



## Deficit budget good news ... past resources to fund future

BY ANA WATTS

The big picture of this diocese is beginning to emerge. It is a mixed media series expressed in statistics, research and soul-searching created by Archdeaconry Commissions. Last year they were charged with re-imagining ministry, even re-drawing parish boundaries and suggesting changes in diocesan governance structures if they felt the need.

"The archdeaconry commissions are drafting their final reports and we will soon enter a period of transition from the existing model of ministry to a bold and innovative collaborative ministry model," Diocesan Treasurer Irene Adams told members of Diocesan Council meeting in Miramichi on March 13. "To support this transition, the diocese must be prepared to invest in the future by providing funds to support necessary studies, reviews and service upgrades to meet the challenges ahead."

With that in mind she presented, on behalf of the Finance Committee, the 2013 Diocesan Budget of \$1.8 million with a \$100,000 deficit. "I think with this deficit we are forecasting good news. We are going to invest in the future using the resources of the past," she continued.

The underlying principle in the preparation of the 2013 budget was to ensure that financial resources were apportioned to support the work of the diocese, while recognizing the limitations of available funding. In an ideal world, revenues would be allocated to support planned programs and services. However, in recent years the focus of our diocesan budget has been on adjusting expenditures to take into account restricted revenues.



Diocesan Treasurer Irene Adams

This makes it a challenge to meet the needs of administrative services, mission and ministry.

Projects contributing to the 2013 budget deficit are mostly one-time costs and clearly articulate the diocese's willingness to support the work being done at committee and task force levels. The group of cathedral and diocesan leaders looking at the collaborative repurposing of their respective properties will get \$40,000 to cover architectural and related studies, municipal and other costs. \$20,000 will fund a professional review of clergy stipends. The following initiatives will each receive \$10,000: rollout of the Archdeaconry Commission final reports; a pre-retirement conference (44 clergy in this diocese are 50 years or older); upgrade of the present diocesan payroll system; and increased support for General Synod.

"Just as the parishes appreciate benefits like payroll management, educational and development programs for clergy and volunteers, our youth camps, other youth ministry, communication through The New Brunswick Anglican and E News, to name just a few, the diocese is grateful for its supportive relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada," says Mrs. Adams. "Many of these benefits go unrecognized, like the sponsorship of the expert speakers for our stewardship conferences, a salary subsidy for our own Parish Development Officer, and management of our pension and benefit funds. Our contribution has not changed in many years and I think we should lead by example in this matter, show how much we respect and appreciate the support of the General Synod, so we will increase our annual contribution to \$327,000 from \$317,000."

At the end of the treasurer's presentation Archdeacon Bonnie LeBlanc of the Parish of Andover congratulated Mrs. Adams and the Finance Committee for leading the way and showing what we are willing to do. "And I commend the budget for looking at investment and retained earnings use to cover the deficit."

Diocesan Chancellor and member of the Finance Committee Clyde Spinney moved the approval of the committee's report and 2013 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Archdeacon Pat Drummond and carried unanimously.

### UP ... UP ... AND OVER



JEREMIAH MILLER

A group of young adults from our Diocese of Fredericton spent an extended March Break in our Companion Diocese of Ho in Ghana, West Africa. Their mission was to begin construction of desperately needed administration space for the diocese. In order to do that, they built another floor on top of a classroom building. In the photo above mission team members work together to get the concrete blocks up to the second floor. On the ground is Prosper, son of Bishop Matthias of Ho, he supervised the project. Above him are Jeremiah Miller of the Parish of Rothesay. Above Jeremiah is Wesley Murray of the Parish of Shediac Cape. At the very top is George Porter, until recently our Youth Action Director, who led the mission. More photos and a story on page 7.

## Parish officers get good advice, useful reassurance and humour on the side

BY ANA WATTS

There's nothing like frank conversation with an insurance agent to give you nightmares about fire, floods, leaking oil tanks, sexual assaults, and various and sundry other disasters. When the insurance agent is diocesan insurance advisor Jarvis DeConde, however, the conversation includes reasonable advice, some useful reassurances, a little humour thrown in for good measure and constant assurance that he works for the parishes, not the insurance company.

"I work for you and I am always available by phone and e-mail," he told about 90 parish officers gathered at Wardens and Treasurers Day held at St. John's Parish Centre in Fredericton on March 16. He offered a general review of insurance needs to the gathering.

All but eight parishes in this diocese participate in the diocesan group insurance plan he oversees. He meets regularly with them to ensure their evaluations, coverages



Insurance advisor Jarvis DeConde

and documents are all in order. He also assists the diocese in efforts to ensure that the parishes that do not participate in the group plan comply with mandatory diocesan minimum insurance standards. Mr. DeConde was appointed in 2006 and ever since has helped the diocese manage risks as well as premium costs. At the time of his appointment Bishop Miller said: "As responsible stewards, we must adequately and appropriately insure our property and be prepared to cover liabilities. The knowledge that we are adequately insured bet-

ter enables us to focus on mission and ministry." Mr. DeConde's long association with this diocese as well as the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island enable him to get the coverages necessary at the best prices possible.

Chancellor Clyde Spinney and Vice Chancellor Brent Theriault addressed property issues, Diocesan Treasurer Irene Adams presented the 2013 diocesan budget approved by Diocesan Council on March 13 and Parish Development Officer David Edwards brought the group up to date on the Archdeaconry Commission reports.

Archbishop Claude Miller attended the funeral of the Rev. Deacon Bob Brittain in Saint John that morning and was unable to attend the event. Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall offered his regrets to the meeting.

Parish volunteers who prepared and served a fine lunch included some willing, able and polite young people like Mason McGinley and Braden Galbraith. The gathering recognized them generously.

## COMMENTARY

# Resurrection in the presence of death

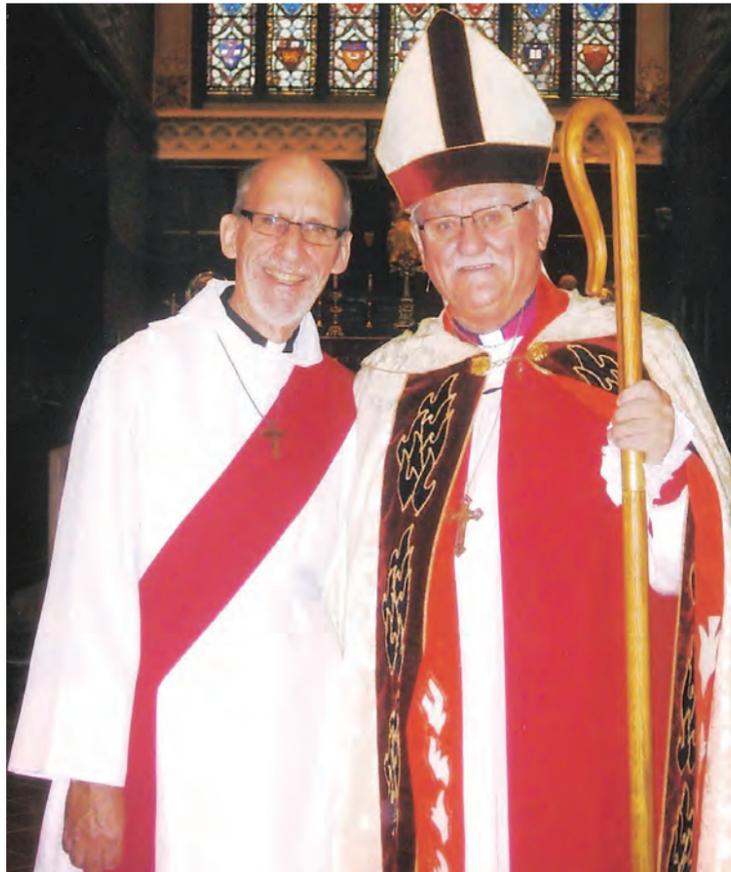
## A tribute to newly ordained Deacon Bob Brittain

*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. (Rom 8.18)*

BY CHRIS BRITTAIN

In 1968, after being diagnosed with a serious disease of the pancreas, the American Anglican theologian William Stringfellow described the pain of his condition as acting like an ‘ambassador of death.’ For him, the agony of his illness represented a serious moral challenge for his Christian faith, for the pain and fear of death “names a moral power claiming sovereignty over all people and all things in history.” The problem, in other words, is that pain and death can consume a person’s life and thoughts, and begin to define a person’s entire existence. The Christian, however, is called to recognise that God – not death – is sovereign over all things, and that it is Jesus the Christ – not pain – who is to be the focus of one’s life and thoughts.

