

# Thanksgiving Newsletter 2009

Thanksgiving Newsletter 2009

## A Message From The Rector

This Thanksgiving, our parish of St. John's has so much to be thankful for as we see the witness of faithful Anglicans serving the Lord in their homes, places of work and leisure, and in the community. Our outreach as Christians is comprehensive and includes physical and practical needs, such as food, housing and safety. Our outreach also serves people's spiritual needs, passing on the faith to youth and children, helping others to know they are loved by God and are important parts of the family of the church.

Since we are an aging community, our passing on of our faith and traditions as Anglican Christians should be a vital concern for us all. One of the ways we do this is to help our youth examine their faith, leading them to make a decision to be confirmed. Later this month, a number of young people will be confirmed by Bishop Ron Cutler at a Regional Confirmation Service to be held on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in St. James Church, Mahone Bay. At this time, there will also be a kick-off for the 2010 celebrations marking the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of continual worship in Nova Scotia.

Please keep the Confirmation Class of 2009 in your prayers and offer them your support and encouragement: *Alyssa Gerhardt, Brittany Gerhardt, Sarah Mack, Jean Clarke, Kelly Chapman, Grace Clarke, Brooklyn Green, Abbey Payne, Marla Russell, Shelby Williams.*

Let us pray: *Renew these persons in the covenant you made with them in Baptism. Strengthen, O Lord, these your disciples, with your Holy Spirit; empower them for your service; and sustain them in your grace all the days of their life. May they always know they are your children and members of the family of the church. Amen.*

**Blessings,**

**Michael+**

**PLEASE NOTE: Our Thanksgiving Newsletter is late because of unavoidable circumstances and we apologize to you for the delay.**

**Please find enclosed your Thanksgiving Offering Envelope. If you are unable to place it in church on Thanksgiving Sunday, you may put it on the offering plate at any time convenient.**

**Blessings and a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family.**



## Music At St. John's

### A note from Barbara .....

It is wonderful to welcome back our choirs once again after a long summer break which began with a social event at the home of Doreen Dixon. A highlight of the summer featured the participation of Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Montréal's finest early music vocal ensemble. The choir, conducted by Christopher Jackson, sang a number of motets and anthems at morning worship on Sunday, August 23. We had serious competition from Hurricane Bill that day, leaving us without lights, organ or sound system. But in the end, for those who were able to attend, it was a most magical service. A few days later we were able to enjoy another get-together with Betty Lou Olivier in Upper Lahave.

The final concerts of the summer featured a strong component of young Nova Scotia talent with performances by the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and the Nova Scotia Youth Choir. Many of our own youth assist whenever possible at such events and we continue to encourage their participation as much as possible.

Jim Aulenbach was on hand in my absence to play at Sunday services. His musical meditations and Peter's chiming were enjoyed by parishioners and visitors alike throughout the summer.

Warm regards,

**Barbara**



## Editor's Notes

First I must apologise to those who sent me articles for the last newsletter that was not published. This was unfortunate but not intended. The summer makes it difficult to get hold of people to verify their articles and it is a busy travel and vacation time for us all.

We encourage any parishioners who have an article, news item or personal story relating to events at St. John's or the South Shore Region to send them to us at [cynffig@eastlink.ca](mailto:cynffig@eastlink.ca) or phone 764-2145. Photographs can be sent electronically to me, preferably in jpeg format. It would be especially gratifying to receive articles or news items from the youth of our parish; see the article on Page 7 about Confirmation. The next deadline for submission of items for the Advent Newsletter will be November 12th.

Brian Kenefick

### St. John's 2009 Pet Blessing Service

For the first time in twenty years it rained on the day of the Pet Blessing Service. Instead of being held on the Parade Square the service was relocated into the Church Hall. No doubt the weather was responsible for the small turn out. Regardless of numbers the pets were in fine voice, nevertheless music calmed them all down. This years collection was donated to SHAID. Volunteers from SHAID arrived with five beautiful dogs that are all up for adoption.

