

Lent & Easter 2010

Newsletter

Rector's Message for Lent and Easter

Dear friends,

We are about to embark upon Lent, the forty days meant to prepare us for Easter. What meaning does Lent have in a Christian's life? Earlier generations experienced Lent as a rather dreary season to be filled with self-discipline and self-scrutiny, only to be relieved by the alleluias of Easter. Yet, one of the Lenten prefaces in the Book of Alternative Services (page 220) bids us to *"prepare with joy for the paschal (Easter) feast."* Do the disciplines of Lent have anything to do with joy? Is there joy in the Season of Lent?

I believe joy is always in season, whether the church hangings are festal or penitential, because joy is integral to our experience of God. C. S. Lewis speaks of being *"surprised by joy,"* which is usually the way joy chooses to break into our lives. As such, joy is immediate and beyond words. It is a profoundly intuitive experience of oneself within the ever-unfolding and all-embracing mystery of God. The experience of joy calls forth from us a letting go, an abandonment of our preconceptions and fixed notions of how things ought to be. And this for many of us, is a direct threat to our sense of order and our need to feel that we are in control.

"You have put joy in my heart more than when grain and wine and oil increase," cries the Psalmist (Psalm 4:6-8). Clearly, joy is felt as an experience of overwhelming abundance. St. Paul goes on to proclaim that joy is the fruit of the Spirit. Jesus himself declares that joy is the reason for his coming among us, *"I have spoken thus to you so that my joy may be in you and your joy complete (John 15:10-12)."*



Frank Griswold, retired Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church writes, *"Joy is not to be identified with the kind of superficial happiness or mindless enthusiasm that from time to time bring relief from the rigours of life. Instead, joy is often sober, quiet and deep. It is not easily dislodged by passing moods or the ebb and flow of events. Joy conveys a sense of being firmly rooted, in spite of - or even because of - the dark and difficult things that are woven into the fabric of our lives. Because joy is the work of the Spirit in us, it grounds us in the confidence, courage, and consciousness of the Risen Christ."*

Joy also imparts a spirit of adventure, opening us up in hope and availability to the world around us. As Carlo Caretto of the Little Brothers of Jesus has observed, *"All too often our concern is to remain at home undisturbed, however dull and joyless it may have become. We are afraid of adventure, of the new and the mysterious. If it were left in our hands, we would ask God to remain here on our level. When all the while our happiness depends on our moving upward toward God." (Over)*

Rector's Message Continued

All this being so, it is sad indeed that the very last thing a great many of us expect from our life in the Church is a sense of joy. Some of us in fact are actually made uncomfortable and find ourselves ill at ease in the presence of joy. Why? Perhaps it is because joy always comes to us as a gift beyond our grasp or control. As such, all we can do is simply accept it. Joy is not something we can create for ourselves, no matter how much we try.

This Lent, are we ready to be surprised by joy? What would happen to us if we decided to make Lent a time of joyful preparation? Could it be that some of our monumentally ponderous efforts at self-improvement would be cast aside? Could it be that our little home-grown pieties would be shattered as the Spirit cracks us open to the deep joy already planted within us waiting to be released and become part of our consciousness? Furthermore, could it be that what I have described largely in personal terms is also God's deepest desire for us all as Christ's Risen Body, the Church? Only our personal and corporate living of this question will reveal the answer in a resounding YES.

Friends, I encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities for communal prayer, study and service this Lent as we move toward Easter. May this lenten season be for us all, a time of joyful preparation for the paschal feast. And may we allow ourselves to be surprised by joy.

Your friend in Christ,

Michael+

Mark Your Calendar For These Special Services and Events

February 16th, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Sponsored by Sunday School to support our Foster Child overseas 4:30 pm– 6 pm

February 17th - Ash Wednesday Services

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

7:00 pm BAS Service with Choir

February 21st, First Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Choral Holy Eucharist - **Annual General Meeting** and Pot Luck Luncheon following worship.

10:30 am Sunday School Classes at the Parish Hall

February 28th, Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Family Service - Pot Luck Luncheon following worship

February 28th,

7:00 pm St. John's hosts Ecumenical Evensong. Preacher: Pastor Vivian Roberts from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. This is a **special Jazz Vespers** with the **Peter Togni Trio**. Come and see what a Jazz Vespers is all about.

Congratulations to a Former Warden

After 54 years in the workforce, Bruce Holdbrook has decided it is time to retire!

The business, Bestprint, has been sold to Mathew Daniels of Lunenburg, which, of course, will give Bruce more time for volunteer work and keeping up with Louise's 'honey-do' list!

