

The Blessings Edition

April 2023

Blessings begin on page 8



RICHARD DENNIQUE PHOTO

This photo of the Shrove Tuesday supper at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Woodstock offers a unique perspective. Many parishes in the diocese held pancake suppers on Feb. 21, and for some, it was their first major public event since early 2020. See the photos on page 4.

Isaac's journey: the mighty power of prayer

BY EUGENE PRICE

On the evening of April 28, 2022, Isaac Frame was diagnosed with leukemia.

Arrangements began immediately to have him transported by air ambulance from the Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital in Fredericton to the IWK in Halifax the next day.

Little did his parents, Chris and Amanda, know what they were in for when they left Fredericton.

They would be gone for seven weeks, away from their two other boys, Aiden (7) and Ciaran (6), living and dealing with so many major decisions, under such stress, while being confined to a small hospital room with Isaac.

As word of Isaac's illness spread, so did the prayers. Hundreds and hundreds of people from all over Canada, the U.S. and England reached out to request permission to include Isaac on their church's prayer list.

Every denomination saw a need for a miracle here and prayed daily to the greatest healer of all. Isaac's name was even placed in the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

Many people reached out to say they had been and would continue to pray for Isaac. Non-believers offered up their best wishes, their positive thoughts and their support to the family during this very stressful time.

Individuals who had already walked this journey and won reached out with encouragement.

Because Isaac was just a few weeks short of his first birthday, a lot of testing was done at the IWK to determine what type of leukemia he had — infantile or childhood.

The testing concluded it was childhood leukemia, which was the best case scenario. Prayers were being answered early on.

The initial thoughts were Isaac and at least one parent would be at the IWK until Christmas. Initial treatments went well and Isaac was able to return home and be reunited with his two older brothers on June 14.

What a homecoming that was, having been told a few weeks earlier that they may be there until the end of the year. Prayers were still turning



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mary Lou Price, her husband, Eugene, and grandson Isaac pose with the Rev. David Peer after the Sunday service in the Parish of Bright on Feb. 5. Isaac has been on a tough journey for the past year that began with a diagnosis of leukemia. Although his parents were told he'd be in the IWK hospital in Halifax until the end of 2022, he was able to return home to Fredericton in June.

“On Dec. 20 Isaac received his last aggressive treatment — and what a Christmas present that was.”

this nightmare into something more manageable.

This would mean there would be frequent trips to the IWK for several rounds of chemotherapy, in addition to receiving treatment at the DEC.

The trips to Halifax, although still numerous, were somewhat lessened by Isaac being able to have some of his treatments administered locally.

On Dec. 20 Isaac received his last aggressive treatment — and what a Christmas present that was.

In early January he began his maintenance program, which will run until August 2025.

With the exception of one small glitch, which delayed treatment for a week, everything was pretty much textbook.

What a blessing that was!

Throughout his treatments, Isaac has been a little warrior and provided the inspiration we all needed with his beautiful smile on a daily basis, his love for life each day and his love for his family.

One little hurdle remained,

and that was for Isaac to begin to eat so he could have his feeding tube removed. As anyone who has any experience with chemo can attest, food is not high on their list of priorities.

As an adult you know you have to do it, but getting a 20-month-old to understand that is very different.

On Feb. 5 Isaac attended the regular Sunday morning service at All Saints' Church in Keswick Ridge with his grandparents, Mary Lou and Eugene Price. The Rev. David Peer had a special prayer for healing for Isaac at the end of the service.

The following day his feeding tube was removed and Isaac has been doing remarkably well — progressing with more food intake daily.

The families have been very appreciative of all your prayers over the past year and ask that you continue to keep Isaac in your prayers for his maintenance programs.

Our faith in a healing God has not wavered during this entire period.

The amazing life of the Rev. Keith Joyce!

Dear Editor,

'Amazing' and 'awesome' — two overused words nowadays — do apply accurately to the January 2023 My Journey Here story of Rev. Keith Joyce in the New Brunswick Anglican.

If Hollywood screen writers got a hold of it, they could produce a true-life sequel to the Indiana Jones adventures.

It all starts with missionary parents expelled from Revolutionary China, an account worthy of its own story, and then with their English-born child, Keith, sail on the famous RMS Queen Mary to Canada.

Perhaps most amazing in Keith's globetrotting life is being immersed in Muslim cultures — even Bedouin tents, no less — not your typical missionary in Africa story.

About the time of the 9/11 attack in New York, I began attending services at Christ Church Cathedral, especially attracted to the music ministry, where I was soon noticed by Dean Joyce, who introduced himself and gave me a warm welcome.

His own love for music and talent on the trumpet became evident soon enough, but I never imagined the depth of his personal journey.

I felt a void when he left Cathedral life for Ontario, but now I can reciprocate our first encounter in 2001 and welcome him back to New Brunswick.

Mark Hymers

Christ Church (Parish) Church, Fredericton

Letters
to the editor

We welcome them!
Send yours to
gmcknight@diofton.ca



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

THE NEW BRUNSWICK
ANGLICAN



www.anglican.nb.ca

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

The Most Rev. David Edwards Archbishop and Publisher

Gisele McKnight Editor
Cheryl Jacobs & Ben Bourque Proofreaders

Published 10 times per year. Price of subscription \$10.00

Please send news and photo submissions to:
12 Spruce Street, Sussex, N.B. E4E 1L9
Phone: 506-459-1801, ext. 1009; E-mail: gmcknight@diofton.ca

Please send subscription renewals and changes of address to:
The New Brunswick Anglican, c/o Anglican Journal Circulation Dept.,
80 Hayden St, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 3G2
circulation@national.anglican.ca OR 1-866-924-9192 ext. 259

Printed & mailed in North York, Ontario
By Webnews Printing Inc.

THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Easter prompts a lot of questions

Easter is a time of celebration, the rising of Christ from the dead to bring the fullness of life.

We cannot imagine what it was like for the followers of Jesus who encountered him on that first Easter Day. They had experienced the hopelessness and desolation of Good Friday.

The women were following through with the delayed burial rituals which they had been unable to complete on the Sabbath.

Suddenly they were faced with a new reality. Jesus, who they had seen die, was now alive. Apparently somehow different, but undoubtedly it was him.

The stories about him in those days before he returned to his Father in Heaven are varied, but do not give us a full picture. John tells us in his Gospel that during this time, Jesus did many things.

As these amazing events



Archbishop David Edwards

unfolded, there would have been questions for his followers: what are we to make of them?

What are we to do about this? Eventually Jesus tells them to tell others, not just about his resurrection, but the story of what happened during his life — what he taught, the miraculous signs, the conflicts with the authorities.

All these things would present a picture of who he was and

why he had come.

As we know, Jesus gave some direction to the disciples as he left them on the day of his ascension:

And Jesus came and said to his disciples, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age,'

but the Church had to work out what they were to do in response to those commands.

As we come to this Easter, God's Church faces a question we have faced numerous times during the last 2,000 years.

The changes we are facing across the world, highlighted by COVID-19, but previously

present, lead us to ask what are we to do.

The purpose of the Church is to celebrate the new life that Christ brings in our worship and to declare it to the whole of creation.

