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THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2018

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

Bishops launch mission partnership in Saint John

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Standing together at Stone Church in uptown Saint John, Bishop David Edwards and Roman Catholic Bishop of Saint John Robert Harris signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a joint mission project in the city.

The two bishops stood before about 30 people — Anglican and Catholic — at the Oct. 1 press conference. Members of the media were also present.

The project stems from a 2016 visit by Archbishop Justin Welby to Pope Francis I, where they committed to working together on practical initiatives for the betterment of the world, based on John 17:22-23.

“Francis and Justin believe there is a need to see the church acting in unity, showing we have

a common mission,” said the Rev. Dr. John Paul Westin, rector of Stone Church. “It’s a way to build friendship and fellowship in the body [of Christ.]”

From that belief, and under the direction of the International Anglican and Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission (IARCCUM), 19 pairs of bishops — Anglican and Roman Catholic — in 19 geographical regions of the world, were commissioned to find ways to effect change with a special emphasis on the poor.

The first project under IARCCUM is in Malawi and involves education. The second is this one in Saint John. It began when Fawn Wilson White, originally from Saint John, and her husband, Ken White, residents of

Mission continued on page 2



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

Nathan Hall leads the procession into St. Luke’s Church in the Parish of Woodstock on Sept. 23, which saw the ordination of Harold Boomer to the diaconate.

Boomer ordination celebrated

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A large crowd representing several neighbouring parishes gathered at St. Luke’s church in the Parish of Woodstock for the ordination of Harold Boomer.

Harold was ordained a deacon by Bishop David Edwards on Sept. 23. At the beginning of the service, the bishop dedicated the new pew cushions funded by an anonymous donor.

The bishop’s sermon was based on Matthew 9:9-13, the

calling of the tax collector, Matthew.

“What we’re celebrating today is the idea of being called,” he said. “Often what we think is that people are called to wear these clothes — layreaders, deacons, priests — and we tend to think that’s the call. But that’s just the beginning of the call.”

Scripture tells us God made a plan for every one of us before we were even born, he said.

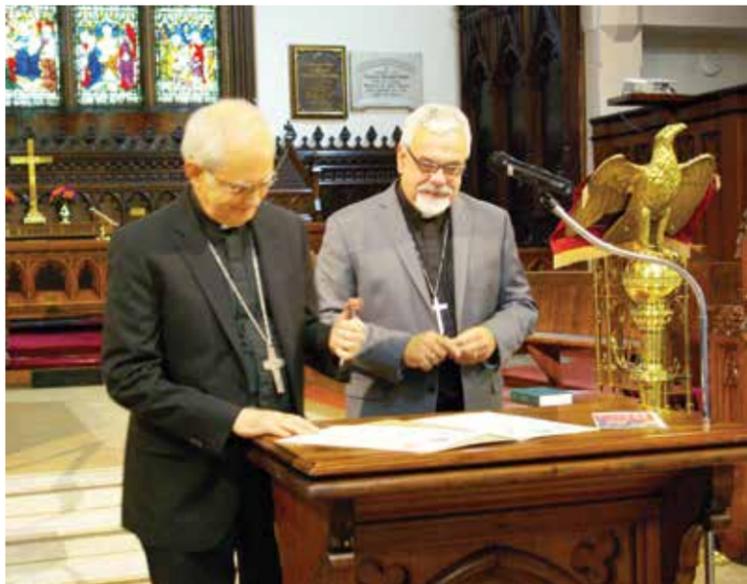
“Then sin came into the world, and we don’t fulfill God’s

plan perfectly,” said the bishop.

He told the story of being a high school teacher, feeling the call to ordained ministry, but applying both to the priesthood and to a new job as head of humanities at a high school.

In England, the decision is made and the offer given on the day of the interview, and Bishop David came away from his teaching interview with a new job. But when he got home that

Boomer continued on page 4



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

Bishop Robert Harris and Bishop David Edwards sign a memorandum of understanding, launching a mission partnership in the city of Saint John.

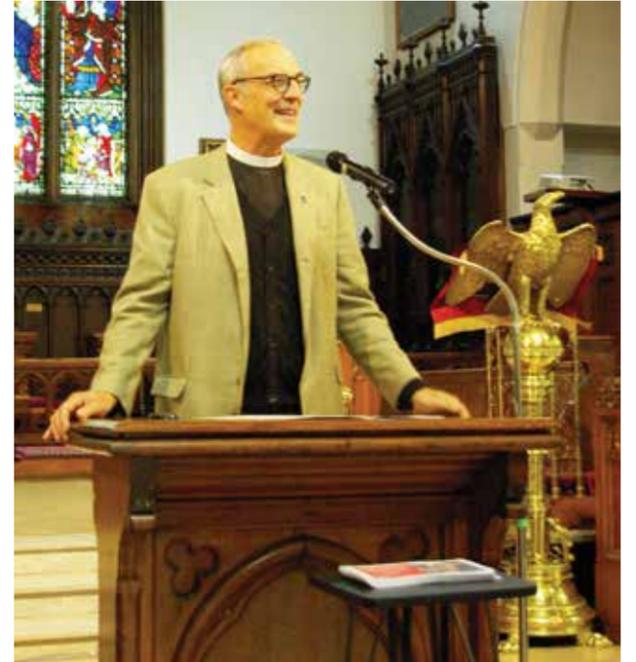
PRAYER FOR DIOCESAN SYNOD - Nov. 3

Almighty God, giver of all and ruler of all that is seen and unseen; we ask for continual divine grace to your Church and especially to the 137th Session of Diocesan Synod. May we walk in your way, leading lives worthy of our calling, in humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love and maintaining the unity of your Spirit in the bond of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS



LEFT: CBC's Connel Smith interviews Leslie Allan, one of the committee members of Saint John's IARCCUM project that has led to the world's second joint mission venture between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.



RIGHT: The Rev. Dr. John Paul Westin welcomes the 30 people gathered for the press conference to launch the Saint John IARCCUM project.

MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

Dads & Tots program in Saint John launched under IARCCUM

Mission continued from page 1

Rome, were back in the port city. Fawn has a connection to Stone Church and spoke to John Paul about IARCCUM.

"They were the catalysts and the ones who brought the idea to do a project to John Paul Westin, then to me and Bishop Harris," said Bishop David. "They've been very encouraging with their support along the way."

The mission project is called Dads & Tots, a six-week playgroup that will give time and space for dads and their young children to simply play with blocks and cars and trucks, draw and colour, read and have a snack.

At the signing, Bishop Harris pronounced the project a wonderful idea.

"Why not? Anything to make the love of Jesus known. We will be working on the project together to promote the vision Jesus had for the world," he said.

"The essence of this is being able to proclaim the love of Jesus into people's lives," said Bishop David. "The way we do that is by showing that love."

He noted that as a former teacher, he became well aware of fathers not being involved in their children's lives for various reasons, and the negative effects it had on his students.

"Here, Christ's heart for children is being demonstrated," he said. "I'm delighted that with Bishop Harris, I'm able to sign this document."

Three media outlets were present at the signing and did extensive interviews with the bishops and with members of the committee, including Leslie Allan, Mark Slader and Pat Desmond.

It was a year ago that the organizing committee came together to come up with a project.

"The committee was trying to identify a focus," said Leslie, an educator and early childhood specialist, who is married to the Rev. Canon Stuart Allan. "I knew there was a gap in services for supporting fathers. As we chatted, it seemed to bring a focus to the conversation."

"We looked at programs out there for fathers and children," said Mark, a member of Stone Church. "One program had been run by a non-church group and had been successful, but it ended and wasn't replaced."

