Blessing of the Nets: a Blessing in Disguise

by John E. Montgomery, Trinity Church, Port Burwell

Blessing of the Nets ceremonies are often held for fish harvesters inside the church... but that's not good enough for the brave souls in Port Burwell, Ontario.

Rather “snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor the darkness of night” (apologies to Harold, the postman) is going to stop the priest in her duty of blessing the nets. Rev. Adèle Miles tries to keep the rain off her face, hair and vestments in the rainy March 2010 weather while she blesses the nets. She almost looks like a fish harvester herself. The blessing took place in front of Martin’s fish harvesting enterprise on the Coal Flats in Port Burwell. To celebrate, Trinity Church Port Burwell made sure that fish shaped cookies were on hand. The cookies, though not as tasty as Lake Erie perch, reminded us of the day.

Fish harvesters such as the Martins at Port Burwell have said that the nets this year are especially abundant with fish caught from Lake Erie; they are very happy with the harvesting. There is something exciting about a blessing that exceeds beyond hope.

Next year or the year after the Blessing of the Nets may take place at a different location; Port Burwell harbour has been selected as the site for the HMCS Ojibwa, a Cold War era submarine, a crown jewel in Bayham’s effort to renew the town and harbour. Up to 100,000 visitors is possible. However, Jan Raven, Curator of the Elgin Military Museum, noted that the enterprise to bring the submarine to Port Burwell has just begun.

The Blessing of the Nets traces its origin to the moment Jesus told the apostles, while they were still on the other side of their boat if they wished to catch fish. This biblical story reminds fish harvesters that God’s blessing and providence is crucial to their enterprise.

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God’s blessing, whether its fish or tourists... will help keep alive the hopes that surround the harbor of Port Burwell.

BAC Conference 2010 a great success!

by Francis Richardson

On April 23-25, the Diocesan Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen held its annual conference in the Deanery of the Saugeneens at Owen Sound and Meaford. This year the conference took the form of a retreat for the men of the diocese. The topic for the retreat was “Spirituality and Stewardship”. It was lead by Canon Bill Cliff. Our banquet speaker was the Rev’d Gerry Adam, Director of Huron Church Camp. Also attending was The Rev’d Terry Dance, Bishop of Norfolk, who reflected on the Five Marks of Mission and how they related to our Spirituality and Stewardship. He also lead us in the Eucharist on Saturday afternoon.

The conference started with an invitation for the BAC members to join the congregation of St. George’s, Owen Sound, at their Patronal Dinner on Friday night. On Saturday, Canon Bill made it very clear the challenges we all have if we want to be relevant to the youth of our diocese. During the day, we broke into small groups to describe what is being done in individual chapters and how we can benefit from sharing with each other. Following the Eucharist at Christ Church, Meaford, we met at the Land Force Training Centre in Meaford for our banquet and to listen to Gerry Adam. She described, quite clearly and emotionally, how Huron Church Camp is meeting the needs of many of our youth and what the BAC can do to help.

On Sunday morning we all gathered for Holy Communion at St. Thomas, Owen Sound. Following a fellowship breakfast, members headed back to their parishes with the hope that many of us would not only gather next year but bring more members with us. Next year is the 60th anniversary of the BAC Annual Conference started so positively in 1951 by Bishop Luxton. We invite all men of the diocese to consider attending this important annual conference. Information on date and location will be forthcoming in subsequent issues of the HCN.
Know the Story - Love the Story - Live the Story

The Lawyer Questions

When I am teaching bible studies, I have to find ways to deal with many of the questions which the folks in the New Testament days had for Jesus and his brilliant answers which are delivered almost entirely by parables. The questions that Jesus get asked are usually loaded ones, and you may remember them.

“How many times must I forgive?” or “Is it lawful to pay tax to the Emperor?” or even “Who is my neighbour?”

These questions are not far from other questions which come up in my office all of the time. These are questions like “Does this essay have to be ten pages?” or “What size font can I use in my paper so that I have to write less?” or “Exactly how much reading can I do before I find out in my seminar course?”

These questions are actually the same. I call them “Lawyer Questions” because they are asked of Jesus by people who are trying to sort out the limits of their responsibility to God and to other people, and they are asked of me in my office of those who are looking to do the bare minimum of work for the credit they need.

Lawyer questions, when asked of Jesus, can be put on the teacher’s side of the ledger. They are an attempt to determine the minimum righteousness requirements that Jesus taught and the path of least resistance to heaven. Lawyer questions are about the edges of discipleship, not its depth. This is why I believe that Jesus taught his most powerful teaching, parables - trying to make those who were looking for the easy way, the most minimalistic what God expected of them - of the depth of God's love and passion for them. A love and a passion which is not content with half measures or the edges of what will be acceptable, but rather an inordinate love which plumbs the depths of what it is to love another - holding nothing back.

But this is the real definition of the lawyer questions that Jesus asked. Ask God about it. We are about to enter Thanksgiving “season” in the church. Asking God what the least requirements of the way to enter a relationship with God might keep you from knowing the depths of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ. Don’t worry so much about “getting it right” or keeping the ledger topped up on the good deeds vs. sins. In the end, God isn’t looking at the ledger that is kept out of your heart and its story in the One who gave it all away for you.