Just like those first disciples, we find ourselves this Easter asking similar questions: how are we to proclaim the good news of a loving, life-giving God in our world today?

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

Some thoughts on the resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Christianity.

Of course, his death on the cross for our sins is essential for our salvation. And without his birth, then his death would not have been possible.

But apart from his resurrection, neither his birth nor death would have any significance or effectiveness in terms of our salvation.

As the Apostle Paul has said, "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17)

Down through the centuries, people have put forward many theories to dispute Christ's resurrection, one of the latest being that they have discovered his bones!

But, in fact, the apologetic defense for his resurrection is firm and well-documented, for serious inquirers who wish to explore the topic.

So I will forego presenting a case that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and hope that the reader also accepts it as a histori-



cal fact.

Rather, my thoughts turn to the significance of the resurrection in the lives of those of us who believe.

First and foremost, Christ's resurrection was proof of the accomplishment of our salvation. As Paul said, "He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification." (Romans 4:25)

God accepted Christ's death on the cross as the full and final atonement for our sins and demonstrated that by raising him from the dead. Because our debt has been paid, everyone who repents and believes in Christ is assured of God's forgiveness.

The resurrection is also significant because it is the bedrock of our hope in life beyond the grave. We do not worship a dead Saviour, but One who, through his resurrection, has conquered death and is alive forevermore. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we also will rise to life eternal.

As the Apostle Peter states, "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Christ's resurrection gives us hope not just for the future, but for today as well, through his spirit who is at work in us.

Are we facing trials that threaten to crush us? Let us cry out to God for His strength to endure.

Are we facing temptations too powerful to resist? Then

let us humble ourselves before God and ask for his power to overcome temptations and break destructive habits.

Or are we so discouraged that we want to give up? Let us pour out our hearts to him and cling to his love and faithfulness.

No matter what our situation may be, we are not left on our own to struggle through it. God is willing and able to help us.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21)

...

Nancy Stephens, originally from Blackville, served with OMF International for over 30 years, including 12 years as a missionary in Thailand. Now retired, she resides in Fredericton and worships in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

April 2
St. Mary, Benton
(Parish of Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland)

April 7
Trinity, Saint John,
Good Friday Service

April 8 - 9 Easter
Christ Church
Cathedral

April 16
St. George, Bathurst

April 17 - 21
House of Bishops

April 23
*** St. John the Evangelist,**
Fredericton
(Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis)

April 28
*** St. John the Evangelist,**
Oromocto

April 29
Diocesan Mothers'
Union Rally

April 30
*** St. James, Ludlow**
(Parish of Ludlow and Blissfield);
Ordination of Nicholas
Saulnier, Christ Church
Cathedral

* confirmation

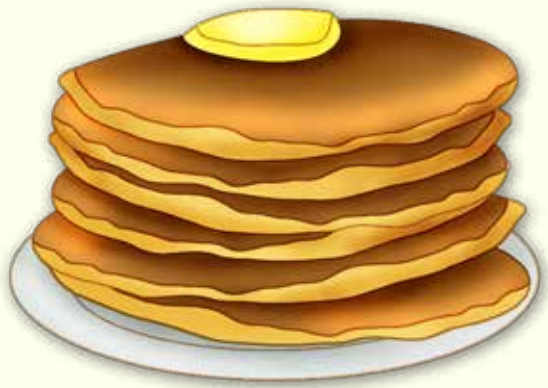
I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ —
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us, by Stuart Townend

Blessings!

Do you have a story of blessing in your life you'd like to share? Many readers have been sharing their stories so that others might be blessed by hearing how God has touched their lives. Send your story (200-400 words) to the editor for inclusion in an upcoming New Brunswick Anglican. Let's keep the blessings going! <gmcknight@dioften.ca>

SHROVE TUESDAY



Shrove Tuesday celebrations!



TOP RIGHT: The Guild of St. Joseph was out in full force for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at Christ Church Cathedral. The turnout was very high, and the atmosphere was welcoming and fun, mainly because of the gentlemen volunteering from the Guild. Top photo: Stacy Spoonheim & Dean Geoffrey Hall. Bottom photo: Mike Pope, Andreas Decken, Andrew Cutler, John Ball.

ABOVE: The Parish of St. Andrews served 172 meals during its Shrove Tuesday supper at the parish hall. A big thank you to Ada Wood for taking the lead and to the many volunteers who helped, from ordering supplies to flipping pancakes. A total of \$1,170 was raised. Photo shows Lucy and Claude Vinneau tending to the pancakes.



BELOW: At St. Mark's in Sussex Corner, more than 270 diners were served a traditional pancake supper to mark Shrove Tuesday. All the proceeds went to the Sussex Salvation Army.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



RICHARD DENNIQUE PHOTO

LEFT: The Rev. Harold Boomer and Donnie Wright did the cooking during the Feb. 21 Shrove Tuesday supper which featured pancakes, baked beans, sausages and cupcakes at St. Luke's Parish Hall in Woodstock. The Facebook comments were very kind: Meal was outstanding; Amazing crew on hand; Couldn't ask for a better team; Plans are underway for next year; The takeout meal was delicious and the supper was well-organized.

MILITARY CHAPLAINCY



MCKNIGHT FILE PHOTO



SUBMITTED PHOTO

LEFT: The Rev. Major Mike Caines speaks with the Rev. Stephen Harnish during the 137th Diocesan Synod in 2019. RIGHT: The Rev. Canon Major Chris VanBuskirk during his deployment to Kuwait and Iraq in 2018.

Roles of two military chaplains change

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The Rev. Canon Chris VanBuskirk and the Rev. Mike Caines, both majors and chaplains in the Canadian Reserves, are taking on new roles within the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves.

As Chris steps back to lead the North Shore Regiment, Mike will step into his very large shoes, becoming Deputy Division Chaplain of 5th Canadian Division, responsible for all Reserve chaplains in Atlantic Canada.

"The North Short Regiment has been without a chaplain for over 20 years," said Chris. "I'm trying to reconnect chaplaincy with that regiment."

It has four platoons, in Moncton, Miramichi, Bathurst and Campbellton.

"It's a good move for me," he said. "It's nice to be back with the troops. They've been very welcoming."

Mike takes on the mostly administrative role Chris has held since 2020.

"It means I'm the senior Army reserve chaplain for all of Atlantic Canada," said Mike. "Atlantic Canada is now my office."

He will oversee the work of about 20 Reserve chaplains in the four Atlantic provinces who care for more than 3,200 Reserve members. Since 2020, he had overseen all Reserve military chaplains in New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

His job will involve recruitment, professional development, co-ordination of chaplaincy activities, including their annual conference, and

the provision of necessary resources for each chaplain.

"I am a mentor and a resource for them," said Mike.

The travel will vary from year to year, with much of the role making use of on-line meetings. Even so, he is expected to show up from time to time.

"I'm expected to visit units and brigade chaplains," said Mike.

"Mike has great gifts with visioning, and that will be ideal for this position," said Chris.

Both Chris and Mike manage to juggle their considerable military duties while also fulfilling their roles as rectors in the Parish of Moncton and the Parish of the Nerepis and St. John, respectively. Chris spent an extended deployment in Iraq and Kuwait in 2018.

