



Summer 2016 Newsletter

Rector's Message

Dear Parishioners,

We are beginning to enjoy lovely weather. For many, we move more things outside, whether it is sitting on the deck, working in the garden, mowing the grass, enjoying time on the water, hiking or biking, or having a BBQ with family and friends. These precious months can help us grow in our appreciation for God's goodness and beauty in creation as well as enable us to grow in a spirit of thanksgiving for God's many blessings. As we bask in the sun, we can open our minds and hearts to communing with God who is so present in nature. On June 7th, our Parish and the Town of Lunenburg celebrated the 263rd anniversary of their foundation. Already present were First Nations people and some Acadians. Over the years, the town and parish have grown. There have been challenges along the way as well as growth spurts and many good times. There are many newcomers in town, several with families and small children. Our Sunday school and nursery program can be a resource to them and a way for them to get to know our parish.

Our Sunday school has experienced much growth under the leadership of very committed teachers and parents. We also have a Confirmation class with five young people. In both the Sunday school and Confirmation class we focus not only on our own learning and friendship but we look outward to the community and world. The older class has been looking at the Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church, through a number of projects. With your support and generosity, they have raised funds to provide clean drinking water for 100 people. They've also looked at the education of girls and opportunities for women as they learned about Malala and her powerful story. The Sunday school has visited Harbour View Haven, making Christmas ornaments for the residents, supported a local family with much needed assistance, learned about the crisis in Syria and have been supporters of the Ayash family in coming to Canada. These are just some of the ways the Sunday school have looked outward at the community and world asking, 'What can we do to help? What can we do to make a difference to the lives of others?'

Friends, this focus on the world is not only for Sunday school. Bishop Ron Cutler continues to remind us that the work of the church is for the world. This is where the Great Commission of Jesus calls us: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. There is much to think about and study in the months ahead with major decisions in the area of assisted dying and the blessing of same sex relationships. Holly and I wish you a pleasant and enjoyable summer.



Your brother in Christ,
Michael+

Music At St. John's

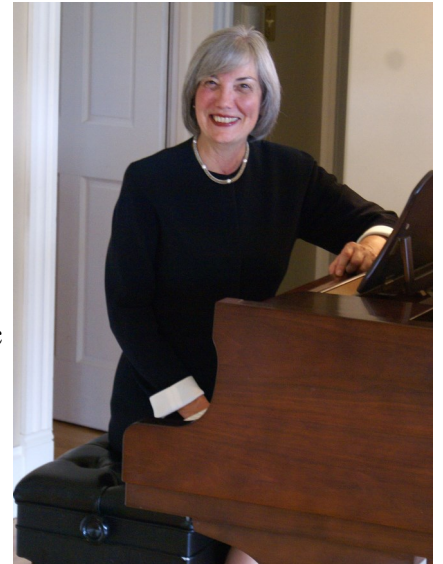
A note from Barbara.....

Announcing a New Series of Music and Meditation

For the past ten years we have presented a program called 'Music and Meditation', half hour musical presentations each Wednesday at noon throughout Advent and Lent. Beginning in summer, 2016, we plan to continue with a similar format through the summer months. 'Wednesdays at Noon' will begin on June 29 featuring the Madrigal Singers and continue each Wednesday with presentations by various guest artists. There will be 10 presentations in all and the series will conclude on August 31 at noon with Deep Harmony Brass. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Edmund Brownless will conduct a choral workshop during Boxwood week that will involve our chancel choir. At the end of the week special music will be presented at the 10:30 service on July 31 featuring our choir and special guests from the Boxwood Festival.

Barbara



3rd Annual St. John's Mother's Day Brunch – May 28

What's in a name? Well, when it comes to the ladies of the parish, the name 'Strata' means two things: scrumptious food and excellent service! About 68 women and children were served a variety of delicious 'Strata' by 15 men of the parish. Strata comes from the Italian word meaning: layers. It consists of layers of egg, cream, mushrooms, green onions, cheese and bread with either bacon, ham or vegetarian. Holly Mitchell led a Mother's Day prayer and told the ladies that it was also International 'Gorgeous Grandma's Day'. Heather Eisenhower thanked the men of the parish for organizing the Brunch once again this year. Everyone enjoyed themselves and are already looking forward to next year's brunch.

Graduates from St. John's Parish

Congratulations to all the student parishioners of St. John's Parish who are graduating from elementary school into high school, as well as those students who are graduating from high school. We know of the following students who are graduating from high school:

Katie Dauphinee, Sam Mack, Sarah Mosher, Colby Rafuse.

