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THE NEW BRUNSWICK

# ANGLICAN



A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

JANUARY 2026

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

## Antioch of Pisidia



STEPHEN ANDREWS PHOTO

**THE RT. REV. DR. STEPHEN ANDREWS** led a pilgrimage to Turkey last fall, which included visiting the sites of six of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Here the pilgrims visit Antioch of Pisidia. Among the participants were Canon Wandlyn Snelgrove and Canon Albert Snelgrove. Stephen, retired bishop of Algoma, and his wife, Fawna, have settled in Quispamsis. Read more on page 8.



# Happy New Year!

Why not start the year off right? Join  
Archbishop David Edwards at  
Christ Church Cathedral Jan. 1 at 11 a.m.  
for the New Year's Day Eucharist  
and reception.





# Alongside Hope and Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, as recorded in the 25th chapter of St. Matthew: “Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me,” (in response to wondering when they gave food and drink unto Jesus).

This month I want to draw attention to the work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

This organization describes itself as a “Christian Response to Hunger.” Since 2007 Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF) has been a member and partner, along with 14 other organizations, of CFGB.

Alongside Hope has an equity account with CFBG. This account works like a bank, and the funds can be accessed when an emergency food response is required, due to famine, flood, war, and so on.

This money is then distributed so that food can be purchased closer to where it is required.

There are many ways to donate to Alongside Hope, and one option is to designate your gift to be deposited into our equity bank account with CFBG. This is always an option through the “World of Gifts.”

As Canadians, we can be pleased that all funds given to



this “bank” are matched 4:1 by our Canadian government. In other words, if you make a donation of \$50, it then becomes \$200! Not a bad return!

CFGB came into existence in 1983 and, in addition to managing the bank for emergency food relief, it also advocates for food security, justice and sustainability.

The goal to end global hunger is truly enormous, but also just. Until the global pandemic, world hunger was decreasing; unfortunately, since then, global food chains have been damaged and food costs, around the world, have risen.

While costs have risen for all of us, it is a matter of life and death for many around the globe, and once again the number of people dying from hunger is on the rise.

“While costs have risen for all of us, it is a matter of life and death for many around the globe, and once again the number of people dying from hunger is on the rise.”

Partnering with Alongside Hope and Canadian Foodgrains Bank is one way to help.

Please remember that I am always available to come to your parish to give a presentation on the work of Alongside Hope.

Also, I would love to hear about fundraising Alongside Hope projects of which your parish has recently been engaged. My email is [deborah-collicott@gmail.com](mailto:deborah-collicott@gmail.com). *Debbie Edwards is the diocesan representative of Alongside Hope in the Diocese of Fredericton.*

## Letter to the editor

**To the editor:**

I enjoyed the article on the Mission to Seafarers led by the Rev. Eric Phinney in December 2025’s *New Brunswick Anglican*.

Describing the mission as being in Eric Phinney’s blood is literally true from my experience.

I had the fortune as a young civil engineer in the 1970s to work on various Saint John Harbour projects overseen by Eric’s father, Garnet Phinney, port engineer.

I found him to be a clear minded, fair, and very dedicated no-nonsense leader, one

that shared respect and direction to all, including juniors like myself.

Garnet was active in his community, a family man (you can just tell) and lover of the sea.

The apple doesn’t fall far from the tree, they say, so I’m not surprised to see him through the character and work of his son, Eric.

**Mark Hymers**  
**Christ Church (Parish)**  
**Church**  
**Fredericton**

Letters  
to the editor

We welcome them!  
Send yours to  
[gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)

+

+

Missional Initiative Fund

The Diocese of Fredericton has dedicated funds in the budget for New Missional Initiatives. These are intended to be small amounts needed to get the initiative going.

If you have an idea or proposal, we want to hear from you!

Applying is Simple - 4 things are needed:

1.A short summary of the idea/proposal;

2.Proposed Project Budget;

3.How is it Missional?

4.How is it New?

Send your proposals and/or questions to:  
Shawn C. Branch at the Synod Office  
[sbranch@diofton.ca](mailto:sbranch@diofton.ca) or 506-459-1801 ext 1008.

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DEADLINE for news and photos for the February edition of the New Brunswick Anglican is Jan. 1. Send submissions to [gmcknight@diofton.ca](mailto:gmcknight@diofton.ca)

THE NEW BRUNSWICK

ANGLICAN

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## THE BISHOP'S PAGE

# God in the changes and chances of life

As we enter a new year, we are faced with all kinds of opportunities and challenges. There is also time to reflect on the joys and sorrows of 2025.

I am sure we had plans for the last 12 months and many of them have been fulfilled, but others have not or the unexpected sent us in directions we did not imagine.

The coming days will have similar twists and turns.

As I know I have mentioned before in this column, my favourite service of the day is Compline — the beginning of night.

For some reason it connects me to the monastic, the sense of the monks and nuns across the centuries committing themselves to God's safe keeping.

My mind runs to the great religious houses of history, and the words of the liturgy push me toward the mystery that is God.

I imagine the wisping smoke from a guttering candle drifting upwards into the apparently infinite space above it.

The prayer which speaks to me most is this:



**"Be present, O merciful God,** and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness."

The changes and chances of this life can be wearisome, yet the mercy and the grace of God break through in very unexpected ways.

As I think back over the past year, I see many gracious moments given by God. The move to Grafton has been one of these. Being able to visit the UK in the summer, visiting family and friends is another.

The thing about grace and

mercy, though, is that they do not necessarily always arise from places or events one might expect.

Debbie and I have experienced the deaths of some significant people in the last year. Each one had its gracious element amongst the grief. I want to reference one.

Grace can come about because of an insight into a situation which has caused grief over many years.

I cannot say with certainty that what I am going to write next is in any way correct, but I think it is grace in several directions and it brings me some comfort.

As some of you know, one of the great regrets of my life is that Janet and I could not have children. In years gone by, I have railed against God about it, and though I have received relief, it still troubles me, and probably always will.

In March last year Janet's brother called me to tell me that he had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, the same condition which killed his sister.

Michael and his wife, Perse-

phoni, fought the good fight against the disease, but he died in early November, almost exactly seven years after Janet.

In 1975 their mother, Grace, died of cancer in the same area of the body. When Janet was in the Regional Hospital in Saint John, given what Grace died from, they wanted to test for a genetic connection to the disease. For several reasons that proved impossible, but it seems it may be the case.

Perhaps the grace here in Janet and I not having children — neither did Michael and Persephoni — is that the genetic line is cut. And their mother, Grace, was an only child.

As I said, I don't know, but it gives me some rest as I contemplate God's eternal changelessness.

David Edwards is  
Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.



## PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENTS

**January 1**  
**New Year's worship**  
**and archbishop's**  
**reception, Christ**  
**Church Cathedral**

**January 11**  
**\* Parishes of Andover**  
**and Denmark**

**January 18**  
**Christ Church,**  
**St. Stephen**

**January 25**  
**St. Paul's, Rothesay;**  
**Good Shepherd,**  
**Lancaster -**  
**Celebration of New**  
**Ministry of the Rev.**  
**Christopher Ketch**

\* confirmation

## Light in familiar places

There's something about January that invites a kind of attentiveness we don't often carry with us throughout the rest of the year.

