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the Messenger

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

MARCH 2009

Enright: "People need to hear the hard truth."

BY MARGARET MARSCHALL

Once the smoke of the smudging circle had cleared, and the drums of the PowWow band had faded, the Rev. Travis Enright, an Anglican priest of Cree descent, reflected on a recent residential school symposium with a sense of "awe and hope."

Enright, Assistant Curate at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, describes the spirit emanating from the "Truth and Reconciliation: Healing the Legacy of Residential Schools" conference as, "refreshing - like a really good rain that leaves everything cleansed and restored."

More than 600 students and members of the general public gathered January 21-22, at King's University College in Edmonton to listen to personal stories from residential school survivors. Apologies from national church leaders for their role in running the schools were also heard. From the mid 19th century until 1969, Anglican churches operated 26 of the 80 residential schools in Canada.

As a member of the organizing committee for the two-day event, co-sponsored by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) "Remembering the Children" Initiative, Enright is confident that a key objective - to instill in people the belief that Canada's residential school history is not just an Aboriginal issue - was achieved.

"People need to hear the hard truth. This is a Canadian issue; a part of our



Edmonton's Yellow Ribbon Dancers perform at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre during the "Remember the Children" public night where members of Aboriginal communities came together with ecumenical leaders from across Canada for a time of remembering, reconciling and celebration.

heritage that can't be forgotten."

While emceeding the conference, Enright says he observed a transformation in the "sea of white faces." He could sense the students' stereotypical notions about aboriginals as "savage warriors" or "street people" subside, as a new understanding of the native culture emerged.

"The potential for positive relations between aboriginal and non-aboriginal people exists," he says, "as long as we continue to acknowledge the truth."

Enright witnessed the culturally devastating effects of residential schools firsthand. His mother, grandmother and grandfather all attended the Gordon Residential School, at Punnichy, Saskatchewan. He credits his grandfather's faith in God with "saving our family from utter destruction," and believes that

truth and reconciliation discussions should continue to be about "restoration, not condemnation."

The King's University conference made important strides. But it is only a beginning. Through his ministerial and community-building efforts, Enright strives to be a Christian role model, and a "positive reflection of God's love." As a new member of the City of Edmonton's Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, he intends to be a voice of reconciliation, and will work to foster an understanding between aboriginal and non-aboriginals.

Now that the federal government-sponsored TRC, led by the Honourable Frank Iacobucci, is continuing its mandate to ensure the voices of residential school survivors are heard and acknowledged, the spirit of healing that Enright found at the King's conference should continue to flourish.

Virtual church for isolated communities

BY FIONA BROWNLEE

Just over a year ago the diocese of Keewatin began an Internet ministry called "Virtual Church School" that provided weekly Sunday School lessons usually based on the Gospel for the day found online at www.dioceseofkeewatin.ca/virtual-church-school. These lessons include some form of opening worship, a story and three craft ideas. The best part? There is no cost to the parish or local leader who downloads them.

The news of this new ministry became wider known throughout the Council of the North. People working with children in isolated parishes began to use the material. A lay reader from the diocese of Montreal who is French offered to translate the materials for free so that small francophone parishes in Quebec would have access to quality materials. A lay woman from the diocese of Brandon who is on the executive for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and has a keen interest in children's ministry offered to provide seasonal prayer ideas. As the ministry grew so did the enthusiasm for it.

At the end of 2008 the Council of the North decided that this program should become a ministry of the Council as a whole. It is one that meets Council mandate to provide pastoral and sacramental ministry to Anglicans living in isolated communities in Canada's North. As a result the program is being promoted within the Council dioceses widely.

The wider church has a hand in this ministry as well. Our church helps to support the ministry of the Council through a yearly grant from the budget of General Synod and through the generous gifts Anglicans across the country make to the Anglican Appeal. If you are interested in supporting this ministry directly then please do so through the Anglican Appeal and indicate that it is for "Virtual Church School."

60 seconds on campus with Rev. Sue Oliver

In her new position as Anglican chaplain on the University of Alberta campus, Rev. Susan Oliver shares her views on relational ministry, working in an ecumenical environment and the value of a good cup of tea.

MESSENGER: Having lived in the Northwest Territories for three and a half years, what have you learned or experienced up North that is a valuable contribution to your ministry at the university?

SUE: Fort McPherson is a small hamlet roughly 200 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle and just a little south of Santa's workshop! The Gwich'in people call Fort McPherson their home and for a time they called me their gikhyi, which is the Gwich'in word for minister. After having lived in one of the most isolated and challenging parts of the country I return to a city with a sense of the importance of being honest with one another and breaking down the many barriers we put up in our lives and in our country. While in Fort McPherson

I had the privilege of walking with many young people as they struggled with addictions, violence and family problems. Through conversation, counsel and play we worked through many of these issues and so I bring this experience with me. Many of the Gwich'in people were also very committed people of faith. Through praying with one another, Bible study and community worship, the people were deeply grounded in God. In times of crisis and sorrow, there was an abundance.

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Rev. Sue Oliver brings her talents to the university scene

Bishop's Corner

Feast with me during Lent

As I sit here on a snowy afternoon in February thinking about Lent the question I know I will be asked crosses my mind – “what are you doing for Lent this year?”

Lent causes us to reexamine our hearts and our consciences, to check in in quite a formal way with God. We are called to disciplines of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, study and prayer. Not because they make things miserable but because they enrich our spiritual lives and give us great joy as we grow ever closer to God. The purpose is not so we can say, “See how I pray!” Or “Look at me, I’m fasting.” Or “Wow, I’m giving up dessert so I can give food to the hungry.” When we pray, and fast and give alms it has everything to do with our relationship with God.