Part of Mike's role is recruitment of new military chaplains, something the Canadian military is lacking.

"In the four provinces, we have at least four or five vacancies," said Mike, adding that any priest with a Masters degree in Divinity is eligible to apply.

He encourages any priest with questions to contact him.

A military chaplain "lives the rhythm of the unit," said Mike, adding a chaplain takes the same courses, briefings, drills and training as the other soldiers in the unit, including basic training. They must also be physically fit to pass the tests and medical that all soldiers must undergo.

The 'rhythm of the unit' includes weekly evening training; a weekend exercise once a month; and a week-long

exercise once a year.

"You tag along and find ways to help out," he said in an earlier interview. "And you live for the words, 'Hey Padre, do you have a minute?' You are the front-line faith contact."

The diocese has two other Reserves military chaplains in addition to Mike and Chris. They are Rob Langmaid (Parish of St. Margaret's) and Rob Salloum (Parishes of Hillsborough Riverside, St. Andrew Sunny Brae and St. Philip's).

There is one priest currently undergoing training to become a military chaplain. As well, the Rev. Nicholas Saulnier spent several years as a captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He is serving in the Parish of St. Mary, York in order to qualify as a Regular Forces chaplain.

Task Force on Racial Justice

Can you contribute? If so, contact the Rev. Thomas Nisbett: nisbett@yahoo.ca



Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Learn more! Sign up at pwrdf.org/subscribe to receive our monthly Email Update and other news



CLERGY SPOUSES



Bethany Herb

Bethany Herb grew up in St. Thomas, Ont. She is the youngest of two children. She had what she describes as “pretty normal childhood.”

Her father was a teacher, and her mother ran a home daycare and worked for a catering company. The family attended a Baptist church and Bethany went to a Christian school until high school.

She is married to Rob Montgomery, the priest at St. Luke's, Gondola Point. They have one daughter, Addie, age 9.

Bethany has a degree in social sciences from Providence University College and has completed a program in gerontology from Laurentian University.

Introduction to Anglicanism

When Bethany was in college, she attended an Anglican church with friends and was immediately attracted to the style of worship.

“I was in Manitoba and there was an Anglican church that was doing evening services that were drawing in the younger crowd. I went with some friends, and I found it really interesting.

“I found the liturgy and the kind of more contemplative, slower pace to the service nice. I think it just fit for me and Anglicanism made sense to me.”

Dating Rob

Bethany and Rob met at university. They were both residence



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Bethany Herb (right), with her daughter, Addie and her husband, the Rev. Rob Montgomery.

assistants and part of the same student leadership team.

He joined her group of friends, and they began hanging out more and then dating. She knew he wanted to be a pastor but was not sure she wanted to be a pastor's wife.

“I don't think I really wanted to think too much about it. I found it a little intimidating to think about being married to a pastor so I don't think it really came up that often,” she said.

“We were young and with our friends. But obviously it all worked out.”

Early Work

Bethany graduated a year ahead of Rob and stayed in Winnipeg, living with a group of friends, while he finished his degree.

She worked in a government housing subdivision in a resource centre, dealing with a lot of people with mental illness and addictions and coming from domestic violence situations. It was an intense year, she said, and she was ready for change when it was over.

Back to Ontario

When Rob finished his degree, both wanted to return to Ontario. They moved to Rob's hometown of Thunder Bay and married that summer.

Thunder Bay provided some

challenges. Bethany needed a reset and Rob was unsure of his next step.

“I left my job. I needed to decompress for a while,” she said.

“By the time I left I was completely burnt out and about to get married, moving to a new place.”

The couple did not feel connected with Rob's childhood church. At this point, they began questioning “What are we?”

Rob began helping out with a Free Methodist church and Bethany thought, “Ok, now we are Free Methodists.”

Wycliffe

One of Rob's professors encouraged him to continue his studies and enter the masters programme at Wycliffe. He arrived at Wycliffe still intending to be a Free Methodist.

“What was so funny was that I always said to him, ‘if you become a Free Methodist minister I might go to an Anglican church.’

“We went to Wycliffe, and I was a brand-new mother. Addie was two months old,” she said.

“We had a one-bedroom apartment on the campus. They had a great family environment. There were other families there that we got to know. There was a playground

in the back. It was a great experience.”

In Rob's last year, they realized they had to confront the question of religion. Anglicanism was the answer.

New Brunswick

Rob found a position at St. Paul's on the Common, Rothesay and the family moved to New Brunswick.

Once ordained, he was appointed priest at St. Luke's Gondola Point and chaplain at Rothesay Netherwood School.

Bethany returned to her studies. She completed a program in gerontology, studying full-time on-line for four years.

“I was interested in aging and how we treat people who are older. I completed that program in the spring of 2020.

“I was working at a nursing home as a temporary support worker during COVID-19 and that was an interesting experience. There was an outbreak. I was trying to teach exercises in a full plastic gown, face shield and face mask and gloves on.”

She now works in home care, where she finds the connections with her clients rewarding. However, the field is under-funded and undervalued, leading to a high staff turnover. The clients are wary with new staff, so it can be a hard job.

Bethany finds having faith sets people at ease.

“And they really love that I am married to a priest. I think it makes people trust me.”

Home

Moving to New Brunswick has been a positive experience for the family. Bethany says she felt a connection to the province immediately.

“New Brunswick is actually the first time that we've both been able to do our own thing and it's been really nice for me because I really value my own sense of identity.

“I feel like New Brunswick is where we both feel settled, and it's been a good move.”

And St. Luke's has proven to be a wonderful posting.

“The church is a great community. It's a great church and they've been very kind to us, very welcoming, very supportive. We've had such a positive experience at St. Luke's.”

Anne Lee holds an English degree from Dalhousie University. She has worked as a book buyer/seller for Munro's Books of Victoria. She lives in Quispamsis and worships at St. Luke's, Parish of Gondola Point.

Meet Vic

After years of addiction and time spent in and out of jail and prison, Vic, 60, has found a new life. He has been free of drugs and out of trouble for almost a decade. His greatest joy has been reconnecting with his three children and his three grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. Vic rents a room in Moncton and works for a moving company. He is a strong believer in prayer and reads the scriptures. He has been a member of Fire Watch Ministries for several years.

Fire Watch Ministries of Moncton (Eden & Carolyn McAuley) is devoted to walking beside ex-offenders who want Christian support in their lives. You can help their mission through prayers and through donations. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778>

SUMMER CAMPS



Summer camps prepare for the 2023 season

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

After decades of service to Camp Brookwood, Mary Lee Phillips has retired and handed responsibility for the camp to the diocese in the form of John Galbraith, director of Camp Medley.

“Mary Lee has been chair of the board for probably 30 years, but she’s not able to continue,” said John. “She and her husband did a phenomenal job.”

Mary Lee and her husband, Dwight, will open and close the camp, located just outside Florenceville-Bristol, but it will be up to John to hire and oversee staff and operations.

“My involvement will be hands-on this summer,” said John. “I’ve met with past staff and a clergy person to talk about the camp and what they’d like to see.”

“I want to learn about Camp Brookwood so we can

continue to grow it.”