Rev. Canon William G. Clift
wcliff@uwo.ca  Chaplain, Huron University College

Via the Media

What is Scripture? Three short words that I think need to be addressed to sort out the ongoing issues in the Anglican Communion. I base that opinion on considerable reading of media relating to things Anglican. Not surprisingly, the secular media doesn’t understand the nuances of the discussion and much of the church media was more in a debate than education about any direction one way or the other. Thus, the general public can get a rather skewed idea of the breadth of understanding that exists.

I think we are all comfortable in talking about Scripture and I think we are bound to continue splitting and splitting until the Christian Church is so far divided that it is next impossible to have any sense of the unity that Christ wanted for His Church.

When presented with issues related to Scripture, one often hears statements that leave no room for discussion or study. They are put forward in a way that indicates that the position is the only one possible if one is to be a follower of Christ. This seems to me that a full discussion of the way society seems to be moving. More and more we read of these strident, take it or leave it arguments, as presented as the only possible truth. The gulf between sides so many fronts appears to me to be widening.

What distresses me the most, from a Christian perspective, is the unwillingness to even discuss the possibility of moving even slightly, from ironclad positions. Add to that, launching into complex arguments based on Scripture, but the immovable assumption is that there is only one position for each of us on the interpretation of Scripture. My oft unpopular position is that there is always room to be further informed and to weigh more ideas. I can honestly say that my time in charismatic, AngloCatholic, liberal, academic and many other places has informed my understanding of God’s Word. It’s a difficult place to be at times, trying to juggle the various strains of thought, but to me it is faith building. I grieve when a conversation ends because someone insists that only their position can be right.


The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything”
Julian of Norwich

Blessings
Bishop Bob Bennett

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Pastoral Progressions

Appointments

Archdeacon Allan Livingstone
Archdeacon Allan Livingstone, rector, St. George’s, Goderich, was appointed Archdeacon of Huron/Perth effective Sunday, August 29th. The service of collation will take place on Sunday, October 17th at 7pm at St. George’s, Goderich.

Church Closure
On Saturday, August 21, Rev. Grayhame Bowcott (Deacon in charge of St. John’s-by-the Lake, Grand Bend) and Jacqueline Marr were married. Best wishes are extended to Pat and Janette.

Wedding

Best Wishes

Bob Eastwood
Bob Eastwood, brother of Canon Marian Haggerty (Canon Pastor, Diocese of Huron and Rector of Holy Trinity, London), died on August 26, 2010. A funeral service was held in London.

Jodi Hayden
We have received word of the death of Jodi Hayden, daughter in law of Archdeacon Dennis Hayden and Diane Hayden. Jodi died in a vehicle accident on July 26, 2010. The funeral service was held in Edmonton, Alberta.

Marla Dykstra

Joan Grogan
Joan Grogan, mother of Rev. Gerry Adam, died on August 11th, 2010. A funeral took place on August 16th in Oakville.

Georgina Simmons
Georgina Simmons, mother of Archdeacon Gordon Simmons (retired), died on August 18th, 2010. A funeral took place on August 23rd in Oxford Centre.

Rev. Colin Johnson
Rev. Colin Johnson, Deacon St. Andrew’s, LaSalle, died on August 24th, 2010. A memorial service took place September 4th at St. Andrew’s, LaSalle.

Baby News
Rev. Dwayne Bos and Peggy (on leave with Diocese of Huron and is a Military Chaplain) announce with great pride the birth of Addison Faith.

Rest In Peace
Olga Veleria Dugan
Olga Veleria Dugan, daughter in law of Archdeacon James Dugan. Died July 31st, 2010. The funeral service was held in Toledo, Ohio.

Church Closure
On September 14th @ 7pm, Bishop Terry Dance officiated at the Service of Thanksgiving and Deconsecration of St. Paul’s, Thedford.

A Grain of Salt

The Fate of the Thankless
North American thanksgiving celebrations have their roots in an agricultural based economy. The timing of the celebration coincides with the completion of the Harvest. In all of my lifetime we have decorated at Thanksgiving with the fruit of the harvest – vegetables, fruit, colorful leaves and that sort of thing. In today’s economy we could well base Thanksgiving on all kinds of other things – perhaps it should be in January after the retail industry has had its Christmas harvest for the year or perhaps it should be in late spring after the financial markets have passed through their traditional season of prosperity. However we view the provision that we receive we stop and give thanks at this time of the year or perhaps it should be in January after the retail industry has had its Christmas harvest for the year or perhaps it should be in late spring after the financial markets have passed through their traditional season of prosperity. However we view the provision that we receive we stop and give thanks at this Thanksgiving season. And that rightly so. As Psalm 100:4-5 says: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

But what if the harvest has been poor? Do we still give thanks? And if we do give thanks does it come from the heart or do we give lip service and desperately hope for something better next year? Paul wrote to the Thessalonians saying; “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV) And why would we do that? We rationalize and say things like: “We are still better off than others, or things could be worse,” but the real reason God would have us give thanks in all circumstances is that the act of giving thanks – even in bad times – is an act of putting your trust in the Lord. When I give thanks in the midst of trouble I am really saying: “Lord I trust you. I know you love me and you are working this for my good, not for my destruction.”

