

Story of a celebration of new ministry

By Susan Goodwin

It was a gift of Grace. In fact from the very beginning when the parish first began the search for a new minister, God had been gracious. Indeed almost before the first prayers had been uttered, God

had sent the parish a new priest. It wasn't realised at the time of course, but God knew the needs and immediately responded to them.

And so it was, that a small committee had been formed to organ-

ise an Induction Service for the Reverend Father George Kwari. Their mandate was to have everything in place for the first Sunday in Advent. And so with just five weeks to go everything from invitations to food for the reception

had to be arranged, a venue for the meal after the service had to be booked and countless other jobs to be done. "Just like planning for a wedding" one member of the committee was heard to remark.

It has to be said that the Anglican Church has a service for just about everything, and the service most commonly used for an Induction is called the Celebration of a New Ministry. Now, this is far more than the church making a big fuss over the appointment of a new minister. It is after all part of the Biblical tradition of the Church to dedicate everything that it has or does to Almighty God. More than this it is the making of a solemn promise before God, by both priest and parishioners, to support one another in this new ministry, and it is a witness to the local community. Finally it is the celebration of a new beginning, the turning of a new page in the life of the parish.

Perhaps the biggest challenge committee was going to be the catering for the reception after the service. Once again the parish was conscious of the providence of God. Just a month or so before, St. Mary's, Powassan had been introduced to a chef, who willingly offered his services. He was a godsend as he advised us on a menu and how much food to buy.

At first it was chaotic, none of the participants ever having arranged an occasion like this before. Even though the committee had not yet fully appreciated the significance of this special service. Everyone knew that it was important; important enough that the Bishop of Algoma an archdeacon or two and the Regional Dean for the deanery were all going to be present.

And then there was the service itself. Would there be enough seats for everyone, who would we ask to provide the music, what would be the liturgical colour purple, white or perhaps gold? What about the flowers and of course, how much would it all cost? The list of things kept growing. Would everyone be ready on time? It is amazing how quickly time passes when there is an occasion like this to plan. Before everyone knew it, it was the First Sunday in Advent.

Sadly it did not dawn bright and

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A GIFT OF GRACE : From left, Epiphania Kwari, Simbrashe Kwari, Rev. George Kwari, with Ropafadzo Kwari in his arms, join Bishop Stephen Andrews and Fawn Andrews for a photo following the service in Celebration of New Ministry held at St. Mary's, Powassan on Sunday, November 27, 2011. Rev. Kwari will be ministering in the Parish of Callander (St. Peter's), Powassan (St. Mary's), Restoule (St. Alban's) and the Chaplaincy of St. John's, Chisholm.

130 years of faith in Emsdale

By Liz Trolove

Sunday, November 27, 2011 was an historic and memorable day in the life and times of St. Mark's Anglican Church, Emsdale, the original village church which, in more recent years has become part of the Parish of the Good Shepherd. The service marking 130 years of faith in the community was indeed special as it was celebrated on the first Sunday in the season

of Advent. The celebrant was the personable and polished Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, Bishop of Algoma.

Rev. Jeff Hooper took pleasure in welcoming those to church which was filled to near capacity. The congregation included parishioners, and friends and visitors. There were also a number of enthusiastic young people in attendance on this special occasion.

The service began with the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath. The stylized wreath, circular in formation, like God's Love, having no beginning and no end, was accented with woodland greens. The greens, accented with hand-painted purple, are symbolic of the everlasting spirit. The wreath was further enhanced by a myriad of soft lilac coloured

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Inside Algoma



Sleeping in a cardboard cathedral

On the evening of Friday, November 11, 2011, a number of people braved the elements in support of the third annual Great Soup Kitchen Sleepover held in Sault Ste. Marie.

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The ACW in Elliott Lake are a very busy group

The Ladies Guild of St. Peter the Apostle, Elliott Lake had a busy 2011.

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Next deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Algoma Anglican* is **Saturday, January 7.**

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The jubilee journey of St. Luke's, Thunder Bay

The past year was to be sacred

By Carol Lee Kostyniuk

What an interesting year it has been, and it's not over yet!

As with many or most of the

churches, the congregation is aging and many ACW groups are disbanding. At St. Luke's, Thunder Bay the situation is no different. Many events are planned both to foster fellowship and to help the church's finances, yet the workers are fewer and the same

ones are called upon regularly to help out whatever the event.

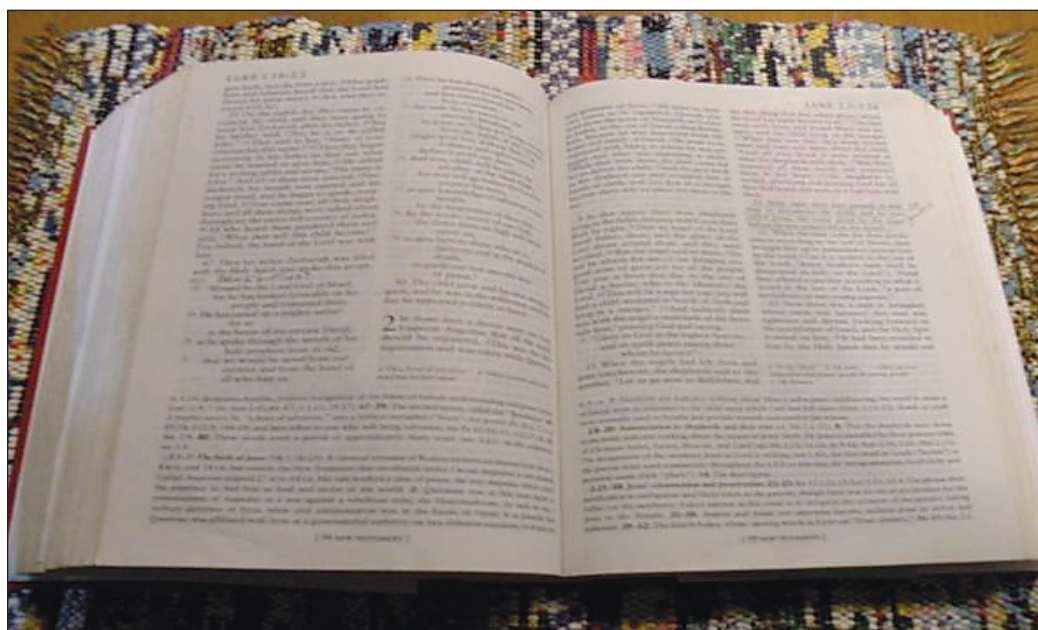
With the goal of providing relief to all for a short time, at the February Vestry meeting, a motion was presented by the minister, and passed by the vestry, to declare 2011 a year of Jubilee,

that is, a biblical jubilee. This was a year of restoration during which property was restored, slaves freed, and fields were not planted or harvested. A year of rest. The whole year was to be sacred. The people asked what would they eat, how would they

live? They were told that the lord would bless them and they would have enough to provide for the year. The poor were to be cared for and lent money and no profit made from this kindness. Obedience would be blessed by God.

