



THE NEW BRUNSWICK

ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

NOVEMBER 2022

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON



STEPHEN MACGILLIVRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

MILITARY PIPERS LEADS A PROCESSION of Canadian Armed forces personnel, cadets, RCMP officers, police officers, police chiefs, Scouts, St. John Ambulance members, Royal Canadian Legion members and auxiliary, politicians and others to Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton on Sept. 19 for the service to commemorate Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. The service was a joint effort of the Cathedral and the Government of the Province of New Brunswick. See the story and more photos on page 8.

Father Chris to (reluctantly) receive Order of Moncton

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

If he had his way, the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk would rather you not be reading a story about him receiving the City of Moncton's highest honour.

"I'm really embarrassed by it," he said when reached for comment. "There are so many

other people doing good things. It's humbling and embarrassing and I don't want to talk about it, really."

Anyone can nominate a citizen, and Chris, rector of the Parish of Moncton, is at a loss as to who was behind it.

"I don't know how it came about," he said. "But I think if it in some way glorifies God and is helpful to people in need, draws attention to them, then OK."

Chris is quick to note he is simply the leader of a large group of "giants."

"I call our volunteers giants," he said. "They're always there. I work with great people, thanks

be to God. They come in every morning. It's pretty incredible what they do.

"I'm just the point person. I have a great congregation and a great team."

That team includes secretary Esther Mah, deacon the Rev. Norm Dupuis, custodian Angie Lapointe and community outreach worker Justin Melanson. Chris includes his wife, Carolyn as part of the supporting group. The Rev. Rick Cunningham, a new deacon, arrived in early September to join the team.

The downtown church is known for its daily breakfasts, laundry and shower ministry,

and for opening its doors as a temporary emergency shelter last winter.

This award is in stark contrast to public comments made about St. George's Anglican Church a couple of years ago when Chris and Norm allowed 20 homeless people to camp in the church yard.

That act of generosity and hospitality led to a scathing story in the Times-Transcript newspaper where a local entrepreneur called for \$1,000 fines for churches and other social agencies that allow the homeless to camp downtown.

This person called St. George's

"a nuisance" for allowing the tents to be pitched in the church yard.

Chris will receive the Order of Moncton in late October.

The Order of Moncton, from the City of Moncton website

The Order of Moncton is the City's highest honour to recognize those who have contributed to bettering the community. It recognizes individuals who have made a positive difference in the lives of citizens. To be recognized, these individuals must have made an outstand-

Chris continued on page 2

Chris VanBuskirk to receive city's highest honour

Chris continued from page 1

ing contribution to the social, cultural or economic well-being of the city. Every year, a total of three individuals are selected.

Chris's bio, from the City of Moncton website

In the words of the late Tommy Douglas: "The only test of our character that matters, is how we look after the least fortunate among us."

Clearly, the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk is a man of true character. In his role as the leader of Saint George's Anglican Church in Moncton he has led an almost overwhelming array of initiatives aimed at those Monctonians that need it most.

Affectionately known as Father Chris by his parishioners, he began the practice of serving Sunday dinners to those in need more than two decades ago.

In the spring of 2021, he began a six day per week breakfast program; the church now serves more than 1,000 meals per month and offers shower and laundry services to those who need them. In addition to this he has provided counsel, fresh



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO

CAROLYN VANBUSKIRK and her husband, the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk.

clothing and financial assistance as needed.

In the winter of 2022, an Emergency Warming Centre for more than 50 individuals was established at the church when capacity at other shelters was reached.

Father Chris led a group of volunteers along with the team from ReConnect to provide a 7-day-a-week space until alternate services could be provided.

In his role at Saint George's, he has facilitated gatherings of dozens of church representatives from across the City, meeting monthly with local non-profit organizations to ensure all are up to date and educated on the latest issues and concerns affecting the community's most vulnerable people.

Father Chris provides

training at Tantramar Seniors' College on the subject of social and human rights with a goal to improve understanding of systems in place in communities on these matters.

He also spends many hours each week in support of seniors through visitation at community nursing homes and seniors' residences as well as assisting patients and their families at the Moncton and Georges Dumont Hospitals.

In addition to all of these initiatives, Father VanBuskirk holds the rank of major, serving as a military chaplain overseeing all of New Brunswick and Newfoundland & Labrador's Primary Reserves. In 2018, he spent six months deployed to Kuwait and Iraq.

Letters to the editor

We welcome them!

Send yours to
gmcknight@diofton.ca

A prayer for the new King

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.
Bless his reign and the life of our nation.
Help us to work together
so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness
flourish among us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DEADLINE for news and photos for the December edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Nov. 1.

Send submissions to gmcknight@diofton.ca

www.anglican.nb.ca

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON
A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

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THE BISHOP'S PAGE

SEED: Sustaining, Experimenting, Engaging, Discipleship

It seems incredible that we are now in November. The year has flashed by, and Christmas is just around the corner.

At the end of the month, we will be celebrating Christ the King. This ends the Church's year before we move into the season of Advent.

Of course, this month begins with All Saints Day when we recall people who have gone before us in the faith of Christ.

This year with both All Souls and All Saints Days, I am reminded of those who have died this year. There have been many across our diocese. It is hard to grasp that there will be certain very familiar people who we will not see again this side of glory.

This time of year helps us to remember two important things. First is the faithful who have gone on ahead — people who have served the Lord in many



Archbishop David Edwards

different ways and have seen the Church and the Kingdom of God built up in this province.

The second is that Christ is the King. No matter how things seem, he has redeemed the world and all things are being restored in him. Although it is tempting to do so, we are not to be a fearful people.

On Nov. 5 we will hold the

first Diocesan Synod in three years. We all know things have changed greatly since we last met and that we are moving into a new time in the life of the Church more quickly than we might have hoped.

One of the most unfortunate pieces of timing in our recent history is that just before the pandemic hit, a national report on attendance and other issues in the Anglican Church of Canada was published.

Although there was never an intention by its author for us to understand that the last Anglican would be leaving the building in 2040, many people took it to be so and the effects of COVID-19 have not helped us to come out from under that impression.

If I am still around in 2040, I will be 80 years old and I am anticipating worshipping in an

Anglican Church in New Brunswick. The only things which will stop me might be my health or the fact that I am worshipping in the nearer presence of God!

That being said, at the upcoming Diocesan Synod we are going to have to begin to reset our course for the future.

I believe the following are going to be essential in our future: Sustaining, Experimenting, Engaging and Discipleship.

Together we will need to discern where God is leading us in these areas as we look towards what is to come.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.



Remembrance
Day 2022

They fought for
freedom on our
behalf.

A lighthouse for Saint John teens reopens

BY SHAWN BRANCH

The synod has entered into a new partnership in the operations of the youth shelter (formerly known as Safe Harbour) on Broad Street in Saint John's south end.

Early in the year, Archbishop David received notice that Partners for Youth, the group that had been running the shelter, did not feel they could continue in that role, given the forthcoming changes required by the Department of Social Development and their core focus.

This immediately became a priority for the Bishop's Office and staff.

We knew the need was still very present for the shelter — both for transitional and emergency situations. It did not take long before a consortium of agencies in the community stepped up to partner with us.