Whether or not we make resolutions, this season offers a natural pause. The pace slows, the gatherings fade, and many of us find ourselves settling back into daily routines after the disruptions (and blessings) of Advent and Christmas.

It's not uncommon to think of January as a time for fresh starts. It's a time to make changes, reset rhythms, or focus on self-improvement.

But for people of faith, this moment in the calendar offers more than just personal goal setting. It gives us a chance to look again, to pay closer attention, to see familiar places and familiar people with renewed spiritual vision.

One of the most enduring images of the Christmas season is light breaking into darkness. The Gospel of John begins by declaring that Jesus is the light of all people, "a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness



cannot overcome it" (Jn 1:5).

Epiphany continues that theme: the magi following the star, the light guiding them toward the Christ child.

But what happens once the star fades from the sky? Once the decorations are packed away and we return to our ordinary lives, where does the light go?

It's still there. But we may need to learn how to look for it again, especially in the places we've grown used to.

The earliest followers of Jesus were not, for the most part, spiritual elites (you know, like we are). They were fishermen,

tax collectors, tradespeople. They were called not *out* of their ordinary lives but *within* them.

Jesus met them at their boats, their market stalls, their homes. He invited them to see their lives through a new lens, to recognize that God's presence and purpose were not confined to religious spaces but infused into every aspect of life, if they had the eyes to see it.

We're invited into that same kind of vision.

It's easy to imagine that God is more present in certain places or certain people. Those moments of connecting with God are only found in retreats, conferences, or big moments of clarity.

But often, spiritual depth begins with noticing the sacred in what's already right in front of us.

Your home. Your daily commute. Your conversations with coworkers.

The long-standing relationships that have settled into routine. The local coffee shop, the grocery aisle, the school hallway.

These are not just backdrops

to your life; they are places where God is present.

Perhaps one question to carry into a new year is this:  
**Where is the Light already showing up?**

In whom do I see hope? Where have I noticed compassion?

What moments, no matter how small, have stirred a sense of connection or purpose?

Perhaps it was the quiet generosity of someone offering help without being asked. Perhaps it was a conversation that reminded you you're not alone.

Perhaps it was simply the resilience of someone who kept showing up in hard circumstances.

The Spirit of God is often most visible in these subtle, everyday expressions. But we have to be paying attention.

This kind of attentiveness takes practice. It takes a slowing down of our automatic responses.

It asks us to walk through our homes, our neighbourhoods, and our communities as if we were seeing them for the first time.

When we do this, mission stops being something we "add"

to our lives and starts becoming a lens through which we live.

It shapes the way we greet others, how we listen, how we make decisions, and how we respond to those who need care.

You don't need to travel far to participate in what God is doing. Sometimes the invitation is to stay where you are and see it differently.

So as this new year begins, please resist the urge to fill it too quickly. Instead, allow yourself to pause. To look again at the places and people you already know. To ask God to reveal what you might have overlooked.

The light that came into the world at Christmas still shines, in boardrooms and basements, in classrooms and kitchens.

Our job is not to create it, but to notice it. To name it. And, when possible, to reflect it.

This January, may we become people who see the sacred in the familiar.

May we walk slowly enough to notice where God is at work. And may we carry that light with us into every place we go.

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

**"SHARING HOPE & HELP"**



## DAYCARES

# Got excess space? How about a daycare?

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

Wondering what to do with that extra space your parish rarely uses? You might take some inspiration from two parishes whose extra hall space is now used for the care of children.

Both the Parish of Sussex and the Parish of Riverview now have childcare facilities in their excess space.

The Sussex Christian School opened its new daycare in the Trinity Church hall basement Nov. 28. Young Explorers plans to open an afterschool program in the basement of St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview Jan. 5.

## PARISH OF SUSSEX

The Rev. Dan McMullen, rector, has been in the parish more than three years, and talks began with Sussex Christian School (SCS) prior to his arrival.

“There was already some discernment and discussion when I arrived,” said Dan, adding the large basement was used mostly for the youth group’s games like hide and seek. “When this came along, in some sense it was a no-brainer.”

Once the two parties reached a consensus, work began last summer to transform a decades-old basement into a vibrant, bright daycare facility for 40 children ages infant to four — with 140 on the waiting list. There will also be an after-school program, and the facility will operate from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“This was a million-dollar project,” said Dan. “The school received funding from the government for 80 per cent, up to a million dollars.”

The parish put up the rest, which will be repaid through the rental agreement. Iron Maple was the general contractor. They used remnants of an old pew for the countertop in the reception area.

“We’re essentially getting our building enhanced, but not on our dime,” he said. “And we get to have our building full of families, and we’re meeting a community need.”

The parish hall’s design made the transformation fairly easy. The hall is connected to the sanctuary, rather than beneath it.

With renovations complete, the hall’s basement has several newly constructed rooms — one for each age group — plus bathrooms with laundry facilities, a large reception area, office and



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS

## CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

One of the rooms of the Sussex Christian School daycare facility seen during the congregation’s tour Nov. 16; Young Explorers’ space in the Parish of Riverview; open house of the SCS Little Lights Early Learning Centre, Trinity Campus. From left: Naomi MacKay (Director of Little Lights), Connie Armstrong (Parish of Sussex), Dr. Marsha Boyd-Mitchell (SCS Head of Schools), MLA Tammy Scott-Wallace, Rector Dan McMullen, Vicar Paul Ranson, Joy Knox (Parish of Sussex), Lydia Janes (Parish of Sussex), and Ellen McGaghey (SCS Director of Operations).

See more  
photos  
on page 5



NATHAN JOLLIMORE MEDIA



kitchenette.

The infant room is upstairs in what was the library. The entire facility has its own entrance and soon, its own playground. The parish will be able to use the new space during evenings and weekends as needed.

“We’re really excited for the partnership,” said Dan.

On Sunday, Nov. 16, the congregation was invited to come downstairs to see the finished facility, and Dan anointed each doorway and prayed a blessing on all who use it.

“I think it’s fantastic to have this basement used for children instead of empty space,” said parish warden Faye Freeze.

On Nov. 21, SCS held an open house for children and others to see the finished space. The facility’s official name is SCS Little Lights Early Learning Centre, Trinity Campus.

## PARISH OF RIVERVIEW

Young Explorers, a for-profit

business, will soon operate an after-school program in the basement hall of St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview. It plans to open the first week of January.

Young Explorers already operates a daycare, which is full. With the demand for afterschool care high, the owner went looking for a location.

“She approached us in 2024 and we had an initial conversation,” said the Rev. Julian Pillay, the parish rector. “She decided no, but then early this year, she asked if we could revisit it.”

They came to an agreement, and over the summer, Young Explorers painted and decorated the space to make it more child-friendly.

So each weekday from 1:30 to 6 p.m., there will be upwards of 30 children in the hall basement, doing homework, playing games and enjoying a snack.

Young Explorers rents three rooms and the common space,

but not the kitchen. They will use the back parking lot and back entrance. The parish retains several rooms downstairs for its own use.

When there is no school, and through the summer, children will be there all day.

“It will be busy, but a good busy,” said Julian.

Early on, Julian put together a committee to assess the rental, its impact and the feasibility of continuing after the initial one-year agreement.

“We had a few meetings back and forth,” he said. “Thankfully everybody saw the big picture.”

