

HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • MARCH 2015

The Nick of time



Rev. Nick Wells as Rt. Rev. Benjamin Cronyn . . .



Rev. Canon Major Frederick Scott . . .



Archdeacon John Strachan . . .



Brother William Edward, Moravian missionary, . . .



Rev. George Austen (Jane Austen's father)

By Wayne Newton

It could be Bishop Benjamin Cronyn, Col. Thomas Talbot or Tiger Dunlop. When people say Rev. Canon Nick Wells is a character, they mean it literally.

Nick, who retired in February 2014 as the co-incumbent of All Saints' Church in Sarnia-Corunna, has garnered a widespread reputation as a re-enactor of some of the most famous historical figures who helped shape Southwestern Ontario. Cronyn was the first bishop of Huron, Talbot an influential soldier and politician, and Dunlop a War of 1812 surgeon.

Now living in a century home in St. Thomas around the corner from Trinity Anglican Church, Nick's

interest in bringing history alive started before he entered the ministry and, on many occasions, dovetailed with his sermons. He's also presided over weddings, funerals and a baptism in character for members of the historical re-enactors community.

A social worker with the Children's Aid Society in Hamilton in his first career, Nick's passion for history took hold when he moved to London while in his 30s to attend Huron University College at Western University and took a job at Eldon House, London's oldest house, which now operates as a museum.

When a high school teacher used a 30-foot canoe to bring students along

the Thames River from London's Springbank Park, historical figures were stationed at the river's edge along the way. Nick was one of them, playing Rev. E.J. Boswell and warning of danger in the town ahead.

"When they came by me, I started waving a white flag and telling them there was a plague and cholera was rampant everywhere and what was this madman doing bringing these young people into an infected town. So that was my first experience, dressed as clergyperson, which brought together my love of history and the ministry."

Later at his first parish at Christ Church in Port Stanley, Nick began to play St. Nicholas and visited those

in hospital on Christmas.

"I brought cookies and candy canes and just visited those who were left in hospital during Christmas," he said. "It's interesting that St. Nicholas is the one I've been doing for over 30 years, whereas the other characters I have developed over time took a longer time for me to develop because it took longer for me to learn how to do the research and to do the presentation so that it fit properly."

Next to St. Nicholas, the character he has been doing the longest has been Col. Talbot, a personality Nick's polar opposite.

"Col. Talbot tends to have a major drinking problem and he's quite a curmudgeon," Nick said.

"When I portray Col. Talbot with the children, I don't emphasize alcohol at all . . . When I do my presentation of Talbot for adults, I tend to start off drinking and end up drunk. I can have a lot more fun with him that way. He's just delightful because you can rant."

Bishop Cronyn is similar to Talbot, Nick said.

"He is very, very similar to Talbot in personality, only leave out the drinking part. Both come from Ireland, almost the same area."

Among other characters Nick often plays is William "Tiger" Dunlop of Goderich, who was a surgeon during the War of 1812.

See DRAMA Page 4

Bishop Terry's Lenten study launches nationally

By Matt Gardner

A new contextual Bible study is bringing the message of the Scriptures to Anglicans and Lutherans in a relevant, accessible way this Lenten season.

Endorsed by members of the Joint Anglican-Lutheran Commission, the shared resource is available free online and represents another initiative in the full communion partnership between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

Bishop Terry Dance, a member of commission, prepared the study for Lent during his recent sabbatical. His aim is to help church members engage with each other and the biblical

text while providing guidance to ministry in their own lives.

"This study is designed specifically for a church in the Canadian context, dealing with the kind of issues that we're dealing with," Bishop Terry said.

"There's a phrase, diakonia, which talks about the fact that discipleship is inextricably bound to service, and that service is something which belongs to the whole people of God, not just those of us who are ordained."

Terry is a longtime proponent of contextual Bible study, an approach to studying Scripture that examines biblical passages from multiple aspects, including literary, historic, and the modern cultural context in

which participants live.

The bishop spent an estimated 200 hours writing the study, which addresses scriptural readings for Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter and connects experiences in the life of Christ to the mission and ministry of the church today.

While questions asked in the study are the same across Canada, responses are likely to vary.

"In suburban London, Ont., the opportunities and possibilities for ministry would be different than they would be in, say, northern British Columbia or Vancouver," Terry said.

"The needs that exist in the local community would be different . . . It gets people, I think, talking at a fairly serious level

about who we are as a church, what it means to be a church, what it means to be a follower of Christ, and begins to deepen the level of conversation."

To help the Bible study reach the widest possible audience, Bishop John Chapman of the Diocese of Ottawa, formerly dean of theology at Huron University College, examined the first draft and offered suggestions to make the final product useful for lay people and theological experts alike.

"If you're doing a theological work that is to serve the whole church, then it needs to be accessible to the whole church," John said.

