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THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL OCTOBER 2025 SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON



SUE CARELESS PHOTO

CONFEREES, ALONG WITH Archbishop David Edwards (in red), receive Communion from the Rev. Colin Nicolle, the camp director, in the closing Eucharist at St. Michael's Youth Conference this past August. Each summer, SMYC gives teens a chance to delve deeper into the scriptures, the history of the Anglican Church and their relationship with God through the Daily Offices and course study, with liberal doses of fun and recreation. This year's conference was held at Camp Wildwood Aug. 18-23. See the story on page 10.

DIOCESAN NEWS

Happening at Trinity, Saint John

Trinity Saint John's great east window was leading English stained glass window practitioner Charles Eamer Kempe's first seven-light installation in North America, is unique in all of Canada, and is being nominated as a Canadian Heritage Treasure.

Several events this fall will be held to raise funds to clean and restore this treasure and the events will give people the chance to and learn all about this window using notes and video presentations being prepared by London, England expert, and former president of the Kempe Society, Adrian Barlow.

Sunday, Oct. 19, 2 p.m. Michael Molly will give an organ recital on Trinity Saint John's recently installed Phoenix Digital Organ. All proceeds will go the East Window Campaign.

A screen will be installed to

enable the audience to see this renowned Saint John organist as he plays a one-hour program of sacred music. Cost is \$20.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 6-9 p.m. Trinity great east window and east wall fundraiser led by David Goss. Halloween chicken pot pie supper with ghostly dessert prepared by Graham Stilwell from 6-7 p.m.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with a video presentation with commentary on the importance of the Kempe window by Jim Bezanson, former Heritage officer for the City of Saint John.

From 7-8:45, spooky stories led by David Goss and friends: storytellers Pete Ferguson, Lori Seymour, Kyle Wells and Willow Edwards. Local and international stories will be shared.

Jim Bezanson, former heritage officer for the City of Saint

John, will speak on the importance of the Kempe window as a Saint John heritage treasure that deserves national recognition.

Tickets are \$30, available from the church office, 115 Charlotte Street or by calling 506 693-8558.

Nov. 16, 2 p.m. A second recital by Michael Molloy with the program based on specific panels of the seven-light Kempe window, and commentary will be offered on the music chosen to augment the Christ story Kempe so ably fashioned. Fee is \$20.

Nov. 21 & 22 Trinity Saint John's semiannual book sale, and the annual Christmas craft corner, will be staged in the Bennett Room. Open Friday from 4-6 and Saturday from 9:30- 12:00.



Trinity Saint John's great east window

You can deliver life-saving light to women and babies

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Letters to the editor

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

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

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ANGLICAN

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A great cleansing

As many of you know, in August we moved from Fredericton to Grafton, across the river from Woodstock.

We are very grateful for our new home, but what an upheaval. As I write, we are two weeks in and there are still many packing boxes to go. We have not set up a TV yet.

As I write, I am sitting in front of boxes of books which need to go on shelves.

During this process, I have been thinking about the Hebrew custom of chametz, the clearing of leaven from their homes before Passover. The process itself is known as koshering and involves a thorough search of every nook and cranny.

The purpose behind this is that leaven represents sin, pride and corruption, and they are following the provisions in the book of Exodus.

Leaving our former home was a great wrench. Debbie and I had lived there since we were married, five and half years ago. We knew many of the people who lived around us, and they were very good friends and neighbours.

It was also the place of memories of us as a couple. Those years were when we established ourselves as a family.

As we left the house for the final time, we had cleared out



every drawer and cupboard to the best of our ability. More than five years of life needed to be removed.

I literally mopped us backwards out of the front door and closed it for the last time. Our realtor had told us to leave the keys inside, so there was absolutely no way back.

It was akin to chametz. We were not just cleaning out leaven, but the analogy of cleansing hung heavily in the air.

Each time we gather for worship, we are reminded of the need for us to do something similar to cleaning house. It is called confession. Usually, quietly to ourselves, we go over the week and bring before God those things which have dishonoured God, ourselves and others.

In 1 Corinthians 5: 8, St. Paul puts it this way, "Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

ARCHBISHOP DAVID and Debbie Edwards' home in Skyline Acres, Fredericton, was sold this summer and the couple has moved to the Woodstock area.

and truth."

This cleansing is recognizing what stands between us, God and others and it is a renewal.

We then arrived at our new home. It had been beautifully cleaned by the previous owners.

Now two weeks later it has our stuff in it and it is chaotic. There is certainly a need to clean house again.

This is, of course, what hap-

pens in our lives. We confess, but then things crowd back in. Although Jesus provides forgiveness once and for all, there is always a need for cleansing.

David Edwards is
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

October 3
Consecration of
Montreal Bishop-elect
Victor-David
Mbuyi-Bipungu

October 5
St. Paul's, Bushville
(Parish of Chatham)

October 12
St. Paul's, Browns Yard
(Parish of Kent)

October 19
Christ Church, St.
Stephen;
Deconsecration of
St. Thomas,
Moore's Mills

October 26
*** Parish of The Six**
Saints

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1
Diocesan Discernment
Retreat

* confirmation

Have a
blessed
Thanksgiving!

Thanks be to
God for his
inexpressible
gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

The ministry of small things

It's not uncommon for someone to say they feel like they "should be doing more" when it comes to their faith. Usually, that means more volunteering, more church involvement, or more outward expressions of spiritual life.

When people say this, it's rarely coming from a lack of faith. More often, it's coming from a place of exhaustion and the assumption that what they're already doing doesn't "count." That, unless it's big, official, or public, it's not really ministry.

There's something worth naming here. For most of us, especially during this stage of life, time and energy are in short supply. Between work, caregiving, relationships, and just trying to keep up with the pace of things, the thought of adding one more responsibility can feel



overwhelming.

But what if ministry doesn't always mean adding more?

What if some of the most meaningful ways we live out our faith are found in the small, often unnoticed things we already do?

Scripture is filled with moments that demonstrate God's delight in the small things. Jesus spoke of mustard seeds and

hidden yeast. He praised the widow who gave two coins and saw value in a cup of cold water given in his name.