While the parish did not incur any upfront outlay of cash, the cost of things like maintenance, snow removal and cleaning will rise.

“We put together a budget, but realistically, we will only know that after the first year. But from a real estate point of view, this is a good investment. We have a large building that’s

empty most of the week.”

However, when the parish needs its hall, for example, for a funeral reception, that will take a bit of creative timing.

For now, Julian plans to have those events take place in the mornings so the kids can take over from 1:30 onward. The groups that usually use the space in the evenings are free to continue.

Julian is grateful for the original designers of the space who built it to house children, he said.

“We’ll be learning how to utilize the space, support the enterprise, bless the community and raise the church’s profile,” said Julian. “And we hope to connect with the parents.”

“I’m confident in it, and pleased the parish was willing to move in a positive direction. For me the big thing is connecting to the community. The church has a responsibility to make that connection.”



DAYCARES



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



**FIRST ROW:** The Rev. Julian Pillay in the reception area of what will be an afterschool program for children at St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview; Joy Knox, Carol Branscombe and Lydia James during the tour of the Trinity Sussex daycare; very low toilets for little ones in Sussex.

**SECOND ROW:** The Rev. Dan McMullen anoints a door way at the Sussex daycare; the infant room in Sussex.

**THIRD ROW:** Susan and Bob Ferris during the tour in Sussex; the time out space at the Sussex daycare.

**FOURTH ROW:** The main room in the basement of St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview will house an afterschool program that is scheduled to open Jan. 5.





## INSTALLATION &amp; COLLATION

# Canons installed, archdeacon collated in Cathedral service

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

A choral evensong at Christ Church Cathedral was the backdrop for a service of the installation of canons and collation of an archdeacon on Nov. 16.

The Rev. Maria Shepherdson, the Rev. David Peer, chancellor David Bell and mission and ministry director Shawn Branch were made canons. Maria was also collated as the archdeacon of Woodstock.

The service was led by Dean Geoffrey Hall and Archbishop David Edwards. The music and choir were under the direction of music director Thomas Gonder. The readers were Philip Shepherdson and Eva Morton.

At the beginning of his homily, Bishop David introduced the four who were the subject of the service.

## DAVID BELL

“David Bell has served as chancellor for the last 12 years and a bit,” he said. “He’s given tremendous service for us as a diocese and particularly for me as bishop. David has also drafted a number of pieces of legislation for us.”

## SHAWN BRANCH

“Shawn and I go back a long way — at least 20 years,” he said. “I was first introduced to him as a student. Shawn has served in a number of ways and continues to serve as the mission and ministry director in the diocese.”

David noted Shawn previously served in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, and at Threshold Ministries.

“He is a person to whom I am grateful. He is able to put ideas in action and also turn around and say ‘that’s not a good idea.’”

## DAVID PEER

“David has the dubious distinction of being the executive officer during the pandemic,” said the bishop. “He was eight months in when the pandemic hit. Part of his role was to devise protocols for the diocese.”

The bishop described David’s leadership and ability to adapt as welcome gifts during a time of great flux.

David, recently retired from the Diocesan Synod office, is also a retired naval commander in the Royal Canadian Navy.

## MARIA SHEPHERDSON

“Maria answered an ad in the Church Times,” said David. “I went to her and Phil’s home in Avebury (UK) and spent the



MCKNIGHT PHOTOS



**TOP:** The Ven. Maria Shepherdson, Canon David Peer, Archbishop David Edwards, Canon David Bell and Canon Shawn Branch.

**ABOVE:** Canons of the Cathedral read the instruments of appointment. Here Canon Wandlyn Snelgrove speaks, with Canons Keith Osborne, Bonnie LeBlanc and Paul Ranson, and Archbishop David Edwards at left.

afternoon. Maria and I and Phil prayed.

“Maria told me. ‘I think I’ve got one more adventure in me.’ She is an experienced priest, and experienced former teacher, and I am delighted for her.”

Maria is rector of the parishes of Richmond and Woodstock. Her husband, Philip, is the diocesan comptroller.

## HOMILY

Bishop David referenced the reading from Habakkuk, saying “he is concerned God isn’t really up to the job. God appears to have left them behind. ‘Where are you in the midst of all this?’”

“There was no answer at this point. It can be like that for us.”

There is no end to the crises all around us, with no rhyme or reason why things are happening.

“We learn from Habakkuk to

cry out to God, to lament. ‘God, where are you? What’s going on?’ Even if at times it feels like we’re speaking into the void.”

Habakkuk decided to keep watch and wait to see what God might say to him, even though he didn’t understand what was happening.

“Yes, it’s OK to complain, to say ‘I don’t understand.’ It’s not OK to walk away,” said David. “God has proven time and again that he is trustworthy, even though we aren’t.”

David also referenced the reading of the Parable of the Shrewd Manager in Luke 16.

“God calls on us to be faithful, even in the midst of uncertainty,” he said.

“Tonight, remembering these four who serve God, we’re reminded that we are also called to serve God and remain faithful.”

David and Geoffrey led the

ceremonies to collate the archdeacon and install the canons. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and fellowship at the back of the Cathedral.

## FROM BISHOP DAVID:

The choices for canon are based on service to the diocese. Each of the three has demonstrated service to the diocese and to our corporate life.

In the case of Maria, I believe she has excellent leadership skills that will make her an excellent archdeacon of Woodstock.

## FROM DAVID BELL:

Appointment as a Cathedral canon is the best type of honour, for really it comes without special duties.

When it’s a lay person being made a canon, the distinction is also an unusual one. Until now

there have been only three lay canons: chancellors Ronald Stevenson and Charles Ferris, and the legendary Synod treasurer, the late Fred Scott.

In that high company I am rather a work in progress. I accepted the honour in the spirit in which it was offered: as recognition of a decade and more of service as diocesan chancellor (legal officer).

A chancellor’s work is visible to few, so the bishop’s mention of late-night calls and early morning emails was apt. All of us are called to serve our vocation with a glad heart, and it does gladden to know one’s work is appreciated.

## FROM DAVID PEER:

I never thought too much about being a Canon; that honour was for senior clerics. It makes me realize I am not so young anymore.

This ceremony comes at the end of my time in paid ministry, so for me, I also see it as affirmation for my time as a bi-vocational priest and the work that I was able to do for the Diocese.

I am grateful for the opportunity that God has placed in my life to be able to minister as a priest and for the work I will continue to be called to do.

## FROM MARIA SHEPHERDSON:

I should have known better than to say to God: ‘Nope! Never looking to be an archdeacon.’ What we say we won’t do because it takes us out of our comfort zone is often what God requires of us to serve God better.

I thought long and hard before saying yes to the Bishop, and my first commitment is to my parishes. However, Woodstock Archdeaconry is served by faithful lay and ordained friends in Christ and I want to do everything I can to help look after them and ensure the mission and ministry thrive.

The weight of that calling landed during the very moving service — as it should do. Now the work begins.

I was very moved to see so many people come out on such a miserable evening and know many more were praying and watching online. May God give me grace to serve well.

## FROM SHAWN BRANCH:

It’s a pleasure and honour to serve God in this diocese, and alongside our gifted leaders and people.



