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A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

APRIL 2025

SERVING THE DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON



FEB. 23 WAS A MEMORABLE DAY at All Saints' Church in St. Andrews. During Sunday school, the children had the lesson of Lazarus and the miracle of Jesus raising him from the dead, which came with some definite hands-on learning. The children won't soon forget their lesson about his resurrection! From left are Serafym Kostrikina, Rayan Coughlan and Luke Crighton-Gerrior.

DIOCESAN NEWS



KATHLEEN SNOW, worldwide president of Mothers' Union, and Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, met in the UK in late February when the Duchess was made the patron of Mothers' Union. She follows in the footsteps of Queen Elizabeth II, her mother, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Victoria, who also served as patron. Kathleen, who lives in Fredericton, has been a member of Christ Church Cathedral's MU branch since its inception in the 1980s and has held various positions over the years. Kathleen was to be officially commissioned as president in a service in the UK in late March, which Archbishop David planned to attend.



Our name has changed. Our work stays the same.

PWRDF is now Alongside Hope

After two years of discernment and consultation, PWRDF's members* have approved a new name. Alongside Hope emphasizes themes of partnership, accompaniment, community and teamwork that have always exemplified the way we work.

With its tagline — Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world - Alongside Hope honours the legacy of PWRDF as an agency of the Anglican Church of Canada, and it will carry us forward into the future.

As we walk alongside our partners and many supporters, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.



alongsidehop

Scan the QR code to view a video about our new name and read our list of Frequently Asked Questions, or visit pwrdf.org/our-new-name.

* The PWRDF Board of Directors, Diocesan Representatives and Youth Council comprise the voting membership.











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





www.anglican.nb.ca

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

The Most Rev. David Edwards Archbishop and Publisher

Gisele McKnight Editor Cheryl Jacobs & Ben Bourque Proofreaders

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

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

Please send subscription renewals and changes of address to: The New Brunswick Anglican, c/o Anglican Journal Circulation Dept., 80 Hayden St, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 3G2 circulation@national.anglican.ca OR 1-416-924-9199 ext. 245

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

Views expressed within are not necessarily those of the diocese.

THE BISHOP'S PAGE

Easter can never be late

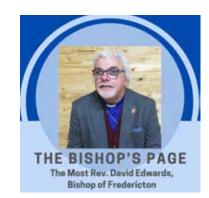
s everyone keeps saying, "Easter is late this year." In fact, it is almost as late as it can be. When you read this, you are likely to be still in the midst of Lent.

The good news is that Easter can never be late.

We quite rightly choose to pass through a liturgical calendar every year to remind us of the high points of Jesus' life and ministry; and to help us to understand the rhythms of the Christian life, but Easter is always with us.

The resurrection of Jesus is one of those events that only happens once, but its effects ripple in all directions, just as if it were a stone thrown into a pond. The basic message of Jesus rising from the dead is that it brings life beyond death.

It brings the life which God intended for us from the beginning.



People, including me, ask how this works. We know the Bible teaches that this life is not the end, but that there is eternal life with God.

There are many ideas about what that might be like, but we do not really know a great many details. What we are told is that it is a state of total connectedness with God. It is a life of worship. There is no more death.

But we do not know how it

will work out on a daily basis. What we do know is that it will be eternal, so there are unlikely to be days.

We look forward to the future with hope, but Easter is not merely about the future. It is about now.

One of my favourite verses of scripture, which I use often, is John 10:10, where Jesus says, "I have come that they might have life, and life to the full."

This life is now, not merely something in the future.

When I was in youth group, one of our leaders, Dave, had a car — a purple Mini. On both doors he had bright yellow stickers and written on them in red letters were the words "New Life in Jesus."

I did not really understand what that meant at the time. My thoughts were that the new life was way off in the future, but Dave would always say it starts now.

Over the years I have come to somewhat understand what Dave meant. The Spirit of God inhabits us and is the life of God living in us.

The challenge is, do we allow the Spirit to mould us and shape us as we continue to live out our life on earth?

It is the Spirit who gives life, but as we deliberately submit to God in us, we are changed, and it is that change that is the beginning of life to the full — a foretaste of what is to come.



David Edwards is Diocesan Bishop of Fredericton.

PRINCIPAL FNGAGEMENTS

March 31 - April 4 House of Bishops

April 5 Parish Officers' Day

April 6
Mission Church at
St. Paul Rothesay
(Parish of
Millidgeville)

April 10 Renewal of Vows and Blessing of Oil, Christ Church Cathedral

April 13 St. Michael and All Angels, Parish of Minto and Chipman

April 19 * Christ Church Cathedral

April 20 Christ Church Cathedral

April 23-24 12-12-12 Anniversary

April 26 Mothers' Union rally and installation St. Mary, Fredericton

April 27
St. Philip, Moncton,
worship and
deconsecration
(Parish of the Six
Saints)

Some thoughts on Jesus' words: "I am the resurrection and the life"

esus performed many miracles during his three-year ministry, perhaps none more amazing than raising Lazarus from the dead.

Much could be said about the circumstances of the story as recorded in John 11, but I want to focus on his declaration to Martha in verses 25 and 26:

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

In context, we know that by the end of the chapter Jesus will have raised Lazarus from the dead, so his words may have been a way of foretelling what he was about to do.

We also know that he was only a few days away from being crucified and then rising from the dead himself, so that was no doubt also in his mind.

Above all, Jesus spoke these words to give Martha comfort and hope in the midst of her grief.

It's important to note that Jesus used the definite article, "I am the resurrection and the life." He is not simply the source of "life," but he is the source of the life.

I think "the life" refers to eternal life. In John 17:3 Jesus



defined eternal life this way — "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

So, eternal life is not just about life after we die. Nor is it only about how long that life will be.

It's about the quality of life that comes from knowing God and experiencing his grace now in our daily lives. This new life begins the moment we believe in Christ's redeeming work on the cross.

Jesus expanded on "the resurrection" by saying "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

Death does not have the final word. There is life after death, not just for the soul but for the physical body, such as Jesus had after he rose from the dead.

For the believer, then, death is

The eternal life we enjoy in Christ cannot be defeated by death. Jesus' resurrection guarantees that. As he told his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19)

not the end but rather a gateway to life in eternity with Christ.

Jesus expanded on this truth even further by saying, "whoever lives and believes in me will never die." How are we to understand this?