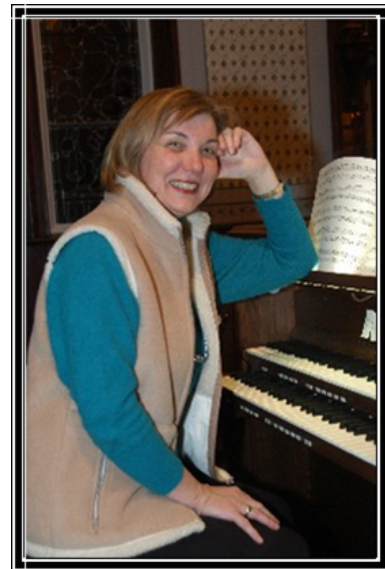
Congratulations, Bruce!"

Music At St. John's

A note from Barbara

Our chancel and handbell choirs were actively engaged this past week in a joint presentation with St. John's Lutheran Choir from Mahone Bay. Sharon and I met with Jane Kristenson, their music director, to plan a program of music early in the fall, but we didn't actively delve into serious rehearsal until the Christmas season was behind us. It is always a wonderful experience to sing and play music with others. On January 24 we presented a musical program that included congregational hymns, selections by individual choirs as well as a combined works. The event was well attended and a free will offering was received and will provide valuable support for our music programs.

I invite any of you, as members of St. John's congregation, to join one of our choirs (handbells on Tuesdays or Chancel Choir on Wednesdays). Our chancel choir has 26 members though not all attend on a regular basis. Many travel during the year or have work commitments which require being absent from time to time. That is understandable in today's challenging environment. Choir members work through a great deal of repertoire in the course of a year, with a focus on reading skills and developing a blended sound. The Anglican liturgy is a busy one and keeps us all on our toes. Choir is also a family in many ways with enjoyment in spending time together and caring for each other. Norma is still recuperating at home and Eric has family commitments. We hope they will be back with us soon. Jesse Pelletier, a young man with an interest in historical design and renovation, is the newest member of the chancel choir.



Music and Meditation begins on Ash Wednesday and will continue through to Holy Week. The public is warmly invited to attend these half hour presentations at noon each Wednesday.

A major event coming up on March 19 will be a performance of J.S. Bach's *St. John Passion*. "The St John Passion is possibly Bach's most intense and dramatic work. He was clearly deeply moved by the texts, not only of the Gospel narration, but of the arias, chorales and choruses that comment on the unfolding events of the Passion. The profound effect of these words on the composer resulted in music of enormous power and poignancy," explains Paul Halley, Director, Kings College Chapel Choir. I do hope many of you will be enriched by this very special performance.

Warm Regards,

Barbara

Easter Giving

A word of thanks to our parishioners who gave more than \$14,000 last year to support various ministries beyond the parish that touch the lives of many, such as the Food Bank, PWRDF, St. Jude's Restoration and the Discretionary Fund. Your giving makes a difference!

Within the parish, your ongoing financial support enables St. John's to carry out a wide range of worship, ministry and service to others. In 2010, we face challenges in meeting our obligations in these services along with much needed maintenance to the parish hall. With this in mind we ask that you search your hearts and give generously to your Easter Offering this year.

Lenten Ecumenical Services

Sunday 7:00 pm start for all Services

February 21, Lent 1 at Zion Ev Lutheran

Preacher - Joe Christenson

Scripture/Theme

Mark 11:1 - 11, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem

February 28, Lent 2 at St. John's Anglican

Preacher - Vivian S. Roberts

Scripture/Theme

Mark 11:12 - 19, Jesus overturns the tables in the Temple

March 7, Lent 3 at Central United

Preacher - Michael Mitchell

Scripture/Theme

Mark 11:20 - 13:37, Jesus' authority is challenged

March 14, Lent 4 at St. Barnabas' Anglican

Preacher - Grace Caines-Corkum

Scripture/Theme

Mark 14:1 - 11, Jesus is anointed

March 21, Lent 5 at St. Andrews Presbyterian

Preacher - Jane Reid

Scripture/Theme

Mark 14:12 - 72, The Last Supper

March 28, Palm Sunday at St. Norbert's Catholic

Preacher - Ken Wild

Scripture/Theme

Mark 15:1 - 47, The Crucifixion

Each Service will be followed by an informal social/fellowship time. The loose offering will go to the Lunenburg Inter church Food Bank.