## CHAPLAINCY

# From singing hymns to baking tarts, this is the life of a nursing home chaplain

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The Rev. Ginny Wilmhoff, a native of Ohio, credits Lucy Maud Montgomery, at least in part, for her life now lived in the Maritimes.

"I was 10 when I read *Anne of Green Gables*," said Ginny. "What attracted me was she found a home, not just with Matthew and Marilla, but in the community."

That attraction led to a family trip to Prince Edward Island when Ginny was 15.

"I fell in love with the region," she said. "It was so beautiful."

Ginny began to research universities, and eventually became a student at Mount Allison University in Sackville, where she earned a BA in history and religious studies.

Back in the US, a decade ago she worked for a non-profit that housed formerly homeless people. It was her first taste of the caring profession.

"We provided support for them so they could remain housed," she said. "I was a case manager. I wasn't trained as a social worker, but it was very much social work."

"I found many times that spiritual care was needed, but that wasn't my role. That's where the seeds for chaplaincy were sown."

## RIDGEWOOD

She's now a clinical spiritual care practitioner at the Ridgewood Veterans Wing in Saint John, after more education at the Atlantic School of Theology and Acadia University, and ordination to the transitional diaconate in 2023.

She has been at Ridgewood two years, taking care of the residents there who call the facility home.

Every new resident comes with a referral to Ginny. Some



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**THE REV. GINNY WILMHOFF** is a clinical spiritual care practitioner at Ridgewood Veterans Wing in Saint John.

are happy to have secure housing that comes with built-in activities and friends. Others are adrift, cut off from their old life as an independent person doing whatever they liked.

"I introduce myself and explain my role. I want to get to know them."

"From that conversation I do an assessment to see what level of stress they're at. I also ask about their religious background. What do they need for their religious practices?"

It used to be that Ridgewood was exclusively for veterans, but now, with fewer veterans making up the population, they number 40 of the 80 residents.

Some are coming from a hospital setting, where they've spent

time waiting for a bed in long-term care. Others have had a fall, a stroke or a chronic illness that has gotten worse.

"But veteran or not, they're going through a big transition in life," said Ginny. "They're trying to figure out what life is going to look like, because everything has been turned upside down."

Ginny has found that the freedom of a walk in the woods or a day spent fishing are sorely missed.

"A big part of the job is engaging in deep listening, to find a way to move forward. There are answers but they don't necessarily come right away or how you'd expect them to."

"Who am I?" and "What can I do now?" are questions she hears

often.

Sometimes those supportive conversations begin with "What do you see that's good in your situation now?"

"They now have a lot of time. They can provide a smile, a chat to cheer someone up. I've seen people realize what they can do now and they really brighten up."

## SERVICES

Part of Ginny's role is to provide religious services for the residents. She leads one service in the dementia wing, called Liberty, and another in the other wing, called Victory.

The two services are quite different. In Liberty, there is a lot of hymn singing, old gospel favourites like *The Old Rugged Cross* and *In The Garden*, with very short reading between songs.

"I always have a scripture reading and a short message, not a full-fledged sermon," she said. "And I try to focus on telling stories from my childhood."

During the Victory services, there is less hymn singing and a sermon that focuses on the common denominator among residents — that of loss and change. There is a hymn sing after the service.

"It appeals to a wide range of denominations here: Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and so on," she said.

And she tells residents that if they have a favourite hymn, she will try her best to find it and include it, and she has.

Ginny has a group of dedicated volunteers who help out during the services, providing music, helping gather residents, seeing to their needs. One of her volunteers is from her parish, Rothesay.

She leads a rosary group once a week, whose members gather to pray the rosary. She also has a monthly spirituality group with

a variety of activities, from a speaker on the topic of grief, to baking butter tarts for the Mission to Seafarers in Saint John.

## COMMUNITY

Despite the many activities and relationships that form the basis of life at Ridgewood, death is part of the equation.

"It's a community here, so when someone dies, it really impacts the community as a whole," she said, adding she includes staff in that group.

Before Ginny's arrival, when someone died, the veterans would form an honour guard, regardless of when the body left the building.

But the difficulty with that was that not everyone was awake when that happened. Ginny has introduced something new that she calls a room blessing. It takes place during a short window of turnaround time — after the loved one's body has been removed, but before the next resident arrives.

"It gives people a chance to be together, to share memories, to grieve together, to receive support from each other," she said. "It's important to provide the space to acknowledge and remember that person."

Sometimes the family of the deceased resident attends the gathering.

"When I first started it, I had one person show up, but lately, we've packed the room," she said. "It's a ritual. People expect it now."

After two years, Ginny has a routine and a focus that seem to work well.

"It's important to recognize the dignity of people," she said. "It encourages community. This place was primarily here for the Christian community, but not everyone is anymore. I'm here for everyone."

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**The Synod Commons**



The Synod Commons is a regular, open, online forum for clergy, parish lay officers, staff and others who are interested in meeting with Synod staff on a variety of topics. First Tuesday of the month, 12:10-12:55 p.m. Learn more at our website: [nb.anglican.ca/commons](http://nb.anglican.ca/commons)



MY JOURNEY HERE



MEET THE RT. REV. DR. STEPHEN ANDREWS

*Old Testament scholar, retired bishop and principal of Wycliffe College, and these days, caregiver to his grandsons*

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

We have the former bishop of Algoma and retired principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto, living in our diocese.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews and his wife, Fawna, moved into a new home in Quispamsis in June. There are two little, but big, reasons for that: grandsons aged 9 and 5.

“And both our kids are here, and Fawna’s mom (Pat Crowther) is here,” said Stephen.

Daughter Clare is studying in the one-year Bachelor of Education program after teaching English to newcomers through Stone Church.

Ellen is a postulant in this diocese and is in her final year at Wycliffe College.

But let’s back up and begin — in Colorado.

BACKGROUND

“I grew up in the States. I was born in Colorado, but I claim Minnesota as my home,” said Stephen.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in classics from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

“I knew at the time I was being called to ordained ministry,” he said, adding he applied to several theological colleges.

A Presbyterian, Stephen chose Regent College in Vancouver. That decision led him to a life spent in Canada, and in 1988, Canadian citizenship.

“While at Regent College, I visited different churches because I wanted to see what they were like,” he said. “I wandered into an Anglican church during Evening Prayer and discovered the Prayer Book.”

Seeking a more Anglican education, in 1982 he transferred to Wycliffe

College in Toronto and graduated in 1984.

“While there I ran into a grad student doing a Masters in Social Work. That was Fawna Crowther.”

Rather than being ordained right away, he took the opportunity to work in the UK under John Stott, an evangelical church leader with a global reputation. He was there two years. He and Fawna were married during that time.

In 1986, they landed in Halifax. St. Paul’s was looking for a curate. They spent four years there, and it was there Stephen was ordained and where Clare was born.

Then it was back to the UK, this time to Cambridge University, where Stephen earned a PhD. His disser-

tation focused on the early Jewish interpretation of the Garden of Eden story. He is considered an Old Testament scholar.

After four years, they returned to Canada, this time to Prince Albert, SK, where Stephen served as a parish priest and then dean of the cathedral for seven years.

But the academic world beckoned once again, and he accepted a position as president of Thorneloe University in Sudbury. He served from 2001-09, when he was elected bishop of Algoma. He continued as an adjunct professor at Thorneloe during his episcopacy.