He stopped for children, noticed people others overlooked, and spoke gently to those on the margins.

None of it was flashy. None of it would have made a headline. But it changed lives.

In Zechariah 4:10, we're reminded: "Do not despise the day of small things." This is not just a poetic sentiment. It's a way of understanding how God often chooses to work, not through grand gestures, but through daily faithfulness.

There is, in fact, a kind of ministry that happens when we show up for one another in simple, consistent ways. When we listen without fixing. When we offer a ride, drop off a meal,

send a message, or lend a hand without being asked.

None of these things may seem like "ministry" in the way we've often defined it. But they are. They are expressions of God's love, offered through human hands. And they carry more impact than we realize.

In our churches and communities, we need people who can preach, lead and organize. But we also need people who can show up with soup, who remember birthdays, who notice who's missing, who take the time to ask, "How are you doing?" and then wait for the honest answer.

These small things form the fabric of our common life. They are not lesser than. They are essential.

If you're in a season where your energy is limited or your capacity to take on formal roles

is low, please know that your small, faithful acts still matter.

That quiet conversation. That shared moment of laughter. That kindness extended when you could've rushed by.

These are the things that often make the deepest difference.

As autumn settles in and our routines become more consistent, let's resist the temptation to measure faithfulness by busyness.

Instead, let's ask: Where can I be present? Where can I be kind? Where can I offer what I already have?

You don't need to be everywhere or do everything. Just be where you are, and let love lead from there.

Shawn C. Branch is the diocesan Director of Mission & Ministry, supporting the missional life of the diocese and vocations.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

CAMPING MINISTRY



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

THE REV. ERIC PHINNEY at the helm of Tevah, with Jeannie Donald and Ashley Perry at left enjoying a cruise up the St. John River near Camp Medley as part of Family Camp.

Family Camp a perennial favourite at Medley

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Ashley Perry of Moncton remembers exactly when she began attending Family Camp at Camp Medley. It was four years ago.

“That was the year I got sober,” she said. “Mom brought the kids before that.”

Now she attends each year. She’d been a Medley camper since childhood, what she calls “a lifer.”

But it’s not just nostalgia that keeps her coming back each August with her children.

“It’s the village that’s here, the people. It’s away from the city, quiet. I see a bit of my childhood when we come here.”

That tradition of coming to Camp Medley year after year isn’t just for adults.

“My parents brought me here when I was born,” said Sophie Morell, 13. “My parents met here and started dating.

They were counsellors.”

Family Camp used to be held in late June, but has since moved to the New Brunswick Day long weekend — the first weekend in August — and it set an attendance record this year of 80 campers.

Families use cabins or bring their own tents or trailers, set up and have a relaxing weekend with activities for themselves and the kids, but with a much slower pace than regular camps.

“Family camp is a lot more chill,” said Sophie. “I do Adventure Camp and it’s always very scheduled and very organized. This is looser.”

Val Phinney and her husband, the Rev. Eric Phinney, have been coming since 1994.

“David was one year old,” she said of their son. “Our family has been chaplains, cooks, counsellors, maintenance.

“My grandchildren are

working here now. It truly is family camp.

“Camp Medley has always allowed people to discover Jesus in whatever way they could. It’s never pushy — and we can bring our dogs.”

Mariia Kovalenko discovered Family Camp using Google. She wanted a place where she and her family could spend some time outdoors.

Originally from Ukraine, the Dieppe family has been in Canada nine years.

“We came last year the first time. I enjoyed it. I like the activities. We brought two more families this year, both from Ukraine.”

When the *NB Anglican* visited, carnival activities were on the schedule, with an assortment of activities: face painting, pillow fights, golf putting, and pin the tail on the donkey. Kids earned shekels for participating, and once they had enough, they could trade them

for a gold shekel.

The gold shekel was highly prized, because it allowed you to throw a water balloon at anyone you wanted.

The Rev. Mike Caines was the chaplain at Family Camp, his third time. He and camp director John Galbraith have a barter system in place: Mike helps out at Family Camp, and John lets his parish use the facilities for retreats in the off season.

“But it’s great too, because all the kids watch your kids. It’s a good way to spend vacation time,” he said.

Assistant camp director Emma Burke was pleased with the attendance.

“We love that we have new families this year, as well as returning families,” she said. “The sailings have been really good, and the water toys are popular.”

But nothing can compare to having your own go kart to

speed around camp on. The pedal cars were new last year and have proven to be wildly popular.

“They park them at meals, at chapel. They’re everywhere!” said Emma.

Two retired priests, Eric Phinney and David Peer, again brought their sailboats to give daily sailings during Family Camp.

On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 2, Eric’s boat, Tevah, plied the waters of the St. John River with several children and adults aboard.

This is his third year offering sailings, and everyone is enjoying them. Both he and David offer two family cruises a day, but in the evenings, they do an adult cruise with wine and cheese, which is very popular.

“This is the life of retired clergy!” he said.

“SHARING HOPE & HELP”

CAMPING MINISTRY



Family
Camp



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Matthew Griffin was on face painting duty during Family Camp. Here he is with camper Georgia Eldridge, 2; The Tuck Shop is always a popular place for campers. Here Stephanie Paull, Chantale Brooks, Julian Brooks and Marie-Hélène Morell enjoy a snack on a lazy afternoon at Family Camp; Sophie Morell and Isabel Phinney in a pillow fight, watched by Fiona Morell; Simon Morell, 9, putts, while parents Marie-Hélène and Jamie Morell watch; a lazy afternoon along the banks of the St. John River; water toys are very popular at Camp Medley; Family Camp wouldn't be complete without a tug-of-war contest.

KIDS LEAD!

Kids Lead at Stone!

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

How do you form children into caring adults? You expose them to the needs in their community and give them a chance to respond.

That is the basis of a one-week summer camp held at Stone Church in Saint John called Kids Lead.

It was seven years ago that the Rev. Jasmine Chandra began a small group called Kids Lead. They met through the school year and learned about the good and the bad in their city.