Christians are certainly not exempt from dying! So, in what way will believers never die? We will never die an eternal death.

The eternal life we enjoy in Christ cannot be defeated by death. Jesus' resurrection guarantees that. As he told his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live." (John 14:19)

There is one requirement for experiencing "the resurrection and the life." Jesus repeated twice that they are for the one who "believes in me."

This should come as no surprise. The scriptures make it clear that faith in Jesus is the way we receive the life he so freely offers.

As John 3:16 states — "For God so loved the world that he

gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus' declaration: "I am the resurrection and the life" are key words in the funeral service for good reason. They remind us that though we grieve the loss of loved ones, we affirm our faith that everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever in his eternal kingdom.

May these truths give us comfort in the face of life's uncertainties. May they also kindle in us a deeper love for Jesus as we celebrate his death and resurrection this Easter Season.

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.

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) is looking for a diocesan ACW chaplain.

The chaplain supports the executive, conducts services, may install the new executive at the annual meeting and may lead devotions and meditation at diocesan gatherings.

If you are interested in this position, or want further information, please contact ACW president Peggy Boucher at plenorab@hotmail.com

ALONGS IDE HOPE

Alongside Hope's diocesan rep hospitalized in Kenya

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

When Debbie Edwards, diocesan representative for Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF) left Canada Feb. 6 for Kenya, she eagerly anticipated what lay ahead: a great delegation of Alongside Hope staff, getting to know fellow diocesan reps, meeting truly dedicated people working to lift up others, and wonderful visits to Alongside Hope projects.

But she did not anticipate illness, hospitalization, a diagnosis of E. coli, and the news of her father's death.

It was quite a trip, but one Debbie nevertheless described as "fabulous" overall.

"I had an amazing time and nothing has taken away from that," she said, at home in Fredericton.

Alongside Hope gathers a delegation every few years to visit various parts of the world where they have both projects and partners. The pandemic had put a stop to these visits and it's been at least six years since the last one.

"The reason they do that is so we are able to speak and write first-hand about our experiences," she said.

In the coming months, you can read about Debbie's trip through her column in the *NB Anglican*.

FALLING ILL

In hindsight, Debbie realized she was getting sick long before the illness brought her to a standstill.

Every night when she talked to her husband, Archbishop David Edwards, she complained of being tired. Mind you, they had long, full days of travel, so she didn't think too much of it.

Then by Sunday evening, Feb. 16 she began to feel ill. The next morning, the day before the delegation was to fly home, she visited a clinic.

"They thought I'd picked up a waterborne illness and gave me medication," she said, adding they didn't test for E. coli.

She missed all the activities of the day, opting instead to sleep. When she called David that evening, he had to break the news of her father's passing in New Brunswick.

"I went to bed so sick," she



THE ALONGSIDE HOPE DELEGATION at the National Museum in Kenya. Debbie Edwards is at the extreme right, with Jackie Koster next to her. Below, Debbie from her hospital bed at the Nairobi Hospital in the capital city of Kenya, after the worst of her illness had passed.

said. "It was horrible."

Someone in the delegation messaged her the next morning, expecting to hear she had improved, but she was much worse. Fellow delegates summoned Bishop Helen Kennedy, part of the delegation, to her room for prayer.

"They told me, 'Debbie, you were so white, so grey. We were afraid," she said. "I started to cry. I said I don't know how I can get on an airplane.

"They told me they were calling an ambulance. I never went back to my room."

HOSPITALIZATION

Debbie was in terrible pain from the spasms in her intestines. She was taken to the ER.

"They said I was to be admitted," she said. "I just wanted to curl in a ball. I was too sick to protest."

While the delegation prepared to leave for the airport, Alongside Hope staff member Jackie Koster stayed behind with Debbie.

"Part of planning the delegation meant developing contingency plans," said Jackie. "We had agreed ahead of time



who would remain back from the group, if needed. It was simply the plan for me to stay behind as I had lived in Nairobi for a few years so I know the city quite well, including the health care facilities."

Changes were made to their airline tickets. Debbie learned Alongside Hope always buys flexible tickets for just such eventualities.

Someone cleaned out her hotel room. And for the next 24 hours, Debbie continued to be violently ill while tests were conducted and the culprit was isolated.

By Wednesday, the diagnosis was made and Debbie was taking the appropriate medication. She was even beginning

to feel better.

And while Jackie was busy contacting Debbie's travel insurance company and organizing their return, Mary, an employee of Church World Services-Kenya, a partner of Alongside Hope, kept Debbie company.

Debbie's doctor told her that as long as she continued to improve, she could be discharged on Thursday. John, another CWS-Kenya staffer, oversaw the complicated and timeconsuming discharge process so that nothing was missed.

Debbie had been impressed with the staff of CWS-Kenya throughout the visit, but they proved their worth many times over in caring for her in her illness, she said.

"They went above and beyond to make sure we were both well taken care of for those unexpected extra days," said Jackie.

Jackie knows first-hand all that Debbie went through.

"I have had the extraordinary privilege of working internationally for almost 20 years" she said. "Along the way I have had my share of bugs as well. It can happen to anyone, and I am always thankful when there is a quick and good resolution. Though this was my first ambulance ride!"

The ambulance ride, tests and 48-hour hospital stay cost 260,000 Kenyan shillings, equal to \$2,600 Canadian. Alongside Hope paid the bill and will be reimbursed when Debbie's claim is processed. It was a bargain, said Debbie.

"The staff were so kind and caring and I was treated so well," she said, adding her doctor left her with his personal phone number and an offer to call him should she have any questions about her illness after she got home.

She and Jackie left for the airport late Thursday and caught an overnight flight to Frankfurt, then another to Montreal.

"Jackie never left my side," said Debbie. "She travelled home with me to Montreal."

Jackie described the flights as, "Entirely uneventful - the best kind!"

By Friday evening, both were back home — Jackie to Toronto, Debbie to Fredericton

Debbie had one day at home in Fredericton, and then had to prepare for her father's visitation and funeral.

PRAYERS FOR DEBBIE

By Wednesday, as Debbie began to feel better, she was able to see the Facebook posts asking for prayer, and the hundreds of responses.

"They meant the world to me," she said. "I had a bit of a revelation. I was never afraid, never anxious. I knew I was being prayed for by hundreds of people.

