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# the Messenger

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL SERVING THE DIOCESES OF ATHABASCA AND EDMONTON

JANUARY 2009

## Christ Church's Scout troop is city's 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest *Celebrating 80 years, the group retains strong ties with the Anglican Church*

The 25th Christ Church Scout Group in Edmonton kicks off its 80th Anniversary year in 2009.

Archdeacon of McLeod River and rector of Christ Church, the Ven. Michael Rolph also has a Scouting background and is supportive of the 25th's strong connection with the Anglican Church over the years. The second-oldest group in Edmonton, the historic 25th has a long history of playing an active role in the Alberta Scouting community.

The group is beginning the milestone year with a fundraiser for both the anniversary celebrations and the creation of an anniversary legacy fund used for Scouting activities, events and trips now and for the next generation of Scouting in the 25th. Anniversary activities include a history book on the 25th Christ Church Group, an historical period camp, memorabilia display cases at Christ Church and a gala dinner in the spring.

Founded in 1928, the group's former members have gone on to lead exciting lives and play important roles in their community, such as playing football with the Edmonton Eskimos, serving as Sergeant At Arms for the Alberta Legislative Assembly, and sitting as an MP with the Government of Canada. Today the current goal of the 25th Troop is to be a group that achieves Scouting's principle mission—*Create a Better World Through the Education of*



**Katherine leads other Scouts, Cubs and Beavers in a game of 'What time is it, Mr. Wolf?' in the Christ Church hall before heading out to sing Christmas carols at the Kiwanis seniors' lodge.**

*Young People.* In pursuing this goal they seek to be role models for how Scouting should be done, not simply in the Edmonton area, but for Canada and around the world. The group is well on the way to achieving this goal. Recent steps forward include establishing Alberta's first - and only - Medical Venturer Company. The Venturers are cosponsored by the Canadian College of Emergency Medical Services and receive world class medical training to augment the regular Venturing program.

The section leaders are also council trainers with three section leaders who both design and deliver training courses for youth and adult members across the council.

The new Rover Crew's mandate has them designing program support materials that will be available to all groups throughout the council. As

well, the crew is planning events that will make a heavy positive impact in both the local Scouting community and around the globe.

The group has a strong commitment to international programming. Starting with a short foray into Montana's Glacier National Park this past summer by the Scout Troop the 25th is committed to providing international experiences. The Venturer company is working on a trip to Spain to walk the Camino in Summer 2009 and they also have their eyes on the 2011 World Jamboree in Sweden. Of course, the 25th also participates in national events, most recently the 2007 Canadian Jamboree in Quebec and is planning on sending the Scouts to ScotiaJam in Summer 2009.

Stay tuned for Scouting activities at Christ Church throughout the year.

## Cursillo scheduled

Dale Purkis and Debbie Phillipchuk accepted the positions of Lay Director for the Men's and Women's #20 Cursillo Weekends in the spring of 2009. The men's weekend is slated for April 23-26, 2009, and the women's weekend for April 30-May 3, 2009.

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 the family and social life, in leisure activities and within the church.

Cursillo (*kur-see-yo*) is a Spanish word which means a "short course." The full title is Cursillo de Christiandad, meaning a "short course in Christian living."

In Alberta, the Cursillo movement began in the Diocese of Calgary in the early 1980s. It wasn't until the fall of 1990, with help from the Anglican Diocese of Calgary and from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, a faithful and hard working core of Edmonton Anglicans put on the first Cursillo weekend in this diocese.

Since then Anglican Cursillo weekends have been held every year and literally hundreds of our fellow Anglicans have made their Cursillo right here in Edmonton. The team which plans and leads these weekends consists of people from parishes all over this diocese, and all that we do this weekend is supported by the prayers, concern and action of the vibrant Cursillo Community here and all around the world.

If you are interested in attending one of the weekends, please watch for more information to be available from your local parishes or check out our webpage at [www.edmontoncursillo.ca](http://www.edmontoncursillo.ca). Please keep leaders and participants of these weekends in your prayers.