"Studies show that the more fathers are involved in their children's lives, the less criminality, less mental health issues, less relationship problems and health issues there are," said John Paul.

"They have better coping skills, and they are better able to find and hold employment — by the father simply being present in his child's life."

"When a child enters school without their father in their life, they're susceptible to so many of society's ills."

The Revs. Terence and Jasmine Chandra, community chaplains in the centre of Saint John, recognized the value in such a project, and the committee moved ahead.

Mentors for the project are Mark and Pat, "because men relate better to other men," said Leslie, but they won't be there to do anything but support, encourage and guide.

"I like to call it organic. We have the framework and just let it grow organically from there."

"Dads have been diminished. We're not there to give a mo-

reality lesson on parenting. It's promoting healthy relationships and validating dads."

One of the hoped-for benefits will be new relationships.

"We're hoping the dads will get to know each other and start to form their own social networks," said Leslie. "It's important because a lot of families are isolated."

The committee hopes to run the program four times a year, and fundraising will begin soon, though that's unnecessary for this first one.

"We have a donor funding the entire first program," said John Paul, who says he's not worried about money.

"When people see [something like this], the money seems to come."

Those involved are excited to see their 12 months of work come to fruition.

"I'm very grateful to the people who've thought through this idea from its inception, and now we're at the point where it's about to happen," said Bishop David.

"It's important — fathers and children spending time together," said Bishop Harris. "Naively, I'd like to think that's going on, but that's not always happening. It's going to contribute something special to the lives of children and the lives of fathers. It will be building something that will bear fruit."

"As a proud New Brunswicker I am delighted that the first jointly sponsored Anglican-Roman Catholic outreach project initiated in North America in response to the October 2016 Common Declaration of Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury should be launched

in Saint John," said Fawn.

"The project will benefit some of our most vulnerable and most at risk. Bishop Robert Harris, Bishop David Edwards, Fr. John Paul Westin and Fr. Doug McNeill are to be congratulated for their vision and initiative, and I hope that this early childhood intervention program will be just the first of many such ventures in Canada and beyond!"

"In one way it's a very humbling thing — six fathers and their children — but we'll build on that," said John Paul. "It's a repeatable program and dads can sign up again for it. We hope it will build by word of mouth."

"We'll be constantly evaluating and tweaking, but we won't see quick results. Those are one year, 10 years, 20 years down the road."

DEADLINE for news and photos for the December edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Nov. 1. Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Read beyond the first paragraph!

As I write this I am just coming to the end of the Townhall Series about Canon 21 (the Marriage Canon).

I am glad that many people came to the events and want to thank the participants for the generally respectful way in which people interacted. The issue we face is far from being straightforward and for us to think that we will pass through it easily would be a great mistake.

There will be a need for gracious restraint and pastoral understanding as we move towards July next year and then beyond it.

It is not my intention to revisit the Townhall series in this article, but I felt the need to reference it. I want to point us forward toward our mission.

I know that people feel it is all I speak of, but that is because I am so passionate about it. I am also aware that some are tired of me apparently spreading gloom.

I want to point us in the direction of a study by Reginald Bibby. It is a look at religious belief and practice in Canada, named *Resilient Gods* (published by UBC Press). There are many insights in the book, but there is one which is particularly important for us.

People often speak to me about the fact that our church is declining numerically. There is a glance over our shoulder to the



“glory days” of the 40s, 50s and 60s, and a grieving that, from the 70s onwards, we have gone into a “tailspin.”

In addition to this, there is a quite understandable desire to tell me why this decline has happened and to provide possible solutions. People have some fine ideas and I am grateful for them, but Dr. Bibby has pointed to something which I had not considered before, and which particularly applies to us as Anglicans.

He refers to the role of immigration in the growth of churches. Today, numbers in many parts of the Roman Catholic Church (in Toronto and Vancouver, for example) are maintained or growing.

This, he suggests, is because many of the parishioners who have died are replaced by people from places elsewhere in the

world where the Roman Catholic Church is strong. The same applies to many of the non-traditional Protestant churches.

Back in the 40s, 50s and 60s, the majority of immigrants came from European countries and they brought their denominational ties with them. This meant a healthy stream of newcomers for the Anglican, Lutheran and other so called “mainline churches.”

This type of migration has now slowed to a trickle, which has at least two effects for us: the bump that we had back then is moving through; and we are not likely to see a new bump. Fewer than one per cent of new Canadians come from the UK at present.

Bibby’s research further points out that there is not as great a lack of interest in spiritual matters as we might think, and this holds across all age groups.

The issue is how do we enable people to explore their spiritual questions? For some, mainly those who have well-shaped questions, Alpha and similar programs are extremely helpful and should be encouraged.

Other people are not in that place, or the Alpha way of thinking is not their way of working through thoughts and ideas.

As I finished Bibby’s book I happened upon another by

Brian Zahnd called *Water to Wine; Some of My Story*.

Zahnd was a well-known pastor of a large church south of the border. In the early 2000s he felt the need to change his direction, and over the years, has experienced a profound movement in the way he understands his faith. He has drawn upon resources from across Christian denominations on his journey.

On the road he has felt pointed to five central pillars which he believes are essential to our changing the dynamic of our Christian life together. I have found great resonance with these and intend to write about them over the next few months.

I do not think they are a panacea, but I would suggest they can help us into a new way of thinking.

For now, I will leave them hanging tantalizingly in front of you. They are: cross; mystery, eclectic, community and revolution. You can always get ahead of me by reading Zahnd’s book.

David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
NOV. 11

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

OCTOBER 25-30
HOUSE OF BISHOPS

NOVEMBER 3
DIOCESAN SYNOD

NOVEMBER 15
PARISH OF DERBY
AND BLACKVILLE *

NOVEMBER 16
CANADIAN MOTHERS'
UNION MEETING

NOVEMBER 17
SEE THROUGH THE
SCRIPTURES -
ARCHDEACONRY OF
MONCTON

NOVEMBER 21 - 24
PARISH OF BATHURST
DINNER THEATRE

NOVEMBER 25
PARISH OF STANLEY *

NOV. 30 - DEC. 1
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
RETREAT

DECEMBER 2
ARCHDEACONRY OF
MONCTON - LESSONS
AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 4
BISHOP'S COUNSEL

* CONFIRMATION

Stewardship & Remembrance Day connections



As I write this, Thanksgiving is just a few days away, but by the time you read this, it will be just a few days to Remembrance Day, Nov. 11 which this year falls on a Sunday.

It's very appropriate to remember that the Great War, or the First World War, ended 100 years ago.

I begin with the following from John 15: 12-13: “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

As we pause to remember the sacrifices made by all members of our Armed Forces, both in Canada and elsewhere, think on the above. Many people joined up in 1914 and 1939 and put their lives on hold so they could fight for freedom and for the protection of the country they loved.

Each enlistee embodied the words Jesus spoke to the disci-

ples, and it is worth remembering their duty and service. Just as Jesus died for us, so did all the veterans in various wars.

Sometimes Stewardship is not about money; it is about giving of yourself to the service of others. The ultimate gift you can give is as Jesus states, to ‘lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

Now I am not suggesting that we all do this, but we have seen examples in New Brunswick in the last few years.

I live in Moncton and can remember vividly the day just over four years ago when three members of the RCMP were

killed doing their duty protecting the rest of us; and recently in Fredericton the deaths of two officers.

For a few days in June 2014, my wife and I did not leave our house. We could see and hear the RCMP helicopter circling above us.