In 2016, the family left Sudbury for his new role: principal of Wycliffe College in Toronto, arguably the pinnacle

of Anglican education in Canada, where he saw clearly what his focus would be: replacing the baby boomer professors who were ready to retire.

“It was a renewal of the faculty. I was there when practically the whole faculty had a turnover,” he said. “There are only three originals still there. I did a lot of recruiting and a lot of fundraising.”

He also led the institution through the COVID years.

“When they did my portrait at the end, in my hand was a bible and a face mask,” he said.

RETIREMENT

Now, the Rt. Rev. Dr. has a new role. With Fawna still working from home, this grandfather looks after his grand-

sons, taking them to school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoons, staying with them until a parent returns home.

He’s found time for other things as well. In December he led the annual Advent retreat. And in September, he led a group of Canadians and Australians on a trip to Turkey to see the remnants of the early churches there.

As of November, he and Fawna had not yet chosen their home church.

“There are 12 Anglican churches within a 30-minute drive,” he said. “We’ve been to them all.”

TURKEY

“It was really because we couldn’t go back to the Holy Land,” said Stephen in answer to the question, why Tur-

key?

He had a trip planned to the Holy Land, but because of the war in Gaza, could not proceed. With co-leader Bob Derrenbacker, a New Testament scholar from Australia, they had to rethink.

“We turned towards other places and hit on the idea of Turkey, because of the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea in 325.”

It was 1,700 years ago that the Council of Nicaea (now the city of İznik) was called by Roman Emperor Constantine, a Christian, to resolve issues and repair divisions between the eastern and western church. The most pressing issue was the identity of Jesus Christ. Was he a created being who was special to God, or wholly part of

the Holy Trinity?

Three-hundred bishops were invited to the conference, which likely took place in late spring 325, in order to debate the issues. In the end, the first ecumenical conference succeeded in defining the deity of Jesus, affirming the Trinity and creating the Nicene Creed, which we all repeat each Sunday morning. (<https://en.wikiversity.org/>)

Stephen’s 12-day tour had 24 participants, 17 Australians and seven Canadians, who included Canon Wandlyn Snelgrove and Canon Albert Snelgrove, Stephen’s sister-in-law and brother-in-law. Seven of the 24 were in Holy Orders.

While Turkey was the centre of Christianity in the ancient world,

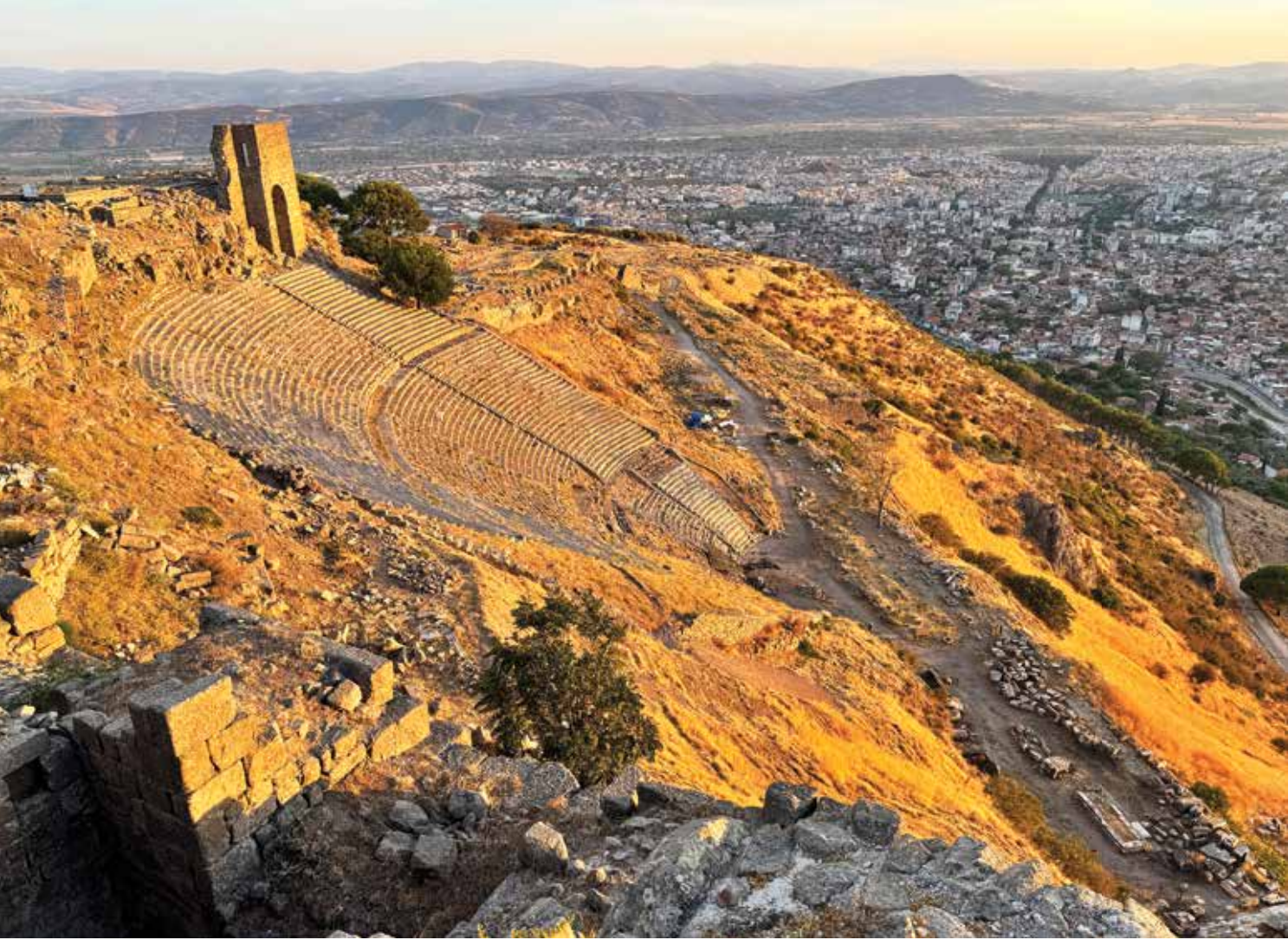
with many sites relevant to St. Paul’s ministry, it is today a secular Muslim country where virtually every Christian church has been turned into a mosque.

Participants toured six of the seven sites of churches mentioned in the Book of Revelations.

“We went to the expatriate Anglican churches there, which was really interesting because they’re quite an eccentric community,” said Stephen. “The living church plus what the church used to look like years ago.

“For Christians, so many of the images in our mind come from stained glass, our own imagination and picture books, but it becomes very real

Turkey continued on page 10

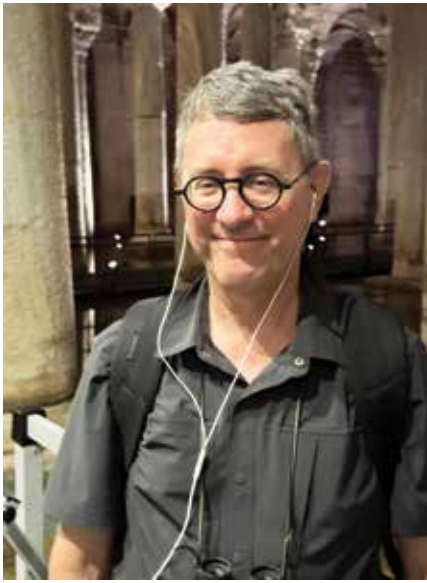


STEPHEN ANDREWS PHOTOS

**TOP LEFT:** The Theatre of Pergamon, one of the steepest theatres in the world, had a capacity of 10,000 people and was constructed in the 3rd century BC. The church in Pergamon is mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

**TOP RIGHT:** Temple of Artemis, Sardis, Ephesus. The ruins are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**LEFT:** The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews at a Turkish Roman cistern, Istanbul (photo by George Hanus).