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Diocese of Algoma Anglican Church Women



DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY

As Shakespeare said in *Romeo and Juliet* "What's in a name?" Some receive their name before they are born, others afterwards but most receive their Christian name(s) when they are baptized into the Christian community.

Our daughter received her name at Massey Hall in Toronto. During the 1960's, The Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem were a popular folk group and Peter and I went to see them in concert, when we were seven months pregnant. One of the pieces played was a Scottish folk song *Mairi's Wedding* and then and there we decided, if we were to be blessed with a girl, she would be named Mairi.

Our daughter likes her name. She also likes to tell the story of how when beginning a new class, as the teacher was going down the list, there would be a pause when the teacher came to her name. As the years went by, it got to the point, she says, when the pause came, the whole class would reply in unison; MAHREE! Further to this, our son and his wife, took everyone completely by surprise, which resulted in a deluge of tears, by having *Mairi's Wedding* played at their wedding in Acapulco by a young man in a kilt.

Our son's name was found in a big green nameless library book dedicated to Peter Jon. So our son was named after his father but with the added appellation Jon. He suffered this double name while at home and school. Once out on his own, he dared anyone to call him Peter Jon, except his parents. We are just busting to know what Peter Jon and his wife Erika are going to name their baby who is due soon.

Mary had no problem naming her baby because the name was already decided upon. According to Luke the Angel Gabriel said: "And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus." Luke 1:32. He continues "After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" Luke 2:21. In *The Children's Illustrated Bible* by Victoria Parker, we learn "When their baby was eight days old, Mary held a naming ceremony according to God's laws. From then on, the baby was called Jesus, just as the angel had told Mary He would be." Interesting to read Mary initiated the ceremony.

In *Harper's Dictionary* we read "The central figure of the N.T., whose life, death, and resurrection represent for Christians God's saving act for sinful humanity. His name (Jesus) and his title (Christ) bear witness to that saving act. The name 'Jesus' is derived from a Hebrew word that means 'savior'...and the title 'Christ' (Heb., 'messiah') means 'anointed,' and refers to one commissioned by God for a special task". (p. 475).

Thanks to Google we found an interesting blog named "My Year of Jubilee c 2011" where the author writes: "Isaiah's name means The Lord is Salvation. (Which I did not realise). It is appropriate that he is named this because Isaiah is the prophet who tells us about the coming Messiah." This we find when we read Isaiah 7:14 "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". But in the Biblical notes below we read 14: "the young woman, the mother of child to be born has been identified as either the wife of Isaiah or the mother of Hezekiah....Following the LXX translation 'parthenos' (virgin), early Christian tradition understood the woman to be the mother of Jesus." (Mt. 1.23) p. 988. I remember from a Bible Study a few years ago, that many people still interpret the passage this way; that Isaiah is speaking about the eventual coming of Jesus.

Matthew also speaks about the naming of the blessed baby: "She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophets: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Mat. 1:21-23. Thinkbabynames.com, says Emmanuel is of Hebrew origin, and the meaning is "God is with us."

There is a beautiful piece of music called *Jesus, Name above All Names*, with words and Music by Naida Hearn which is so beautiful to sing, maybe you know it:

Jesus, name above all names; beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us; blessed Redeemer, living Word.

It is interesting to intertwine the Bible, books and Internet research. Do you think God minds?

Pam Handley
ACW Diocesan Devotions
Chair.



A SPECIAL DATE TO CELEBRATE: Mrs. Dorothy Chabot, wife of the Late Rev. Canon Arthur L. Chabot will be celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, January 22, 2012.

Compassion is a gift from God

By the Rev. Grahame Stap

The room was about eight feet by six feet. No window, just a bed and a chair and a buzzer. I lay on the bed in total darkness and if I am called please don't let it be a child." Not a very sensible

prayer as I was on call at the neonatal unit of McMaster university.

The year was 1998. I was training to be a chaplain and hoping it would be an easy time. I had yet to realise God was not about to let me, or anyone who felt called, have an easy time.

The buzzer rang, and I almost fell off the bed. I called the switchboard and was told to go to the premature birth ward. A feeling of dread came over me. "How can I help parents in that situation." I started the journey of about one hundred feet and wished it were a hundred miles. I had often read of 'leaden feet' but never really knew what it meant. That day I knew exactly what it meant, but I had a deep feeling that I could not refuse to go and also knew that God walked beside me.

The nurse met me at the door and asked, "have you got your kit." I stood in confusion and wondered what she meant. She continued, "Angela Joe has been born sixteen weeks premature and the parents want her baptized." "Ill get it." I said and ran quickly back to my room. As I returned I saw the incubator and the parents standing beside it holding hands.

I went forward slowly. "Are you the chaplain they asked?" I stammered, "yes I am." "Thank you for coming" the mother said. "Will you baptize our baby." I could not answer. I had looked into the incubator and seen this tiny baby no bigger than the palm of my hand. Tubes sticking out of it seemed everywhere. Unbidden thoughts run through my mind. How can something so small so

completely vulnerable be alive. How can I baptize her without hurting her? The mother seemed to sense my reluctance she touched my arm and said, "its ok, you can't hurt her." So I baptized Angela Joe.

I had never felt so completely useless; so completely inadequate. It totally escaped me that I did not have to be anything other than who I was. God was in that room and it was God that baptized Angela Joe. I still thought it all rested on my shoulders.

During the baptism the nurse had taken pictures with a Polaroid camera and gave them to the parents. I left and returned to my room. I could not stop the tears streaming down my face. "Dear God please let her live." It was not to be.

Sometime later, after I had composed myself, I went back and saw the mother holding Angela Joe. The tubes were gone and she was breathing with very shallow breaths. As I reached the mothers side she held out her arms with this so tiny baby and asked, "would you like to hold her." I could not answer but held out my arms to receive her.

As I took the child, her breathing stopped and she died. Suddenly with clarity I never knew existed I physically felt the presence of God. I knew Angela Joe was with God and one day we would meet again. This feeling has never left me, and each and every Christmas as I think of Jesus coming as a tiny baby and I seem to know why. It was to allow the Shepherd's then, and us now, to have compassion for those that in our society that are vulnerable and need us to be the presence of God in their lives. God bless you Angela Joe and thank you for allowing me to be a part of your very short life.

As always it is only my opinion.

Making submissions for publication in the Algoma Anglican?