"I felt I was enveloped in love and care. Because of that, I never had a moment of doubt."

Still, she realizes it could have turned out much differently

"I don't think I've ever been in a place where I couldn't look after myself. I was totally, 100 per cent dependent on others, like a baby. Anything could have happened to me. I was so sick

"I had no choice, but I had no fear. I'm very grateful to everyone."

SUMMER CAMPS

Camps gear up for summer programs

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

While we sit and wait for spring, there are devoted people with much more on their minds — summer, or more precisely, summer camp.

CAMP MEDLEY

It's Camp Medley's 80th anniversary, and director John Galbraith is busy with the May 24 festivities to which everyone is invited.

While that's a big undertaking, there is also a summer of fun to prepare for.

This summer, a new camp will debut.

"Drama camp replaces Medley Makers. It sort of morphed into drama along the way," said John, adding this change makes it official.

Campers have been enjoying the addition of three large inflatable water toys during the past few years. This year they will have a water trampoline to play on in the St. John River.

"It's 17 feet in diameter," said John.

Emma Burke will return as assistant director, as will about 18 of 25 staff. Having returning staff helps with the camp continuity, plus the training and mentoring of new hires, said John.

All interviews are conducted over Zoom. John interviewed one young woman



TOP: Campers prepare for canoeing and kayaking on the St. John River at Camp Medley.

ABOVE: Brooking — exploring and enjoying the nearby creek is a popular pastime at Camp Brookwood.

ABOVE RIGHT: Around the campfire at Camp Brookwood.



from Ontario this year who

told him she had begun going to church two years ago. He got a surprise when he learned it was Compass Church, pastored by Andrew Gordon. "Andrew and I were room-

mates at Ontario Bible College a long time ago!" said John. John is hoping to have eight or 10 LITs (leaders in training) this year, which helps with

Registration for camps is open on the camp website (campmedley.ca) so kids can see what's offered and secure their place.

staffing in the coming years.

CAMP BROOKWOOD

"The committee that cares for Camp Brookwood is reviewing applications for summer staff, prioritizing the repair work, and racking their brains to plan the best year ever," said the Rev. Harold Boomer, part of that committee.

"We rely on the Rev. Chris Ketch to strong arm our clergy into giving their time as chaplains throughout the season."

Six camps, for kids from ages five to 13, will run from July 6 to Aug. 15.

Harold sums up the preparations for camp this way: "Society continues to

change and so we must change with it, acknowledging the demands on our children, their security and safety, while encouraging them to embrace nature, get dirty, get wet, swat bugs, have fun and find God, not looking down at them from Heaven, but walking with them, each day of their lives."

And while Camp Brookwood is not the fanciest, most modern summer camp one could choose, it does have authenticity, said Harold.

"Brookwood has had a long history in the Upper Valley, and it will continue to fill the needs of those who come to

camp with us, wading in the brook, hiking on the trails, praying in the chapel and making friends that will last a lifetime," he said.

Visit campbrookwood.ca to register.

John wants to encourage readers, ACWs, other church groups and anyone with a heart for kids to consider a donation to help send a kid to

Brookwood's camper fee is \$250, with the shorter Welcome to Camp for the youngest at \$150. Camp Medley's camp fee is just under \$400.

All about Cursillo and the Fredericton group that carries on in its name

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

For about 40 years, a group of men has been meeting in Fredericton for fellowship and study. Naturally, their members have come and gone over the years.

Some have passed on, others have joined, but this group began as a result of the Cursillo movement being taken up in this diocese in the early 1980s.

Stan Weaver and Reid Saunders were the original members in Fredericton.

At its largest, it had a dozen members. These days, the membership includes Clyde Spinney (Parish of New Maryland), Charles Ferris (Christ Church Cathedral), Clare Box (Parish of Gagetown), Bill Acheson (Lutheran/United), Marc Schneider (Anglican/Baptist), Douglas Wright (Christ Church Cathedral) and Jack Passmore (Anglican/Baptist).

Cursillo, a Spanish word, means a short course, in this case, a course in living a deeply immersive Christian life in the world. The movement began during the Second World War as a way for the lay Roman Catholics of Spain to take back their Church, which was aligned with the dictator Franco.

It is still a ministry of the Roman Catholic Church, and it licenses its use in North America through the RC bishop of Texas.

Cursillo features a three-day weekend of total immersion in Jesus, followed by small group meetings like the Fredericton group, and occasional big gatherings. These days, the weekends and big gatherings are rare, leaving the small group.

Cursillo includes three basic elements with which to live one's life: Piety, study and action.

"Piety is our response to what God has done for us," said Clyde. "We added 'and grace."

Study is the main focus of this group these days. Action is the adoption of a mission.

"For many years, we took on Bill Hockin's marketplace ministry," said Charles. "Since Bill's ministry ended, we've loosely put our support with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. It has a strong Anglican



MCKNIGHT PHOTO

CURSILLO MEMBERS Marc Schneider, Charles Ferris, Clare Box, Bill Acheson and Clyde Spinney at Cathedral Memorial Hall, where they have often met over the years to discuss study books and encourage each other in their Christian walks. Missing from photo: Jack Passmore and Douglas Wright.

connection."

"These three pillars form our spirituality," said Clare. "These are the three things that hold us together."

THE CURSILLO WEEKEND

For most, Cursillo begins with the three-day weekend, which many in this group have experienced.

"The weekend is very intense," said Charles. "Most of us did it at some time. The weekend is full of surprises, lots of music, very intense prayer times. The Holy Spirit really takes control of the meeting."

"That 'short course' covers everything — stem to stern," said Clyde. "There are two courses on communion itself. The individual takes all that and fleshes it out."

"Fleshing out" all that's been learned and experienced, coupled with book study, is this group's follow-up focus these days.

"Cursillo's strength is found in its small groups," said Clyde. "To continue to grow, we needed to get books and actually study them. That's what we've done for 40 years."

Clyde acts as the unofficial coordinator, acquiring and distributing the books. They estimate they've studied at least 60 books in the intervening years,

often taking on a chapter per meeting to really dig deep.

Some authors they've used are Philip Yancy, Tim Kellor, Samuel Wells, Francis Collins, Richard Rohr and Allister McGrath's biography of C.S. Lewis. They've also studied Bill Hockin's books.

