
ST PAUL'S

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

JOURNAL

ADVENT 2000

FROM THE RECTOR

John Newton

In our church tradition Advent is the time when we think of the hope which sustained the people of Israel over generations and centuries that God would rescue them through his Messiah. For this reason the lessons read in the services of Advent all point to the coming of Christ and our Advent celebrations reach their climax on Christmas Eve. There is a second and equally important theme which runs through Advent. Like the first, it too has to do with the coming of Christ. In this case, however, what we bring to mind is not the events which led to his coming as a tiny child in Bethlehem, but what we affirm near the end of the creed—his coming again “in glory, to judge both the quick and the dead”.

Thus the season of Advent reminds us that, like the people of Israel in the Old Testament, we too are a people of hope. We too await a Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ, before whom every knee shall bow and whom every tongue shall confess as Lord.

Theologian Oscar Cullmann has said that our situation as Christians is very much like what the people of the Nazi occupied nations of Europe experienced towards the end of the Second World War. As of D-Day it was evident that the Nazis could no longer hold their own. Yet it was not until VE-Day that the allied victory was complete. So too, he says, there is a spiritual sense in which we Christians live between D-Day and VE-Day.

Christ has come into our midst and by his death and resurrection he has defeated the

Special Services of Advent and Christmas

Sunday, 3 December (Advent Sunday)

**10:00 am Combined service
of Holy Communion**

(There will be no service at 8, 9:15 or 11 am)

Sunday, 10 December (Advent 2)

Usual services at 8:00, 9:15 & 11 am

Sunday, 17 December (Advent 3)

Usual services at 8:00, 9:15 & 11 am

**4:00 pm Candlelight Carol Service
with Children's Pageant**

Sunday, 24 December (Advent 4)

Usual services at 8:00, 9:15 & 11 am

Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Children's Nativity Service

11:00 pm Midnight Communion

(preceded by carols)

Christmas Day

10:00 am Family Communion

powers of sin, evil and death. Yet his victory will only be claimed completely with his return. And so we are a people who truly live in the “between times”. We celebrate the coming of our Saviour and at the same time was await his coming in glory.

From the Rector (continued)

This very theme was the subject of the conversation between Jesus and his disciples a few days before his crucifixion as they walked around the Temple precincts. The disciples were impressed with the massive stonework of the Temple and with its appearance of permanence. Jesus replied that they should not be fooled by such appearances, that in their own lifetime events would take place which would cause them to question the permanence of any building or institution, even of the earth itself. He warned them that they were living in a world which was on the verge of going into convulsions. Yet in the midst of it all, there would be one thing which was certain: God's great love for his people and his mighty power to save them.

My hope for all of us is that this Advent we may learn more of what it means to live in the light of Christ's coming: to rejoice that he has shared our human life and that he will come again to claim this world as his own, establishing his reign of justice and peace. And central to all of that is allowing the same Christ to come to us personally—to open our hearts and lives to him.

In the Christmas gospel we will be reminded that "he came to his own and his own received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the power to be the children of God." Advent gives us a wonderful opportunity to say our personal "yes" to Jesus, so that just as he has come into the world, so he may take his rightful place in our lives.

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Submissions to ST PAUL'S JOURNAL are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue is 15 January 2001.

THE FURTHER JOURNEYS OF ST PAUL

Jonathan Eayrs

Stepping through the door of John W. Doull, Bookseller, on the corner of Prince and Barrington Streets, Halifax, the unsuspecting browser is confronted by a sword-bearing statue, resembling Michelangelo's Moses. However, the one facing you, obviously weathered yet undaunted, is actually St Paul, patron of the two downtown landmarks bearing his name: St Paul's Church erected in 1750 at the south end of the Grand Parade, and the St Paul Building, designed in 1896 by James C. Dumaesq for a prominent parishioner of the church, George Wright. Despite its seeming immobility this particular statue has been as migratory as the saint himself, having at one time or another resided in both of the buildings dedicated in his honour. Let us follow these latter day Pauline travels.

The 1902 promotional book *Halifax and Its Attractions* had these words of praise for Wright, a successful publisher and builder, "Of all the private buildings of which the city boasts there are none more modern, none more attractive in architectural beauty than George Wright's." Wright and his distinguished architect lavished spe-

cial care on the new building that would face the historic church across the street.



Statue of St Paul inside John Doull's book store, Prince & Barrington

The double round-arched windows of Wright's office building mirror the romanesquoid design of those of the church, and the circular window on the ground floor wall repeats the pattern found on the church steeple and gable.