1) Articles: If you're sending articles, we prefer to receive digital files. Our first choice is to receive attachments in Microsoft Word. Our second choice is for material to be pasted into the body of the E-mail message. Do not send WordPerfect attachments. We do not use WordPerfect in our production department.
2) Photos: If you're using a 35 MM camera, we prefer

to receive negatives and we'll do the scanning in our production department. However, we can use prints, if negatives are not available. If you're using a digital camera, we prefer to receive as large a file as possible. Most digital cameras produce files at 72 dpi and up to 24 inches or larger in width. Please save the file as jpeg and do not reduce the size.

E-Mail address: anglican@muskoka.com

EDITORIAL

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LETTER FROM THE BISHOP

Allow the light of Christ to dispel the darkness

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the Eucharist we pray a prayer that begins: 'ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid.' When I was a mere youth, my Rector mounted the pulpit one Sunday morning and confessed, 'Today, this prayer has a new and troubling meaning for me.' He then proceeded to disclose the fact that he was going into the hospital that afternoon for open heart surgery! Thankfully, he survived the ordeal. But the prayer, for me at least, retains its troubling character, for it acknowledges the omniscience of God.

Am I alone in being disconcerted by the idea that someone is privy to my motives and desires? I have attended plenty of funerals where it has been said in the eulogy that the departed are now watching over us. Frankly, were I to believe it, I would find it greatly unnerving. While the notion of a beneficent heavenly cheering section is comforting, do I really want those for whom I felt the greatest affection and who I held in the highest esteem to see me when I am being petulant, vindictive or insensitive? And what of my secrets? My fear is that there is enough sordid material there to transform the heavenly bleachers into a jeering mob!

In the pastoral business I regularly come across the power of secrets. I have heard whispered stories of an adulterous affair, a parent with an addiction, a sibling with a child born out of wedlock. I have seen how these carefully guarded secrets can haunt and torment. I have witnessed how they can propel an individual into a course of action that hopelessly complicates life and verifies the truth of Sir Walter Scott's couplet, 'Oh, what a tangled web we weave / When first we practise to deceive!' I have watched with sadness how withheld information erects barriers and isolates, for the harbouring of secrets prevents the development of relationships of intimacy and trust. The Swiss physician, Paul Tournier, once observed, 'Nothing makes us so lonely as



our secrets.' For some the burden of knowledge privately held is simply too great to bear, leading them into depression and despair.

Is there anything more powerful than a secret? And is there an antidote for the guilt and shame and fear that keeps

our knowledge hidden? My friends, the Christian religion is a revealed religion. The Feast of the Epiphany is itself about the manifestation of a 'mystery that was kept secret for long ages' (Romans 16.25). You see, our God is in the business of disclosing truth. His Son proclaimed, 'The truth shall set you free' (John 8.32), and so the first step in throwing off the tyranny of our secrets is to confess them. It is appropriate first to confess them to God, who alone has the power to 'cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of his Holy Spirit' (cf. Hebrews 4.12). But then, in some cases, it is appropriate to confess them to another (James 5.16). In revealing what we have worked so hard to conceal, we may begin to find healing and restoration.

In this season of Epiphany, let us pray for transparency for ourselves and for our Church. For it is as the light of Christ exposes the darkness of our hearts that that light becomes magnified in the world as life-giving truth.

+Stephen Algoma

Stephen Andrews
Bishop of Algoma

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.

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The long and shorn story of hair

By the Rev. Richard White

It was the 10th century and a ban on facial hair was about to be imposed on the Church on England. It would remain for several hundred years until the Church of England broke with the Church of Rome.

Its cause might be traced to the political and theological rifts between the Church of the East,

the Orthodox Church, and the Church of the West, the Roman Catholic Church. On the surface, a single event caused this. It was a hot summer afternoon in 1054. A service was about to begin in the Church of the Holy Wisdom in Constantinople. Representatives from the Pope, the head of the Western Church, entered the building, walked to the front and placed a Papal Bull of Excommunication on the altar. As one of them left the church, he shook the dust off his feet and hissed, "Let God look and judge." The Great Schism between the Eastern and Western Churches was made official. In fact, that single event was a long time in coming.

Among their many disagreements were two: the authority of the Pope of Rome was not accepted by the Eastern Church which was major. The Churches also disagreed over a theological point. Which member of the Godhead sent the Holy Spirit on that first Pentecost? Was it God the Father, or God the Father and God the Son? The Eastern Church said it was the Father. The Western Church said it was both. These and other disagreements had been methodically dividing the two great branches of our Faith for generations. They eventually led to war. The Massacre of the Latins in Constantinople (1182) left over 50,000 Roman Catholic merchant and business families dead. A reprisal attack from papal forces, the Siege of Constantinople (1204), leveled that city and imposed a Roman Catholic emperor over the East. All of this led to hair becoming an issue too.

No one wants to look like their enemy. The clergy in the Eastern or Orthodox Churches grew beards as an act of piety to comply with the dictate in Leviticus that priests should be unshaven. The clergy in the Roman Church would therefore be clean shaven, perhaps to demonstrate their Church had moved beyond those Old Testament regulations. The Church of England, being members in the Roman Catholic Church for centuries, followed suit.

In 950 CE, "Odo the Severe,"

the Archbishop of Canterbury at that time, mandated that a priest should not "neglect to shave his beard or hair," and that he should "make satisfaction." In the next century Anselm of Canterbury wanted the issue brought to England's pulpits. Soon what was expected for the clergy would be

History Byte

expected for all men. Those not wanting to cut their hair or shave

their faces were restrained from entering church. If they did, the priest had a duty to warn them of the consequences of disobedience and shoddy appearance.

Being clean-shaven with short hair was especially important during Advent or Lent. Wulstan, Bishop of Worcester (died May 1023), carried a knife during Lent. A long-haired man kneeling for an episcopal blessing was greeted by a knife-wielding bishop who hacked off the overly long locks. In 1096 Archbishop Anselm himself did this to a number of parishioners after a Lenten sermon. Of course the kings of England have always been fond of hair. When King Richard the Lionhearted finally returned to England in the 1190s after his Crusade wearing a beard, he discovered his realm had become clean-shaven. Later portraits show him bearded.

Whether or not clergy should be clean shaven changed with the Reformation. When the Church of England broke from Rome in the 16th century, so too did the insistence that clergy be clean shaven. A pre-break portrait of Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer, shows him clean-shaven. Some years after the break with Rome, another portrait shows Cranmer with a beard that looks more Orthodox than Catholic. Cranmer, always quick to divert criticism, said the beard was grown to mourn the passing Henry VIII. This raises another issue. The beard tax.

In 1535 Henry had imposed a beard tax. With the death of the bearded king, England's first beard tax died too. Regardless of whether it was the break with Rome or the end of the beard tax that did it. Since the mid 16th century Anglican clergymen have been liberated, freed at last to grow their facial hair anyway they wanted. Some might even point to the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams, as a role model for clergy shagginess.