Centre for Youth Care is overseeing the operations of the shelter, with support from Housing Alternatives, The Learning Exchange and Teen Resource Centre. This amazing facility has 10 comfortable bedrooms, common space and rooms for personal development.

With this team coming together, with funding support through the Dept. of Social Development, the shelter reopened in September under the name of



SHAWN BRANCH PHOTOS

"Beacon Cove."

Fortunately, the building was only closed for a few months to await funding. However, the groups ensured that the housing was available for those in need.

Individuals and parishes wishing to make financial contributions to Beacon Cove can send them to the diocese via post or by using the diocesan Canada Helps site, selecting Beacon Cove from the drop-down

menu: <https://www.canada-helps.org/en/dn/13778>.

Let's all commit to praying for the staff and residents of Beacon Cove.

INTERIOR SHOTS OF Beacon Cove, formerly known as Safe Harbour. The Rev. Paul Ranson is seen in the top photo.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

NOVEMBER 5
138TH DIOCESAN
SYNOD

NOVEMBER 6
PARISH OF
CANTERBURY, BEN-
TON AND
KIRKLAND;
PARISH OF
WESTMORLAND

NOVEMBER 11- 13
COUNCIL OF
GENERAL SYNOD

NOVEMBER 20
PARISH OF
RIVERVIEW;
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL -
ORDINATION OF
PAULETTE BLACK

NOVEMBER 25
WYCLIFFE BOARD
OF GOVERNORS

NOVEMBER 27
DEANERY OF
MONCTON
LESSONS &
CAROLS

DECEMBER 2-3
DIOCESAN
COUNCIL

ORDINATION

Ordination comes with a special distinction

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

When the Rev. Rick Cunningham swore allegiance to King Charles III, he was making history.

"I'm not sure about the Anglican Communion, but in the Anglican Church of Canada, Rick is the first clergy to swear allegiance to King Charles III," said Archbishop David Edwards as he presided over Rick's ordination.

Rick's ordination to the diaconate took place Sept. 11 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in the Parish of Lancaster, Rick's home church.

David Mitchell was the organist and pianist, and the Rev. Dr. Chris McMullen preached. The service's lay reader was Brenda Clayton. Rick's young daughter, Lily, sang "Down to the River to Pray" during the Eucharist.

Rick's presenters were Shayne Galbraith, the Rev. Canon Keith Osborne, and Rick's wife, Genevieve Primeau. Shayne is a long-time friend and served on the discernment committee for Rick.

At the beginning of the service, Bishop David told those gathered that normally, he would be dressed in mitre and cope, but during the period of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, he was dressed as per protocol, with a black armband on his left arm.

During his sermon, Chris spoke about one of the most moving pieces of scripture in the bible, John 18, where Jesus stands before Pilate.

"Pilate has all the power, yet he is more afraid than ever. Jesus is completely in command of the conversation, fulfilling Isaiah's prophesy. He emptied himself to be a servant," said Chris.

"This week we are all aware of this kind of leadership," he said. "We realize the dedication of Queen Elizabeth, who faithfully, constantly served. It was a job she never asked for but accepted."

Chris recalled where he was in 1972 — Mount Allison University, switching from pre-engineering to the social sciences.

He was feeling God's tug on his heart, and he wanted to focus on social work, even after being told by an advisor, 'God



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Archbishop David Edwards, assisted by the Ven. Leo Martin, lays hands on Rick Cunningham as part of the ordination rite; presenters the Rev. Canon Keith Osborne, Rick's wife Genevieve Primeau and friend Shayne Galbraith; from left are Leo, Bishop David, the Rev. Rick Cunningham, Keith, layreader Brenda Clayton and preacher the Rev. Dr. Chris McMullen; Rick's daughter, Lily, sang during the service.

needs engineers too.'

What cemented his path was watching Dr. Grant, a professor of Religious Studies, talking to a campus groundskeeper, asking about his family, and thanking him for the job he was doing.

"The next year I enrolled in Religious Studies," he said. "I knew I could learn from him."

Chris went on to serve as a pastor in the United Church for 17 years before coming to Anglicanism. He was told he

had to be a deacon for three years before he could become a priest.

His response? "Whatever a deacon is, I'll do it."

On Chris's ordination day, which he shared with the Rev. Mary Anne Langmaid, Archbishop Harold Nutter preached that 'once a deacon, always a deacon.'

"I had been ordained in pastoral care," said Chris. "Now I was ordained to serve. Bishop Nutter was right: once

a deacon, always a deacon."

Chris noted that deacons are mentioned in the New Testament, though priests are not.

"'Priest' is a post-New Testament invention, but you'll always be a deacon," he told Rick.

In describing the redemptive mission of Jesus, he said, "You, Rick, and I are to make that evident by what we say, and what we do."

After the service, those gathered met for refreshments

in the parish hall. Bishop David presented Rick with his licence, which will see Rick serving in the Parish of Moncton under the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk.

Rick has left his job as a platoon captain of the civilian firefighting force at Base Gagetown. He and Genevieve, and their children, Lily and Noah, have moved to Moncton, where Genevieve, a teacher, has found a new job.

ACW QUIET DAY

ACW Quiet Day held in Fredericton

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Anglican Church Women, 26 in all, gathered at St. Margaret's church in Fredericton for Quiet Day on Sept. 7.

Quiet Day is an annual gathering, though it hasn't been held since 2019. The day is a chance to meet, worship, pray, chat, share lunch and have some fun together without the time constraints of the annual meeting.

However, the title is a bit misleading, as ACW members are quick to describe the event as "anything but quiet."

Members attended from Blackville, Newcastle, Bay du Vin, Stanley, Riverview, Oromocto, Sussex, Woodstock and Fredericton.

Peggy Boucher, vice-president of the diocesan ACW, organized the day with help from Nancy Wiggins, Georgina Terry, Wendy Chase, Melissa O'Neill, Cathy Lutes, Carolyn Pellow and Claire Mullen.

This year, the Rev. Rob Langmaid led the service and gave a short homily. He noted the day's theme, "Together Again In Prayer."

He told those gathered that praying on Zoom for two years was not the same as coming together in corporate prayer.

"I'm glad to see so many here today, to worship, pray and fellowship together," he said. "We are not meant to live this life of prayer on our own."

"Even if we go into another full lockdown, I encourage you to find another person to pray with."

Peggy led a craft where members made a keychain or bracelet, using coloured beads that corresponded to the ACW prayer.

After a hearty lunch of sandwiches, homemade chicken soup, salad, lasagna, apple crumble, cookies, and squares, Ann Deveau gave a presentation on Christ Church Cathedral's Monday morning outreach.

The program began with then Dean Bill Hockin, who got plenty of knocks on his deanery door from people asking for money. He would give them \$5, which then became a \$5 gift card.

Then the committee started the Monday outreach to help

draw people there rather than to the deanery. It began with a bowl of apples and a pot of coffee.

Before the pandemic, the group organized and hosted a drop-in on Monday mornings that offered food, nursing care, bible study and fellowship for those in need. Once a month, they drew a bigger crowd by giving out \$10 gift cards to local supermarkets or \$10 bus vouchers.