So I ask you to take some time as we approach Remembrance Day and thank any veterans you know, appreciate the sacrifices they have made, and help them in any way you can. *Michael Briggs is the diocesan stewardship officer. He lives in Moncton.*

WHEN YOU ... listen with all your heart • HONOUR YOUR ELDERS • encourage young people to take over the church often and loudly • choose good over evil • welcome the stranger • write the government about the issues that matter • INVITE A CO-WORKER TO CHURCH • help your dad do housework • get messy with your Sunday school kids • SAY “THANK YOU LORD” AND MEAN IT • Tweet your blessings one by one • introduce your grandchildren to nature • READ AND SHARE GOD’S WORD • ...THEN YOU ARE LIVING THE MARKS OF MISSION www.anglican.ca/marks

“SHARING HOPE & HELP”

Anglican
Diocese of
Fredericton:
Sharing hope
and help
in our
communities
and beyond

ORDINATION



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

LEFT: Bishop David Edwards, assisted by Ann Whiteway Brown, lays hands on Harold Boomer as part of the service of ordination. **RIGHT: Andrea Boomer and her husband, Harold**, cut the congratulatory cake at the potluck lunch after the service.

Neighbouring parishes well represented at Woodstock ordination

Boomer continued from page 1

day, a letter was waiting for him, inviting him to an interview regarding ordination.

God's perfect plan for Bishop David had to wait three more years.

"Although we turn our backs on him, God is not surprised that 2018 has come," he said.

"He's always had this plan and purpose for our lives."

Many spend a long time ignoring the plan, running away from it and getting it wrong.

The bishop told the story of a friend who worked in an office. He and many others, including the boss, were Christians, so he asked the boss if they could organize some prayer and bible

readings.

The boss pointed to his coat rack and told the man, 'Every morning I hang my coat, and my Christianity, on that hook.'

"If we're going to be authentic followers of Jesus, we must ask 'how can I best follow Jesus in the job, the role I am in,'" he said.

"Harold is called, has always

been called. This is just another step in his call."

We have to be willing to live in a way that allows us to discover that call, he said.

Harold received gifts from the ACW, the Parish of Woodstock and the Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen, where he has been training under supervisor the Rev. Bob

LeBlanc.

Bob, as well as the Rev. Canon Fran Bedell, were in attendance. Fran is the regional dean in the Archdeaconry of Woodstock.

After the service, everyone was invited to a potluck lunch in the hall.

Harold will continue his ministry in the Parish of Woodstock with rector Shirley Noseworthy.



BOB LEBLANC PHOTO

HARVEST SUPPER

The Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen held its harvest supper on Sunday, Sept. 30 at Camp Brookwood. Many people turned out for the annual feast and fellowship.

CAMPING MINISTRY

Registrations up at Camp Medley

BY ALLYSON CALDWELL

Wow! What a summer we had at Camp Medley! As always, our summer was one of campfires, games, swimming and chapel time — with a big helping of play, laughter and heat!

There are so many stories I want to tell you about our summer, but first I must share with you some of our most exciting highlights from 2018.

This summer we welcomed over 400 campers to our regular camp sessions.

This jump in registration has led us to expand our registration limits and continue to add more options to our camp week selection.

We also welcomed 25 families to our much-loved family camp weekend, seeing more than 125 people over the course of the weekend.

Our newest camp addition this summer was our Girl Boss camp, which saw a dozen young girls come and celebrate a week of typical camp, but with a twist.

The 'Girl Bosses' stepped out of the 'normal' camp schedule, participating in specialty games and programming, and spent time in the 'shadows' of camp orchestrating acts of kindness for the female staff and campers.

They made a splash with balloon painting, mentored the younger campers, and ran the camp world all in a few short days!

Camp on the Road once again experienced a successful summer. Our COTR staff were welcomed by 10 parishes, and together we were able to reach over 200 Medley day campers!

Now at the end of our three-year pilot period, we are excited to review our last three years,

which will result in a revamped COTR for 2019. Parish bookings are already happening for next summer!

Our specialty camps, including Boys and Girls Adventure weeks, continue to be our most popular camps — and the first to have a waitlist.

So what makes these camps such a hit? Specialty camps are designed to target campers who are looking for a more hands-on camp experience.

These camps are run in smaller groups so that campers and staff can spend significant time learning together. Perhaps the most exciting part of these camps is the overnight out-trip to an island.

Campers spend their week planning, packing and learning survival techniques before they set off on their canoe trip.

While the campers love a good round of Capture the Flag or an afternoon of canoeing in the river, those specific activities are not the things that bring our families back year after year.

Camp is a place where kids can go to laugh, play, build new skills, and challenge themselves in new and healthy ways.

It's a place where they can be silly and make friends, ask the hard questions, and ultimately walk away at the end of the week knowing they are special, valued and loved.

Acknowledging and nurturing that sense of community is what camp ministry is all about, and I believe it is what brings our families back every summer.

There are so many people who make the camping season possible. At the front and centre of it all is our camp staff.

I am grateful to all of the staff who dedicated their entire sum-



Girl boss camp was new this year at Camp Medley. Above, the girls all have a hand in making bath bombs using epsom salts, baking soda, citric acid, coconut oil, mint essential oil, food colouring and water.

At right, Tuck is always a favourite time of the day at camp, with lots of treats to choose from.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

mer to taking care of children in a safe and loving environment.

Whether its 10 p.m. on the cabin stoop talking about bugs; 2 a.m. doing 'nighttime' laundry; or 5 a.m. in the kitchen baking homemade muffins, their love, patience and grace show in all they do.

The camper-counselor bond that exists is one of the most sacred parts of camp.

We are continually blessed by the chaplains and nurses who donate weeks of their time to be such a special presence in our camp community.

Thank you to the countless parishes and families who go above and beyond to support our campers, be it financially, helping them buy the essentials for camp, or providing a drive. Your contribution makes

camp a reality for hundreds of kids every summer!

On behalf of Camp Medley, we wish all our camp families a safe and happy year. Thank you for letting us be a part of your Summer 2018. Stay tuned for lots of fun winter events. See you soon, campers!

Allyson Caldwell is the acting director of Camp Medley.



Alpha has a new home in Saint John!

This fall a popular tavern and steakhouse in Saint John is witness to a strange and unusual sight — a group of Anglicans trying to reach those outside the walls of the church.

St. Mary & St. Bartholomew has taken its Alpha program to the Three Mile Steak and Rib House — a well-known and long-time bar on the city's east side.

Thanks to our creative and

daring rector, Canon Greg McMullin, and the grace of God, we are stepping into the unknown.

With an enthusiastic group of parishioners we take this leap of faith to see what God will do.

For even one person, one soul, it's well worth all the effort of stepping off the cliff into the unknown.

For eight weeks in this venue, we hope to present the faith and pray that it will have its full

effect in the lives of those who attend this pioneering venture.

We have gathered a team of dedicated facilitators and helpers and anticipate a good outcome as we ask the Holy Spirit to bless this program, not knowing what may happen, but only that He is in control.

Our faith was rewarded early, with over 30 participants on the first night, not counting leaders!

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Diocesan Council highlights from September's meeting

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Diocesan Council met Sept. 22 at St. John the Evangelist in Fredericton. This was the last meeting before Diocesan Synod on Nov. 3.

The meeting opened with Holy Eucharist and a homily by Bishop David Edwards. He spoke on servanthood from Mark 9:30-37.

"You may have noticed that twice, 'the way' is mentioned," he said. "It runs right through the next chapters. This part of Mark's gospel is a hinge."

In Mark 8 and 9, Jesus is moving from Galilee to Jerusalem on "the way" to his destiny.