See Study Page 7



COMINGS AND GOINGS

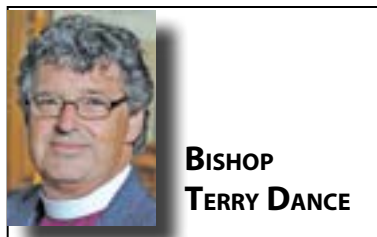
I extend my thanks to Rev. Keith Nethery for the many years he has written a column for Huron Church News. In his final column, Keith sums up his message. **Page 8 (back page)**

The diocese's new social media officer, Rev. Marty Levesque, embarks on a new column, Media Bytes, to help congregations step into the online world. **Page 4**

Sandra Coulson
Editor

A season for holy questions

Christians are once again immersed in the season of Lent.



BISHOP TERRY DANCE

For many, this is an invitation to enter into a period of self-denial and self-flagellation in an effort to deal with the reality of our carefully disguised yet undeniable sinfulness, if not outright wickedness. Lent for many is an exercise in feeling miserable.

While it may be true — no, is true — that sin is a fact of life, part of the human condition, I suspect that a descent into depression over our personal failings is less than helpful as a means of preparing to embrace

the death and, more importantly, the resurrection of Jesus.

Regardless of where we are in the church calendar, we are always an Easter people, living in the joy and the grace of Christ's victory over death.

That being said, however, the

I suspect that a descent into depression over our personal failings is less than helpful as a means of preparing to embrace the death and, more importantly, the resurrection of Jesus.

six weeks of Lent do offer an opportunity for personal reflection and re-commitment to those things that can transform

our lives and the lives of those around us.

Rev. Dr. H. King Oehmig in the February 1993 edition of the worship resource Synthesis, offered a number of questions we might do well to ask ourselves between now and Holy Week:

- What is our relationship with the most significant people in our lives: our spouse, our partner, our children, our closest friends and family?
- What is our relationship to our work?
- What is our relationship to money?
- What is our relationship to food? To alcohol? To prescription or non-prescription drugs?
- What is our relationship with our bodies? Our minds? Our emotions?
- What is our relationship with the poor, the sick and the suffering?

• What is our relationship with people who are just different from us?

• What is our relationship with what we believe to be our purpose in life?

• What is our relationship with our God? With prayer? With the Scriptures?

If we take seriously that Lent is a time for commitment to prayer, the reading of Scripture and self-reflection, these questions may provide a focus that helps us all to grow in our commitment to follow in the way of Christ.

We might just find new possibilities for renewed and redeemed relationships. We might just find ourselves shouting "Alleluia" with new joy and understanding come Easter Sunday.

Have a blessed and holy Lent.
Bishop Terry

HURON CHURCH NEWS

Volume 65, Number 3

Submissions

Huron Church News welcomes news articles, commentaries, photographs and story ideas. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

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Deadline

Sunday, March 1
for the April edition

Subscriptions

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change address or name, report a delivery problem, contact:

Circulation Department
1-866-924-9192, ext. 245 or 259
Fax: 416-925-8811
Email: circulation@national.anglican.ca
Via Web: www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe

Individual suggested donation:
\$15 per year in Canada.
\$23 in U.S. and overseas.

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Publisher

The Right Reverend
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Diocese of Huron
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190 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6A 6H7
Phone: 519-434-6893

Huron Church News is published by the Diocese of Huron as a section of the Anglican Journal. Average circulation 14,000

HCN Board of Trustees
Canon Robert Towler, Chair

Printer

Printed and mailed by
Webnews Printing
North York, ON

This newspaper is printed on partially recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.

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New chaplain invites lay readers to gather

By Rev. Robert Clifford

You may have heard that Bishop Bob Bennett has entrusted me with the task of being the chaplain to the lay readers of the Diocese of Huron. I am excited to take up this ministry and support the lay readers in their task of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus in every parish and community of the diocese.

Prior to my taking up this ministry, work was already underway on a conference for lay readers and those interested in this ministry. This work was being done in conjunction with several lay readers in my deanery of Delaware; my predecessor as chaplain, Rev. Canon Tony Bouwmeester; and Rev. Val Kenyon, regional dean of Delaware.

The conference is scheduled for May 8-9 at Trinity, St. Thomas. Bishop Terry Dance will be joining us. Look for a poster with further information at your church or with your rector.

Every licensed lay reader and aspiring lay reader, and others sponsored by their rector are invited to prayerfully consider attending. If the registra-

tion fee, which was set on a cost-recovery basis, proves to be prohibitive, please consult your rector and churchwardens about being sponsored by your parish. Billeting opportunities are available in St. Thomas and area.

At the conference we will be reconstituting the Lay Readers' Association, which I'm told was once quite active. I envision it

being a small representative committee that takes on the task of organizing continuing education, fellowship and worship opportunities for the lay readers of the diocese.

If any lay reader or prospective lay reader would like to be in touch with me, I can be reached by email at rclifford@sympatico.ca or by telephone at 519-318-4430.



Some members of the church school at St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia, show off representations of the chicken kits they bought through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund for an AIDS support group overseas.

Soup made into chickens by a Sarnia church school

The church school of St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia, hosted a soup luncheon on Dec. 7 to raise money for eggs, equipment, and training for an AIDS support group overseas that is assisted by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Several varieties of soup were prepared by the children and parents the day before, and any

leftovers went to the local soup kitchen with our regular volunteers.