"The idea was to expose kids to the needs in the city and the organizations that helped fill those needs," said Jasmine.

Kids visited lots of non-profits and learned how they could help through advocacy, fundraising and volunteering.

But meetings held after school did not easily allow visits to the non-profits, so three years ago, they made the switch to a week-long summer camp. Parents were happy to have something for their kids to do, and the summer event has worked much better for all.

This year's camp had 29 kids from ages 7 to 14, all interested in making their community a better place by doing what they can to ease the burdens of others.

"This year we had quite a few newcomer kids," said Jasmine. "They've gotten to see more of their city and the problems here."

Jasmine and her husband, the Rev. Terence Chandra, are priests-in-charge at Stone. Terence and a host of volunteers run ESL summer camps for newcomer kids, which have grown since they began several years ago.

This summer, during the Kids Lead camp, a walk down Waterloo Street was a bit of an eye-opener, with one kindly man advising the group they should cross the street to avoid the homeless people. Jasmine's answer, "Thanks, but that's why we're here. This is the whole point."

"All this gets them thinking about their role in the community," said Jasmine.

This summer they met in early August and had tours of community advocacy groups

in action and had guest speakers in as well.

They learned about the Saint John Community Coalition, Boys & Girls Club, the Salvation Army Family Services, and Inner City Youth Ministry, which partners with PULSE each summer to hold a weekly barbecue and family drop-in.

But this summer camp isn't only about advocacy and volunteering, guest speakers and tours. There was lots of recreation built into the program, and the highlight of the week was the group projects.

Kids formed groups and chose a cause, made a plan to help and then implemented it. On the final afternoon of the camp, each group presented their project, with their parents and loved ones on hand to see their hard work.

Some groups wrapped up their projects, while others chose ongoing efforts like a lemonade stand in their own neighbourhood.

One group sold baked goods and art in front of Stone Church. Another sought donations of toiletries from family and friends, all of which was donated to the Salvation Army. One group raised money to buy toys for children in hospital. Another raised money for cancer research.

Ebenezer, a spokesperson for the boys' group, explained their video project.

"After a visit to the Salvation Army on Wednesday, we discovered they need a lot of personal care items," he said. "We decided to use media to get the word out. There will be a box kept in the church, and we'll be taking it to the Salvation Army."

Pearlyn, 16, was part of the Helping Hands group which also sought donations of toiletries.

"Our group bought some toiletries, made flyers, gave them to our parents. Jasmine put the flyer on Facebook and a lady brought in a box of toiletries today. We'll donate this to the Salvation Army. They'll give it to people who need it."

Salvation Army representative Tara was on hand to receive the donations. The Rev. Cathy Laskey, hospital chaplain, will take the toys to the Saint John Regional Hospital



MISSION IN MOTION: community



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Gabriella and Merryn sold food and lemonade outside Stone Church as part of their project; this is the second year for Safia, 9 and-a-half, at the Kids Lead camp; Shania, 11, has attended the camp all four summers; this large group sought donations of toiletries to give to the Salvation Army. Tara, right, was on hand to receive the donations; some of the children sold art to passersby outside Stone Church; the boys group produced a video to solicit donations of toiletries for the Salvation Army.

once they're purchased.

Jen Hallihan works in community advocacy and a lot of her time is spent at Stone working with their various outreach initiatives.

"This is a nice change working with kids," she said. "With the kids I have a fresh mind. They reset me. They're so full of life."

"It's been a great week. It teaches kids so much. It shows them they can be more than doctors and lawyers."

"Awareness is a big thing. It grows empathy. It's nice to see them open their hearts to groups they want to give to. They have ideas in their heads but they're just not sure how to

execute them. This shows them how."

Safia, nine and a half, was at the camp for the second summer.

"I like the activities," she said. "I learned a lot about the city. I like walking around the city and I got to see parts I've never seen before."

"I like the things they do for the community, like Jasmine does. And it's another way to make friends."

Shania, 11, has been coming all four summers.

"I come back because I enjoy hanging out with other kids, and I like what the camp teaches children about their community. I learn a lot about

the city.

"I learned about what the Salvation Army does for the community. I didn't know it was that much. I didn't know there were so many in need."

"It's a good experience for my future. Learning about advocacy is important. I do want to help people."

As the final projects were presented and the camp came to an end, Jasmine had the last word.

"Really great job, everyone! I hope you've had a great week, you've learned something, had some fun, and you'll become involved in your community throughout your lives."

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

NEW MINISTRY

Mejias leave Honduras for Michigan

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

After spending much of their lives leading an Episcopalian parish in Roatán, Honduras, the Rev. Kara Thompson-Mejia and the Rev. Nelson Mejia are moving on.

This fall, after their visas come through, the couple will set up in Midland, Michigan to launch a Spanish ministry at the non-denominational Living Word Church.

That decision, to leave Nelson's country, to leave their parish and all the hard work they put in building it up, did not come lightly.

But it was prompted by their children, both of whom are now in Canada. Stephen is married, a father, and lives in Ontario. Kelly has just begun her first year at Mount Allison University in Sackville.

Kara is the daughter of the Rev. Gordon and Bell Thompson. Gordon is the honorary assistant in the Parish of Restigouche.

HISTORY

Kara was a student at St. Stephen's University when she felt the call to missionary work. After hearing a guest speaker from the former SAMS-Canada, the South American Missionary Society, she knew that was the life for her.

Her first year was spent teaching in Paraguay. That was 28 years ago.

"When I got off the plane, a sudden peace came over me," said Kara during a presentation at Stone Church in Saint John on Aug. 31.

"But teaching was not for me," she said. "I wanted to work among the Latin people. That's where I wanted to be."

She moved to Honduras, met and then married Nelson. Together, with their two children, they have poured their lives into leading people to Christ and building up his church in Roatán, a resort island off the coast.

A few years ago, when Stephen graduated from high school and moved to Canada for further study, Kara and Nelson began thinking seriously about the future.