"What we have in this picture is Jesus moving towards his death — the iconic act of a servant.

"He introduces early on in this gospel the idea of servanthood. The ultimate example is Jesus, son of God, God incarnate, entering into space and time to become a servant of all, serving all of creation."

Jesus is saying to his disciples, 'you will observe the way as I walk to the cross, and you will have your own way to your own cross,' he said.

The hierarchy of servanthood is really an inverted triangle, with the one at the bottom serving those at the top. The bishop said he tries to do things that remind him of his position as servant, and he encouraged council members to do the same.

"Each congregation should do something to remind them of who they are — servants of all around them. That intentionally helps keep our focus," he said, adding the text from Mark is a challenging one.

Faith formation

Parish development officer Shawn Branch led a time of faith formation. While he had something completely different prepared, he awoke with the pressing idea of storytelling as the basis of his presentation. As such, he asked people to pair up and share their story with each other.

He lamented that we have left our stories behind, when actually, they need to be told to

gain a better understanding of each other.

"We put [church] business ahead of hearing people's stories," he said.

He told his story to illustrate his point. As a teenager he was forced to go to youth group. For six months he went every Sunday night, standing in the corner, saying nothing. Little improved over the years. There were many invitations to church, to caroling and other activities, to which he always said yes, but meant no.

He wanted no part of it, but he eventually went to TEC at the age of 16 and met a woman who said she'd been praying for him for four months. He was shocked that anyone would care, but it was that weekend when everything clicked for him.

"I started to realize who God created me to be," he said. "It was the first place where I felt loved and wanted. I want our churches to go after those who say yes but mean no."

How do we do that?

"Do you know the stories of your people?" he asked. "Hang out with people and learn their stories. One thing I realized is the more we get to know one another's stories, the more we can work as a team.

"It helps when you know someone's story, so when someone has a totally different opinion, you know where's he's coming from.

"In churches, people are fighting and quarrelling, and we only know the story we created because we don't really know the real one.

"We're making decisions for the whole diocese, but at the end of the day, we're really about dealing with people," he said. "We need to create space to allow people to have their story and see how it intersects with God's story. That's the epiphany I had at 5 a.m."

Shawn ended his presentation with a prayer, asking that God give us the desire to know each other's stories.

Reports

Stemming from a motion at last year's diocesan synod, each archdeacon gave a report, citing highlights such as outreach



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

TOP: Diocesan Council members Rod Black, Robert Taylor, Siobhan Laskey, William Ross and Dylan Nicoll

MIDDLE: Keith Osborne, Sandy MacPherson and Lionel Hayter

BOTTOM: Synod treasurer Heather Harris-Jones gives her report to council.

in their areas and progress with the "Surprise the World" book by Michael Frost.

Cheryl Jacobs, chair of the Spiritual Development Team, reported that all the ministry-related team chairs are partnering for an event planned for 2019. It will focus on all aspects of ministry, she said.

There will be keynote speaker Michael Frost, whom many have come to know through the book mentioned above and his videos, plus several workshops and worship. The event is June 14-15 at the

University of New Brunswick in Fredericton.

Motions

Three of the motions dealt with canons and recommendations to Diocesan Synod. Chancellor David Bell explained the changes and all three motions were passed.

Moved that Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Four — Diocesan Governance.

Moved that Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Four — Diocesan Governance, and Canon

Six — Parish Governance.

Moved that Diocesan Council recommend that the Synod amend Canon Five — Diocesan Business.

One final motion not related to canon amendments and which was passed, was as follows: Moved that Diocesan Council receive the 2017 Financial Statements as presented.

Diocesan Council will meet for a retreat Nov. 30-Dec. 1 planned by the Spiritual Development Team. The next regular meeting is Feb. 23.

YOUTH & INTERGENERATIONAL



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



LEFT: Participants in the middle of an icebreaker game; ABOVE: The gathered participants listen as Jason Smith presents the survey findings.



YIG tackles youth survey results

Over 20 dedicated youth leaders, youth and clergy got together at St. Paul's in Rothesay Sept. 29 to review the results from the Hear Our Youth's Voices surveys.

The YIG (Youth & Intergenerational Ministries) Team released a series of surveys for the parishes, families and youth of the diocese to complete in May and June. They were an attempt to aid the YIG team in getting a sense of the climate of youth ministry in the diocese and to hear from a variety of voices.

We received 114 responses to the surveys. Within each respondent group (parish, family, youth) there were over 30 responses and representation from every archdeaconry.

The surveys had both multiple choice and narrative

questions that provided insight into possible ways for our diocese to move forward in youth ministry, as well as insight into where there may be disconnect between our leadership, youth and current programs.

The YIG team took the summer to analyze the results and a report was prepared.

On Sept. 29, the day started with worship led by Christian Gowan and continued with some icebreaker games.

An overview of the survey results pointed out the three main takeaways. The first was on church and camp, with a majority of family and youth respondents choosing camp as a way they connected with God and elaborating on how camp impacted their faith.

The bridge from camp to parish differed. It's okay that

parish and camp are different but it was stressed that better communication/partnership may be needed to create more opportunities to bridge that gap.

The second takeaway was "beyond Sunday morning" where again, family and youth respondents wanted something else throughout the week for opportunities to grow their faith.

This does not necessarily mean more programs or curriculum, but authentic relationships and serving opportunities within the communities.

And finally the third takeaway was contemporary versus traditional. The survey asked about preferences between BAS and BCP, music and style of worship. It was interesting that there were no clear prefer-

ences and that respondents was split evenly between BAS, BCP and a mix of both.

After the presentation, the participants were split into groups facilitated by a YIG member and including a youth under 25, in a series of roundtable discussions that focused on relevance of church versus expectations, parent engagement, biblical literacy, meaningful community engagement, music, opportunities to serve and more than Sunday.

Out of these discussions and presentation of the survey results, the YIG team asked for some tangible ideas it can move forward with in 2019.

The Rev. Rob Montgomery finished the day with a short presentation on the benefits and practical uses of The Bible Project. The Bible Project is

a free resource that provides videos and animations to help connect the bible, understand the stories, words and themes and so much more. Rob was able to provide some useful hints in how to implement The Bible Project with youth groups and families.

The YIG team would like to thank everyone who participated in the Diocesan Youth Ministry Conference and all the participants of the Hear Our Youth's Voices surveys.

Copies of the report can be found on the YIG's Facebook page, the diocesan website (anglican.nb.ca > about > synod > committees and teams > youth & intergenerational ministries) or by contacting Jason Smith (yigftn@gmail.com).

Jason Smith is the YIG chair.

DEEP ROOTS

A Gathering for the whole Diocese
Teaching | Workshops | Prayer | Fellowship



Keynote Speaker:
MIKE FROST
speaker, missiologist, author

June 14-15, 2019
UNB Fredericton
anglican.nb.ca/deeproots



LEFT: Townhall meetings in Edmundston and Bathurst. RIGHT: Townhall meetings in Fredericton and Miramichi. Above: Bishop David Edwards leads the townhall meeting in Moncton.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO



SHAWN BRANCH PHOTOS

Townhalls open discussion on Marriage Canon

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Nine townhall meetings held around the diocese during September have given Anglicans a chance to learn about and discuss the topic of same-gender marriage, due to the proposed changes to Canon XXI (the Marriage Canon).

The topic will be on the agenda at both the Nov. 3 Diocesan Synod and next summer's General Synod in Vancouver.

After the initial passing of a motion to change the marriage canon to include same-gender marriage at the 2016 General Synod, dioceses were asked for their input in the lead-up to the second, required vote in 2019.