John says he appreciates the smaller venue and the close relationships that are more easily formed there because of its size.

“I don’t want to change it,” he said. “For a child not good with large groups, Camp Brookwood is perfect. There’s more focus. They’re a bit more laid back, and it’s less expensive, too.”

At press time, John was still working on staff recruitment. Last year’s director, Emily Sprague, is on a work placement for her respiratory therapy course at NBCC, so she cannot return.

CAMP MEDLEY

It’s full steam ahead at Camp Medley. At press time, John had hired most of the 22 staff and eight leaders-in-training.

A new camp this summer will help prepare serious school athletes for the coming

season.

“It’s during teen camp and it’s to help kids get in shape for fall sports,” said John.

It’s called Fall Intensive Sport Camp and will run Aug. 13-18.

The new seniors camp held last October was a success, so much so that it’s on the schedule again this fall.

“It went very well,” said John. “They loved it and wanted it again.”

Hiking, canoeing, archery, stretching exercises, campfires, music and storytelling were all highlights. John is working on finding someone from the creative arts world who can “take



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

LEFT: Campers gather at the Jonathan Young Memorial Amphitheatre at Camp Medley during the summer of 2022. ABOVE: A hike in the woods is always an opportunity for discovery at Camp Brookwood, as this photo from 2022 shows.

them on a journey with art,” he said. “Though I don’t know how that will look just yet.”

Camp rentals — a good source of income — have increased this year. From Aug. 7-12, a water ski group will rent the entire camp. In early June two Fredericton middle schools will send 400 students for the day over four days.

“That’s 400 people coming through that have probably never been here before,” he said. “There’s the potential to return for a real camp experience.”

John encourages parishes to invest in camping ministry by sending children from their

parish or area, or simply by donating to either camp.

“Spread the word, encourage your grandchildren,” he said. “There is always space for parish involvement — to come and help, volunteer, or make a donation.”

“Camp is amazing. It’s full of activities and we are excited for summer,” said John, adding that for many campers at both camps, that one week during the summer is the only time all year they hear about Jesus.

This summer at Camp Medley, regular camps are \$360, while specialty camps are \$385.

Camp Brookwood fee is \$200 per camp.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

ACW tea on the island

St. Paul’s ACW on Grand Manan hosted a tea on Feb. 11, the first tea since the pandemic, and it was a full house. All the monies they raise are used to support local families in need, newly arriving Ukrainians to the island, upkeep of the church and hall and the list goes on.

The blessings continue

Editor's Note: In January, I sent out a call for help. After having cataract surgery and facing a second one, my ability to chase down stories was temporarily limited, so I enlisted readers' help to fill the March and April papers.

I used my email contact list to send a mass message: could you write a short article about a memorable time in your life when you were blessed?

Readers did not disappoint! Here are some of the many responses I received. There may even be enough to publish more of them in the May paper.

Thank you to all who responded. You have saved the day, and I trust, blessed others with your wonderful stories! I know they certainly blessed me!

And for those asking, the two surgeries were a success and I am healing well.

• • •

Joy in second chances

Our home is blessed as a place of second chances. About 12 years ago, our lives changed forever.

Scott and I both had lost our spouses way too soon and through great suffering and pain.

God (and some behind the scenes matchmakers) brought us together. Our lives were being re-worked.

On June 9, 2019 our families, friends and Richmond Parish family gathered as we were joined in marriage. It was a truly blessed, joy-filled day! We became a family formed through second chances.

On Nov. 8, 2020, we adopted our precious rescue dog, Callie. She, too, has a home for her second chance.

She has changed from a “throw away” dog to one who is filled with “dog” joy. She has claimed her home and her people as her own, and the last taste of any snack going.

Even our property is having its second chance. It was once the centre of a family farm but abandoned.

Scott has built flower beds, garden boxes, seating areas, and his statement of faith, a white rock cross.

Peonies, poppies and sunflowers bring joy to us and those passing by.

Hopefully, one day, we will be able to share the bounty from the vegetable garden boxes with those struggling.

There is joy from working the soil and being amid flowers, trees, and God's little creatures including a feisty hummingbird and a squirrel or two to entertain Callie.

We are so blessed to be in this place. Being thankful opens our hearts to be filled with joy.

Most of our days, it is just the three of us enjoying our second chances.

Life is simple but filled with joy. It isn't always laughter, but for us there is that deep feeling of belonging, of being loved, valued, accepted and safe. We are at peace and our joy is fed.

Christ dwells within us and these walls. “As for me and my household we will serve the Lord.”

Our most cherished blessings are the four gorgeous grandbabies that Scott's children have given us. The giggles that seem to come up from their tiny toes, the squeals of “It's Nana B and Grandpa” are pure joy.

When you step onto our front deck, a red sign with white letters greets you: “JOY.” We are blessed with joy and wish all who come and go from our home of second chances “joy.”

Whatever your lot seems to be now, in Christ, there is hope of second chances and yes, joy beyond measure. Blessings, and joy!

Bonnie Sparks, Scott Goodine and Callie, Belleville, N.B.

• • •

Small groups are not for me

I heard many times people talking about joining small groups in private homes and that was not for me. The church I grew up in, St. Luke's, in Saint John, didn't really do that kind of thing.

So when my husband, Rob, was approached about us joining a small group through Grand Bay Baptist Church, I was very hesitant. I was told I would know a couple of participants as I have always had a connection with the Baptist church.

As COVID was at its worst we were holding our meetings on Zoom. The team leaders delivered a tea bag and muffin to each person that would be joining the meeting.

The first meeting was a more of a get-to-know-you evening with one participant, their new associate pastor, joining us from Egypt because he did not have a work visa to come to Canada yet.

They were very welcoming of someone that did not belong to their church.

When we started to meet in person after the COVID restrictions changed, I found I got to know the group much better and felt less hesitant to speak.

This group has changed my life and I don't know what I would do without it. We always have a prayer time at the end of the meeting and we have seen many people blessed through answered prayer.

These individuals are like an extended family. If I miss a week, I feel like I have missed an important event in my life.

We uphold each other and strengthen each other in times of need. We also have a private Facebook group where we can leave prayer requests as needed and share joys and sorrows.

I am so blessed to have this group of people in my life, and I have learned a lesson — that small groups are for me and this group has become truly a blessing in my life.

**Linda Pitman
Parish of Portland**

• • •

On Advent Sunday 2021, in the midst of COVID, and the strong possibility that we would once again face closure due to increased provincial infection rates, I arrived at Trinity church, Kingston, in anticipation of the New Year, but also with great anxiety of the unknown.

As I went to the front of the church and looked around I saw six of my lay readers sporadically gathered. At first I just thought everyone showed up early for some reason, but thought nothing of it.

Then suddenly one announced why we were all gathered, and I was presented with a beautiful banner of the Nativity, in appreciation of all my training and efforts during this difficult time.

I was deeply moved and totally taken unaware. I will never forget that day and the kindness showed. It now is a permanent feature in the rectory, year-round, to remind me that pondering the future and its uncertainty comes with “fear not.”

**The Rev. Douglas Painter
Parish of Kingston**

• • •

The strangeness felt when attending a different place of worship can be stimulating.

