

Going green in Sudbury



BECOMING BETTER STEWARDS OF THE EARTH: The Church of the Ascension, Sudbury recently underwent a 'Green Audit' in order more fully understand how the church could act in faith to become better stewards of the earth through practices that respect the planet and a Sacred Space that uses resources efficiently. Pictured from left are Ven. Anne Germond, rector, Green Auditor Stephen Collette, Anne Trimmer, People's Warden, Harley Moulton, Deputy Warden and Jane Cox.

By Jane Cox

What an fascinating and fun morning was spent at Church of the Ascension, Sudbury! Members wish everyone could have been with them. Readers may or may not recall, the Ascension applied to The Anglican Church of Canada for, and was lucky enough to be chosen, as a church to have a subsidized 'Green Audit'. The essential question is, how do Christians

act with our faith and become better stewards of the earth and in Sacred Spaces? Today, the assigned Green Auditor Stephen Collette has given lots of ideas. He has also allowed this church to puff out the chest a little bit by congratulating members on some steps towards these goals. Mr. Collette has inspired the people spiritually, and suggested relatively small and inexpensive physical changes to the

church building which will save dollars.

He talked to members about architecture of churches, engagement of the community through celebration of achievements and signage. Stephen Collette reminded everyone about weather, science and toxins. "If you can't eat it, don't clean with it". The bathrooms, the kitchen, the nursery with Godly Play were examined

and a close look at our sump pump occurred. As Stephen Collette reminded the church: "The building can tell stories." Many expanded their vocabulary. 'Spalling of brick' anyone?! This church has it and it can be solved.

Today, Mr. Collette opened up Pandora's Box. Could this church, should this church engage two nearby local high schools in a

See So – p. 4

Inside Algoma



John Jewel was a brilliant defender of the Faith

Rev. Richard White examines the *Nativity Homily*, the work of the 16th century Anglican Bishop John Jewel in this month's *History Byte*.

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Final From the Anchorhold in this edition

Sister Mary Cartwright has been a contributor to this newspaper for many years with her monthly column *From The Anchorhold*. Sister Mary will contribute to a new feature to appear in the new year.

See p. 7

A new way to tell the Christmas story

Charlotte Haldenby suggests in her monthly column the use of a flash mob to tell the Christmas story and grab people's attention.

See p. 8

Next deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Algoma Anglican* is **Monday, December 2.**

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St. Mary's, Nipigon is abundantly blessed

Special couple were able to celebrate wedding anniversary

By Kathleen Aiken

Thanksgiving has just past and St. Mary's, Nipigon has many blessings to count. This year joys

and sorrows have been shared, drawing members closer together as a community of Christ. All pray for God's continued guidance as congregants work through a busy November, and approach Advent.

Baptisms

This year, two new adult members were welcomed, through Baptism: on Sunday, March 24,

2013 Scott Daniel Robinson; and on Sunday, March 31, 2013, Zachary James Goneau-Cheetham. The church was so blessed with these happy events. Faces in the congregation were lit up with joy.

A special anniversary and celebration of a life well-lived

Their names, Edie & Phil, were always linked, since they were

teenagers. The Finlayson's were married in the original St. Mary's Anglican Church building on March 30, 1963, and Phil helped build the new St. Mary's, seven years ago. A true Nipigonian, Phil Finlayson loved the outdoors and fishing. He had not been well for some years, but God answered his prayers and the prayers of all, that

God would give him more time with Edie and their family. On March 30, 2013 his family hosted a 50th wedding anniversary celebration, with Mr. Finlayson attending via technology from his hospital room.

"Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy

See St. Mary's – p. 5

Diocese of Algoma
Anglican Church Women

DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER



Have you ever wondered what the distance is and how long it would take to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey? I did the other day when thinking about Advent and about Mary and Joseph preparing to travel south to Bethlehem to be included in the census ordered by Caesar Augustus. “And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.” Luke 2:3-5.

After scrolling through numerous stories on the internet, the consensus seemed to be the journey covered from 80 to 90 miles and usually took four days for a fit man to accomplish this trek. Many suggested Joseph would have chosen to cross the Jordan River and then back over again in order to avoid the somewhat hostile Samaritans which would have made the journey longer. They may also have teamed up with other travelers for safety from bandits and wild animals. Most stories agree Mary probably rode on a donkey and stopped at night to rest in tiny settlements or on the open hillsides. In any case it would have been a precarious and uncomfortable journey for a woman nearly nine months pregnant. It would have taken longer than four days but Mary was carrying a precious baby and surely his heavenly father was keeping watch over this long prophesied for baby.