## PILGRIMAGE TO TURKEY



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Hagia Sophia, Istanbul. For most of the time from its dedication in 360 until 1453, it served as the cathedral of Constantinople in the Byzantine liturgical tradition. Since 1453, it has served mostly as a mosque; Albert and Wandlyn Snelgrove on the pilgrimage; St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Izmir (Smyrna); Gallipoli battlefield of the First World War.

## Worship, travel and touring with a fun-loving group: Albert Snelgrove

### Turkey continued from page 9

when you're at these sites."

One positive discovery for Stephen was the care with which the ancient sites are maintained.

"They're putting a lot of resources into preserving these sites," he said. "They're very accessible and not as crowded as the Holy Land. The quality of the ruins took me by surprise."

He also noted the modest nature of the sites, even Nicaea.

"The sites are small and the churches are not particularly grand," he said. "But it was inspiring to be at where church leaders debated Christology at Chalcedon and Nicaea."

One of the highlights was a trip to Capadokia, where the group visited the caves where very early Christians met in secret to avoid detection by the authorities.

"They built city-like caves, a labyrinth of halls and caverns, with kitchens and storage. They built churches right into the caves," he said, adding at times

they had to stoop and almost crawl to see it all.

"You can still find evidence — frescos and carvings of crosses."

Part of Stephen's and Bob's roles was to interpret what the participants were seeing and add context and background. Many lectures were delivered on the bus. It took a great deal of preparation to deliver this tour, he said.

Will he repeat this tour? That's undecided at this point.

The participants enjoyed themselves enough to ask for another tour, perhaps to Rome and Greece to give another perspective on the early Christian Church. But that won't happen before 2027, he said.

Any plans for another Holy Land tour are questionable at best, he said.

In the meantime, he is getting his new house in order, installing bookshelves in the basement for his vast collection, and being a grandfather to two little boys who expect to see him every day when school is let out.

### FROM ALBERT SNELGROVE

For 13 days, from Sept. 20 to Oct. 3, we participated in a pilgrimage of faith and learning in Ancient Asia Minor, modern day Turkey.

The tour was hosted by the Rev. Canon Dr. Robert Derrenbacker of Trinity College Theological School, Australia and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, recently retired Principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto.

The tour was a spiritual exercise, with our hosts leading us in daily worship of morning and night prayer. A particular highlight was the celebration of the Holy Eucharist at St. John's Church in Izmir (formerly the city of Smyrna, one of the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation).

Built in the last part of 19th century to serve the British population, the beautiful stone church felt like St. Anne's Chapel in Fredericton. St. John's is a part of the Anglican Diocese of Europe.

Our leaders took us to Iznik, the ancient city of Nicaea,

reminding us of the importance of the Ecumenical Council of Bishops that met in this city in 325 (1,700 years ago this year!).

The Nicene Creed is a part of the liturgy of the Eucharist and unites Christians everywhere.

The tour was a blend of New Testament references, such as the seven churches mentioned in the Book of Revelation; communities associated with the life and mission of St. Paul, St. John the Evangelist and Mary: Ephesus (Selcuk), Antioch of Pisidia, Iconium (Konya), the regions of Galatia and Colossae.

Cappadocia was an important early church community. In Cappadocia we overcame claustrophobia going underground into the labyrinth of caves and passages where the early church communities lived and hid from persecution.

At several sites, including Hierapolis, we got a feel for the Roman age in which Christianity was born. By visiting theatres, temples, gymnasiums, libraries, roadways, we got a feel for the wealth, power, religion and

culture of Roman times.

It was a delightful added bonus of the pilgrimage to worship, travel and tour with a fun-loving group from "down under."

The Australians insisted on a stop at Gallipoli, where the ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) forces of the First World War suffered overwhelming losses. It was very meaningful to visit and to bow our heads in prayer at a memorial service.

Of course we visited the exotic markets of Istanbul, saw the spectacle of morning hot air balloons over Goreme, the exquisite grandeur of Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque.

One moment for me that encapsulates the value of the pilgrimage was the stunning mosaics and frescoes depicting the life of Jesus on the walls of the ancient church of Chora.

This stunning artwork expressed their faith in Jesus and passes on that faith to the world. It reminded me that today, we walk in that same faith and that desire to carry our faith beyond ourselves.



## FIRE WATCH MINISTRIES

# Fire Watch continues its mission, though the delivery has changed

**Eden & Carolyn McAuley have devoted their lives to supporting ex-offenders in Moncton**

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The mission to ex-offenders in Moncton is alive and well, even if it's changed in the past few years.

Fire Watch Ministries has been operating as a Christian support for men and women leaving incarceration for more than 15 years. At its helm are Eden and Carolyn McAuley, who work tirelessly for the cause they have adopted.

But the years have caught up with Eden, who, at 69, is beginning to experience the effects of 20 years of Type 2 diabetes, namely diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

While his conditions are well-managed, he is also spending a lot more time with healthcare professionals.

When you add that to the limits the pandemic introduced to society, you have a ministry that is somewhat pared down.

"The mission is every bit as active as ever, but it's more one-on-one and small groups," said Eden. "We're still really busy helping people who really need help."

Two decades ago, Eden had a successful career in fire safety, hence the name of his outreach ministry. Then his son's best friend died by suicide, and Eden was never the same again.

He began taking a greater interest in young people and their issues, took courses at Threshold Ministries and went from full-time work to part-time.

He and Carolyn sold their Riverview home and bought a condo so their time could be spent on their new ministry.

"I was watching the degradation of addicts and I wanted to do something," he said.

These days, they meet at Tim Horton's, in the car or at a church, if one is available, but the big group meetings, at least for now, are out.

Some of his group have been with him for well over a decade, and to many of them, Eden and Carolyn are their de facto mom and dad.

Eden spent 10 years as the Moncton community chaplain for Correctional Service of Canada, a paid position. He worked with those on the outside, whereas the Rev. John Paul Westin works with them on



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

EDEN AND CAROLYN MCAULEY

## MISSION IN MOTION: community

the inside at Dorchester Penitentiary.

Last May, he found he had to give that up due to his health issues, "but we still have dozens of folks, and new ones coming out of jail each day," he said.

The support Eden and Carolyn give can be a drive to an appointment, guidance on education plans, attending a hockey game and even arranging for couples counselling. He still regularly visits the jails and prisons.

"This ministry keeps a lot of guys out of jail," says Eden. "It's a support and no one's judging them. Here they have a 'family' to turn to."

He's become proficient at seeing what ex-offenders need and doing his best to provide it or find someone who can.

"My expertise is with guys coming out of the pen or jail and all their issues," he said.