It may seem odd when I say that I am planning on feasting this Lent. It is something I have done before and, lest this sounds strange, let me explain a little more. The idea came up after reading an article by an American writer, William Arthur Ward, about a different Lenten Fast. I have tried it for a number of years now and it seems to work for me and I have included the plan at the end of this short article for you to try if you would like.



Bishop Jane Alexander

I find that forty days of intentional living in this way serves to as a ‘tune-up’ for the rest of the year. Not that I routinely have a spirit of pessimism, complaining and discontent, you understand; rather it is that if those symptoms appear you nip them in the bud as not being true reflections of our life in Christ.

I wish each of you a beautiful Lent, a time when you and God grow even closer. The good news is that even as we move towards God he comes closer and closer to us, He does not stand still or walk away. He comes through time and space to be with us, because that glorious reconciliation is the dearest wish of his heart. To clear

out all the stuff that gets in the way. To set priorities for our lives that include God. May it be our greatest wish, too.

+Jane

A New Lenten Fast

Fast from words that pollute; and feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.

~ William Arthur Ward

Notes from the Bishop

Synod Staff Changes Dale Purkis, treasurer for the Edmonton diocese since 1999, has officially retired from the Synod Office, and is now training the new diocesan treasurer, Jeannette Madill. We thank Dale for his many years of dedicated service, and wish him well with his new endeavours. The Synod Office staff is pleased to welcome Jeannette to her new position. She can be reached at (780) 439-7344 or treasurer@edmonton.anglican.ca.

Ordination Service Bishop Jane Alexander is delighted to announce that God-willing, the Rev. Thomas Dean, the Rev. Alexandra Meek Sharman and the Rev. Donna Willer will be ordained to the priesthood at 4:00 p.m. on March 22, 2009, at All Saints’ Anglican Cathedral. All are invited; the colour is white. Please keep Thomas, Alexandra and Donna in your prayers.

Toll-Free Number Just a reminder that the Edmonton synod office can be reached toll-free at the following number: 1 (877) 494-8890.

Clergy Cursillistas The Cursillo Secretariat requires your assistance to update its membership list. If you are a clergy cursillista, would you please e-mail/or phone where and when you made your Cursillo to linda.whittle@shaw.ca or (780) 817-2492.

Cast your net for Burundi

Dear Friends,

As we begin our journey through Lent, I write to invite you to participate in a journey of relationship. When we met as a diocese last October, I introduced you to Bishop Sixbert Macumi, and a partnership with the Diocese of Buye in Burundi. It is my hope that as we focus on mission at a personal, parish and diocesan level, so we may join with our brothers and sisters in Burundi to aid in their mission of health and hope.

The challenges faced by people doing ministry in the Diocese of Buye are enormous. Civil war has ravaged Burundi, leaving many homeless or in refugee camps, and destroying the economy. In addition, AIDS and malaria continue to take their toll on families and communities. In discussion with Bishop Sixbert, he identified many areas of ministry in which the Diocese of Buye could use our support. In particular the effects of malaria have a far reaching impact. Bishop Sixbert spoke to me about the children and elderly who are most affected, and how, in his diocese, more people die from malaria each year than AIDS. The Diocese of Buye has asked for our support by providing them with insecticide treated nets for the prevention of malaria.

In partnership with PWRDF and Nets

for Life (Africa), we have found a local supplier and a group which is already involved in distributing nets in the Diocese of Buye. It will cost \$15 per net, which includes the purchase of the net, distribution, education, monitoring and evaluation. Nets for Life tells us that in the Diocese of Buye there are still over 21 000 people, and over 3100 households, that have yet to be covered by the protection of insecticide treated bed nets. What an Easter gift it would be to ensure health and safety for our brothers and sisters across the world.

During Lent and Easter I am inviting each member of the Diocese of Edmonton to help build hope in the Diocese of Buye by donating money to the purchase of bed nets. For the cost of a trip to the movies, or your coffees for a week, up to 4 people in Burundi could sleep in safety and be protected from the sickness of malaria. Cheques may be written to the Diocese of Edmonton, with “Burundi Nets” marked in the notes. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Sixbert and his wife Clothilde to our diocese in late May, and I invite you to join us in sending them home with more than good memories, please help us send them home with hope.

In Christ,
+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, or (780)863-1904. *Space is limited.*

The Messenger

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The Messenger is available on-line at www.dioath.ca and www.edmonton.anglican.org

Synod & beyond



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The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has awarded the Cross of St Augustine to Monsignor Donald Bolen for his service to Anglican - Roman Catholic relations. (Above) Msgr. Bolen at The King's University College, Edmonton in September 2008.

Williams honours local Catholic ecumenist

By JANE SAMSON

Rev. Don Bolen of the Archdiocese of Regina is possibly the only person in the world to be simultaneously a Roman Catholic Monsignor and an Anglican Canon. So widely respected is his ecumenical ministry that Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, granted him a private audience in order to present him with the Cross of St. Augustine. In a statement from Lambeth Palace, the Archbishop honoured Monsignor Bolen as “a friend and a colleague whose deep commitment to the possibilities of

ecumenical dialogue and our common witness to the truths of the Gospel has been unflagging and inspirational.”

During several years of ministry with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Monsignor Bolen had been one of the international leaders of Anglican-Roman Catholic and Methodist-Roman Catholic dialogue. Invited to Edmonton last September by the Chester Ronning Centre and other sponsors, he spoke about ecumenism “From the Global to the Local” at The King’s University College. He had

visited Edmonton previously in 2004 during the exhibition “Anglicanism and the Western Catholic Tradition: Continuity and Change” at All Saints Cathedral, having assisted with taking the exhibit to Rome in 2002.

Now retired from the Pontifical Council, Monsignor Bolen will be returning to ministry in Saskatchewan after a term as Father Peter W. Nash Chair in Religion at Campion College at the University of Regina. The award he takes with him represents the Anglican Communion’s highest honour for distinguished service.