## Advent project a parish success

By DOROTHY MARSHALL, ST. ANDREW'S

The Sunday School at St. Andrew's Church in Camrose embarked on a special project this past Advent season. With the help of friends we created an Advent Devotional booklet, with a Bible passage and reading for each day in Advent. The parish distributed more than 200 booklets throughout Advent.

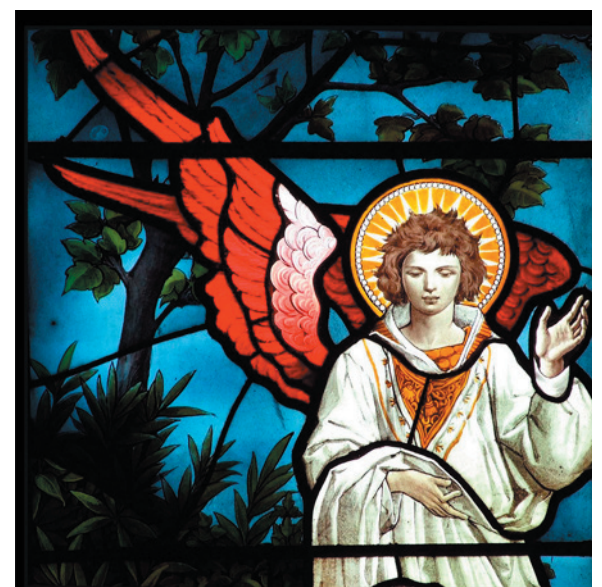
We chose the readings based on the four weekly Advent themes of hope, peace, love, and joy. Several members of the congregation wrote

a short inspirational passage based on the scripture. We then created a beautiful booklet with a wonderful reproduction of a stained glass window decorating the cover. We also purchased decorated Advent candles to accompany the booklet.

The idea was to have people read a devotional passage as they burn down the candle each day in Advent. The booklets and candles were sold 'at cost' with purchasers having the option of donating to a Sunday

School outreach project at the same time.

The focus of the project was not to make money but to get people reading the booklets and focusing on the true meaning of Christmas. As it says in the forward in our book, "We hope that these devotionals will help you and those you love to prepare your heart and lives as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour this Christmas season."



## Bishop's Corner

# Our post-Christmas Epiphany

Dear Friends

I write this knowing that it is now January and that we have left the season of Christmas and we are into Epiphany, that season of light and of surprises. I like the way these two seasons connect showing that they cannot exist apart from one another.

Epiphany is in fact, the far older feast.

In his poem "For the Time Being," W. H. Auden describes the dangers of what we could call the post-Christmas mood. He said;

*Well, so that is that. Now we must dismantle the tree,*

*Putting the decorations back into their cardboard boxes --*

*Some have got broken -- and carrying them up to the attic.*

*The holly and the mistletoe must be taken down and burnt,*

*And the children got ready for school.*

*There are enough Left-overs to do, warmed-up, for the rest of the week.*

We can all identify with that, but the pervading theme is that despite all the mundane parts of our post-Christmas lives, there is something that will not go away. At Christmas time we are in the stable of our



**Bishop Jane Alexander**

imaginations. Many of us feel that we have had a brief vision of how the world could be, all class and racial barriers broken down in an act of adoration for this perfect child, a child full of promise. It is as if we have stepped out of time. I hope each one of you reading this had that experience of the mystery of the incarnate Christ. Here we are in January and we are back in the 'now,' the everyday, the 'time being'.

Auden, in his poem, concludes, "To those who have seen the child, however dimly, however incredulously, the time being is, in a sense, the most trying time of all."

We are living in an after time,

after we have been illumined by the mystery of the incarnation. And we find that we have a desire for the incarnation to stay within each of us, and understanding of the intimacy of this relationship we have been drawn into with Christ. Perhaps imperfectly at first we realize that we are a part of His family, have always been and will always be.