With generous donations from the book study group and the Friday night euchre group plus the freewill offering from the soup luncheon, the church school was able to send \$560 to PWRDF, enough to purchase 16 chicken kits.

A yarn about community service



We are the Knit-Witts of St. Mark's by the Lake, Tecumseh. For the past seven or so years we have been knitting, crocheting and, recently, looming items for various charities in our community.

With much gratitude, our parishioners keep us supplied in the items necessary to make hats, scarves, mittens, baby blankets, lap blankets, sweater sets for babies and, the new-

est item thanks to one of our volunteers, "Feel Better Friend dolls", made for children going through cancer treatment or life-threatening illnesses.

This past year, 1,247 items were distributed to downtown missions, the Salvation Army, Street Help, A.V. Graham elementary school, Cuddles for Kids, the nursing homes of Aspen Lake, Brouillette Manor, Country Village, Extendicare

and St. Clair, and Outreach for St. Joseph's Orphanage in Jirapa, Ghana.

We would like to put a challenge out to other parishes to pick one of your local facilities to sponsor and make either hats and scarves for the homeless shelters or lap blankets for your seniors' home. Just pick one. Once you do you'll be hooked.

Craft work helps the less fortunate

by Barbara Dow

St. Luke's, Crumlin, has two special people in the congregation that deserve special recognition.

Mary McDonald, who turned 96 in December, has knit close to 1,000 hat and mitten sets for the Out of the Cold Program in London. Mary's astonishing output assists people who might be homeless or in need of help to get through the long winters.

The other is Edith Grant, who has made close to 1,000 stuffed bears in many different sizes.

The large ones were given to



Mary McDonald



Edith Grant

the RCMP in Nova Scotia for officers to keep in their cruisers and use when they have to speak with a frightened child.

The small ones were given to children in hospital. They were designed by Edith to fit over the

arm of a wheelchair.

Other bears are shipped to Afghanistan and Kandahar to put in chapels and to distribute to troops in hospital. These bears all wear Canadian sweaters.

Member of St. Luke's feel proud and blessed to have these two people as members of their congregation. They spread the love of Christ by these special outreach projects.

They both help the congregation of St. Luke's to live up to its slogan: The Little Church That Could.



It was a very exciting Sunday recently at St. James', Hanover. It's not every Sunday that we add seven new people to our congregation through a baptism and first communion service for two families. It's a sign that the Spirit has taken hold and St. James' is a place people want to be. Their presence increases Sunday attendance by a full one-quarter. Pictured with Rev. JoAnn Todd as we welcomed them into our St. James' family are Angelica, Isabella and Gabriella from one family and Brian, Ashley, Alex and their mom Crystal from the other.

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Website increasingly first point of contact

Your website is the first experience many newcomers and seekers have with your church. Before setting foot in the door, before the greeters offer a warm welcome, and before the hospitality of coffee hour, your website has already made that critical first impression.

Digital presence is increasingly the first point of contact and of evangelism.

A website is an essential communication tool. It is no longer a luxury to have a website; it is a requirement to reach seekers and potential newcomers, and it can help retain connection with your occasional members.

Not every church can afford a website created from scratch or has the technical skills within the community to build it



**MEDIA
BYTES**

**REV. MARTY
LEVESQUE**

themselves.

Fortunately, there are some simple, free or low-cost solutions that can get you up and running in no time. These online services will host your site, removing all the back-end technical work, and most of them offer professionally designed and developed templates for the design and layout of your sites.

My suggestion is to avoid drag-and-drop solutions and instead find a template that you like and rely on the business,

design and development skills that professionals have put into it. Unless you are a professional designer, use a template.

Some websites that offer these services include Weebly.com, Wix.com and Wordpress.com. Each has their pros and cons. I prefer Wordpress because of its extensibility, support, and freedom to change hosting, but the learning curve can be challenging for some.

Weebly or Wix may be preferred options for smaller communities or for those just getting their toes wet.

All of these providers offer free hosting at their domain. While this might seem easy, it is in your best interest to register your own domain name and connect it with your new

website — a feature all of the above services support.

Not only does a hosted domain look unprofessional, but also it means that if you ever change hosting providers, your address changes, too. Every link that points to your site will break, all the search engine history you have built up will be lost, and every bookmark to your site will be broken.

Using your own domain is a relatively inexpensive option — around \$15 a year — and instead of the long stswithins.wordpress.com, you can invest in stswithins.com. Then when you are ready to upgrade to a new site you don't need to change your address again.

Next, you need to develop your content. When building

your site, think about the three main audiences: newcomers, seekers and existing parishioners. All three of these audiences will visit your site, so consider how your content speaks to each of them and make sure they can find what they are looking for.

Getting your church online can seem scary. But there are many tools that can help each church have a professionally designed and developed website at a low cost.

A little time and effort can go a long way into reaching out with the love of God to newcomers and seekers alike.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the diocesan social media officer and rector of St. Andrew Memorial in London.