Since the pandemic, their outreach event takes place the last Monday of the month, and includes the \$10 vouchers and gift cards. About 45 people show up for the highly-sought-

after cards and vouchers, plus baked treats, fruit, toiletries and more. It's not a lot, but it's a help to those who come, said Ann.

"For the Monday morning outreach, we open our hearts to people in need," she said. "Some we see once and never again, and some we see over and over. There were a lot of new people during COVID."

Ann described their guests as having a variety of backgrounds: some from shelters, some with kids, and seniors.

"The common denominator is they're poor," she said, adding some have illnesses and addictions, or a lack of education,

while others are just lonely.

Over the years, the group has lost a lot of their guests to cancer, suicide and even murder.

"When you see people panhandling, or living in a tent, and they look a little sad, know that they have a story. They have a name."

Members have visited their guests in hospital, accompanied them to court, driven them to medical appointments and the food bank and helped them find furniture.

"You can't fix them. You can't save them," said Ann. "Our goal is just to make their day a little bit brighter."

Ann told the group that scripture is the inspiration for what they do:

Hebrews 13:2 - Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

The outreach committee has some help with its efforts. The generous congregation of the Cathedral, members of the New Maryland United Church, and St. Margaret's are all involved in providing volunteers, cash and/or food.

The day ended with Peggy reading an article about aging.



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Susan Black (Christ Church Cathedral), Jean Essensa (St. Mary's York) and Nancy Robinson (Woodstock) show off their newly made bracelets; wide shot of the members in attendance during a presentation by Ann Deveau, right. Organizers Melissa O'Neill and Peggy Boucher are seen in the centre front row; layreader Nancy Wiggins, with the Rev. Rob Landmaid in the background; everyone was well nourished at the lunch; Joy Knox, Lydia Janes (both Parish of Sussex) and Donna Mulholland (Parish of Oromocto and Maugeville) work on their bracelets and keychains.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

STOP THE SPREAD

Stop The Spread program could benefit parishes

Deadline to apply for Red Cross program is Nov. 18

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Fears of another wave, another lockdown, and COVID in general have many parishes looking for ways to mitigate the spread of infection and help keep their people healthy.

The Canadian Red Cross has a free Stop the Spread and Stay Safe! program that provides masks and test kits to non-profits. Parishes are welcome to access it, but the deadline for applying is Nov. 18.

The Parish of McAdam did just that recently and is happy with the results.

"It's very easy to apply," said warden Linda Klassen. "The only thing you definitely need is your charity number."

Linda visited the website, filled out the sections and had the supplies shipped.

"Each section of the application takes about three minutes to complete," she said, adding there are four sections.



WALDEMAR BRANDT ON UNSPLASH

THE PARISH OF MCADAM recently applied to the Red Cross Stop the Spread and Stay Safe! program and now has masks and test kits they can share with parishioners and the community.

"I did it on a Tuesday and had it by Friday."

Linda's commitment is to report on the quantities distributed, a requirement for receiving the kits.

"I write down how many have been used and I can replenish once a month," she said.

The parish had been supplying masks, and that can get expensive. As well, this kit comes with N95 masks, not

the flat paper masks most have been using.

"It's really good for our older congregation," she said. "We still do precautions too. We play music but we don't sing in church. We're extra cautious."

Linda ordered the smallest kit available, which is still larger than most parishes will need, so she's ready to share with area churches and the community centre.

"It's for people who can't always get to Fredericton to get them," she said. "It's for a good reason."

The Ven. Cathy Laskey encourages parishes to take advantage of this free program.

"I see this as a ministry opportunity and a small thing we as a church can do to help others and the health care system," she said.

"Parishes can distribute to other parishes, denominational churches, organizations in the community or geographical area. They can act as a distribution hub."

The Ven. Kevin Stockall sees value in being that distribution hub. His parish was the recipient of a large donation of N95 masks and test kits, though not from the Red Cross.

"In the summer St. Mary's received a significant donation of masks and test kits from a not-for-profit organization which no longer had a use for them," he said.

"We've been offering them both within the three parishes currently involved in shared ministry (Stanley, Marysville, and St. Mary's York) as well as to those outside the parish communities that we hear may

need them.

"There's been more requests for the test kits, of which approximately 70 per cent have been distributed. Rapids tests seem to be difficult to source in the community."


He said they've used or given away about half of the 960 masks they received.

From the Red Cross website:

The Canadian Red Cross, working in partnership with Health Canada and provincial and territorial authorities, is providing free take-home COVID-19 rapid tests and masks to eligible non-profits and charities to help keep their personnel and the people they serve safer.

Eligible non-profits and charities will receive free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests and masks for them to distribute to their personnel, clients and partner organizations for them to use at home.

Use the link below to apply, and please do so by Nov. 18. (<https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/covid-19-%e2%80%93-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-rapid-tests-and-masks-for-community-organizations>)

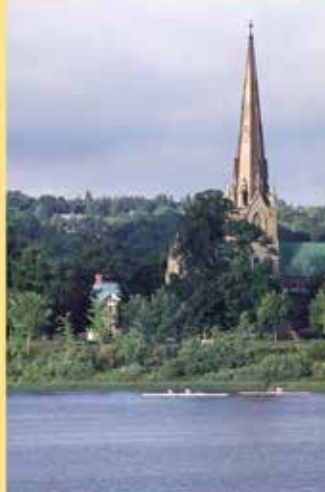


**Saturday,
Nov 5
Christ
Church
Cathedral,
Fredericton**

**Please pray
for a
blessed,
productive,
successful
Diocesan
Synod**

<https://nb.anglican.ca/synod/sessions/pages/138th-session-2022>

138th Session of the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton



Commemorative planting



THE PARISH OF FUNDY AND THE LAKES planted some burning bushes at its churches to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee this summer. The planters were Carole Moore and Anastasia Whitenect at St. Thomas Church; and Helen Nelson at Christ the King.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Diocesan Council highlights

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Diocesan Council, with its present cohort, met for the final time Sept. 29. The online meeting began with Evening Prayer led by Archbishop David Edwards.

A motion to enact Regulation 6-3 on Cemetery Management had to be tabled as chancellor David Bell, who authored the regulation, was unable to attend.

Council member Siobhan Laskey noted the policy needed to be edited, and would benefit from further review before council approved it.

CORRESPONDENCE

The secretary, David Peer, apprised council that the City of Moncton awarded the Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk the Order of Moncton. Council will send Chris a letter of congratulations.

It will also send one to Archdeacon John Matheson, who was recently awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal.

A letter from the Anglican Church of Canada noted the dates of the 2023 General Synod gathering in Calgary, set for June 27 to July 2. Delegates have been selected.

A letter from the Anglican Foundation of Canada noted the diocesan share of money raised during the Say Yes! To Kids campaign, which amounted to \$1,330.

The diocese topped up the amount to \$2,000 and gave it to Beacon Cove, formerly Safe Harbour, a youth facility in Saint John. It was built on property owned by the diocese on land that once housed St. James Anglican Church in the city's south end.

Parish development officer Shawn Branch recently visited Beacon Cove, and told council the \$2,000 is earmarked for mental health services for youth at the residential facility.

DIocese of HO

Bishop David gave an update on the mobile medical clinic, based on his conversations with Bishop Mathias during

the recent Lambeth Conference in the UK.