This past Lent, the Diocese of Fredericton lost a life-long member to pancreatic cancer. Robert (Bob) Brittain (1944-2013) was a youth leader, warden, lay reader, Cursillista, and recently a deacon in the life of the diocese. Watching him face his “ambassador of



The Rev. Deacon Robert (Bob) Brittain with Archbishop Claude Miller at his ordination on Oct. 9, 2012.

death” has led me to contemplate how difficult it often is to celebrate the truth of Christ’s resurrection when confronted with the sufferings of death that continue to surround us.

Throughout my childhood and adolescence, I remember

my father often throwing up his hands and exclaiming to God, ‘Give me a sign!’ He would do this when faced with major life decisions and pressures (career change, major financial issue ...). Like the disciples, he longed for clear and immediate evidence of

God’s work in his life, in order to be reassured during those times when his faith was tested. In this, I suspect, he was like most of us.

During his final Lenten journey, however, I didn’t hear my father make any such demands. To be sure, he suffered terribly, and feared the possibility that his pain would become even worse. He worried about the loved ones that he would leave behind. He thus knew fully the weight of the power of death as it approached. Nevertheless, my father also appeared to know with confidence that the sufferings of this present time were outweighed by the glory of God’s presence and love. He feared pain, but this fear did not consume him; he mourned the sooner-than-expected end of his life, but this sadness did not spiral into bitterness. He did not doubt where he was going to go after his death; he simply worried about what he might have to endure before he got there.

This achievement of facing death without allowing it to crush his Christian faith was not due to having experienced some “miraculous sign” from God. During his period of illness, my father received no visions; heard no soft voice in the night; experienced no sudden relief from his illness. However, over the course of his life, he had come to understand that the signs of God’s resurrection are most often experienced by noticing how the pains and sufferings of life – both the big and the

small ones – are transcended by the in-breaking of love and joy that one experiences in relationships with other human beings. When faced with how fragile we ultimately all are, we also have the opportunity to recognise how precious life is. Even in the most difficult times, we can be “surprised by joy” (C.S. Lewis), and in such moments, the only possible response to finding this life in the midst of pain and death is: gratitude.

Even when we are confronted by the sufferings of our time, if pain and fear do not become our sole preoccupation, we can still find the capacity to see and welcome life as the gift that it is. During the season of Easter and Pentecost, we remember that the story of Jesus, and thus our own story, cannot be defined by pain, suffering or defeat. For, in the end, death’s tomb, against all of our expectations, is revealed to be empty and abandoned. Although we have experienced defeats and have made mistakes; although our families or leaders are sometimes divided amongst themselves, we, too, can find grace in the midst of it all, and God’s love for us continues to be offered to us freely. May we all, like my father, be given the grace to see this clearly, and to believe in it with all our hearts.

*The Rev. Dr. Chris Brittain was ordained in the Diocese of Fredericton and now lives and teaches in Aberdeen, Scotland.*



### Make sure you understand the coverage BEFORE the alarm goes off

Diocesan insurance advisor Jarvis DeConde consults with Neil Lodge of the Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough and Diocesan Parish Development Officer David Edwards during Warden’s Day.

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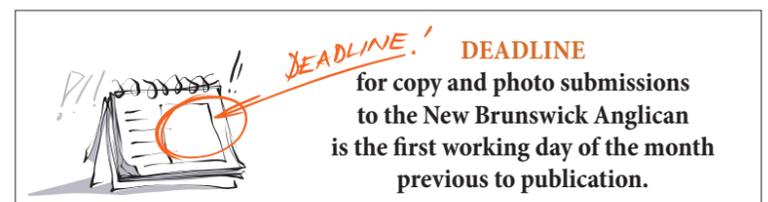
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**PLEASE NOTE:**

THERE WILL BE NO JUNE ISSUE OF THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN, INSTEAD A SUMMER ISSUE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AUGUST IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL TIME TO COVER THE JOINT ASSEMBLY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA (INCLUDING ITS GENERAL SYNOD) AND THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA IN EARLY JULY.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN, HOWEVER, WILL FOLLOW ITS REGULAR SUBMISSION DEADLINE SO STORIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE SUMMER EDITION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE EDITOR <ANA.WATTS AT ANGLICAN.NB.CA> BY WEDNESDAY, MAY 1.



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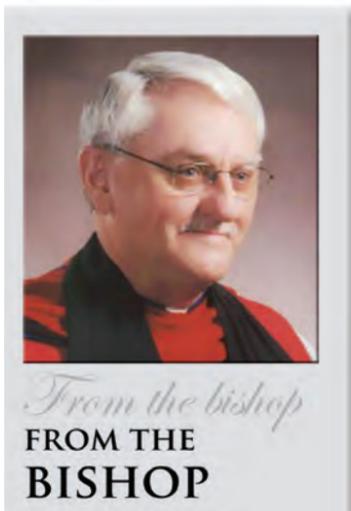
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## THE BISHOP'S PAGE

# May God's Holy Spirit guide us into all truth

As we enter the season of Pentecost we reflect on God's actions through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. God's people empowered by the Holy Spirit give life to the Church of God even in a rapidly changing reality — a changing reality that challenges even those who are traditional and secure.

In his book *Rethinking The Church*, James White tells the story of the Swiss watch making industry. He writes: "If people had been asked in 1968 which nation would dominate the world in watch making during the 1990s and into the twenty-first century the answer would have been uniform: Switzerland. Why? Because Switzerland had dominated the world of watch making for the previous 60 years. The Swiss made the best watches in the world and were committed to the constant refinement of their expertise. They led the world in discovering better ways to manufacture the gears, bearings, and main-springs of watches. They even led the way in waterproofing techniques and self-winding models. By 1968 the Swiss made 65 per cent of all the watches



sold in the world. Between 1979 and 1981, 50,000 of the 62,000 Swiss watchmakers lost their jobs because the Swiss refused to consider a new development called the Quartz movement. Because it had neither main-spring nor knob, it was rejected. It was too much of a paradigm shift for them to embrace. Seiko, on the other hand, accepted it and, along with a few other companies, became leaders in the watch industry."

Over the past year the work of the Archdeaconry Commissions has drawn our diocese into a reflective conversation about

our corporate future. As we seek God's will and direction for the future by the exercise of God's wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11) our prayer ought to be that our future will be a church that continues to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit by sharing love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal. 5.22-23)

Theologian Karl Barth once remarked that to say the old line from the creed, "I believe in the Holy Catholic Church" does not mean that we believe in the church. It means, rather, to believe that God is present and at work in the church, that "in this assembly, the work of the Holy Spirit takes place. We do not believe in the church: but we do believe that in this congregation [or Diocese] the work of the Holy Spirit becomes an event."

If we, as God's church, are to continue to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit, we must pray for the Spirit's guidance and strive to set aside our desire to resist change and embrace the Holy Spirit "event" which is ours. As St. Paul reminds the church "[That] those who belong to Christ Jesus

have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit." (Gal.5.24-25)

The lesson of the Swiss watchmakers is profound. A past that was so secure, so profitable, so dominant — was destroyed by an unwillingness to consider the future. It was more than not being able to make predictions, it was an inability to re-think how they did business. Past success had blinded them to the importance of seeing the implications of the changing world and to admit that past accomplishment was no guarantee of future success.

May God's Holy Spirit serve to guide us into all Truth.

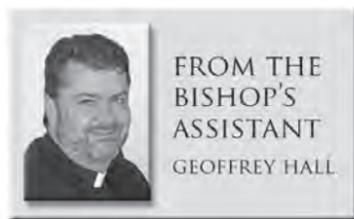
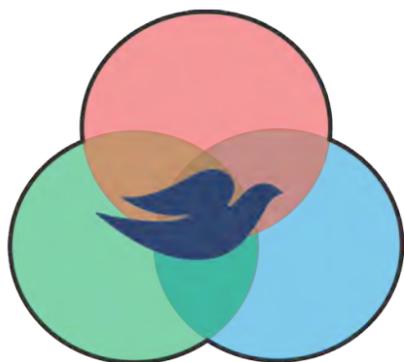
++Claude

*Archbishop Claude Miller is Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada and Bishop of Fredericton.*

## May the spirit disrupt the status quo

We move now into the Season of the Spirit. Each year about this time I'm reminded how we've too often not allowed the person of the Holy Spirit of God to inform us, shape us and influence us as church. Frederick Dale Bruner of Fuller Theological Seminary called the Holy Spirit the "shy member" of the Trinity. If Anglicans are in fact the "frozen chosen" we should make ourselves all the more aware of the warmth of the Spirit and his power to bring a thaw to even the stiffest among us.