Again with the help of the Internet, I learned there are ten prophecies in the Old Testament which foretold the coming of Jesus’ and are fulfilled in the New Testament including:

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

- Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, “God is with us.” Mat:1:23

- I see him, but not now; I behold him but not near – a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the borderlands of Moab, and the territory of all the Shethites. Numbers:24:17.

- Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Matt: 1:2

- But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2

- Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. Luke 2:3-6.

As we contemplate the prophecies of the Old Testament and rejoice in their fulfillment in the New Testament, let us hunt up the Advent wreaths and ready the new Advent candles to grace the wreath in our Churches and our tables at home. And as we make our way through Advent let us remember Mary and Joseph making their way towards Bethlehem and the lowly stable where the shepherds, guided by a blazing star,

will pay homage to the Christ Child.

The message of Advent is repeated in a marvelous book printed in 1958, *The Apostles’ Doctrine and Fellowship* and “In this book, bishops of the whole Anglican Church, representing all the provinces of the Anglican world, teach the faith that is in them”. (pg. iii) As the book follows the liturgical calendar, The Right Rev. Benjamin Pollard, T.D., D.D. Bishop of Sodor and Man (Great Britain) contributed a sermon for The First Sunday in Advent and writes in part:

“Advent means the glory of the coming of the Lord. It is the breaking in of the Divine into human history; of the supernatural into the natural. It means a sense of something great impending from the side of heaven”. He continues: “Then Advent comes with its light shining in the darkness and its message ‘Be still, my soul; for God surely comes’.” This is Advent. Can we capture its authentic thrill? Words are poor things to convey it; it needs the wings of music. The Church has known this down the ages. Let us hear the great cry of the souls of men in the mystic *Veni Emmanuel* which the Church has lifted up to heaven for nine hundred years. O come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

And then the great crashing chords of triumphant reassurance: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

May Advent be a time of blessed anticipation and may Christmas be a time of holy peace and joy.

Pam Handley, Diocesan A.C.W. Devotions Chair.

When God asks,
what will we say?

By the Rev. Grahame Stap

For the past two Wednesday nights I have been privileged to be part of the group at St. John the Divine that feed and serve some of the marginalized people of North Bay in the church hall. The first week the number was about 75. The meal was chili and cheese with garlic bread, apple strudel and ice cream. Last Wednesday night there were about 110 people ranging in age from 8 months to 80 years. They were fed with a very nourishing soup, a ham and cheese sandwich and dessert.

I understand the reason for the increase in the number of people. The money ran out before the month did.

I think what surprised me the most was the laughter. These were not downtrodden people as one might expect but people that found joy in all things. They were, as Jesus might have said, the salt of the earth. It struck me, as never before, that this is what Jesus meant in the Gospel of Matthew. “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink”.

I believe it is what we are called to do and some do it very well. Some actually walk in the footsteps of Jesus. They eat with outcasts and those that are considered to be less than the rest of us.

I wonder sometimes what we will say when we stand and look into the face of God and God asks “tell me what you did with all I gave you”. Will we stammer and try to look away? Will we be embarrassed by our lack of attention to those who need our help? I can’t help but think of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16. The rich man did nothing to hurt Lazarus. He just ignored him. I am ashamed to admit that in the

past I also have ignored those that needed my help and have walked past those hand was held out.

While some retain the excitement that comes from understanding that God loves all things God created and are reaching out to the marginalized people of this world, some seem to be more concerned with the doctrine of the church

Thoughts from
Grahame

and which book to use than actually following in the footsteps of Jesus. Perhaps we need to find that same excitement and become involved with helping the poor of this world with our time, talent and treasury.

I love Sunday morning. I love to see people come and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. I understand that learning about the love of God and spreading the word of God is important as Jesus told us in the great commission ‘go and baptize the nations of the world’. There is another part of being a Christian and that is to be a servant to those that need us.

I believe, that for a lot of us, we need to look again to the wisdom of the Bible. We need to understand that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son so we might be saved and the Son gave us a new commandment that we love one another as He loved us. Perhaps then we will be able answer the question God will ask as we stand before God with joy in our hearts and God will say, “well done thou good and faithful servant”

As always it is only my opinion

Presented by St. Luke's Junior, Girls' & Boys' Auxiliaries

St. Nicholas & A Child's Advent in Sault Ste. Marie

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Entry: canned good OR toiletry item OR small toy for those in need

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EDITORIAL

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The Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Andrews, Bishop
Peter Simmons, Editor

Letter from the Bishop

Be what you desire to appear

Dear Neighbour,

The first week in November found Fawna and me in Portugal for a brief holiday in connection with meetings I had in England. After we got settled in our hotel room, I turned on the television and was chagrined to learn that the lead item on the Portuguese news was the admission by a Canadian political figure that he may have smoked crack cocaine within the last year. A couple of days later, Fawna and I were accosted by a tour guide selling city excursions. When he learned that we were from Canada, he asked, in broken English, 'You know Mayor of Toronto?'