All that aside, Bishop David Edwards made it clear that his main goal is to find a way to move forward together in love, no matter what the outcome next year.

Each townhall meeting followed the same format: after an opening prayer, the bishop read the text of the amend-

ment to Canon XXI passed at General Synod in 2016. Then he read his own paper on the topic, which can be found here: <http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/sessions/pages/137th-session-2018>

At the Fredericton meeting held at Christ Church (Parish) Church, the bishop pointed out that any number of things could happen at General Synod next year. The motion to change the marriage canon needs a second vote to proceed, and if the vote is yes, the change would come into effect Jan. 1, 2020. But between July and January, each diocese would be asked to vote at their own synod.

However, the motion before General Synod could be amended or withdrawn, making the outcome anyone's guess. In the meantime, there are many people working to come up with alternatives.

After his presentation, the bishop took questions from those gathered. Finally, the people at each table were asked to tackle several questions, the

most pressing being, "What things do you think the Council of General Synod (CoGS) should take into account when considering this matter?"

The answers from each table, at each meeting, have been collected and will be formatted into a document that will be sent to CoGS. At the Fredericton meeting, they included consideration of many issues: Holy Scripture; care for the hurting; our relationship with the Anglican Communion; the power of General Synod to change doctrine; the views of people in the pews; financial consequences; cost of litigation; First Nations' voice; LGBTQ voice; alternative ways to resolve the issue (instead of using parliamentary procedure); ceasing to perform the marriage ceremony for anyone; how great is the need to change the canon; unity in parishes being more important than difference; the need for clarity; the size of the church after this is over; the leading of the Holy Spirit; and tolerance for each other.

Near the end of the two-hour meeting, each table was asked to report on their answers, and finally, the bishop took a few more questions.

At the Fredericton townhall meeting on Sept. 27, the mood was cordial. Clergy numbered 13, with a total of 52 in attendance.

In Fredericton, questions from the floor included a conscience clause for clergy not comfortable marrying a same-gender couple; the authority of bishops in their dioceses; and the discernment of

the Holy Spirit on this issue.

A question was asked about clergy changing parishes. In a celebration of new ministry service, the cleric must promise to adhere to the doctrines of the Anglican Church of Canada. If doctrine changes, what is a priest to do — never change parishes to avoid that promise?

"When I mentioned this to the Primate, he said 'this is an unintended consequence which I hadn't realized,'" said Bishop David.

The bishop ended the evening with

a prayer "that we not lose sight of what we're really about, held together in love for each other."

To allow those gathered to speak freely, none of the questions or comments below, other than the bishop's, have been attributed to the speakers.

Quotes from the Fredericton townhall meeting:

- Question to the bishop: What are you recommending?

Bishop: I'm recommending that we find a way to go forward.

- We went through this with the marriage of divorced persons. People said the church would dissolve if we went forward with it. It hasn't.

- I don't think marriage is up for discussion. I really struggle with the issue of redefining marriage.

- If First Nations determine they cannot stay in the Anglican Communion, how will they be cared for?

- When I received my orders, I made

a promise to adhere to the doctrines of the Anglican Church of Canada. If the canon changes, do I have to change my beliefs?

- How great is the need to change the canon? People aren't busting down the doors to get married.

- We want clarity moving forward. Marriage is only a small part of our mission. Unity is more important.

- At General Synod I noted a fatigue among some delegates. We've been dealing with it for so long. It was a feeling of 'let's just vote and be done with it.' It was very sad.

Highlights from the bishop's paper:

"I know that some people are concerned about my personal position regarding our diocese remaining as part of the Anglican Church of Canada. I want to make it absolutely clear that I will not lead the diocese out of the Anglican Communion."

"The following is a generality, but I

think is correct in essence. Those who would vote "yes" for same-sex marriage tend to begin from a human rights perspective, whereas the "no" voters begin with scripture and doctrine. People generally sit on a spectrum between these two points."

"It is difficult for people to understand how an opposite view to theirs (their view being so basic to who they are) can be legitimate. Is it possible to accept a view that we disagree with as valid? In other words, on a matter like this, can we say that we do not know enough to be definitive? Is it possible to live together within the tension?"

"Can we move forward together? As I said earlier, there will be some who are unable to stay and who they are is likely to depend upon how the possible vote in General Synod is resolved. It is a burden to me that no matter what the decision, people will face hurt. Such a thing is antithetical to the role of the Church, which is to be a place of healing."

"Can we move forward together? As I said earlier, there will be some who are unable to stay and who they are is likely to depend upon how the possible vote in General Synod is resolved. It is a burden to me that no matter what the decision, people will face hurt."

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Meet your Diocesan Council members

Diocesan Council members were asked to answer the following questions: What is your background and/or career, and how has that prepared you for your work on DC? Why did you decide to become involved with DC? Who is Jesus to you? What is your hope for the diocese?

Heather Harris-Jones

I am a CPA and treasurer for the Diocese with a diverse business background.

I was looking for a role where my work could make a difference and have more purpose than the bottom line.

Who is Jesus? He is my saviour.

My hope for the diocese is to support it, including its missions and parishes.

Robert Taylor

I am a creature who loves stability — so much so that I still occupy my parents' homestead in East Riverside (now part of Rothesay).

Educated in Rothesay and at UNB, I went on to a teaching career, mostly at Saint John High School but also a year each in England and China.

Following my official retirement in 2001, I worked part-time for several years as a driver educator, and then as a taxi driver. The other drivers nicknamed me The Professor!

In any organization I have worked for or been part of, I have never been content to sit back and let others do the work.

I have held many leadership positions in education, community

organizations, the choral community, my chosen parishes (St. Paul's Valley and Rothesay), and in the Diocese.

My longest service, which ended in 2017, was over 30 years as treasurer of Diocesan Choir School. Currently I am part of the Stewardship Team and vice-chair of the Nominating Committee, and was lay delegate to the latest Provincial Synod.

God and His Son, Jesus, have always been an important presence in my life, but became more so when my wife, Jean, and I temporarily uprooted ourselves in order to teach a year in China.

My attitude was, "God, I can't do this much of a culture shock on my own, I need Your help."

I also have relied very



Heather Harris-Jones



Robert Taylor

much on His presence during the past several years when I was Jean's caregiver as her health failed.

She passed away in August 2017, less than three weeks shy of "three-score years and ten" (cf. Ps. 90:4).

We enjoyed 29 years happily married, and were privileged to travel to every continent except Antarctica.

A big highlight was visiting our twin parish in the Diocese of Eldoret.

My hope for the Dio-

cese of Fredericton is two-fold. First, that intentional discipleship and missional leadership will become more and more a way of life at the grassroots.

And second, that the Diocese and the whole Anglican Church will remain intact and grow stronger as we debate and decide questions around the marriage canon and other controversial topics that will no doubt emerge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 17, 1-4 p.m.
Nativity Scenes Open House & Angel Display All Saints Anglican Church, 150 Crock's Point Road, Keswick Ridge. All are welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
The choirs of the Parishes of Fredericton and New Maryland, under the direction of Alice Boyd and Willis Noble, will offer the

Service of Evensong at the Parish of Fredericton (Christ Church [Parish] Church). Come along and enjoy this beautiful service from The Book of Common Prayer.

Thursday, Nov. 29
LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) presents a dessert auction at Church of the Good Shephard, 668 Manawagonish Rd., Saint John. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dessert served at 6:30; auction starts at 7. For tickets

(\$10 each), call the church at 635-8145.