Charles compares Cursillo to the Alpha course.

"Both are faith-creating groups," he said. "Both are great tools in helping rebuild the Church. What's different is ours is ongoing.

"We all see our faith as a continuum, not a one-and-done thing. It's a journey that will continue the rest of our lives."

PANDEMIC

It used to be that the men would gather in Charles' law office for a lunchtime meeting. Then in retirement, they met in the Cathedral's boardroom.

But the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to in-person meetings of the group.

"Zoom was the automatic answer when we were all paroled to home," said Clyde.

Surprisingly, the group continues to meet virtually because of the ease of getting together. All the men are senior citizens. Some are caregivers for their wives. Clare lives in Gagetown. So Zoom has been a blessing in disguise.

The burning question is 'what is the secret to the group's longevity?'

One of the answers is the group support they enjoy. When a spouse falls ill or dies, there is someone in the group who's already faced that and can help their friend face it as well.

"It's a shared experience," said Clyde. "We've all had experiences and we help when it happens to another."

Another factor is the intellectual nature of the group.
Three spent their careers as lawyers, three as professors, one as a college instructor. One is also an inventor.

"I don't have opportunities for good conversations," said Marc. "But I do with this group. I get encouragement here. This group has an intellectual aspect that other groups do not."

Finally, there is the friendship among men who have known each other for decades.

"It's switched from a religious group to a relationship group," said Clare. "That's the whole dynamic. I benefit very much by sharing with this group."

The men have no plans to stop meeting, and they welcome new members.

"We're still peeling back this novel we call the bible," said Clyde. "And we still get new meaning out of it."

Their next book challenge is the diocesan Lenten study book by John Mark Comer called *Practicing the Way.*

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

From the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat Cursillo is a Spanish word pronounced "Kur/see/ yo" which means "a short course." The full title, Cursillo de Christiandad, means "a short course in Christian living."

The purpose of Cursillo is to present a method of living that is fundamental for being a Christian in the world. That is, Cursillo presents a way of structuring our Christian lives so as to make a difference in the world.

Cursillo began in Majorca, Spain, during the 1940s in the Roman Catholic Church and has since spread to other communions worldwide. It is active in more than 50 nations on five continents.

The Cursillo Movement is one method of renewal in the Church. Its purpose is to help those in the Church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders.

This leadership may be exercised in work situations, in your family and social life, in leisure activities and within the church.

COMMUNITY

'Suspended coffees' in Woodstock

BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

The "Woodstock Coffee Girls" got their start because their rector, the Rev. Maria Shepherdson, made a Facebook post about something that began more than a decade ago.

On March 27, 2013, John Sweeney, a plumber from Ireland, started a Facebook page called Suspended Coffees. His message was simple: Buy a cup of coffee for a stranger, because an act of kindness can change a life.

Eight hours later, the page had attracted more than 20,000 likes. Suspended coffee, or 'caffe sospeso,' is a tradition that comes from Naples, Italy, where when customers buy coffee, they also pay in advance for a cup to be given to somebody else—usually someone who otherwise couldn't afford it.

"Jill Craig and Jennifer Taylor became enthusiastic organizers of our own suspended coffee program," said Maria.

"We went a step further and partnered with Tim Hortons, our neighbor across the street from St. Luke's, to offer a hot drink and food to our local folk in need of some kindness, and a place to be indoors as legitimate customers during the fall and winter months."

That was last fall. They told fellow parishioners in the Parish of Woodstock of the plan to pay for a simple coffee and snack, and set up a donation box at the back of the church.

"All we did was share through the parish that we were starting this initiative," said Jill. "People have been very generous."

At first they bought gift cards for Tims and had the staff there give them out to those likely to need them. But that was a bit cumbersome for the staff, and embarrassing for the recipients, so they came up with another plan.

Both Jill and Jennifer have volunteer and professional connections with those who work with people seeking assistance. In particular, they approached the Regional Resiliency Project, which works one-on-one with people in precarious situations.

This group has identified

four people in town as being unhoused, four more with no income and many more who cannot feed their families.

"I contacted a friend who had connections with two outreach workers," said Jennifer. "They talk to people so the cards go to these people."

Now the outreach workers have the gift cards, and give them out as needed.

"Dignity matters in any undertaking of this nature, and we wanted to ensure that rather than having to go and ask, those most in need had a Tim Hortons prepaid card worth \$10 to use as they wished," said Maria.

It's all done with receipts so each group knows exactly what has been bought and given out. To date, since last fall, more than \$900 has been raised, meaning 90 \$10 gift cards — enough for a coffee, soup and a donut — have been purchased and given out.

One benefit of the cards is if a person doesn't use all \$10, the balance is still there for them to use next time.

Now Phase Two of the project is underway, which came about when this question was asked: Are there other needs?

"There is a significant need for underwear, socks, and warm undershirts amongst those the coffee project has supported, so we have just launched 'Bloomers and Long Johns' hoping to encourage our congregation to feed the inner and clothe the outer person as we move through to spring and summer," said Maria.

"So now we have a box at the back of the church for those as well," said Jill. "These are basic needs we don't think about until they're pointed out to us."

"We're trying to make sure we're filling needs that are out there," said Jennifer. "We're getting to know who needs it most and giving them what they need."

They are seeing first-hand the result of inflation, sky-high rents and expensive groceries.

"We knew there was a need, and I suspect we'll be busier come spring and summer," said Jennifer.



THE WOODSTOCK COFFEE GIRLS: the Rev. Maria Shepherdson, Jennifer Taylor and Jill Craig, who rely on the congregation of St. Luke's to fund the initiative that sees coffee, snacks and small meals readily available to those in need in their town.

There used to be three churches on the downtown stretch of Main Street.

"We're the only church on the street now," said Jill. "We want to be seen as the place you can come to freely, and we're doing what we can to help the community."

Maria cites a passage of scripture as the foundation of the initiative.

"Jesus was very specific in our responsibilities as his followers to ensure that the words of Matthew 25:35-36 become reality: 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me."



MISSION TO ROATÁN

MISSION TO ROATÁN

An update from Roatán

Roatán (Honduras) Episcopal Church Ministry with the Rev. Kara Thompson Mejia and the Rev. Nelson Mejia

As we reflect on this past year, we are reminded how grateful we are for faithful brothers and sisters in Christ like you.