Canada news

DREAM OF KEREMEOS YOUTH CENTRE COMES TRUE

“The Crossing,” a long-term residential treatment facility for 20 young women, aged 14 to 24, opened in January in Keremeos, B.C. An additional 22 beds for young men will open in May.

The facility is the result of nearly a decade of determined efforts by a group of Vancouver parents who have children with addictions, in partnership with the Central City Foundation. The group began with the leadership of Rev. Kevin Dixon and some core parish families at St. Mary’s Kerrisdale.

The \$6.5 million capital cost is being raised by the Central City Foundation. The centre is located on a 60-acre former Outward Bound camp that Central City owns. The \$2.4 million annual operating cost will be shared by Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health. *Topic*

DOWSING FINDS LOST GRAVES

The congregation at All Saints Church in Whytewold in the diocese of Rupert’s Land holds an annual summer outdoor service at the Mustard Seed Chapel, just south of Matlock in Dunnottar. The parish of All Saints is responsible for the site, but rehabilitating the Mustard Seed cemetery has been a challenge, in part because of the loss of sacramental registers for the 1940s, ‘50s and ‘60s.

Research in parish registers and funeral home records suggested there were 166 interments in the cemetery, but only 96 graves were found. Some sites were located with the assistance of a grave dowser. Anola resident Jack Mavens demonstrated how to dowse (or divine) for graves, and much to the surprise of the skeptics, the committee was able to confirm sites which were always known as probables, as well as many other which turned out not to be where they were thought to be. “Our new cemetery superintendent proved to be especially capable at the task; the rector not as much,” reported Barbara Kelcey. The technique will be used to help renew the plot plan. *Rupert’s Land News*

GROUND BREAKING

Four congregations in the diocese of Central Newfoundland will come together to worship under one roof this year. Bishop David Torraville broke ground for a new church in the parish of Fogo Island East. The new church will be home to four existing congregations – St. John the Evangelist, St. Augustine, St. Simon and St. Peter – whose churches will be deconsecrated. The new church is scheduled to be dedicated at the feast of Pentecost on May 31, 2009. *Anglican Life*

Vision 2019: An invitation to dream the church

By ALI SYMONS



The Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, is throwing the doors open to all Canadian Anglicans to join in on Vision 2019, a church-wide exercise to discern, dream, and decide where they think God wants the church to be in 2019. This is a great chance for the church to think big. As the Primate puts it, “there’s a fresh wind blowing through our church!”

There are two parts to Vision 2019: a mission study and an invitation to “tell us your story.” Over the next few months, Canadian Anglicans are encouraged to feel and catch this fresh wind and share their hopes, ideas, and dreams. Results will be shared and discussed at General Synod 2010.

Part One: Mission Study (available at www.anglican.ca/v2019)

Called “Engaging God’s Mission” this six-session study will focus on what scripture says about church, mission and the world. It is organized according to the five Marks of Mission, priorities that the Anglican Communion agreed to in 1984. As the Primate says, “the five Marks of Mission hold us together as Anglicans around the world and we hope across the country.” They are:

- To proclaim the good news of the kingdom
- To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Each mission study session includes scripture, a theological reflection, discussion questions, and a story from an Anglican partner.

Part Two: Tell us your story (launching at www.anglican.ca/v2019)

Once we’re buzzing with ideas on mission, all Canadian Anglicans are encouraged to chime in on the “Tell us your story” portion, where they can answer these questions, “Where is your church now, and where do you think the Anglican Church of Canada should be in 2019?”

This is a time to get creative: parishes and individuals can send in their responses in many kinds of media, including video, voice messages, and letters.

The Vision 2019 team at General Synod is excited to hear what Canadian Anglicans think. They will organize and analyze all responses, to present them at General Synod 2010 in Halifax.

“My own hope is that Vision 2019 will be viewed by all of us as an opportunity,” said the Primate, “[it’s] an opportunity to say ‘here’s what I think our church needs to be about.’”

Find out more at www.anglican.ca/v2019, or, if internet access is difficult for you, call (416) 924-9199 ext. 236 to request the materials on DVD (*a limited number are available*).

Anglican community

Anglican Church Women in Edmonton

Old ladies who knit, or the backbone of the church? Margaret Marschall gets the inside scoop on pie-making, parish strength, fundraising, declining memberships and the will to stay together if simply to proclaim the “joy of the Lord.”



The Good Shepherd ACW is alive and well, a powerhouse of baking, fundraising and good causes that is involved in the daily life of the church and surrounding community.

Since the late 1800s, when settlers laid the foundations for new communities and built their churches across western Canada, organized groups of women have been a pillar of strength in Anglican parishes.

For more than a century, women in the Diocese of Edmonton have met regularly for fellowship, prayer and mission work. Branches of the Woman's Auxiliary (WA), founded in 1885, by philanthropist and Church of England member, Roberta Tilton in Ottawa, have existed longer than many parishes in the diocese.

Unlike the WA groups in eastern Canada, who were long established and able to direct prayers and financial support to international mission projects, WA groups on the prairies, initially needed to focus their mission efforts on projects closer to home.

In 1913, when the Diocese of Edmonton WA Board was formed (it would become the Anglican Church Women (ACW) in the late 1960's) a large portion of money fundraised by groups, was delegated to furnishing the newly established parishes. All things essential to an Anglican parish, from hymnals and prayer books, to communion silver and altar frontals, to church pews and embroidered kneelers - even kitchen pots and pans and appliances, were donated by ACWs through the years. WA funds even helped pay for a car for The Rt. Rev. Henry Gray, first bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton.

“Without the WA, many of our churches may never have been built,”

says Sally Harrison, former diocesan and national ACW President and a member of St. Timothy's ACW in Edmonton.

Harrison, 73, first attended WA meetings with her grandmother when she was a little girl.