Saturday, Dec. 1, 5-6 p.m.
The 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held at St. James the Less, 4069 Rt. 620, Tay Creek. There will be a carol sing, hot cider, and complimentary treats! All are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m.
Christmas Near and Far:
A Christmas concert featuring a variety of local talent will be held at Christ Church, 30 Prince William Street, St. Stephen in support of children near and far. A free-will offering will be shared between our local We've Got Your Back Program and Bishop McAllister College in Uganda for food and tuition respectively. Tax receipts are available. Light refreshments will be served following the concert.



ADVENT HAZARDS

TABLES BUCKLING UNDER SHEER WEIGHT OF MINCE PIES

UNREST OVER THE CORRECT WEEK TO LIGHT THE PINK CANDLE

ADVENT WREATH FIRES

SUPERMARKETS RUNNING OUT OF ORANGES

Cartoonchurch.com

DIOCESAN YOUNG ADULTS PILGRIMAGE
Spring 2019

YIG is looking for growing Christians aged 18-24 who want to experience a discipleship opportunity, grow in their faith and improve their leadership skills.

Applications are due Nov. 30.
Information: acaldwell@diofton.ca

ROATÁN UPDATE

What's new at the Roatán Episcopal Church Ministry?

September 2018 update

Stand up and shine (Levántate y Resplandece) was the theme for the fifth anniversary celebrations at the Emmanuel Episcopal Community, and both congregations met together and worshipped the Most High, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The theme of our celebration was the passage Isaiah 60:1. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Saturday we preached this message: "Your current condition does not determine your prophetic destiny." And on Sunday the message was "Raising a powerful church."

It is not about coming to church to preach a very good sermon, or having good worship, or fellowship. It is about how to fish, how our people can be an example in the community; it is about learning, empowering and serving the people in need in this sinful world.

We are raising a powerful church with God's help, and our expectations are that this new generation can make a difference in their schools, colleges, homes, marriages, work and everywhere they go.

It has been five years now since we started Emmanuel Church, and it was and is a great blessing to serve the Lord on the Bay Island of Roatán.

A warm welcome to the Rev. Robert Browning from New Jersey. He just retired as a priest from the Episcopal Church in the U.S. and now is moving to Roatán to settle here. He will help us with our ministry.

As you can see, a minister never retires. Please pray for the Rev. Robert (Bob) in his new journey that God will guide him in this new stage in his life. Welcome to Emmanuel Church.

A powerful letter

A 10-year-old wrote a letter to a couple in Miramichi, N.B. to thank them for their help buying school supplies and for some presents they had sent. The little girl wrote that her dream was to visit them some time in the

future.

Guess what? This couple is going to make this dream a reality and Joarys (10) and her sister Grissel (17) will go visit them in Miramichi. This month we are starting the process of getting their passports, and arranging English classes, and we will start applying for Canadian and U.S. visas for them.

Please pray for Joarys and Grissel and the whole application process. They are parishioners of Emmanuel Church. If you have a contact person in the Canadian Embassy in Guatemala who can help with this, please let me know.

Financial appeal

We are faced with the challenge of a deficit in our funding that has not yet been reversed. In fact, it now stands at \$2,685. We value your prayers for this situation. Please consider sending a special gift for our support through the Diocese of Fredericton.

To donate now, please visit www.anglican.nb.ca then go to "Donate." Be sure to select "Honduras Mission Fund."

Cheques should be made payable to "The Diocesan Synod of Fredericton" and sent to: Anglican Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, 115 Church Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4C8

All cheques should have "Honduras Mission" noted on the memo line.

We greatly appreciate your prayer and financial support to date and trust that you will continue to support us.

Please continue to pray for:

- Continued and stable financial support for the next three years as we continue to serve the Lord on Roatán, Honduras.
- The ongoing construction in Coxen Hole. Pray for the remaining installation stages: walls to be finished stuccoing, and concrete for the floor and ceramic tiles.
- Our congregations: St. Peter by the Sea in Brick Bay, and Emmanuel in Coxen Hole.
- The Rev. Robert Browning who is moving to Roatán and



Isaiah 60:1 - "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you" was the inspiration for anniversary celebrations in Roatán, Honduras earlier this fall. The photos show a wonderful spiritual celebration as the two congregations came together to mark the special occasion.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

for this new stage in his life.

- Joarys and Grissel and the process of getting their American and Canadian visas to visit Canada.
- Youth leadership, that God will provide someone to minister to and guide the young people.
- Short term mission teams who plan to come to Roatán in the near future from Canada. A team from New Song Church in Port Perry and St. Bride's Church in Mississauga plan a

March 2019 visit.

- Spiritual and practical outreach in the local communities.
- Leadership for the Church in Roatán.
- The Episcopal Church in Honduras, for the process toward self-sufficiency by the end of 2019.

Thank you to all who have faithfully prayed and faithfully given to support this incredible work of ministering to the people in our congregations. Matthew 25:40: "Whatever

you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Your prayers and continued support enable us to continue touching people's lives with Jesus' love. May God continue to richly bless you.

The Revs. Nelson and Kara (Thompson) Mejia head a diocesan mission in Roatán, Honduras. Kara is from New Brunswick.

CHURCH HISTORY

Canterbury, chief over all others

BY BOBBIE ANN COLE

Almost a thousand years ago, in 1067, the cathedral built by Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, was destroyed by fire. Built in the early 600s, it had been extended several times over the centuries.

Archaeologists investigating below the 1786 floor that was about to be replaced in 1993, found the footings of the old Saxon cathedral to be almost as large as the vast nave of today.

The fire, coming as it did just a year after the Norman invasion of 1066 — a date well known to every English schoolboy and girl — was probably no accident. William the Conqueror, who defeated Saxon King Harold, hated Saxon churches.

Back home, in northern France, they had cathedrals that were altogether more refined and elegant, made of stone with sweeping arches in the Romanesque style. William set out to revolutionize English ecclesiastical architecture.

He was equally determined to reform and reorganize the Church itself, seizing control from the Pope to empower the monarchy, leaving only God and the saints above himself as king.

He needed a new Archbishop of Canterbury who understood the Norman French language and culture he brought to England and who would support and implement his ideas.

His choice fell on Lanfranc, an Italian monk, already in his sixties. Lanfranc had been a prior, abbot and teacher in Normandy. He and William knew one another well.

This archbishop-monarch pairing would prove a far greater success than any that would follow. Subsequent kings of England who set out to wrest control from the Pope in Rome would meet with opposition from their clerics. (Think Henry the Second and Archbishop Thomas Becket, murdered in Canterbury cathedral — more of that next time.)

Lanfranc set out to rebuild Canterbury cathedral in Romanesque style. Vast quantities of pale stone were brought by



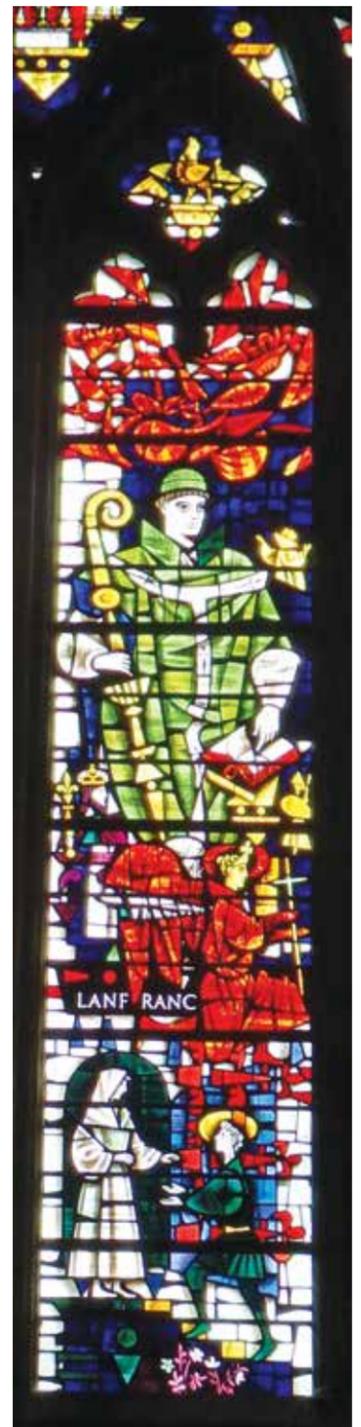
TOP: St. John's Hospital, rebuilt in the 1840s.