Services for Holy Week

Palm Sunday: March 28th

8:30am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am Liturgy of the Palms and Liturgy of the Passion with Holy Eucharist

10:30am Sunday School in Parish Hall

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 1st

7:00 pm The Liturgy of the Lord's Supper Holy Eucharist (BAS) with the washing of feet & vigil of prayer

Good Friday: Friday, April 2nd

10:00am The Liturgy of Good Friday (Ecumenical outdoor)

"Walk with the Cross" starts at St. John's Church following this service.) All are welcome.

Easter Vigil: Holy Saturday, April 3rd

7:00pm The Liturgy of the Easter Vigil The Lighting of the New Fire and Pascal Candle, Baptisms and Renewal of Baptismal Vows with the first Easter celebration of Holy Eucharist

Easter Sunday: April 4th

8:30am Easter Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am Easter Choral Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Sleigh Rides

On January 30th a Youth & Family Sleigh Ride was hosted by Foard and Cathy Robar in Meisner's Section just outside New Germany. It was a very cold day with a wind chill of -17°C . Attendees said it was worth it to experience the ride through the woods and hot chocolate and cookies afterward.



For those who missed this, there will be another opportunity to enjoy a sleigh ride as the Robar's will again host our Parish on Sunday, February 28th at 2:00 pm. Call Melissa Risser at 634-3304 or email her at b_mrisser@eastlink.ca to book your seat. Cost is \$10 and carpooling will be an option.



Communions Remembered

One morning recently after a session of Senior Fitness I found myself speaking with a lady from the church. She mentioned that she had fallen down the steps after taking communion. I had a similar accident when I first came to Lunenburg and St. John's choir, which explains why I don't join in with the choir at the beginning and end of the service. She opined that with an aging congregation, it might be time to consider providing a ramp as a safety measure.

As so many things do lately, this started me thinking about "Communions I have known". Lately my mind tends to think in headlines. I thought back to my first one. I was most impressed with the dignity of confirmation and the first communion service. I couldn't wait to get home and tell the family. I described everything that had happened, concluding with the news that the Bishop wiped the cup clean with a sanitary napkin. My father suggested I might try to find a different way of describing the ceremony.

As I progressed through life the inevitable changes came. One thing remained constant – my devotion to the church choir. I sometimes found myself singing for a choir in other churches, and of course I followed their type of service. Once, shortly after I was married and had moved to a different community I found myself part of a group who felt our new community must have a church. We thought in terms of an all-purpose building to be shared by all. This didn't happen, I think because the United Church offered to provide the financial backing. It was the only one nearby - this was before the time of the second family car, and by this time I was involved in helping to form a choir, and then helping to raise money for an organ. I never really became comfortable with their communion service. The church elders served the congregation, first with the bread, and then with the wine, which was actually grape juice in individual glasses. The ladies of the church washed them afterwards, and I think leftovers was a problem, because one minister always carefully said "drink ye ALL of this." But I digress. My biggest problem was remaining serious throughout, because no matter what the organist played while they went in and out during the service, I heard "The March of the Priests" from Aida, and had difficulty keeping a straight face throughout.

As we got older, circumstances gave us the chance to travel. One of our earliest trips was to southeast England in the spring. We found ourselves in Canterbury on Easter Sunday, and I wanted to take Easter Communion there. My husband was a Baptist, but the historical significance appealed to him, too.

The beautiful Cathedral was full on that lovely English spring day. So full that all the students etc. were drafted to help serve communion. All the beautiful artifacts were in use, and finally, anything that you could pour wine from was used. We were served our wine from a brown and tan pitcher. It was the most beautiful service imaginable, and I will never forget it.

Oh, yes! One more communion I am not likely to forget. Last spring I started having mysterious dizzy spells. We all conjectured as to what might be causing them, but were still not alarmed. At Easter service in 2009 the choir and the bell choir had a very ambitious programme mapped out. The choir did some lovely hymns and anthems, and the bell choir had put in hours of practice. My daughter, who is in both choirs, had worked hard and was looking forward to the service. I had no premonitions of a problem, so off we went. All was well until time for communion. Suddenly I was so dizzy that I couldn't stand, so I sat down. All I could think of was "hold on - don't spoil things for the bell choir". Everyone has to be there, or nobody can play. I managed with the help of the clergy, who gave me my communion in my seat. I also remained there to sing the major anthem. Everyone helped me.

Monday morning I fainted in the kitchen, and by Wednesday had a new pacemaker inserted to keep me going. No, I definitely won't forget that communion service!