### A NEW ADVENTURE

Jamie Newman, a friend of Eden's, recently opened a 12-bed drug recovery program in Moncton, and Eden is there volunteering whenever he can.

"We're just beginning on this new adventure," said Carolyn.

"It's just a new arm of the octopus," said Eden. "Many need to be taught lifeskills — how to eat, how to act. I'll be teaching and counselling. We're excited."

### MONCTON AND ADDICTION

Eden learned recently that

Moncton is among the top five violent cities in Canada, along with St. John's, NL.

The rise in popularity of fentanyl has led to widespread addiction. In recent years, Moncton has experienced a sharp rise in homelessness, and with it, an average of one drug-related death and countless overdoses each week, which tie up paramedics, hospitals and police.

"It's all about the drugs," he said. "Fifty-five per cent of Canadians behind bars are addicts, and they don't really belong there."

"That's not to say they didn't break the law, but prison is not the place for them. They come out worse."

He and Carolyn find it frustrating and shockingly predictive when a person is in the throes of addiction.

"I call it Satan's merry-go-round," he said. "It starts with addiction, extreme poverty and homelessness. That leads to violence, crime and incarceration. Then they come back out and the cycle starts again."

### PANDEMIC EFFECTS

Fire Watch changed when the pandemic hit and did not allow face-to-face meet ups. People who desperately needed in-person support were at a loss. And support for the ministry waned as well.

"COVID devastated every charity," said Eden. "We're struggling like everyone else. We had to give up the van during COVID."



ABOVE: Jason D.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Mony  
BELOW RIGHT: Peter L.

All are men who chose Christian support upon their release from incarceration and have remained with Fire Watch Ministries through the years.



EDEN MCAULEY PHOTOS



That cut the bills, but didn't allow them to easily pick up a lot of their guys for gatherings, even when they were allowed to meet.

Even with his diminished health and little financial support, Eden has only one thing on his mind: continuing the ministry.

"I'm never going to retire," he said. "St. Paul wouldn't allow it. We're doing our little part to help the community and the kingdom."

### CRYSTAL

Crystal has come through the Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA) system, and has successfully made it to her 'wedded out date,' her warrant expiry date, meaning she is no longer on parole or probation.

COSA is a program where a person who needs intense support in their rehabilitation is mentored and befriended by people who meet regularly.

Annette and Carol, volunteers at St. John the Baptist Church in Riverview, where Eden and Carolyn are members, have been the near constant companions of Crystal as she navigated life on the outside.

"They're the best volunteers we've had, and they're 81 and 82," said Eden. "Crystal credits COSA with making it to her wedded out date."

"She's becoming a strong Christian," said Carolyn.

### MONI

Moni is a native Samoan who immigrated to Canada when he was 30. Unfortunately, he discovered drugs and ended up in prison.

"For awhile, things went very badly," said Eden. "But he's married now and has a teen-aged daughter. He's a very strong Christian."

He works as a caregiver at a local drug rehab facility.

"His passion is mission work with the same people we work with," said Eden.

### SUPPORT

If you would like to support the work of Eden and Carolyn financially, you can send a cheque, made out to St. John the Baptist Church, with "Fire Watch Ministries" on the memo line. Mail to Fire Watch Ministries, PO Box 25022, Moncton, NB E1C 9M9.

Eden and Carolyn are grateful for your prayerful and financial support of their ministry.



AROUND THE DIOCESE



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**ST. PAUL'S ACW** in the Parish of Grand Manan hosted a Christmas Tea on Nov. 22. The hall was packed to capacity. Entertainment was provided by Grand Manan's illustrious ukulele group and young people from the Grand Manan Community Theatre.



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

**RIGHT: STAFF OF THE DIOCESAN SYNOD** met for a retreat day at Camp Medley on Nov. 19 to discuss items of interest, plan for the future and sign 300 Christmas cards to be mailed out. Here the staff sign cards; from left: Susan Dickie, David Edwards, John Galbraith (partially hidden), Justin McCoy, Philip Shepherdson, Cheryl Jacobs, Ben Bourque, and Shawn Branch.



TONY DICKINSON PHOTO

**LEFT: MEMBERS OF THE GRAND BAY WESTFIELD ACW** stopped by the Mission to Seafarers, Saint John, in November to drop off items they'd gathered. This was part of the annual Santa At Sea program that gives gift bags filled with goodies to seafarers in port during the Christmas season. The mission collect toiletries, warm clothing, puzzles, snacks and other items to make Christmas just a bit more merry for seafarers far from home. To learn more, call (506) 635-1731, or visit the website: [www.sjseafarers.com/](http://www.sjseafarers.com/) . The Mission to Seafarers is a world-wide Anglican mission that cares for seafarers visiting ports around the world.

MISSION IN MOTION: community



## PARISH OF BRIGHT



## MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT!



CRYSTAL GILMORE PHOTO



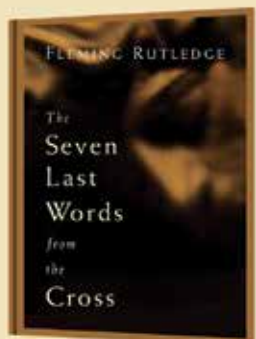
**TOP LEFT & BOTTOM LEFT:** The All Saints Anglican Church, Bright, has been very busy with the annual Christmas outreach program. Christmas swags and delicious sweets were delivered to over 50 very grateful community members. It's a great fellowship program with lots of good times had by all. Ladies, left to right: Violet McLaughlin, Sheila Boyd, Lois Poore and Crystal Gilmore. Sharon McKeen and Crystal Gilmore photos.

**RIGHT: THE ANGLICAN WOMEN OF WORSHIP** (Parish of Bright), along with the congregation, decided to support the Mission to Seafarers (Santa at Sea) gift bag program in Saint John. Many items were collected in abundance for the seafarers and we hope it provides some comfort to them at this special time of year.

▶ **MISSION IN MOTION: community**



## 2026 Lenten Book Study Resource



*Fleming Rutledge's*

### 'The Seven Last Words from the Cross'

ISBN-10: 9780802827869  
ISBN-13: 978-0802827869

Archbishop David recommends Fleming Rutledge's *The Seven Last Words from the Cross* for reading and consideration this Lenten season.

In seven short, powerful meditations, Rutledge reflects on Jesus' final words from the Cross, weaving together Biblical insight, theological depth, and contemporary relevance.

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## CAMP MEDLEY

Staff applications close Jan. 8

LIT applications close Jan. 29

Camper registration is now open



[campmedley.ca](http://campmedley.ca)



## COMMENTARY

## Some thoughts for the new year

Many people make New Year's resolutions, often involving getting more exercise or losing weight. Nothing wrong with that!

However, I think it may be just as beneficial to look beyond the physical to our spiritual health.

Do I go to church? Yes. Do I read my Bible? Yes. Do I pray? Yes. Do I give to the church? Yes.

Readers can probably say yes to all of that as well. But our faith in God should be about more than checking off the boxes.

The real question is, are we living as the Lord wants us to? Or put another way, what does God expect of us in 2026?

The verse that comes to my mind is Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

In context, God was bringing a case against his people, Israel.



Even though they made sacrifices to him, they were not living as he wanted them to live. He was fed up with their dishonesty, violence and lies.