RIGHT: St. John's Hospital's 15th century entrance featuring Roman brick recycled from the Roman occupation of the 1st-5th centuries.

FAR RIGHT: Lanfranc in glass at St. Dunstan's church in Canterbury.



BOBBIE ANN COLE PHOTOS



barge from Caen in France, travelling across the English Channel and up the Stour River to within a couple of miles of the city, before being delivered in wagons pulled by oxen.

Started in 1070, it was finished in just seven years. It had two western towers, a small choir and a squat tower with a golden seraph on the top.

Other cathedrals in England soon followed suit. By William's death in 1087, nine of the country's 15 cathedrals had been rebuilt in the Romanesque style. The six remaining would also be rebuilt within 50 years.

Lanfranc built a bishop's palace next to his cathedral. He founded a hospital for lepers in nearby Harbledown.

A great supporter of the monasterial system, he also created an almshouse near to the cathedral for a hundred monks and nuns, probably

Saxon, who had fallen on hard times through the Norman invasion.

Known as a hospital offering hospitality, rather than for the sick, he named his almshouse St. John's Hospital, after John the Baptist, on whose feast day, August 29th, Lanfranc had been consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury in 1070.

St. John's continues to do the work it was founded to do to this day, although residents are mainly retired church servants, rather than monks. Accommodation is divided into apartments, mostly Victorian-built.

The ruins of Lanfranc's original, imposing Romanesque structure are still visible in the grounds.

St. John's is believed to be the oldest almshouse in England.

Lanfranc died in 1089. His successor, Anselm, demolished

his small choir and crypt to rebuild them in grander fashion. The whole cathedral was gutted by fire, however, in 1174, although the crypt survived intact.

Lanfranc's floor, of Marquise limestone, survived until 1786 when it was replaced with one of Portland marble. One of his original west towers made it all the way to 1837 when it was pulled down and replaced. It offended the eye because it wasn't a pair to its 14th century twin!

Fires and wear and tear mean there is little remaining of Lanfranc's cathedral today — just a disused staircase in the martyrdom that looks strangely contemporary, and a couple of columns at the west end of the crypt.

His tomb is still in the northwest transept, moved there from its original position in the nave, after the fire. There are a few depictions of him in

statuary and stained glass.

Lanfranc was a man involved in politics as much as building, which would not have been thought unusual. His signature — or bishop's cross — appears on the 1073 Winchester Accord that affirmed that the see of Canterbury would be chief over all others in England. The scene was set for it to become the capital of Anglicanism worldwide.

Bobbie Ann Cole is a Christian book coach and author of two Amazon #1 bestselling memoirs available through Amazon and Lighthouse Bible Bookstore in Fredericton. She is a former resident of the Parish of Pennfield. She and her husband, Butch, now live in Canterbury, UK, where she is an assistant guide at the Cathedral. Contact her by email bobbie.ann.cole@gmail.com.

COMMENTARY

When people stop and ask ‘what’s this about?’

BY BRENT HARRIS

This past Sunday I heard a sermon from the Rev. Michael Caines about moving our church communities more outward and centred on a mission.

This is crucial, folks. We all feel the tension of decreasing numbers and stressed budgets. I would say, however, that these two stress points are not our biggest fear.

The fear that is evoked when we see the latest statistics about our haemorrhaging faith (especially with people my age, the under 30 crowd) is the fear that we are becoming irrelevant.

Questions like “how do we attract young people to our ranks” are bathed in the fear that we, our church bodies, are becoming irrelevant.

I do not believe there is anything we can do to “get our youth back.” I do, however, have a vision of a day when our youth and our aging population are heading toward a brighter future together.

I am seeing that play out every day in my new startup the Saint John Tool Library & DIY Centre (SJTL). Every day tourists from cruise ships, folks walking uptown, or people who have seen our posts on Facebook or Instagram stop and ask the question “what is this place about?”

They see the tools on the wall, interesting creations in the window, and folks leaving with a tool in their hand and can’t help but be curious. SJTL is a new initiative that is part of an emerging field called “social enterprise.”

It is also part of a new economic model called the sharing economy (a little more on these later). Our mission is to inspire, equip, and revitalize our neighbourhoods.

It was born in the south end of Saint John out of a prayer group I’m part of with neighbours who live close by.

Together we discovered that the main enemy in the story of our community is isolation. The disconnect between neighbours, landlords and tenants, and a growing belief that our community was not worth living in was put on full display in our run-down buildings and boarded up windows.

Isolation had literally af-

fectured our architecture and it is plaguing our imaginations. I decided that someone had to take a risk and develop a plan to bring the reality of God’s kingdom into our midst.

That someone turned out to be a whole coalition of people, young and old, who were inspired by the idea of a local place where people could borrow tools, learn skills, get connected to work, and redevelop a culture of barn raising in our city.

So, what’s this got to do with the church? My heart has always been that we, the followers of Jesus, would find innovative ways to seek to address seemingly unsolvable challenges for the sake of our neighbour.

This new initiative has revealed a track that exists for the church to position itself as an active agent of transformation in our communities.

Ideas from the sharing economy (like tool libraries, farming co-ops, and ridesharing platforms) are all ideas that exist elsewhere in the world and are making a difference in areas like neighbourhood revitalization, food security, and transportation.

Social enterprises are not charities, nor are they non-profits. They are sole-proprietorships, co-ops, or companies that deliver a service/product to maintain viability, but will not be successful unless they deliver on the social mission.

For example, our tool library sells memberships for people to borrow tools, we sell seats in our classes and a few other products and in-house services to the public.

In three months, we have garnered 73 members and several renovations are underway by people who lacked the connection to tools and the community to help them do it.

Selling our products and services is our way of keeping the lights on and the staff paid. The measure of our success is in windows fixed, doors repaired, and needy homeowners assisted.

These metrics help guide us toward a culture of barn-raising where neighbours actively look out for one another and this culture is important for helping people see an embodied gospel.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Brent Harris says churches can easily replicate social enterprises like the Saint John Tool Library. Such efforts, he says, could help address youth retention and connect with an aging population. These opportunities can turn strangers into neighbours.

Along the way, I have seen firsthand those with practical skills connecting with young people who are hungry to learn those skills but have lacked the opportunity to develop them. Herein lies an opportunity for our church in New Brunswick.

Our inconvenient truth is that we have a rapidly aging population. The models and institutions that exist fail to imagine a way to deal with the havoc created by this at the church level but also the municipal and provincial level.

If the church were to de-

velop opportunities and tracks for local social enterprise development, we would become leaders in addressing youth retention and connecting our aging population.

Social enterprises need volunteers during their start-up phase, and for the next 10 years, we will have a huge influx of retirees who will want to connect with their community in a tangible way.

There is a track here for the church to be in the business of turning strangers into neighbours, and that will cause people to stop and say “What’s

this about?”