Drama of re-enacting becomes powerful preaching tool

From Page 1

“He’s another curmudgeon and another drunk who I love doing, because he comes out drunk before he starts operating,” Nick says. “I pick people out of the audience to work on.”

Nick’s basement is filled with re-enactors costumes, including coats, hats, footwear and prop firearms. The items are used for his character presentations and for taking part in days-long re-enactments with groups of like-minded history buffs.

“Churches often call me up to be present for their 150th, 175th or 200th anniversary and ask me to be whoever they want me to be,” Nick said.

As part of re-enactor groups, Nick does the French and Indian War, Scottish battles, the War of 1812 and the American Civil

War, and the American Revolution.

He’s been at re-enactments in Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia and Fortress Louisbourg in Nova Scotia.

At Gettysburg, Nick was one of thousands of Civil War battle re-enactors.

The bonds developed among re-enactors are strong. There have been period weddings and twice Nick has been asked by families of re-enactors to officiate at funerals in costume, with many of those attending also in costume. More than 20 years ago in Long Point, he was asked to baptize the baby of re-enactors. He did and the boy continues to take part in re-enactments as a young adult.

Initially, Nick wanted his hobby to have nothing to do

with being clergy and sought roles such as an ordinary soldier. Eventually, he changed his mind.

Nick draws a direct line between his historical role-playing and developing his skill as a priest.

“Preaching is something that you need to practise at. If you want to become a good preacher, you have to practise it all the time and not just on Sunday. (Re-enacting) helped me gain confidence not just in myself, but in presentation, voice, body language and interacting. Over time, I stopped using the pulpit and even to this day, I seldom if ever use the pulpit. I like standing in the aisle, looking eyeball to eyeball with people and entering into conversations, asking questions or taking peo-

ple out of the congregation to demonstrate something.

“This interaction came out of dealing with the general public in re-enacting.”

Nick has also asked congregation members to take parts of the service while he dons a period uniform. One such memorable experience was a Thanksgiving service when he arrived as a War of 1812 American soldier.

On other occasions, there wasn’t a dry eye in the church as a coffin draped in a British flag arrived at the church followed by Nick in appropriate costume.

One Easter Sunday he arrived in Roman centurion’s battle garb.

“The power of drama can be really overwhelming, much more effective than any homily,” Nick said.

A priest since 1984 who served the parishes of Christ Church in Port Stanley, St. John’s in Kettle Point, Christ Church in Forest, St. John’s in Sarnia, Christ Church in Corunna and St. George’s in Sarnia as well as being the director of Huron Church Camp and the youth ministries co-ordinator for the Diocese of Huron, Nick may have thought he was retired in 2014.

But the opportunity to serve one more year at the charmingly historic St. Peter’s in Tyrconnell not far from the former estate of Col. Talbot drew him back to the pulpit.

“How perfect,” he said, “for me to serve such an historic parish.”

Wayne Newton is a freelance writer in London.

PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Appointments

Bishop Bob Bennett re-appointed the following as regional deans effective Feb. 1:

- **Delaware:** Rev. Val Kenyon
- **Essex:** Rev. Canon Bryan Girling
- **Kent:** Rev. Dr. Len Myers
- **Lambton:** Rev. Kristen Oliver
- **London:** Rev. Canon Dr. Kevin George
- **Oxford:** Rev. Bill Ward
- **Saugeens:** Rev. JoAnn Todd
- **Waterloo:** Rev. Canon Rob Towler

Bishop Bob newly appointed the following as regional deans

also effective Feb. 1:

- **Brant-Norfolk:** Rev. Victor Krueger-Kischak
- **Huron-Perth:** Rev. Grayhame Bowcott

Bishop Bob Bennett re-appointed the Ven. Allan Livingstone as territorial archdeacon of Huron-Perth effective Feb. 1.

Bishop Bob Bennett appointed Jane Kirkpatrick as honorary lay secretary to Synod effective Feb. 1. Jane is a lay delegate to Synod from St. James’, Stratford, and a member of the Diocesan Cemetery Committee.

Deconsecrations

On Sunday, Jan. 11, a service of deconsecration for Christ Church (Camlachie) took place. Bishop Terry Dance was the preacher and celebrant.

On Saturday, Jan. 17, a service of deconsecration for St. Peter’s, Lucknow, took place. Bishop Bob Bennett was the preacher and celebrant.

Retirement

Bishop Bob Bennett has accepted the wish of Rev. Canon Tony Bouwmeester to retire effective July 1, with his last day in the parish being June 28. Canon Tony was ordained a deacon on May 29, 1988, and priested on Nov. 30, 1988. He has served the parishes of St. Andrew’s, Tilbury, and the Church of the Ascension, Comber; St. Barnabas, London; East London Anglican Ministries; and the Parish of Long Point Bay (St. John’s, Port Rowan; Port Ryerse Memorial;

St. John’s, Woodhouse; St. Williams; and St. Andrew’s-by-the-Lake, Turkey Point). Canon Tony has been regional dean of Kent, a member of the Committee on Assistance to Theological Students, and chaplain to the lay readers. He was named a canon of the cathedral on May 24, 2009.