I don't know whether his inflection betrayed disdain, mirth or genuine curiosity, but it was a little humbling to be associated with such a wanton figure. Those who travel internationally will understand how important national reputations can be. I used to know Americans who put Canadian flags on their backpacks in the sworn conviction that they received better treatment when travelling abroad. I guess now they'll want to find some way of indicating that they're not from Toronto!

Scripture teaches us about the importance of a good name. When quizzing confirmation candidates on the Ten Commandments, I point out to them that the Ninth Commandment, 'Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour', is really about protecting and preserving one another's reputations. In a day when social media can indiscriminately broadcast gossip and poisonous innuendo, such a commandment is particularly relevant. And, although it does not seem to apply in secular politics, it is a requirement of leadership in the Church that those who aspire to positions of authority 'must be well thought of by outsiders' (1 Tim 3.7).

All of which leads me to ask, what is our reputation in our communities? What comes to peoples' minds when you tell them, 'I am an Anglican', or that you belong to a particular Anglican church? People often do have preconceived notions about us, and not all of them are complimentary! I regularly encounter people who think that we're obsessed with sex (a charge I find ironic coming from a society that supports a multi-billion dollar pornography industry). And, of course, their impressions are often false. But churches can have a reputation for fractiousness or hypocrisy or elitism. I would like to think that there are no such congregations in our diocese, but parishes are human institutions and stories of our past conflicts and the presence of rascally characters in our midst may sully and dog us.

Whether it is better to take our disagreements into the street after the fashion of some Mediterranean cultures or confine them to the bedroom where the children can't hear, I leave for you to decide. But one thing is clear. In

the Christian community we must take care to speak well of one another, to stand up for one another, and to pray for the grace of God continually to reform us into the likeness of his Son.

For, in fact, this is what the Incarnation is about. The story of God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus redresses the problem of God's reputation in the world. God would



not have the world believe that he was either impotent or hateful. Where many thought that God had given up on humanity, concluding that he had left human beings to their own devices as a just judgement on their stubborn waywardness, Je-

sus affirms that 'God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him' (John 3.17).

What is more, it was through the surrendering of his own rights and privileges as God that he obtained our own reputations in the world as his sons and daughters. As St Paul put it, God 'made himself of no reputation' (Phil 2.7, AV) by taking on human likeness, and this in order that his own righteousness might be fulfilled in us. Or, in the words of Charles Wesley,

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die.

As we approach this holy Christmas season, let us seek to embody the example of the Incarnation for ourselves. For the reputation of God and his Church, let us lay aside any claim to our own dignity as we give ourselves in the service of Christ and of one another.

Fawna joins me in wishing you a Happy Christmas,

Stephen Andrews
Bishop of Algoma

A jewel of a Christmas message



BISHOP
JOHN JEWEL

By the Rev. Richard White

We admire preachers who can preach off-the-cuff. We lean forward when preachers interact with us. We get drawn into well-crafted and researched sermons. Few of us respect a preacher whose message was taken off the internet or borrowed from another preacher. Yet in early Anglican History, canned sermons or "homilies" were not only common, they were mandated. Why canned sermons were popular says more about the times they were written in than the laziness of the preacher.

When we broke from the Roman Catholic Church, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer was left with clergy who were both poorly educated and ignorant of the Protestant Faith they had been grafted into. In the 16th century the entire Church needed Biblical instruction and had to take a massive doctrinal course corrective. Cranmer presented a volume of twelve fully written homilies in 1547. A second volume of twenty-one homilies appeared in 1571. These were written primarily by John Jewel, the Bishop of Salisbury, a brilliant defender of the Faith. His Christmas homily was standard fare at Anglican services for years.

Jewel's *Nativity Homily*, stands

as a textbook: perfect Christmas Eve sermon. It takes thirty-five minutes to deliver and has four sections: a) Humankind's original condition; b) our fall from grace and its immediate consequences; c) the consequences of the Fall for all of Humankind; d) and God's gracious response to our fallen condition by sending His Son,

History Byte

Jesus Christ, to be the Saviour of Humankind.

In the first section, *Our Original Condition*, Jewel describes Adam and Eve as exceeding "the sun in brightness," and "every small and little star." In every way the first human beings reflected the image of God. Our reason was uncorrupt, our understanding was "pure and good," and we were "obedient and godly." We were the lords over creation, and lived in tranquility and peace.