St. Matthew's, Sault Ste. Marie supports local soup kitchen

By the Rev. Patrick McManus

A village of cardboard box shelters were constructed on the pavement outside the Soup Kitchen Community Centre in Sault Ste. Marie's west end the evening of Friday, November 11 for the third annual Great Soup Kitchen Sleepover. There were plenty of unique and creative shelters erected for the event. Among them was a 14 foot high cardboard Cathedral, complete with transepts, stained glass windows, a rectory, and a Bishop! Bishop Stephen Andrews joined Rev. Patrick McManus, Pamela Rayment, Don Vardy, James Mesich and Mark Mesich, the team who braved the chilly November air, to support this important fundraiser.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church decided to get involved in the fundraising efforts after hearing that the Soup Kitchen had faced severe funding cuts that threatened the many valuable programs it offers in the community. After sharing this information with parishioners, building plans and sponsorship efforts quickly got underway. For three weeks during their fellowship time on Wednesday evenings, St. Matthew's children and youth worked on the cardboard cathedral, getting very creative with their stained glass window designs. Rev. McManus and Pamela Rayment, aka the makeshift architect and designer, were aided by many consultants in

finishing up and transporting the finished product.

This year's Great Soup Kitchen Sleepover brought out more than 200 participants in total, with schools, Girl Guides, and many individuals taking part. There was an opportunity to meet many people who use the programs at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre, and listen to their stories over a cup of hot chocolate. Calna McGoldrick, event organizer, was thrilled with this year's event and shared that several people whom the soup kitchen has served over the years had come out to support the initiative and give back. Ms. McGoldrick explained to participants that for many in Sault Ste. Marie, homelessness, or the threat of homelessness is a reality and raising awareness of this issue and offering assistance to those in need is necessary.

Over \$30,000 was raised at this year's event, a record-breaking amount. While the main focus of the evening was to raise funds and awareness, participants certainly shared in some fun, with live music throughout the evening and prizes and awards handed out. St. Matthew's received two awards that evening; Most Creative Box and Group who raised the most money and brought a Bishop. The most rewarding part of the event though, was sharing the love of Christ among the community.



FOR A VERY GOOD CAUSE: From left, Bishop Stephen Andrews joins Pamela Rayment, and Rev. Patrick McManus in the cardboard cathedral. This unique structure was one of many creative shelters constructed on the pavement outside of the Soup Kitchen Community Centre in Sault Ste. Marie on the evening of Friday, November 11, 2011. This annual event, the Great Soup Kitchen Sleepover, was held in support of the Soup Kitchen which is located in the west end of Sault Ste. Marie.

Communities begin journey with new priest

Continued from Front

and beautiful, but grey and wet and there was still the hall to be set up for the meal and the finishing touches to be put to the church. By two thirty, and nerves stretched to the limit, people were beginning to arrive at the church, the final tweaking of the video system was being made and the choir was warming up. Whatever was not done now would have to remain undone; this was to be the proof of all the hard work of the previous few weeks. While the Bishop the Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews and clergy prepared themselves for the service, the congregation were led in a "Songs of Praise" singing many familiar choruses that warmed the heart and prepared us for the service to come.

The service began with a procession led by the crucifer. As the service continued, any worries there might have been at the rehearsal were proven to be unfounded. We were delighted when, at the beginning of the service, the Bishop invited Fr. George to introduce his family to the congregation. Those in attendance were so pleased that the family was present for this special occasion.

It was the Archdeacon the Venerable Linda White who listened to the declarations made by Fr. Kwari and presented him to the Bishop. As the whole point of the service is the bringing together of the one who is being called, and those that he is being called to serve, the participation in the service of as many of the parish members as possible was important. Also, there is a great deal of symbolism involved in the service.

For example the presentation of a key by the church Wardens, a large wooden key to represent the four points in the Parish and made especially for the occasion. Those presenting the symbols came two by two to say their piece and make their presentation. They represent-

ed various ministries within the church or held a particular office. Before the end of the service there was quite an array of articles at the front, including a prayer book, Bible, a map of the community a globe of the world and a large wooden cross presented by Pastor Larry Broughton on behalf of the other denominations in the community.

The Bishop's sermon was both uplifting and encouraging. He spoke of our almost instinctive belief that everything in life should be fair and then surprised listeners by saying that God is not fair! His point being that if God were fair, none of us would be able to call ourselves children of God or have any kind of relationship with him, we just do not deserve too. But God has chosen to pour down his love upon all who seek him, and continually call to those who have yet to hear him. God's love is a gift of grace and within that gift is all that we need to be able to participate in His work. The Bishop went on to say that the gifts that Fr. Kwari bring to us are by the grace of God and him alone, and he reminded us of the importance of humility and of giving to God all the credit, for we can do nothing good in our own strength.

Fr. Kwari led us in the Prayers of the People singing in his native tongue and praying for the Zimbabwean Church. The service culminated with the Eucharist presided over by the Bishop. We departed well fed spiritually, although bodily feeling rather peckish.

Those that could stay made their way through the mist to the nearby Legion Hall for supper. They were greeted by tables set out in white and purple and a veritable feast expertly prepared and beautifully displayed by our chef Glen Austin. There were platters set out with cold meats, four kinds, a variety of salads and an assortment of pickles, fresh buns and cheese,

off to one side was an assortment of deserts, including a large cake, tea and coffee were already being served. This was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, not too many speeches and only two announcements. The first was the presentation of the bishop's licence to serve in the parishes, by Bishop Andrews to Fr. Kwari. The second; well, it was Epiphania's birthday, Fr. Kwari's wife. The celebration became a double celebration, and the beautiful cake served as a birthday cake, complete with candle. Flowers from the church were presented to Mrs. Kwari and the Bishop's wife Fawna, and a tray of cold meats and pickles were donated to a homeless shelter in North Bay.

Well, was it worth all the hard work, the frequent meetings, the mistakes and ruffled feathers. The inadvertently forgotten invitation to the St. Peter's choir, who to their credit, rose above the unintended snub and joined with the Christ Church choir to provide us with such beautiful music?

Perhaps in the future things might be done a little differently. Everyone will learn from the experience of this occasion, perhaps be a little better prepared. However, there is one thing that one can be sure of. 'God's Gift of Grace' was once again poured down upon us that first Sunday in Advent, smoothing the rough patches, enhancing every moment, and making it the beautiful and moving occasion that it was.

So now, as the parish journeys on together with Fr. Kwari and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, everyone can look forward to the future, with confidence and joy. The prayer must surely be that God will bless, surround and protect the family and ministry of Fr. Kwari, and the communities of Callander, Powassan, Chisholm and Restoule.