To hear more about social enterprise development, tool libraries, and/or community development, contact Brent here: brent.harris@sjtl.ca or 506-608-6885.

Check out the blog — <https://uptownsj.com/blog/2018/07/04/welcome-to-the-saint-john-tool-library/> **Brent Harris is the founder of the Saint John Tool Library and leads a morning prayer discipleship group in the south end of Saint John. He worships at the Church of the Resurrection in the Parish of Nerepis and St. John.**

AROUND THE DIOCESE



MCKNIGHT PHOTO



DAVID EDWARDS PHOTOS

THE BISHOP'S DAY

Sunday, Sept. 23 was a busy day for Bishop David Edwards. In the morning, he ordained Harold Boomer at St. Luke's in Woodstock. In the afternoon, he led the weekly service at St. Mark's Chapel of Ease at Kings Landing in Prince William. And in the evening, he attended the outdoor service at St. James the Less gazebo, Tay Creek, in the Parish of Stanley. Photo one shows the bishop and the Rev. Shirley Noseworthy during children's time at St. Luke's. The girl at left is Mariah Brown. In photo two, the bishop captured the beauty and simplicity of St. Mark's Chapel at Kings Landing. In photo three, the Rev. Bob LeBlanc and the Rev. Canon Bonnie LeBlanc lead worship at the gazebo.



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Christmas Near and Far

A Christmas concert featuring a variety of local talent will be held at Christ Church, 30 Prince William Street, St. Stephen on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., in support of children near and far.

A free-will offering will be shared between our local **We've Got Your Back Program** and the **Bishop McAllister School** in Uganda for food and tuition respectively.

Tax receipts are available, and light refreshments will be served following the concert.

YOU ARE WELCOME!

MUSIC COLUMN

The “je ne sais quoi” sound of Rivers & Robots

Popular Christian music has become rather predictable.

That statement is nothing new to many people. Sure, there are standouts here and there, but worship music seems to want to convert listeners through pounding beats and trope-ish lyrics.

Other styles of pop, gospel, rock, and even metal seem to want to testify their way into our playlists, or tug at heartstrings that have been yanked too hard for too long.

Then, along came Rivers & Robots.

The name for this UK-based band from Manchester comes from their use of acoustic and electronic instruments together.

The laid-back, almost languid, sound they make might at first seem a little boring, but there's something about the chords, the synth pads, or the drumming style that leaves you hanging around, and then a little more curious, and then captivated. There's something going on here.

Discovery is the three-piece outfit's fifth release, so putting



an album together is something they've done a few times now.

While the lyrics are not quite as intriguing as the music, it is also somewhat refreshing to see song texts lifted and inspired so directly from scripture.

Together, music and lyrics fit quite snugly, as interesting melodies and complex harmonic progressions weave in and out of each other, painting wide landscapes with much to see and hear.

“Satisfy,” the first single from the album, is somewhat reminiscent of the Beatles' later sound, and can draw the listener into the world it creates.

Instead of treating Jesus like a girlfriend, as so many “longing for Jesus songs” in pop music often do, the lyrics here are much more straightforward:

“In Your presence there is fullness of joy / At Your right hand are pleasures for evermore.”

That comes directly from Psalm 16.

While the style of the music and the scripture-based texts bind the album together, each song has its own little quirks. “Overflow,” a last-minute addition to the album, has a really interesting middle section that takes the music in a new direction, as drums and other percussion take over.

The title track is a sparse yet beautiful expression of praise to God. The keyboard and acoustic guitar blend wonderfully, and the music shifts together in a way that cannot be pulled off by amateur musi-

cians.

“My Refuge,” immediately following “Discovery,” picks up the pace a bit, and proclaims that God is their strength and refuge, and in this song — their rock.

The album fittingly closes with the six-minute song, “Forevermore,” which recalls God's act of creating the universe, Jesus' work of attaining salvation for all who seek it, and His sitting at the right hand of the Father.

That's a lot for one song! With the reverb on the microphone turned up, the vocals are reminiscent of the Byrds for a moment, yet also call to mind the epic scale of thought the text evokes.

As the song builds, electric guitars come in to add thickness to the song, yet it's very tasteful and not overbearing. Just as the ear gets used to this, a string section recalls the melody heard opening the song.

Maybe that's the secret to Rivers & Robots' sound — you may think you have a song figured out, but something new is added. For example, even in this song, the end suddenly is heard as if submerged underwater; and then surfaces, and a new melody on an instrument never heard on the album is played; New Creation has been accomplished.

The last lyric heard: “One day we'll see You face to face / With angels and saints we'll sing Your praise / And worship the name above all names / Forevermore.”

This UK act will not likely be available at your local department store, but find it online. It's well worth the search.

The Rev. Chris Hayes is a musician as well as a priest serving in the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.



The Rev. Harold Boomer, ordained a deacon in the Parish of Woodstock on Sept. 23

Favourite book of the Bible - 2 Timothy
Birthplace - Newcastle, N.B.

What you love most about God – His omnipresence
Favourite place on Earth - Northumberland, England
Farthest you've been from home - Germany

Favourite meal or dessert - Nachos
Biggest fear – No longer being useful

Hidden talent – Carving decoys
Favourite movie or book – *Hidalgo*

Your hobby – Woodworking

Three things always in your fridge – Iced tea, cheese, apples
Favourite sports team - Boston Red Sox

Episcopal Announcements



There will be a Celebration of New Ministry to formally welcome the **Rev. James Appleton** in Fredericton Junction, on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 4 p.m., at St. Mark's Anglican Church, 4332 Heritage Drive, Tracy; with reception to follow.

Bishop David has appointed the **Rev. Perry Cooper** as regional dean of Chaleur-Miramichi.

The appointment is for a three-year period ending Oct. 8, 2021.

Bishop David has appointed the **Rev. Canon Albert**

Snelgrove as regional dean of Fredericton. The appointment is for a three-year period ending Oct. 8, 2021.

The **Rev. Canon Paul Gwese** has been appointed rector of the Parish of New Bandon. Paul is currently serving at St. Luke's Greendale in Harare, Zimbabwe, where he lives with his wife and three children.

He was educated in Zimbabwe and the UK, and holds a Masters degree in Conflict Studies. His arrival date is pending the immigration process.

PARISH NEWS



FREX WINNERS

For a few years, members of All Saints' Church, Keswick Ridge, in the Parish of Bright, have entered exhibits in the NB Exhibition (FREX). The FREX winners displayed the fruits of their labours following the Sept. 16 service.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Sept. 23, St. Luke's Church (The Parish of Portland) held a luncheon, hosted by the ACW, to officially welcome the Rev. Cole Hartin and his family, Amy, Ambrose, and Isaac, to the parish. Cole was ordained deacon at Christ Church Cathedral in June and appointed assistant curate in the parish as of July 1. Cole and his family have been a real blessing to the parish. Cole has begun many new programs and God has richly blessed the parish as it continues to grow.

PARISH EVENTS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Parish of Westmorland celebrated 250 years of continuous Anglican ministry in the counties of Westmorland, New Brunswick and Cumberland, Nova Scotia on the weekend of Sept. 28-30. The weekend began with a special worship service on Friday at St. Mark's Anglican Church at Mount Whatley. Saturday saw historical displays, a picnic, a tour of Fort Beausejour and a time of sharing history. The weekend ended on Sunday night with a special closing worship and dedication, with Bishop David Edwards as special guest. Here he is at left, with Glenn Eason, Archdeacon for Chignecto Region, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; and the Rev. Lidvald Haugen-Strand, priest-in-charge at the Parish of Westmorland.