You've been with us in a year of very busy ministry, and opportunities to spread the Gospel. We want you to know how much we appreciate your support and especially your prayers.

As 2025 begins, we want to personally thank you for your invaluable partnership with our ministry in the Island of Roatán. Your prayers, support, and belief in our ministry of equipping the congregation have made a tremendous difference.

We've seen how the people are transformed in many ways and are being equipped for the challenges ahead in their Christian lives, and this is also transforming their families and impacting the communities.

Because of your faithfulness, we have continued with our ministry in the Island of Roatán.

For our family, this past year has been marked by new members in the

Our son Stephen and his wife Brooke Mejia now have a baby girl named Rose Athena Mejia, our beautiful granddaughter, who we are looking forward to meeting for the first time.

What is happening in the Roatán churches A dream come true: housing

Many families in Roatán have received the donation of a free house, through the work of the Dwelling Organization which build houses for the poor on the Island.

This past year four families in our church have been blessed with a totally free house: the Rivaz family, the Flores family, the Serranos family and the Maradiaga family. It was a dream come true for all of them.

Women's event

About 40 women meet together to learn about the love of God for them. It is with the purpose of strengthening their personal relationships with

God and to cultivate the fellowship as they meet and grow together. Food and games are always available so that everybody enjoys having fun.

lead to a healthy congregation. We recently held an event for couples at the Church with the purpose of strengthening their marital relationships.

The event was attended by 18 couples who were strengthened with very good teachings for marriage.

a Jenga game that all of them enjoyed. We prepared a dinner, especially for them and it was beautifully presented. Special thank you to Paty, Natalia and Kara who made this event possible.

So for another year our church kids experienced the blessing of receiving a Christmas present in cooperation with Christ Church in Campbellton, St. Andrew's in Dalhousie, and St. Mary's in Robinsonville N.B. We thank them very much for their generosity that makes this activity possible every year, bringing a great smile to many kids.

Financial support

be very positive and to pray and praise

about our finances, that for the next year and in coming years our support our needs.

At the moment our finances need to stabilize; in fact, please consider helping us keep our balance stabilized; we are trusting in God that He will

following link (or copy and paste it

Couples' event As we said before, healthy families

At the same time they had fun with

Christmas presents, God's provision for the kids

Once again it was a blessing to see the joy and smiles on the faces of boys and girls who received a gift in our churches.

On the financial side, we continue to God with faith and thanksgiving.

We also ask you to continue to pray will stabilize and be sufficient to cover

provide.

To donate now, please click on the

into your browser):

https://www.canadahelps.org/en/ Or you can visit the Diocese of Fredericton's website (www.anglican. nb.ca) then go to "Donate" for various

"Honduras Mission Fund." Cheques should be made payable to

ways to give online. Be sure to select

"The Diocesan Synod of Fredericton" and sent to:

Anglican Diocesan Synod of Fredericton, 168 Church Street, Fredericton, NB E3B 4C9. Phone: (506)

All cheques should have "Honduras Mission" noted on the reference line. We greatly appreciate your prayer

and financial support to date and trust that you will continue to support us.

Please continue to pray for:

1. Our family: Nelson, Kara and Kelly as we continue serving the Lord in Roatán, and Stephen who lives in Midland, now married to Brooke Mejia with Rose Athena Mejia, their

daughter, who is three months old.

2. Continued and stable financial support as we continue to serve the Lord in Roatán, Honduras.

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

4. The Rev. Robert Browning and his ministry to English-speakers in

Eastern Roatán. 5. Evangelism and practical outreach in the local communities.

6. The Episcopal Church in Honduras and our Bishop Lloyd Allen.

7. Carmen, Arlin, Charon, Ingris, and Alexy, as they continue at university here in Roatán, and for Jafet in 11th grade.

8. Nelson, as Dean of the churches in the Atlantic area of Honduras and Roatán in the Bay Islands.

Thank you to all who have faithfully prayed and faithfully given to support this remarkable and incredible work.









CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Christmas gifts to the children were, of course, very popular; a couples' night that included games like Jenga; a parish family celebrates after being gifted a new home; Baby Rose, granddaughter of Kara and Nelson Mejia.

St. Mary's, Dalhousie, deconsecrated

BY SARAH ARCHER

The deconsecration and secularization of St. Mary's Anglican Church in Dalhousie, N.B. took place on Jan. 12. Archbishop David Edwards presided over the ceremony. The church had been consecrated on Sept. 4, 1873.

Attending were Brenda
Jewitt and Patsy Parker, wardens of the Anglican Parish
of Restigouche, along with
Fran Halligan, Cathie Brown,
Barb Doherty, Vibert Simmons, Donna McEwen, Mark
Franklin, Sarah Archer, Larry
Taylor, Debbie Edwards, Claire
Fracker, and from the Parish
of Chatham, Bob and Eady
Hickey. It was almost as cold
inside the building as it was
outside!

Archbishop David asked the attendees to share their experiences or occasions with the group. I stated that I had been baptized in St. Mary's in 1952 and had attended Sunday School, been confirmed there and attended many services, morning and evensong.

Cathie stated that she had been married there with the late Rev. Corey presiding at her wedding. Fran Halligan reminisced about her ancestors being builders of the church.

Archbishop David explained to the gathering that since the building was going to be left to the Town of Dalhousie to care for it, we would gather at the altar, the font, and the body of the church and he would deconsecrate each area individually.

Most of the religious artifacts had already been removed but there were still more that should be.

I reached out to Tim Jaques, a former parishioner whose family was very involved with St. Mary's for his comments. He had many good memories including baptisms, his sister's wedding and activities he partook in as a youth. He was pleased to hear that the town would be preserving the building.

St. Mary's has a bell that some of the attendees rang as we were there. When the building has visitors as part of the tour that the visitors centre puts on in the summer, they inevitably ring the bell when they depart the building. To me, it is a reminder of times past!