But when we give thanks in the midst of difficulty we had better mean it in our hearts. W. J. Cameron wrote; “It is literally true, as the thankless say, that they have nothing to be thankful for. He who sits by the fire, thankless for the fire is just as if he had no fire.” The fate of the thankless is indeed to have nothing to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Richard Salt
Rector of Trinity Church Sarnia
Archdeacon of Kent/Lambton

tel: 519-542-9261
fax: 519-542-5876

Bishops’ Award for Excellence in Ministry

Bishop Bob Bennett and Bishop Terry Dance Invite the people of the Diocese of Huron to Celebrate Wonderful Ministries at:

The Bishops’ Award for Excellence in Ministry

Sunday, November 7, 2010
The Cathedral Church of Saint Paul London
5 p.m.

IS THERE A YOUNG ARTIST IN YOUR CHURCH?

Archbishop Colin R. Johnson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, is holding an art contest for all young Anglicans and Lutherans (ages 15-19) who live in the Province. The purpose of the competition is to celebrate the herm of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The top three entries will be published in a full-page ad in The Toronto Star on Dec. 22, 2010. The top 50 entries will be posted online. All participants will receive a letter of thanks and encouragement from the Archbishop.

The deadline for artwork is Nov. 1, 2010.
For full details about how to enter, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/christmas2010.

The Archbishops Christmas Ad Express your faith
THE POTTER’S HAND
BISHOP’S CONFERENCE ON PRAYER
Sponsored by the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
Saturday October 23rd, 2010
9:30-4:00
Pre-registration Is Required
Register By October 8th, 2010

Our Guest Speaker:
We have the pleasure this year of experiencing the wonder of a true storyteller in the person of the Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
a Anglican Minister in Eastern Ontario.
We will experience the majesty and awe of being in the Potter’s hand as we move from a lump of wet clay to the incredible vessel that God has named for God’s love and grace.

The Potter’s Hand
After the potter has placed the clay on the wheel, the first task becomes centering it. In our lives as the clay on the wheel, the first task becomes for God’s love and grace.

This form is fashioned with water, just as we are fashioned in the waters of new birth in baptism. This spiritual formation allows us to withstand the heat of the firing process as we are challenged in our daily walk with our Savior. As we spend time in the fire with Christ beside us we grow stronger in our faith. We are strengthened for proclamation and service. Each vessel is unique. Each vessel is a different hue and depth of colour. Each vessel is made for God’s purpose.

Come and discover the hue and depth of colour.
Our camp is not for profit and we provide a limited number of full and partial bursaries to those

What do false teeth, a disco ball, and cigarette butts have in common?
We ask for your help in promoting the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in your community. It is a national conservation program which encourages Canadians coast to coast to make a difference by removing litter from along local shorelines and thus protecting our oceans and waterways. This national conservation program began in 1994 with a handful of Vancouver Aquarium employees and volunteers who wanted to make an immediate effect on their local shorelines. In 2010, there are currently over 650 cleanup sites registered across Canada, over 200 of them in Ontario alone.

In 2009, nearly 57,000 Canadians registered to clean up 1,568 sites across Canada. Nearly 161,000 kg of litter was removed from a cumulative distance of 2,500 km of shoreline, which is equivalent to the approximate driving distance from Vancouver to the Manitoba/Ontario border. In Ontario alone, over 45,000 kg of litter was removed from 916 km of shorelines across 490 cleanup sites.

Some of the more unusual items found in the past include a message in a bottle (the message said, “Please don’t litter”), false teeth, a living room set, a canoe made out of duct tape, wedding dress, disco ball, a hotel safe, a tobbogan, a mini trampoline and a clothesline complete with poles and pans.

For some of the campers, this is the only time that they have the opportunity to hear the stories of Jesus and to learn about the love of God. There is no better way to teach the children the love of God than by showing it on a daily basis. Each year, God blesses us with the ability to provide such a great summer camp. We are truly blessed!

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VIVA! Brings New Direction to All Saints’ in Downtown Windsor

by Archdeacon Kim Van Allen for The Leadership Team of All Saints, Windsor

All Saints’ is nestled in the heart of Downtown Windsor. In the shadow of the casino, we long to make our light shine! Wardens and Clergy met with Bishop Ed Leidel, our former Diocesan Congregational Coach Leader. Bishop Ed advised that the VIVA program would help us centre our growing activity in a way that was right for us and the community of Windsor. He encouraged us to tell you about our journey through the VIVA process so that you might consider such an undertaking for your own parish.

We had already developed new insight through The Rev. Eleanor Caruana’s Stewardship Program. We also fully embraced the recommendations of the ‘Who Is My Neighbour’ report and continue to make the changes suggested. All of these initiatives were part of our first long strategy to develop direction and strengthen our ministry. We were finding that new ideas were popping out of the woodwork so much that it was difficult to discern what our priorities should be. We needed to create a purpose for our energy and resources.