Some years ago I was at another Anglican church. It was early in the morning, attendance was sparse and I sat at the back.

Quite a ways in front of me was a couple well into their 80s. I knew their

names, but otherwise we were not acquainted.

I was sitting far enough behind

them that I noticed something that might not have been apparent had I sat closer, or which I would probably

have filtered out had I known them better.

What I saw is that whenever they

The Blessings Edition

April 2023



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Tina Fowler; Scott Goodine & Bonnie Sparks on their wedding day in 2019; The Nativity banner given to the Rev. Douglas Painter by his layreaders during Advent 2022; the Rev. Keith Joyce; Callie the rescued dog; Linda Pitman; David Bell.



stood during the service, they leaned towards each other. They were not touching, as if for physical support, but merely leaning.

What I thought, observing from the back, is that after so many years of loving companionship, they were simply, naturally, unconsciously, instinctively drawn towards one another.

In their feebleness they were enacting a scene of purified love — mature, refined, purged of busy superfluity.

I was so moved by the message they were sending out that I was led to remember, as I do from time to time, that Hebrews chapter 13 tells us that God sometimes communicates via angels in disguise.

**David Bell
Parish of Richmond**

• • •

A blessing undeserved

I stole money from the orphanage's petty cash and had a blast!

For a boy in Grade 3, five Lebanese lira (pounds) in the 1950s was a lot of money.

The next day at school in downtown Beirut, at recess, my friend and I went to a nearby store and absolutely filled our pockets and a few bags with as much candy as we could buy!

When back to school, we thoroughly enjoyed being the envy of our classmates.

Maybe we shared a bit of our candy but potentially not too much. I can't remember.

What a sweet day! In the remaining hours we no doubt sailed along on a stimulating sugar high.

Perhaps that's what drew my teacher's attention to something a little different in her class that particular day. Who knows? She never discussed it with me.

But I do remember quite clearly that she gave me a note to take home to my parents. I never looked at it.

Whether it was written in English or Arabic wouldn't have mattered. I was equally fluent in both languages, since this was an Arabic-speaking school, so I could have read it easily enough.

Regardless, fear began to creep into my thoughts; I didn't dare touch that note! Did this note have anything to do with all the candy and questioning where the money to buy it came from?

It was a very long 45-minute ride by public transit up into the mountains of Lebanon. That's where the orphanage was that my parents were looking after at the time. My parents and I lived on site.

By the time I was let off at the

orphanage driveway, I was shaking in my boots. I could already feel the warmth on my backside which I was sure would be coming upon mother reading that note!

I hit the driveway running straight to Mum, the tears already flowing, confession of my thieving ways more than at the ready!

All I remember next is being taken into my mother's arms and being strongly hugged as I clung to her for all I was worth.

What was said I cannot recall. All I remember is that I was forgiven; I wasn't punished. This was beyond a blessing. It was pure grace! And a huge relief to a young boy!

**The Rev. Keith Joyce
Parish of Lancaster**

• • •

Angels

The lights are low the music soft and calming, and it feels like the most peaceful place on earth.

In fact, it was the best place for me to meet not one but two angels — the one by my side that held my hand as I sought comfort from an old wound on my soul, and the one who was to mend a hurt that I didn't know existed.

I came to this place to ask for help to raise a cloud of pain that I felt had haunted me from childhood.

A gentle voice encourages me to put down all my burdens. As I do, my senses are overcome with the smell of flowers and the warmth of the sun on my face. Here in this beautiful garden, I feel the weight of a hand on my shoulder.

“See this child before you? This is Amy Elizabeth, and she is safe with me.”

Strangely I recognize this young girl and the woman with her. As my eyes fill with tears, I realize this is my child lost to a miscarriage eight years before.

Being a nurse, I had easily dismissed that event as nature's way. Our presence in this garden opened my eyes to the fact that my child has a soul and her brief life was precious.

I went from that place mourning what was lost, but ready to encourage others to view a miscarriage as more than a natural end to a flawed pregnancy.

My angels held me up and taught me that every soul is precious.

**Tina Fowler
Parish of Lancaster**

• • •

Blessings continued on page 10

BLESSINGS

The Blessings Edition

April 2023

Blessings continued from page 9

Paradise, perhaps

In 1983, my first year at university, I took a year-long course in the poetry of John Milton, taught by the inspiring, but stern, professor of English, Dr. Harriet Kirkley.

We spent the fall semester studying the sonnets, lyrics and minor poems. The entire spring semester was dedicated to a close reading of *Paradise Lost*.

One Saturday morning near the end of term, the entire class met at Prof. Kirkley's house so that we might read the great poem from start to finish. At 10,000 lines of blank verse, it was going to take all day.

At 8 a.m. we arranged ourselves on a circle of cushions on her living room floor. We drank coffee and took turns reading aloud, reliving the revolt of the angels in Heaven, their ensuing fall, and Satan's plan to continue his war against God by attacking the creatures of Earth.

At noon, having finished five of the 12 books, we were served small sandwiches, a selection of vegetables, and were told to go outside for a walk. It would be best, Prof. Kirkley said, if we did not talk to each other, but let the great themes of the poem echo in our minds.

Upon returning to our cushions, we read about the beauty of Eden, the fall of Adam and Eve, and the judgment pronounced upon them.

By early afternoon, chilled white wine replaced the coffee. We took one more break about 5 p.m. to dine on take-out pizza, and to take another short walk outside.

We ended the day by reading the last two books of the poem in which the Archangel Michael visits Adam, and speaks of a coming Savior who will win back for humankind their lost paradise.

By this time it was 7 p.m. and sunset. Not counting the two half-hour breaks, we had



been reading for 10 hours, which is a lot of poetry, even for me.

I would not have called myself a Christian at the time. I was interested. I was attracted, yet unconvinced.

But as I walked back to campus that evening, through the Endowment Lands of UBC, the lush rainforest, the smell of cedar and Douglas fir, and the scream of an ambulance passing just beyond the curtain of trees, the reality of Paradise was made clear to me, both in its original creation, and its subsequent loss.

I felt myself a different person walking home than I had been when setting out that morning. I had, as C.S. Lewis puts it, had "my imagination baptized."

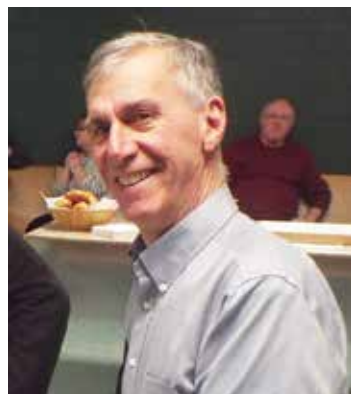
The Rev. Andrew Horne
Parishes of Cambridge and Waterborough / Gagetown
• • •

Now that I am several years past my 'three score years and 10,' I find myself looking back on various aspects of my life. As I do, I see very clearly that God has blessed me continuously and in many different ways.

As it was with many post-war baby boomers, my parents took me to services at Christ Church Cathedral almost every Sunday.

At home and through the church, the seeds of my faith were planted in those early years.

By example more than specific teaching, my parents



and a wonderfully supportive extended family showed me how to live a 'love God and love your neighbour' kind of life.