Bishop Bob Bennett has accepted the wish of Rev. Canon Robin Lyons to retire effective July 1 with his last day in the parish being Sunday, May 17. Robin was ordained a deacon on May 1, 1980 and priested March 1, 1981. He has served the parishes of St. George, Owen Sound; Trinity, Blyth, St. Mark’s, Auburn and St. John’s, Brussels; St. John’s, Tillsonburg and St. Stephen’s, Culloden; Trinity, St. Thomas; and All Saints, Waterloo, from which he retires. He has been the regional dean of the South Saugeens, Oxford and Waterloo. He has

served on the Postulancy Board and the Diocesan Court, as diocesan chaplain to the Anglican Church Women and as diocesan chaplain to the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen. He was named a canon of the cathedral on May 10, 1998.

Rest in Peace

Violet Farr, widow of Rev. Canon Maurice Farr and mother of Rev. Canon Michael Farr, passed away peacefully on Jan. 31. Violet was born on May 25, 1911, and married Maurice on Dec. 8, 1936, while he was serving at Outram and Egremont. Maurice, who was ordained in 1935, also served the parishes of Huntingford, Zorra and Beachville; St. John’s, Tillsonburg; St. Paul’s, Stratford; and St. Luke’s (Broughdale), London, from which he retired in 1974. He died in 1975. Violet’s funeral was held on Feb. 5, at St. Luke’s (Broughdale), London.

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People gather at St. Mary's, Walkerville, to take part via webcast in the annual conference held at Trinity Church Wall Street in New York.

Conference tackles inequality

By Rev. John Clark

St. Mary's, Walkerville, with support from St. Michael and All Angels, Windsor, was a partner site for the webcast of Trinity Church Wall Street's annual conference on Jan. 22-24.

The theme of the conference was Creating Common Good; however, the subtitle of the event, "A Practical Conference for Economic Equality" better captures the focus of the talks,

which emphasized the effects of growing income inequality, especially as political power is affected.

The archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was the preacher for the opening service of Evening Prayer on Jan. 22.

Archbishop Welby also gave the opening presentation, "Is inequality sinful?" at the morning session on Jan. 23.

Other speakers included Cor-

nel West, Barbara Ehrenreich, Robert Reich, Juliet Schor and Rt. Rev. Julio Murray, Anglican bishop of Panama.

You can read coverage of the conference in this month's edition of the Anglican Journal or a longer version online at www.anglicanjournal.com.

John Clark is priest-in-charge at St. Michael and All Angels, Windsor.

Organists lined up for Lenten series

Trinity, St. Thomas, continues its 27-year tradition of musical concerts for Lent

The Lenten Lunches series was started in 1993 by the late Paul Baker when he was the organist at Trinity. Paul did all the performances himself until 1996, at which time he brought more artists into the program.

The following organists have been lined up for Wednesday noon-hour recitals:

• **Feb. 25:** Catherine Gray, associate organist for the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist at Huron University College.

• **March 4:** Gerald Vreman, organist and choir master of Centre Street Baptist Church in St. Thomas.

• **March 11:** William Lupton, organist and director of music for Huron University College.

• **March 18:** Robert Towers, director of music at Central United Church in Sarnia.

• **March 25:** Angus Sinclair, first affiliate cathedral organist for St. Paul's and "fourth cantor" as the musical accompanist of the Three Cantors.

• **April 1:** Wayne Carroll, direc-

tor of music at Knox Presbyterian Church in St. Thomas and pianist and founding member of the professional piano quartet Corelli Consort.

The programs start at noon. The \$8 admission includes homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert following the recital.

Known as the church with the purple steeple, Trinity is located at 55 Southwick St. in St. Thomas

For more information, call 519-631-7000 or check out www.purplesteeple.com.

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LIT1 - July 5 - 25 (Full)

LIT2 - July 5 - 25

LIT1 - August 2 - 22 (Full)

LIT2 - August 2 - 22

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What now? A final reflection on Justice Camp

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

The development of the oil/tar sands has been controversial for some time. Concerns have been raised regarding the environmental impacts of everything from the mining itself to the delivery of the product via pipelines.

So significant is this conversation that religious leaders have taken time to comment, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who last spring called for an anti-apartheid-style boycott to save the planet.

Aware of that controversy, I felt called to see for myself when I chose to journey to Justice Camp last summer. Thus, I enrolled in the oil/tar sands immersion with a desire to hear the narratives as they intersect and diverge from our Gospel narratives.

Since my return, I have shared through Huron Church

FOOD FOR THOUGHT SOCIAL JUSTICE HURON



News glimpses of my experience, presenting insights into farmers (November issue), natives (December), industry workers (January) and local churches (February).

Admittedly, my group spent only three days immersed in the conversation. Still, we continually reflected on what we were hearing. The primary theme that emerged in these reflections by this group filled with people of faith, was the question: What about us?

We had a sense that we each played a role in enabling what was happening. It was hard to miss the irony of our group spending many hours travelling in a van to see the impact of

oil/tar sands development on the environment. Just by participating in this experience we were contributing to the need for oil.