One of the most valuable qualities of the Anglican way is how it's able to keep all things in balance. Some Christians over the past century have felt particularly called to form even new pentecostal denominations to allow for a different emphasis to the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives and the life of the Church. With that realization, our Anglican sensibilities might find themselves kicking in as we find it irresistibly necessary to counter that which challenges the blessed balance. Unfortunately, resisting the challenge can also bring about a defensiveness toward the Spirit of God which leads to an even further settling in of sorts. Settling in to a status quo mind set is not unheard of among Anglican Christians. We know we're in trouble when we find ourselves blinded by a confusion between balance and the status quo. When growth is but a distant memory and boredom seems to most rule the day, it seems to me it's time to earnestly invite a visit from the Holy Spirit of God.



I once heard a church meeting begin with what was referred to as the "opening prayer." It went like this: "As it was in the beginning, is now and for ever shall be. Amen." Needless to say very little, if anything, was accomplished. It was an illustration of a sad yet all too common misunderstanding of what we are about.]

Regarding the balance in our spirituality, one of the most helpful paradigms I've seen is the Trinitarian Compass and the colours of spirituality theory used in Natural Church Development \* originating with Christian Schwarz. Rather than setting one emphasis over against another, there is recognition of the need for that all important balance in a

healthy spirituality and the ways in which we experience God both personally and corporately. All of us tend to lean in one direction or another. With the exploration of the blue, red and green "colours" comes opportunity for insight about the self, the Church and the world that surrounds us.

Preacher William Willimon says we main-line denomination Christians too often "splash around in a shallow pool." Seldom do we adequately recognize or actively explore the depth and richness of our own spiritual heritage. Part of that heritage is a solid theology of and regard for the Holy Spirit and the action of the Spirit in and among the people of God. The first Pentecost ignited a spark that became nothing less than a wildfire motivating and driving the Church in the centuries to follow. The fire burns on today, we pray.

May that same Holy Spirit who descended on the early Church at Pentecost descend powerfully on us and light that which God would have burn. That fire is desperately needed now in, around and through each of our faith communities. May the Spirit disrupt the status quo and disturb the investment we have in the settled-in approach to being Church. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

\* See the *Natural Church Development (NCD)* Canadian web site <http://www.ncdcanada.com/>

*The Ven. Geoffrey Hall is Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Fredericton, Secretary of the Synod and Diocesan Archdeacon.*

### BISHOP'S PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

**April 27**  
Mothers' Union Rally

**April 28**  
Parish of East Saint John

**May 1-3**  
Archdeaconry Commission Meetings

**May 4**  
Ordination, St. Paul's, Rothesay

**May 5**  
Parish of Simonds and Lakewood

**May 7**  
ACW Annual

**June 1**  
Layreaders Day

**June 2**  
Parish of Campbellton

**June 6**  
Bishop's Counsel

**June 9**  
Parish of the Nerepis and St. John

**June 14-15**  
Diaconate Commission

**June 16**  
Parish of Hammond River  
Parish of Central Kings

**June 23**  
Kings Landing  
Coldbrook & St. Mary

**July 3-7**  
General Synod

**August 26-28**  
Clergy Conference

### ANNOUNCEMENT

**THE REV. KENT GREER** is appointed priest-in-charge of the Parish of Kent effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Mr. Greer graduated with a B.A. Cum Laude from Laurentian University and a M.Div. (Hons) from Atlantic School of Theology. He was ordained deacon on June 16, 2012 and priest on November 24, 2012. He has served in the shared ministry in the Upper St. John River Valley since his ordination.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

# Parenting Courses ... Coming to a parish near you?



CREATISTA

Cutline one one line

**T**HIS past fall the Parish of Cambridge & Waterborough sponsored the "Parenting Children" course, and they are now offering the "Parenting Teenagers" course designed by Relationship Central (Alpha Ministries).

These five-week courses offer an opportunity to reach out to families, provide a safe place to discuss the challenges of parenting, and offer support and encouragement. Parents recognize they are not alone. While based on Christian principles, these courses are very applicable to non Christians as well. They are a great opportunity for churches to offer practical ministry and outreach.

One mom said it all, "I think that this course should be

enjoyed by all so parents have a better understanding. It helped make me think about things that I would normally over look." This mom went on to take the teen course.

The courses are easy to run with a DVD and guest manuals. A leadership training seminar is being offered for anyone in the diocese interested in offering the course(s) to their parish. Training will take place on May 31, 7-9 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton. The cost is \$20, which includes presentation notes. Take advantage of this great opportunity for your parish by registering online at [www.relationshipcentral.ca](http://www.relationshipcentral.ca).

For more information, contact Debora Kantor at <[deb.a.kantor@gmail.com](mailto:deb.a.kantor@gmail.com)>.

## Evening prayer at Kings Landing

**T**HE annual celebration of Evening Prayer in honour and commemoration of the life and ministry of Mary Nameria Jacob will be held in St Mark's Chapel of Ease at Kings Landing Historical Settlement on June 23 at 3 p.m. with Archbishop Claude Miller as preacher and presider. A lemonade social following the service. Kings



Landing is west of Fredericton on Route 2, Trans Canada Highway.

## Summer issue to replace June edition

In order to include early coverage of the Joint Assembly of the Anglican Church of Canada (including its General Synod) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada in early July, the Anglican Journal and the New Brunswick Anglican will delay publication of their June

issues in favour of a Summer issue later in July. Contributors to the New Brunswick Anglican are asked to honour a deadline of June 10 for the summer deadline. Delegates to General Synod are invited to send their comments, experiences and photos by August 1.

### A Prayer for the Joint Assembly Of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada July 3-7, Ottawa

*Faithful God, You loved the world so much that you gave your only Son to be our Saviour. We give you thanks for the Communion we share in the Gospel. Together for the love of the World, we gather from every corner of this land. Bless and empower us through your Holy Spirit that with joy and steadfastness, we may proclaim by word and deed, the reign of your love and peace for all people. As you, O God, are holy, make us holy. Through the grace of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ Amen.*

### The Parenting Courses Training Seminar

**FRI. MAY 31 in FREDERICTON**

**Christ Church Cathedral (Anglican)  
Cathedral Hall**

168 Church St., Fredericton NB E3B 4C9

**7 - 9 pm\***

**(registration begins at 6:45 pm)**

Cost: \$20

(includes delegate notes and refreshments)

Contact: Debora Kantor: [deb.a.kantor@gmail.com](mailto:deb.a.kantor@gmail.com)

Register online: [www.relationshipcentral.ca](http://www.relationshipcentral.ca)

### The Parenting Children Course ~ for those parenting 0 to 10-year-olds

### The Parenting Teenagers Course ~ for those parenting 11 to 18-year-olds

Training by **Elaine Young**, Canadian Director for Relationship Central, and Alpha Canada's Regional Director for the Atlantic Provinces. Elaine and her husband Peter are in their third decade of marriage, and have three young adult children. Peter and Elaine have a passion to see couples prepared for lifelong relationships, and to build strong, healthy marriages and families in Canada.



The Parenting Courses are easy to run in a home, church, community centre... anywhere! This Training Seminar will help you understand some of the essentials, and help you get started.

For more information and to register, visit  
[www.relationshipcentral.ca](http://www.relationshipcentral.ca)



REACHING OUT



There are 192 smiling faces at St. Hilda's Anglican School in Belize. These are just a few of the ones we managed to capture.

# Cathedral's March mission to Belize

BY ANN DEVEAU

It was like Christmas every day during our March break in Belize — the fourth time since 2005 that some of us from Christ Church Cathedral have visited this beautiful, small, Central American country. This time there were 16 of us ranging in age from 15 to 66, and we prepared for months to again visit and help out at St. Hilda's rural Anglican School.

"Our visit was full of joy," missionary Kurt Schmidt said. "The emphasis every day was on teamwork, building loving relationships with each other and with the Belizeans, and serving God in a beautiful corner of his kingdom."

"We got to know each other, shared our skills, learned about working in other cultures, and developed spiritually under the leadership of team member Dean Keith Joyce," organizer Beverly Morell explained. "Most people were new to mission, so it was important to stress the need for prayer, flexibility, patience, humility and communication."

As missionaries we paid our own expenses, but fund-raising for the school was an important part of our preparation.

"We received donations of money, goods and services from businesses and people in the congregation," said Kirsten McKnight, who co-chaired a successful silent auction and dessert party that raised more than \$12,000.

"We brought dozens of books, school supplies, computers,



In this photo, taken the last day of the mission, the missionaries look pretty much the same as they did when they arrived, but with better tans. The truth is, though, they were all changed for ever.



When you plan to spend a week at a school in Belize you want to be sure to pack your pajamas, toothbrush, and a colourful parachute.

printer cartridges, chess sets, balls, games and toothbrushes," she said. "We're paying tuition for some students to attend high school. We set up a local area network of computers so that St.

Hilda's can get Internet service." The principal, eight teachers and nearly 200 kindergarten through grade-eight students were overjoyed by the improvements. They deeply appreciated

the team's willingness to travel from Canada to work in the classrooms as literacy tutors for a week.