"We considered a lot of things. We began praying," she said, adding they even considered taking a parish in this



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



ABOVE: Rick Larder, right, a member of the Stone Church mission committee, presents a cheque to the Rev. Kara Thompson-Mejia and the Rev. Nelson Mejia that will help them as they begin a new ministry in Midland, Michigan. From left: Kara, the Rev. Jasmine Chandra (incumbent at Stone), Nelson and Rick.

LEFT: Kara and Nelson cut a cake after the service at Stone Church Aug. 31.

diocese.

But the worldwide pandemic put a stop to all plans.

"We knew it wasn't the right time," she said.

Five years later, their lives have changed considerably.

"Roatán was our life. Deciding to leave wasn't one made just like that. We wanted to do what God wanted us to do. If it wasn't God's will in the first place, we'd be kind of walking away."

But God put all kinds of people in their paths to make the way straight for them. Still, leaving Honduras has required great faith in his plans.

THE PLAN TAKES SHAPE

It was during the pandemic that God sent a woman to Roatán. They'd met at a missionary conference, and she was look-

ing for a place for a couple of weeks to help out.

Because so many of their parishioners relied on tourist traffic for employment, many were jobless. The parish responded by opening a soup kitchen, which this woman helped at.

But when it was time to leave, a hurricane closed the airport, and she was stuck there for a couple of months. A solid friendship formed.

This woman's church in Michigan subsequently sent a mission team to Roatán to help install the floor in their church. Kara and Nelson heard about their annual Holy Spirit conference, and hoped someday to attend.

The mission team returned to Michigan, and the church sent money for Kara and Nel-

son to attend the conference.

"As soon as we arrived at the church, I felt that same peace come over me. It was an overflowing peace. I said, 'Lord, what is this?' So we began to pray."

The minister told them he wanted them to head their Spanish programs. Kara's translation skills were noted by the mission team, and that skill was what the church needed.

THE PRESENT

"The easiest thing would be to come back to New Brunswick, in a parish," said Kara. "But we knew God was speaking."

Still, there is some fear and a lot of unanswered questions. The work visas they applied for have not arrived, as of early September. The position they have accepted is not a paid

one.

But Kara described their mindset this way: "I'm going to follow you and you will open the doors. We have to step out of our comfort zone. This isn't about us. It's about God."

Kara flew to Michigan in June, with Nelson finalizing things in Honduras and joining her in July.

In Michigan, God began opening a lot of doors. One member of the mission team is a realtor and helped her find a duplex to rent, even though at first, there was nothing available. The owner is a member of the church, as are their neighbours.

Kara found a TV stand at Goodwill for \$5. When the neighbours saw her bringing it in, they asked if she had a TV. The TV stand was literally the only piece of furniture she had.

"They brought over a TV," said Kara.

Another couple told them, "We have a storage unit. Whatever you need, it's yours."

"The only thing we bought new was mattresses," said Kara.

There is much to do once they arrive in Michigan. The plan is to establish a Spanish ministry through the church there, but they also need jobs for cashflow. And of course, they need the work visas.

"We know God will continue to provide," said Kara.

Back in Roatán, the local leaders they have nurtured have led the parish through the summer, and a new minister is on the way.

Any money donated to the Honduras ministry will go to the church Nelson and Kara left behind.

If you wish to support their new ministry, you can send funds via e-transfer to revkara@yahoo.com. Kara noted they cannot provide income tax receipts.

At the end of the service at Stone, Rick Larder, on behalf of the Stone mission team, presented them with a cheque. The Rev. Jasmine Chandra invited the congregation to come forward and join her in a prayer for the Mejias.

Kara thanked Stone parishioners for their support through their many years ministering in Roatán.

DEPLOYMENT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Although the Rev. Canon Lt. (N) Greg McMullin has been a Navy Reserves chaplain for 20 years, it was just this spring that he had the chance of a deployment.

“At the end of February, I was offered the opportunity to be the chaplain for an operation aboard HMCS Montreal,” he said.

Operation REASSURANCE - EX Formidable Shield 2025 took place from April 22-June 5 in the North Atlantic in northern Norway and the Hebrides of Scotland. Usual military deployments are for six months, but this one was a six-week operation.

The NATO exercise involved 16 ships, 25 aircraft, and 10 nations: Belgium, Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Italy, the UK, France, the U.S. and Canada.

The HMCS Montréal left Halifax with 214 aboard headed for Bodo, Norway. That journey took 10 days. Back home, the Rev. Peter Mills, formerly a priest in the diocese, and the Rev. Ann Fairweather took care of the congregation at St. Mary & St. Bartholomew in Saint John.

The purpose of the six-week deployment was to test the strength of naval defense systems, specifically three Sea Sparrow Block 2 missiles.

“Our primary testing involved major missiles carried by Canadian equipment,” said Greg. “It was a big deal. It took at least a year to two years to prepare. It’s probably the most significant weaponry on our ships. Without tests, we don’t know how they’ll operate.”

The tests were deemed successful.

CHAPLAINCY

A military chaplain’s role is to hold religious services and be a support for both the commanding officer and

the crew. On this deployment, the crew was still grieving the loss of one of their own in a training incident in Halifax harbour in January, so his presence was a comfort.

Greg held daily services and offered a compressed Alpha course he called Exploring Faith. Six sailors joined him.

He took the opportunity to tour the Lutheran cathedral in Bodo, toured some of the NATO ships, and met with another chaplain, Judith Vogel, from the Netherlands.

He also led a special service to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, a six-year naval battle, the longest in the Second World War, which began the day after war was declared. Its purpose was to block Nazi Germany from hunting and sinking Allied ships and merchant vessels bringing soldiers and supplies from North America to Europe, particularly the UK.

Greg’s service was held May 8, fittingly the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Norway.

“We had the service on the flight deck on a beautiful, sunny day with the backdrop of snow-covered mountains and fjords,” said Greg. “That was a highlight.”

After the operation, the ship moved on to Cardiff, Wales for a five-day port of call. There, Greg participated in a remembrance service for veterans of the Merchant Naval Service.

“I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of the Royal Canadian Navy,” he said.

Another, special event took place that was unexpected. The wreck of the HMCS Trentonian, a Canadian Flower class corvette, was found by a diver and the ship’s bell recovered.