Through my high school and university years, I was blessed to have had special teacher-mentors who, by word and example, prepared me for life and a career.

One man in particular quietly guided me as I dealt with the inevitable ups and downs of life.

In my working career I was blessed as other mentors, interesting jobs and many opportunities came my way. I now believe that each of these influential people was a gift from God to me.

As I began the second half of my life I recall wrestling with life's bigger questions. In my 40s, through a faith experience I was challenged when a priest said, 'We are going to say the Nicene Creed. If you truly believe it, I invite you to say it with us.'

That challenging statement was a turning point in my faith. Since then, bishops, priests and spiritually gifted lay leaders have taught, guided and encouraged me as I went further and deeper on my faith journey.

Sunday sermons, Advent and Lent learning sessions, Cursillo and the opportunity to serve God on the organizational side of our Anglican Church have been a multi-year blessing. God has been in all of these experiences.

As my journey continues, my faith is sure. I know that I have been blessed by God, and

I am thankful.

Jim Morell
Christ Church Cathedral
• • •



We are more blessed than we realize, and sometimes it just takes stopping and taking a second look at our lives to realize just how fortunate we truly are.

In my case, I am blessed that I broke my hip in July. I fell at a friend's house, had some time in the hospital, plus some respite care at Windsor Court, and felt pretty sorry for myself much of the time.

I had lost my dear husband of 62 years, Bill, in January, and hadn't really processed the immense change in my life. I had just kept going, doing errands, visiting friends and going out for lunch, and feeling as if I were coping fairly well.

Falling and the attendant pain and stress made me stop and look at my life and realize how much I had lost, not only in the case of Bill, but in my loss of independence and mobility.

I had always been extremely independent, the one picking people up and taking them places, making meals for shut-ins, and so on.

I had to learn to let go of that image of myself, and allow people to help me. I have struggled with that in the past, but am gradually learning to let people in, and to allow them to help.

Many times people don't know what to do for you, but they are anxious to help — and grateful when you reach out and ask them for something specific.

The blessing in that is far-reaching: I am healthier, less stressed, and far more grateful for the smallest thing.

I also realize that I can do more than I thought I could. I am giving myself permission to do things differently, and to ask for help with the things I can't quite handle yet.

My life is richer than it was now that I'm not being "Poor Me!" I'm not sure that all clouds have a silver lining, but

my fall became a silver lining for me. Blessings abound if we just look for them.

Carolyn Turney
Christ Church Cathedral
• • •



With each day I receive so many blessings. Which one stands out? I have reflected on my blessings for a few days now and have found it very difficult to think of a memorable one.

That was until Ash Wednesday and hearing our associate priest, Dan McMullen, speak on the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 6.

My many memorable blessings: family, health, safety, deeds, friends, and so on are my receipt of rewards in full. I have to go deeper!

Spaces for God, acknowledged by Dan as spoken by a fellow clergy, got me thinking of what Dan was preaching. I am paraphrasing here: Lent is making spaces for God to come in and do His thing. I need to get out of his way.

My blessing is recognizing those spaces that God is helping me to create, inviting Him into my heart and following His lead.

I know this, but the sermon resonated with me: give Jesus the space to speak and me the sense to listen — and the blessings will flow.

One time I especially felt a blessing was many years ago on the day of one of my parents' funeral. I felt I had to gain control in order to be a support for the rest of my family. I prayed for strength.

Physically, I felt a gentle but firm tug on my shoulders, standing me taller and straighter and whispering, "you've got this."

My faith that Jesus would walk with me, even carry me when needed, certainly was a blessing that day!

Thank you Jesus for paving the way for my many blessings!
Georgie Keith
Parish of Sussex
• • •

AROUND THE DIOCESE

‘Never heard of a Nativity Lunch! Is that like Christmas dinner?’

BY CHRIS HAYES

The title of this article was one comment heard in the village, back in mid-December, as St. Andrew’s Church in Petitcodiac hosted a Nativity Lunch at the church hall.

It was a simple affair of sandwiches, sweets and beverages. What made this lunch different was that, around the hall, over 40 different kinds of Nativity scenes were on display.

They were loaned to us by various parishioners and community members, and came in different styles, materials and configurations. The smallest fit inside a small pill bottle; the largest was almost three feet in

length.

There was a three-level spinning carousel, powered by candle heat which spun a fan attached to an axle; and there was a crocheted Nativity.

There was something for everyone to see, and how often do you see so many kinds of nativity scenes in one place?

Donations were invited, which were put into the parish Compassion Fund, aiding those who run into financial emergencies from time to time, as happens all too often these days.

Jesus continues to draw people to Him, even if it is whilst eating an egg salad sandwich!



CHRIS HAYES PHOTOS



Are we really ready to live with Easter?

COMMENTARY BY
KEITH OSBORNE

Into the heat, the toil and the struggle that was Palestine, a life emerged which shattered the routine and the mediocrity.

For the 12 and a number of other followers, the relentless struggle had somehow been replaced. That kind of thing did not just happen. For millions throughout history, and for millions now, there is simply no such relief from the human condition.

This life emerged, not as an ambiguous incident, not as a notion or concept in the mind, but as an invasion into the very hearts and souls of those to whom it came.

These few had found their Messiah, the Anointed One, who was, in fact, bringing another dimension to bear upon human history. Call it surreal or bizarre, it was here to stay.

From Him they learned how to open the mind, how to be stretched emotionally and spiritually in ways never before understood.

They learned of a power and a wisdom from beyond and were overwhelmed when that settled into their own lives.

They became lost forever in a love and depth they so little understood, but knew it was what they had always wanted and needed.

If all of this was surreal, the execution of their Messiah, with no attempt at his self-preservation, was far beyond what anyone could handle.

Into this far-flung realm of the impossible came another invasion upon the mind. In His death their Messiah rises from the grave.

Now the full scope of this other dimension opens upon humanity and stares it full in the face.

The world becomes new and pristine with a power and a vibrance never known before, save by those who had enjoyed Paradise before the Fall.

By an act of pure divine initiative, Christ rises, not as a revived corpse, but as the glorified One.

His followers now find a new agenda for living and a new context in which to mani-



GUSTAVO MORENO ON UNSPLASH.COM

Keith Osborne asks readers if they’re ready to do the hard work needed for the future.

fest this new life to the world around them.

As the new reality becomes more actualized within, they find their lives are in fact more and more focussed on the life beyond, while still remaining rooted and highly effective within that which was mortal.

They are aligned with His divine essence, and His attributes take over their thoughts and emotions.

They are so charged with His divine life that they are ready now to make the ultimate sacrifice — so says

the throng of martyrs down through the ages.

We now all struggle with the rather ominous prospects of a bleak future for our parishes and our life as a diocese.

Our Archbishop has urged us all to engage in serious conversation wherein we might discern our Lord’s will and guidance for the future.

Parishes need to band together in each deanery to pray, and yes, even to listen in silence for His voice, a practice with which we need to become more comfortable.

We need to truly live Easter, to live the risen, powerful and life-fulfilling Messiah as He turns our decline into something beautiful and vibrant.

We need courage and open hearts to embrace whatever form our Church needs to adopt for the future, as we not only survive but thrive in His love and the ministries to which we will be called.

