body, usually to the accompaniment



Deacon Marilyn Hamlin

of music. Music could be discussed forever, but I like one description that calls it "sonorous air"; an unseen vibration that reaches the listener on many levels; intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, or mystical. Another defines music as that science which affects the passions by sound.

As I reflect on these thoughts, I am drawn to the belief that our lives, lives given to us by God our Creator, are like a dance, a dance that begins long before our birth and continues after our earthly death. Each of us is keeping time and dancing to God's music. This is the music that defines our Christian story, stirs us to respond and challenges us to learn new steps.



For me, a member of the Community of Deacons, God's music is the Good News, the Gospel which I proclaim and act upon. Spreading the Good News is the dance. It is through our intentions, our acts, our behaviours that we attempt to mirror the image of God's Love in the world. Sometimes I have been guilty of trying to lead God into my dancing space, pulling God's strings so to speak, trying to guide God's steps. I've realized it doesn't work that way. We may be partners in the dance, but it is to God I must defer. It is the beat of God's music that I follow.

As we draw closer to the season of Advent, we look ahead and make preparations for the Incarnation, the birth of the Christ Child. I am reminded of the beautiful old English carol, "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day". Its lyrics recount the story of the Gospel, the Good News, the life of Jesus, a life described as a dance in which each one of us, young and old, is invited to participate.

Often in our churches, we focus on meeting the spiritual needs of the children in an attempt to attract young families. I think we would agree this is a good thing. But we have many senior members who are not able to attend worship services anymore. Many of them live in senior residences, assisted living facilities and nursing homes. They may be away from family and friends and do not have regular visitors. The vast majority of seniors have strong religious or spiritual beliefs. I find this to be true as I minister to residents in a local nursing home. Accompanied by a Lay Reader from my parish, I offer them opportunity to sing and to share in Holy Communion. It

is quite evident they feel the music deep within their hearts. They respond to it, they feel its beat, they "dance" along as we move through the service.

Whenever we enter the foyer of the Nursing Home, there is always someone who gives us a welcoming smile, a hello, a wave. Our destination is the recreation and spiritual centre, a space used for both Bingo Games and Religious Services. Some of the residents wait in wheelchairs or in seats with their walkers close by. Others sit knowing that soon the singing and praying will begin. One or two may pace the floor as they become comfortable in their surroundings. For thirty minutes or so, we all "dance" to the same music, each in our own way.

We start with familiar hymns, and voices blend together in song. The service continues with the reading of the Epistle and the Gospel, occasionally a short message, prayers and Holy Communion. When the Gospel is proclaimed the room is silent. It's almost as if each member of our little congregation is absorbing these comforting words in their own way, in their own time. Many of the residents remember the prayers and are familiar with the response patterns. They follow the words and repeat the phrases. We all seem to be in step. This is truly Holy Ground we are dancing on. When I dip the

Our lives are like a dance; a dance that begins long before our birth and continues after our earthly death. Each of us is keeping time and dancing to God's music.

wafer in the wine and place it on their tongues, their faces soften with recognition and love is reflected in their eyes. It feels like we are suspended in time, part of God's family, surrounded by God's love, hearing God's music. We have been called into the "dance" together. What a blessed moment it is.

And at this moment, I hope I will be forgiven for offering a prayer of thanks to God in words from a popular ABBA song. The lyrics of the chorus seem to sum up what I have been thinking and writing about.

Loving God, "I thank you for the music, the songs I'm singing/Thanks for all the joy they're bringing/Who can live without it, I ask in all honesty/What would life be?/Without a song or a dance what are we?/So I thank you for the music/For giving it to me". Amen

Merry Christmas to all ...

One of the great joys of editing *The Diocesan Times* is the opportunity to worship at so many different church gatherings.

And this past year brought stories from all parts of our diocese - from Cape Breton to Yarmouth to Charlottetown and many points in between. I was fortunate to attend many

of those events and found one commonality at all of them: relationships. Our church is built on relationships - with each other, with the church and with God.

