



# BETWEEN THE LIONS



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

Summer Issue

2005

## Seasons of Change

**I**F WE CHECK OUR MONTHLY CALENDARS we see that summer is again coming, bringing with it longer daylight hours, weather with bright sun, warm breezes, occasional rain showers and the blossoming of plant life. All of this tends to rejuvenate us physically and lift our spirit and emotional well-being which, in turn, motivates us to be more active, particularly in the out of doors with activities at our cottages, in our gardens, sometimes at the beach or at various campgrounds, or in sports. Checking our Christian calendars we also notice a change there. We began our year with the season of Advent and then moved through the seasons of Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and have now entered into the season after Pentecost.

As summer refreshes and rejuvenates us, so too, in our Christian calendar, Pentecost has the ability to refresh and rejuvenate us spiritually. As summer gives us the opportunity to so easily see our physical world being reborn or rejuvenated with the revitalization of plant life and the increased activity of wildlife, Pentecost also gives us the opportunity to experience rejuvenation of our spiritual life through Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit and the lessons of Holy Scripture of this season.

Pentecost transports Christians from seasons in our Christian year where we were focusing on Jesus, his anticipated coming, his birth, him being revealed to the world, his Passion, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, to where we are now focusing on the Holy Spirit; from a place where we were focusing on salvation to a place where we can now view a new creation. This year many of our readings will be taken from Genesis and Exodus giving us opportunities to again experience the events of our ancestors and how they, through faith in our Lord, experienced rebirth and rejuvenation in their lives. Our biblical scriptures reveal to us how those preceding us have weathered the winters in their lives and have allowed themselves, through faith, to move forward into springs and summers of their lives. As an example we can remember the story of Abram (later to be Abraham), how he, as an old man, listened to God, and moved his family, physically, away from everything they had known, to start a fresh new season in their lives. But just as important as this physical move, Abram moved himself and his family spiritually and emotionally to a different place, to a different season, and because of that move God blessed him and made his name great.

One of the lessons gained from these scriptures is that we, as individuals and as communities both large and small, have a need to rejuvenate and revitalize ourselves on a continual basis, just like the changing seasons of our calendar year.

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## Seasons of Change, cont'd.

St. Mark's, like many other churches in our communion, is experiencing a unique opportunity, under our bishop, to do just that with other churches in our area. Scripture teaches us that all life is cyclical and must follow cycles and so we proceed to the changing of seasons in our monthly calendar. Let us allow ourselves to embrace this opportunity our bishop has given us, through 'the Bishop's Commission', to move forward, just like Abram did so many years ago, to discover a refreshing renewed/revitalized life together which will allow us to grow and to continue to flourish at St. Mark's, just as Abram's life was renewed and allowed to continue and to flourish. God Bless.

FR. DAVID

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## Anglican Women – Evening Unit

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish, we learned with regret that the Evening Branch of the ACW, found it necessary to disband their group. In a letter written to the rector, Fr. David, the secretary, of the St. Mark's Branch, Geraldine Mosher, states that ill health, aging parishioners, etc. have depleted the membership to the point where only five people have been attending. We will greatly miss the support and contribution which this devoted and dedicated group of St. Mark's Ladies has made to the Parish over the years. On behalf of all of our congregation a sincere thank you to these ACW members and to the President Lois Russell for all their hard work over so many years of service.



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## The Religious Society of Friends

The Mothers' Union sponsored an informative presentation last October 25, in the Butler Room of the church. Three speakers from the Halifax Monthly Meeting of Quakers spoke to the members of the Mothers' Union and their guests. They told us about their history, their faith and practice, and their presence in the wider world of today. Welcomed by co-enrolling member Joyce Williams were Mel Earley, John Courtneidge, and Betty Peterson. A brief overview of their presentation follows.

### Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) was born amid the turmoil and religious strife of the early 17th century. George Fox is recognized as the founder – as a protest against the organized religions of the day. He was well read, knew his bible but rejected the hierarchy of the established church, the ordained priesthood, with the existence of a sacred book as the supreme authority for belief and conduct. Instead members, or “Friends” rely on what they refer to as “The Light” – the Light of God which is found within every person. They do not observe the sacraments, such as baptism or holy communion, and they do not have a set form of liturgy or service. A “Meeting for Worship” is an hour of silence during which there is a heightened sense of awareness and an openness to receive whatever is offered. Perhaps a member will be moved to speak, or to sing, or to offer a reading. “Friends” do not adhere to any one creed. While the earliest members of The Religious Society of Friends came from a Christian background, today individual Friends come from a variety of religious traditions.