A collage of some of the animals and people at the service



Some of SHAID's adoptable dogs

## Book Of Proverbs

**As Shared by Parishioners of St. John's Church, Lunenburg, September 2009**

- To love thy neighbour as thyself - all the rest is commentary.
- Take time to smell the roses and enjoy your friends.
- Start each day with love and a song in your heart.
- A smile is contagious - pass it on!
- Time heals all wounds.
- Listen with an open heart. Speak with a generous spirit.
- Never think you have learned everything - the thing you most want to know is just around the corner.
- Do unto others as you would be done by.
- Faith without works is dead.
- Those who serve others are the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Don't give up on things in life - keep on trying.
- In times of great joy or troubles, my mother would tell us "Things Happen for the Best", so we could learn and gain strength from overcoming our sorrows and to appreciate the laughter in our lives, which is very precious.
- Thoughtfulness precedes wisdom.
- The bible is full of sayings of wisdom. Learn some well and be guided by them all the days of your life.
- One person can make a difference.
- Closer to Heaven by sea (by a fisherman).
- God is always faithful.
- Let not failures or discouragements keep you from experiencing God's love.
- Learn from the mistakes of others; you will not live long enough to make them all yourself.
- Helping one and another in difficult times.
- I believe at times God truly puts us to the test, he does not make bad things happen, it is a test for us to keep our faith and out of everything, "something good happens".
- While some reflecting on the past and future is necessary, it is best to live in the present. Appreciate what you are seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, or feeling right now.
- If you don't know where you've been you won't know where you're going.
- There are leaders and followers, but we also need to follow our hearts and minds.
- Give your worries up to the Lord; he will sort them out for you.
- Do not let the sun set on your anger, let it go.
- Take time to have faith.
- The road to hell is paved with good intentions.
- This is my proverb, so often I mean to do things for others that I never get around to do.
- Smile, it's the glue of life.
- Know our Triune God and listen to Him always.
- Honour God in your life and God will honour you. Whatever your efforts, God will come back to bless you. Give yourself to God and God will direct your pathways.
- We do so much damage to others with the words that come out of our mouths. Think before you speak, especially when you are angry or upset. If you can't say something pleasant, be quiet and still.
- Love each other; forgive each other.
- Live life so that at its end, we may leave in peace.
- When all things in life seem to be against you, and you are down, turn to the Lord and above all LOOK UP.
- Be slow to speak and listen.
- Be kind always.
- To love God present in our everyday life. His way gives us happiness in all things.
- If someone is not asking the question, they cannot hear the answer.
- Live and love as though there will be no opportunity to apologize or ask forgiveness.
- Every time you throw a little dirt, you lose a little ground.
- Be true to thyself.
- Laugh often.
- Seek knowledge and wisdom will follow.
- Forgive others with your whole heart as God will forgive your sins only as you forgive others.
- No matter what - the sun will come up tomorrow - and you can start again.
- Both tears and sweat are wet and salty. Tears will get you sympathy, sweat will get you progress.
- Insightful saying to live by: "I'm third." God is first. Other persons second. And I am third.