In second section, *The Fall*, Jewel wryly observes that why we fell from grace: "the common nature of all men in time of prosperity and wealth," is to "forget not only themselves but also God." God had given Humankind one simple instruction, just one – don't

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So many things can be recycled

Continued from Front
community garden thereby replacing a front lawn? What does the Ascension have to offer in the kitchen for intergenerational connection and wisdom? Why not host a dill pickle workshop, or does all food come out of a cardboard box? The church has a newly installed water fountain. There is no need for plastic water bottles in the space. The Church of the Ascension has contributed 175 sleep rolls from recycled materials to the homeless.

Can paper towels be recycled? Scrap metal, pop and beer cans are already recycled. The Green auditor kept this church forward thinking but guilt free and relaxed. Well, now the Ascension waits for and anticipates the auditor's 30 to 40 page report. There likely will be no major surprises. Some simple energy saving measures will need to be followed up. God's help and guidance will be needed for some deeper discussions. God Bless. Next: Part 3

Blessing of the Animals service held in Gravenhurst

By Mary Flavell Leger
St. James', Gravenhurst was filled with "All Creatures Great and Small" for its 5th Annual Blessing of the Animals service on Sunday, October 6, 2013. This is a special celebration in honour of St. Francis of Assisi, at which time we give thanks for the animal companions in our lives and bring them to the church to be blessed. This year we were fortunate to have Rev. Peter Simmons officiating, with the help of a few canine friends in the congregation occasionally shouting a loud 'AMEN' at the appropriate times! We even had a puppy who sang along to the

hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful!* Organist George Kadwell's prelude of a medley of animal songs such as *How Much Is That Doggie In The Window*, *Alley Cat*, *Rudolph*, and other pieces set the pace for a relaxed, casual and fun afternoon for all. Those who attended brought donations of food, accessories, and money for the Muskoka Branch of the OSPCA. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the willing hands of the numerous volunteers at St. James who are always ready and willing to support our special functions. Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful afternoon!



MUSICAL PET: Rev. Peter Simmons is pictured with proud puppy William, at the Service of the Blessing of the Animals held at St. James', Gravenhurst on Sunday, October 6, 2013. William, who had been up for adoption, found a new home days after the service. William sang along with many of the hymns during the service!



EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE: Jack Derrenbacker, a student at St. Benedict's Catholic School in Sudbury served as a Legislative Page at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in Toronto from Monday, October 21 to Thursday, November 7, 2013. Pages are involved in a number of activities including: delivering messages and water for the MPPs in the Chamber, taking classes in legislative process and mathematics, and meeting with key legislative players such as the party leaders and the Speaker of the House.



HISTORIC CHURCH: Author Joyce Payne and Canon Rudy van der Heil, incumbent of the Parish of Muskoka Lakes, pictured on the right, recently presented a copy of the updated version of *A History of St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, Port Carling*, to diocesan Archivist Fred Neal for deposit in the Diocese of Algoma Archives. The booklet provides both a narrative account of parish history and a particularly useful description of congregational activities.

Letters to the Editor & Submissions Policy

Letter writers and authors of unsolicited submissions are reminded to include a signature and phone number for verification purposes. Letters will be reviewed and may be edited for length and content. While letters expressing opinion are welcome, all letters and other submissions are subject to approval before publication.

St. Mary's apple pies are popular in Nipigon

Continued from Front
of thy Lord.” (Matthew 25:21)
On Saturday, April 6, 2013 St. Mary's celebrated Phil Finlayson's life: a life dedicated to God and his beloved family. The church was packed to overflowing, including the Nipigon volunteer fire fighters honouring their colleague of 20 years. Edie Finlayson continues her walk with God. We are truly grateful for her presence among us.
For Edie and Phil Finlayson, with our love:
And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His Hand. From Psalm 91. www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/j/josh_groban/
Community Outreach
St. Mary's apple pies are so popular that on Saturday, October 26, 2013 100 pies were made and delivered, ready for baking or freezing. St. Mary's pastry chefs,

mostly men, prepared the dough for pie shells the day before. The busy hands and happy hearts are now working toward the popular monthly community lunch and annual Fall Tea and Sale.
At the end of this church's communion services the Doxology is said to each other: "Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine..." When members think of the inevitable challenges to come, we can remember words from one of Rev. Diane Hilpert-McIlroy's inspiring sermons:
"God specializes in the impossible."
St. Mary's, Nipigon God's blessings to our brothers and sisters in Algoma as all look forward to Advent and the Christmas season.
"Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matthew 25:21)



OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY: Shirley Mowat, chief cook and community outreach leader is pictured slicing apples used for the 100 pies made by a number of parishioners of St. Mary's, Nipigon on Saturday, October 26, 2013.



POPULAR PIES: On Saturday, October 26, 2013 a number of parishioners from St. Mary's, Nipigon gathered to make apple pies. Over 100 pies were baked and delivered. From left, Adrien Marceau and Eddie Atwill are pictured preparing the apples.