The members have very strong beliefs against war. Their “Peace Testimony” speaks of war as an institution that is fundamentally inconsistent with a belief that there is something of God in every person. “Peace is not the absence of war, but the presence of Justice.” Daily conduct, social and political action, and religious practice are expressions of spiritual experience. Many members are involved as activists in promoting environmental or ecological concerns and by efforts to promote justice for the poor, the marginalized, refugees, and first nation peoples. Prison reform is a longstanding Quaker concern.

Although their numbers are small (about 65 in our immediate area and with about 1200 in Canada) their consistent presence and their protests for outreach and social justice issues are well recognized and widely lauded.

The Religious Society of Friends, often referred to as “Quakers” from the reference made by their founder G. Fox that one should tremble before God's presence, (in old English of the 17TH century: *quake* – to tremble, to shake with awe, or fear), hold their weekly meetings on First Day (i.e. Sunday) from 10:30 to 11:30AM.

New attendees are welcome. The Meetings for Worship are held at the Atlantic School of Theology, Library – bottom floor, Franklyn St., Halifax. For more information telephone 429-2904.



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## Father Pretty

Sadly, our beloved assistant the Rev. A. J. Cal Pretty passed away on Saturday January 29, 2005. The Funeral Liturgy celebrating his Life was conducted at St. Mark's by Diocesan Bishop the Rt. Rev. Fred J. Hiltz on Wednesday, February 2, 2005. The church was filled almost to capacity as members of our congregation past and present gathered with many clergy and lay readers, former colleagues, municipal representatives of various departments, northend social outreach personnel, ward five daycare and food bank staff, one last time to pay tribute to Fr. Cal's great legacy. His son, the Rev. Mark Pretty paid tribute in an emotional and stirring testimony to his Dad opening the service and setting the tone for the Celebration and Thanksgiving Liturgy. Bishop Sue delivered a thought provoking and moving homily in which she fondly remembered her time spent with Fr. Cal when she was a student at AST. She poignantly recalled many events and experiences which they shared together during this time. Fr. Mark shared memories of his Dad recalling his advice and counsel. At Mark's ordination Fr. Cal spoke to him in the homily – "Son, you are called to serve God and the Church with all your heart ,mind, body, and soul. But no matter how much you give, the church will give you back far more love than you can repay." Fr. Mark continued "A priest and a parish found they shared the same heart and the same love. Dad didn't bring a ministry of social justice here – he found it."

Most of the social outreach at St. Mark's was not for the members of our parish but for the wider community which often had no direct affiliation with our congregation at all. Fr. Cal was well known to the northend of Halifax as the 'street priest'. He was the advocate for the poor, the downtrodden, and for those marginalized by society and through his social outreach efforts and initiatives came new programs which brought comfort to the needy in the working class neighbourhoods of the city. Between 1975 and 1989 with a group of church members Fr. Cal began St. Mark's Food Bank, along with the Coalition Supportive Service – a work and rehabilitation program for former inmates. He was also influential in the implementation of an affordable non-profit daycare, a neighbourhood community centre with lunch programs, and at Christmas – dinners and gifts for the needy. In its busiest years our food bank served 2,000 families regularly.

In the 90's, when Fr. Cal suffered his stroke which left him unable to speak – and then with the loss of his leg, he became dependent on family and others for mobility and communication. No longer being able to read and to write he also lost his sense of priesthood said Fr. Mark. But once again his beloved St. Mark's – "you, the congregation – came to the rescue. You made him the Honourary Assistant and he once again could distribute the Eucharist from a portable altar. He was again able to serve in his church despite severe limitations."

Our congregation and the wider parish community of St. Mark's extends deepest sympathy to Joyce and family and to all of Fr. Cal's relatives here and in Newfoundland.

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Fr. Pretty cont'd

*“....Rest eternal grant unto Fr. Cal, O Lord  
and light perpetual shine upon him...”*



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### Sanja is Back Home!!!