## Book Of Proverbs

As Shared by Parishioners of St. John's Church, Lunenburg, September 2009

- Enjoy every moment of each day, while we are able.
- Be thankful for all that we have in this country.
- Speak less, listen more, and then speak kindly always, after thoughtful consideration. If kind words are not there, say nothing.
- Treat those in the service industry with respect - the way you would like to be treated - not as a servant. It is surprising how often the response is positive for you and they too have a better day.
- Humility is a blessed thing. Do good to please God, not oneself.
- If all else fails - go with your first gut instinct - you'll most likely be right.
- Be forgiving.
- Lend a helping hand when you see someone struggling.
- Knowledge is the ground of wisdom.
- Dialogue is better than to dictate
- God does not make bad things happen; but good things can come out of every sad situation. When someone needs comforting, a little silent prayer helps you find the words you can say to them.
- Keep your faith in the Lord.
- Life without your belief is empty.
- Do unto others as you would have done unto yourself.
- Life is long. It has hills and valleys, but nothing stays the same. Life is moveable not static. God is with you, beside you throughout your life - faith will help in troubling times and good ones, and give you strength as you are never alone.
- Follow Jesus and do what is right to everyone, no matter what race or religion.
- Lend a hand where you see it is needed, to friends as well as everyone in need of help.
- Love is the greatest gift in the universe and the greatest gift we can share.
- Enjoy the simple things in life. Search continually for wisdom.
- Never get discouraged. Not only have great faith in God, but; also in yourselves.
- Trust in the Lord - God's timing is perfect!
- Sometimes restraint.
- Recognizing mistakes creates an opportunity for progress.
- What you would seem to be, be it really.
- Love your neighbour without reservation.
- When you are discouraged and all seems hopeless, hold fast to your faith, the Lord walks beside you and will guide and strengthen you.
- Live each moment - good or bad - All things pass away!
- Words and actions have the strong ability to build up or tear down.
- The Lord is my Shepherd.
- Don't try to pilot God's ship, let him do that.
- You learn more from listening than from talking.
- Always try to be fair. Do not rush to judgement. "Do not judge the book by its cover."
- Try also for a positive attitude "the glass is half-full, not half-empty."
- Do not dwell on negative thoughts.
- My daily life is my spiritual walk with the Lord.
- My grandfather used to say "no matter what happens to you in life, always remember to be kind." Look for light even in the darkest moments because that's where God is.
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- Wisdom: to know Jesus, you must read the word of God. Look to Jesus always. Open your eyes and see Christ in all things - books, people, nature, music, quietness, and give thanks for his many, many blessings.
- Always take the "high road" and maintain a broad perspective.
- Say, "I will try" instead of "I can't".
- When I was young I used to pray with terror: "Please God give me patience." Over time God gave me much trouble, so I learned the virtue of patience. In time I learned the simplicity of prayer "Speak Lord for your servant is listening." In this simplicity I then understood Jesus in saying to one and all "my grace is sufficient for you." I respond "Thanks be to God."

## Behind The Scenes At St. John's

Have you ever wondered how things are done behind the scenes at St. John's? There are so many things we take for granted like the newsletter, the altar decoration, chalices polished and ready, the right candle for the services throughout the year, clean robes for the choir and clergy, church pews looked after and carpets and floors cleaned. A lot of unsung people behind the scenes make it all work, rather like the stagehands at a live theatre show, never seen but absolutely necessary to the success of the show.

Over the next few newsletters we will take a look behind the scenes and report on who does what and how things are achieved to make St. John's such a place of beauty and a great place to worship. This newsletter we look at the newsletter itself.

### Behind The Scenes – Production And Delivery Of The Newsletter

Production of the newsletter starts when I ask Mary Wagner our Parish Secretary to put a notice in the Church Bulletin asking for articles and giving a deadline for submission. Once I have all the submissions they are checked for spelling, grammar and length and formatted so that all the headlines and all the text are in the same type and size of font. The layout requires juggling the different articles so that they fit the pages; we don't leave out anything that is crucial to the story.

After the newsletter is complete, I send it via email to Mary Wagner. She and Father Michael proof read it for errors and omissions. Mary and I consult on the phone and she makes any corrections.

The next step is for Mary to print all the pages double sided and photocopy enough for each parishioner or family. She also prints the labels with the names of the recipients to be attached to the newsletter envelopes.



Mary's trusty team: Left to right, Jim Green, Jennifer Green-Heisler, Viola Green, Howard Keeping, Sharon Green, Lillian Keeping (missing Alex Green)

Then Mary calls in her trusty team of folders and envelope stuffers; Jim & Viola Green, Alex & Sharon Green, Howard & Lillian Keeping and Jennifer Green-Heisler.

As can be seen in the photograph the pages are laid out on the table and the newsletter is put together page by page. One person folds the newsletter to fit into the envelope. Someone else sticks labels onto envelopes and the envelope, newsletter and a Special Offering envelope are put together by yet another person. Amazingly this dedicated team can assemble, fold and stuff all the newsletters into

## Behind The Scenes At St. John's Continued

envelopes in about two hours; that shows not only dexterity but long practise at doing this. Is it drudgery? Not from what I saw when I attended the last assembling. The jokes were flying and discussions about contents from the newsletter were very lively. When all the newsletters are in envelopes they are put in alphabetical order into the boxes you see in the church and the boxes are carried to the church.