Our hands are dirty: this was the phrase to which we returned on several occasions. We are complicit in creating the demand on which these companies and our government rely to promote oil/tar sands development. As long as we maintain our behaviours, there will continue to be a value in exploiting the land for its resource.

To know this is to wonder, how do we transform our society? How do we challenge each other to take responsibility

for our role in promoting the destruction of the earth? How do we encourage each other to consider alternatives?

One of the most inspiring moments for me came after I had returned to Ontario. Travelling back home with my family we came to that point on Hwy. 401 near Chatham where windmills begin to dot the horizon. There must be hundreds in the southwest corner of our diocese.

While not everyone likes the windmills, contrasted with the stark destruction of land we saw in the open pit mines of Fort McMurray and Fort McKay, to me they were a beautiful sign of hope.

Things are changing. Priorities are changing. An article in the Dec. 2 Globe and Mail said Canada now employs more people in the green energy sector than in the oil/tar sands. Worldwide, the clean energy sector employs 6.5 million peo-

ple. Even the recent drop in oil prices, linked at least to some extent to a decrease in demand, has helped to demonstrate that it is possible to change our dependence on oil.

Perhaps these are evidence of the tide turning. Perhaps we can adjust the path toward environmental destruction. Perhaps there is hope for a better tomorrow for our children unto seven generations.

The choice then falls to each of us. How far are we willing to go to transform our own blackened hands? How much are we willing to give up or change to increase the possibility that our world can heal from the devastation of the oil machine? In what ways will we choose to safeguard the integrity of creation and renew the life of the earth?

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is co-chair of Social Justice Huron.

Interfaith connections help our faith grow

By Libi Clifford

As we struggle with the devastating news of yet another religious conflict, there is sometimes a need to reinforce the good in our society.

Last year, as part of Education for Ministry's curriculum, I read a thought-provoking book called *My Neighbor's Faith: Stories of Interreligious Encounter, Growth and Transformation*, edited by Jennifer Howe Peace, Or N. Rose and Gregory Mobley.

The book is the result of an American national conference on interfaith education attended by members of Christian, Jewish and Muslim educational

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



faculties. The decision was made to share the conference and other stories in this book.

More than 50 people share short, personal narratives about crossing an interfaith boundary and the lessons learned. Do you remember the first time you met a Muslim or a Jew? Varied first encounters form the first section of the book.

Other sections include stories about finding new perceptions

of their own religion or of another's religion, confronting cultural baggage, working with the practices of another religion, finding religious soul mates and supporting interfaith movements.

A young Jewish chaplain learning to comfort Christian families with prayer, a Roman Catholic's journey to Hinduism, and a Sikh woman's experience of Oneness in a Chris-

tian church while talking to the organist are three of these transforming experiences.

The stories are engaging and easy to read and remind us of what we gain by living in an interfaith society. Narratives come from Protestant, Roman Catholic, Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Native American encounters.

These meetings cause the storytellers to see more commonalities than differences. The challenges and inspirations from these meetings result in a deeper understanding of God and of their own beliefs.

As Christians we will be exploring our own traditions and practices of prayer at the

upcoming Bishops' Conference on Prayer on May 2, sponsored by the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. The title this year is "Going Broader, Going Deeper".

After thoughts from Bishop Bob Bennett on prayer, we will be learning about and engaging in different prayer practices together. Combine this with a lunch and fellowship and we anticipate a wonderful day.

For more details, see the advertisement on Page 2.

Libi Clifford is a member of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Huron)'s executive. Information on AFP can be found at anglicanprayer.org

Keeping the bishops' office running smoothly

By Heather Moller

Do you ever wonder how the bishops and Executive Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs stay so organized?

How do those bishops' office events run so smoothly? Where do the licences, permits and formal documents for services magically emerge from?

Much of the planning, preparing and paperwork comes from the desk of Diane Picard, administrative assistant in the bishops' office, a position she has held for almost seven years. She considers her role as a support to the diocesan ministry.

This support includes fielding the many daily inquiries into the bishops' office; organizing travel arrangements; keeping records, reports and files current; managing correspondence; arranging the bishops' calendars; and

WHAT DO THEY DO? HURON CHURCH HOUSE STAFF



preparing reports for the bishops' episcopal visits to parishes.

Announcements, prayer requests, Wednesday morning worship services at Church House, and the Pastoral Progressions column in Huron Church News are also part of her numerous tasks — as well as all those widespread emails.

Formal invitations, congratulatory milestone letters, and Christmas and celebratory cards and gifts are organized and generated by Diane.

Receptions and gatherings related to the bishop's office are tasteful and well-presented be-

cause of Diane's skills.

Diane is resourceful, task- and results-oriented and organized. Her role requires great attention to detail and the handling of very confidential material.

Diane strives for a professional, calm and helpful demeanour even in the most hectic times.

Outside the office, Diane enjoys family life with her two sons and her energetic West Highland terrier.

She also enjoys researching family ancestry, music, reading and gardening and has been an active volunteer in our community for more than 30 years.