On February 28th at IAM Sanya arrived at the Halifax International Airport as a permanent resident, putting an end to a period which included 441 days as a refugee in our church basement and nearly six months as a temporary resident in Mexico, where she nervously waited for Citizenship and Immigration Canada to decide on her fate. More than 50 supporters including Bishop Sue and Bruce, Alexa McDonough, MP, several parishioners from our church, and about a dozen members of the media waited eagerly to welcome Sanja back home.

“I could not believe it” said Sanja in a telephone interview with Marites Sison, of the Anglican Journal news. “I was surprised to see so many of them.” “We’re absolutely happy,” said Bishop Sue. “Everyone kept saying that she is here she is actually here! Sanja could hardly believe it herself.” Bishop Sue said: “This battle has been won but the war against immigration isn’t over.” We remember vividly the roller-coaster months that saw several federal government officials, including Prime Minister Paul Martin, promising to review Sanja’s application as a refugee, and then reneging on that promise. In the end, with the intervention of provincial leaders including Premier Hamm, a compromise was reached and Canadian immigration officials asked Sanja to leave Canada and to reapply as a permanent resident under a program that allows provinces to sponsor employable immigrants. We remember that Sanja was originally from Kosovo and she came in 2000 to work as a United Nations translator at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre here in Cornwallis N.S. While here she applied for refugee status because she feared for her life should she return to Kosovo since she had worked for the UN. In April 2003 she came to live in our church basement ‘in sanctuary’ after her request was denied by Canadian immigration. Bishop Sue warned that unless Canada’s Immigration Department puts an appeal process in place there would be other Sanjas. “She has become the poster girl for sanctuary. Sanja’s just ONE person. There are thousands of other refugees like her”, she said adding that the diocese would “absolutely” continue to provide sanctuary for refugees. Sanja said that she would recommend sanctuary as an option for refugees whose lives are in danger if they get deported. “I would encourage those who are having difficulties with

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## Sanja is Back Home!!!, cont'd

their applications to remain in the country” she said. “But I would tell them honestly it is not easy. I got two deportation orders. There were lots of ups and downs with immigration, not to mention all the worries that go through your mind. But there’s a big possibility that you can stay if your story is genuine.”

Sanja’s stay in Mexico was bittersweet; she recalled: “I was there with my family (her sister lives there) and they were a great support” she said. “But sometimes I was worried – what if it doesn’t go through?” She worried about where she would go since the Mexican government had only granted her a visa for six months with no extension: it was to expire March 2!!

What kept her going through those months of anxious uncertainty was the knowledge that Bishop Sue and the people here in Halifax would not abandon her said Sanja. “I could feel a warm hug every morning,” she said not realizing until she got back that each morning Bishop Sue said a special prayer for her. “Sometimes I would wonder – how do I feel better all of a sudden?” We are all very happy to have Sanja back in Halifax and for her return as a member of our Parish family. She intends to help not just other refugees but “people in need.” As a permanent resident she is permitted to work here and to enjoy the benefits as she begins again to readjust to a more normal life... free from sanctuary!

Members of our congregation and the wider parish community gathered in St. Mark’s on April 6 for a service of Thanksgiving to celebrate Sanja’s return to Canada. The Rector, Fr. David officiated at the Service of Light, with Evening Prayer, and Bishop Sue was the preacher for this special occasion. The Peace Candle which burned brightly at all services since her departure last September was extinguished, and was presented to her along with the Parish Banner welcoming her back. A message from Alexa McDonough MP was read and Mr. Patrick Murphy, HRM, spoke for the mayor and members of Council. Ms. Maureen MacDonald, MLA, and Mr. Mark Parent (representing the new provincial officer Mr. Rodney MacDonald – responsible for refugee/immigrant issues) both spoke. Both commended Sanja and the work done by the group of supporters and the parish community who did so much for her cause as they maintained a visual presence in the media and the public domain. All present enjoyed a time of refreshment and fellowship as we met together with Sanja for a reception in the St. Mark’s Community Centre following the service.