Three Saturdays were dedicated to the work of creating a statement of where our ministry is today, a vision of where we want to be in two years, goals to help us get there, a stronger understanding of our resources and an action plan. All parish members were invited to participate in the first three steps of the process. Eighteen accepted the invitation. Parish Council did the work around resources so that ongoing discussion and follow-up would have a ready-made forum as we progress through our goal implementation over the next two years.

The initial VIVA session, ‘VIVA One’ led us through a wonderful, fun-filled discussion of the kind of ministry that we love to do and do well. All Saints’ has the reputation of being an historically traditional parish as many downtown churches are, but that description misses the creative aspect of worship and outreach that has happened here for a few decades.

Everyone knows that Windsor’s economy is in critical need of a boost and we have tried to respond to direct need as well as underlying systemic issues. Our Identity Statement (the statement that VIVA One creates captures where a parish is now in terms of ministry) says that All Saints’ is an inclusive Christian Community that longs to fully embrace its gifts and engage the world in God’s life-giving Spirit. We celebrated the language of longing to do more, taking the statement to our two congregations explaining this picture of ourselves with a schematic that the VIVA process provides. This was copied for people to take home and communicated in newsletters and on our bulletin board display.

The people and clergy of All Saints’ long to make the world a better place with God’s help. If that is who we are, where do we want to go?

Bishop Ed returned two weeks later for another Saturday dedicated to ‘VIVA Two’. As stated, we love our history, where we have been, but we want to continue that fine tradition as we journey forward. Creating partnerships with other community groups has been one of the ways that All Saints’ has undertaken to make a difference. We do not try to reinvent the wheel, but are willing to join other groups or invite them to participate in our work. In that way we increase the impact of our time, energy, and resources.

Nonetheless at the end of the day, we are inspired by powerful words reflected in our Vision Statement (where we want to be in two years). After we had created the sentence, we did discuss whether the language ‘catalyst for transformative change’ was too strong a representation of where we want to go. Was it too radical? Was it realistic? In the end, we decided to trust the process and God’s presence with us as we embraced our new vision statement:

‘Anchored in the strength of our community and revitalized by God’s life-giving Spirit, All Saints’ will be a fresh catalyst for transformative change.’

Our Congregational Coach encouraged us to work through VIVA Three and Four on our own. This would help us learn how to develop goals and priorities ourselves in the future.

Understanding who we are and where we want to be in two short years, we had to agree on four goals that would help us get there. Our goals are strong statements that speak to significant initiatives by all ministry leaders at All Saints’. This is not a task for parish clergy alone, but will include all the baptized with gifts and energy to share! We decided that we will:

1. Offer visible, meaningful community leadership through programs, our spiritual presence and partnerships.
2. Grow through nurturing and diverse worship.
3. Welcome, educate, nurture and retain new people and keep current members through community-building activities.
4. Support our outreach programs.

As mentioned, VIVA Four was undertaken by Parish Council who created a substantial list of our external resources such as existing partners and grants providers. We then prepared two celebratory worship services to highlight the six weeks of the VIVA process. Our logo was a gift from a member and designed by a staff person at the University of Windsor. It captures our downtown location, our diverse membership and ministry, as well as our desire to transform with God’s help. We are fired up and ready to roll! Bishop Leidel preached at our ‘Kickoff Sunday’ encouraging us to keep the fire burning in our hearts! A former Rector of All Saints’, Bishop Peck preached at our wrap-up service at the end of May congratulating the people for their continued faith in God’s presence in our lives. The media were invited and covered our adventure with pictures and an article in the Windsor Star.

Now things are never as ideal as they seem and short visits to complete due to vacations and illnesses. As recommended in the Who Is My Neighbour report, we made a decision to create a position for an Assistant Curate for two years. All Saints’ took a leap in faith and it has created a new role that ministry multiplies with a clergy team. Unfortunately, at the same time as our staffing decision was made, the stock market fell...
A Big Thank-you from Huron Church Camp

We give thanks to God for another summer filled with faith, fun and friends as we gathered in Christ’s name!


Blessings!

Contact HHC at 519-565 2822 or huronchurchcamp@gmail.com

One Child’s Journey towards Vision 2019

by Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle
Assistant Curate, All Saints’ Church, Windsor

Among the participants in the Fall 2009 Essex Deanery Vision 2019 program was a young girl named Sydney. As a way to promote her understanding of the theme “to transform unjust structures of society”, Sydney was given the opportunity to assist at the All Saints’ Clothing Cupboard – a program which provides free clothing Tuesday mornings September to June. Acting as guide and secretary, in that short morning she came face to face with the various clients who come seeking warmth, hospitality and something to wear.

In her mind, she also came face to face with an angel named Richard. He was one of the last clients.

Blessings!

Contact HHC at 519-565 2822 or huronchurchcamp@gmail.com

U2charist III

Friday October 22nd, 2010 at 8 pm

St Paul’s Cathedral

Come worship God to the wonder with tribute band, “Elevation”. This service is for everyone to enjoy and dance and listen to the music.

Below are some photos from the U2charist held at St. Paul’s in October of 2008.