The old lion-headed embosser for the Diocese of Huron seal is a piece of office equipment often needed by Diane Picard, the bishops' administrative assistant.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN
Diocese of Huron
ANNUAL meeting & conference

*St. Paul's Cathedral – London
Saturday 18th April 2015*

*Registration 9:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer – followed by Meeting – 10:00 a.m.*

Guest Speaker
*The Most Rev'd Fred Hiltz
Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada*

"Bread of Life"



*Holy Eucharist 2:00 p.m.
Celebrant
The Right Reverend Terry A. Dance
Bishop of Norfolk*

Everyone Welcome

NOTE A set price (TBA) lunch will be provided by the CWL of St. Peter's Basilica).

FAITH, FUN & FELLOWSHIP

LAMBTON ACW SPRING DEANERY MEETING
Thursday, April 9, 2015

St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Sarnia
718 Cathcart Blvd. – Sarnia, Ontario

10:00 a.m. Registration
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
– Rev. Raymond Hodgson
Brief Business Meeting and Potluck Lunch

SPECIAL PROGRAM - to be decided
We look forward to welcoming you!
Open to all - Bring a Friend!



In Memory

Essex Deanery

Ethyl M. Blackwell ACW
Church of the Epiphany
Kingsville
Erna Schieve
Eleanor Dummer
Teresa Blackford

Study praised as comprehensive

From Page 1

Dean Peter Wall of Niagara diocese, co-chair of the Anglican-Lutheran commission, looked over the final draft to ensure it would prove ideal for Anglicans and Lutherans.

"This is an impressive piece of work — carefully and comprehensively looking at the Sunday readings for Lent in this Year B," Peter wrote in an email.

"It provides good and easily used resources for a facilitator and also gives excellent extra background reading material for those who wish to use it. I believe that it would deeply enrich one's journey through the Sundays in Lent."

Both the Anglican and Lu-

theran churches are promoting the Bible study online.

Rev. André Lavergne, a commission member and assistant to the Lutheran bishop for ecumenical and interfaith matters, praised the study for its "grass-roots quality."

"It follows the lectionary, and that's a lectionary that is shared between Anglicans and Lutherans . . . It's very accessible, whether you're an Anglican or a Lutheran," he said.

"We're going to be reading the same texts during Lent and therefore studying the same material, so that's very helpful."

The Lenten Bible study can be downloaded from <http://www.anglican.ca/resources/lent2015/>

Curious? Join us!

Theology Open House

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

- ✓ Discover how Huron can help you achieve your goals
- ✓ Learn about our degrees: BTh, MDiv, MTS, & graduate MA
- ✓ Visit classes, tour facilities
- ✓ Meet faculty & lunch with students

To Register and for Details:

www.huronu.ca/pro
Faculty of Theology
Huron University College
1349 Western Road, London Ontario N6G 1H3
T: 519.438.7224 ext. 289; st.peg@huronu.ca



May the Gospel storytelling continue

It was incredibly hard to write my first Huron Church News column, then called Via the Media, many years ago.



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. KEITH
NETHERY**

Idea swirling, possibilities dancing and all the while I kept telling myself, "If you screw up the first one, nobody will ever read it again!"

It will be no easier to write this, my final column for the Huron Church News.

I am stepping away for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost, this paper

is undergoing a wonderful reworking due to the extensive efforts of new editor Sandra Coulson. The changing nature of communication and the reality of church today mean those changes will need to continue.

Chief among the needs of this paper: new voices. Voices that can challenge us in new ways. Sandra is working to bring new people into the fold of HCN writers and that means some of us need to step back and let her weave the magic.

While this journey has been a fascinating ride, I find that I have lost some of my passion in the area of communications. Anyone who knows me will tell you that technology and I are not good friends. We may tolerate one another, but we have no real interest in getting to know each other. While I can

(and will before this column is complete) argue that technology in itself is not a communication solution, investment in technology would seem to be a requirement of today's communication world.

What I really want to do right now is be a parish priest and focus on the needs of the community around me. It will keep me more than busy and I believe it is what I do best.

So what would I say after nearly a decade of writing a column in the Huron Church News? Exactly the same thing I said way back when I started this enterprise: Communication at its base is storytelling.

One person tells a story to another and if it is told well, communication happens. To be better communicators, we need to be better and more inten-

tional storytellers.

Technology provides a broad array of vehicles to carry that story, and with the ease and reach of newer methods, we instantaneously have a leg up on being better storytellers and better communicators.

But it all comes back to knowing what story you want to tell, why you need to tell it, why others need to know it and how you plan to tell it.

The story of our lives changes every second of every hour of every day. If we are trying to tell the same old story, we have already seriously damaged our ability to communicate.

If I have managed to accomplish anything over the many months I have written this column, I hope it is to encourage you to be storytellers.

It doesn't happen by acci-

dent. It takes intentionality and ongoing education to hone the craft of telling stories.

It has been an honour and privilege to write stories for you these past years. While my byline may not appear on these pages anymore, that doesn't mean that you aren't in my thoughts. I have very much enjoyed the many, many conversations I have had with Huron Church News readers.