Theologian and court preacher, Lancelot Andrewes (1555 – 1626) said that there are three ways to live out this life as Christians. He suggested that we can worship God first, with the soul God has inspired; second, with the body God has ordained for us; and third with the worldly goods God has vouchsafed to bless us with. And we are to worship him with all, seeing there is but one reason for all.

He further said, that our *rationabile obsequium* [reasonable service], is to serve God with all that we have. Let us offer God our reasonable service in this year of our Lord 2009. Let us love him with our whole heart, mind, soul and strength and share those gifts he has blessed us with in loving our neighbours as ourselves.

The light of the world has come.

Thanks be to God

+Jane

## In the Footsteps of Jesus: A Holy Land Pilgrimage

"In The Footsteps of Jesus: A Holy Land Pilgrimage" takes place from May 25 to June 6, 2009, guided by Rev. Joseph Walker, Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, and Rev. Sally French.

We will be journeying through Israel, following the biblical stories and places of the life of Jesus throughout the Gospels.

We will visit all the major biblical sites, from Jesus' birth in Bethlehem to his death and resurrection at Jerusalem, with additional visits to other important sites throughout the Holy Land.

Cost for this event is \$5,350 (all inclusive).

For more information contact the Rev Joseph Walker at [joe@shawbiz.ca](mailto:joe@shawbiz.ca), or (780)863-1904. *Space is limited.*

## Notes from the Bishop

### Diocesan Appointments

The **Rev. Elizabeth Metcalfe** is appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Mary's, Edmonton, effective January 1, 2009.

The **Rev. Thomas Brauer** is appointed to Church Planting and Fresh Expressions, and Honorary Assistant at Holy Trinity, Edmonton, effective January 6, 2009.

The **Rev. Joanne Webster** is appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's, Leduc, effective January 14, 2009.

### Diocesan Achievements

The **Rev. Carl Bergstrom**, retired, Honorary Assistant, St. Patrick, Edmonton, ordained December 16, 1958.

The **Rev. Dawson Beaver**, retired, Honorary Assistant, St. Philip, Westlock, ordained December 21, 1958.

*Blessed are you, Lord God, ruler of the universe; we praise you for your love and mercy which you have shown to all your people. We give thanks and praise for the 50 years of ministry of Carl and Dawson, ordained priests in your church. Give them grace to continue to live in your love. All glory is yours, Father, through Jesus your Son with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

## An 'amazing' thank you

By FIONA BROWNLEE, COUNCIL OF THE NORTH

Across Canada in churches, prisons, college chapels, youth gatherings, and wherever Anglicans met over the last 6 months Amazing Grace was sung. It was sung with enthusiasm, with love and with support for the Council of the North. It was sung in a variety of languages and to a variety of instruments.

Even before the actual Sunday of singing, November 23, 2008, groups of Anglicans were gathering to sing the hymn. They sang to show their unity. They sang to show their love for God. They sang to give a donation to the Council of the North. By mid-December these donations were around \$30,000.00. It was a sign of support in such difficult and trying times.

The church in the northern part of Canada continues to struggle with the rising prices for goods, social instability in many of its communities, and the after effects of residential schools. The Anglicans who live in these communities have experienced the rest of the Anglican Church of Canada reaching out to them with love and support. They have seen the videos of Canadian Anglicans singing Amazing Grace. They have heard about the offering of the 'toonies.' They have gathered and sung the

hymn Amazing Grace and made their donations.

Marion Jenkins one of the coordinators of the Henry Budd College of Ministry reported this: "Christ Church, The Pas, MB in the Diocese of Brandon, a Council of North diocese was amazing singing Amazing Grace that morning. We sang the first verse in English, then in Cree, then all the other verses. The congregation made it's way to the chancel and sang the first verse again in English. Not everyone was there yet so we kept on singing in Cree and in English. People were generous. It was great fun and holy chaos."