“[The wreck] was only discovered two weeks after we left Halifax,” said Greg. “We had a service and I officiated. We got to repatriate the ship’s bell to the Halifax Naval Museum.”

HMCS Trentonian was sunk Feb. 22, 1945 by a German U-boat near Falmouth in the UK with the loss of six lives.

AFTERMATH

“A lot happened in six weeks,” said Greg. “It was high intensity and history-making. And hopefully it’s

an experience that would make me a better priest.

“It was the ministry opportunity of a lifetime and the experience of a lifetime. It really left me with a sense that we’re not alone. We’re part of a world-wide friendship. You knew you were part of something big.

“There is a contingency of allies

that are pretty tight. We have a really good defense mechanism in place.”

The final event for Greg took place the day after they returned to Halifax.

“The icing on the cake for me, personally, was a member of the ship’s company wanted me to baptize his daughter on the ship,” he said. “So on June 7 we held a service of baptism

for his two-year-old girl. We used the ship’s bell as the font, which is a Navy tradition.”

Greg has since given a presentation to his congregation on where he was and what took place during those six weeks away.

“I was honoured to make the presentation out of gratitude for their

support of my deployment,” he said.

Years ago, Greg had no military background, and joined the Reserves for a specific reason.

“I just thought it would be an opportunity to provide ministry beyond the church walls,” he said.

He is chaplain to HMCS Brunswick in Saint John.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: HMCS Montréal, along with other NATO naval vessels, practice maneuvering and formation keeping during EX FORMIDABLE SHIELD, as part of OP REASSURANCE, in the Atlantic Ocean on 7 May 2025 (Corporal Morgan LeBlanc, Canadian Armed Forces photo); HMCS Montréal moves to the Fuel Jetty prior to commencing its transit across the Atlantic Ocean towards Canada during OP REASSURANCE in Cardiff Wales on 27 May 2025 (Corporal Morgan LeBlanc, Canadian Armed Forces photo); the Rev. Canon Lt. (N) Greg McMullin on the deck of HMCS Montréal; a tugboat brings HMCS Montréal into port; Onboard members of HMCS Montréal’s Ship’s Company, including Greg seen here, conduct a Remembrance Service for HMCS Trentonian while transporting its recently recovered bell to Halifax during OP REASSURANCE on 28 May 2025 (Corporal Morgan LeBlanc, Canadian Armed Forces photo); Greg during the Battle of the Atlantic service, held May 8, the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Norway (Corporal Morgan LeBlanc, Canadian Armed Forces photo). All other photos courtesy of Greg McMullin.

“SHARING HOPE & HELP”

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH CONFERENCE

SMYC helps kids deepen their faith

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

St. Michael's Youth Conference had something this year they haven't seen in several years: house kids.

House kids are the children of staff who are too young to participate in the conference. But they fulfill an important role, that of cabin inspectors.

So this Aug. 18-23, eight children took on the task of daily inspections, aided by the spouses of staff, with the results announced with great anticipation at lunch each day. And as kids so often are, they were delightfully honest in their assessments of messy rooms and rumpled bedding.

The house kids were one component of SMYC, which convenes each summer with a three-pronged, weeklong camp that includes serious study, daily prayer and recreation. There's also a lot of fun and friendship thrown in.

This summer, 14 conferees signed up, though a family of three had to bow out at the last moment, but that's still a small improvement over 2024. Virtually all camps have had to regrow post-pandemic.

"We had 10 last year, which was the right number with so many in new roles. It gave us time to learn things," said project manager Sarah Stevenson.

Both she and conference director the Rev. Colin Nicholle were new last year. Last year was the first time since the pandemic that the conference was back at Camp Wildwood, near Bouctouche. It was held twice at Camp Medley during the later years of the pandemic.

All three Maritime provinces and Ontario were represented in the conferees and staff. Long-time conferee and now counsellor Aiden Ingalls was caught in the Air Canada strike, but managed to make it, taking a train from Toronto to Montreal and a rideshare to Moncton.

With the summer drought, one of the issues organizers looked at was the forest fire index and emergency response planning. The parent of a conferee is the military liaison to the Nova Scotia Emergency Measure Organization, and helped with an evacuation



SUE CARELESS PHOTOS



TOP: The staff, spouses and conferees of St. Michael's Youth Conference 2025, held at Camp Wildwood near Bouctouche in late August.

ABOVE: Rowdy games of water basketball are much anticipated at SMYC.

plan, that thankfully did not become necessary.

"It was a great learning experience," said Sarah. "Now we know how to do it for next year."

WHAT IS SMYC?

SMYC is a week-long camp

designed as a way for young people to delve deeper into faith by learning more about God, the bible, spirituality, music and the Anglican Church via morning courses.

Instructors included Archbishop David Edwards, Elizabeth King, the Rev. Chris Ketch,

the Rev. Canon Ross Hebb, the Rev. Benjamin Lee, the Rev. Canon Gerry Laskey, the Rev. Dr. Gary Thorne, Sue Careless, Alan Hall, Brenda O'Connor, and Sarah Stevenson.

The schedule included Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline. Each

afternoon was for fun, with activities like canoeing, swimming, beach visit, nature walk, archery and bowling. The Ven. Perry Cooper's role was "Arch-deacon of Fun."

Each year, conferees put on a play called the Pageant of Our Redemption, with two narrators describing the life of Jesus as the conferees play various characters in non-speaking roles. Aiden was the play's director.

"The script came to us from SMYC in the U.S.," said Sarah. "We are an offshoot of that. [The Rev.] John Paul Westin attended as a student. He looked at it and said, 'we need this in this region.'"

John Paul brought SMYC to the diocese in 1987, and one of the first staff members was Gary Thorne, who returned this year for the first time.

GARY THORNE

"I'm a Saint Johner, from Stone Church," said Gary, though his ministry has been in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

Gary was a speaker at our Clergy College in June.

Not only a priest, Gary served as a military chaplain in the Reserve Force, reaching the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was also the chaplain at the University of Kings College in Halifax for 13 years. Now retired, he lives in Halifax.