Sing for joy
June has been a busy month at St. Columba, Waterloo. On June 5th many parishioners along with family and friends enjoyed a wonderful lobster dinner organized by Sonny and Boyd Field.

The annual Fun Fair and Yard sale was held on June 12th. In spite of some concern about the weather the attendance was excellent. As always the bouncy castle and games organized by Penny Dajko and Kelly and Mark Velle were a hit with the children. Ian Davis and his helpers provided wonderful sausage and hamburgers for the BBQ. The ACW sold everything from plants to a sewing machine at the Yard Sale.

Lobster Dinner and Fun Fair at St. Columba

Below: Joyce Jones and Rev. Julia Gill at the yard sale.

Chef Collin at the salad bar.

Sonny Field demonstrates the correct way to eat a lobster.

Gary, John, Ian and Owen ready to BBQ.

St. Columba children enjoying the games.

U2charist III
October 22, 2010
St. Paul's Cathedral

by Katie-Scarlett MacGillivray

The service is free and offerings are put towards the initiative of the night: one of “12 for 12”. After each CLAY (now called CLAY, Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth Gathering), there is a two-year challenge for CLAY attendees to share with their churches, deaneries, and dioceses. The CLAY National Planning Committee announced that our goal is “12 for 2012” - to build 12 sustainable communities in developing countries by 2012. Money gets put towards this project through Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). It costs $5000 for one community to be built and at previous U2charists our efforts have raised $7500 for Mthatha and $5000 for Keishamma Trust. Thus, I believe that together in one night we can raise the money to build a sustainable community (and enjoy some great music at the same time)!

After such a fabulous CLAY gathering with our fellow Lutherans, I couldn’t imagine any other way of celebrating such a great night than with them! Thus, I ask you to invite not only your Anglican friends and neighbours, but also your neighbouring Evangelical Lutheran Parishes and Parishioners to join us in this terrific effort to help others around the world and celebrate God. Together we can make a difference.

For the amazing Youth Groups (containing 1 or more Youth), our Annual Pizza Party is being held at the Cathedral at 6:30 pm (before the service). Each group is asked to raise as much money as possible for the one of “12 for 12” and the team that raises the most will get a prize. This is a great way to start off your Church School year: raising money to help create a sustainable community in a developing country, enjoying a Pizza Party, and singing and dancing to U2. Please RSVP with your church name and the number of youth that plan to attend the party.

kmsmacgill@gmail.com -Katie-Scarlett MacGillivray.

Help ensure that this year’s U2CHARIST will raise the necessary $5000 to develop one of the “12 for 2012”.

U2Charist III
St. Paul’s Cathedral
472 Richmond Street
London, Ontario
N6A 3E6
(519) 434-3225

Youth Group Pizza Party
6:30 pm
Service begins
8:00 - 10:00 pm
Woodland Cemetery

Pre-Planning gives you the opportunity to make those decisions.

In central London there is a beautiful cemetery with many wagoning and biking paths, and a wealth of history. The striking mausoleum of Annie Peixley is one example. She was an internationally famous actress who appeared at London’s Grand Theatre, New York and across Europe. She died suddenly while visiting with relatives in England. Peixley Mausoleum is very theatrical, open during walking tours and Doors Open London.

Woodland is your Anglican Cemetery
Owned and operated by St. Paul’s Cathedral.

Crematorium, Mausoleum, Niches and Scattering Gardens
Kim Campbell, General Manager
493 Springbank Drive London, ON - 519-471-7450

Garden continued from page 6

for the morning and was wearing torn pants, shoes that looked a million years old, a torn t-shirt and no coat – in November. But he had a very kind face. He didn’t ask for much and was extremely grateful for all he received. He kept saying “thank you, thank you, thank you”. As Sydney reflects back on that meeting she says “his presence inspired me to do something for people like him”.

Her initial plan was to create a shelter for those in need, a place that would include housing, a community centre, educational opportunities and a garden. Those attending the Vision 2019 program were impressed by her ambitious idea and provided financial support. Buoyed by the support, Sydney made a commitment to making a difference but what could a nine year old do? With the help of her parents, she came up with an answer – build a garden for the women at the closed church next to the school. Sydney has made a commitment to continue her “Garden of Love” in the years to come but has also not forgotten her desire to create a “Shelter of Love and Peace”. She realizes her dream may take some time to come true and so what was left from her initial donations she gave back to the Clothing Cupboard to help facilitate renovations to make the space more functional and welcoming.

If you ask her, Sydney will tell you that creating the garden was easy – all she had to do was to trust in God and remember that love is the answer. Thank you to all who have provided support to Sydney in her efforts. She is extremely grateful for the faith you have shown in God and in her.

Huron University College, an affiliate of The University of Western Ontario, has launched a free mobile App for future and current students to stay informed on campus news and events wherever they are, through their smartphones.

The App allows students to filter information from categories to receive campus news, updates and reminders that are most relevant to them. Students are able to personalize their settings according to their academic program, interest in campus events, residence, etc., and will receive alerts for events and deadlines throughout the academic year.