THE LATEST IN FASHION: Eileen Thom was one of seven ladies from The Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury who modeled the latest styles of the season at the Fall Flair with Fashion Fair held on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Guests were treated to an array of specially prepared cakes.



BARE FACE ROBBERY?: At the end of October, the shed behind St. James', Goulais River was broken into by a bear. It appears that nothing was stolen!



CATHEDRAL HONOURS CHORISTER: Stephen Mallinger, Choirmaster at St. Luke's Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie, presents a certificate of appreciation to Canon Dr. David Gould in grateful thanks for 50 years of service in the Cathedral choir. Canon Gould's ministry was recognised at the service of worship on St. Luke's day, Sunday, October 20, 2013 in Sault Ste. Marie.

The jawbone of an ass

By the Rev. Bob Elkin

When I was young and knew everything, I went to work for the United Church as a Lay Minister on a reserve in Northern Ontario. I found most of the job entailed tasks requiring only a reasonable amount of common sense and energy. The Sunday sermon however was pretty specialized and since I had never heard of the Lectionary I fished around in the Bible each week hoping to find something profound to speak on. Most times I had no luck. For a while I delivered a weekly load of bollocks composed of platitudes, out of context Bible quotes and bad theology. Then I discovered the Book of James and spent the rest of my time there beating the congregation with “Faith without actions is dead!” From this I learned two things: one, you can put a congregation to sleep with a good message as well as a bad one and two, there is more to a sermon than meets the eye.

In the course of my ministry I have several times had people say to me: “You have a gift for being able to just stand up and give a good message.” I appreciate that they thought the message was good but I have difficulty with the “to just stand up” part of it. Any preacher worth his salt has usually sweat pearls preparing what he is going to say. They’ve examined the text, they’ve gone to the reference books, they’ve pondered and considered and let the Spirit work and the ideas percolate. Then they’ve written and edited and probably rewritten and finally produced something that they would like to make better but that they can live with. That’s what they preach on Sunday. Not everybody does this of course.

Twice I have met clergy who told me they pray for guidance on Sunday morning as they mount the pulpit steps and the Lord puts His words in their mouth. Well the devil put a rude, two word phrase in my mouth at that point with the first word being “lazy” but through great self control it didn’t come out although I thought it and its true! Most of us have about three good spontaneous sermons in us and then we’re done. Preaching for the other fifteen hundred Sundays of your career requires hard work.

The greatest message has to be delivered in an interesting way if people are going to connect with it. I like to use humour but as I was taught in the seminary you have to be careful with this. I’ve

had people say to me “That joke you told one Sunday about the nudist juggler on a unicycle was hilarious!” and then smilingly add: “I don’t remember anything else about that sermon but it was a great joke.” Something wrong there! I once heard a pet loving preacher tell how she was in her bath when the cat came and delivered a ‘gift’ in the cat-box she kept in the bathroom. I heard that story almost thirty years ago and have not forgotten one detail about it except for all the rest of the sermon that came before and after it. As a preacher that gives you food for thought.

Like everyone else, preachers are unique and each has his or her own habits or idiosyncrasies. I used to be a rocker, shifting from one foot to the other and sway-

Letter from Bob

ing back and forth as I talked. A seasick congregation finally impressed on me the need to stand still and I work on it. A habit I formed of raising my arms during the service a’la Moses parting the sea came to an end when I filled in at a church where everybody jumped to their feet when I lifted my arms. That’s unnerving! We’ve all been distracted by preachers who tugged on their hair, fiddled with their notes, coughed relentlessly, looked at their feet as they spoke and did numerous other things that they probably didn’t notice but which drove us nuts. When I’m being driven nuts I don’t hear much and there’s a lot of people like me around. In school they used to video tape us preaching and then make us watch it and see how we came across. Ouch! Maybe all preachers should do something similar on a regular basis.

Finally, remember that enthusiasm counts! Each Sunday preachers are delivering a piece of a story that is the greatest story ever told. To recite it like it was a list of things you have to pick up at the grocery store after church sure doesn’t do the story any justice! Someone once said that diplomacy is the ability to tell a man to go to hell in such a way that he looks forward to the journey. Well good sermon writing and good preaching is the ability to tell people about God in such a way that they can’t wait to meet Him. And that is what it is all about.



THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING: St. Giles, Hawk Junction was recently deconsecrated. Present for the deconsecration were from left, Rev. Richard Reed, Regional Dean of Algoma, Marilyn Schmidt, Deanery Lay Steward, Betty Valious, and Karen Rainville parishioners at St. Giles, Frances Glover, Deanery Lay Steward and Ven. Peter Symth, Archdeacon of the Deanery of Algoma.