"I'm finding the students are very thoughtful, and hungry for a deep spiritual life," said Gary. "Their questions and conversations all turn to the notion of a walk with Christ as a pilgrimage."

"They've been brought to a place where it's safe and encouraging to talk. Many don't have the venue or the permission."

"This is a tremendous thing, not only for the Diocese of Fredericton, but encouraging for the Church as a whole."

MOLLY SNEDDON

Fifteen-year-old Molly Sneddon of Halifax was at SMYC because of peer pressure.

"I have a friend who goes here and told me I should come," she said. "It's fun."

SMYC continued on page 11

ST MICHAEL'S YOUTH CONFERENCE



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



SUE CARELESS PHOTO



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Shannon Nicolle leads a nature walk as part of the recreation component of SMYC. Here she teaches that coneflowers contain the healing herb echinacea, which boosts the immune system; Molly Sneddon and Elliana Lee, friends from the greater Halifax area; The Rev. Dr. Gary Thorne, one of the instructors at SMYC and a returnee after decades away; Postulant and instructor Alan Hall; canoeing was another of the recreation activities at SMYC.

SMYC continued from page 10

While she enjoys the recreation, "I like theology. I get a deeper understanding of the bible passages I already knew about."

She plans to return next year.

ELLIANA LEE

This is the second time Elliana Lee, 13, has been to SMYC.

"I had a really great time last year. I just couldn't miss it. I looked forward to it all year."

She brought Molly this year and plans to return next year.

Her favourite course is Theology, with Gary Thorne, a family friend.

ALAN HALL

This is the first year for postulant and professor Alan Hall, who teaches at St. Thomas University in Fredericton.

"Sarah recruited me," he said. "It's lovely. The students are great, very engaged and thoughtful and fun."

"I sat in on Gary's class and

this group of 14-year-olds was asking the most difficult possible questions. Those questions were in them. It was good to hear them. This is high-level formation.

"I think the Anglican Church in the Maritimes has many significant gifts hiding in plain sight. Many of them are here."

The other aspect he enjoyed was the multi-generational quality of SMYC.

NATURE WALK

On the day the *New Brunswick Anglican* visited, Shannon Nicolle led a nature walk, pointing out the value of various plants we might overlook.

The yarrow plant, for example, with its 'frond' leaves, helps to stop bleeding.

"It's good for wound care," she said. "A friend of mine puts it in alcohol for awhile, adds water and uses it as bug spray."

Plantain leaves can be chewed into a paste and applied to bug bites and stings, she said.

If you run your hands over sweet fern, the lemon aroma is unmistakable.

"We'll have a tea of this later," she said. "It's good for colds and stomach aches."

Mountain ash or rowan, with its red berries, makes a good wine and jelly.

"It's seen as a protector and is often grown in church yards in England," she said.

With this year's SMYC complete, organizers will debrief, and in a few months, begin planning for 2026.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

COMMENTARY

Some thoughts on Jesus' words, "I am the way, the truth and the life"

In the days before his crucifixion, Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for his departure.

On the night of his arrest, after Judas had already left to betray him, Jesus told the remaining disciples that he was going away and that they would not be able to follow him until later. (See John 13:33-36.) They were obviously troubled by this news, so he reassured them:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am (John 14:1-3).

Seeing their puzzled looks, he added, "You know the way



to the place where I am going" (v.4). Thomas gave voice to their confusion by asking, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (v.5).

Jesus replied, **"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"** (v.6).

Note that Jesus used the definite article for all three words, **the way, the truth and the life**. He is not merely someone pointing to the path that leads

to God, as an ordinary rabbi might.

Nor is he "a" way to God, i.e. one of many roads to God.

Jesus was claiming that he is the only way to God. Interestingly, in the early days of the church, believers were called followers of The Way. (See Acts 9:2; 19:9; 24:14.)

Jesus is also "the" truth. He is not simply one who teaches the truth about God. Jesus is the embodiment of the only true God. (See Hebrews 1:3; 1 John 5:20.)

That's why he told Thomas, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

Jesus' teaching and miracles reveal "the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

Finally, Jesus is "the" life. He had made earlier statements about being the "life" — "I am the bread of life" (John 6:35)

and "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

I understand this to mean that Jesus is the source of life, not only as our Creator, but also as the one who gives new life to all who believe in him.

Though his death was imminent, Jesus was looking beyond the tomb to his resurrection. So, he reassured his disciples again: "Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you" (John 14:19-20).

His words were meant to encourage his disciples. Dark days were ahead of them, but they could draw courage from knowing that their Lord really was and is "the way, the truth and the life."

He wanted them to understand this, so they would continue to believe in him (v.11), love him (v. 15) and obey his commands (v.21).

Like the first disciples, we also can take his words to heart and be strengthened in our own faith, love and obedi-

ence.

One final thought on this topic. Christians are often accused of intolerance because we preach that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation. Couldn't we just tone it down a bit? Can't we be tolerant enough to admit that other religions may be true as well?

Other religions do have elements of good to the degree that they teach on ethics or encourage morality. However, their gods and worldviews do not align with the truth Jesus taught.

As Christians we must not be arrogant or bigoted in the way we live and preach. But neither should we compromise on the teachings of Scripture or the words of our Lord who alone is the way, the truth and the life.

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.

Experience Kings Landing as an Anglican!

Every Sunday at 2 p.m. from June 8 to Thanksgiving, St. Mark's Chapel-of-Ease is the setting of a service of Evening Prayer. You are welcome to attend. No entrance fee. Come as you are!

Directions: Take exit 253 off the Trans-Canada Highway, or take route 102 north from Fredericton and enjoy the beauty of the St. John River along the way.

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MARGARET LAKING PHOTO

A POTLUCK IS always a popular gathering. This one was held at St. George's in the Parish of McAdam on Aug. 31 after the morning worship service. From front to back: Sylvia MacDonald, Eric Christie, Eric's wife Betty Lou, and Ann Marie Cairns (wearing white sweater).