The van is now at the Ho Teaching Hospital, which is in the process of building a garage to house it and gathering staff to work on this outreach program.

The van was a joint fundraiser of the Rotary Club and the Diocese of Fredericton to bring basic medical care to the more than two million residents in the Diocese of Ho region in Ghana who lack access to health professionals.

"This marks the completion of a successful project," said David.

SYNOD PLANNING

Secretary of Synod David Peer noted the synod planning committee has met twice and arrangements are coming together.

The 138th Diocesan Synod takes place Nov. 5 at Christ Church Cathedral.

This synod will be a combination business and program synod, with five canonical motions, elections, and discernment on the future direction of ministry in the diocese.

In the meantime, David Peer and Shawn will attend the seven Greater Chapter Meetings in preparation for the Nov. 5 event.

FINANCE REPORT

Susan Jack reported on a change to diocesan synod grants and shared ministry reduction to parishes in a revision to policy A-4: Obtaining Financial Assistance.

The main change will see grants further align with the

process the Anglican Foundation takes, using the same categories and amounts. Sample applications will be available to help parishes through the process.

One new requirement in Policy A-4 is the need for reporting at the end of a project. This will include accounting, the return of any unused funds and an outline of any celebratory plans to mark the completion of the project.

Council approved the changes to the policy for financial assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Heather Harris-Jones told council that Parish contributions to the Diocesan Shared Ministry Budget, as of Aug. 31, are at 91 per cent, compared to 95 per cent this time last year.

She noted \$41,000 of that shortfall is at a high risk of not being collected, with \$18,000 at a moderate risk.

"What we're seeing is more parishes experiencing more difficulty," she said.

Heather noted a few hiccups in the employee benefits program change-over from Manulife to RBC, but largely a successful transition, with thanks to personnel officer Ben Bourque.

Heather walked council members through the monthly financial statement to Aug. 31, explaining the revenue and expenses to date.

"There are no surprises at this point," she said. "Expenses are on course and being managed as well as can be."

Investment portfolio: Overall the portfolio at the

end of August is down by 9.26 per cent. Heather noted that inflation pressures and the war in Ukraine are resulting in aggressive interest rate hikes by central banks.

As a result, speculation is rising that this may induce a recession. Heather noted that the change made in 2021 to align revenue used to calculate the rate of return with that of the Canada Revenue Agency's definition of income, provides a year-to-date rate of return of 3.5 per cent.

Heather also gave an update on Camp Medley. They budgeted for 400 campers, but hosted 468, when all campers and all camps were counted.

"We budgeted to break even, and in the end, we should do a little better than budget," she said.

Camp Medley's operating budget for 2022 is \$264,540.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Council approved a motion that will see changes to the Human Resources Commit-

tee Roles and Responsibilities, removing the treasurer from the membership and adding the personnel officer.

The Ven. Cathy Laskey asked that the committee seek to add young clergy to its membership, especially those with families.

Council approved the appointment of the Rev. Canon Richard McConnell to the HR Committee as a retired clergy representative. He replaces the Rev. Canon John Lownds whose term ended.

OTHER

Bishop David thanked members of council who ended up serving an extra year due to the pandemic. He also thanked those not returning as their terms were ending.

"It's not easy being a member of council," he said. "There are a lot of complex issues."

The next meeting of Diocesan Council will be an in-person retreat Dec. 2-3, where new members will get a primer on the role of members and how council operates.

Meeting of Diocesan Council
September 29, 2022
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| Parish Development Officer Report | no report |
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Help
LUNCH CONNECTION
Go Green!
icym.ca



Lunch Connection (a project of Inner City Youth Ministry) provides subsidized lunches to ~400 children, 3 days per week. That's more than 40,000 lunches in paper bags each school year!



We are working to reduce our environmental impact and make sure your donations are put towards what's most important...what goes in those lunch bags!



Help us sew simple reusable drawstring bags to replace the disposable paper ones, or donate fabric for others to use!



In order to ensure the bags can be washed between uses, we will need at least 1200 cloth bags!



The sewing pattern for the bags is available on our Facebook page
Finished bags & fabric donations can be dropped off at Stone Church (87 Carleton St. Saint John) from 8:30 am-11:30 am Monday-Friday or contact us at info@icym.ca or 647-9813



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Dean Geoffrey Hall, left, is seen outside as guests await entry; Geoffrey leads as the last guest, Lt. Gov. Brenda Murphy, enters; guest book; Geoffrey leads as guests exit, including Premier Blaine Higgs and Lt. Gov. Brenda Murphy behind him; police sign the guest book; the service in progress; Archbishop David Edwards during his homily.

Photos by Steven MacGillivray Photography



Queen remembered with Cathedral service

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

About 100 people stood on the green of Christ Church Cathedral Sept. 19, watching as pipers led a memorial procession from Government House to the church in downtown Fredericton.

Canadian Armed forces personnel, cadets, RCMP officers, police officers, police chiefs, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, St. John Ambulance members, Royal Canadian Legion members and auxiliary, politicians and others made up the guest list for the invitation-only Choral Evensong and Memorial in commemoration of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

At the top of that list was New Brunswick's Lieutenant Governor Brenda Murphy, the vice-regal head of government in the province and the monarch's representative.

The service was a joint effort of the Cathedral and the provincial government, specifically the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Office of Protocol. It took place just a few hours

after the Queen's funeral service in the UK.

Dean Geoffrey Hall led the service, and Archbishop David Edwards preached. The Cathedral choir and music director Thomas Gonder provided the music.

Several guests participated in the service, including Lt. Gov. Murphy and Premier Blaine Higgs, who both offered the biddings. The lessons were read by retired Lt. Gov. Graydon Nicholas and Chief Justice J.C. Marc Richard. Prayers were said by three members of the clergy: the Rt. Rev. Christian Riesbeck of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saint John; the Rev. Verner Drost and the Rev. Jonah Bruce.

Geoffrey noted that Queen Elizabeth had visited the Cathedral several times in her life.

"Pray for her, pray for Charles, our King, for the Royal Family and all who mourn her passing," he said.

In his short sermon, Bishop David noted that during the London funeral service, thousands watched on big screens in Trafalgar Square.

"Through her life, it seems she lived her life on a big screen," he said of the late Queen. "None of us would have enjoyed living under such scrutiny."

On April 21, 1947, on her 21st birthday, the Queen promised to do her duty for us, however long or short her life might be.

"She was able to fulfill that promise," he said, adding she had met with and invited the new British prime minister to form a government just two days before her death.

There are lessons to be learned from her life, he said, most notably vocation and service.

"She saw her role not as an accident but as a vocation, and she believed she was the person fitted for that role," he said.

"The Queen saw herself as a servant of the people of the Commonwealth... while we so easily deride and dismiss those who serve."

Bishop David cited the Queen's final Christmas broadcast, on Dec. 25, 2022, where she once again spoke of her faith.

"It is this simplicity of the Christmas story that makes it so universally appealing: simple happenings that formed the starting point of the life of Jesus — a man whose teachings have been handed down from generation to generation, and have been the bedrock of my faith. His birth marked a new beginning. As the carol says, 'The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.'"

David noted that whenever possible, one of the Queen's chaplains was called at least once a day to say prayers with her. The history of the monarch's chaplains goes back centuries, where it was decreed that they would wear red cassocks and be paid £14 (about \$21) annually.