As the members of the Council take in what happened on this special Sunday for the church, they would like to say thank you, ekosi (Muskeg Cree), megwetch (Ojibwa), naqurmiik (Inuktitut), kitatamihin (Plains Cree), mahsi (Gwich'in), gunalcheesh (Tlingit) as they look forward to the new year and the new ministry projects that they will be able to take on.

*"When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise, Then when we'd first begun."*

### The Messenger

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# Anglican Community



Easter Sunday 1914 at Poplar Lake. Photo courtesy of the Anglican Archives, Provincial Archives of Alberta, PR1973.0518.4

## Poplar Lake revisited

By JOHN MATTHEWS

The article in the October Messenger produced several phone calls giving important information aiding our research into the Christ Church Poplar Lake Cemetery. As a modest thank you to Messenger readers we offer these photos found in the Anglican archives in the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

The photos depict Christ Church Poplar Lake and were taken on Easter Sunday 1914 by The Rev. [later Canon] Richard Michael Swan. He can be seen in the photo behind the children on the left. The restoration and reactivation of the cemetery has been accepted as an official centennial project of Good Shepherd parish. Our centennial year is 1910.

Canon Swan's passage to Canada in 1913 and stipend once here was funded by the Archbishop [of Canterbury]'s Fund for Western Canada. Similarly, the log church was almost certainly built through a standard grant by the missionary societies for a mission church. This serves to remind us of the huge debt we owe to the saints that went before us. The challenge for us to whom the torch, cross, has been passed is how to repay that debt.

Our research is ongoing and we would still love to hear from anyone with knowledge of the cemetery or the community of Poplar Lake. We are especially interested in identifying three members of the Latimer family that are buried in the cemetery but for which we have no records.

## Parish announcements

Following the success of Bishop Jane Alexander's Lambeth-themed homily during Evensong at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish in November, the parish is pleased to announce the following activities:

Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist parish, 11111-57 Avenue, Edmonton, Rev. David Lehmann, Rector of St. George's, Fort Saskatchewan, will give a talk entitled "**Compline - a liturgy of spiritual peace in troubled times.**" This event will start with Compline according to The Book of Common Prayer.

Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 p.m., at St. Timothy's parish, 8420-145 Street, Rev. Joseph Walker will give an address he has titled "**Choosing Sarah in an Age of Options.**" Worship will be based on the liturgy for "The Churching of Women," p. 573, The Book of Common Prayer. This is a follow up to his September 2006 The Anglican Planet article about his daughter Sarah Joy, a Downs Syndrome child. Entitled "Forget the Myths" it concluded with his challenge to the Church, "We as Gospel people need to become truly 'pro-life,' which is not merely 'pro-birth.'"

For further information on the Edmonton Branch, Prayer Book Society of Canada, please contact John Matthews of Good Shepherd parish, (780) 457-2207 or [cjmatth@shaw.ca](mailto:cjmatth@shaw.ca).

There is no membership fee to belong to the PBSC, simply ask us to add your name to our mailing list. You will receive both local and national newsletters.

## Edmonton diocese PWRDF sets goals for 2009

Edmonton representation of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) changed hands as Rev. Stephen Hallford, St. Peter's, stepped down as the Diocesan Coordinator, and Bishop Jane Alexander appointed Geoff Strong, St. Mary's, as his successor.

Mr. Strong has been involved with PWRDF for many years in the Edmonton diocese and his previous in Saskatoon. Rev. Hallford remains on the Diocesan Steering Committee along with Rev. Mark Vigrass of St. Patrick's. This committee has decided to focus on the PWRDF 50th anniversary celebrations for 2009 in order to familiarize more Anglicans with the work that PWRDF does at home and abroad.

Mr. Strong attended a PWRDF Regional Workshop in Saskatoon at the end of October with an opportunity to meet with PWRDF staff and board members, to review and evaluate highlights of 2008, and to contribute suggestions for improvement.

