

About this time in 2000, St John the Evangelist Church was featured in the local Ottawa Press with a feature highlighting the memories of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. Also featured in the rededication of the Warrior's Chapel was a desire to focus on reconciliation and peacekeeping at home and abroad. Article from the Ottawa Citizen November 13, 2000.

## Clarkson recalls early days of restored Warrior Chapel

BY KELLY EGAN

In 1947, when Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson was only eight years old, her family moved into a house on Somerset Street, near the corner of Elgin.

During the second night in the new house, little Adrienne Poy looked out her bedroom window and saw something she remembers to this day — part of the Church of St. John the Evangelist was aflame.

The church survived that destructive episode. Yesterday, Madame Clarkson helped it undergo a more constructive transformation.

The Governor General was the guest of honour as the downtown church rededicated its Warriors' Chapel to the cause of peace and reconciliation.

It was an enthusiastic celebra-

tion, featuring a choir of perhaps 50 members, string and horn sections supplementing the organ, a visit by Bishop Peter Coffin and a thoughtful address by Madame Clarkson.

The Poy family became well established in the life of the Anglican Church and the Governor General, before a packed congregation, recalled her early days there.

"The church was a very important part of our family life," she said, speaking from the pulpit.

She spoke of sitting in the church and staring, in childlike wonder, at the figure of a lamb, hearing the *Messiah* for the first time, seeing the apparently battle-scarred banners in the Warriors' Chapel.

"Many is the meal and Sunday school lesson I had in the basement of this church," she said.

The same bishop that dedicated



Rev. Garth Bulmer, right, the Rector of St John's Anglican Church stands inside the renovated Warrior Chapel, dedicated by Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson, who as a girl was inspired by the church.

the chapel in 1951, the Right Rev. Robert Jefferson, also confirmed her as an Anglican, further cementing her connection to St. John's.

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WAYNE CUDDINGTON, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

# Church: To focus on reconciliation

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The church's dilemma, meanwhile, was simple enough. What to do, 50 years later in peacetime, with a chapel first dedicated to the memory of those killed in the two great wars of the 20th century?

A Warrior's Chapel once fit the times for St. John's, the "gar-rison church of Ottawa." What to do in the age when churches have AIDS ministries?

In 1997, the congregation started to re-examine the purpose and look of the chapel, then a fairly drab corner to the side of the main sanctuary.

It settled on a two-pronged goal: To continue to honour the war dead but to adopt a focus of reconciliation, the work of modern-day "Warriors," not for armies, but for Jesus Christ.

Rev. Garth Bulmer said St. John's will become the first Canadian affiliate of the International Centre for Reconciliation, based in Coventry

Cathedral in England.

The cathedral was destroyed in 1940 by German bombers. Church leaders used the opportunity to seek reconciliation with the former enemy, even sending young people to help rebuild a hospital destroyed in the Allied bombing of Dresden.

An international movement was born and today it tries to bring together opposing forces in countries like Israel, Northern Ireland, Nigeria and the U.S.

While the chapel has been physically altered, "the second phase of the rehabilitation is much more difficult," Rev. Bulmer told the churchgoers.

"It involves the renewal of our hearts and minds and wills to reconciliation."

Madame Clarkson expanded on the theme.

"We have been able to look at peacekeeping and say that's our role," she said, in reference to Canadian involvement in peacekeeping efforts around the world.