It reminds me of what God said through the prophet Isaiah, "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught." (Isaiah 29:13)

Clearly, God wants our faith

in him to be more than just going through religious rituals. He wants it to impact our hearts, form our character and shape the way we live.

The first thing mentioned in the Micah passage is "to act justly." This isn't a reference to our modern-day justice system. Rather, it means that we're to be honest and fair in all our interactions with people.

We're not to take advantage of them or abuse their trust.

I think it also means that we need to find ways to stand against injustice, especially where it concerns the poor and underprivileged in our own communities.

The next thing is "to love mercy." Mercy means showing compassion or extending forgiveness to someone who deserves punishment.

God has shown us mercy by forgiving us. He expects us to extend forgiveness and show

mercy in all of our relationships.

It goes beyond simply forgiving someone who has wronged us. We're called to love showing mercy to others. Rather than judge them, we need to be willing to go out of our way to care for them — to show them God's love.

Lastly, we're called "to walk humbly with your God." The word "humbly" speaks to me of acknowledging that we don't deserve God's mercy.

It cautions us against presuming on his grace or of making a show of our spirituality. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, in Jesus' parable about the Pharisee and the tax collector, which one do I most resemble?

Walking humbly with God involves more than just being grateful for the love he has shown us. It also requires putting him first in our lives.

As we surrender to his will, we'll find that his grace increases our capacity to do justly and to

love mercy. Both commands are summed up in Jesus' words, "Do to others, as you would have them do to you." (Luke 6:31)

Think of the impact in our world if we all did that.

No doubt, we're all trying our best. But personal experience tells me that there's always room for improvement.

That's why I think the new year is the perfect time to examine our spiritual health.

Let's resolve to ask God to help us grow in all these areas so that, in the words of the prayer of confession, we may delight in his will, and walk in his ways, to the glory of his name each day.

*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.*



**TOP: THE ANNUAL STIRRING** of the Christmas fruitcake on what is fondly known as "Stir up Sunday" was observed at St. Peter's, Fredericton Nov. 23 to remind us of the opening words of the Collect for the Sunday next before Advent: Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people. Many years ago, thanks to the Perry/ Theriault family of St. Peter's Parish, the tradition was started and now Diana Graham brings a lovely bowl of rich batter to be stirred by all in attendance on the Sunday next before Advent. Then, in anticipation, we can look forward to the baked Christmas cake to be handed out after the Christmas Eve service. Here Diana is seen with the Rev. Canon Elaine Hamilton.

**RIGHT: THE ANNUAL CHURCH** Remembrance service in the Parish of St. Peter's, Fredericton provided a deeply personal moment to honour the veterans who secured our cherished freedoms through immense sacrifice. As the powerful "In Flanders Fields" echoed the scene of countless graves marked with crosses, each attendee was invited to come forward, a symbol of commitment in hand. We paid our individual respects by placing a poppy, the enduring emblem of remembrance and bloodshed, on a memorial cross in front of the altar, uniting our silent gratitude in a collective act of profound thanksgiving for their courage, service, and the peace we enjoy because of their ultimate devotion.

## ST. PETER'S PARISH NEWS



ROBERT BRAGDON PHOTOS



## MUSIC COMMENTARY

# Take heart in the musical themes of Epiphany

Epiphany as a season can be seen as one of somewhat confusing position.

How exactly does one mark such a season? It is after Christmas, yet precedes Lent, two major times in the life of the Church.

Yes, Epiphany completes the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cumulation of Christ entering and being made known in the world, but we don't seem to mark it that way.

The excitement, brightness, and celebratory aspects of the Christmas season are gone, and after Epiphany Sunday we seem to settle into the doldrums somehow.

Though the days are already getting longer (a fact my dear editor certainly appreciates!), it seems like a dark time.

But wait! All is not lost! I know that by early January most people have had their fill of Christmas music (yes, that is a



thing for some people!), yet we don't have to end the joy once we've sung *We Three Kings* a few times.

Epiphany is about more than simply the Magi seeing Christ. It is said that Christ was manifested to the Gentiles through the Magi, and there is more to draw from that.

Themes of revelation, of Christ's light in the world, and of God with us continue in Epiphany, and our music in worship

services can reflect that.

I don't mean simply continuing Christmas music throughout Advent, either!

Yes, I know that Epiphany music gets incorporated into Christmas music, but I believe the Epiphany season needs more of its own music.

Unfortunately, our most recent hymn book, the 1998 book (AKA, the "new blue book") lumps Christmas and Epiphany together as one topic. That's not completely wrong, but not helpful for our purposes.

The older 1938 book (AKA, "the old blue book"), however, does have an Epiphany section. And here there are treasures to be gleaned and sung: *The People That In Darkness Sat*, as well as *Earth Has Many a Noble City*, *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*, and the well-known, *Worship the Lord In the Beauty of Holiness*.

These and others are known

by multiple tunes, and bring a wealth of music to the Epiphany season.

As for more modern genres, how many praise bands and solo artists have sung songs with the theme of Jesus as "the Light"? Too many to name here, unless my editor's word count for me has really grown!

How many songs have told stories of Jesus revealing Himself to someone in need? Countless!

There is so much to make use of in worship, whatever style you express yourself through.

So carry the joy of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, and revel in the revelation of Jesus — shown in the music that we sing, listen to, and enjoy.

Christ has come!

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

## TWO MINUTE INTERVIEW



**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, retired principal of Wycliffe College, retired bishop of Algoma, resident of Quispamsis**

**Favourite book of the Bible** – Genesis

**Birthplace** – Grand Junction, Colorado

**What you love most about God** – His goodness

**Favourite place on Earth** – The Pembrokeshire coast (Wales)

**Farthest you've been from home** – Melbourne, Australia

**Favourite meal or dessert** – Just about anything Fawna makes!

**Biggest fear** – That my grandchildren will grow up in an inhospitable world

**Hidden talent** – Working with my hands (cooking, work shop)

**Favourite movie or book** – George Eliot's *Middlemarch*

**Your hobby** – Birdwatching

**Three things always in your fridge** – Coffee cream, raspberry jam (for Fawna), and yoghurt

**Favourite sports team** – Blue Jays (summer), Minnesota Vikings (winter)

## Episcopal Announcements



**The Rev. Julie Golding-Page** and **the Rev. Steven Page**, of St. Stephen, have transferred their canonical residency to the Diocese of Fredericton from the Diocese of Toronto and are authorized to officiate at worship services.

**The Rev. Bob LeBlanc** will resign as rector of the Parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel and Aberdeen, effective Feb. 28, in order to retire.



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PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS  
BAZAAR ON  
FREDERICTON'S  
NORTH SIDE



EVA MORTON PHOTOS



**THE ANNUAL PRE-CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** was held Friday, Nov. 14 in the Parish of Douglas and Nashwaaksis on Fredericton's north side. Many people were involved in preparing for this day, including breadmakers, pickle makers, bakers and others.

Clockwise from top: Donna Bartley, Kim Currie and Cynthia Gullison prepare pies.

A wide assortment of pickles was sure to please every taste.

Laurel Lawrence and Heather Storey make fresh bread.

Sharon Cote surveys the sales tables.

Minna Harjupanula and Heather Storey prepare bread dough for baking.