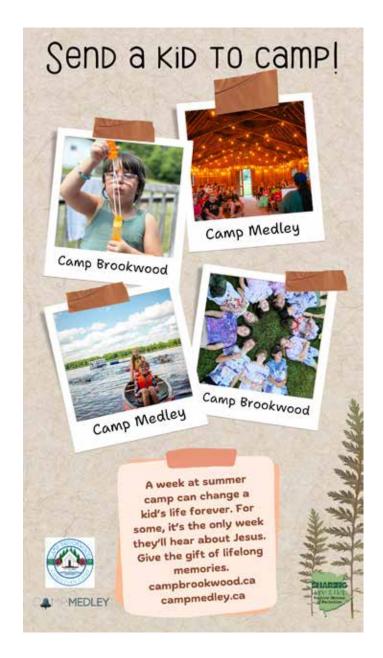


SUBMITTED PHOTOS

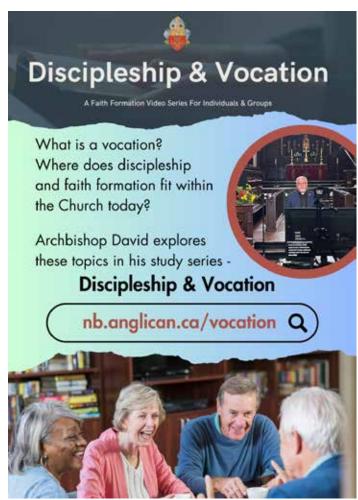


ARCHBISHOP DAVID EDWARDS (top) was on hand for the Jan. 12 service of deconsecration of St. Mary's in Dalhousie. Above, parishioners ring the church bell one last time.





APRIL 2025





Another successful gala dinner at Stone Church

On Jan. 25 Stone Church in Saint John held yet another great evening of wonderful food, entertainment and fellowship.

A full house of community, friends and clergy from all around the area were in attendance, including Archbishop David Edwards, who was once the rector of Stone Church.

After a cocktail reception at the Saint John Arts Centre, guests were ushered across the way to the church. The food was generously donated by Holly Singh of Thandi's Restaurant, delicious stuffed pork with trimmings and sticky date cake with caramel sauce and ice cream.

The servers for the evening were all members of the Stone Church Youth Group who had an evening of fun whilst learning some etiquette, and how to scrape plates into the compost bin without splashing the wall!

A silent auction added to the fun and also added to the coffers for the conservation of the church. Many thanks go to the Conservation Committee, the two rectors, Jasmine and Terence Chandra, and all the people who bought tickets or generously donated tables.

A special thank you to Clyde A. Wray who read his poem The Stone Church Saint John New Brunswick Celebrating 200 Years (so far!)

There is still a way to go to finish the conservation work, but with God's help, Stone Church will be standing for another 200 years. Submitted by Marje Harrison







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A shot from the balcony that shows Stone Church and guests at the fundraising gala; lots of food, fellowship and fun during the evening; the Rev. Jasmine and the Rev. Terence Chandra, Stone Church incumbents, address the crowd; Miriam Westin performs during the gala evening.





DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY





BY GISELE MCKNIGHT

As Mission and Outreach director Shawn Branch set out for the Parish of Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland, he was not looking forward to what lay ahead.

As the bishop's representative in the Archdeaconry of Woodstock, due to the absence of an archdeacon, he was on his way to chair the annual meeting, and he already knew it would probably be their last.

"[Warden] Charles Bell had indicated to me that this was probably it," said Shawn. "I had all the necessary motions with me to begin the dissolution of the parish."

That was three years ago, and the parish is still intact.

"As the meeting started, it became evident that they still functioned as a parish — still caring for each other and caring for the community," said Shawn. "Their faith was very real."

At one point in the meeting, with the dissolution discussion

next on the agenda, Shawn paused to ask the dozen or so assembled 'what is your will?'

"One person said it's a shame we couldn't get together even once a month," said Shawn.

That became the foundation for what has transpired in the intervening three years. They committed to trying the once-a-month meeting for six months, and Shawn promised that if he couldn't find a cleric to fill in, he's come up and at least do Morning Prayer with them.

"If we couldn't make that happen, we'd reconvene and continue the process," said Shawn. "We've never had to have that meeting."

ONCE A MONTH

At a usual monthly meeting, there are about a dozen worshippers. At Christmas, they had 42. Last Easter they had 33.

In finding a priest to lead a monthly service, Shawn is still perplexed, because only a tiny number of people knew he'd be seeking a priest for the parish's monthly services.

"Ross [Hebb] called me. I don't know how he knew. I still don't know."

But he offered. So, since 2022, the Rev. Canon Ross Hebb had made the drive from Fredericton each month to lead a service of Holy Eucharist.

He's witnessed the emptying out of rural communities, losing their stores, their bank, their school, as this parish has. Sometimes the church is all that remains, and it becomes vital to parishioners, even if they are few in number and cannot afford a priest.

"As rural institutions leave, the church remains," he said. "We have to put our money where our mouth is."

THE PARISH

The Parish of Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland is off the beaten path, due west of Nackawic, southwest of Woodstock, tucked in between the Trans-Canada Highway and the international border.

St. Luke's in Woodstock is 35 kilometres away, and Charles is able to drive there on the off Sundays. But not everyone is as mobile.

When the parish held the meeting three years ago, they had three churches: Holy Trinity, St. Paul's and St. Mary's. They knew they needed to consolidate, so they closed Holy Trinity and St. Paul's, keeping St. Mary's, which has a ramp, open.

"It's more central to the parish," said Charles. "And it's easier for older folks to get in and out."

Some who have ties to the parish come from as far away as Fredericton and Longs Creek for the service. The parishioners are all seniors, with the youngest regular attender a woman of 67. The parish has no layreaders.

The vestry and wardens have been the same people for many years, including Charles.

"I'd like to have somebody

take it over," he said of his warden position. "I'm not a secretary. I'd rather be a vestry member."

But he knows finding a replacement is next to impossible, and he knows their three-year lease on life might soon come to an end.

"Once you lose a parish member to death, that money in the plate is gone, and we've lost six or seven in the last three or four years," he said. "We're just getting by right now."

Apart from the realities in the Parish of Canterbury, Benton and Kirkland, Shawn sees a need for some changes to the canons of the diocese that closer reflect the changing landscape of church life, both now and in the future.

"The canons are awkward in supporting this model, so why not try to fix them?" said Shawn. "This parish does not meet the standards of a viable church, based on our canons. Is it time to revisit the definition of a viable church?"

What is climate justice?

And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you. ... The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. (Leviticus 25.10,23)

God's ideal of Jubilee provided economic justice to God's people, restoring land every



50 years to those who were without and keeping others from owning more and more, because, as this scripture points out, all the land is really God's.