Are we ready to live with Easter?

The Rev. Canon Keith Osborne is retired, living in Fredericton.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Be careful with the gift we are given

Editor's Note: The following are excerpts from a sermon the Rev. Rick Cunningham preached at St. George's Moncton for the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin (Candlemas).

The author of Luke 2 conveys to us the significance of how the Priest Simeon was presenting himself for the service of the Lord as he held the baby Jesus in the Temple.

There is one word that is stuck in my mind that appears in both of this morning's readings and the collect. The word is purification.

To the Jewish people living in Jesus' day, the purification of people and objects had significant importance. Only perfect gifts could be presented at the Temple.

This was done to cleanse people of the physical signs, such as disease, that resulted from their rebellion against God's law.

The process of purification included the ritualistic washing of hands, the full immersion of people into water, animal sacrifices, and the quarantine or "time out" period for impure offenders of the law that lasted anywhere from a day to several months.

This all changed when God sent his only Son into the world to be the final sacrifice for the atonement of all people that believe in him.

No longer would the excessive and complicated rituals found in the law be needed to be performed to restore favour with God. The blood of Jesus is now for us the great atonement that has purified all people once and for all.

Jesus is both our high priest and our last sacrifice, negating the need for the old complicated system of atonement found in the law.

In the Gospel lesson, Simeon says Jesus will be the cause of the rise and fall of many in Israel.

The people in Jesus' day, as it remains so in our day, had a choice between accepting Jesus as the Son of God as he said he was, based on the miracles he performed and his teachings; or not to believe, which for

many caused Jesus to become a sign of offense that they spoke against.

God sent Jesus into the world as a great and wonderful offering for all people to restore the broken relationship between us and our creator once and for all.

We have the gift of free choice given by our Father in heaven and we must decide if we will reject this offering made by his Son or accept him as our lord and Savior.

We must be very careful what we do with this great gift. There is a warning in Malachi that clearly cautions us of the wrath we will incur if we abuse or neglect this gift.

The adulterer, the oppressor, and the person who chooses to reject God's free will offering will suffer the consequences of their choices with weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

Jesus was brought to the temple by his parents so he could be presented as an offering to God and so that Saint Mary could offer up what was required under the law for her cleansing.

As Saint Mary went to the temple to make her free-will offering to God, we are to ensure that each and every time we approach this Altar to receive the Holy Communion, we present ourselves, our souls and bodies as a free willing offering that is acceptable to our Lord.

We must examine our consciences and reconcile ourselves not only with our Lord but with all our sisters and brothers.

The Lord presented himself as a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice for us so that we will benefit from spiritual purification every time we meet to receive the body and blood of our Lord.

This must never be trifled with. For each and every person that approaches the altar must have an understanding and reverence for this most perfect sacrifice and offering that our Lord God made for us through his Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

The Rev. Rick Cunningham is a deacon in the Parish of Moncton.

Parish outreach



MISSION IN MOTION: community

The Sunday school at Christ Church Pennfield sponsored a sock drive for those in need. A total of 48 pairs of socks were donated for use to the Out of the Cold warming centre in St Stephen. Front row: Elsie Townsend, Elise Foster, Max Foster and James Hill. Back row: Susan Foster, the Rev. Caleb Twinamatsiko, Dorothy Gaudet. Absent: Declan and Lennox Hughes and Lucy MacDougall. Submitted by Susan Foster



MISSION IN MOTION: community

Members of the Bathurst City Police Department were guests of the Parish of Bathurst at the monthly Family and Community Breakfast, held at St. George's Feb. 11. Pictured with the five officers is the rector, the Rev. Christopher Tapera (left) and Eugene Gallagher, a parish breakfast volunteer who is a retired member of the force.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

PARISH NEWS



News from around the diocese

Shiretown Community Services, a daughter non-profit of the Parish of St. Andrews, holds a Friday community lunch, employing those with barriers to employment. From that has come another venture. The St. Andrews Farmers Market has a ‘Change of Seasons’ indoor monthly market on the first Saturday in February, March and April, using the parish hall as the venue (seen in photo). The parish decided to hold a canteen during this event, offering hotdogs, muffins, cookies and other snacks, as well as soup. One of our community lunch employees, Julian Rigby, who has a culinary diploma from NBCC, is the lead on this, with volunteers from the parish helping. Proceeds will help offset the cost of the food for the Friday community lunches.

The Shiretown Community Services crew christened a new dishwasher as soon as the installation was finished as the weekly Community Kitchen was serving lunch. The Friday lunches, held at All Saints’ Anglican Parish Hall in St. Andrews, make a dishwasher invaluable to the kitchen crew. From left: Kim, Patrick (Hobart tech), Julian, Agostino, Isaac, Georgina and Helen Ann.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

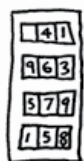


Harry McClenghan was presented with the Layreader Emeritus certificate by Archbishop David Edwards. on Feb. 12 at Holy Trinity in the Parish of Hammond River. A man of deep faith and commitment to God’s service, Harry served for 35 years as layreader and later as a diocesan layreader in the Parish of Hammond River. He continues to assist with services during summer months at St. John the Evangelist church in Bay du Vin. We are forever grateful for Harry’s dedication to God, his family and his parish. He is seen here with Archbishop David and the Rev. Michael O’Hara.

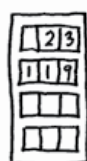
AROUND THE DIOCESE

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS FOUND AT THE FRONT OF CHURCH

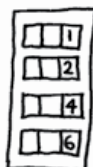
OFTEN YOU WILL SEE SOME NUMBERS ON BOARDS AT THE FRONT. THESE MEAN DIFFERENT THINGS IN DIFFERENT CHURCHES. SOME POSSIBILITIES:



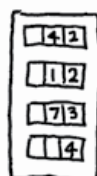
HYMNS



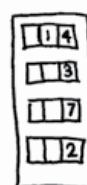
PSALMS



BABY CRYING
IF YOUR CHILD MATCHES ONE
OF THESE NUMBERS COLLECT
THEM FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL
AS THINGS ARE NOT GOING WELL



PEWLOTTO™ NUMBERS
CHECK WITH NUMBERS
ON SERVICE SHEET



NUMBERS OF PEOPLE
REQUIRED TO SERVE AS
PCC MEMBERS
DEANERY SYNOD REPS
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS
CHURCHWARDENS



THE NEXT
BUSES OUT
OF HERE

CartoonChurch.com

A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act. Mahatma Gandhi

Annual Clergy Spouses' Retreat

Villa Madonna
in Renforth

Guest speaker:
the Rev. Dr.
Judith Paulsen



Theme: *Drinking deeply from the Living Water*

REGISTER: nb.anglican.ca/clergy-spouses-retreat

ACW
ANNUAL
MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 2

St. Luke's Anglican
Church
104 Church St.,
Woodstock

*Serving God in
Spirit and in Truth*



REGISTER
BY
APRIL 14

- Registration begins at 9 a.m.
- Banquet at 5 p.m.
- One-day only event

Lighthouse Bookstore in Fredericton will have a display of items for sale

Details and registration form in the April edition of *Launching Out*

SENIORS CAMP

October 1-4 \$150

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE CAMPMEDLEY.CA

SPECIALTY CAMPS

\$385

- Adventure Camp**
Ages 12-15
July 16-21 & July 30 - Aug 4
- Leadership Camp**
Ages 14-16 July 3-8
- Medley Makers**
Ages 12-15 July 9-14
- Fall Sport Intensive**
Ages 11-15 Aug 13-18