Dr. Ramona Lumpkin, principal of Huron University College, believes the App will be very useful to students, especially in the small Huron community. “We believe that communication is closely related to student success, especially in a small community like Huron,” says Lumpkin. “Huron is proud to be one of the first Ontario universities to use this type of communication tool.”

Huron’s App is available for iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad and Blackberry smartphones. Huron’s mobile App can be downloaded from the App Store or by visiting Huron’s website at huronu.ca/mobile.

For more information please contact: Bonnie Crocker, Registrar, Huron University College, Office: 519-438-7224 ext. 285, Email: bcrocker2@huron.uwo.ca

Huron App

Winter of our Discontent

St. James’ Stratford learns that their roofs (both of them) were about to fall in…

by Jane Kirkpatrick, verger and Rector, Rev. Canon Dr. Lorne Mitchell

O n a winter Sunday in 2009, a parishioner was sitting contemplatively awaiting the beginning of the 10:30 worship service. With a start he realized he was looking at light between the ceiling beam and the plaster wall. This can’t be good, he thought, and promptly reported the situation to the wardens.

And then, on a cold afternoon three days after Christmas, churchwardens, members of the building and renovation committee and our rector sat down with structural engineer Bob Peterman. For over two months Peterman had been doing an analysis of our church roof structure. The purpose of the meeting that day was to clarify recommendations contained in his final report. What he heard was hard for us all to take in. In essence he told us that our roof had lost structural integrity, the walls in the nave had bowed out a total of 10 inches, the result of excessive weight from above, from the roof. And the rafters and beams of the roof structure were showing significant signs of stress. We needed to leave the church and begin repairs immediately. At that moment we were thrust onto a strange and unexpected journey.

It was not a good Christmas for the wardens, who made the decision to vacate the nave and establish a temporary worship space in the upper parish hall.

The first service was held there on January 17th. On January 30th, the day before our annual Vestry meeting, engineers notified wardens that in the course of scoping the work for the contractors they had discovered that the walls of the parish hall were in a worse condition than they had thought, and we would have to vacate that space as well.

With the help of our web master and a swiftly constructed telephone tree from the office manager, we managed to notify virtually everyone in the parish that services and Vestry were cancelled for the following day. By the next Sunday, we had established a chapel in our club room (now called the Upper Room) and had moved our 10:30 service and Church School to the Knights of Columbus Hall.

St. James’ parish cannot say enough good things about support they received from the churches and congregations in Stratford it was truly heart warming, and made a difficult situation not only tolerable but actually positive. We do send an extra special prayer of thanks and praise for Harry Visser and the Knights of Columbus who couldn’t have made us feel more welcome. Bishop Bob’s visit in February to worship with us made Harry’s day – and his Knights of Columbus newsletter.

Engineers and contractors worked through the winter installing tie rods in the upper parish hall; what a great team they have been to work with. And what joy to learn they were ahead of schedule and we could return home, at least to the hall, 2 weeks sooner than expected. It was another two months before we could resume services.
On Sunday, July 11th, 6 months and 14 days after that fateful day in December, regular Sunday worship returned to our newly restored church building.

In conversations that I have had over the summer with our Bishop of Huron, Bob Bennett, said that as bishop of this diocese he is both impressed and proud of the way the parish has risen to meet such a challenge. So am I.

Lorne Mitchell, rector

It’s wonderful to be home. But in talking with people recently, we are aware that through this experience we have all been changed. We have come to see that we really are a worshipping Christian family - wherever we gather.

Two of the main beams were found to have serious rot on the ends and those sections had to be completely replaced. When all was said and done the restoration project cost the parish $400,000. the engineer tells us that there is more work to be done in the next ten years and for that reason a Parish Capital Campaign is soon to begin.

We really had no idea... many timbers were severely rotted; the whole roof could have come down. Several huge timbers were replaced. Our relationships with one another and with God are very real and powerful and we have felt it throughout this difficult journey. But in addition to this we have learned that we shall never again take for granted the beautiful place of worship that has been given to us. Never.

We’ve kept this portion of rotted beam for posterity.

Working sixty feet in the air... and not directly on scaffolding but rather with safety ropes, the roof was opened with power saws to expose the rotting timbers for replacement.

A silent church but our cheery sign let the community know that we were down but not out.

The scaffolding needed was immense - both inside and outside the church. Reinforcing was done to the roof beams and also in the attic. Tie rods were installed and full structural integrity was assured.

Doug Hazen and his team of skilful tradesmen worked at top speed to complete what needed to be done.

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Canada Briefs

Building a new life
A single mother, four of her six children and one grandchild were scheduled to move in September to their new home in Regina’s inner city, thanks to members of the Anglican diocese of Qu'Appelle.

Construction began in September 2009, after the diocese raised $100,000 for the project of building the Habitat for Humanity house as part of the diocese’s 125th anniversary commemoration.

Our intention was and is to bear witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ by being an instrument of that love in reaching out to a family in need,” said Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, in a pastoral letter sent in June, seeking volunteers to complete the project.

The four-bedroom, two-storey house also has a large backyard.

The homeowners have already provided 500 hours of isweat equitý to Habitat for Humanity, and must be able to maintain a low interest mortgage. Coffee and lunch was provided for the volunteers, one of whom was Bishop Kerr-Wilson.