Congratulations to our University graduating students:

Jean Clarke, Sarah Mack, Alex Knickle, Brittany Gerhardt

Resolution before the July gathering of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada on the Marriage of Same Sex Couples

A resolution will be brought for discussion and decision to the General Synod in July which asks General Synod to allow the marriage of same sex couples in church. This has been a matter which has been before Canadians and Anglicans for several years.

On July 20, 2005, Canada became the fourth country in the world, and the first country outside Europe, to legalize same-sex marriage nationwide with the enactment of the Civil Marriage Act which provided a gender-neutral marriage definition. Court decisions, starting in 2003, had already legalized same-sex marriage in eight out of ten provinces and one of three territories, whose residents comprised about 90% of Canada's population. Before passage of the Act, more than 3,000 same-sex couples had already married in those areas. Most legal benefits commonly associated with marriage had been extended to cohabiting same-sex couples since 1999 (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia).

In 2013 the General Synod passed a resolution directing the drafting of a motion “to change Canon XXI on marriage to allow the marriage of same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-sex couples, and that this motion should include a conscience clause so that no member of the clergy, bishop, congregation or diocese should be constrained to participate in or authorize such marriages against the dictates of their conscience.” Such a motion will be considered by the 2016 General Synod (Anglican Journal).

Following the 2013 General Synod, the Primate put in place a Commission on the Marriage Canon. This group invited submissions from members of the Anglican Church of Canada between April 28 and September 30, 2014. A great number of submissions were received from individuals, schools, diocese and parishes. These have been posted on line at: <http://www.anglican.ca/about/ccc/cogs/cmc/submissions/>

Around the same time, our parish of St. John's had carried out a broad consultation before presenting Rev. Louis Quennelle to our Bishops, to be received as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. Louis and his spouse, Robert MacMillan are active parishioners and were married in the United Church. The consultation allowed for gatherings of large groups, smaller gatherings as well opportunities for individuals to speak privately with the Rector and to write their concerns or support in writing. This was a very valuable experience for us all allowing anyone who wished to have their opinion listened to with respect and care. After more than a year of consultation, the Parish Council voted unanimously to present Louis for reception as a priest in our parish and diocese.

Parish Council has taken up this matter and has committed to a period of study and consultation following the July meeting of General Synod. The following two motions were approved by Parish Council at their May 26th meeting. Letters were sent to Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada and Chair of the House of Bishops and to Bishop Ron Cutler, our Diocesan Bishop.

Motion 1

The members in attendance of the Parish Council of St. John's, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia to write a letter to both Bishop Ron Cutler and The House of Bishops, confirming that the members of this Parish Council believes that all love is consecrated by God and that a covenant relationship between any two people in mutual love is a sacramental reflection of a relationship between God and the Church. As we hold this to be true, we urge Bishop Ron Cutler and the House of Bishops to support a resolution that will be before the General Synod this summer to change the Anglican Church of Canada's marriage canon to allow same sex marriage.

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Resolution before the July gathering of General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada on the Marriage of Same Sex Couples - Continued

Motion 2

The subject of same-sex marriage is a contemporary and very personal issue. As such, the Parish of St. John's Lunenburg commits, over the course of the next 12 months (through June 2017), to conduct a process of broad consultation with parishioners that will combine an educational component on the process to change current Anglican Church doctrine while gaining a stronger understanding of our parishioners views on the direction the church should be taking. In addition, we will request that the Diocese encourage other Parishes to take a similar approach to provide the Diocese and the General Synod broader ground roots input and guidance to develop an appropriate plan of action.

You are encouraged to write both Archbishop Fred and Bishop Ron about this, freely expressing your views. Contact information is found at the end of this article.

It is important to remember the process of a change in a matter of doctrine. The resolution must pass with a 2/3 majority in the three 'houses' of General Synod, the laity, the clergy and the bishops. If it passes, before any change is made, it will be sent to the wider church for further study and then brought forward at the next General Synod meeting in 2019, where once again it must have a 2/3 majority in the three houses.

Let us commit ourselves to prayer for Archbishop Fred and all the members of General Synod, especially those from our Diocese of NS & PEI.