Some suggestions included providing a PWRDF DVD that would help parish representatives to give presentations; request for PWRDF materials and web site to focus more on our partnerships 'on the ground' in many countries; persuading clergy to allow more sermon time for PWRDF; and promoting local strengths in parishes and dioceses from which others might borrow. The workshop also offered presentations on development work in Bangladesh, our new partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank whose funds are matched 4:1 by the Canadian



Edmonton diocesan participants at the PWRDF workshop held at St. Mary's tackled ideas for the 50th anniversary celebrations. Watch for news and events throughout 2009.

International Development Agency (CIDA), and on 50th anniversary celebrations.

A diocesan planning workshop was held at St. Mary's on 15 November, with 15 parish representatives from the diocese in attendance. Rev. Vigrass provided an overview of PWRDF, while Rev. Hallford reviewed available PWRDF resources. The afternoon session broke into groups to 'vision' some potential 50th Anniversary celebration activities in Edmonton diocese.

The group brainstormed ideas and actions concerning awareness and education, environmental stewardship and fundraising for the coming year.

For more information, to contribute ideas, volunteer for PWRDF activities, or assist in organizing a parish presentation on PWRDF, please contact the PWRDF Diocesan Coordinator, Geoff Strong at (780) 922-0665 or [geoff.strong@shaw.ca](mailto:geoff.strong@shaw.ca).

## The Last Word

# Raising kids in the church - *why bother?*

By Rev. Elizabeth Metcalfe

I often say that my children 'cut their teeth' on the back of church pews. We were almost always members of small rural congregations. Seldom was there a Sunday School and, if there was, often the teacher was an older sibling. Even though I often wondered "Why do I bother?" today I am amazed by the depth and maturity of their Christian faith.

Although I didn't know it at the time, that development happened almost through osmosis as the children spent time in the atmosphere of common worship. Even though they seemed to be oblivious to what was going around them I know that there was more happening in their little minds and spirits than I was aware of. I remember very clearly the moments when they explained the meaning of communion: "I want to have some of Jesus too." Or when I overheard them telling a playmate that "God loves everyone no matter what," or the conversation explaining the concept of 'grace' to another friend, "God wants us all to know him and sent Jesus to help us. We don't have to DO anything except say yes to Jesus."

The children value and respect their church families and know that no matter where they go or what they do, they always have a place where they can fit in. For them being a part of a church family means that they have lots

of church 'Grannies and Grandpas,' 'Aunts and Uncles,' and even cousins. The love, care, concern they received from this extended family gave them a sense of being nurtured and loved that is strongly connected with church.

In a recent study commissioned by the YMCA in the US, a group of scientists, psychologists, teachers, social workers and mental health workers put together a convincing case for the need of what they called "authoritative communities" in the lives of children and adolescents. These authoritative communities were communities that showed integrity and intentionality in providing children a model of what it means to live a "good life."

The study also concluded that we are biologically primed to connect with other people and naturally seek moral and spiritual meaning. It pointed out that individuals who are able to find these things in a religious community are likely to be healthy and happier than those who don't. For adolescents religious practice is significantly linked to higher self-esteem, more positive attitudes about life, reduced risk of intentional and unintentional injury, reduced substance abuse and a range of other positive health outcomes.

But this involvement in religious communities can't and won't begin in adolescence, it must begin in

childhood. Even though it might seem as though attending church isn't making a difference, it can and does. It's sort of like giving your kids milk instead of pop. They might prefer pop, but later in life the benefits will appear in the form of strong teeth and bones.

Bringing young children to church strengthens their sense of belonging, of being important and loved and connects them to a community that is constant in an ever-changing society.

So, why not bother?

## Getting to church with kids

Getting to church on a Sunday morning with little ones can often be a daunting task. Here are a few suggestions to help you meet the challenge.

- 1. Decide that church attendance is important.** Making the effort to get to church can only happen if you really believe in its value for you and your family.
- 2. Write 'Church' into your personal organizer.** In the same way you schedule soccer practice, music lessons and dentist appointments, set time aside for church and work around it.
- 3. Establish a routine and stick with it.** It is very easy to let circumstances get in the way. When our children were little, we all knew that if one of the kids were going to have a major meltdown, it would likely happen Sunday morning.