After two Sundays in the back of the church the boxes are returned to the church hall where Mary King begins her phase of the operation. First she sorts out all the newsletters that have to be mailed out to parishioners using Canada Post. Mary King re-sorts the remaining newsletters. For people who live in or close enough to town they will be hand delivered. The newsletters are sorted into delivery zones for distribution by another group of volunteers. Those volunteers include Edwina Anderson, Joyce Buckmaster, Vicki Conrad, Elroy Creaser, Josephine Eisenhauer, Ann Grandy, Howard Keeping, Audrey Morgan, Marlene Mosher, Lillian Myalls, Mazie Pierce, Christina Pottie, Caroline Skinner, Sherry Skinner and Mary King herself. Each volunteer has one or more zones that they deliver in, rather like the mailman. Then newsletters, sorted by zone, are left in the church hall for the volunteers to pick up and deliver at their convenience. Finally either Mary King or Mary Wagner take the remaining newsletters to the post office for mailing.

By Brian Kenefick

## Confirmation—What Does It Mean To You

Every year, when I hear of the confirmation classes, I find myself wondering what the dreams and expectations are for those attending. I realize they will be quite different from those of the confirmation class I attended, in the 1960's. Then, it was essential to be confirmed in order to receive communion and - in the case of our church - to even be able to attend church services. Every Sunday morning before the main service began, the Sunday School superintendent patrolled the pews looking for wayward young people trying to sneak into church. Despite ducking down behind the pew, I always got caught.

Confirmation was regarded then as a sort of graduation day and that was my goal. Our confirmation class was made up of adolescents who were also the church's youth group. The week before confirmation, when our priest let us have a "practice communion," it was a solemn occasion until someone knelt on a bee. Eventually we chased the bee out of a window and our practice session continued, minus our injured colleague. Frilly white communion dresses were the order of the day for girls to be confirmed. As a tomboy I hated dresses, especially sissy - looking confirmation dresses! Even worse were the white, clunky shoes to go with it. In a fit of rebellion, I got rid of the shoes and donned "desert boots." The site of these suede ankle high brown casual shoes which obviously didn't go with the dress horrified my poor parents.

Today communion is open to all who are baptized and young people are welcomed at all church services – a much better way! Therefore those wishing to be confirmed today must have far different reasons than some of us older folks had.

**We'd love to hear from those about to be confirmed. What are your hopes and dreams for confirmation day and afterward?**

By Janice Kenefick

## New Regional Dean

On June 7<sup>th</sup> a Choral Evensong Service was held to install our Rector Michael as the new Regional Dean for the Nova Scotia South Shore. Michael's new responsibilities cover all the parishes from Blandford to Yarmouth; that is 35 parishes in all. The service was presided over by Archdeacon Bonnie Baird, seen in the photo with Michael after the service, and the sermon was given by Reverend Barbara Minard.

Michael's new responsibilities include support and guidance to the parishes of our region; Support for the administrative role of the Diocesan Bishop in the Region; Liaison with the Episcopal Office and Diocesan Committees, as needed; Work together with the Archdeacon of the Region; Assist the work of the Regional Council; Chair Meetings of the Regional Clericus; Develop the itinerary for the visits of the Bishops to our Region.

He has to act as an administrative resource person to the parishes; Oversee the signing-out process when a person resigns as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge; Visit each parish in the Region at least every two years, meeting with parish officers and interested church officers and parishioners; Review appropriate business and record-keeping procedures [as set forth by the diocese] with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and parish officers; Review Parochial Returns; Inspect [with the wardens and parish property committee] the buildings and properties including rectories, churches and church halls.

The Regional Deans meet three or four times per year with the Diocesan Bishop and the Suffragan Bishop. They also participate in training sessions throughout the year. Michael is directly accountable to Diocesan Bishop Sue. He will serve for a term of five years, renewable once, at the pleasure of the Diocesan Bishop.



## Ladies Guild News

The St. John's Ladies Guild will be making their Christmas Cranberries again this year. They would appreciate donations of new or used pint and half pint mason jars. Jars can be dropped off at the church hall. Alternatively arrangements can be made to have the jars picked up by calling Susan MacMillan 634-3019, or Barbara Simonds 634-3319.

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