PARISH OF ANDOVER

Parish of Andover celebrates 200 years

BY HAROLD BOOMER

During the New Brunswick Day weekend, the Parish of Andover gathered at Trinity Church for a trifecta of celebrations.

This year marked three major milestones for Anglicans in this area. The doors were opened and every church and organization in the community were invited in.

With Shawn Branch representing Archbishop Edwards, Margaret Johnson, the riding's MLA representing the Legislative Assembly, local musicians and a church full of willing participants, our day was filled with laughter, ceremony, stories and songs.

Between the presentations and musical interludes, our history was shared from the New Brunswick archives, beginning in 1825 with the recognition that it was already here!

Going back to the American Revolution, the King's Royal Regiment was formed of men from New York State who chose to remain loyal to the King. After the war those men were given 100-acre land tracks all along the Canada-US border.

They were permitted to keep their musket, a share of powder and shot, and granted enough land to farm and homestead on.

This gave the King access to a loyal, armed militia to call upon in times of need and secured the border. The plan had worked so well, through the late 1700s, that in 1809 when discussions began about disbanding the West India Ranger Corps, the King tried it again.

It was decided that these men who had served so valiantly in India, Pakistan, Africa and the Far East, who had experienced more than any men should, deserved peace, and sanctuary.

Once again, as the regiment was disbanded, its ranks were given 100 acres in the Upper Valley, to farm, to homestead, to regain their humanity.

One thing that was never considered in relocating these men and their families, was their faith and community worship.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Harold Boomer's proven kitchen advice is this: "Always feed the help" L-R Carolyn Dixon, Mary-Ellen Peckford, Linda Murchison, Harold Boomer; Shawn Branch was the special speaker; hot dogs and hamburgers were a hit with everyone.

In 1825, a letter was received by the Bishop's office, requesting prayer books to be sent to a farm just south of Four Falls, New Brunswick.

It was stated that although the residents of the area could appreciate the absence of a priest or missionary, due to their remoteness, since they had all been most loyal members of His Majesty's Military, they were equally faithful members of the Church of England, and had been using C of E prayer books which still included intercessory prayers for Frederick, Prince of Wales, who had, in fact, passed away in 1751.

This officially marked our presence, in joined prayer and home worship 200 years ago.

With the passing of time, we arrive at the second marker and the construction of Holy Trinity Church, located on the site of our present Trinity Cemetery.

In the presence of God, the members of the community and the Coadjutor Bishop, the land was consecrated, 51 adults received Holy Communion, 11 were confirmed and 31 baptized.

A mere 20 years after the request for prayer books, the community not only had its first church, but also the guarantee that SPG or Society for the Propagation of the Gospel would ensure a priest in the Upper Valley and in 1845, we were here to stay!

This event marks 180 years of an Anglican house of worship in Perth-Andover.

Finally, after being filled with the Holy Spirit, the wonderful music that was provided, blessings on behalf of our own Archbishop David by Shawn Branch, and the presentation of a certificate of recognition by Margaret Johnson, we reached our last celebration.

In 1895, the Parish of Andover received a warrant from Queen Victoria, giving the Parish the land our church sits on, for the construction of Trinity Church, our families' present home, which still displays the commemorative stained-glass window of Her Jubilee.

In a short 50-year span, the congregation of the Anglican Church in Andover had outgrown its place of worship, and so in 1895, 130 years ago this beautiful structure was built.

It continues to this day to be a place of sanctuary, peace, praise, love and family.

Dating back over 200 years, to a time when men had seen too much, experienced too much, given all they had mentally and physically, this area was provided to them for their service.

It was a place of beauty, tranquility and peace. It was a place for family and faith,

where hard work brought life and reward, where things could be nurtured and cared for, a place where they could make their own history, a garden for the faithful, and it still is.

Aug. 3 marked a trifecta of celebration — 200 years of faith in one of the beautiful old buildings of our diocese.

It marked 180 years of family gathered together in a place of worship; it marked 130 years in our present home, and it marked the beginning of our next chapter.

I have said this many times, and I will say it again, the Holy Spirit is alive and well in our parishes. The Spirit flows through us, surrounds us, and exists within us. There was no need for us to pray for the Holy Spirit to come as the Spirit was already here!

The Rev. Harold Boomer is the incumbent in the parishes of Andover and Denmark.

"SHARING HOPE & HELP"

AROUND THE DIOCESE



The Rev. Canon Lt. (N) Greg McMullin,
rector of the Parish of Coldbrook - St. Mary, Saint John,
seen here with Pollyanna

- Favourite book of the Bible** - The Gospel of John
- Birthplace** - Halifax, Nova Scotia
- What you love most about God** - Grace
- Favourite place on earth** - Jerusalem
- Farthest you've been away from home** - Jerusalem
- Favourite meal or dessert** - Grandmother's lobster sauce
- Biggest fear** – Heights
- Hidden talent** – Singing
- Favourite movie or book** – “Run with the Horses” by Eugene Peterson
- Your hobby** – Cycling
- Three things always in your fridge** – Peanut butter, jam, and maple syrup
- Favourite sports team** - Boston Red Sox



Discernment Retreat – Oct 31 to Nov 2
Villa Madonna Retreat Centre

The Dioceses of Fredericton and Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island are partnering for a weekend of prayerful exploration of Christian vocation. Held at Villa Madonna, this retreat is open to anyone discerning a call to lay ministry, religious life, the diaconate, or the priesthood.

Participants will hear from the bishops, clergy, and lay leaders, share stories of discernment, and spend time in worship and reflection together. Whether you're just beginning to wonder or already on the journey, you're invited to come and listen for God's call.

Space is limited. For more info or to register, visit:
nb.anglican.ca/DiscernmentRetreat2025

Episcopal Announcements



The Ven. Leo Martin's role as Archdeacon of Saint John is extended by one year, to August 31, 2026.

The Rev. Canon Chris Hayes's role as regional dean of the Deanery of Shediac is extended to April 15, 2028.

The Rev. Paul Jeffries, missionary priest and Canon in Uganda, has resigned as principal of Bishop McAllister College in order to retire from full-time ministry. He has started a two-year contract as part-time rector of the college.