"Many of the children progressed in their reading ability," Cheryl Jacobs observed. "The gratitude of the teachers was clear. They and the children liked our gifts of storybooks, pencils, rulers, Canada-flag lapel pins, a puppet show, and a free hot lunch on our last day."

We made a special gift to the sanctuary guild at St. Hilda's chapel — a beautiful set of altar linens in the liturgical colours of purple, red, green and white, and expertly stitched by Lucy's Sewing Group at the cathedral. Their prayerful support was typical of the whole congrega-

tion's help surrounding the mission trip.

"I really think we received the greatest gifts," Anne Thornton, a busy mother of two small boys, said. "We held daily devotionals to give our time to God. We stayed at a quiet mission centre surrounded by the beauty of nature. This was precious."

"We enjoyed laughter and fellowship," student Lionel Hayter said. "We learned from each other and from the wonderful children and their hard-working teachers. We saw deep-rooted challenges due to socio-economic conditions, but also noticed compassion and dedication."

Student Natalie Barrie concluded that it was an unforgettable experience to express one's faith openly and to offer oneself as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

"We returned as different people with a new understanding of mission and a better outlook on life," she said. "We're enthusiastic about what God is doing in the world, and we're excited by what the future might hold for us and for St. Hilda's."

For more details and photos, check out <http://2013belize.blogspot.ca/>

**There are 192 smiling faces at St. Hilda's. We only had room for 14 of them on the top and bottom of this page but feel free to imagine all the others, they are just as wonderful and just as happy.**



The visit to St. Hilda's was one of joy. Even though most people were new to mission they were all able to embrace the need for important things, like prayer, flexibility, patience, humility and communication.

## REACHING OUT



The team learned lots of new skills while they built a Bible school and lots of relationships.

## Lessons learned on tropical sun and God

Palm trees swayed in the breeze, we laid bricks, played with the kids, learned the true pain of sunburns and the full value of sunscreen — but most of all we learned to trust God during our second mission trip to Belize for the March break. We were eight adults, 12 teens, one toddler and all keen to leave (as lovely as it is) the Parish of the Nerepis & St. John for the Caribbean to build a Bible school and some exciting new relationships.

We prepared for this mission trip for months with team meetings, fundraisers and prayers. The process of just getting to Belize was enough to convince us that we needed God to take care of us in a big way. A complete stranger in an American airport gave us \$100 in cash for our work in Belize. And somehow, just somehow, we managed to work out our finances and even figure out how to travel with a toddler. And that's all before we got there! When we were on the ground we managed to run out of gas THREE TIMES, but always in close proximity to the ONLY GAS STATION FOR MILES AND MILES AROUND.

Once we were settled in Belize



Sophie Morell (left), youngest member of our team, found a new best friend — Hope.

we separated into three groups.

The larger group of 14 started construction on the Bible School. When we were in Belize two years ago we met Troy McBride who, with his wife Barbara, is hoping to start the first Bible school in Belize where local aspiring pastors and priests from a variety of denominations can go to be trained in the Lord's work without needing to leave the country. Our group worked hard all week to build the walls of the school. Barbara and Troy

said we were a real blessing, but we also were blessed with some useful new skills, like brick laying, cement mixing and brick breaking. And it was on this job that we really learned the value of sunscreen, water and shade. The tropical sun is strong!

A group of six women went to a local school within easy walking distance of where we were staying and helped in the classrooms. In addition to some lovely crafts we also built strong relationships with the students



Tracey Wallace and Andrea Lawrence, in back wearing the blue team t-shirts, had no trouble getting their students "on the same page" in class.

and teachers. The smiles and hugs of those we met will not soon be forgotten! Members of this group were also able to bless our hosts at the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) base with their superior cleaning skills — we painted an entire house for a local family in need.

Our week in the sun was not just work without play. We saw spectacular Mayan ruins, went snorkeling and swimming with stingrays and sharks and took daily dips in the Roaring Creek!

All in all, it was a blessed week, well worth the challenges. Many of us learned what it is to truly trust God with all the details of our lives and how to be thankful for what we have, especially when others have so little.

We appreciate everyone's prayers and support in every aspect of this trip. God willing we will go back soon to continue building relationships and encouraging the believers in Belize!

## REACHING OUT

# We met God, he was already with us

## They were surprised Curious George could keep up

GEORGE AND JEREMIAH

African time is real. It may not behave uniformly for everyone, but it exists, is inexorable and you just have to deal with it. That is one of the many, many things Jeremiah Miller from the Parish of Rothesay learned on a March break mission trip to our Companion Diocese of Ho.

“The night we arrived Ghana felt like another planet, not just a continent. In 48 hours we stopped in Frankfurt and Istanbul, saw the Alps and the Sahara Desert as we veered around Mali’s closed airspace,” says Jeremiah. “It was late, we were weary, the airport was hot and crowded mostly with white travelers. Several of us had no luggage. On the road from Accra to Ho we encountered police stop after police stop — but we eventually we reached our home away from home, the Volta Region Pensioners Association. I expected a seniors’ residence but it was a school next to Bishop Matthias’ home. A shirtless caretaker opened the gate with a clang, our van drove through and he handed us our keys. It was hot, even late at night. As I lay down to sleep I gasped for air and felt afraid.”

By the time Jeremiah’s luggage caught up with him a few days later he was embarrassed by the extravagance of what he had brought with him. He truly felt he didn’t need any more than the barest of necessities. The supplies necessary to build a second story on a school classroom to afford some administrative space for Bishop Matthias also operated on African time, but Jeremiah and others took advantage of the delayed delivery time to get to know Ho.

“On Sunday morning we were told to prepare for a ‘High Anglican’ service. There was smoke and chanting, we were splashed with water and the Hail Mary was recited. Then came the traditional dancing and singing — such enthusiasm, life, authenticity in the midst of formality. It was truly wonderful!”

Over the next couple of days Jeremiah developed his own schedule — breakfast, exploration, mid-day nap and supper. In the evening our former director of Camp Medley Liz

Harding led a group reflection and prayer time based on the book *Grace at the Garbage Dump* by a young Episcopal priest called Jesse Zink, who has spent time doing mission work in South Africa.

“I really enjoyed walks around Ho watching people, observing the sights, smells and feel of it all. I never felt out of place. There was something for sale everywhere — from small booths on the streets to the huge bundles women wore on their heads filled with everything a shop would have and more. I was very impressed with the mothers who carried children on their backs and a sack of goods on their heads at the same time.

“Our evening reflections helped us explore our thoughts. And because we couldn’t work right away we decided our mission was one of presence, of just being with the bishop, his family, community. And we met God, who was already there with us.”

George Porter, until recently our diocesan Youth Action Director, led the delegation of young adults to Ho. It was his second trip to Ho in just a couple of years so he wasn’t surprised by anything that did or did not happen. He knew that even if the timing wasn’t exact, work would get done. He had already seen for himself that an idea as simple as creating a network of corn grinders in the parishes of Ho could work economic wonders. He knew the width and depth of Bishop Matthias’ heart and his dedication to his people. He also knew some of the things that can make a difference in the lives of the people of Ghana. The corn grinders are profound expressions of those items, but soccer balls, t-shirts and even Curious George toys are most welcome too.

Everyone learned a bit of the local language, a few people learned how to carry babies on their backs, and George, who had already driven in the city of Accra on an earlier trip, rode a small motorbike in one of the rural villages. Now that was an adventure.

“I already knew that Bishop Matthias is very funny and personable,” said George. “He also has a stubborn streak and is very tenacious. All this is



The Canadians were told to expect a high Anglican service at the cathedral — smoking, chanting and splashing.



This bit of paradise, whether there is a rainbow present or not, is popular with everyone, especially the visitors.