Likewise, that's when there would be a household catastrophe; overflowing toilets, sick pets, and broken appliances all seem to happen more often on Sunday mornings.

- 4. Arrange to meet with another family or friends from church for an after-church outing.** This is especially helpful if you've been away for a while. Returning often feels awkward, but if you persevere this will pass. If you are new to a parish, contact the parish priest who will be delighted to introduce you to others who will help you get connected.
- 5. Prepare for Sunday morning on Saturday night.** Don't keep the kids up too late, check and make sure the clothes are ready. Although not all Sunday morning disasters can be averted, some may be with a little preparation.

## As I See It

By Martin Hattersley



Poetry has been defined as 'memorable speech.' The word 'memorable,' though, does not refer to the quality of what is in the poem. It refers to the devices that the poet makes use of, so that his words will stay in the memory - devices such as rhyme, meter, alliteration, parallelism, all of which make recollection more easy, something most important in a pre literate society.

For instance, the psalmist who says "Thy word have I hid in my heart" (Psalm 119.11) helps his reader do the hiding by the fact that the psalm is composed of 22 stanzas, each of 8 verses, each verse containing two parallel sentiments, each stanza progressing letter by letter through the

22 letter Hebrew alphabet. Of such material is the "memorable" element of the Psalm composed, and the way it has been composed helps the reciter to remember his way through it.

These reflections crossed my mind as a result of a most unusual birthday present I received from my cousin Mary, now retired from a life's work teaching in India for the Church Missionary Society. This was a book called *The Bible in Limerick Verse*. Written by a retired clergyman and broadcaster, it was an attempt to inspire newcomers to the Bible to become acquainted with the contents of its stories in an easily memorized form, and from that to proceed to an interest in the undiluted story itself. The whole story of Jonah, for instance, fits into nine limerick verses, vividly covering Jonah's call, fleeing to Tarshish, being thrown overboard in a storm, being swallowed by a whale and then thrown up on dry land, his call to Nineveh to repent, and his annoyance when it did.

The aim of the book is evangelistic - to introduce the Gospel to new believers - and it appears that it has had a 'phenomenal' response. My cousin, however, was not completely happy with the quality of the

versification and meter of some of the 1001 verses, and suggested that perhaps I should try and improve on the work, maybe with a go at the 39 Articles.

Now my grandfather, a lawyer, used to pass dull moments in Court making little poems about opposing counsel. My father, both a lawyer and writer on economics, published the whole of Major Douglas's economic message in twelve limericks, as well as making his young family's drive to school more entertaining with a series of songs about the school and its teachers. My memories of teenage evenings at home are of pencil and paper games such as 'word and question,' composing weird and wonderful poems for the amusement of all. So I accepted my cousin's challenge.

The 39 Articles are basic statements of Christian doctrine from the Anglican point of view. Every Anglican clergyman before ordination is expected to sign his or her assent to their contents. You will find them towards the end of the Book of Common Prayer commencing on page 698. They reflect many of the controversies of the sixteenth century in which they were framed, and are written in legalistic language that is

anything but memorable. I wonder how many clergy even look at them again once they have been ordained!

Just the same, these Articles contain some extremely important insights, and perhaps a little bit of versification will bring them back to memory and life. For instance, Article I - Of Faith in the Holy Trinity, can be rendered:

*There is but a single Divinity  
Whose origins are from Infinity  
Compassionate, Wise -  
Made the earth and the skies:  
One Substance revealed in a Trinity.*

Or Article VI - Of the Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures for Salvation:

*Scripture's sixty six volumes suffice  
To guide us to everything nice;  
If you want any more  
The Apocrypha's store  
Entertains. but it's not for advice.*

I haven't finished all 39 Articles yet, and some of them are somewhat dated and quaint. Just the same, it's worth looking once again at these basic tenets, not reproduced, of course, in the Book of Alternative Services - and see how they become a great deal more 'memorable' with a little bit of versification.