

PARISH NOTES continued

Have You Looked at our Narthex Lately?

We are planning to spruce it up a bit this year and are seeking some suggestions. In the bulletin this week is an insert on which we ask that you write any suggestions for changes: decorating tips, colors, art, furniture, things to add, things to remove. Any changes that you think would make our Narthex a more welcoming space. All suggestions are welcome. There are boxes in the Narthex and lobby for your response.

Children's Service on Palm Sunday

We are sending a call out to all children to participate in our **Palm Sunday Service – Mar 20**. All children will be invited to wear a costume, carry a palm branch and be part of the Palm Sunday Parade. We are also looking for 5 students to be part of a Palm Sunday skit. We will begin working on the skit and costumes over the next few weeks, beginning February 28. We look forward to an exciting service with our children leading the way. We hope your child or grandchild will be a part of it all. If you would like to participate, please see us after the service or call the office at 847-1812 through the week.

- Daniella Haggerty and Canon Albert

BEYOND THE PARISH

Saint John Men's Prayer Breakfast

The annual **Saint John Men's Prayer Breakfast**: will take place at the Good Shepherd (Manawagonish at Catherwood) on **Sat, Mar 12, 9:00 am**. This year Archbishop Claude Miller will be our Guest Speaker. Free-Will Offering for the **Saint John Mission to Seafarers**. Claude, well-known in the Saint John business community for his work in commercial real estate and appraisals before he studied for the priesthood, will speak on "Spirituality and Business Life." All welcome (including women)!"

Mothers' Union Rally

The 2016 Worldwide Mothers' Union Theme is "A Celebration of Faith". Join us in "Celebrating our Faith" at the Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union Rally on **Apr 23** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at St. Mary & Bartholomew Anglican Church, 646 Westmorland St., Saint John, NB \$10 registration includes lunch. Send your name, food allergies and cheque made payable to "Diocese of Fredericton Mothers' Union" to Bonnie Greenwood (robgre@rogers.com) by Apr 15, 2016. 158 Odell Avenue, Fredericton, NB, E3B 2L5. For more info contact Adele Knox (spitfireadele@gmail.com). All men and women welcome!

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

... we are all very concerned to learn that **Canon George Akerley** suffered a stroke last Sunday. He was at home at the time. He is in the SJRH recovering. We remember him in our prayers and send him all our love and support ... **Daniella Haggerty** and her husband Ryan have sold their Rothesay home very quickly and are making their plans to return to their home province of Saskatchewan. Daniella's last Sunday with us will be Easter Sunday, March 27 ... **the Rev. Paul Ranson** has announced his resignation as the Chaplain at RNS in order to accept the position as Rector of the Parish of Nashwaaksis (on the north side of Fredericton), July 1. The Ranson family leave for Texas at the end of this coming week, in order for their little boy Colin to have his surgery the first week of March. We continue to pray for Colin's health and wellbeing ... **Rev. Eileen Irish** continues her recovery from her broken leg. Peter has learned to respond to her ringing the bell. In fact, Peter responds so attentively, that Eileen is considering keeping the bell active after her leg heals! ... we send our encouragement to **Mildred Urquhart** who also had a fall (in the home) and broke her arm. Not sure if she has a bell, but George is certainly attentive. Hang in there folks ... It is wonderful to share news from our good friend **Rev. Sam Githinji**:

Much greetings from this side of the globe. We are in lent again. My wife Joyce marked about 200 high school girls with ash on their fore heads yesterday to mark the beginning of lent. We thank God that there is still much interest in the faith among our youths. I had 25 confirmed on 24th January. We had a confirmation camp weekend with four tents outside my house for Friday to Sunday when the bishop confirmed them at an evening service. It was the first time we did this and the young people were thrilled. But the Atheists society of Kenya is now seeking registration and we do have many unchristian- like characteristics in the nation. After that I went on leave till March 1st. I am catching up with my reading and writing for the classes I began last September. The boy in grade 10 is off in school and the twins are in grade 7 so go to school 6 days a week. The weather is not as bad as had been predicted with the Elnino effect. The rains have subsided though the weather pattern is erratic. Next year we have general elections and so there is a bit of too much politicking. Nothing worrying so far. At Sigowet we have just received the first batch of grade 9 (Form one) for the year. We have 55 reported and are expecting the number to rise to 90 so we will have two classes. That will bring our school number to 302. We have written to the government to consider an additional support to the school seeing more students are choosing to study here. Our principal Mrs. Violah is well respected and the school too. The flip side of that is that her deputy has been promoted to head another school. It means we are currently without a deputy until the government sends us one. The other parents have been asked to

build a classroom to cater for the extra class. This is according to our earlier plans of inviting those who are able to make their own contribution to add to what the Canadian church has given. You will remember that we have been able to get the government to provide teachers, to build two labs, and we are hopeful it will be persuaded to give some more. Who would have thought we would have 300 students in 2016? Let me take this opportunity to wish you a blessed lent. Take care! Much blessing.
Sam.

... that's our news, from our pews! ALS.

PARISH NOTES

Combined Choir for Our Good Friday Liturgy

All singers are invited to be a part of the choir for our **Good Friday Service, Mar 25** at 11 a.m.. All five Anglican churches in the KV will be gathering to celebrate this liturgy. The Rev. Eric Phinney, of St. James the Less, will be the preacher at the service. The choir will be led by Charles Willett, assisted by Cindy Dutton. Rehearsals will be at St. Paul's:

Wed, Mar 2 at 7:30

Thu, Mar 17 at 7:30

As well as Good Friday, Mar 25 at 10 a.m.

Parish Annual Meeting

Today after the 10 a.m. service we will be gathering for our Parish Annual Meeting. Copies of the 2015 Annual Report are available on the table in the lobby. We enjoy many blessings in the life and work of our Parish. This is an opportunity to thank God for those blessings and to receive fresh encouragement in our common life and ministry. We hope you join us. A light lunch has been provided by the Mission Within Committee, hosted by Neighborhood #6.

Mission Beyond the Parish Appeal

You may be aware that *Romero House* operate a "van" during the winter months, visiting various vulnerable neighborhoods in the City during the evenings. We collect winter items to help distribute to those who visit the van. We are making a special appeal over the next few weeks, in anticipation of the Feb 29th neighborhood visits. Joy Crosby is a part of this community outreach ministry. Here is a list of items which are needed and helpful: Blankets, men's and women's underwear (new), granola bars, pillows, socks & scarves, hot chocolate, sleeping bags, winter hats, mittens and gloves and hand warmers. We will be collecting items in the lobby basket up to Feb 28. Thank you all for your support.

The Committee has also set the dates for the annual Yard Sale – May 13 & 14. Keep us in mind when you are cleaning things up!

Some News from the Mission Within Committee

- Reports on St. Paul's Day and the Pancake Supper were both positive. It was wonderful to re-connect with the McConnell family on St. Paul's Day. The Pancake Supper was outstanding.
- Daniella is working on children/youth involvement in the Palm Sunday Liturgy. There will also be a children's program on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.
- There is a certain excitement that the 5 Anglican churches in the KV will be gathering at St. Paul's for a combined service on Good Friday, March 25 at 11 a.m. Charles Willett will be leading a combined choir and there will be participation from members of each congregation in the rest of the service as well.
- Plans are in the works for the spring Women's Luncheon and the Men's Breakfast
- The Diocesan Choir School will be holding their mid-week service of Evensong at St. Paul's on Thursday, Jul 7 at 7 p.m. This involves hosting the choir for supper. Neighborhood #2 will be asked to take on the supper.
- The date of the Harvest Dinner this fall will be Sun, Oct 23.

ACW Members

If you plan to attend the luncheon at St. Luke's on **Mon, Feb 29**, please call Jean MacDonald at 763-2937 before Thu, Feb 25.

Lenten Study Program on Prayer

All around the Diocese Anglicans are focusing on the subject of prayer this Lent. Bishop Edwards has selected a book to guide our reflection: *Meditative Prayer: Entering God's Presence* by Richard Peace. We have planned for three studies:

Sunday, February 28 Introduction and Centering Prayer

Sunday, March 6 Prayer of Blessing – the Hebrew *Berekah*

Sunday, March 13 The Ignatian Prayer of *Examen*

We begin with a light supper at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Copies of the book are available for \$15. We hope you will consider joining us as we grow and share our faith.

Office Hours Feb 22 - 26

Next week the office will be open in the morning from 8:30 to noon and closed in the afternoons. Regular office hours return on Monday Feb 29.

2015 Offering Receipts are available in the lobby today.