“The ladies were making quilts, and I could make the tiny stitches with my small hands,” she recalls.

In time, Harrison became a WA member herself, often taking her three small daughters along to meetings, where she relished the opportunity to socialize with other young mothers. She soon discovered that as a WA member, she now had “a voice” in the church - an institution long dominated by men, who traditionally held all important positions, including the rector, lay readers, treasurer and organist.

“The closest a lady could come to ordination, was to marry a priest,” Harrison notes matter-of-factly.

Once parishes were comfortably established, outreach became a greater focus for diocesan WA groups. Young women missionaries travelled around the world to places like Ireland, India and Japan on WA scholarships.

In fact, it was a WA scholarship from the Diocese of Ottawa's ThankOffering Fund (UTO) that afforded Diocese of Edmonton ACW President Beth-Anne Exham the opportunity to complete her missionary studies at the Anglican Women's Training College in Toronto. Today annual proceeds from funds such as the UTO, are still voted on by ACW members, and distributed

between charities within the diocese and charities beyond the diocese. The financial assistance Exham, now a member of St. Peter's ACW, Edmonton, received from the WA changed her view of the organization, and forged a lifelong commitment to missionary work.

“Until that point, I thought they (WA) were just a bunch of old ladies who did knitting,” says Exham, 73.

As a youth worker in the Yukon, she joined the WA at the Cathedral in Whitehorse, and since then has held, “just about every position in the organization.”

Exham is not alone in her long-standing commitment to the ACW. Betty-Ann Hong, President of the Good Shepherd, Edmonton ACW, says being an active member of the organization for 27 years has “enriched” her spiritual life, while enabling her to serve the community and help meet the needs of the church.

The Rev. Coleen Lynch, Diocese of Edmonton ACW Chaplain, and rector of St. George's, Devon, has been a member of the ACW in every parish to which she has belonged. She views the ACW as an “inspirational organization of committed and faithful women, doing real service for the real needs of the world.” Lynch says the ACW has always given her a sense of community and a sense of purpose, and has been a source of “good humour and good food.”

Cooking and baking are two talents often associated with Anglican church women. Perfectly-prepared sandwiches and dainties have

contributed to the success of church teas and bazaars. Annual Christmas bazaars, featuring homemade mince tarts, fruit cakes and cookies, have generated thousands of fundraising dollars. The Good Shepherd ACW is known throughout the diocese for its apple, blueberry and cherry pies, carefully assembled by the 21 members, who still meet regularly for pie-making bees.

Like many branches in the diocese, Good Shepherd carries on the ACW tradition of Prayer Partnerships, sending prayers and often monetary contributions to dioceses in need. Branches often partner with parishes in the Canadian Arctic, where living and travel costs are high and financial resources are scarce.

Following a presentation by Fiona Brownlee, Communications Officer for Council of the North, to delegates of the 61st Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton in October, St. Timothy's ACW and congregation raised \$1,500 for the rector of St. Stephen's on the Red Earth First Nation in northeastern Saskatchewan. Half of the active clergy in the Diocese of Saskatchewan are non-stipendiary.

The mission work of the ACW may reach to the Arctic and beyond, but it begins at home. One example of an on-going project is the Campbell's Soup “Labels for Education” program. Nearly 40,000 soup labels were collected by ACW members and sent to Belmead School. The school then used the labels to help purchase a series of 75 books for its library.

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Anglican community



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>> **UNIVERSITY** CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

There was always a reliance and dependence on God which, over time became a powerful example to me of a deep and abiding faith. And so as I minister in another community I bring forward the experience of living in such a strong Christian community, recognizing how central their faith was to their stability.

In Fort McPherson there are also no restaurants, coffee shops or hang out spots and so most socializing goes on at home. Hospitality was a huge part of my ministry. Welcoming people into my home for a cup of tea and a chat became second nature. Feeding people also became central. On the university campus I have found that some of the same rules apply: feeding students, having a cup of tea and talking about what is on their hearts is foundational to this highly relational ministry.

MESSENGER: What does your ministry comprise here on campus? What are your biggest challenges or concerns?

SUE: My ministry on campus is chiefly about building relationships with staff and students, hearing their stories of life and faith and offering encouragement, prayer, teaching and a place for fellowship. It is about being present and available in the everyday and the 'not so everyday' moments of people's lives.

The ministry is also about discipleship, education and service. Together, we will learn more about what it means to be followers of Jesus. We will worship together and we will also look for ways to serve others. Some of the programs in which I am currently involved include a Thursday evening fellowship and Bible study, an early morning Eucharist in the basement of SUB, and a weekly 'Soup and the Word' gathering in the chaplains office on Tuesdays.

One of the challenges of this ministry is finding a way to support and encourage students without simply offering more programming which adds to an already full load of school, work and friends. Another challenge facing

this ministry is the climate of a city and a university that increasingly seems to want to push faith to the margins. Drawing people back to the fact that we are indeed spiritual beings who are not whole unless we have wrestled with and made sense of our spiritual side, can be a challenge at times.

MESSENGER: What kind of tools do you use to reach the next generation?

SUE: Utilizing the culture in order to communicate with the students and staff on campus is a priority of this new campus minister! The plan is to soon have an up and running web page to which students can look for information about campus events as well as other resources and supports for daily Christian living. Facebook is another tool for connecting with students.

MESSENGER: Does your ministry act as a replacement for a brick and mortar church, or complement it?

SUE: The Anglican campus ministry does act as a support to the wider church structures in Edmonton. Students of many different Christian denominations are part of our programs and all are welcome. We encourage students to be involved in their local

churches on Sunday mornings. I continue to try and visit as many Anglican churches as possible, throughout the diocese, in order for people to meet me and hear about the ministry on campus. From these Sunday morning visits I have met a few University of Alberta students and many of their parents! My ministry extends into the parishes to the extent that I would like the parishes to know that I am there to support the faith lives of staff and students on campus and I would also like to have their prayer support as the ministry continues. Being able to suggest a church for students to attend is another aspect of this ministry and so the more connection I have with churches the better able I will be to recommend a church in their area.