"The reason she called these chaplains pretty much every day to say these prayers was her way of remaining in Christ," he said.

The service ended with The Royal Anthem, *God Save the King*, a first-time version for many in attendance, and a 21-gun salute from the cenotaph adjacent to the Cathedral.

CLERGY SPOUSES' RETREAT

Clergy Spouses' Retreat highlights

BY EVA MORTON

Thirty clergy spouses gathered at Villa Madonna Sept. 15-17 for a heartwarming reunion. It was a blessed time of being with old friends and making new ones.

It brought to mind the song lyrics, "You don't know what you've got til it's gone." Speaking for myself, I didn't anticipate how emotional the experience would be. We have missed this so much! We are very thankful to our bishop for sponsoring this event.

Our guest speaker was Karen Stiller, author of *The Minister's Wife*, and back by popular demand. A last-minute complication prevented her from meeting with us in person, but it almost felt like she was in the room with us.

Her warmth and wisdom shone through, and none of us felt short-changed. Not only is she "one of us," she is a gifted writer and presenter, and a wise woman. She is generous in her recommendation of other writers, and we all came away with a list.

Her theme was New Beginnings, and in her first session she invited us to consider the pros and cons of our pandemic experiences.

She shared that she came to like curling up with a cup of coffee on Sunday mornings for "couch church," but that was countered by her husband's anxiety and the challenge of supporting him as he navigated the labyrinth of online broadcasting.

She talked of learning who or what had been really nourishing her, and what had actually been a burden instead of a blessing. It gave us a chance to reconsider how we live, to identify the "splashes of joy" we had, and learned that it's all right to slow down.

She referenced Margaret Clark, of Briercrest College and Seminary, in describing the "clergy resilience model," with categories: ministry workload, stakeholder expectations, isolation, and personal challenges.

She recommended pausing to remember the "things we loved to do when the world slowed down" and finding a way to incorporate them into our day to day lives. The potential reward will be a life rich in joy and satisfaction.

In light of this, Karen invited us, in small groups, to ask ourselves the following questions:

1. What good things happened because of the limitations on your life in the last two years?
2. Did you create new practices and habits?
3. What good things are, or have been in your life because of your identity as a clergy spouse?
4. Where and when have you seen God at work?
5. Did you intentionally set out to start something new and did it work?

Most of us ran out of time before getting through the list — not surprising, and par

for the course for us. We just love being together and have so much to share, that there is never enough time!

We began day 2 with a devotional led by Nancy Robinson on the topic of serenity, filled with references to scripture, notably Psalm 19. She shared that chocolate is a favourite source of consolation for her, and the scriptural equivalent would probably be honey.

The Psalm reminds us that God's word is of more value than much fine gold and sweeter than honey. We all received a gift of chocolate at the conclusion.

We enjoyed the worship music presented by the team of Kate Turner, Anna Caines, Monica Langmaid, Val Phinney and Amy Hartin. In my opinion, it was just the right balance of new and old, and I felt blessed by their ministry.

Session 2 was a Pause, Prayer, and Pivot reflection.



GERALDINE ONYEWUCHI PHOTO

GROUP PHOTO: (KNEELING) Hope Twinamatsiko, Cathy Harnish, Carolyn VanBuskirk, Val Phinney, Carol Glencross, Eva Morton. **(standing)** Lyn Hallowell, Marguerite Barry, Sharon Miller, Pat Crowther, Amy Hartin, Monica Langmaid, Valda McMullen, Anne MacMullin, **(on screen-Karen Stiller)**, Debbie Edwards, Marlene Cheateley, Laura Ketch, Vivian Osborne, Charlene Routledge, Nancy Robinson, Geraldine Onyewuchi, Isabelle Hockin, Susan Black, Lynne Corey.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ABOVE: CATHY HARNISH, Michelle Pillay, Hope Twinamatsiko and Lyn Hallowell enjoy fellowship. LEFT: Musicians Val Phinney, Kate Turner, Monica Langmaid and Amy Hartin were popular at the Clergy Spouses' Retreat.

Karen observed that we can sometimes be our own biggest obstacles. She recommended the book, *Atomic Habits*, by James Clear.

She talked of making lasting changes in our lives and pointed out that a key component of that is how we see ourselves.

Karen recommended making lists about ourselves and what we want to do with our lives, things we knew we were good at, and that we liked about ourselves.

A list can help us discover things we hadn't recognized (e.g. What do I like about myself? What do my friends like about me?)

Karen used the example of David and Saul. When Saul offered his armour to David in the fight with Goliath, David returned it because he knew he could fight lions and bears with his sling, but he could not wear heavy armour.

He was brave enough to do it his way, not someone else's way.

She reminded us of the times when we had done what we weren't comfortable doing because it was expected, because we didn't want to rock the boat. She encouraged us to be our authentic selves.

She recommended *The Emotionally Healthy Woman*, by Geri Scezzero, (also a minister's wife), and *Be Kind to Yourself*, by Cindy Bunch.

We each made a compass collage - by using the directions of a compass: north (guiding light, faith anchors); south (light, energy, fun, play, rest, hobbies); east (new beginnings, healing and change); west (letting go of what no longer works).

Session 3 began with the recommendation of Scott Erikson's book, *Say Yes*. We were asked these questions: What can happen because a dream of yours has died? What would

Clergy spouses continued on page 11

CLERGY CONFERENCE

A postulant at Clergy Conference

BY TYLER MCKENNA

I thought I would be out of place being a layperson attending a clergy conference. In one way I am an outsider, but not really since I am in the ordination process and engaged in ministry as a layperson. This was an important realization for me.

Like many people, I suffer from imposter syndrome, doubting my own abilities and qualifications, becoming uncomfortable with myself in what I am doing.

Of course, these feelings are not based on reality. I was welcomed as one of them. All this settled some doubts within me.

Part of our discussion at the conference was being able to have difficult conversations and face them together as part of fellowship and human relationships.

We have been deprived of these things for quite some time. Being able to meet in



CATHY LASKEY PHOTOS

LEFT: THE REV. TERENCE and the Rev. Jasmine Chandra were guest speakers at Clergy Conference, speaking on a program they lead called Emmaus Way. **ABOVE:** the eighth anniversary of Bishop David's consecration was celebrated at Clergy Conference.

person again with minimal impediment makes us realize again the great importance of human interaction. It helps to stay grounded.

In my case, it helps me maintain a right view of myself, putting in right perspective my strengths and weaknesses and that of those around me. Isolation makes

one prone to blowing things out of proportion.

Another take away from this conference is the gratitude I have to be working in this diocese. We have a lot of good going on, and I believe we have good potential as a diocese.

We have various means to express the Anglican way while being able to maintain focus

upon the essentials. This seems to be a major struggle in other parts of our church.

We are, of course, not perfect, but there seems to be a willingness to move forward together. We have good leadership and a good focus, and this was something I needed to be reminded of.

There is much to heal from

these past few years. Isolation has caused us some damage. I am seeing the more we move forward by re-establishing physical interactions (as is best for each individual), the more we will be restored. We're made for one another. We need one another to become whole. *Tyler McKenna is a postulant in the Diocese of Fredericton.*

Clergy Spouses, continued

Clergy spouses continued from page 10

you do if you weren't so afraid?