WE WILL REMEMBER: On Sunday, November 6, 2011, St. Mary's, Nipigon hosted an ecumenical Remembrance service. Rev. Diane Hilpert-McIlroy, centre, is pictured with a number of Sea Cadets and members of the Royal Canadian Legion who attended the service.



THE SOUND OF MUSIC: Dr. David Buley, Professor of Music Education at Laurentian University, Sudbury, led a workshop for 33 people at St. Mary's, Nipigon. Clergy and laity from the Thunder Bay area were in attendance.

Choir from St. Luke's Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie travels to Edinburgh and Dublin

By Erin Hernden

Some twenty-five choristers of St. Luke's Cathedral choir, Sault Ste. Marie, sang daily services at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh from August 8 to August 12, 2011 and at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin from August 15 to 21, 2011. More pictures and descriptions of the tour including "What the Choir Saw" may be found on the cathedral website <http://www.saultchurches.com/stlukes/album.asp>. Congregations ranged in size from 50 to 400 with some of the largest being at evensongs sung at St. Patrick's Cathedral. One of the settings for evensong was composed by the choirmaster. It was thrilling to sing his music in these holy Celtic sites.

Nelson and Brenda Small were on the tour. It was wonderful to have the retired Dean take his place among the clergy leading the services.

It is impossible to capture all highlights, however, one event to remain etched in individual and collective memories will be the singing of the Agnus Dei and anthem in the Lady Chapel at the Sunday Eucharist at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It is their custom to have the choir sing this part of the liturgy from the exquisite Lady Chapel behind the high altar. The "exquisite" nature of the chapel is two-fold: its physical beauty and

its rich and somewhat astonishing acoustic.

The Agnus Dei was from St. Luke's Cathedral setting, St. Luke's Mass, composed for us by renowned church musician, Richard Lloyd. It was heard for the first time outside St. Luke's Cathedral, at St. Mary's and St. Patrick's. In these larger buildings the setting soared as if on its way to heaven.

The anthem, Herbert Howell's *A Hymn for St. Cecilia*, caused such a look of happy bemusement on the choirmaster's face, there was some concern a transfiguration and ascension was about to occur. Happily the boss kept his feet on the ground and didn't float up, up and away. Sixteen top voices did take the descant up, out and about, circling thrice in perfect Celtic chaos, and back to the chapel. No one present will ever forget.

An official thank you goes to choirmaster Stephen Mallinger for making it all possible; to the Rous family for the gift of the setting; and to our accompanist Michael Connell, who played from very lofty heights indeed.

Appreciation also goes to choir members extraordinaire Dr. Mark Robertson, Penny Tyrrel, Gary Avery and Laura Strum for all they did on the group's behalf. And those who have been forgotten or know not of, do thou O Lord remember.



WHAT AN EXPERIENCE: Members of St. Luke's Cathedral Choir, Sault Ste. Marie are pictured in St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland. The choir also sang at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland. The choir was in Edinburgh from August 8 to August 12, and Dublin from August 15 to August 21.

New year, new budget: need some help?

By the Rev. Heather Manuel

January is Budget Season in our parishes. Each New Year brings new discussions about how the church gathers and distributes the money that is needed to fund ministries. The Diocese of Algoma's website has a bank of resources that can assist your parish in managing its finances. Just go to the website, www.dioceseofalgoma.com and in the 'About Us' category on the menu, choose the 'Stewardship' option. Stewardship is the ministry of identifying, collecting, celebrating and distributing our resources to accomplish God's ministry in our world. This is a ministry of

gifts: our time, our talent and our treasure.

Many other Anglican dioceses and denominations have conducted extensive studies in successful parish stewardship ministries. They have identified the 'best practices' of stewardship ministries that result in success for parishes. The 'Stewardship' section of the diocesan website has resources that can assist your parish in adopting the best practices in Stewardship. There are tips for preaching about stewardship and scripture reflections for all three years of the lectionary.

There are Bible Studies about

finances and the role that money plays in discipleship. There are bulletin inserts. There are resources to assist with Pledge Campaigns, Capital Campaigns and Narrative Budgets. There is an overview of Planned Giving options such as gifts of insurance, stock or annuity. There are parish information sheets that outline the best practices of Stewardship, and parish workbooks that offer a comprehensive plan for managing parish finances. Budget Season is the perfect time to commit your parish to the best practices of Stewardship, and the Diocesan website has everything one needs. Check it out today!

Busy ladies at St. Peter the Apostle, Elliott Lake

By Linda Wilkins-Parker

The Ken Maynard Memorial Hall is often a beehive of activity as it was recently when a dedicated team of tireless women prepared to help church members and many visitors from the community celebrate the coming of the Christmas season. When the Women's Guild of the Anglican Church of St. Peter the Apostle in Elliot Lake put on its annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, November 19, 2011, one could feel the festivity as the tables were being set with goodies, gift items and jewelry, all donated of course. The Guild also holds a Spring Tea, but it would be a mistake to think that the members' work is confined to teas.

People's Warden, Betty Trakas says, "Our main goal is to help others through the church." To that end, throughout 2011, the Guild raised nearly \$6,000 through numerous events including teas and community breakfasts; baking, pie and preserve sales; yard sales, church calendar sales, silent auctions and freewill donations from

the catering of occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and funerals.

Through all events, the Guild endeavours to help the church stay debt free. This year, it helped to purchase badly needed new gowns for the church choir. On a regular basis, the Guild promotes fellowship among the women of the parish by hosting a pot luck luncheon meeting that opens with each person offering a Bible reading. In the wider community, the Guild holds ecumenical meetings for women, an annual luncheon for Food Bank volunteers, and the World Day of Prayer service every three years, assisted by ladies of Faith Lutheran Church.

Globally, the Guild contributes to the church's Leprosy Mission fund and has helped to buy shoes for children of a village in Peru through a member who, having lived there, had witnessed the need. In addition to fundraising activities, St. Peter's busy bees can be seen buzzing around wherever and whenever a helping hand is needed.



READY TO SERVE: Members of the Women's Guild of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Elliot Lake pause for a photo before welcoming people to the annual Christmas Tea on Saturday, November 19, 2011. From left are Hilda Ingram, Vera Young, Joyce Mitchell, Hazel Gallichan, Cathy Moore, Edie Moore, Betty Trakas, Joyce Lavin, Joyce Leigh, Lorraine Ingram, Connie Cvitkovich (president), Shirley Brown, Diane Santiago and Isobel Pegg. Other members who helped with the event but are absent from the photo are Gil Carroll, Anne Wretham, Faye Ferguson and Lorraine Martin.