The climate crisis is causing the inequality of human rights, to a place to live and a livelihood, as well as health, adequate clean water, nutritious food, culture, and even life itself.

The communities most affected or vulnerable to effects are often the ones that have contributed the least to climate change.

Climate justice is the term now used to address this unequal historical responsibility that countries and communities bear in relation to the state of the climate, suggesting that "the countries [like ours], industries, businesses, and people that have become wealthy from emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases have a responsibility to help those affected by climate change." (climatepromise. undp.org/)

Jesus teaches us that God is on the side of those who suffer and those who are marginalized by the powers of the world; and that wealth should not be what we strive for, but rather, justice for people and the earth.

April 22 is Earth Day, the 55th anniversary of this movement begun by a United States senator which mobilized 20 million people that first year to demonstrate against the legacy of 150 years of industrial development and its serious health impacts (earthday.org/earth-day-2025/).

It is indeed ironic that American and many other global political leaders are now choosing to roll back environmental protections and impede greening initiatives. Individual action: As a lead-up to Earth Day, educate yourself on climate justice and consider what Jesus would call us to do. Check out the quizzes and fact sheets under the Earth Hub tab on the earthday.org site.

Parish action: Plan a congregational event for Earth Day 2025. This year's theme is Our Power, Our Planet: educate, advocate, and mobilize.

Resources: (more at nb.anglican.ca/GreeningUp):

Wikipedia: Climate Justice For a Canadian perspective: Centring Social Justice is Sound Climate Policy at climateinstitute.ca

Cheryl Jacobs worships at Christ Church Cathedral and is trying to live greener...

Companion Diocese chair installed as a lay canon

On Jan. 28, Fredericton Companion Diocese chair Robert Griffin headed to Ho, Ghana for his fifth trip to the West African city.

Over the next 14 days, he had many experiences, including being installed as a lay canon in the Ho Cathedral.

He was installed on Feb. 9, under the guidance of diocesan registrar Nelson Noble Amedewonu, Esquire.

The registrar made the three and-a-half hour trip by car from Accra, installed Robert as a canon, and then he returned to the capitol city for another duty that afternoon.

Also present were the Very Rev. Joseph Kingsley Bentum, Archdeacon of the Volta, and the Right Rev. Matthias Mededues-Badohu, Bishop of Ho.

Each played a role in the installation ceremony.

A pamphlet used in the ceremony had this description of a canon:

"Canons are honoured by the Diocese for sterling work, social justice, witness, mission and projects.

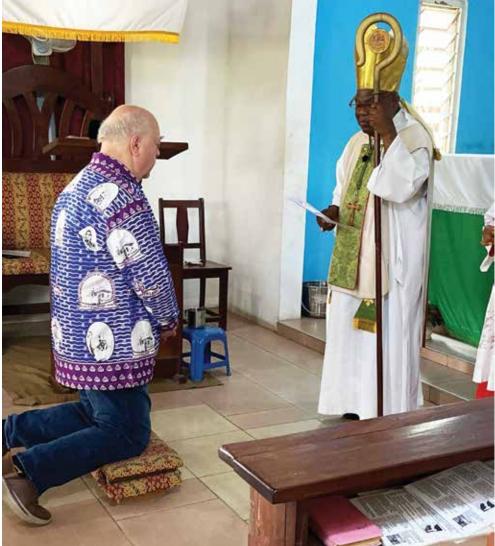
"The role of the canons is to bring their expertise and experience to bear on the service of the Church.

"They advise the Bishop on socio-economic issues. They raise resources to support the work and ministry of the Diocese. They will be assigned special duties in health, education, and projects."

During the ceremony, Robert pledged "being duly appointed to the Canonry of St. Benedict of Norcia, Italy, in our Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr, Ho, Ghana, in the Church of the Province of West Africa, I do solemnly declare that I will faithfully observe and keep the statutes and bye-laws thereof, and that I will, to the upmost of my power, defend and maintain the possession, privileges and rights of the Cathedral, and that I will forward and promote such works as may fitly be done therein for the service of Almighty God and for the benefit of His Church in the Diocese of Ho."

Bishop Matthias explained the duties of a canon, most importantly to advise the Bishop on the canon's areas of expertise.

A blessing was offered by



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT GRIFFIN



LEFT: Bishop Matthias blesses Robert Griffin during the ceremony to install Robert as a lay canon of the Diocese of Ho in Ghana.

ABOVE: Robert signs documents making him a lay canon in the Diocese of Ho in the presence of the diocesan registrar, Nelson Noble Amedewonu, Esquire.

BELOW: Robert is gifted with his canon's stole during the ceremony.

Bishop Matthias over Robert after the ceremony.

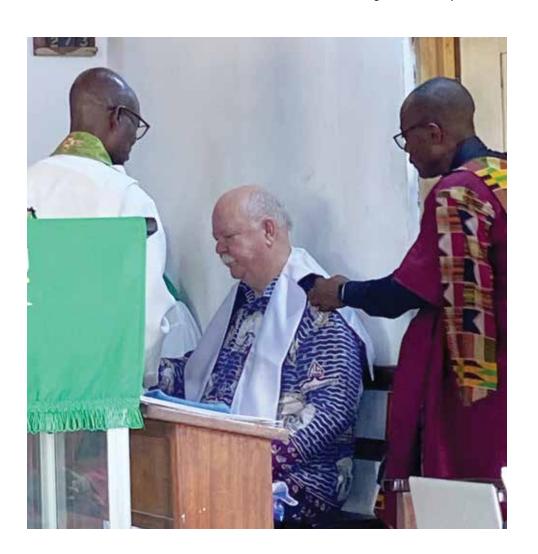
"When the Bishop invoked the Holy Spirit to descend upon me, it was a very spiritual moment. This is something I shall never forget," said Robert.

After the blessing, Griffin was conducted to a special chair reserved for a canon, and then he was presented with his canon stole. The stole was lovingly made by the wife of Joseph Bentum.

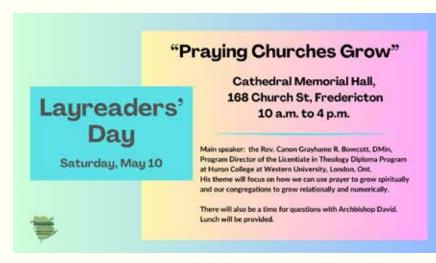
Bishop Matthias told Robert to wear the stole in church in Canada, to let people know he was a canon of the Cathedral of Ho.