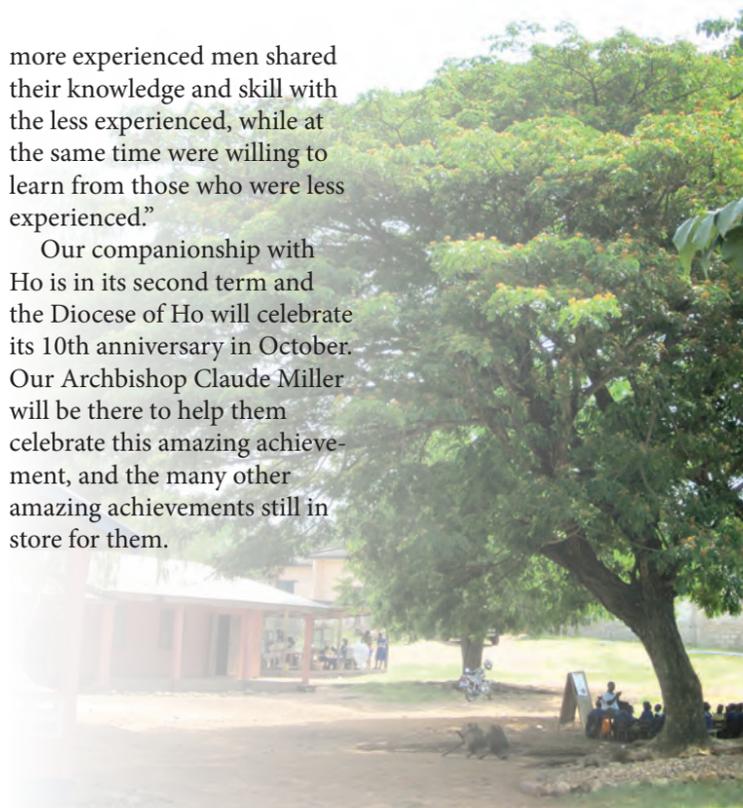
Like past missionaries, each one received traditional garments.

important for his leadership role. I knew that he works hard and keeps long hours. His love of God and of God’s people entrusted to his care for the past 10 years is evident. During my time there, however, I was privileged to have him share the hard things he deals with and the struggles he has as a bishop.

“Spending the long, hot days working with the local construction men was also rewarding. They had expected me to collapse but were pleased when I stuck with it. The way that they worked — hard and persistent — not only put the lie to many stereotypes but was a joy to share. The whole process was a very natural mentoring relationship, even among the local crews, as the

more experienced men shared their knowledge and skill with the less experienced, while at the same time were willing to learn from those who were less experienced.”

Our companionship with Ho is in its second term and the Diocese of Ho will celebrate its 10th anniversary in October. Our Archbishop Claude Miller will be there to help them celebrate this amazing achievement, and the many other amazing achievements still in store for them.



## COMMENTARY

# A reflection on my rule of life ...

## *I am the Lord's child and I must keep focused on Him and His mercy*

By Ruby Ranson

My "Rule of Life" comes out of my relationship with The Lord and what I know for sure. I have often said that I want to write a book. The title of my book would be *When I Grow Up I Want To Be A Child*. This is key to my Christian walk. He is the Father. I am His child. Thinking like this helps me keep my eyes on the Father, not on circumstances, not on people, not on material things but on Him. It helps me to remember that although I am made only of dust but fashioned by the very hand of God before the creation of the world. It allows me to fail - which I do. It means I compare myself to no one but Christ, so I see where I am, where I should be and His mercy which fills the great gap between. So, I remember that though I am an adult in my own right, I am the Lord's child and I must keep focused on Him and His mercy. With that, conviction comes quickly and I have learned that I may as well respond in the same way for He does not give up on those He loves.

Next I must remember who God is and how He has revealed Himself to me during our walk together. What do I know for sure? I know God is always right, which is annoying but true. I don't have to like it, but I have to accept it. We get along much better when I do! What does Scripture and the Holy Spirit say? He speaks to me when I take time for study, prayer and listening. Then I must live my life in light of His word. This also keeps me from leaning on

### Rule of Life

Every Christian man or woman should, from time to time, frame for himself/herself a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he/she may consider the following:

- The regularity of his/her attendance at public worship and especially at the Holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline.
- Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into his/her everyday life.
- The boldness of his/her spoken witness to his/her faith in Christ.
- His/her personal service to the Church and the community.
- The offering of money according to his/her means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas.

my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6) and not telling God what to do and how to do it. He is always right and I had best accept that, for He does not give up on those He loves.

I know for sure that God's ways are loving and His character is reflected in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. I admit that I don't always see it but I know it is true! So when difficulties come, as they do, and I am tempted to cry out "why Lord?" I remember that He acts out of love, that is His character. I know that in all things He is working for my good (Romans 8:28) and I must trust Him. It doesn't matter if it is hard or it doesn't make any sense, it is still true. What is - is and I must trust Him and what I have personally experienced in our relationship. I want to respond to this love. One day I asked the Lord "How can I express my love for you?" The answer was clear - "Love My people." Love shows itself in obe-

dience, so whatever my acts of service look like; it must include love for God and His church. I accept that this will take a lifetime to perfect but God does not give up on those He loves.

I know for sure that I am healed by His wounds on the cross (Isaiah 53-5). Like most or all people I have experienced hurt, rejection and sickness. What a tremendous blessing it is to know that healing comes through the cross. To know that Jesus hung there long enough to absorb my wounds into His - so that I might be healed. To experience the power that would keep me captive to hurts and wounds being drained away by the very blood that flowed from the Saviour Himself brings me freedom, peace, healing and much more. Next to salvation this is the most profound truth I know. When I witness to my faith I must always include this. Some of my friends may get tired of hearing me go on about

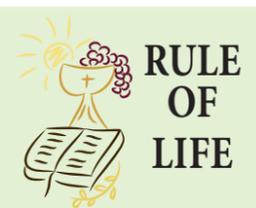
this, but I will never grow tired of experiencing it. I believe that He wants all His children to know this truth personally. I believe He is always teaching us this truth and He does not give up on those He loves.

I know that I must worship especially on a Sunday morning. There is no place I would rather be than at worship. Still there was a time when I was way too rigid in how "the Sabbath" should look. I was reflecting on Matthew 12-11 where Jesus said "If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? Well, as I said before "conviction comes quickly" and although I would not go looking for a sheep in a pit, I have the freedom to pull it out should you lose your sheep in my neighbourhood. I find great joy in worship, rest and celebration of the Lord on Sunday or any other day, and when "— the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:36) He waits for us to come and He does not give up on the ones He loves.

Being true to "church like ways" I have left my rule regarding offering of money etc. to the end. Not really, it just happened. What do I know for sure in this area? I know I own nothing, I am only a steward of what belongs to Him. He trusts me with much in some areas, little in other areas. I have to ask myself why. I know that He is my provider and I have not been left in need when I have been generous to others in need. It is not 10 per cent it is 100 per cent according to His call with money, service and play. He longs to bless us

and He does not give up on the ones He loves.

All this being true, and I long to be faithful and "live up to what I have already attained" as Paul writes, I know I often fail. That is not all bad, for it reminds me that I am not on my journey with God alone. I am part of a community that is of His making. When Jesus prayed for us in John 17 — "I would that they would be one," He meant it. My prayer is that if at any time I should be tempted away — by the world, the flesh or the devil — from what I know and what I seek to live by, that my brothers and sisters in Christ will care enough to speak the truth in love. I pray that they will allow me the same privilege in their lives too. We must make this journey together knowing that God does not give up on the those He loves. He loves me. He loves you. He is the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2) and —being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1:6) So no matter what may come, I will seek to live what I know for sure from the Scripture and from my experience of the Lord's faithfulness, because He does not give up on the those He loves.



As we develop a centre of excellence for ALPHA Canada in the Kingston/Kennebecasis Anglican Church region we encourage YOU to join us. The first overall meeting is Wednesday evening, May 22 at 7 o'clock, as St. James the Less Church in Rothesay 847-7696. We will enjoy some fellowship over dessert, have a time of worship and then pray together and dream together to see how God would lead us to build up our Churches and obey the great commission.

**Celebrate God's Abundant Life**  
with the Rev Canon John Paul Westin

**St. Mary & St. Bartholomew's Church**

**May 10 - 12 Saint John**

*Jesus said, I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)*

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Come and bring a friend to this time of excellent teaching and uplifting worship.

CELEBRATIONS

FROM GRATEFUL FRIENDS ON GRAND MANAN

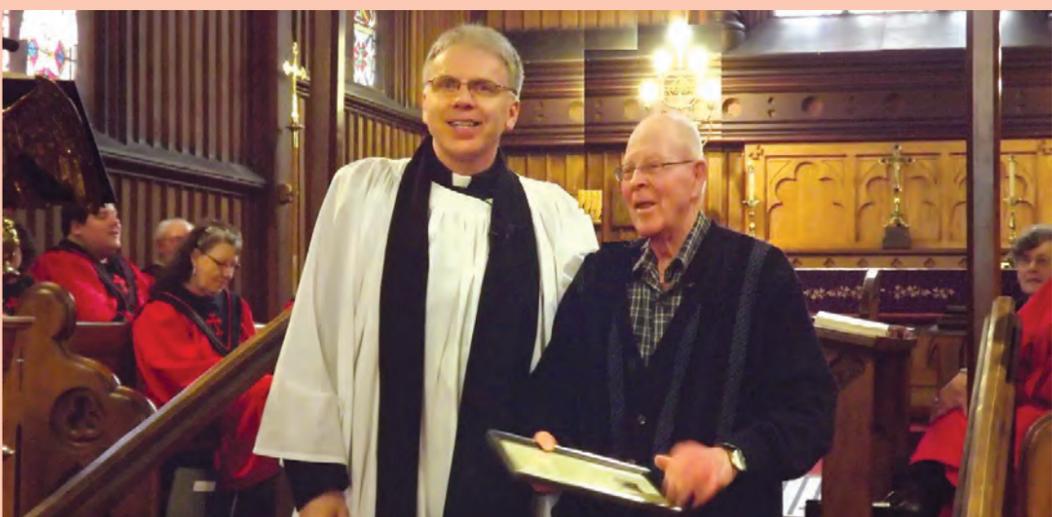


On April 15 Bessie Bass (right), who has played the organ at the Church of the Ascension in North Head, Grand Manan for many, many years, celebrated her 93rd birthday. In honour of the occasion and her faithful service, the parish presented her with an original painting by Janie Hepditch-Vannier (centre) depicting Bessie at the organ doing what she loves to do most. The Rev. Dana Dean (left), rector of Grand Manan, presented the painting.