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MUSIC COMMENTARY

Springsteen's faith lives in *Tracks II - The Lost Albums*

There are all kinds of music collections out there — “Best of...” compilations, bootlegs, B-sides, sound checks — you name it.

But when Bruce Springsteen released *Tracks II - the Lost Albums* earlier this year, it was an EVENT.

Suddenly there were seven mostly completed, mastered, produced albums that, for various reasons, were simply never released by the Boss.

The pandemic of 2020, with its stop to touring, gave Bruce the time to ‘organize the vault,’ and this massive release — 83 songs — is the result.

The albums capture various times in Springsteen's life, with several of them focused on the mid-1990s.

One of them captured my attention in particular: the mid 2000s score and soundtrack, *Faithless*, which was written for a movie that was never made (Springsteen's reaction- “That's the movie business for you!”) [Rolling Stone, June 2025]).

The book and movie were described as a “spiritual western” and you can hear it on this album. Slow ballads played on acoustic guitars; sparse, open instrumentation, and reflective lyrics are hallmarks of this genre.

While Springsteen was writing in the voice of characters and scenes from the movie, it is well known that an artist's own soul will come through loud and clear.

Springsteen has incorporated his faith into music throughout his career, so this is nothing new to a die-hard or even casual fan.

I'd like to look at two specific songs, for they complement each other very well, whether they were meant to or not. Those of the Christian faith will likely understand right away.

“God Sent You” and “My Master's Hand” are both exemplary of the spiritual western vibe that I described above.

“God Sent You” is a story of one person praying for another — not lifting up their needs to God, but praying for that person to come to them. We don't know either of them by name.

“God sent you to me - a prayer of safety and salvation / God sent you to me - when faith was so hard to see.”



The first prayed for these things, and God's answer came in the form of the person who came to them. It can remind us that the answers to prayer don't always come in the form we expect. Rather than problems solved, sometimes it is people who help us.

“My Master's Hand” is all about service — the singer willingly following his Master.

“I will follow His command [yes, the ‘H’ is capitalized in the lyrics!] / I'll be the hammer in my Master's hand” is just one way of them saying that they will do whatever asked of them, as any good disciple would do.

Toward the end of the song, we get this: “On the day our souls rise higher / I'll wear the robes of flame and fire / When I reach those blessed lands / I'll live in the shelter of my Master's hand.”

Now imagine this, Dear Reader: what if the person described in this song is the person who comes as a response to prayer by the one in the first song?

Of course, we don't know, and likely never will, because this soundtrack was for a movie based on a book that was never made or revealed. It's interesting to think about, especially if these things were actually happening in someone's life.

There are other songs on this soundtrack, too; the Gospel-tinged, “All God's Children” is a fun one.

God Sent You, by Bruce Springsteen

I was lost on the road I traveled
Between the high mountains and the sea

I prayed for you this morning
And God sent you to me
Now, though, darkness lingers all around us

And darkness is all I see
And all the wine in my glass has turned to dust

God sent you to me

Chorus: God sent you to me

A prayer of safety and salvation

God sent you to me

When faith is so hard to see

God sent you to me

Through His inner light, forsake temptation

God sent you to me

I lie still in the evening

Listen as God's breath drifts through the trees

And I can feel the darkness receding

And God sent you to me

So if you're weary on that road you travel

Hardships handed to thee

I walk forever thankful

That God sent you to me

Chorus

My Master's Hand, by Bruce Springsteen

I will pray to understand

I will walk these barren lands

I will follow His command

I'll be the hammer in my master's hand

I'll clear the stone from the dell

I'll raise the walls of the citadel

I'll wash them in the blood of the land

I'll be the hammer in my master's hand

And when the devil's wheel spins 'round

With sword and shield, I'll lay him down

His tongue and horn to ashes and sand

I'll be the hammer in my master's hand

On the day our souls rise higher

I'll wear the robes of flame and fire

When I reach those blessed lands

I'll live in the shelter of my master's hand

I'll live in the love of my master's hand

Never, perhaps, since *The Rising* album has Bruce been so forthright with faith, though

the themes he was writing for on *Faithless* likely had something to do with it. Enjoy this

album, and the other ones in the set. It'll keep you busy for a while!

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AROUND THE DIOCESE

AROUND THE DIOCESE



KATE GILLIES PHOTO

CHOIR PARTY! Recently choir member Kate Gilles welcomed fellow musicians from St. John the Baptist, Riverview, to her cozy cottage as they said farewell to music director Judith Snowdon. From left: Dayna Savary, Tom Snowdon, Phil Hebb, Sylvia Campbell, James Snelgrove, Judith Snowdon, Kit Ogilvie, Ruth Anne Robinson and Beth Cole.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Joan Perry, Rachel Fast, Terry Young, Carol Baker, Elaine Dow, Lynda Duplessie and Debbie Cleghorn, members of the Anglican Parish of St. Stephen Hand Quilters, who helped make this quilt which they displayed at the Around the Block Quilt Show in St. Peter’s Anglican Church on Aug. 6, as part of the International Homecoming Festival. The show included 30 quilts, plus other quilted items. The Anglican hand quilters made most of the quilts on exhibit, but the St. Croix Cotton Mill Quilters contributed, too. The Charlotte County Museum loaned four quilts for the show. Proceeds from the free-will offering at the door will go towards a new roof for St. Peter’s Church. The offering from the barbecue outside went to the Volunteer Centre of Charlotte County.



DERWIN GOWAN PHOTO



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

SEA SUNDAY WAS JULY 13, a day to recognize the Mission to Seafarers, a worldwide Anglican mission. In the Parish of St. Mark’s in Sussex Corner, the Rev. Canon Paul Ranson invited his childhood friend, Tony Dickinson, executive director of the Saint John Mission to Seafarers, to speak about his work. Seafarers, those men and sometimes women who toil on cargo and container ships that ply ocean waters all over the world, often face danger and loneliness in their work. The mission in Saint John provides a place for them to unwind, catch up on emails, chat virtually with family, and have a snack, watch TV or play a game of pool.