As we meet from time to time, tell me your story and I'll share mine. Together we will continue to tell the Gospel story of Jesus Christ, the most important story in our lives.

Thank you so very much. Blessings.

Keith Nethery is rector of St. Stephen's Memorial Anglican Church in London.
keith.nethery@sympatico.ca

Let your peace come upon your world

We cannot escape a certain level of anxiety. It is a very certain element of interrelating with others, be it at work or at home or with friends.



AS I SEE IT

**REV. JIM
INNES**

For some this anxiety is minimal and manageable, even unnoticed. For others, this anxiety is quite uncomfortable or severe. In his 1844 book *The Concept of Anxiety*, the philosopher and theologian Soren Kierkegaard said of anxiety, "no grand inquisitor has in

readiness such terrible tortures as has anxiety . . . choosing the instant (one) is weakest . . . to lay traps where (one) will be caught and ensnared."

Many find themselves occasionally searching for some calm respite, a sense of peacefulness. And what I'd like to address here is that too often our solutions have the opposite effect.

In my experience as a pastor, especially in couple and family counselling, I find when feelings of anxiety overcome a sense of peace, people will close down and become self-protective. They will, if their anxieties increase too rapidly, resort to an almost narcissistic level of defending themselves.

It is in essence a fight or flight response that will intensify depending on the level of

perceived challenge. More often than not, this reaction is over-kill and makes matters worse. Consequently, at that point, peace — true peace — becomes an unlikely possibility.

Peace doesn't come from controlling my circumstances. That kind of peacefulness is best called safety. And safety is circumstantial. We know too well that just when we think we have a situation under control, something bulldozes the landscape.

For me and for many, true peace is found only when we turn our energies toward being people of peace. In other words, the peace that we want to feel inside is discovered when we become that peace on the outside, and within the circumstances of our life.

Peace is not so much an invit-

ing space outside of ourselves, as it is a warm reality that we carry within us. And to activate it, we must share it.

This path to peace is counter-intuitive. It seems only right that we make of our life what we can, including a peaceful space for ourselves. So to consider peace as something shared instead of something made, we must act contrary to seasoned reason.

I have come to appreciate the depth of meaning in the simple words of this well-known and oft-repeated prayer attributed to St. Francis: "Make me a channel of your peace . . . where there's hatred let me sow love . . . where there is despair, hope . . . where there is sadness, joy . . . May I not so much seek to be consoled, as to console . . . for in giving, we receive . . . and

in letting go our life that we find it."

Mother Teresa, missionary and winner of the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, publicly recognized this prayer's profound truth when she taught, "So let us be one heart, full of love in the heart of God, and so share the joy of loving by sharing, helping, loving and serving each other."

As I see it — learned through trial and error — the truth of this seemingly counter-intuitive path to peace, is not known until it is practised. So, I pray you well in your journey. May your new year be one of peace.

Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of St. John's Church in St. Thomas. Rev.jiminnes@gmail.com

Learning our discipline makes it our nature

One of the joys of working with undergraduates is seeing them grapple with a subject or a struggle with a body of knowledge until they have mastered some aspect of it.



**REV. CANON
BILL CLIFF**

It begins with a love affair. Falling in love with history was easy for me. I had been reading stories about kings and

queens and wars and battles and knights and far-away lands from my earliest age.

Studying history, however, meant I was in store for some disillusionment. At the university level, those who come to study something they love find themselves faced with the hard work of learning the whole discipline: a body of literature, the documents that support the theory, and all the process of putting it into practice.

Spending time with students in this process is exciting because you can see the love that was born of the easy knowledge slowly grow and mature into the genuine love of a discipline.

I know they have made the

switch from loving history to being a student of history when they bound into my office arguing about what Charlemagne did, or the latest article on the letters of King James I, or a new theory in Canadian political history about what happened in Charlottetown in 1864.

In many ways I think Lent is the same thing. I greet Lent with solemn resolve to reflect, repent and amend my life in the ways that the Lord directs. This is like loving history.

Eventually, like any student, I am forced to admit that loving the subject is not enough and that I am required to apply myself to the disciplines that will make the difference in the

outcomes I seek.

I must pray. I must seek the Lord in Scripture. I must be regular in my attendance at church — not because "doing the work" will make me any better, but rather because I might better know the One who loved me first.

Being "nice" is not the same as the Christian charity that is regularly required of me all year long. I need to exercise and build up those muscles of charity so that I might demonstrate charity when I would much rather be full of wrath.

It is the same for all the virtues of the Christian life. We practise patience so that it is our natural reflex. We practise

our faith so that it becomes second nature to us. We pray all the more forcefully so that we will not hesitate to pray.

Just like the students, we have to learn our disciplines so that they become our very nature.

I wish for you a continued and holy Lent. May your exercises lead you to confidence, not in the exercises themselves, but in the strength of the Lord to whom you will be drawn closer.

Rev. Canon William G. Cliff is rector of the Collegiate Chapel of St. John the Evangelist. wcliff@uwo.ca. 519-438-7224, ext. 294.