Submitted by Evelyn Gent

A Very Special Year For The Parish Of Annapolis

The year 2010 is a very special one for the Parish of Annapolis and indeed for the whole Diocese. It is during this year that we commemorate 300 years of continuous Anglican worship in this place. Because of events that happened in Annapolis Royal, or Port Royal, as it was named before that time, the Diocese in which we now live and worship came into being.

It is hard to imagine what it could have been like for those early people of our Anglican communion. They were few in number. The English were mostly soldiers drafted to fight in an ongoing series of battles far from their homeland. Around them in a land, vast and untamed, were a small number of Acadian farmers and the Native peoples, who had hunted and fished here for hundreds of years. Far away in Europe the great powers made treaties and sent troops to enforce their rule and, as always happens, the ordinary people, soldiers, farmers and fishermen were caught in the middle. Money and provisions were scarce; tempers flared easily and there were deceptions, false promises and families divided.

During these difficult times, in October of 1710 a garrison of soldiers from New England arrived at what is now Fort Anne and a small siege was mounted. The French troops who were occupying the Fort surrendered. After the battle Rev. John Harrison, the chaplain, held a service of Thanksgiving and this was the first service held in our Diocese and from that time on services were held, marriages solemnized, children baptized and the dead were buried. Our Anglican communion had begun and it is for this reason that we are marking this year as special. Although it is fitting that we should celebrate what our church is today, we must not forget the work of our grandfathers and grandmothers, in a new land and with a strong and enduring faith.

The Parish of Annapolis will be holding a series of events throughout the whole of 2010. Further information will be in the Diocesan Times and on the Diocesan website.

You may also contact the Parish at annapolis.parish@ns.aliantzinc.ca

From the Diocesan web site

Editors Notes



Brooklyn Green, one of our Servers, took part in the Polar Bear Swim on New Year's Day at Backmans' Beach.

I can't imagine that anyone was warm on that beach on January 1st, but Brooklyn is smiling.

What did you do for New Year's?

I had planned to stay warm so to that end we have spent two years insulating our old house to R2000 Standards and installing a GeoThermal heat pump system. It took a lot of work and many weeks on my knees insulating in the attic crawl spaces. Now I am happy to say we are toasty warm and enjoy not seeing

the oil truck every couple of weeks. Our carbon footprint has been reduced considerably and is one of our ways of caring for God's Creation.

If anyone wants to know more about Geo Thermal Systems I would be happy to share our experience.

ACW News

Thank you to all the ladies of the parish who came out to the Potluck Luncheon on a stormy January 18th. Our "Mystery" Auction raised over \$800 for the PWRDF Haiti Relief. Your very generous support was greatly appreciated.

Thanks also to everyone who attended our recent Parish Breakfast on Sunday, January 24th. The next one will be on Family Sunday, March 21. We hope to see you all there.

Come and participate in our **GIANT FLEA MARKET** in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 17th. Tables may be rented for \$10 to sell your own items or if you have items in good condition you would like to donate to the parish table, they would be greatly appreciated. For further information and to rent a table, please call Sharon Green at 634-8269.

300TH Anniversary Eucharist Memorials



A JOURNEY JUST BEGUN
1710-2010

Anglicans throughout the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will be pleased to know that they can offer (a) **memorial gift(s)** to the Glory of God and in loving memory of (a) beloved person(s) at the **300th Anniversary Eucharist on June 6, 2010; 3:00 pm** at Exhibition Park, just outside the metro area of Halifax. All

are invited to join in this wonderful celebration. The guest preacher is our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz.

Memorial gifts can be offered in the following categories: *Wine & Hosts*, *Service Bulletin*, *Flowers*, and *Communion Linens*. Each memorial gift is \$25.

Please ensure that a completed **300TH ANNIVERSARY EUCHARIST MEMORIALS Form**, accompanies your payment. **Please print additional copies of the blank MEMORIALS Form, as needed.** Cheques are payable to the *Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island*, with *Eucharist Memorial(s)* written in the memo line. Do not send cash in the mail

To ensure your name, and that of the person(s) being memorialized, is included in the 300th Anniversary Service Bulletin, send the **clearly printed, completed MEMORIALS form (found on the Diocesan website or from Mary in the office) and payment, no later than March 31, 2010 to:**

Faye Morrison, 1571 LeMarchant Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3R2

Tel (902) 423-5070 or email at fayemorrison@hotmail.com

The 300th Anniversary Committee thanks you in advance for your attention to this memorial.

Requests for additional information can be directed to Faye Morrison (contact information above) or Cynthia Pilichos (902) 429-5945 or cynthia.pilichos@ns.sympatico.ca of the *300th Anniversary Service Arrangement Committee*.

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