For what it's worth

By the Rev. Bob Elkin

Never let it be said that Bob Elkin forgets his friends and colleagues! Just because I sleep in until 10:00am on Sunday morning, don't go to Advisory Board meetings anymore and haven't made a Saturday night visit to the Desperate Preacher's website for months doesn't mean I've forgotten my brother and sister clergy who haven't retired. I think of you often with a smile and sometimes I even laugh out loud! Knowing that you will soon be tackling the Annual Vestry Meeting, I've decided to share some tips I've gleaned over the years to help make this as smooth and enjoyable an experience as it can be. If "enjoyable" seems a bit strong let's just say as smooth and survivable as it can be.

The first critical step is to volunteer to prepare the agenda. "That's not my job!", you say. "The wardens do that!" Patience my friends! He who prepares the agenda decides what gets good face time and what doesn't. If someone is bringing up something you want to see happen, schedule them near the beginning when everybody is full of lunch, relatively awake, comfortable and not mad yet. It'll get a good hearing and sail through. If something is coming forward that you don't want to see stick it at the end, after the scintillating debate about who is going to be next year's auditor of the books. By then everybody is tired, antsy, hungry and wants to go home. At best it'll get rapidly defeated. At worst it'll get shelved until next year. Win-win!

Before the Annual Report goes off to the printer, go through it and change a bunch of words so that they're misspelled. This gives those in the crowd who love to jump to their feet at the "Errors and Omissions" time ammunition and allows them to wear out their welcome with everybody else early. This way, if they actually come up with some objection to what you're planning later in the meeting, they'll be booed down and ignored. If you really want to spark a debate and eat up some time use the American spelling of "labour" or "cheque" somewhere in the report. Don't do it too early though because by the time all the speeches and flag waving end, it'll be supper time and you won't have passed the budget yet. About two thirds of the way through is just right.

Most of the Annual Vestry is motherhood and apple pie and doesn't cause much difficulty but what if you want something that might meet with some resistance? Suppose you are thinking of moving within the next few years? Naturally you want to leave some mark on the parish that will make

the parishioners remember you and perhaps even think higher thoughts when they consider you. A building project!!! There's nothing like a new million dollar church or hall to make that happen. Every time the Advisory Board sees what they still have to pay, your name and God's will be mentioned in the same sentence! Just make sure you move to the opposite end of the Diocese because you don't want to be too handy after it's built.

Getting it through the Annual Vestry is a piece of cake. Just create a two part proposal and make

Letter from Bob

sure the building project is part B. Something like: "Be it resolved that A: We replace the doorknob on the downstairs nursery and B: We build a new church hall." Part A: will immediately touch off Anglican debate like you've never seen! "Replace the doorknob on the nursery????!! My grandmother donated that doorknob!" or "That's the trouble with the modern church! No respect for tradition!!" or "That doorknob was good enough for my father and me and I don't see why my children can't enjoy the use of it too????!!" By the time the doorknob issue is roundly defeated everybody is exhausted and feeling guilty that the poor rector who asks for so little didn't get what he wanted so they'll all vote yes for the parish hall. A word of caution here. Try not to get your name on whatever pyramid is to be built. When a monthly payment \$4,386 is being made, it is better if nobody can quite remember who dreamed up this project in the first place.

The last thing of all is sending the meeting minutes, reports, actions and other documents in to Synod office. For many reasons this is poorly done. You're tired, you can't get it all together, you're waiting on a few outstanding contributions and so forth. It is supposed to be in at the end of February but that is a fluid time line. About mid March you'll get a letter from Synod office politely reminding all incumbents that these records need to be submitted. Don't panic, there is still time. At March's end you'll get a terse letter hinting that the Bishop would like these reports ASAP. Again, don't panic. If that were true he'd have phoned and chewed you out himself. Besides, bishops are gentle people who don't do wet work so you're still OK. One day in April though your phone will ring and it'll be the Diocesan Treasurer who will say: "Elkin, if that report isn't in here tomorrow morning I'm coming up there to rip out your heart and stamp on it!!" A word to the wise! Make sure the reports are on her desk by closing time today!

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.

Church aimed to eliminate charges for events held in 2011

Continued from Front

And so this year began, not with 100% support and with many questions. Would St. Luke's just disappear from the Anglican community for a whole year? How would the church survive this year financially? How would the ACW do anything when they were not to charge a fee for what they do? The goal became how the church could do many things without it being so much work. Expenses would be kept minimal and paid for by the church and there would be no charge for any event or gathering, not even a basket for a free will offering.

Well the first test came with Shrove Tuesday. The men held their pancake supper as usual, no charge, and submitted their bills directly to the church. Attendance was up over prior years. Donations came into the church over and above regular offerings. These were marked "Jubilee Donation". The dinner paid for itself.

Next came the ACW Spring Tea. As luck would have it, the date chosen was the day following the Royal Wedding. Perfect! The group would have a "Royal Tea". Hats and gloves were encouraged. Tickets were printed as all the ladies have their faithful tea goes to "sell" to, and instead of a price, the ticket said "Our Year of Jubilee gift to you!" Instead of the ladies baking for a bake table (there wasn't one as we are not to sell anything), they baked scones, shortbread and dollar pancakes for the tea tables and these were served with jams and jellies.

Old wedding gowns were dug out of storage to use to decorate., a century of royal memorabilia was gathered to decorate the walls and

royal purple was the decorating colour of choice. Even the official wedding invitation was printed off to display for the guests. It was a big hit! Guests wanted to pay. They were told they could not. They could come to church on Sunday and make a Jubilee donation or they could make an extra donation to their own church or they could simply pay it forward to something of their choice. They all left with laughter, smiles and no one commented that there was no bake table!

The ACW hosted a funeral and a donation was received. It was not to be kept so it was forward to a local Christian charity linked to the family and the family was advised. They were pleased.

Some of the jubilee donations were designated to the ACW, so just as the group thought that there would be no money to support the missions it was committed to, a cheque would be forwarded to the group from the church Treasurer and it covered what was needed. Ye of little faith!

The ACW is now in the middle of preparation for the Christmas Tea; actually a St. Nicholas Tea, with the theme of "Share the Spirit". It is Saturday, November 19, 2011. Again with no bake table, no craft table, no nearly new table, but lots of fun, decorations, and surprises and of course, no charge! St. Nicholas seemed to fit the whole jubilee year theme as he was a very rich man yet dressed as a pauper and gave gold coins anonymously to those in need in his community. He was eventually found out, made bishop and ultimately Sainted for his good deeds. One surprise with this Tea is that instead of a bake or craft table, downstairs there will

be a make-it take-it craft table for guests to make something creative to take home with them. But the really big surprise is that just like St. Nicholas, little bags of coins have been prepared and are being given away to all the guests. Not only aren't they paying to attend, they are being paid to attend!

The ACW bank account is not bare. There is still enough to cover all of the Christmas donations in the community and hampers for those in need in our the church. Somehow, throughout the whole year, the bank account has not been depleted. There is no more now than at the beginning of the year, but also not too much less. The church accounts have suffered somewhat, but has enough in investments to cover the loss, though investments don't has forever.