Karen shared her book-writing journey and talked of creating an environment where we can try hard things. She suggested pre-planned words of comfort that counter-attack the voice of self-criticism and invited us each to write a list.

Phrases which came up repeatedly were: I am loved. I am a child of God. I am not alone. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Scott Erickson suggests that instead of comparing ourselves to others, we should concentrate on our own strengths and ask the question, "How can I contribute?" In other words, don't wear someone else's armour.

We participated in a lectio divina exercise with three dif-



CAROLYN VANBUSKIRK, Vivian Osborne, Debbie Edwards and Charlene Routledge enjoy renewing old friendships.

ferent people reading Psalm 139.

Karen finished with recommending what she called "a really weird thing to do." Sometime when we are alone, she suggested we try "the death practice." Lie down and imagine that you are in your coffin. Let go of everything

in your life, with thanks, and allow your deepest desires to bubble up.

Our Saturday morning devotional was led by Lynne Corey, on the theme, "Garment of Praise." She shared examples of God's provision and grace in some of life's recent challenges. She shared that the same pas-

sage of Scripture came to her attention several times in the space of a few days, Isaiah 61, specifically the phrase "garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness."

In session 4 we were encouraged to keep learning about ourselves. Karen talked about the fruit of the Spirit, as

described in Galatians 5 and shared that she used to think two incorrect things about the fruit of the Spirit: that we only get one at a time, and that when we get the fruit, it's completely ripe.

All the fruit is available to us, but sometimes it needs to ripen. It's God who makes things holy, and God makes very ordinary things so: wood, bread, wine, everyday people. She said that actually being "ordinary" is a pre-requisite.

We wound up the final session with a sharing of our compass collages. I personally enjoyed this exercise, and am keeping mine on my wall for a while as I ponder and modify it. It's a reminder to not shy away from new beginnings.

Many thanks to Bishop David, and Canon Keith Osborne for presiding at Holy Communion, and most especially, thanks to the planning committee of Isabelle Hockin, Anne MacMullin, and Joan Pain for making it all happen.

Thanks also to Cheryl Jacobs, who handled publicity and registration. God bless you all. I'm already looking forward to the next one.

COMMENTARY

Claim peace, not war

BY ANDREW HORNE

Today is Remembrance Sunday. Let me tell you something I remember.

I'm seven years old, it's a warm summer afternoon in Vancouver, and my brother and I and a few friends are running through the woods in Dunbar Park. We are playing War.

It's three against three, even teams, but the rules are not clear. We grab branches off the ground, and strip the twigs off them to simulate rifles. We sneak up on each other, and shoot, yelling out "Bang. I got you. You're dead."

Sometimes the one who has just been killed argues back.

"I'm not dead," he yells.

"You're dead. I shot you first."

And so we argue for a while until one of us, or both of us, agrees to die. Then we clutch our hands to our chests — because, of course, we have been shot through the heart — and fall upon the ground with much noise and drama.

But death is no big deal, because there's always a resurrection after we count to ten. In this manner, with this strange rhythm of killing and healing, the game of War carries us through a long summer afternoon.

It lasts until my older sister, Pat, walks by and ruins everything. She and her friend are walking through the woods — our woods, our battlefield — doing whatever it is that girls do.

I'm crouched behind a tree, waiting to jump out and shoot my enemy, when she sees me.

"Andy," she says, "you shouldn't be playing War. It's wrong."

"It's only play," I answer. And I shoot her dead.

But my sister doesn't fall down, not even for 10 seconds. She stands with her arms folded against her chest. She insists, patiently, "You shouldn't even pretend to kill people. It's wrong."

This moment I remember. Her words are electric, like lightning flashed from her to me; and then like thunder. I'm speechless.

I had never thought about it before. I had never questioned



LEENA A. KROHN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ANTI-WAR PROTEST AGAINST the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. on April 24, 1971 – at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 10th Street NW.

the pleasure we got from playing War. But the truth, now that my sister has spoken it, is irrefutable. I shouldn't even pretend to kill people. Playing war is wrong.

Then one of my enemies jumps out from behind a tree.

"Bang," he yells, "I got you. You're dead."

But I don't fall down. Instead, I stare at my sister, who is staring back at me.

I have, it seems, been invited to make a choice. It is not a choice between War and Peace. It will be many years before I understand what Peace really is. This is more like a choice between a lie and the truth. My sister is inviting me to wake up.

Once more my enemy yells, "I said 'Bang.' You're dead already."

When I still fail to clutch my heart and fall back, dead upon the ground, he cries out indignantly, "You're not playing fair!"

He's right, of course. I'm not playing fair. I'm not playing at all. I'm looking now, beyond my sister, at the trees. For the first time in my life I suddenly see the trees, the maples and oaks, how beautiful they are in late summer, the way their branches move in the wind like laughter.

I see it all so clearly. The trees are not part of a battlefield, and I am not at war. War is wrong, my sister is right, and aren't the trees beautiful?

...

It's easy to think that a story like this has nothing to do with real war. War in the real world,

we are told, is a matter of competing economies and ideologies, the desire for more land, more prestige, greater control of resources, and very occasionally the honest defense of one's people.

War is a matter of armies and nations, of weapons and tactics, of moments of overwhelming fear, and then the long, sad burying of the dead.

I understand that people may be offended by my little story, the unfair analogy: children playing in a suburban park. War is not a game, they will say. Indeed, I will say it myself: war is no game.

And yet, it is possible that a little story like mine has everything to do with war — not the reality of war perhaps, but the motive for war, the unhealthy, unworthy pleasure we derive from violence.

I suspect that the spiritual distance between a child's game of War, and a deadly conflict between nations, is not so great after all.

The difference between my sister and I, the argument between war and truth, was a small instance of the larger historical moment: Vancouver in the late 1960s. Up the street at the Dunbar Theatre, my brother and I would spend our allowances watching war movies: *The Dirty Dozen*, *The Great Escape*, *The Guns of Navarone*, and *Tora, Tora, Tora*. These were movies based upon that most persuasive lie: the possibility of virtuous vio-

lence. This lie was like candy to young boys like us; or perhaps like a drug: it fed the hunger it claimed to satisfy. We couldn't get enough of it.

Opposed to all this, in Vancouver at that time, were the hippies, the Peace movement, the Vietnam War protests, and the *CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite.

There, on television, for anyone who could bear to watch, was the unbelievable ugliness of the Vietnam War, the blood-soaked stretchers being lifted into the helicopters.

For the first time in history a war was caught on camera for the nightly news. This was real war, not Hollywood war, and I couldn't make the connection at all. And I still can't.

I remember watching TV with my dad, and asking him what was going on.

"Why are those people killing those other people?" I asked.

And I remember my dad's long, suffering silence. Because what could he say? What can any of us possibly say?

If such memories have any meaning for us, this Remembrance Sunday, they remind us that war is a deliberate human activity. War is not inevitable, except that we seem, almost inevitably, to choose it.

War, as the poet Phyllis Webb describes it, "is an architecture for aggression." Like any architecture, war is a human project, a structure that we first imagine, then plan and build, and finally inhabit. War expresses the aggression that rests within all of us.