Robert was bestowed this honour because of his diligent work in taking the Diocese of Ho mobile medical clinic from an idea to reality.

The fully equipped and staffed clinic now visits villages where no doctor has ever been, bringing health care to thousands of people in the diocese.



AROUND THE DIOCESE











SAVE THE DATE! May 24

Friends of Camp Medley, come celebrate 80 years!

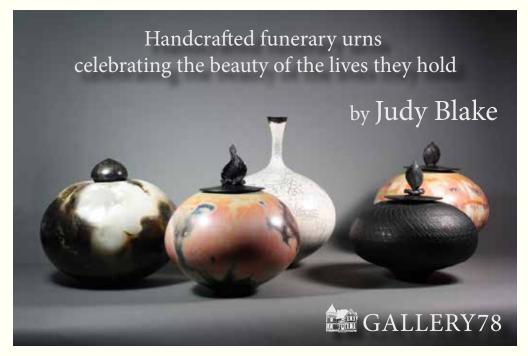
Join former staff and campers for a day of fun, featuring a church service, live music, memorabilia, food, and so much more! The event will raise money for the camp's much needed new pool.



Do you have a favourite memory, camp story or photo you'd like to share as part of the celebrations? Send them to: friends@acampmedley.ca







NOTE: In the February edition of the NB Anglican, the story of the Living Manger listed sponsors of the event. However, Adair's Wilderness Lodge was left off the list. For many years, this local business has provided soup and rolls to help fortify the cast and crew between performances on what is usually a very chilly night. We offer a hearty thanks!

Will the real "Sacred Head" please stand up?

don't know why I love slow, almost dirge-like hymns during Lent, but I do, especially ones with a wide range in their melody.

Last year in this article space, we considered, "Man of Sorrow, Wrap't In Grief." Now THERE is a dirge-like hymn if ever I saw one!

Today, as you read this, Dear Reader, I assume it is late in March, about halfway through Lent (let's ignore the slightly more upbeat atmosphere of Mothering Sunday for the purposes of this little discussion).

Let's talk this year about, "O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded" ... I mean, "O Sacred Hear Surrounded" ... dang it, I mean, "O Sacred Hear Now Wounded." Wait... what gives here?!? One hymn... three titles? Or three different hymns? Help!

This is not a discussion on the Trinity of Lenten music. This hymn really does go by three names, though with usually one musical setting (thank you, Hans Hassler and J.S. Bach!), and up to three translators (this isn't helping, is it?).

To make the history of this hymn fit this article (and to



Johann Sebastian Bach



James Waddell Alexander



keep my editor from hunting me down to teach me proper word count), let's summarize and tell you that the hymn we know originally came from an epic medieval Latin poem, which, in seven large sections, address various part of Christ's body during the crucifixion.

The poem was later translated into German in the 17th century, though it is the closing section of the poem that provided the text for this

Then it was translated into English in the 18th century by an Anglican vicar named John Gambold. His translation began, "O head so full of bruises..."

Another English translation by Presbyterian minister James Alexander, began, "O Sacred Head, now wounded...". There's the first variation mentioned above.

Why have two English translations when you can have three? Enter Henry Williams Baker, whose translation begins, "O Sacred Hear, surrounded..." There's variation #2. You'd think that's all that was needed. But...

Why have three English translations when you can have four? English poet Robert Bridges provided that o-so-needed translation in 1889, and his work began with the line, "O sacred Head, sore wounded, defiled and put to scorn...". And there you have it - variation #3.

A note about the music of this hymn: the famous melody was originally written by Hans Hassler for a secular love song he wrote (which never really trended, it seems), but when Johann Sebastian Bach set station 54 of his St. Matthew's Passion using this melody and his own harmonization, things took off.

It is this setting that we sign the hymn to, whichever text is

Over the last 125 years or so, various hymnals have used various verses from the original Latin (through German

and English). Some offer multiple versions of the hymn. The Book of Common Praise (aka, "the old blue book") features two hymns ("...Surrounded" and "...Sore Wounded"), the former using Baker's translation and the latter using verses from Alexander's translation.

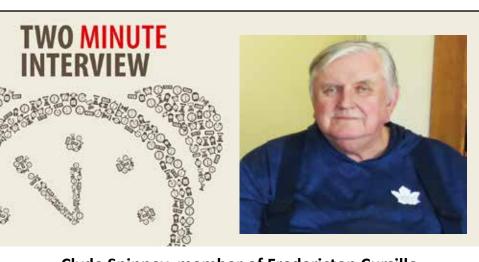
Our Common Praise hymnal uses an "updated" English setting of Baker's translation, with a couple of different verses.

Whichever version of the text you sing, savour the words as you do so. They are rich, and the thick harmony gives weight to what is happening.

"Enjoy it" might not be the most fitting sentiment for a Lenten hymn such as this, but you can find great meaning in the experience of singing and reflection. I hope you find it meaningful.

May you have a blessed Lent, and a most glorious Easter when it comes!

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



Clyde Spinney, member of Fredericton Cursillo, diocesan rep for the Anglican Foundation

Favourite book of the Bible - John

Birthplace - Fredericton

What you love most about God – His forgiveness of the many times I fall short

Favourite place on Earth - Paris

Farthest you've been from home - Jordan

Favourite meal or dessert - My mother's homemade spaghetti

Biggest fear – Becoming irrelevant

Hidden talent – Languages (when I could still hear well)

Favourite movie or book – *Round the Bend* by Nevil Shute

Your hobby – Pool/snooker games

Three things always in your fridge – Cheese, salami and mustard

Favourite sports team - Toronto Maple Leafs



KIDS RULE!



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF GRAND MANAN met for Messy Church on Family Day, Feb. 17. The theme was celebrating love and the family of God. Messy Church is always well attended and is very popular with the seniors! At top right is the Rev. David Smith illustrating a point during the gathering.



THE SIMPLY LOVED KIDS CLUB from the Parishes of Waterford, St. Mark's & Sussex took part in this year's Coldest Night of the Year walk, held in Sussex for the first time. In total, almost \$40,000 was raised for the Sussex Sharing Club during the event.