SHAKESPEARE’S EARLIEST COMEDY: Thorneloe Theatre Arts and Cambridge College Technical Theatre program will be presenting Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors* from November 7-9 and 14-16 at 7:30 p.m. and November 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. at the Ernie Checkeris Theatre at Thorneloe on the Laurentian University campus. Pictured in rehearsal are Marcus Dias who will playing Dromio of Ephesus and Abby Yzereef who will be playing Adrianna. (Photo by Ali Weslake)



GATHERED FOR FALL MEETING: The Fall meeting of the Muskoka Deanery ACW was well attended. The meeting took place on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at All Saints’, Huntsville.

The Bishop has a blog!

It is called

‘benedictus benedicat’

You can find it

at

<http://stephenalgoma.typepad.com/benedictus-benedicat/>

Homily was laced with Scripture

Continued from p. 3
eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Our ancestors seemed hopelessly unwilling to obey it. Jewel then gives a rapid-fire list of consequences of our disobedience. Before the Fall, he says, Humankind was blessed, after, it became cursed. Before, it was the picture of purity and cleanliness, after it became spotted and defiled. In short, Humankind had become nothing less than a “lump of sin,” deserving the swift judgment of God and condemnation to everlasting death.

In the third section, *The Consequences*, we can almost hear a resigned sigh from Jewel as he describes the new reality as a “great and miserable” plague, and says it would have been “so much easier,” if we had obeyed God. The consequences of the Fall were three-fold: the entire human race had fallen; none of us is untouched by sin ; and our destiny is grim: “the pangs of death and the pains of hell.”

The entire homily is laced with copious references to Scripture. None more so than the fourth section entitled, *God's Response* . Jewel outlines the story of our salvation. He begins with a shout of relief: “Behold the great goodness and tender mercy of God...”

“God ordained a new covenant. He made a sure promise. He would send a Messiah or Mediator into the world, who would intercede between God and Man to pacify the wrath and indignation of God against our sin, and deliver us from the miserable curse we had fallen into by disobeying the will and commandment of our only Lord and Maker.”

The homily lays out the Old Testament history of the covenant and promise as it traces the promise of God to send Christ, from Genesis through the books of the Prophets. When Jewel picks up the New Testament account of Christ's arrival there is a hint of excitement in the text: Through the blood of Jesus Christ we have finally been redeemed from bondage to sin and adopted as children of God. “Herein is love,” he says, quoting from 1 John, “not that we loved him, but that He loved us, and sent his Son to be a reconciliation for our sins!” His homily draws together the threads of the Salvation message outlined in the Epistles revealing the rich tapestry of the Good News for fallen humanity. Up to this point, the homily was the quintessential Christmas message. It would have been delivered in less than twenty minutes.

A skilled preacher links the Scriptures to cultural realities. Jewel was a seasoned apologist for the Protestant Faith, in fact for the Christian Faith. At this point in the homily, he makes a detour to respond to the critics

of the Faith. To the “divers and sundry heresies” who ask how Jesus could be fully Man and fully God, he gives a spirited response. Jesus was fully human in that he thirsted, ate, drank, slept, wept, preached and died. He was fully God in that he forgave sins, wrought miracles, cast out demons knew the thoughts of men, rose from death, ascended into heaven and so forth. Citing Paul's letter to the Romans he argues that Christ had to be fully Man and fully God. As Man he became a tiny infant and experienced the infirmities and temptations common to the human race. We can identify with him. As Man his death was the atonement for the sin of the first Adam. He has died in our place. As Man he became the Mediator between Man and God. As God, he had come in the flesh, died and rose and ascended into heaven in that same flesh to ensure that all who believed in him would have eternal life.

In the concluding ten minutes the homily repeatedly reminds the listener of the reasons Christ was sent to Earth. Jewel eloquently concludes:

“The end of his coming was to save and deliver his people, to fulfil the law for us, to bear witness unto the truth, to teach and preach the whole of his Father's world, to call sinners to repentance, to refit them that labour and be heavy laden, to cast out the darkness of this world, to reconcile us in the body of his flesh, to dissolve the works of the devil, last of all, to become a propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. Christ became man only for our sakes, to understand the will of God, be partakers of his heavenly light, be delivered out of the devil's claws, be released from the burden of sins, be justified through faith in his blood, and finally received up into everlasting glory, there to reign with him for ever.”

And he calls his audience to action.

“Let us love him, fear him, obey him, and serve him, confess him with our mouths, praise him with our tongues, believe on him with our hearts, and glorify him with our good works. Christ is the light let us receive the light. Christ is the truth : let us believe the truth. Christ is the way: let us follow the way...