WELCOME TO CAMP

Ages 6-9 \$250

- July 2-5
- July 16-19
- July 30 - Aug 2

BOYS & GIRLS CAMPS

Ages 6-11 \$360

- July 2-7
- July 16-21
- July 30 - Aug 4

TEEN CAMPS

Ages 11-15 \$360

- July 10-15
- Aug 14-19

GIRLS WEEK

Girls Camp Ages 6-11 \$360 July 23-28
Girl Boss Ages 12-15 \$385 July 23-28
Welcome to Girls Camp Ages 6-9 \$250 July 23-26

CAMP MEDLEY

Register Today campmedley.ca

FOR THE FAMILY

Family Camp Weekend
Aug 5-7
Family Day Destination
Aug 6

Questions? Email us director@campmedley.ca

MUSIC COMMENTARY

The complexity, simplicity of Anna Westin's *LEV*

Don't you dare just throw this album in the car as you drive, or in the office while you're working away. You'll miss too much, and this album deserves and demands attention.

The latest album (released in 2022) by Anna Westin (daughter of diocesan cleric John Paul and Carolyn Westin), is a triumph of simplicity and complexity: a very, fine line that is not always done well.

LEV (the Hebrew word for "heart") is musical nourishment for the hungry — and the well-fed!

Anna's music is most readily identified as alternative singer-songwriter. She lists Joni Mitchell as an influence, as well as Taylor Swift.

This is not mere guitar-playing and singing over chords; each song is a well-crafted piece of art, where the music reflects the text and the text



evokes the music.

She makes use of many instruments: synths, piano, guitars, effects, ambient sounds, percussion, backing vocals and choral ensembles. Each song is unique, though the binding

element on the album is Anna's ethereal, and somewhat haunting (meant in a good way!) vocals.

The album has so far spawned three singles, the first being "A Slow Revelation" — an interesting choice, as it is the last song on the album.

The song's meaning is not immediately discernible from the lyrics, which can be daunting for some listeners, though it can draw you into a puzzle as you ponder the words more deeply than one might have otherwise.

This song, Anna has said, is about, "...an exploration of how a relationship can go from a mysterious and hidden feeling to an actual 'thing' — an expressed and reciprocal connection to another person. I realized that most of it had to be about trust..."

A choral introduction gives way to a lush and simple guitar motive, highlighted with a

few instruments throughout. "Simplest of trust / in what you said / smallest of words / thinnest of threads" she sings.

"Incense Ascending," another single, is a choral-based and captivating piece of music that conveys (or seeks?) blessing upon a home, after an introduction that sounds like opening gates, chains, but gives way to piano and lush synth sounds.

The harmonies in the voices are beautiful, and evoke the sentiment of the simple words, yet written so powerfully: "peace bring in the light / bring in the warmth, make this a home / bring comfort... bring comfort."

Nine songs make up this album, each one as different as the next. For what it's worth, Dear Reader, my favourite is "You Found: Luminous," a song of encouragement that has a faint taste of the Beatles in its vocal harmonies).

None of the songs is too loud, too fast-paced, or overly thick with layered, crowded sounds. Yet the sound is full. There is always something to listen for; they are unpredictable in structure.

Each song would deserve a column of its own to truly describe and explain. Suffice to say that in the 32 minutes this album takes to play, it is time well-spent, and the melodies and textures will stick with you.

Take the time to sit only with the music, without distractions or other tasks, and soak in the music of *LEV*. You likely won't find it in local stores, but you can find it streaming online, or order a hard copy via various music sellers. It's well worth it!

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



Bonnie Sparks, parishioner in the Parish of Richmond, contributor to the Blessings edition this month

Favourite book of the Bible — Ruth

Birthplace — Saint John, N.B.

What you love most about God — His tireless grace

Favourite place on Earth — So many places but always back home

Farthest you've been from home — New Zealand

Favourite meal or dessert — Seafood

Biggest fear — Fire

Hidden talent — Private pilot license; being an awesome Nana B

Favourite movie or book — Movie: *Under the Tuscan Sun*, book: *Eat Pray Love*

Your hobby — Hand quilting

Three things always in your fridge — Eggs, cranberry jelly, olives

Favourite sports team — Lewis Hamilton Mercedes Formula One Racing Team

Episcopal Announcements



The Rev. Paul Ranson has been appointed Archdeacon of Fredericton for a three-year term effective March 1.

Diocese of Toronto, to officiate at worship services in this diocese.

Archbishop David has authorized the Rev. Julie Golding Page, canonically resident in the Diocese of Toronto, to officiate at worship services in this diocese.

The Ven. Kevin Stockall will resign from his positions as rector of the Parish of St. Mary, York, and priest-in-charge in the Parish of Marysville and the Parish of Stanley, effective June 30, in order to retire. His term as Archdeacon of Fredericton ended February 28.

Archbishop David has authorized the Rev. Steven Page, canonically resident in the



The NB Anglican is looking for people to feature in the series called **My Journey Here**. If you're from far away, but worship and live here in the diocese, contact us! gmcknight@diofton.ca

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 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.



The Circular Economy

Guest author: Ang Purdue

Here's a term you might have heard ...

Circular Economy! This explores the idea of restructuring how we use our resources (our things) and seeks to re-answer the question: **Where does our stuff come from; and where does it go?**

What is the problem?

As our world develops and becomes more complex, we have increased our consumption. The result has been increases in resource extraction (on one end) and growing landfills (on the other). This has put pressure on our ecological environment.



What is the solution?

The Circular Economy solves these dilemmas. It insists on creating products that persist and circulate long-term. In doing so, we reduce both our need to extract resources, and the waste materials going to landfill. The goal is to



transition away from our current 'linear economy' and towards one that recirculates goods rather than tossing them!

When you think about it, the concept is quite simple—and it's not all that new! Fifty years ago, milk was delivered in glass bottles.



Empty bottles would be collected and returned to the factory for refilling. Here we see an endless loop of material use; this is the Circular Economy in action!

Things used to be made to last and they were circulated for a longer amount of time. These are valuable lessons under the Circular Economy. With creativity and collaboration, the values of the Circular Economy can be reused once again (pun intended)!

Want to participate in the Circular Economy?

- Give away or sell unwanted goods
- Buy used whenever possible
- Invest in long-lasting things
- Avoid using disposable items
- Take care of and fix broken things
- Share tools and help people fix things

Besides helping with our ecological dilemma, participating in the Circular Economy also helps our neighbours!

Find more info and videos here:

www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy.html

Sources:

- <https://theclearing.co.uk/the-future-of-brands-is-circular/>
- <https://mercursustainabilitycoalition.org/>
- <https://www.adelaiderememberwhen.com.au/remember-when-the-milky-came-every-day/>
- <http://catherinewetman.com/>