Ask why it is that we make war, and the answer must be that we enjoy it. The definitive statement of this truth may be found in Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 7, verses 14 to 25.

Peace, I am pleased to say, is something entirely different. Peace is not simply the cessation of violence, as when two armies pause to bury their dead, or two fighters agree to catch their breath, before going at it again.

True peace, the kind of peace Jesus offers us this morning, is not simply the absence of conflict, but the

authority of love. Peace is a reality substantial in itself, divine and not human in origin, offered to us from God.

We may claim, in the words of Jesus, that such peace "passes all understanding," but it is still ours to claim.

Indeed, if we, the disciples of Jesus, do not claim the power of such peace, I'm pretty sure that no one else will bother. Amen.

...

Authors note: This sermon was preached by the Rev. Andrew Horne on Remembrance Sunday, 2021 at St. John's Church in the Village of Gagetown, where he is the priest in charge. Artillery practice from the nearby army base continuously interrupted the service.

Romans 7

14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. [a] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature, a slave to the law of sin.

Reframing the conversation

BY SHAWN BRANCH

Over the past few years, as I've been talking with parish leaders, a common question is being raised – "How do we *be* the Church in this era?"

The Church has evolved over time, just as the world and culture have evolved around us. Wrestling with this question led to the birth of *ReFrame*.

The name came to me as I watched a renovation documentary one night — repurposing a beautiful century-old building so that it could

continue to be a presence in its community.

As I watched, pieces were coming together in my mind. How do we celebrate the riches of our tradition and imagine the 'what ifs?' Can these dry bones dance again?

ReFrame is a year-long cohort that began earlier this year with the goal of wrestling with 'being the Church, in New Brunswick, today.'

Monthly, we gather for discussion and teaching with the focus of enhancing the leadership in our local congregations.



The cohort has been a mix of lay and clergy leaders with all committed to wrestling through these questions together.

Two reflections from cohort members:

Kimberly reflected, "Through this journey to re-imagine church, we have wrestled a lot with the question of 'how,' but together I feel like we have moved to the question of 'when' which is easier to

answer – when is now.

"Being part of this group has helped me see that mission doesn't have to be a grand gesture, a carefully planned event, or a flashy new program. Mission can start with one person choosing to stand up and step out of the boat to try something new."

Chris noted, "Taking part, as a parish priest, has challenged me to confront some of the immediate needs of the

people in our parish, and those of the communities in which our parishes live.

"The role of church, of service, and of faith means different things to different people, and the whole Church needs to understand that we are not seen by others as we have once been seen.

"The group I'm with, along with books discussed, and speakers heard, has shown us that many have been thinking about the role of the Church in the world today, and how we might best be the body of Christ amongst others.

"Being a part of this group keeps this reality at the forefront of my thinking, planning, and conversations with the people I see every day."

Applications for the 2023 cohort are now open at nb.anglican.ca/ReFrame

Nature's power



BRENT HAM PHOTO

POST-TROPICAL STORM FIONA was especially brutal in the eastern part of New Brunswick on Sept. 24, and as you can see, she made her presence know in the Parish of Shediac cemetery. Thankfully no buildings or cemetery stones were damaged. Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and western Newfoundland did not fare so well, with widespread power outages and millions of dollars in property damage.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Birthday girls!

ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Miramichi held an open house to celebrate the 90th birthday of two outstanding ladies in our congregation. Olive Trevors (in yellow) turned 90 on the 7th and has been an active lay reader for decades in the parish. Janet Curry (in flowered dress) turned 90 on the 18th and is our envelope secretary and assistant treasurer. Both ladies are involved in the workings of the parish as well as other community organizations.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

WITH CANON VICARS HODGE AND BISHOP TERRY DANCE

MAY 2023 - SIGN UP NOW AS DEMAND WILL BE HIGH.

You're invited to join the group for the spiritual adventure of a lifetime. Walk where Jesus and his disciples walked and meet the people of the land that brings Bible stories to life. For full information: www.trinitytour.org

RESCHEDULED TO MAY 1-14, 2023



NEWS FROM ROATÁN

Roatán Episcopal Church Ministry fall 2022 update

We are excited to share with you that next year, in the spring of 2023, we will be visiting you in your parishes and sharing our experiences with you. As soon as we have the dates, we will share them with you.

Financial support appeal

On the financial side, we continue to be very positive and to pray and praise God with faith and thanksgiving. We also ask you to continue to pray about our finances, that for the next year and in coming years our support will stabilize and be sufficient to cover our needs.

At the moment, our balance is very low; in fact, there is a negative balance of CAD 10,464. Therefore, please consider sending a special offering for our ministry in Roatán.

To donate now, please click on the following link (or copy and paste it into your browser): <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778> 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, 168 Church Street, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4C9 Phone: (506) 459-1801.

All cheques should have "Honduras Mission" noted on the reference line. We greatly appreciate your prayer and financial support to date and trust that you will continue to support us.

What is happening in the Roatán Churches?

On the 4th of July, thanks to an initiative of our Honduran Diocese, we made a second donation of groceries worth CAD \$60 to 29 families in the church in Roatán.

Most of the families said, 'We are grateful for these donations that help us to feed our loved ones.' They will receive this help three more times. Reina, a church member said, "It came at the right time, because that day I did not have enough money to buy groceries. I am very grateful to God!"

Victor Montoya's story

The head of a family of five members, a wife and three children, Victor is the stepfather of three older kids.

Victor is a bricklayer and through this trade he has provided for his family.

During the pandemic, his wife was let go from her job

and, with the reopening, Víctor began to do occasional jobs.

A few years ago he had a problem with his spine, but he always managed to continue working as a bricklayer without any trouble.

In February this year he had the opportunity to build a big house and earn some money, a great help toward living expenses. Suddenly his spine began to give him so much pain that he could no longer work.

Now Victor can't grab a shovel, or other heavy building tools, and he has had to trade them for a pair of crutches so he can walk. The worst of it is that his problem can't be cured with surgery. Victor and his family are in the process of accepting and living with this new stage in his life.

Victor was one of the first beneficiaries of the grocery provision and he said, "I am thankful to God, the Church and the donors. God bless them 100%!"

Now Victor's wife is the one working, as a server in a hotel, but with the high cost of living, what she earns is not enough.

The Food Program bags, he said, have been and will continue to be "a provision from God for my family."

Discipleship at the church in Roatán

This fall we celebrated a special time with members of both churches participating in a discipleship course.

There was worship, a time of testimony and certificates awarded to many church members from the two Episcopal churches who attended and finished the 'Identity in Christ' discipleship classes.

There were four sections in all, and the classes lasted several months at each location. Rev. Kara Thompson de Mejia taught most of the classes and three people had perfect attendance, so they each received a gift. It was a beautiful evening that we all spent together worshipping Jesus Christ.

This discipleship was prepared by Kara, in collaboration with Joy Dodd from Joy to the Nations International Ministry, and the Rev. Nelson Mejia helped with reviewing the translations into Spanish.



ABOVE: VICTOR MONTOYA'S old spine injury caught up with him recently, rendering him unable to continue working as a bricklayer. The food program in the parish has helped his family tremendously.

TOP RIGHT: Discipleship classes.