SUSSEX CELEBRATIONS



Pat Bell, left above, President of the Chancel Guild at Trinity Church, Sussex, recently presented roses to Dorothy Coates on the occasion of her retirement from the Chancel Guild after more than 50 years of service in this ministry. Dorothy also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Rector, Archdeacon David Barrett who presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Clarence McFarland (below on the right) on the occasion of his retirement as a layreader after many years in this ministry.



Community celebrates with rector of Andover

On Sunday afternoon, March 10, more than 50 people joined the Rev. Bonnie LeBlanc for her installation as Rector of the Parish of Andover by Diocesan Archdeacon Geoffrey Hall. Many of those in attendance shared in the service including the Rev. Deacon Fran Bedel of Madawaska (Regional Dean), Evelyn Cote, Connie Malm, Ann Sadler, Robert Stiles, Vennissa Morin, Sharon Moffatt, Sam Murchison, Susan Murchison, Margeret Wallace, Clara Pirie, Jeanne Cronk, Wes McLean, Dorothy Green, and Cecil Pirie. Archdeacon LeBlanc's husband, the Rev. Bob LeBlanc played the guitar and Elizabeth Sullivan played the organ. The Rev. Fr. Gilbert Doddatto, local Roman Catholic priest, and several women from the Anglican Church in Florenceville were special guests. Following the service a pot-luck supper was served in the church hall with lots of socializing and making merry. In the photo above, with Archdeacon LeBlanc in the centre front are, left to right, the Rev. Kent Greer, the Rev. Amanda Longmoore, Mr. LeBlanc, and Archdeacon Hall.

FOND FAREWELL



The Rev. Canon Jon Lownds (right) recently retired as rector of St. Margaret's Parish in Fredericton following a 23-year ministry there. When he began the church was a Chapel-of-Ease of the Parish of Fredericton and located on the St. John River on Lincoln Road. When it was incorporated as a parish in its own right it built a modern and accessible church on Forest Hill Road at the corner of Kimble Court. Following his final service as rector of the parish on March 31, the congregation and many friends and family gathered for a reception in his honour. Church Warden Peggy Boucher presented him with a gift on behalf of the parish. Two of Canon Lownds' closest friends — the Rev. Canon Neville Cheeseman (left) and the Rev. John Harvey (centre) — were also in attendance. They both supported his ministry over the years and often substituted for him on holidays. The Rev. Canon Elaine Hamilton of Fredericton was appointed interim-priest-in-charge beginning April 1.

# Archives Corner

## H. Douglas Smith: The Rest of the Story (Part 3)

In 1940, the Rev. Douglas Smith left Hardwicke and moved to the Diocese of Nova Scotia, where he became active in the Parish of Christ Church, Windsor. In 1946, he was Chaplain at Royal Canadian Air Force, Greenwood, N. S. but had not forgotten about his earlier education work on the Miramichi which, evidently, he felt was not complete. On March 8, 1946, he wrote to Dr. Fletcher Peacock, New Brunswick's Superintendent of Education, saying that Peacock might recall that in connection to Miramichi Rural "I felt that I would like to see a residence built for youngsters who lived beyond the reach of organized educational services. For the next two or three years I would like to devote my time to giving such a project a try – beginning in September 1946."

Peacock's response was immediate (March 11) and enthusiastic. He wrote that "we are very grateful for the boost you gave the Rural School idea when you were in the Miramichi, and the prospect of having your enthusiastic leadership in the further development of this is pleasing indeed." Peacock explained that "we are not satisfied with the progress that the Miramichi School has made since Principal Patstone joined the Air Force in 1941" and we would like to make the school a success if for no other reason than "to save our reputation." Approving Smith's idea to have a "residence in which the Principal could live and look after a group of students," he agreed to meet with Smith in Fredericton as soon as possible.

Douglas Smith returned to the Miramichi as the Principal of Miramichi Rural High for the September 1946-June 1947 school year. In June, he wrote to Fletcher Peacock, reporting a successful exhibition of arts and crafts, which was held the previous week. His letter mentioned weaving, leather crafts, wood carving and hand painted works and he proposed that handicrafts would make a valuable addition to the rural school curriculum. He told Peacock that "I should like if I were here another year (i.e. if the house can be filled with 12-15 boys) to give



**This plaque mounted inside the Miramichi Rural School was dedicated on June 27, 1980 to honour the contribution of the Rev. H. Douglas Smith and the first Board of School Trustees. The Archive photograph reference is MC223-H4-29A1.**

most of my time to it and also to supervise the seven schools – searching out delinquents, putting the truancy law into strict effect ..." Fletcher Peacock responded favourably to Smith's letter but for whatever reason, another year at the school was not to be for H. D. Smith.

Instead, Douglas Smith was licensed as priest-assistant in the Parish of Trinity Memorial Church, Montreal on Nov. 15, 1948. Then he served as Chaplain at the Darrow School in New Lebanon, New York, from 1949 until 1953, and at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, the following year. In 1955 he was Canon of St. John's Church Cathedral, Spokane, Washington and Headmaster of St. George's College and Preparatory School in Spokane. In 1956 Smith returned to the Darrow School for one school year.

H. Douglas Smith died in Wolfville, Nova Scotia on Oct. 5, 1969 and was buried in Fern Hill Cemetery, Saint John. He was survived by his wife, Ellen

Bungay Smith, two sons, two daughters and his mother.

A Committee to honor H. Douglas Smith's achievement on the Miramichi was headed up by the class of 1954, especially the Rev. Phil Williston, Rector of Chatham. On June 28, 1980, a plaque dedicated to Smith and members of the first school board was erected just inside the main door at the school. More than 200 people attended the celebration and dedication. A total of \$2,275 was donated and invested – the interest of which funds the Douglas Smith Memorial Scholarship, first awarded in 1981.

SOURCES: RS116 Records of Chief Superintendent of Education, 1940s. Thanks to archivist Laurel Parson of the General Synod Archives for information of Smith's life and death, especially from the Clerical Directory of the Protestant Episcopal Church, USA, 1965 and for his obituary column.

The Archives Corner is prepared by Twila Buttmer (Twila.Buttmer@gnb.c or 506-453-4306) and Frank Morehouse (frankm@nbnet.nb.ca or 506-459-3637). They welcome your comments or suggestions.

## Audio Adrenaline returns with debut — *Kings and Queens*

*Scene 1:* Audio Adrenaline, a band at the height of popularity with a string of hits, big albums, and big tours — calls it quits in 2007. The action was precipitated by the strain and deterioration of the lead singer's voice, and changing lifestyles. Fans are saddened; the Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) industry mourns the loss.

*Scene 2:* Audio Adrenaline lead singer Mark Stuart and bass player Will McGinniss spend much of their suddenly available downtime volunteering with various ministry projects, but find themselves drawn to the many orphans of Haiti. They found the "Hands and Feet" Project, build orphanages and staff them with great people.

*Scene 3:* A small group of musicians called The Know+Hope Collective releases an album in 2011 (it was reviewed in this space). Many more musicians gather to record songs and donate the proceeds to Hands and Feet work. Several past Audio Adrenaline songs are covered on this album.

*Scene 4:* A new Audio Adrenaline band with an old name is born to more media attention than has been afforded a recording group in many years (with the possible exception of the newsboys, when Michael Tait took over at the mic). Audio Adrenaline releases *Kings and Queens* to the masses.

Yes, Audio Adrenaline has only one founding member, Will McGuinness. Yes this old name/new band is taking a chance with new singer Kevin Max with his new style of music; yes, many fans have wondered whether old fans will embrace a new group with a new sound. But hey, the Bible is full of people who took chances.

So far Audio Adrenaline seems to have fared quite well, thank you very much.