I am generally in the office from Tuesday to Friday during the day; I would be happy to meet with students or staff whenever they would like. Drop me a note or just drop in!

You can find Sue on the University of Alberta campus, 169D HUB. (780) 492-4620 or email her at sue.oliver@ualberta.ca

>> **ACW** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"The ladies from the church have been valuable contributors to this cause," says Belmead Principal Mike Cooper. "They have collected, trimmed, counted and delivered soup labels to the school for all these years. They take the time to compile them from many churches before bringing them to us." He adds that, "the books were a great addition to our library. The students love them."

The success of ACW-led fundraising initiatives can be attributed to the skill and work ethic of its caring members. As diocesan ACW past president Betty Squance points out in her report to the 61st Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton, "...talent is a huge part of stewardship, and ladies throughout the diocese are most generous in sharing their time and talent..." Squance lists a few of the hundreds of homemade items, such as blankets, bonnets, socks and scarves, donated by members in recent years.

While the ACW has played an important role in the Anglican church's past, it is uncertain what the future will bring. Since 1913, over 60 women's groups have existed within the diocese. At present, only 24 remain. No longer is the ACW a place where young mothers with small children are likely to be found. Membership is not only declining, it is also aging.

"The majority of our members are between 50 and 80 years of age," Exham says.

Branches have tried numerous incentives to encourage young women to join. Some host annual dinners, while others have tried to accommodate working women by switching to

evening, rather than afternoon meeting times. Gone are the days, however, when a woman's monthly ACW meeting, was the social outing.

Harrison feels that young women nowadays "just don't have the time" to attend or commit to regular meetings. Without the necessary womanpower, many of the remaining ACWs in the diocese have had to cut back on fundraising activities. St. Timothy's now holds its "annual" Christmas bazaar every two years. St. Peter's, who once had both an afternoon and an evening branch, is now down to just 8 members.

While dwindling membership numbers pose a real threat to the ACW as an organization, members have faith their mission work will continue. Coleen Lynch believes the ACW will be able to adapt to its changing role in the 21st century, and says that women at St. George's have even talked about forming a new ACW group.

"I hope that younger women will see the value of an ACW in their own lives, in helping them meet their personal, family and church needs," she says.

Ultimately, it is the "joy of the Lord" - as its motto proclaims - that continues to keep the diocesan ACW alive.

"Women will always find ways to be a strength in the parish," says Exham. "I didn't think we'd still be around 12 years ago, yet here we still are."

The Diocese of Edmonton ACW will hold its annual general meeting on Saturday, May 2 at St. Matthias Anglican Church, 6210-188th Street, Edmonton. All interested ladies are welcome to attend.

Do you know your ACW?

A "Book of Remembrance" listing the names of faithful WA/ACW members who have passed on to Higher Service is kept in the All Saints' Cathedral. Each week, a page is turned by a member of the Cathedral Altar Guild.

From 1929-1955 the Women's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Edmonton operated St. Catherine's Hostel, a dormitory for young women studying or earning their own living in Edmonton.

Until 1995, when shipping costs became too much, the WA/ACW assembled "bales" of new and used articles of clothing, small household items, sewing notions and stationary supplies, for needy families in parishes. Many of the bales were sent to the NWT and the Yukon. In subsequent years, cash donations have replaced the bales.

"In Touch," the Diocese of Edmonton ACW newsletter, is a means of keeping branches informed of the diocesan board's activities and news. It is published four times a year.

The St. John, Onoway ACW celebrated their 100th anniversary last year (2008), and are still active!

St. Andrew is the patron saint of the ACW. The ACW tries to model its missionary work after the disciple Andrew's selfless, optimistic, and universal outreach efforts. Branches are encouraged to celebrate St. Andrew's Day, Nov. 30th, with a special corporate communion service.

Your words

Miroslav Volf on Giving¹

By JON CONNELL

why give?

The stunning arrival of Jesus on earth changed humanity's views on what it means to give to others. Prior to this momentous event, God's people were admonished to follow His rules on what to give, to whom, and how much; Jesus instead invites his followers to become like our giving God in our day-to-day lives: surely an impossible task!

Happily, the task is made slightly easier in that we can know God thanks to His self-revelation. Christians are able – Volf states that we are 'entitled' – to make claims about knowing what the immanent 'God with us' is like. This comes with two perhaps obvious caveats: first, that we may not claim to know all of God – as the transcendent part of His nature reveals: "human beings are manifestly not God. As created beings, we can correspond to the uncreated God only in creaturely appropriate ways."² Second is our inability to approximate a sinless God due to our being

marred by sin. Nevertheless, our job as Christians is not to do what God does, but "be indwelt by God and to celebrate and proclaim what God has done, is doing, and will do."³ Volf states that this indwelling influences how and why we give; giving involves responding to the needs of others (as when we respond with donations to those affected by natural disasters) or fulfilling the needs of ourselves (as in the delight we receive when witnessing the joy on a little child's face when they open our gift to them). In other words, the ordinary two-way street of giving (as we give to others we receive ourselves) becomes an extraordinary three-way giving: as we give to others and receive ourselves, we are responding to God who dwells in both of us. When St Paul, therefore, writes that God loves a cheerful giver, 'loves' does not equate to 'approves of', but refers to God's feeling the same 'lovely' joy that the giver feels, thereby multiplying the connexion between giver and receiver, even if they are across the world, never having met.

how much?