Contact information

The Most Rev'd Fred J. Hiltz
Primate of All Canada
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street,
Toronto,
Ontario
M4Y 3G2

Email: primate@national.anglican.ca

The Rt. Rev'd Ron Cutler
Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island
1340 Martello Street
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Physician Assisted Death in Canada

Canadians and Anglicans across the country are coming to terms with a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in February of 2015 which ruled that adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions are entitled to physician assisted suicide. The House of Commons has passed Legislation to govern and regulate this matter which is currently before the Senate of Canada.

Legislation on euthanasia in Canada distinguishes between passive euthanasia (withholding or withdrawing of life-preserving procedures including water and food) and active euthanasia (intentionally killing a person to relieve pain). Whereas passive euthanasia is legal in Canada, active euthanasia was previously prohibited under the criminal code as a form of culpable homicide. The prohibition on voluntary euthanasia was overturned in a February 2015 decision by the Supreme Court (*Carter v Canada (AG)*), which ruled that adults with grievous and irremediable medical conditions are entitled to physician assisted suicide. The ruling was stayed by the court, and will not take effect until June 6th, 2016 so as to allow time for the government to amend the criminal code. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euthanasia_in_Canada)

The Anglican Church has been talking about this since about 1975. The first report that came out [was] on “[Considerations Concerning] the Passage from Life to Death,” and so the conversation has been going round as various challenges to the law have come up. One of the key things in our conversations is how do we look at the special risks for people in society...who are already vulnerable by the nature of their illness? - Bishop Jane Alexander, Diocese of Edmonton

Bishop Stephen Andrews of the Diocese of Algoma has written the following letter which is a good introduction to this subject.

“There’s a concern that there might be social or family coercion or dealing with people who have got undiagnosed depression and the pressures of all of those kinds of things for very vulnerable people... We don’t quite know how this picture is going to unfold.

“In the church we spend a lot of time with people who are really suffering and facing all kinds of end-of-life decisions... We want to protect... human dignity all the way through and working out how people confront death because we don’t live in a society that has totally always embraced... that sooner or later it happens. And [the question is] how can we support people at those times of their lives when they are in the most difficult situations of trying to make decisions?

“I suspect that one of the questions that families might have for chaplains and clergy is, 'Do you think I am doing the right thing?' Those kinds of conversations are going to be very difficult to walk alongside because it is for people to make those decisions for themselves. Our job is to be there and provide prayerful and loving support and to proclaim hope even in these darkest of times.

“There are Christians who will be on both sides of the discussion that's going to happen and they'll begin from the same starting place... from the sovereignty of God. Both groups will want to protect human dignity, preserve the freedom of individual peoples, choose how to confront our frailty, and in the face of death, they'll all view life as a gift that has been given to us... We do understand that we are called to have hope in suffering and in suffering we find God, but that doesn't imply that we think people should be having painful deaths, which is why I think, for us, there's been a real push in terms of palliative care and hospice care.”

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Physician Assisted Death in Canada

As a parish, we will find opportunities to engage in discussion and study about assisted death in the months to come. One of the primary concerns is current levels of palliative care and hospice care in Nova Scotia and in particular, on the South Shore. The need is very great and is increasing and current resources are woefully insufficient. You are encouraged to make your views known to Premier Stephen McNeil as well as to the Minister of Health, the Honourable Leo Glavine.

Let us hold fellow Canadians in prayer, especially those who are in any form of suffering.

<p>The Honourable Stephen McNeil Premier of Nova Scotia PO Box 726 Halifax, NS Canada B3J 2T3 Phone Number (902) 424-6600 Email: premier@gov.ns.ca</p>	<p>The Honourable Leo Glavine Department of Health and Wellness P.O. Box 488 Halifax, NS B3J 2R8 Phone: (902) 424-3377 Fax: (902) 424-0559 Health.Minister@novascotia.ca</p>
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Online Resources that may help you while you consider this issue:

Dalhousie Medical School http://eol.law.dal.ca/?page_id=236

Anglican resources

<http://www.anglicanjournal.com/articles/anglicans-weigh-in-on-right-to-die-ruling>

Care in Dying

<http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/care-in-dying.pdf>

Submission to the Special Joint Committee on Physician Assisted Dying

The Anglican Church of Canada

http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/HOC/Committee/421/PDAM/Brief/BR8092304/br-external/2016-02-03_PDAM_brief_Anglican_Church_of_Canada_e-e.pdf

Nova Scotia

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/assisted-suicide-nova-scotia-college-physicians-surgeon-1.3405300>

Palliative Care in NS

<http://novascotia.ca/dhw/palliativecare/>

Sunday School

There is so much to share with you since our last Newsletter, from Lenten activities to Sunday School closing.