The literal and figurative high point of the entire structure was the turret perched atop its curved northeast corner. Here stood the bronze figure of St Paul, book in one hand, sword in the other, looking down upon the bustle of Barrington Street from between two enormous clock faces.

St Paul's ascent to this commanding watchtower was only the first of several elevations and depositions to come. First of all Paul's protector,

George Wright vanished. On April 9, 1912, while in London, England, Wright made out his will. The next day he boarded the *Titanic* on its maiden voyage to New York. Wright was not amongst the survivors. His beloved St Paul Building eventually came

into the hands of the General Trust Company. Alterations to its roof by the new owners resulted in the statue's being taken down and subsequently offered to the church. Mr A. I. Lomas, then manager of Birk's on Barrington Street, and Chair of the Fabric Committee of St Paul's had accepted this unusual offer, subject to confirmation by the Vestry. (*Vestry Minutes*, 1935-1950, Sept. 19, 1938, p. 109)

Here the documentary trail disappears, and the vagaries of oral history must be depended upon. Despite their patron saint's declared preference for a clear yes or no (2 \square Corinthians 1:17f), it would appear that the church vestry decided not to decide. The gift of the statue was not formally accepted, neither was it returned to its former home across the street. Paul's statue stayed on inside the church, compelled to lead a hidden, almost underground existence.

Beneath the chancel, through an undersized door, down a series of unpredictable steps lie the catacomb-like basement chambers. Floor levels rise and fall, pipes jut out from low ceilings and doors lead off in all

directions. Behind one of these stood the statue of St Paul. Special viewings of the sequestered saint were arranged as an initiation rite for new members of the Chancel Guild.



The St Paul Building, Prince & Barrington, surmounted by clock turret and statue c. 1900.

Paul's sojourn in his own church was not confined to basement cupboards; shortly after World War II he was released from his captivity for a time to inhabit the hallway by the office of the rector. However, his imperterbable gaze and sword-wielding stance overwhelmed those expecting to find the rector, but not to confront a saint. Never wishing to burden his hosts and schooled to be content in whatever situation he found himself—whether lifted up or abased

(Philippians 4:11)—the statuesque saint returned once more to his sub-chancel basement captivity.

We find Paul finishing his twentieth century travels back where he began them, crossing Prince Street yet another time to

Conclusion bottom of page 7.

WARDENS' CORNER

Bill Day

Since our last *Journal* we have seen summer slip into autumn with reduced daylight hours and cooler days and nights. However fall continues to be my favorite time of year as I watch the leaves turn into so many magnificent colours in the cool crisp air and brilliant sunshine. Also in the fall church activities are renewed and programs start up afresh, we feel a new vigor and have that extra bounce in our step .

We have been working on our Vision Project this fall and have spent time to ensure our approach will produce our desired results. The executive have been very fortunate to have Neale Bennet volunteer to assist them and Parish Council with facilitating our work on this project.

To date we are very pleased with the progress we are making on the parish vision project. The executive met in mid-November to outline what they feel is a good process. That will be put in detailed form, reviewed again and then brought to council in December for their approval. After that we will communicate the process to the congregation as a whole and begin the work.

We see the project as a process of discernment. It is crucial to make God central to the effort, to look for His will for us as a church. We need to draw out and articulate what is already in place at St Paul's—our sense of who we are, what we stand for and where we are going. We are going to take time to do this carefully.

One thing that we are doing is building on the good work of the past and the present. It's always been our focus to serve God, and we are building on that. Over the years there have been a number of efforts to renew our stated purpose and direction and we are building on those. We have a strong

history and heritage behind us and we are building on these also.

You will remember our decision to replace the oil tanks under the narthex as we were concerned about the hazard they posed if there should be a leakage. In a cruel twist of fate the company we engaged to install the new tanks managed to spill some 300 liters of oil into our basement when filling the new tanks. Needless to say insurance adjusters and environmental people are on site attending to the clean up. It will be a while longer before the work is complete and we have a clean bill of health for the basement.

The budgeting process is well under way and this is a busy time for all of us as we approach year end and plan for our February annual meeting.

We ask for your prayers and guidance for Parish Council and all they do here at St Paul's in God's name.

MUSIC NOTES

Rob Paddock

It seems every year there is never enough time to prepare for Christmas. After Remembrance Day it is a mad dash to Advent and then Christmas. The choir is busy in preparing for these church seasons and have already begun practising our Christmas music.