From creation, to His Son, to His Spirit, God has given us all that we are and all that we have – and He continues to give. How can we possibly emulate His gifts, especially considering that most of us are time-poor, and increasingly – thanks to our tremulous economy – uncertain of our finances? The simplest answer is that we should give according to the needs of others. When giving, we should be actively seeking to selflessly improve the lives of others, not seeking to gain something from them, as in a commercial transaction. God-like giving is transactionless.

Finally, how much should we give? Volf suggests that it "suffices to impart to others more than we owe them without expecting return or basking in our moral rectitude."⁴ St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians reveals a community in which no one had too much or too little. Can we make our giving the same?

¹ "Being as God Is: Trinity and Generosity" in Volf, M and Welker, M., eds. *God's Life in Trinity*. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press) 2006. pp 3-12
² *Ibid.*, p. 5
³ *Ibid.*, p. 6
⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 10



Scouts invite alumni

Step back in time to winter camping, racing Kub Kars, cooking over an open fire and tying knots as if your life depended on it... The 25th Christ Church Scout Group is celebrating 80 years and welcomes Scouting alumni and friends to participate in the celebration of this momentous occasion being held May 8-10, 2009.

You are invited to take part in all of the anniversary activities: contribute stories and photographs to the history book on the 25th Christ Church Group, sleep under the stars at the weekend-long historical period camp, add some new items to the memorabilia display cases and – the highlight of the weekend – join them for their silent auction and gala dinner on May 9.

All events will take place at Christ Church, 12116-102 Avenue, Edmonton. Tickets for the gala dinner go on sale March 1, and are \$15 per adult and \$2 per child.

Alumni support through participation or donations of memorabilia (either on loan for the anniversary or permanently for the archives) would be greatly appreciated and will go a long way in helping reach goals. The anniversary celebrations also gives the group the opportunity to grow their legacy fund which is used for Scouting activities, events and trips now and for the next generation of Scouting in the 25th.

The 25th thanks you for taking the time to consider supporting the 25th Christ Church Scout Group on the 80th Anniversary and beyond. We look forward to seeing you again to relive the camaraderie that lasts a lifetime!

For further information or to purchase tickets to the gala dinner, please contact our group commissioner, John Simpson at (780) 920 5845.

As I See It

By REV MARTIN HATTERSLEY



A recent article in the Edmonton Journal claimed that Alberta judges paid little attention to the impact statements prepared by victims of crime. This provoked a lively discussion at a recent meeting of our Victims of Homicide Support Group, where members began to talk about the experiences they had had in preparing and presenting such statements in court proceedings following the murder of their loved one.

Those who had prepared impact statements made no bones about what a difficult task it was to put such a statement together - the piles of discarded drafts crumpled

up and thrown on the floor, the tears shed, and the slow progress made in preparing what they wanted to say.

Also, their feelings of success and completion when their statement was finished, and then either read, or handed in to the court for others to read.

Oddly enough, though, and no matter what the Journal said, in most cases what the judge did with the statement did not seem to be of critical importance. The victim's feeling of achievement and closure came from having put into words the events that had taken place, and experiencing once again the intense feelings these had caused to the writer. That whole process was therapeutic. What the judge did with such a statement was not the victim's business.

Annette Stanwick, a nurse and administrator at the Gimbel Eye Centre in Calgary, had a brother, a long distance truck driver, whom she lost to a murder taking place in Richmond, Virginia, thousands of miles away from his home. He had been sleeping in his rig

overnight when it was broken into and he was shot as part of a robbery attempt.

In her book *Forgiveness* she describes the turmoil of feelings that boiled up in her as a result of this crime, feelings primarily of numbness, anger and fear. She points out, however, that it is only when people squarely face what has happened and mourn their loss that they will be ready to move on with their lives, sadder but wiser. Those who fail to do this are condemned to an endless revolving of the hurt in their minds and bodies. Avoiding the full realization of the loss, no matter how painful that is, can result in serious and long lasting mental and physical problems.

Annette goes on to describe what can follow this acceptance and grief. Accepting what has happened will lead to an interest in the perpetrators, their background and the motivation that led them to this crime. It leads further to recognizing that we all have made mistakes. Offering forgiveness rather

than seeking revenge is a sure path to healing for all concerned. As she puts it:

"Despite my fears, God's healing mercy has moved me from a role of victim to a role of victor... My weakness, depression and grief were replaced with new strength, courage and energy. I began focussing on others instead of 'poor me.' I went from weeping at the hideousness life had handed me to feeling a pure sense of joy at the vision God had created for my life."

So her book ends with the moving impact statement she presented to the Court, describing in detail the mental suffering the crime had caused her, yet finally containing an offer of forgiveness to the two persons guilty of the murder. So what could so easily have become a festering sore has been transformed by her actions and by God's grace into a source of reconciliation,

fulfillment and peace. And her story of forgiveness has had its impact on many who have heard it. The hand of God has been at work!

After all, in Jesus's teachings, "loving one's enemies," reconciliation and forgiveness are what it's all about. It's good to hear, though, from one who has "been there," the important truth that there is a proper path to follow in coming to the stage where such behaviour is possible. Forgiveness can only be sincerely practiced after we have faced to the depths and have grieved the agony of our loss.

P.S. Two months ago, I wrote about "The 39 Articles in Limerick Verse." These are now completed and I am arranging for them to be posted on the St. Matthias website (www.stmatthias.ab.ca). Or request a copy by e-mail from me in Microsoft Word or Open Office format at jmartinh@shaw.ca.

Parish news

Upcoming events

Athabasca diocese

ACW Conference: The 2009 Diocese of Athabasca A.C.W. Conference will be held in Peace River (May 1-3). The guest speaker is Eileen Conway, Rector of Holy Trinity. For more information contact Janet McIntosh at (780) 624-3767, or mcinluch@telusplanet.net.