This is not the old Audio Adrenaline that was more concerned with pop sounds and indulgence in their music. The new Audio A music is more mature, more nuanced, and more complex. The sound is more polished, but not squeaky-clean. And that makes sense — there is almost



a completely new line-up here! Much has been made of new lead singer Kevin Max's vocal quality, with a noticeable vibrato (something I'm surprised actually stands out among lead singers), and how it might match with a harder sound. No problems there. He seems to help a bigger, wiser, sound come out of the group as a whole (think Bono with U2, though not to such an extent!). The current hits, "Kings and Queens" and "He Moves You" are good examples.

Something else also stands out for me in this album. Audio A does a very good job of walking the line between having fun with the music yet not being too flippant or indulgent. There is an aspect of music as entertainment, something to be enjoyed, and something that can exist for its own sake. All that is missing in a lot of other work right now. The band delivers a good message for all the best of reasons yet does not try to shove anything down your throat.

My only criticism of this album, and it is a small one, is that the 12 tracks are not clearly related. With five different songwriters getting credits, this might be expected, but it weakens the full album — but it is on heavy rotation on my iTunes just the same. The songs are great, full of energy, have interesting hooks, good musical ideas, and more. I can't wait to hear what the *next* album will be like, after they've toured/written/played together for a while longer.

Looking for some good music? *Check this album out!!!*



*The Rev. Chris Hayes is rector of the Parish of Salisbury and Havelock.*

## COMMENTARY

# We need to create space for the divine

I recently acquired a new Blackberry Z10, not because I wanted to but because my previous Blackberry Curve was no longer doing what I needed it to do. I am hard on electronic devices because I carry a great deal of static electricity. This is not intended to be a geeky article about my new smart phone because at this point I am not impressed. It has a touch screen that is too fast and sensitive for my large and insensitive fingers. Yet it is supposedly these two features that make the Z10 better than previous Blackberries as it speeds me along the information super highway. This purchase led me to ponder speed. As a Christian I find great joy in fast-paced worship, but I have also come to appreciate the benefits of peace and contemplation. Admittedly I should have come to this long ago since in scripture it is often in the silence that God speaks



David Edwards

most profoundly to his people — Samuel during the night, Elijah in the desert, Jesus in Gethsemane. In our electronically driven lives there is a need to create space for the divine.

How can we do this?

Recently the word “intentional” has been drifting into my mind more and more often. In order to do the things of God we must decide to do them, and then to actually do them. The first thing is to create a space

for space, in fact create two spaces for space — one in your calendar, the second in another venue. For me the time I create in my calendar is flexible, but the place — my study at home — seldom varies. This is where I am rarely interrupted. I also need to create a structure for this precious time. Some people enjoy using a recognized template like the *Ignatian Examen*, a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God’s presence. In my case I employ various models and templates, but they always involve prayer, reading and silence. I normally allow myself half-an-hour for quiet time, but the duration is not fixed.

The important part of employing this discipline is that it allows me to step away from all those things that crowd into the everyday. Do I always experience God at this time? No. What

I am doing is creating a space where we can engage with each other and where I am able to reflect on important things.

In my view one of the great weaknesses the church is its failure to create silent space. We are not encouraged to take the time to do this. People such as I — clergy and church leaders — do not provide opportunities for others to learn about such things. In our liturgy we tend to rush from one section to the next without taking the time to reflect on their meanings. Even when the text calls for silence, such as at the end of the Prayer of Consecration in the BCP, we often gloss over it.

In my case it is not easy to step away from the speeding world of instant communication and noise. In the silence of the presence of God I have to face me. Yes, as with all of us, I am a delight to God as he created me. But in the stillness I also discov-

er where I am broken, where I fall short and where God wants to heal me. The problem is that all too often I do not want to be made well. I am double minded about my failings. I wish I were not, but I am comfortable that I am. To allow myself to be healed might be too painful, take too much trouble and take too long.

Yet it is not merely about me or about us, the church. There are many people who need to step away from a life that speeds by so quickly it resembles a roller coaster on steroids. A challenge for the church is to create space for others to find peace in the rush. And in order to offer such comfort to others, we must find it for ourselves.

*Archdeacon David Edwards is Parish Development Officer for the Diocese of Fredericton.*

## INTERCESSIONS

## MAY

¶ 5: Newcastle - (York, England) the Rt. Rev. Martin Wharton, the Rt. Rev. Francis White, assistant bishop. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Parish of Whitehorse, Christ Church Cathedral, the Ven. Dr. Sean Murphy, the Rev. David Pritchard and family, the Rev. Martin Carroll, Ruth Carroll and family. Licensed Lay Minister Beverley Whitehouse, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our Archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 6: Parish of Rothesay, the Rev. Canon Albert Snelgrove. The Rev. Rufus Onyewuchi, Moncton City Hospital Chaplain. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Aloysius Genya, parochial catechist.

¶ 7: Parish of St. Andrews, the Rev. Canon John Matheson. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Godwin Dumavor, parochial catechist.

¶ 8: Parish of St. Andrew’s, Sunny Brae with Hillsborough and Riverside, the Rev. Roderick Black and the Rev. Douglas Painter. The Rev. David Plumer (retired). Diocese of Ho, Mr. Daniel K Atikor, parochial catechist.

¶ 9: Parish of St. David and St. Patrick, Canon John Matheson, priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Fr. Kwasi Oteng Boampong, bishop’s chaplain.

¶ 10: Parish of St. George, the Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid. Postulants David Peer, Kevin McAllister and Thomas Nisbett. Diocese of Ho, people of St. George’s Cathedral.

¶ 11: Parish of St. James, Moncton, the Rev. Roderick Black and the Rev. Douglas Painter. Diocese of Ho, The Very Rev. Simon Kofi Ablorh, priest-in-charge, St. Anthony’s, Penyi.

¶ 12: Ascension Sunday - Anglican Communion Sunday (This day may be observed at anytime in the year.) A hymn of glory let us sing New songs throughout the world shall

ring Christ, by a road before untrod Ascendeth to the throne of God. Alleluia Niger West - (Niger, Nigeria) The Rt. Rev. Anthony Nkwoka. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Fort Nelson, St. Mary Magdalene, Toad River, Alaska Highway, mile 150-506, the Rev. Don and Lana Thompson and family, Ida and Terry Reid and family. Licensed lay ministers Glen Gough, Jeanie Arva and Mark Tudor, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our Archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 13: Parish of Saint John, the Rev. Dr. Ranall Ingalls. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Prosper Francis Kwame Deh, priest-in-charge, Agbozume.

¶ 14: Parish of St. Margaret’s, (open incumbency), the Rev. Canon Elaine Hamilton interim-priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Joseph Kingsley Bentum, Rural Dean and priest-in-charge, Kpando. : ¶ 15 Parish of St. Mark (Stone) Church, the Rev. Canon Wally Corey, interim priest-in-charge. The Rev. Ronald Rippin (retired). Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Joseph Wilson Kwame Hayibor, assistant curate.

¶ 16: Parish of St. Martin’s and Black River, the Rev. Terence Chandra, interim priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Redeemer Ametefe Semevor, assistant curate, Worawora.

¶ 17: Parish of St. Mary’s (York), the Rev. Canon Kevin Stockall. Postulants David Peer, Kevin McAllister and Thomas Nisbett. Diocese of Ho, Worawora Deanery.

¶ 18: Parish of St. Peter’s, the Rev. Canon Ross Hebb. Diocese of Ho, Justice Richardson Komla Macarphuy, seminarian.

¶ 19: Pentecost Sunday - Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of your love. North Dakota - (VI, The Episcopal Church) The Rt. Rev. Michael Smith South Dakota - (VI, The Episcopal Church), the Rt. Rev.

John Tarrant. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Watson Lake, St. John the Baptist Lower Post, Swift River, Telegraph Creek - St. Aidan, Dease Lake, Glenora, the Rev. Rob Langmaid and Monica Langmaid, licensed lay minister: Tim Liverton, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our Archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 20: Parish of St. Philip’s, the Rev. Roderick Black and the Rev. Douglas Painter. The Rev. Donald Routledge (on leave). Diocese of Ho, Brother Clemence Ahun, diocesan catechist.

¶ 21: Parish of St. Stephen, The Rev. William Morton. Diocese of Ho, Sister Joyce Agbefu, diocesan catechist.

¶ 22: Parish of Salisbury and Havelock, the Rev. Chris Hayes, priest-in-charge. The Rev. Capt. Charles Smart (retired). Diocese of Ho, Brother Felix Atta Boakye (in training), diocesan catechist.

¶ 23: Parish of Shediach, The Ven. Richard McConnell, the Rev. Cathy Laskey, associate priest and family life coordinator. Diocese of Ho, Mr William Agbaleny, parochial catechist.

¶ 24: Parish of Simonds, the Rev. Terence Chandra, priest-in-charge. Postulants David Peer, Kevin McAllister and Thomas Nisbett. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Hope Fiebor, parochial catechist.