The Saskatchewan Anglican

Picturing Christmas
Calling Anglican and Lutheran artists, ages 13 to 19. Archbishop Colin Johnson, the ecclesiastical province of Ontario, is inviting youth from the province to submit an original artwork depicting the beauty of Christmas.

The top three winners will be published in a full-page ad celebrating the birth of Jesus in The Toronto Star on Dec. 22; the top 50 entries will be posted online. Submissions must be received by noon on Nov. 1, 2010.

Young people in our churches have an amazing amount of talent and a deep passion for God,” said Archbishop Johnson. “This is a way for them to show their talent and express their faith to the whole world.”

On Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Maandige: The Gathering

September 2009

Restoring the Circle Committee. A local response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

On Indian Residential Schools

Restoring the Circle is pleased to announce the publication of the report of Maandige: The Gathering, our September 2009 event.

Written and edited by Gloria Habart and The Rev. Claire Miller, with help from Roly Thomas, this book gives a brief look at the residential school system and a history of Restoring the Circle Committee and our mission statement. It includes a section on “Bumps in the Road”, which tells of the difficulties that occur when any group of people gather it work for truth and reconciliation.

Maandige: The Gathering was a three-day event to look at history, tell some stories, and listen to each other as we sought to bring healing and wholeness in our relationships as aboriginal and non-aboriginal people scarred by the residential school system. The book outlines the process, and introduces the speakers and presenters. A summary of our findings is included, as is a report of the survey of participants taken after the event. Their insights are significant.

There are many wonderful photographs taken by our photographer, Michael O’Brien. The Restoring the Circle logo, and Maandige logo were designed by Danny Keshig. Many thanks to Bob Rice and Ningwakwe Learning Press for their guidance and patience, and for the excellent production of the book. Many thanks, also, to the Trillium Foundation, the United Way of Bruce Grey, St. Thomas’ Anglican Church in Owen Sound ON, and the Anglican Church of Canada Healing Fund for financial and administrative support.

Copies can be obtained for a cost of $10 from Restoring the Circle at 1331 4th Ave West, Owen Sound ON 519-376-4986 aclamill@bmts.com or paulinanm@yahoo.ca or Gloria Habart 925 7th Ave E, Owen Sound ON 519-376-3269 gloriahabart@sympatico.ca

On the topic:

Anglicanism & the British Empire

Dr. Rowan Strong
Associate Professor, Murdoch University, Perth, Australia

Wednesday, November 3, 7-30 p.m., Huron; Public Lecture: Free Admission

An influential scholar, Rowan Strong’s latest book is Anglicanism and the British Empire 1700s-c.1850. His research interests include British imperialism and colonial Christianity, and the history of Christian missions in the modern period. He teaches courses in church history and church law at Murdoch University.

For More Info:
www.huronuoc.on.ca/orr
srine@uwo.ca
(519) 438-7224, ext. 289
1349 Western Road, London

40TH ANNUAL R. T ORR LECTURE

The Anglican, Toronto

Wednesday, October 27, 2010 - 8 p.m.
CentreSpace in Bishop Cronyn Church, 442 William Street, London

Tickets: $20 regular - $15 seniors - $10 students - available at the door or on line at www.cronyn.ca/centrespace

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Anglican Church Women

GET ON THE BOAT!

Opens: October 17 at St. James’ Church, Paris
Get your tickets now!

by Donna Millward

St. JAMES PARIS has an exciting new Youth Ministry! Pictured here are some of the performers in rehearsal for “GET ON THE BOAT”... a play to be presented on Sunday, October 17th (7:00 pm) as the first performance for the New Christian Theatre group at St. James. This original play was written in response to a need for children/youth programs, to think “out of the box” in order to share the gospel in a way that relates to our new generation. Based on the story of Noah, scenes unfold the adventures and relationships of those onboard the ark, riddled with both comedy and musical numbers. Our hopes are to expand this ministry to the entire Deanery of Brant, beginning with our October production.

For information, please contact St. James’ at: 519-442-4334.

St. Thomas, Seaforth
Leading worship with a song

St. Thomas, Seaforth children led in worship on Sunday, August 29th during which they sang the Josh Wilson song, “Before the Morning” (lyrics are in photo). From L-R Joanne Rowcliffe (Sunday School teacher), Shaylen Bontaine, Skyler Holmes, Helen Southgate (teacher) Front L-R Dalton Holmes, Micheala Holmes.

In Memoriam
Saugeens Deanery
Ila Allen
Trinity Anglican Church, Durham

An Invitation
Bishops’ Friends

Bishops’ Friends is an important part of the ministry of the Diocese of Huron. Our Bishops’ pastoral care for our clergy and their families has been solely supported by this laity group since 1973 by ensuring funding is available when needed for unforeseen events and emergencies.