Youth Ignited: A weekend for youth and those who love them! Do you want to help shape the future of youth ministry in our diocese? Get ready for a day of worship, fellowship, music, fun and discovery. We'll be gathering at St. Thomas, Fort McMurray, (Mar 13 - 15). (Arrive when you can Fri. evening, leave after church on Sunday)

Please encourage the youth (12+) and anyone interested in youth ministry in your parish to attend this event. We'll try to carpool where possible, but it's important to have someone from each parish willing to drive. Billets will be provided. There is no fee for this event. If your parish is unable to cover the cost of transportation, please speak to Donna in the Athabasca synod office about funding. (780) 624-2767 or dioath@telusplanet.net.

Edmonton diocese

Thirsty Course Launch Party: "WHAT'S THE POINT?" Free food, awesome live music, an all around great night...that is the point. Thirsty for something real...exploring life and wrestling with the deeper questions... Is this it? What am I doing here? Does God exist? If these questions intrigue you, why not attend the Downtown Edmonton Thirsty Course Launch Party? The party is Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. at Saints' Café, 10035 - 103 Street. Come as you are. Check us out. No commitment. No obligation. For more information, contact Rev. Travis Enright at (780) 428-6323.

World Day of Prayer Service: St. George's, Edmonton, 11733-87 Avenue, will hold a World Day of Prayer Service (Mar 6) at 7:00 p.m. Written by the women of Papua New Guinea, the 2009 service will focus on the concerns of indigenous women and children struggling to maintain their history and culture in an ever-changing world.

Faith and Family Hockey Night: Families are invited to cheer on the Edmonton Oil Kings (Mar 6) when the team plays host to the Swift Current Broncos at Rexall Place. Grammy award-winning Christian Hip Hop artists, Grammatical Revolution in the Spirit (G.R.I.T.S.) will also be on hand to perform songs from their new album "Reiterate." Tickets are \$15. For more information contact Ryan at (780) 409-5904 or rfengstad@oilkings.ca.

Centering Prayer Workshop: Archdeacon Christopher Page, rector of St. Philip's Anglican Church in Victoria BC, and teacher with "The Contemplative Society", will lead a workshop at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Edmonton, 18345-62B Avenue (Mar 7-8). Call (780) 444-6769 for more information.

Self Recovery Workshop: Motivational speaker, "End of Life" specialist and therapeutic clown, Oceanna Hall, will use the art of laughter to present an interactive workshop on the "Three R's of Self Care: Relaxation, Rest and Recovery" (Mar 21) at 10:00 a.m., at St. George's Anglican Church, Edmonton, 11733-87 Avenue. The cost is \$10 for lunch. Call (780) 439-1470 for more information.



Lots of love at Good Shepherd

Submitted by the "Younger" Crowd (aka Ruby, Marguerite and Louise)

Good Shepherd Church has shown that Valentine's Day is not only for the young nor just for couples. Good Shepherd Church welcomed its 65 plus members and friends in a celebration of Valentine's Day and of the contribution of all of our seniors to the life of Good Shepherd.

The Church was appropriately decorated with the Valentine's theme and a number of the "younger" crowd served up an afternoon of food, music, entertainment and laughter. The "Seniors" were entertained with story time, followed by a skit put on by our able cast of "Newfoundlanders," including "a newfie dog," the parish treasurer and our priest, the Rev. Canon Maureen Crerar. They were then treated to a light luncheon and a sing-along led by our talented musical director who put together a selection of songs all based on the Valentine's theme. Individual photos were taken of the guests and they will be given to them as a souvenir of the event.

The afternoon was enthusiastically received by all who attended as well as others who were disappointed they had to miss it. Many of the participants suggested "it should become an annual event" and, there was a reminder that "St. Patrick's Day was coming up soon."

Concert series

St. Tim's in Edmonton hosts a regular concert series throughout the year. Don't miss these upcoming events!

Sunday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.
Habitat for Humanity Concert
with various musical guests
Tickets \$10.00 at the door

Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m.
St. David's Welsh Male Voice Choir
Tickets at the door \$15.00

Sunday, June 28 at 3:00 p.m.
I Coristi Chamber Choir
Tickets at the door \$10.00
Proceeds to St. Timothy's Choral Scholar Program

Note- some concert dates and times may be subject to change. Please check our website at www.sttimothy-edm.ca



Shrove Tuesday fundraiser

Submitted by Peter Clarke

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. Helen's Anglican Church, Fairview. This is a fund raiser for the church - a profit of \$1,051. A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who helped in anyway (donating of IGA stamps, supplies, cash donations, set-up, cooking, serving, cleaning, etc, etc) and to the community for supporting the fund raiser.

ST. TIMOTHY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

presents

An Evening with Epsilon

Sunday, March 15, 2009

"Mix and Mingle" wine bar 6:00 p.m.

Concert 7:00 p.m.

8420 145 Street

Come join us for a pre-concert **café style mix and mingle** wine and cheese social to celebrate an outstanding group of young men. St. Timothy's is well known for its rich and vibrant acoustics and Epsilon will surely be a memorable evening as they take us through a rich and diverse program.

Epsilon is a contemporary vocal ensemble consisting of five members with extensive backgrounds in jazz, classical, and choral music. Their love for singing and their ability to create a soundscape with their voices have inspired audiences both young and old. The group's repertoire ranges from the upbeat stylings of pop music to the complex nuances of jazz, drawing influence from the **Beatles, Real Group, Take 6**, and others. Epsilon believes in musical education and appreciation as a form of self-expression and introspection.

Tickets are **\$15** at the door. All proceeds go to **St. Timothy's Choral Scholar Program** in support of young talented musicians attending local universities and colleges. Please come join us and be delightfully entertained on this special evening!