To him therefore with the Father and the Holy Ghost be all honour, praise, and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Jewel's writings defended the Protestant Faith of the Church of England and were both controversial and elegant. His twenty-one homilies influenced generation of Anglicans. The Homily on the Nativity of Christ would have echoed off the walls of England's cathedrals and village churches for many decades.



From the Anchorhold



By Sister Mary Cartwright

“There is not enough darkness in all the world to put out the light of one small candle.” So runs a Polish proverb from my childhood. We light the advent candles one by one, week by week, with prayers of longing for the coming of God to drive out the darkness of the world's despair, loneliness and selfishness, as well as ease the natural darkness of the season.

Throughout time, people have seen the time of increasing daylight as sacred, the reason that Christmas is placed where it is in the calendar. What better time for the ultimate coming of the Light (that lights every soul), the celebration of God's irruption into our time and history, in the person of Jesus.

So light the candles, and say the prayers with fervor, sweep and clean the house of our souls, making ready for such a mighty guest, and such a humble and loving one.

We recall St. Nicholas, patron of little children, sailors and pawnbrokers! His humility, though he was a bishop, and his hidden, loving giving is an example of what Christmas is all about.

We thank God for the greatest gift of all, His Son, born in humility, joy and pain, as we are, all wrapped up in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. For us! For all humanity: Emmanuel, God-with-us.

After the great feast, or rather its beginning, since Christmas has 12 days, we remember Stephen, first Martyr, a reminder of the cost of following Jesus. Then Holy Innocents, reminding us of all the innocents who die from violence, illness, starvation, as a result of our selfishness. Pray for them.

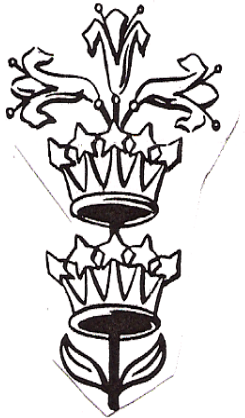
Here is my Christmas Greeting to all Algoma.

Christmass:

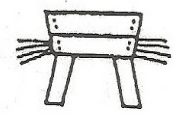
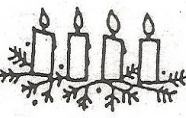
A Babe is born-
But this one, Son of God and Son of Mary
Tiny and helpless, yet has power, within.
The power that made the worlds-
Mankind and creatures, galaxies and stars
Unfettered space - yet seeking warmth and love.

How can we love thee?
Give you our hearts, our souls, our life for Yours
As you give Yours for us, on a cruel cross
To rise again and lift us all to God
To lead us onward, children of all earth
And bring us safely to our Father's home.

How can we thank thee?
Help all on earth to justice, peace and love
Water and food and healing, as You did.
To grow in You, to know and conquer death.
To spread the news of everlasting life
And share the joy of God's eternal love.



HOLY INNOCENTS-



- 'For God so loved -'



JOYFUL CELEBRATION: On Sunday, October 13, 2013 parishioners gathered to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the establishment of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Sturgeon Falls. Church members also dedicated the new pergola constructed this past summer by the youth group of First United Methodist Church in Lenoir, South Carolina.


Watch for the next installment of
“Anglicanism in January”



NEW TREASURER INSTALLED: From left are pictured Rev. Heather Manuel, Chaplain of the Diocesan ACW, Laurie Ballantine, Muskoka ACW President, Elsie Wilkes, new Treasurer of the Muskoka ACW, and Ven. Dawn Henderson Archdeacon of Muskoka. Elsie Wilkes was installed as the new treasurer at the Muskoka Deanery ACW Fall meeting held on Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at All Saints', Huntsville.



THE GIFT OF MUSIC: Joanne Cunnington welcomed John Sands to All Saints', Huntsville for an evening of music on Friday, September 29, 2013. Following the concert a reception was held in Sutherland Hall.



Mistletoe and Holly

Christmas in Story and Song

A Cathedral Arts Production in Partnership with the Arts Council

Friday, December 20th – 7:30 p.m.
St. Luke's Cathedral
160 Brock Street

Musical
Direction by:
Stephen
Mallinger

Readings by:
Mayor Debbie
Amaroso
Bishop Stephen
Andrews
Ivor
Tossell
James
Warner-Smith

Master of
Ceremonies:
Dean Jim
M'Shane

The Warmth and Joy of Christmas
with a
Swinging Beat

Adults \$20 | Children Under 12 - \$10

Tickets available through the Station Mall Box Office
St. Luke's Cathedral 705-254-7144 | Arts Council 705-945-9756

A new and novel way to tell the Christmas story

By Charlotte Haldenby

When I was travelling in Africa, can it be 20 years ago?, I visited a cathedral, where there was a definite space for the organ. It was on the side half way down the nave, but the choir sat with their families all around the congregation. It was powerful to have these wonderful voices coming from all around us.