To learn more about how your involvement can make a difference...
Please contact us with your name, address and parish.
To join Bishops’ Friends - Bob Barnett
barnettbob@hotmail.com

Upcoming Bishops’ Friends Dinners
SEPTEMBER 16th - Saugeens
(Bishops Friends North)
Tara Community Centre
Scott Saunders - ssounders@bmts.com

OCTOBER 19th - Windsor - location to follow
Jayne Boyd - jboyd@uwindsor.ca

OCTOBER 20th - London
Sunningdale Golf & Country
Bob Barnett - barnettbob@hotmail.com

NOVEMBER 18th - Kitchener/Waterloo
Whistle Bear Golf Club
Wayne Matheson - wayne1943©sympatico.ca

Restoration receives award of excellence

St. Aidan, Moose Jaw, which recently completed a major renovation project, has been awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Architectural Heritage Award of Excellence. The award, presented by Lt. Gov. Gordon Barnhart, recognizes the provincial heritage value of the church building and the high quality of the restoration work made.

The St. Aidan’s restoration project was recognized in three categories: adaptive reuse, interior conservation and sympathetic new construction. Formerly St. John the Baptist Church, the parish was “among the first and most prominent in the city”, according to The Saskatchewan Anglican newspaper of the dioceses of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon and QuiAppelle. “In the early 20th century, a former church building was replaced by a much grander structure, appropriate to the aspirations of the growing city.” Designed by architect William Reilly, it was built in the Gothic Revival style.

In 2003, the four Anglican parishes in Moose Jaw merged to form St. Aidan Church, and the old building was renovated, just in time for its 100th anniversary.
In 2007 the youth of St. Paul’s in Clinton decided to bring some life to the bare walls of the Church’s Lower Parish Hall. The life they decided to bring to these walls was the life of Christ. A mural painting project depicting scenes from Christ’s life was begun. The mural begins with the nativity, includes the visitation of the Wise Men, the baptism of Jesus, several of the miracles performed by our Saviour, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. Painting the scenes provided the youth with the opportunity of becoming more familiar with the biblical stories and learning about Jesus. Many hours were spent painting the mural scenes. These painting sessions also included an opening prayer, pizza, pop and cupcakes to fuel the painters. Last year the mural was completed. Pictures were taken of each of the 12 panels and were used to create a calendar for 2010 which marks the 175th Anniversary of St. Paul’s. A copy of the calendar was sent to Bishop Bob Bennett at Church House. On Sunday 27 June, during our Anniversary weekend celebrations, Bishop Bob came to be with us and after the service he said a blessing prayer over the completed mural and the youth who painted it. The mural is a lasting testament of their hard work and it is a beautiful gift of art to St. Paul’s.

A special thanks goes out to The Rev. Sue Malpus who supported this project at the beginning when she was Rector of St. Paul’s.

called us. We share this with you simply to be honest with our experience of congregational development. We will have to decrease our salaried staff until the economy improves, but our vision continues to shape our ministry decisions.

We recommend the VIVA process to any parish looking for a renewed sense of ministry. It is not a magic tool that fixes all the problems of the day, but VIVA ensures that energy and resources are centred on the kind of parish you hope to be. It also gives us a Spirit-filled way of describing who we are to the wider community. Check out the Congregational Coaching information on the Diocesan website!

God’s blessings to all who undertake such congregational development!

Children at All Saints’ Downtown Windsor are Jesus’ Special Agents. Our May 30th Service recognized their ministry within the congregation and their ministry to their families, neighbourhoods, and friends. T-Shirts with our new logo proclaim All Saints’ Reaching Out To You! – a message for all ages!

Final Hymn. This service has ended and our service begins! Having celebrated a year of discerning a plan for our ministry, thanking God for guiding our decision-making, we are ready to begin! The choir cannot be contained in their seats. Wearing our new T-Shirts we boldly sing, ‘We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God…’

Ambitious Murals on the life of Christ at St. Paul’s Clinton

by The Rev. Karine Farmer, Rector of The Parish of the Holy Spirit (Clinton, Seaforth and Mitchell)

In 2007 the youth of St. Paul’s in Clinton decided to bring some life to the bare walls of the Church’s Lower Parish Hall. The life they decided to bring to these walls was the life of Christ. A mural painting project depicting scenes from Christ’s life was begun. The mural begins with the nativity, includes the visitation of the Wise Men, the baptism of Jesus, several of the miracles performed by our Saviour, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. Painting the scenes provided the youth with the opportunity of becoming more familiar with the biblical stories and learning about Jesus. Many hours were spent painting the mural scenes. These painting sessions also included an opening prayer, pizza, pop and cupcakes to fuel the painters. Last year the mural was completed. Pictures were taken of each of the 12 panels and were used to create a calendar for 2010 which marks the 175th Anniversary of St. Paul’s. A copy of the calendar was sent to Bishop Bob Bennett at Church House. On Sunday 27 June, during our Anniversary weekend celebrations, Bishop Bob came to be with us and after the service he said a blessing prayer over the completed mural and the youth who painted it. The mural is a lasting testament of their hard work and it is a beautiful gift of art to St. Paul’s.

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Rector and Sunday School teachers... Archdeacon Kim Van Allen, joins the children in thanking our Church School Leader, Mrs. Cathie Frise, her team of adult and teen teachers who helped them become Jesus’ Special Agents. This is simply too much fun!!