Class II distributed hand painted mugs, filled with treats to parishioners on February 14th and 21st, at the 10:30 service. These projects are to foster relationships between the youth and other members of our parish. Several parishioners sent in tokens of their appreciation. Lilian Hall expressed her pleasure in the meaning of this gift and reminisced of her days as Director of the Sunday School at Saint John's, Barbara Simonds sent in a can of cookies and Gill Osmond prepared a lovely card with a picture of the church. This proved to be a great lesson in the "Gift of Giving".

Each Sunday in the month of March there was a main activity relating to our Lenten lessons. The first Sunday, all three groups of students read an age appropriate story about the "Washing of Feet". Nursery and Class I created craft related activities and Class II made foot scrub. All classes joined together to make pretzels the second week of March and came together to colour Easter Eggs the third week. This year, Easter Sunday fell on the fourth Sunday of the month which is dedicated to be more free flowing for families of young children. They certainly participated fully with their regular assigned duties and readings. Father Michael presented the Children's Easter message in front of two of our Church's appointed stain glass windows, then they were invited to the font for renewal of Baptismal vows and finally to the Altar to watch over the Communion preparation. Families received Communion/Blessings together and then gathered outside for a fun Easter Egg Hunt in the courtyard. Lots of movement!!! My apologies in advance to the "Spring Clean Up" folks for any unfound treasures....

There were many fun projects during the month of May that focused on Mother's Day. Our Nursery assembled crafts and colouring activities, Class I made birdhouses and Class II presented tea cups full of pansies at Sunday Service on Mother's Day. Thanks to all members of the congregation who helped to make this project possible by donating their lovely cups.

Class II is working on a project they read about in the Gifts for Mission program through PWRDF..... "Provide the Gift of Water to a Community". They organized several fundraising events in the hopes of raising \$300.00 by the end of June. The funds will be used in the construction of a borehole, dug to create a well in one of the many villages in the world where they have no access to clean water. The absence of a local well not only involves extensive time and effort, but threatens the wellbeing of those who go out each day in search of water for their families.

A bottle drive was held Sunday May 15th between the 8:30 and 10:30 services. Thanks to everyone's donations of bottles and money they raised \$75.20. We are grateful for all your support. Special thanks to Missy and Daren Romkey for use of their truck that day and standing in a great downpour of rain to deliver them at the depot. Showers of blessings.

Next the children set up a lemonade stand at 10:30 service, **with additional donations, this brought the total raised to over \$500.00. Well done!!!!**

The leaders and assistants met on May 15th between Sunday services. We had very exciting news to share. Wayne Dodge will be joining us this fall as part of our teaching staff. He will be such a great role model to all our students, both as an example of "living your faith" and especially as a mentor to our young male students. Sebastian Haumering will assist Wayne on those days and continue to do duty on Family Sundays.

Sunday School Continued

The Sunday School worked together with the Parish Council to make the Sunday School closing a fun time for all generations with a BBQ and games after the 10:30 service on June 5th. Thanks to Jeff Nodding for all his time and effort organizing all the games and to Sherry Skinner with her lovely craft table of bird and light houses to decorate and a plant potting station. Jane Ritcey and her team did their magic, providing everyone with lots to eat including a cake with M&M's on top!

Summer is here but we want to stay connected with our families and friends so we are planning two family fun activities. We will have a Pool Party on Friday July 22nd for all ages. This will be a fun relaxed evening of fellowship around or in the pool and hot dogs, drinks and watermelon will be provided. Then on August 26th, hopefully it will be a clear night, we will have an outside movie night. We will bring the popcorn....you just bring your blankets and lawn chairs!!!!

I would like to give a big thanks all the leaders who gave so much of their personal time for another successful year at Saint John's Sunday School/Nursery....Emmi Fraser, Viola Green, Louise Holbrook, Lisa McCabe, Lori Nickerson, Brooke Nodding, Christina Pottie, Missy Romkey, Sherry Skinner, Chasity Spindler and our assistants Laura Eisner, Alex Payne and Nikki Saunders. Cheers Ladies!!!!

Sunday School will reopen on Sunday September 18th, 2016 at the 10:30am service.

Submitted by Rena Demone

Montage of June 5th - And At The End There's Always Cake



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