¶ 25: Parish of Stanley, the Rev. Wendy Amos-Binks. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Joseph Dzanka, parochial catechist.

¶ 26: Trinity Sunday - Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. North West Australia - (Western Australia, Australia) the Rt. Rev. David Mulready. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Carcross, Tagish, Johnson’s Crossing St. Saviour’s, the Rev. David

Pritchard and family, Teslin - St. Philips, the Rev. Dn. Sarah Usher and the ministry team, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 27: Parish of Sussex, (open incumbency) the Rev. David Titus, honorary assistant. Canon Dr. R.B. Smith (retired). Diocese of Ho, Mr. Gabriel Agbodo, parochial catechist.

28: Parish of the Tobique, The Rev. Amanda Longmoore. Diocese of Ho, Mr Aloysius Genya, parochial catechist.

¶ 29: Parish of Upham, the Rev. Rob Marsh, priest-in-charge. Canon Tom Smith (retired). Diocese of Ho, Mr. Godwin Dumavor, parochial catechist.

¶ 30: Parish of Upper Kennebecasis, the Rev. Wally Collett, interim priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, People of St. George’s Cathedral.

¶ 31: Parish of Waterford and St. Mark, the Rev. Allen Tapley, the Rev. Brenda McKnight, honorary assistant. Postulants David Peer, Kevin McAllister and Thomas Nisbett. Diocese of Ho, Mr. Daniel K. Atikor, parochial catechist.

## JUNE

¶ 1: Parish of Westmorland, (open incumbency). Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Kwasi Oteng Boampong, bishop’s chaplain.

¶ 2: Pray for the work of the Anglican Centre in Rome Northern Mexico - (Mexico) the Rt. Rev. Francisco Moreno. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, communities of Carmacks and Keno, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our Archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 3: Parish of West Saint John, the Rev. Rob Salloum. Donald Snook, director, Saint John Inner City Youth Ministry. Diocese of Ho, the Very Rev. Simon Kofi Ablorh, priest-in-charge, St. Anthony’s, Penyi.

¶ 4: Parish of Wicklow, Wilmott, Peel and Aberdeen, the Rev. Robert LeBlanc, priest-in-charge. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Prosper Francis Kwame Deh, priest-in-charge, Agbozume.

¶ 5: Parish of Woodstock, the Rev. Shirley Noseworthy, the Rev. Deacon Christine Greer. The Rev. Ted Spencer (retired). Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Joseph Kingsley Bentum, rural dean and priest-in-charge, Kpando.

¶ 6: Parish of Andover, the Ven. Bonnie LeBlanc. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Fr. Joseph Wilson Kwame Hayibor, assistant curate.

7: Parish of Bathurst, the Rev. Dick Black. Postulants David Peer, Kevin McAllister and Thomas Nisbett. Diocese of Ho, the Rev. Redeemer Ametefe Semevor, assistant curate, Worawora.

¶ 8: Parish of Bright, (open incumbency) the Rev. Canon John Sharpe, interim priest-in-charge, the Rev. Deacon Debra Edmondson. Diocese of Ho, Worawora Deanery.

¶ 9: Norwich - (Canterbury, England) The Rt. Rev. Graham James Norwich - Lynn - the Rt. Rev. Jonathan Meyrick Norwich - Thetford - the Rt. Rev. Alan Peter Winton. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate, Anglican Church of Canada. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Atlin - St. Martin, the Rev. Deacon Vera Kirkwood and family, licensed lay minister Dorothy Odian, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila and family. Claude, our archbishop, William, George and Harold, retired bishops, and their families.

¶ 10: Parish of Cambridge and Waterborough (open incumbency). Mr. Clyde Spinney, Q.C., Diocesan Chancellor. Diocese of Ho, Justice Richardson Komla Macarphuy, seminarian.

¶ 11: Parish of Campbellton, the Rev. Michael O’Hara. Diocese of Ho, Brother Clemence Ahun, diocesan catechist.

¶ 12: Parish of Campobello, (open incumbency) the Rev. Canon Robert Smith, priest-in-charge. The Rev. Canon David Staples (retired).

## YOUTH

# I'm curious, George ... What did you mean by 'The God of the cracks'?

[Part 1] \*

To be clear, I'm not talking about the god(s) of various sorts of fanatics, fundamentalists or certain mentally ill persons. While I believe such people can have some strange concepts of god(s), that's not what I mean. Neither do I mean the same thing that Dietrich Bonhoeffer meant when he referred in his *Letters and Papers from Prison* to 'the God of the gaps'. By that he meant a tendency of religious people to locate god(s) in their knowledge gaps. For example, we don't know what causes lightning; god(s) must be behind it. As the gaps in our knowledge decrease, there is less and less room for god(s) until the divine could conceivably be completely squeezed out – which eventually, he argued, would be a good thing since this kind of divine identity is false.

In contrast to this, my use of



the phrase 'the God of the cracks' is closer to what I think singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen meant. He sings: 'Ring the bells that still can ring./Forget your perfect offering./There's a crack, a crack in everything;/That's how the light gets in.'\*\* Recent surveys indicate a perception of Christians as people who are judgemental, thinking they are better than others. Our religious tendencies do seem to include trying very hard to be (or appear to be) perfect. The stories we tell others, if we tell any at all, focus on issues that have been overcome or situations in which God 'came through'. Somewhere along the line we

have fallen into the misapprehension that only perfection or success honours God and that, if we can't have the real thing, we should say nothing or maintain appearances.

This, I suspect, is especially true among those who work with young people. We are, after all, supposed to be good examples and role models, aren't we? If we want them to believe in God, shouldn't we bear witness to strength and victory?

While there is a place for those things, what young people need more than anything else to form a healthy spirituality is reality, and the reality is that we all have cracks in our lives. We know it, no matter how much we pretend otherwise, and they know it, no matter how carefully we try to conceal them.

Could it be that in trying to cover over these cracks we are

blocking the very way that the light of God really gets into our lives? It is primarily in our brokenness that we seem to find God most clearly. Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians that God told him: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'\*\*\*

Young people know there are cracks in their lives as well. Could it be that they need to see that others have these kinds of imperfections so that they can be free to let the light shine into them as well?

For this reason, my use of the term goes a bit beyond Cohen. Could it be that it is through these same cracks that the light of God gets out of our lives? If we are, as Jesus said, the light of the world, perhaps covering up the cracks in our lives is like putting a basket over the lamp. Could it be that, contrary to what we've somehow come to

believe, the light of God shows more clearly when we let down our guards, share our struggles and admit our doubts? Could it be in that kind of courageous integrity young people find the people with whom they can relate and authentic stories of God at work for good in all things?

\*This is a big subject, so I say this is 'Part 1'. However, since this is my final 'I'm curious George' for the NB Anglican, perhaps you will write the other parts.

\*\*from 'Anthem', *The Future* (Sony Music Canada, 23 November 1992).

\*\*\* 2 Corinthians 12:9.

*The Rev. Dr. George Porter was Canon for youth and Youth Action director in this diocese until the end of March. He is now incumbent in St. Luke's Parish in Thunder Bay, Ontario.*

WHEN YOU ASK THAT QUESTION AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE YOU'RE PRETTY SURE THE ANSWER WILL BE SOMETHING GOOD, OR AT LEAST FAMILIAR.

BUT WHEN YOU FLY HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD TO LIVE IN A DIFFERENT CULTURE YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED. THAT'S WHEN YOU REALIZE THE BIG IDEAS LIVE IN THE LITTLE THINGS, YOU KNOW YOU ARE REALLY ON A MISSION AND, THANK GOD, YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY.

## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?



**THE REV. AMANDA LONGMORE, CHAIR OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL YOUTH TEAM, IS NOW COORDINATOR OF THE EMERGENT PAGE!**

**SHE WILL HAPPILY RECEIVE AND ORGANIZE STORIES AND PHOTOS**

**PLEASE SEND THEM TO HER AT**

**AMANDA.LONGMORE@ANGLICAN.NB.CA**

## Thinking longer term about giving

You give at different times in your life and in different ways:

- you give spontaneously out of sincere compassion because there has been an earthquake in Haiti or a flood in South America – its an emergency.
- you give regularly in Sunday offerings, with cash, cheques, credit cards, or in a growing number of parishes, by e-offering
- in addition, we have in our diocese special programs and projects which need our support such as our youth camps, special chaplaincies, theological education, outreach ministries, mission in the North and elsewhere
- from time to time, your own parish will need special one-time assistance to fix the organ, the roof, the bell tower, or even build a new parish hall.

However, how many of us think longer term about the parishes that have nurtured us and the wonderful work done there? How will this continue into the future? Longer term giving. This can be done in several ways, either during our life-time or after our death. How we give such a gift to the church is often referred to as a planned or deferred gift.



For information on creative ways to give in the long term, contact:

