



BETWEEN THE LIONS



A Newsletter of the Parish of St. Mark, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Fall Issue

2004

Introducing the New Rector - the Rev. David Dellapinna

As your new rector at St. Mark's, I must say first that I am extremely pleased to be here. These first two months have been busy and exciting in both inspirational and educational ways.

I have been getting to know the history of St. Mark's and many of you and understand the deep commitment of the people of St. Mark's.

Although you have seen me, and members of my family, during our liturgies together and at several of our meetings and functions, those encounters don't give you the opportunity to know a whole lot about me and my family. So, I thought, the following short bibliography may give you the opportunity to know us just a little bit better.

I was born and raised in the city of Halifax and attended St. Paul's Church until I moved to Timberlea and joined St. Andrew's Anglican Church.

As a youth, I attended LeMarchant School, Cornwallis Jr. High and Queen Elizabeth High. I took a two year automotive course at the NS Vocational School (now the community college) and worked in the trade for teen years as both a technician and a shop foreperson.

In 1977, Bev and I were married and built a home in Timberlea. We have three children; Patricia, who is 23 and in her fourth year of a Bachelor of Science program at Dalhousie University; Mark, who is 20 and in his third year of a Bachelor of Science/Engineering Diploma program at St. Mary's University; and Tim, 17 who is completing Grade twelve.

My wife Bev is an elementary teacher at Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea (BLT) School and is currently working on a Masters of Elementary Education (part-time) at Mount Saint Vincent University.

In 1983 I obtained a position at the NS Community College where I taught the Automotive Mechanical Repair Trade for fifteen years. During those years, while working as a teacher of the trade, I returned to school attending NS Teacher's College and St. Mary's University, part-time and during the summers, and earned my Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education Degrees.

When I parted ways with the community college in 1998 I decided to follow the calling of God and approached our bishop, by way of my home priest, about becoming an ordained priest of the Anglican Church. From September 1998, to May 2001, I attended the Atlantic School of Theology where I obtained a Masters of Divinity.

For a short time after graduation I worked as a chaplain in the QE II Health Sciences Building (Infirmary) and then took the position of rector of the Parishes of LaHave with Blue Rocks where I practiced ministry for three years

Introducing the New Rector, cont'd

until this past September.

Although this is a very brief bibliography, I hope it gives some insight to my background and an introduction to my family. It is my wish that in the coming months you can come to know me and my family on a more personal level, especially as we work and worship together. As we now enter a busy time with the beginning of a new Christian Year on November the 28TH with Advent 1, and the coming Christmas Season, I hope everyone in St. Mark's gets to know each other a little better as we share and spread the joy, love, hope, and peace promised to us by way of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

DAVE



The Bishop's Commission

Last spring the Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Fred Hiltz, appointed a special taskforce or Bishop's Commission with members from five Halifax churches: St. Mark's, St. Matthias, St. Margaret's of Scotland, St. Philip's and Trinity. St. Mark's representatives are Ann Copeland, Tanya Moxley and Geraldine Thomas. Numerous meetings of the Commission have taken place in the last few months with the five churches taking turns in hosting these meetings.

Bishop Hiltz appointed the Commission to look at these churches in the north and western parts of the Halifax peninsula in order to suggest ways to enhance parish health and growth. All five churches in the Commission have about the same number of parishioners and approximately the same annual income and expenses. The Commission has no fixed agenda and no mandate to come up with a particular plan of action. Increasing financial worries for the churches, declining congregations and concerns about aging buildings are all factors being considered by the Commission. In other parts of the Diocese, including Cape Breton and Pictou, parishes have developed new ways to continue Anglican ministry in their areas with changes that are meaningful for them. The Halifax Commission members have heard presentations from those areas, but at the present time we are still exploring and discussing all the available options. Equally important to considerations about numbers, finances and buildings is the desire to find out if new approaches to parish life, new alignments and increased co-operations among parishes will kindle new energies for expressing Christian values and carrying those values into the community. To illustrate the sort of issues which the Bishop's Commission is considering I shall briefly describe a recent presentation made to the Commission by Rev. Alice Mann of the Alban Institute centered in Bradford, Massachusetts. Rev. Alice Mann is also the consultant on ministry to the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and is well known to many local Anglicans. Her book, *Can Our Church Live? Redeveloping Congregations in Decline*, is an important resource for the work of the Bishop's Commission.

Bishop's Commission, cont'd

In her presentation Alice Mann described four types of church re-organization: 1) The circuit or yoke model wherein two or more churches share one or two clergy but are otherwise largely independent. 2) The satellite model where one large church and its rector foster the life of another smaller church. This is the model through which many new parishes in N.S. had their beginnings. 3) Amalgamation or merger where two or more churches gradually combine their lives and identities in order to produce a new, vibrant and sustainable Anglican ministry. In early October Commission members heard this described for the area of East London, Ontario. Presenter Sandra Coulson described how over six years four Anglican churches there sold their properties, formed one new church on a site new to all of them, and now have a rapidly expanding parish life. 4) The co-operative or "cluster" where congregations join together in order to engage in common ministry, share resources but maintain their individual identities. They start with the declaration that this is shared ministry and is not aimed at closure.

Most of Alice Mann's talk centered on the co-operative or "cluster" ministry. She explained that such ventures are mission centered, not survival centered. They rely on empowered, enthusiastic lay ministry in which the clergy are often seen more as resource people than directors. Larger congregations engaged in common worship are an uplifting experience for all who participate in them. Remember some of the marvelous singing and fellowship we experienced in the joint services of "the Big Four" churches in recent years. Co-operating churches combine to engage in community service which is sensible for their situations. Such new orientations for parishes need to be adaptive and flexible, and can be fragile creations, if one or more congregations decide they want to leave the co-operative. The partnership can provide for financial stability for the member parishes and some reduction in expenses, but should not be entered into for huge financial savings. Alice Mann noted that care must be exercised in determining the type of administration for the co-operating churches, so that there is both individual church governance and a method of governance for the larger co-operative. The support of the Diocesan office and the Diocesan bishops is particularly important in making a church co-operative work. In this Diocese it is clear that both Bishop Fred and Bishop Sue are supportive of new methods such as the co-operative to enhance parish life. Bishop Hiltz attended the meeting with Alice Mann which was held at St Mark's Church.

In conclusion it is necessary to re-iterate that the Halifax Bishop's Commission is simply considering a variety of options for the future of our region. Any suggestions for change in local parish life and the life of St. Mark's in particular will be fully considered and voted on by individual parish councils and parish meetings before any changes occur.

GERALDINE THOMAS



Settlement Fund /The Agreement

We are all aware of the agreement decided upon by the Anglican Church of Canada on March 11, 2003. This historical event finalized an agreement with the federal government that effectively ended the involvement in what had been financially crippling court cases over the church's role in running native residential schools. The agreement called for a Settlement Fund that would compensate people who could prove claims that they had suffered physical or sexual abuse while attending the schools. The church, General Synod, and each of the 30 dioceses, committed itself to paying \$25 million into the fund over a period of five(5) years (2008!). This, under the agreement was to be the limit of the church's financial commitment in providing compensation. If claims eventually exceeded this amount they would be paid by the federal government.

The agreement was not the end of the story but marked a significant turning point for the church. Before this agreement our General Synod was on the brink of financial ruin. Afterwards it was assured of survival in a subsequent marathon round of meetings. Each of the church's 30 dioceses ratified the agreement and accepted the financial commitment. These commitments were based upon a proportion of the regular diocesan annual contribution to General Synod. A lot has happened since then, and a lot remains to be done. Raising the money agreed on has proven to be a significant challenge for the dioceses. Many have used creative ways to meet that commitment.

This note is a successor publication to an information brochure published a year ago, about things which have happened since March 11, 2003 – a date which bears repeating – that marks a turning point rather than an end.

Our Diocese – Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island – has launched a five(5) year fund raising campaign, *Leap For Faith*, to meet the \$1.2 million commitment and to provide funds for leadership development, clergy wellness, congregational development and stewardship education, technical support and communications, youth ministry, and additional funding for the growth of ministry endowment. Paid out in July 2003 –\$240,000; in July 2004 –\$180,000. Balance outstanding: \$780,000 for a total of \$1,200,000.00 as our diocesan commitment to this fund. ✚

New Diocesan Refugee Coordinator

September 29, 2004, Bishop Sue is pleased to announce the appointment of Sharon MacLeod as Diocesan Refugee Coordinator. Sharon brings many years of experience as a member of the Halifax based “Christians for Refugees” which meets here at St. Mark's the first Thursday of each month. The Late Marshall Gerrior was a loyal and very active member of this committee for many years and worked tirelessly to help the sponsored refugee families get settled in the Metro area.

Sharon replaces Myrtle Howard who served as Diocesan Coordinator for many years. She has been forced to resign because of ill health. Please remember Myrtle in your prayers. Thoughts and prayers from all our Parish family here at St. Mark's are with Sharon as she begins this new appointment. God Bless Sharon and the other members of her Diocesan Group. ✚

Sanja's Story: Part 2

(September 2004, From Bishop Sue) Hello – Last Saturday Sanja arrived safely in Mexico to stay with her sister until Immigration Canada processes her application. Mexican and Canadian Immigration have asked that there be no media production about her departure from Canada and we honoured their request. Many parishioners have written regularly to Sanja and their support was very important to her. If folks wish to continue writing the addresses are below. Sanja's e-mail remains the same:

sanjapecelj@yahoo.com

Her mailing address is:

Sanja Pecelj

c/o Tatjana Milenkovic

Alhambras Dep

102 SM15 M1

Cancun, Quintana ROO

Mexico

If anyone is going on vacation in Cancun, I am sure Sanja would be very happy to see folks from Nova Scotia and PEI. Many thanks for your ongoing support...

†SUE

October 2004, Sanja writes:

1. Dear all – I am sorry I didn't write earlier, but here I am at an internet café (my sister has no connection yet) trying to send some love and heat and the weather over the air. It was quite scary the other day as the hurricane Ivan was going with great speed, the wind was blowing and the rain was pouring and it was alert stage red. Now it is fine, as it went on to poor Cuba! I am getting used to this temperature change and the climate all together and am still a little dopey and sleepy! I miss my Halifax and all of you! But this is not too bad either. Cancun is a typical tourist place especially the hotel zone which is huge. I only went there before the storm for the sight seeing. I am enjoying my niece and nephew as well as my sister and my brother-in-law. I will certainly write more when I have decent access to a computer (this is in the middle of a shopping centre called Las Americas, and there is Walmart and Sears and all of it!)..Love Sanja.

2. Dear all – Here is a bit of update from Cancun. To start with the weather – very hot, too hot! Maybe I should not talk to you about that, but believe it or not I wish for a cool breeze so-o-o- often! I miss going for my daily walks in the parks of Halifax. I am hoping for cooler days so I can go and explore this beautiful city. One of the strange things here is pedestrians here are in great danger! (just very few as everybody drives a car) no cross roads, nobody stops to let you cross the road. I am still looking into some options to occupy my time but so far I am just enjoying and relaxing. Almost every afternoon my sister and the kids and I go on the beach – which is less hot and when my niece gets back from school. On the

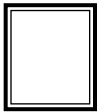
Sanja's Story, cont'd

weekends we all go outside the city to visit some nice nearby places. One of those is Playa del Carmen – very cute little town with some wonderful beaches and lots of tiny shops and restaurants and bars and anything to make you happy. I am still thinking about you all and am sending you some of this feeling through the air. Love from Sanja.

.....I am going to start a short but intense course in Spanish next week. I am going to observe tomorrow for an hour or so and next week will be very hard work – 5 hours a day. I am slowly picking up phrases especially from Dora la Exploradora, that is a show for kids...I do a little bit of French with my niece who is at the first year of French – but not enough. One of the things I'll do first when I come back would be to take seriously studying French. This weekend I am going to visit a tiny island! – Isla Mujeres(island of the mothers...) Greetings to all at St.Mark's. Love from Sanja.



Mothers' Union



Regular Meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30PM.

The first meeting was Sept. 27TH, a service and farewell get together for a devoted member, and very good friend – Jessie Lawrence. Last month, she and her husband Jimmy moved to Ontario to be near their daughter and son. Jessie was one of the many war brides who arrived in Canada through Pier 21 in Halifax, during the war years of the 1940's. As a remembrance, her St.Mark's sisters presented her with a musical box in the shape of a small sewing machine (her favorite hobby.) Jessie will be greatly missed, a lovely lady with a warm smile for everyone. Thoughts and prayers of many are going with Jessie and Jimmy as they resettle in Grand Bend.

Because of the postponed Dinner Theatre of last June, members attended a presentation at The Pond Theatre in October entitled “ HALO”, a play based on a reported vision of Jesus on a window of a local Tim Horton's outlet.

At their October monthly meeting members will welcome 3 speakers from the Religious society of Friends(Quakers) who will speak on the history, the faith, practice and Quakers in the wider world. Parishioners are always welcome to attend their special guest speaker presentations.

For the November 22 meeting members will hold the annual travel fund raising event, beginning at 7:30PM. Details to follow.

In December a Christmas Party is planned, gifts will be brought for Adsum House residents and members will learn the identity of Prayer Partners. Members will also help the Sunday School teachers with treats and refreshments for the students' annual Christmas Party. NEW MEMBERS are always welcome!!! For more information please call Joyce Williams(469-3777) or Geraldine Mosher(454-5525),co-enrolling members of the branch. ✚

Communications and Information Resources Committee (CIRC)

CIRC is one of the standing committees of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. This means it is one of the groups that meets between meetings of General Synod (which meets every three years) to carry on the work of the Anglican Church across Canada. The mandate of CIRC is to look after communications policy for the General Synod, as well as Anglican Video, Anglican Book Centre, the Anglican.ca web site, Ministry Matters, Anglican Journal, the Library & Information Centre, and the General Synod Archives. CIRC is composed of volunteers from across Canada who meet twice a year to help the staff of these Church House departments with setting priorities, making policy for how work gets done, and sharing information about work that is in progress and upcoming.

So how does this matter to St. Mark's Church? Because I (Tanya Moxley) am one of the volunteer members of CIRC, and when I go to the meetings, sometimes I get to bring home samples of resources that have been produced by CIRC staff at the national office in Toronto. Following the October meeting of CIRC I was able to bring home informational materials from the Book Centre, the Library, the Archives, and an update on the Residential Schools settlement. If you would like a copy of any of these resources, please let me know at church and I'll get the materials to you!

TANYA



Anglican Church Women

Afternoon Unit:

Regular Meetings on third Wednesday of the month, at 1:30PM in the Butler Room.

A Bake and Craft Sale will be held on November 13th, 2004 at the Halifax Shopping Centre beginning at 9:30AM. and the support of all parishioners as well as members is appreciated. The preparation of the Christmas Boxes for the Mission to Seafarers will be the last week of November and donations are now being accepted from parishioners. Letters of thanks have been received from Meals on Wheels, Mission to Seafarers, St. Mark's Food Boxes, expressing gratitude to the members for their donations.

New members always welcome. Come and join us for a friendly cup of tea. Contact: Amelia Crewe at (454-4406). ✚

Evening Unit

Meetings are regularly held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30PM in the Butler Room. The Fall Bakeless Bake Sale was held in October and Anglican Church Calendars 2005 are now for sale at coffee hour following the 10AM Eucharist each Sunday. Price \$5.00. The Annual Christmas Pot Luck will be held in December. New members always welcome. Come and join our group. Contact: Lois Russell (453-4310). ✚

Fall/Winter Calendar Events

November

- 3 7:30PM Holy Communion
7 10AM Remembrance Service
2:30PM Holy Communion –
Victoria Hall
10 7:30PM Holy Communion
11 10:30AM Holy Communion –
Northwood
14 10AM Holy Eucharist
7PM Celebration of New
Ministry & Reception
16 7:30PM Parish Council
17 7:30PM Holy Communion
21 10AM Reign of Christ
Eucharist & Holy Baptism
24 7:30PM Holy Communion
28 10AM Sunday School: Advent 1
Sunday Eucharist
7PM Ecumenical Service –
Knox Presbyterian Church

December

- 1 10AM Eucharist – Advent 1
7:30PM Eucharist – Advent 1
5 10AM Eucharist – Advent 2
8 10AM Eucharist – Advent 2
7:30PM Eucharist – Advent 2
12 10AM Eucharist – Advent 3
7:PM JUBILATE CONCERT
15 10AM Eucharist – Advent 3
7:30PM Eucharist – Advent 3
19 10AM Sunday School
Presentation & Christmas
Party – Advent 4
21 7:30PM Parish Council
22 10AM Eucharist – Advent 4
7:30PM Eucharist – Advent 4
24 7PM Christmas Eve Family
Eucharist
10PM Choral Candlelight
Christmas Eve – Eucharist
25 10AM Christmas Day – Holy
Eucharist
26 10AM Lessons and Carols of
Christmas

In Memoriam

This past fall, our parish community lost beloved and devoted parishioners:

1. Marshall J. Gerrior passed on to eternal life on September 24, 2004. His funeral liturgy was conducted at St. Mark's on Sept. 28, 2004 by the Rev. David Dellapinna, the rector, assisted by Bishop Suffragan, the Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Moxley and our Honourary Assistant, the Rev. James Purchase.

2. Kenneth M. Green passed on to eternal life on Sept. 28, 2004. His funeral liturgy was conducted at St. Mark's on Oct. 1, 2004 by the Rev. David Dellapinna, the rector.

3. Ronnie G. Zinck passed on to eternal life on October 2, 2004. His funeral liturgy was conducted by the Rev. Irving Letto in the Chapel of J.A. Snow Funeral Home-Halifax.

Our deepest sympathy to Bertha, Dawn, Darlene, Debbie and families and to Ken Green Jr. and Shirley Mundle and families and to the family of Ronnie Zinck. ☩