What has been done and accomplished over the year has been noteworthy. It has still been work, and in some ways more work. The ACW has easy to follow lists from years of experience in hosting teas for quantities of sandwiches and dainties. Eliminating them from the teas eliminated the major costs but required that new lists of quantities in untested areas had to be developed. Also more time was invested in themes and decorating to create a wonderful ambiance around the whole event. But it was also lots of fun! Lots of laughter, lots of joy. That fun also brought support from members of the congregation who have not been so forthcoming in the past. Hallelujah!

What will next year bring? That is yet unknown. Will this jubilee continue? Probably not, but things might never go back to the way they used to be either.



THE KITCHEN CREW: The ACW of St. Luke's, Thunder Bay, after a period of planning and preparation, did hold their annual Christmas Tea, or rather St. Nicholas Tea on Saturday, November 19, 2011. Pictured above are the kitchen crew. From left, Gladys Hauta, Colleen Speer, Darleah Kostyniuk-Coda, Norma Hill, Joy Liggina and Laura Setala.

Algoma Cycle of Prayer

Sunday, January 1 - The Naming of Jesus
Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury
The Rev. Dr. Tim Perry
The Rev. Canon Michael Hankinson (Hon.)
St. Thomas', French River
Mr. Robert Lewis, Lay Pastor

Sunday, January 8- The Baptism of the Lord
St. John the Evangelist, Thunder Bay
The Rev. Mary Lucas

Sunday, January 15- 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins)
St. John the Evangelist, Sault Ste. Marie
The Rev. Mal Binks Interim)
Ecumenism throughout Algoma

Sunday, January 22 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ends)
St. Mary's, Powassan
St. John's, Chisholm
St. Alban's, Restoule
St. Peter', Callander
The Rev. Gleorge Kwari

Sunday, January 29 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany
St. Thomas', Thunder Bay
The Rev. Doug McClure (Interim)



KNITTING FOR A WORTHY CAUSE: Knitters, from left, Linda Rorison, Elsie Gryschuk (group leader) and Dale Hartley, from St. Alban the Martyr, Capreol, have been busy working on pneumonia prevention sweaters. The sweaters are shipped to Canadian Food for Children. They are then distributed by Dr. Gordon Andrew-Simone who delivers the sweaters to where the need is greatest. Missing from the photo is Diane Lacarte from Englehart.

Society of St. John the Evangelist was active in ministry at historic church

Continued from Front
the wreath with opulent ribbon streamers. Jeff Hooper was assisted with the lighting of the candle by Emily Rutledge, a member of the Sunday school. Prior to delivering the homily on this historic occasion, the Bishop had the pleasure of reading congratulatory messages from the Hon. Tony Clement, and Norm Miller, M.P.P.
The Bishop spoke about the humble beginnings of St. Mark's, the church originally having been a mission of All Saints, Burk's Falls. He mentioned the early acquisition of the bell, erected in May of 1895. On that clear morning it could be in Kearney, five miles away. The bell bears the inscription: "Non Clamar SED, Anon Cantant." The present bell tower was patterned after the one at St. Luke's Cathedral in 1925. The first service in the church was held on Thanksgiving, October 1881. The church was consecrated on January 27, 1886 by Bishop Edward Sullivan. Mention was made of the involvement and contribution of Fr. Roland Palmer of the Society of St. John the Evangelist.
In the very early years, St. Mark's was under the jurisdiction of the SSJE Members of the Society were often seen walking many a mile to provide inspirational leadership and Guidance to those in outlying missions. In 1828, the Society of St. John the Evangelist

re-located to Bracebridge.
Over the years, there have been amalgamations with congregations from St. Luke's, Kearney, St. Paul's, Sprucedale, St. Mary's, Novar and All Saints, Burk's Falls. This amalgamation resulted in the formation of the Parish of the Good Shepherd. On this Sunday, the Bishop had as his thought-provoking theme for the day, the sharing of the Gospel, today and for the future, citing, in three steps: Obedience, love thy neighbour and love of Christ.
Music was integral to the day as it was 130 years ago. Harmony provided a musical third dimension, the hymns chosen for the day being, *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun, Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, God the Creator*, and the last hymn, *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*. Following the service a scrumptious and delicious luncheon was served complete with decadent anniversary cake, which was enjoyed by all in attendance. During the festivities, many perused the volumes of archival materials which were originally compiled by Ken and Doris Roberts.
From humble beginnings 130 years ago, St. Mark's continues to evolve. Today the church stands firmly in the community as a source of unrelenting faith and inspiration to many. Sunday, November 27, 2011 was indeed a special day with memories to last a lifetime.



From the Anchorhold



By Sister Mary Cartwright
The Church celebrated its new year last month, but our tired old world is a month behind. Never mind. It at least begins with the Naming of Jesus, that name at which every knee will bow, of things in Heaven, in earth and in all creation. A good start.
Then we move on to Epiphany, the coming of the Magi, the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, making clear that the message of Jesus is for all people. Such important people making obeisance to a baby? And bringing such gifts? Like them, we must all follow the star God shows us, and follow faithfully. It will lead to Him. I ponder these things on this the 24th anniversary of my Life Profession. Epiphany is a wonderful day for that!
Next we jump over some years to the Baptism of Christ. John is reluctant to baptize the Lamb of God, but Jesus insists, and the Holy Spirit hovering like a dove and the voice of the Father acknowledging his beloved Son, show us the Trinity at work, as the sinless One begins His life's mission, "For us and for salvation." We in turn resolve to live more for Him, and less for us. As John, that great saint said: "He must increase, and I must decrease."
This is a month filled with saints too. Peter and Paul, so different, yet united in their love of Jesus. And many more. Bishops like Chrysostom, Hilary, Laud (teacher), Thomas Aquinas; Richard Meux Benson (founder of the SSJE), Timothy and Titus, Apostolic men, Antony (early Monastic, 356). God's friends and ours.

Here is Celtic prayer for the New Year:
Lead us Lord:
In the paths of peacefulness
In the roads of righteousness
In the ways of willingness.
Lead us Lord:
Down the tracks of
thoughtfulness
In the streets of sensitiveness
By the journey of joyfulness.



Rev. Rosalie Goos retires from full time ministry

By Pat Brown

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011 this year members of our parish gathered at St. George's Church in Echo Bay to say farewell to the priest of five years, Rev. Rosalie Goos. The church was full to capacity, as was the hall afterwards where everyone enjoyed a lunch, a time of fellowship and an opportunity to wish Rosalie and Ken Goos well as they move on. The service contained many of Rosalie's favourite hymns and her sermon was based on the opening verses of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. It was a moving message.