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## Anglican Church Women



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

Many, many thanks to all parishioners – and to our friends from Newfoundland and Ontario too, for your generous and kind support this year. The St. Patrick's Tea Party event and the Bake/Craft Sale realized over \$2100 and we are very grateful to you all. For our closing luncheon at Cousin's Restaurant we invited all former members of the Evening Branch to join with us and an enjoyable time was had by all! At our closing meeting we donated over \$2500 to the parish. God Bless! ... and have a good summer. See you all in September... Mellie Crewe, President(454-4406).

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## Mothers' Union



St. Mark's Mothers' Union elected their new slate of executive officers for the next four(4) year period at their Annual meeting in April. In September this new executive will be officially installed at a Sunday Service-to be announced.

At this same meeting Dr. Geraldine Thomas made a very informative presentation focusing on early Christianity in Italy. Through anecdotes of personal trips and tours and with photos and illustrations of these ancient sites, she traced a fascinating picture of life at that time in Italy, Rome etc. Several members attended a Diocesan Rally hosted by the Church of the Holy Spirit, Dartmouth, along with current Canadian President, Kathleen Snow. Alice Kennedy of New Brunswick, Canada's Mothers' Union rep at Mary Sumner House (in the U.K.) made a presentation on the world presence and the work of Mothers' Union.

The closing luncheon was held on May 27<sup>TH</sup>, at Holiday Inn Halifax, and was followed by a short business meeting. On Friday June 24<sup>TH</sup> our branch members will prepare desserts and serve at the Missions to Seafarers fund raising luncheon. It is our hope that in the fall new parishioners will come out to join our parish branch. Fr. David has indicated a wish to attempt to increase membership and to 'raise the profile' of Mothers' union, as we approach our 45<sup>TH</sup> anniversary year. Possible new members are reminded that our first meeting for the new season will be on the last Monday of September ~ i.e. Sept. 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2005.

Joyce Williams  
Co-enrolling Member  
St. Mark's Mothers' Union

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## Summer Calendar Events

### June

- 5 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 3  
2:30PM Holy Communion  
Victoria Hall
- 6 - Clergy retreat for
- 10 Fr. David & Fr. Jim
- 8 7:30PM Midweek Holy  
Communion
- 9 7:30PM Christians for  
Refugees – Meeting
- 10 10:15AM Holy Communion,  
Northwood, Rev. Dr. B.  
Spence – (St. Phillip’s)
- 12 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 4 –  
Children’s Eucharist with  
Sunday School Closing
- 13 10:30AM **Pastoral Ministry  
Committee Meeting**  
7PM Ward 5 Annual  
Mt./Volunteer Recognition
- 14 5:30PM Day Care Bd. Annual  
Meeting  
7:30PM Lay Readers Meeting
- 15 7:30PM Mid week Holy  
Communion with last Bible  
Study until Sept.
- 16 5PM Sunday School Teacher  
Gathering
- 19 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 5
- 21 7:30PM Parish Council
- 22 7:30PM Mid week Holy  
Communion
- 26 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 6
- 28 5:15PM Ward 5 Board Meeting  
7PM Community Board  
Annual Meeting
- 29 7:30PM Mid Week Holy  
Communion

### July

- 3 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 7  
2:30PM Holy Communion –  
Victoria Hall
- 5 7PM St. Phillip’s – Bishop’s  
Commission Meeting
- 6 7:30PM Holy Eucharist: Fr.  
Jim Purchase – 40TH Anniv. of  
Ordination to Priesthood (1965  
–2005), Bishop Sue Moxley,  
Celebrant
- 8 10:15AM Holy Communion –  
Northwood, all welcome.
- 10 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 8
- 13 7:30PM Mid week Holy  
Communion
- 17 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 9
- 20 7:30PM Mid week Holy  
Communion
- 24 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 10
- 27 7:30PM Mid week Holy  
Communion
- 30 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 11

### August

- N.B. Fr. David will be away on vacation. No Wednesday evening service during August.**
- 7 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 12, Fr.  
Jim Purchase  
2:30PM Holy Communion  
Victoria Hall (Fr. Jim)
  - 12 10:15AM Holy Communion  
Northwood(Fr. Jim)
  - 14 8AM&IOAM Pentecost 13
  - 21 N.B. at St. Matthias’  
8AM&IO:30AM Pentecost 14
  - 28 at St. Matthias’ 8AM&IO:30AM  
Pentecost 15 (Archdeacon  
Armstrong Celebrating)