RIGHT: Archbishop Justin Welby with Bishop Lloyd Emmanuel Allen, from the Honduras Diocese, during the Lambeth Conference in the UK.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Lambeth Conference

Our Bishop Lloyd Emmanuel Allen from Honduras Diocese had the privilege for the first time to attend the Lambeth Conference in England, and we gladly prayed to God for him as he met with Bishops from Anglican dioceses all over the world.

Prayer List We want to share with you our prayer needs, and at the same time you can share your needs with us so we can pray for you, as the Word says to pray for each other.

- Our family: Nelson, Kara and Kelly as we continue serving the Lord in Roatán, and Stephen in Winnipeg.

- Continued and stable financial support for the next years as we continue to serve the Lord in Roatán, Honduras.

- Our congregations: St. Peter by the Sea in Brick Bay, and Emmanuel in Coxen Hole, that we can continue growing, worshipping and focusing on Jesus Christ.

- The Rev. Robert Browning and for his ministry to English-speakers in Eastern Roatán.

- Evangelism and practical outreach in the local communities.

- Leadership for the Church in Roatán that embraces the challenges as we serve in the Kingdom of God.

- The Episcopal Church in Honduras and our Bishop Lloyd Allen, as he continues leading our Diocese for the next five years.

- For Carmen, Arlin, Charon, Ingris and Alexy, as they continue at university here in Roatán.

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. **Submitted by the Rev. Nelson and the Rev. Kara (Thompson) Mejia. Kara is the daughter of the Rev. Gordon Thompson and his wife, Bell, who live in northern New Brunswick.**

MUSIC COMMENTARY

Charming To The Last is back with a story

Last month I began a new format in this article of looking a little more deeply at one particular song, and its value to Christian faith.

This month I'm returning to my earlier format of reviewing an entire album, as a member of our Diocesan Synod office, Ben Bourque, has released his second album with his band, Charming to the Last.

Along with bandmates Christian Monteith and Alex Arthurs, he has put out a sophomore album — *A Single Spark* — that packs a punch, with trademark post-punk guitar riffs, and full songs that change style, time, and atmosphere to make this another great album to listen to.

The topic of this album may not immediately lend itself to a review in a Christian church newspaper, but hang in there a minute, and you might see that it, in fact, does (IMHO).

This album tells the story (in three conveniently noted



Acts, like a movie) of a man who has run into a rough patch, having left his family rather suddenly, experiencing the turmoil such a thing would cause, and then turning again, and choosing to come back.

It is a story told often. In the hands of these great musicians,

with creative flair and a large sense of scope, the story demands a large view, and a very intimate one at the same time.

This is a heavy album, not just because of the thematic content, but because the music demands you listen. Charming to the Last has a great ability to use a hook or riff in a song and then take a hard right turn, throwing you for an aural loop.

The first single, "Wave of Regret," speaks of the main character's uncertainty of where he's headed. "I was looking for an answer / a revelation written in the sand" as if to have a kind of external justification for leaving (or returning? hmmm).

This first act — his departure — is the biggest of the three, and has him speaking a new beginning, breaking the (old) cycle, and drowning out voices (of his past? of his conscious? of his doubts?).

The second act, in which the man questions/doubts

what he has done, and begins to actively question his decision, is heralded with a mix of various tunes and voices, representing his state of mind, perhaps.

The song, "Rabbit Hole" is a great transition from this state of mind to what comes next. Act 3 (we might see it as redemption), features a sudden brightening of the songs' ambience from here to the end of the album.

"Recalculating" shows this very well, followed by the title track with the great lyric, "All it took was a single spark / a sudden shift in this tired heart / to feel alive again / to feel like this is not where my story ends."

From here on in, the main character begins to make his way back to where he was to begin with. The music of the album reflects all this wonderfully.

So are you still hanging in to see where I'm going here? If you take out the specifics of

the story, and look at the basic structure of withdrawing from something, wondering about life as it is now, and then starting to make your way back to where we were before, you have the basics of pandemic life since March 2020.

During this time (and really, any time), some have considered walking away from their faith, have wrestled with the ramifications of that choice, and then have made their way back.

You see, there are many ways to tell a similar story, and Charming to the Last has done a great job of doing it in their own particular way, making some really great music along the way.

A Single Spark is a great album!

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



The Rev. Rick Cunningham, former firefighter, and newly ordained deacon now serving in the Parish of Moncton

Favourite book of the Bible – St. Luke

Birthplace - Saint John

What you love most about God – God's unconditional love for us

Favourite place on Earth - Being with my children

Farthest you've been from home - St. Martin, Caribbean

Favourite meal or dessert - My wife's roast beef dinner

Biggest fear – Being separated from my family

Hidden talent – Cooking

Favourite movie or book – Tom Clancy's "Red Storm Rising"

Your hobby – Model trains

Three things always in your fridge – Diet Pepsi, jalapeno cheddar cheese, leftover tacos

Favourite sports team - Toronto Maple Leafs. Go Leafs go!

Episcopal Announcements



The appointment of the Rev. **Stephen Harish** as priest-in-charge in the Parish of Oromocto and Maugerville and the Parish of Minto and Chipman has been extended for a further two years to Sept. 30, 2024.

Bishop David Edwards has

accepted the resignation of the Rev. **Dr. Cole Hartin** as rector of the Parish of Portland, to take a position with the Diocese of Texas. The resignation is effective Dec. 24.



FAITH IN ACTION

This is another in a series entitled *Faith In Action: Building Hope For Tomorrow In The Face Of Climate Change*, put together by the Ven. Kevin Stockall, Hannah Westner and Andrew Mathis, all of the Parish of St. Mary, York in Fredericton, with the help of additional guest writers.

The series sprang from a helpful book study last spring on Jim Antal's *Climate Church; Climate World*. The series hopes to explore the role that Church must play as part of humanity's response to the climate crisis, offering theological and scientific background as well as practical tips and advice.



Climate Change: Impact on Creation

Guest author: Mike Howe

Mother Earth blessed us with a balance in temperature, allowing most of the world's population to live in the "Goldilocks zone" – not too hot, not too cold, but just right to sustain and nurture our existence.

Climate change means that the earth / ocean / atmosphere system is continually trying to adapt to maintain that balance. Some of the large-scale changes that are occurring as a result include:

- **Melting permafrost in the Arctic.** Permafrost binds soil, rock and sand in the ground with ice. As it thaws, previously frozen organic matter in the ice decomposes, releasing gases such as methane and carbon dioxide.
- **Amazon deforestation.** This is concerning as trees absorb carbon dioxide which help the earth to maintain itself in equilibrium.
- **Warming oceans.** This results in reduced levels of oxygen dissolved in the water, and increasing levels of acidity, and has negative impacts on marine life and the ocean ecosystem.
- **Melting glacier ice.** Glaciers are disappearing at an alarming rate. This leads to sea-level rise, a major issue for coastal areas.

The earth has proven to be rather resilient and continually attempts to adapt to these changes, both natural and man-made, but we are rapidly approaching the breaking point.

In the next articles, I'll explain some of the changes we are seeing closer to home: in Canada and in NB.

We have been truly blessed with the creation God has provided. As caretakers of the Lord's creation, it is up to each and every one of us to do our share to manage "this home" that he has provided.