In May 2006 Rev. Goos, recently retired from full time ministry, accepted an appointment as part time incumbent in the Parish of St. Joseph and St. George. The parish has two churches, St. George's in Echo Bay and Holy Trinity on St. Joseph Island. She agreed to stay for two years, which by mutual agreement, was stretched to 5 years. Rev. Goos worked tirelessly and rarely missed any meetings of

parish groups. She organized and led a number of bible studies and for the last two years a day long Advent Retreat. She designed many different services and would even play the organ on occasion! She embraced the Good Friday "Stations Of The Cross" Walk and introduced parishioners to the Easter Sunrise Service. This service has become a particular favourite with many parishioners. She supported and encouraged parish outreach efforts and visited regularly with those in hospital and long term care facilities in Sault Ste Marie. Rev. Goos did it all with patience and grace and that ever present smile on her face.

In true fashion she may have retired but this parish has not seen the last of her. She is going to continue her ministry to folks in long term care in the Sault and will be coming back to take some services as part of a new form of ministry in our parish. The parish wishes to thank Rosalie Goos for her ministry and again wish her and husband Ken well in the future.



GRAND FAREWELL: Members of the Parish of St. Joseph and St. George gathered on Sunday, November 27, 2011 at St. George's, Echo Bay to bid a fond farewell to Rev. Rosalie Goos upon her retirement. Lunch was served following the service.



RARE MUSICAL TREAT: On Saturday, November 19, 2011, St. Alban's, Capreol hosted a concert presented by, from left, soprano Heather Charsley, and mezzo soprano, Tracey Sanmiya. Selections included *Pie Jesu*, and *Requiem* by A. L. Weber. Seasonal and familiar pieces sung during the concert included *O Holy Night* and *We Rise Again*.

Good role models are of vital importance in life

By Charlotte Haldenby

A NEW Year!

And more resolutions! Have you kept them so far! For many students and teachers, September 1 is the New Year, but it's the same idea! This year I'm going to do well in all my classes, and I'm going to make the team, and we're going to win the championship.

But as we get older it's New Year when we set the goals! This year I'm going to eat properly! And exercise every day! And I'm going to work better on my team at work, whether a supervisor or a team member! And I'm going to do much better at being tidy. How come every house I visit on book club days is so magazine perfect, and mine looks as if someone, a very messy someone, lives in the living room? How many of the goals we set and how much of our possibility of achieving them is grounded in our mentors?

I was going to be a research scientist until Grade 11, when Bob Ewing, our teacher of Ancient and Mediaeval History came back from his summer in Europe. He was still in awe with what he had seen, and passing on that wonderment to us. So I became a History teacher, with archaeology and anthropology expeditions on the side! And later one of my fellow high school students berated me in a grocery store for getting her daughter so keen on anthropology that she's always lost in some jungle! It's obvious that teachers can open our hearts to careers!

And how about the coaches? Novelist Pat Conroy wrote *My*

Looking at the World

Losing Season about his last year at the Citadel military academy, playing point guard on the varsity basketball team. This coach was so intent on winning, there was no other possibility. To hear him talk in the dressing room these guys were totally terrible, even when some were making 25 points a game! They sure weren't perfect yet! They did have some amazing games and even get close to the conference finals. But he just doesn't let up!

But years later, when Pat Conroy goes out on signing tours for his novels, *The Great Santini*, and *Lords of Discipline*, some of his fellow players bring their families up to meet him and they all remember the coach, maybe not the way he'd want to be remembered but as the reason they could get through all obstacles in later life. This included the guy who was captured in Vietnam when his plane went down, and made it through POW camps, and eventually home.

As I was not very athletic, people wondered why I went to the University of Alabama to do my degree in Special Education for Gifted, as all anyone in the Sault knew about that university was Bear Bryant, "the winningest coach", and the Crimson Tide. On Fridays before the big game, Bry-

ant gave interviews to the newspaper, that made you wonder if there would be any players really in the game, what with injuries and practices not being up to scratch. But on Monday, there would be the score of 42-0 and praise for those guys just coming through despite all odds.

Another thing about Bear Bryant was his insistence that every player find a charity and do public service announcements for them, and be there for all their major events. Small groups had to go out to the neighbouring schools

up balls on the floor and put them into a rival team's wagon? Sure, the FIRST people send you a basic kit to use and some suggestions, but you really have to work to get things functional before the deadline.

And you need to learn a lot of hands on stuff to make your own parts beyond the basics. And what if you're a week from deadline and the device to pick up the balls and move up them up to your shooter doesn't work the way you thought it would? Time for the coach and team to stay at school

until midnight. Some other teams have almost more professional engineer mentors than students. In some schools, the mentors don't really expect to make the finals with their limited funds, but they may inspire some Black and Hispanic kids to keep their marks up and get into post-secondary education in some of the subjects and skills they're practising in the competition.

So if you looked at the American college games, over New Year's, appreciate what goes into being a player on a championship team. The annual FIRST robotics championship is in February. I think we now have Canadian teams involved. And FIRST also encourages LEGO challenges for elementary schools.

And think about this: Do your kids have good role models at school and in extracurricular activities? Don't let the stories

"And think about this: Do your kids have good role models at school and in extracurricular activities?"

to play in sports assemblies in the gym with the school teams to encourage younger athletes. He also arranged tutors so the guys got a good degree besides.

In *The New Cool*, Neal Bascomb looks at high school robotics teams in the FIRST competition, especially a team in California encouraged by their mentor, Amir Abo-Shaeer, in this hands-on approach to math and physics. This is a serious senior class with mentors from industry, building team spirit around their small team assignments, as well as the total project. Can you imagine building a robot with a wagon on the back, and its task is to pick

of Penn State and one leader in the Boy Scouts distract you! My neighbour coaches his son's hockey team, he builds a backyard rink so everyone in the family and visitors can skate. He also hosts a get-together in the fall for kids and parents to know him and his assistants and each other well, to build his team.

And how about Big Sisters and Big Brothers giving young people opportunities to explore the world beyond their difficulties? And foster parents making that total commitment? Or sponsors in 12-Step groups.

You never know when you may be looked to as a role model! When Bill Cosby got his role on *I Spy* and equal billing, and when he had his family show, with himself as a doctor and his wife as a lawyer, what did that say to young black kids in the ghetto? This is especially so when they found out in real life he had been a high school dropout, who got his GED when he was in the navy. Yes, I can too!

A recent Taize service highlighted a text which my dad used to name a church in a mining camp in the Yukon, "Christ the Pioneer." Check out Hebrews 12: 1-2. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith". We have such an example of how to face up to real life, how to get through all life throws at us, how to be strong. And as we take that pattern into our hearts, and try to keep our resolutions, remember others may be looking to us to be their patterns.