My brother-in-law checks the latest YouTube offerings every morning and always sends me his favorites. Often these are “flash mobs”, opera singers scattered around a grocery store maybe, or classical musicians around the pools of a luxury hotel. The United Church in Bruce Mines has for years put on a Holy Walk in December telling the Christmas story.

How does this all tie together? My imagination goes to work. What if, the Saturday before Christmas, there was a “flash mob” event in a big shopping mall, to tell the Christmas story. Here’s Mary just coming out of a clothing store catering to teens. She looks a bit like Malala, that young girl from Pakistan, and by the end of this scene she too will have her mission.

An angel. How can we do this? Maybe regular clothes but a golden spotlight so we know he’s something special. OK, something is going on here. People stop and hear him tell her that she will be the mother of an amazing

Looking at the World

Son who will change the world. Mary replies with the Magnificat, with choir coming in. Ten minutes later, Joseph, a Mike Holmes kind of guy, is coming out of Canadian Tire in his work clothes with his tool belt and there’s that spotlight guy again. Maybe the choir is all round singing that old Cherry Tree Carol about “He married Virgin Mary the Queen of Galilee”.

Now, I can’t figure out how to get a donkey into the mall. But half an hour later, at the attached hotel or the furniture store with the poster in the window “No Room for a guest, try our hide-a-beds” most of the sign is covered by a mock-up manger, and here are Mary and Joseph and the baby. Does someone have large stuffed animals? Oh yes, “Away in a manger!”

Now shepherds! We were reminded in September at the Northern Muskoka retreat at the Convent of St. John the Divine, that these are not the nicest social contacts. They live out there in the pastures with no facilities, and they do stink! But they were chosen to receive the next angel message. Maybe that “event” can be staged at the entrance to the mall that is closest to some

green space with some scruffy guys in faded, tattered jeans. Not intended as a fashion statement; it’s all they have. Now we could have a lamb as long as everyone stayed outside. *Silent Night*, but it sure isn’t, the last Saturday before Christmas. *The First Noel* maybe. And angels of many ages, with that golden spotlight. People stare as those guys move across to the furniture store. What are they doing here? EEUW! That smell!

Now Wise Men about an hour later, and of course it’s *We Three Kings*. First there’s the security guard pushing people out of their way. Then three men in top of the line designer suits striding in, each with his young man taking notes running to keep up. Definitely Very Important People. And then everyone all together, choir and people in the Alleluia Chorus, so popular with flash mobs last year.

Okay, it’s just one of my “what if’s”. When the carol singers greeted travellers at the Toronto Airport last year, they probably had to go through a lot of paper work and security, and it was

one-time only.

And when Santa has been kidnapped by commercialism to make us “Buy! Buy! Buy!” instead of a saint who rescued poor girls by secretly giving dowries, maybe the merchants don’t want to “host” the original non-commercial story that makes the season possible. Even in Holland now, there is a difficulty with “Black Peter” who accompanies Santa Claus, and whether showing a black person as a servant is politically correct!

And as I write, some schools are proposing orange and black Fun Days instead of Hallowe’en so that everyone can be included whatever their religion may or may not be. And how many of the kids clamouring “Trick or Treat” at the door have any clue where this whole festival came from, and that the real message is not “I got more candy than anyone!”

Who knows how people would react? Some people would see it as an old-fashioned Christmas pageant brought to life in a modern way. And some would see it as “those Christians” trying to hog all the attention for their faith. And some people claiming to be atheists would be upset that their shopping was being disturbed. What do atheists do at this time of year? Some people of other faiths would look at this as

an opportunity to teach their children what other people believe. Some would wonder if Christians might like to find out the real meaning of their festivals. Our grocery ads highlight Eid and Diwali, and from the foods in the ads we know these are not European festivals. Maybe we could have some tableaux at their times to explain why there is a celebration. Maybe some international students at the college could help out.

We live in a country with people from every ethnic group on earth. This is such a blessed opportunity for world understanding. If Canada can make it work, there’s hope. And despite the Quebec proposal, nothing is truly gained if people are “shut down” in their religious expression.

I am not a great organiser and my imaginary flash mob will never happen. But just think what could happen. When I taught “How it all began” to my Grade 11’s we did the Bible story, and the Ojibway story, the Egyptian, the Babylonian, the Greek, the Hindu, and the Chinese stories. When an Iranian student joined our class one year, his mother sent in the Persian story too. Don’t worry, we did do the scientific theories as well.

When we share all our stories with joy and respect, we can build a wonderful world.