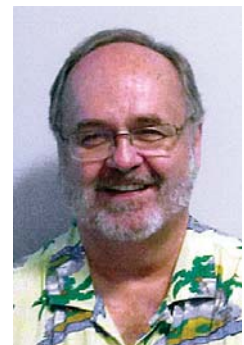
So my role as editor is to share those stories that show the best of our relationships. Our columnists talk about building and renewing

parishes, building a prayer life and sometimes just telling an amusing anecdote about parish life (thanks Aunt Madge!).

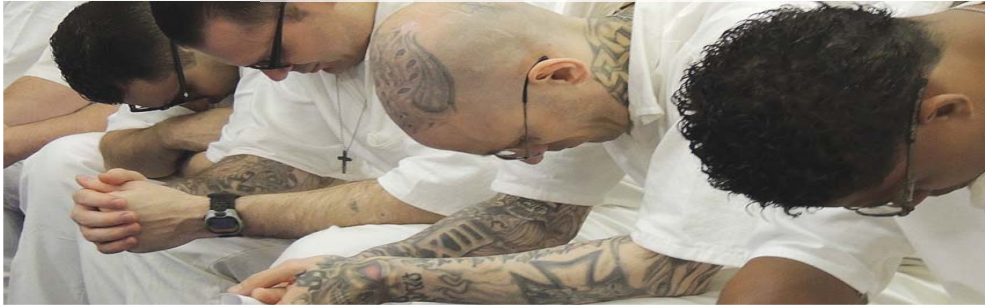
And thank you to all who contribute their stories, columns, puzzles and cartoons for our readers to enjoy. Without your efforts and dedication, *The Diocesan Times* would look much

different.

Finally, a BIG thanks to Harold Irving who is retiring as our Advertising Representative after many years of service. Harold was instrumental in servicing our existing advertisers and recruiting new ones. Thank you for all your hard work!

Paul Sherwood
Editor

... and to all a good night!



ABOUT US

Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) is devoted to the restoration and transformation of those impacted by incarceration based on the life and teachings of Jesus. Our mission is to prepare and mobilize the Canadian Christian community in response to the issue of crime and the restoration of offenders and their families.

Prison Fellowship Canada was incorporated in 1980, and is a charter member of Prison Fellowship International. Together with over 100,000 volunteers in 125 countries, we form the largest prison ministry network in the world.

Prison Fellowship International was founded by Chuck Colson, one of US President Nixon's top aides who served a seven month prison sentence for pleading guilty to obstruction of justice related to the Watergate scandal. While in prison, he saw and experienced the difference faith in Jesus makes in people's lives. He was convinced that the problems associated with crime can largely be resolved through spiritual renewal and moral training.

OUR PROGRAMS

In-Prison Ministry

The primary mission of Prison Fellowship Canada is to use a restorative justice model based on the life and teachings of Jesus to serve those who are incarcerated. PFC works through a national network of trained volunteers to facilitate our programs that encourages personal transformation and healing from the harms that contributed to the offence.

PFC programming encourages offenders to understand the impact of their behaviour, build competencies in empathy and responsibility, and transform shame into hope. Activities for offenders includes: Bible study, Life Skills Training, One-to-One Mentorship, education grants for Biblical Studies.



Remember the Lord's people who are in prison and be concerned for them. Hebrews 19:9

Pen-Pal Letter Exchange

Prisons can be lonely place, especially if offenders are far from family members and don't receive visitors. This program endeavours to establish vibrant, healthy and enduring connections between inmates and volunteers. Volunteers offer friendship and spiritual encouragement through a regular letter exchange process. Letters are generally exchanged once a month, through a confidential process.

"PFC is playing a spiritual mentoring role in my life and is helping me to be a honest, truthful, lawful, conscientious, generous, compassionate, and more Christ centered day by day." - Inmate at Dorchester, NB