The last word



Christ Church on BP Day

The 25th Christ Church Scout Group in Edmonton welcomed other Scout and Guiding groups to join them for the celebration of their founders' birthdays, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. Archdeacon Michael Rolph (left) - who has a Scouting and Guiding history of his own - presided over the special service with readings and plenty of singing before heading into the church hall for more songs, snacks and skits performed by the various groups. Members of the Baden-Powell historical society were also present for the afternoon, in addition to former Guiding commissioners from the past several decades.

Upcoming milestones

St. Mark's in Athabasca

June 5, 6 and 7 have been set as the dates for a parish wide celebration of a St. Mark's church presence in High Prairie for the past 100 years. The current plans call for times of fellowship and reminiscing, plenty of grist for the history buffs and lots of fun with a good old fashioned church fete atmosphere. There will be food for all. Traditional family picnic games may also be a part of this weekend which will culminate in the service of Holy Communion on Sunday, June 7.

Look for more information in the Messenger in the next few months, but consider this an invite to come and be with us as we celebrate 100 years of presence of the Anglican Church in High Prairie, June 5 to 7 this year. If you have any information on our church history that you would like to share, please e-mail us at stmarks2@telus.net. We would be very pleased to hear from you.

St. Timothy's in Edmonton

St. Timothy's Anglican Church this year is celebrating its 50th year of witness and worship in the Laurier Heights district of Edmonton. Special activities are planned for the week-end of June 6 and 7. Friends and former parishioners are asked to contact the church office for more information about these events. Telephone (780) 483-5506, or e-mail: st.tims@shawbiz.ca

Bishop Jane returns from Canterbury

Edmonton's Bishop Jane Alexander recently returned from the Canterbury New Bishop's Program at Canterbury Cathedral in the United Kingdom where she had the opportunity to make new contacts with recently consecrated bishops from across the Anglican Communion.

"We formed a worshipping community and prayed each day and shared the sacrament in a cathedral where people have worshipped for over one thousand years," said Bishop Jane. "In all our differences and challenges and struggles we shared one very important belief and hope. Each one of us knew it to be true in our heart that we were adopted by God and had become His child. That fact and that alone was the central and pivotal part of our ministry and of our lives. I believe that is true for every Christian. We grab that knowledge with astonishment, with fear and trembling perhaps, but having found it we never ever let it go."

This year 22 bishops attended the gathering with representation from Nigeria, the Congo, Kenya, Cameroon, India, Japan, Ethiopia, Australia, Madagascar and the UK in addition to the three Canadian bishops present from the Edmonton, Niagara and Quebec dioceses. The bishops met with staff from the Anglican Communion Office, spent time with the Archbishop of Canterbury and heard presentations on the many aspects of the ministry of a bishop. The main highlight was to form a community that prayed together and studied scripture together each day.

"Thank you as a diocese for building in as part of the whole Episcopal electoral process the opportunity to study and attend retreats to make the transition into Episcopal ministry," said Bishop Jane.



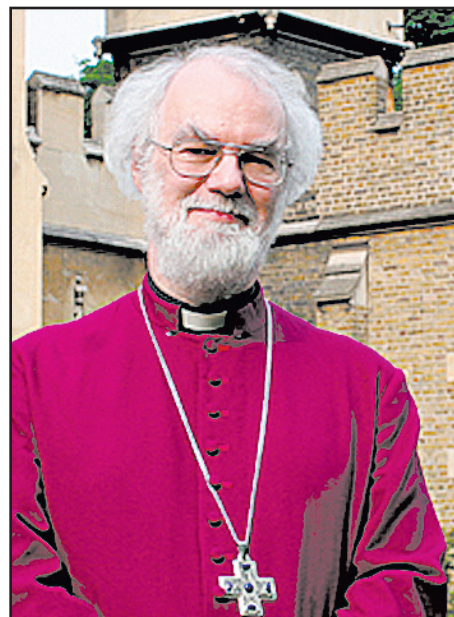
top 5 reasons why YOU should be confirmed

- 1. It is a sacrament.** Many Anglicans regard confirmation as a sacrament of the church. Through the prayers and the laying on of hands by the bishop, it is the outward sign of an inward grace.
- 2. Declare your faith.** Being confirmed provides an opportunity for you as an adult or young adult to give public expression to your developing spirituality and to reaffirm your baptismal covenant.
- 3. Be meaningful.** Achieve a more profound understanding of the Creeds as accepted by the Anglican Church. Deepen your faith in God, your understanding of service and of Christ's commandment that thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, all thy soul and all thy mind.
- 4. Walk the line.** Develop a "rule of life" that will focus the holiness of your Christian life and service. Your relationship with God will enrich your relationships with the people in your life.
- 5. Look closer.** Question your own beliefs and examine your own understanding of the Anglican Church. Look at the Anglican way as an expression of your commitment to church.

Stretch, reach and grow towards discovering what your faith means to you. This is the day the Lord hath made, we will be glad and rejoice. We will not offer to God offerings that cost us nothing...

Join Bishop Jane Alexander and the Rev. Canon Maureen Crerar in preparation for the next confirmation service at Good Shepherd in Edmonton on Sunday, May 24, 2009, or contact your priest for more information on how you can be confirmed in your own parish.

quote
of the
day



ROWAN WILLIAMS, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

"...the basic texts of Christian faith contain some startling statements about children (even more startling two thousand years ago than now): the child is the one from whom the adult must learn about 'the Kingdom of God'; and the one who abuses or corrupts or deceives the child is destined for the harshest of judgements. The child not only has access to the Kingdom, s/he has a privileged place in it. This is not romantic speculation about children trailing clouds of glory, or even a celebration of childlike innocence. In its context, it seems to mean that it is the very powerlessness or vulnerability of the child that is important – important in securing their place of privilege, but also important as reminding the adult that receiving the news of the possibility of change, freedom, love, reconciliation, requires of the adult a degree of vulnerability and spontaneity that is normally overlaid by suspicion and self-defensiveness."