The first Sunday in Advent lands on December 3, 2000. There will be a combined service at 10 a.m. The music team and the choir will work together and use their combined talents to give you a good start to the Advent season. Advent in the church is the beginning of a new year, and it is fitting we all work together to bring in the new year together.

We are planning a Lessons and Carols service on December 17, 2000. This is a wonderful service where you can hear the story of the birth of Christ in the Scriptures and in song. This is one of my favourite services because everybody takes part. Many people will read, and everyone gets to sing.

Next comes Christmas Eve. The choir is preparing some of your favourite and maybe even a few new Christmas pieces. You will have to come and hear them for yourselves on Christmas Eve.

I wish all of you and your families a wonderful and safe Christmas. I hope the music of our church will help to make your Christmas a meaningful and spiritual time of year.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Jane Turcot

November already, and so much to do! Don't we all feel that way? We have made it through the start of school and all the programmes our children are into and now here we are starting to shop for you-know-what. In our household we have the bonus of celebrating four out of the five birthdays in our family between October 8 and December 5th! I always thought I was stressed when I had three preschoolers at home (and I was), but I have found dealing with all the issues of school even more demanding.

As a parent, I have felt from day one that the pressures of life and demands of bringing up my little ones is a challenge I cannot meet alone. That is why I have appreciated the fellowship of the people of St. Paul's. When Peter and I first moved here he was working all hours and I was alone with no extended family or anyone I knew. But I spied the words in the bulletin "Mothers' Group Wednesday mornings" and I plunged in. I found a group of women who were friendly, intelligent and committed Christians—people that I could use as a sounding board as I learned how to bring up my children, people who were prepared to invite me into their world and be friends.

It has meant so much! People have come and gone and come back again, and we have moved our days (now Tuesday mornings) and our format. Did you know that the women in that group did the majority of the painting at Parish House this fall while their children played happily with the toys? Now we are encouraging one another by taking turns painting a room in each other's houses.

You might wonder what all this has to do with children's ministries. Well, ministry and support to parents is really what children's ministries is all about. We are part-

ners with families, supplementing parents efforts by providing biblical teaching and activities in our Sunday morning programmes, helping parents lead their children to worship through the music and atmosphere of the Sunday service. We provide child care in the Memorial Room to enable parents of babies and toddlers to more fully participate in the worship of God. Have you noticed the selection of children's videos in the library? We have two new Veggie Tales titles your children may not have seen. Also, there are some new parenting books you can borrow, some on discipline of children and teens and some on crisis management.

This November we have been discussing various aspects of children's behaviour during our children's talks, as this has been an issue identified by parents as something we need to highlight right now. Discipline, especially in the Sunday programmes, is an issue the church needs to emphasize periodically and it is one which we all struggle with in some shape or another. Gently reminding children to remember their politeness, to speak to adults in "their language", to remember to choose the right people to emulate, these are all aspects of parenting we at church can help each other with. Coming up this month are talks on reminding us that what we say and how we act can hurt others and that we have to actively choose to follow Jesus. All these talks have in mind the idea that discipline leads us to discipleship.

As a further support to parents, we have begun to publish the take-home leaflets from our curriculum in the bulletin. These highlight the biblical concept and story of the

week, which is taught in the Sunday classes and give some background for the readings we hear in church. They also give some ideas for follow-up at home to reinforce the message children have been taught. We hope these will be useful to you.

So while we are in the middle of a busy time of year, we are not alone in our work to do the best for our children. The combined efforts of all of us in the church will help to educate and train our families. If you have the time, please join in on Tuesday mornings, or make sure you take the opportunity to join forces with some of the other parents at St Paul's in order to share the joys of raising children. We are called to be a community who loves God, so let's get together!

St Paul... (continued from page 4)

resume his Barrington Street vigil. Only now he keeps watch six stories down from his rooftop turret, safe and warm inside John Doull's book shop. Restored to public view, Paul stands ready to welcome those like himself who cannot bear to be separated from books. (2 Timothy 4:13)

THE KING IS COMING!

Denise G. McKay

In most stories in the Bible, the action seemed to be
Done without attention drawn, and usually quietly.
When Jesus healed a person, like Jairus' daughter, (they thought was dead,)
He never created drama, just stood still beside her bed.
At the wedding feast in Cana, again things were subdued,
Jesus quietly worked his miracle to get the wine renewed.
God also works through people, a humble person of his choice,
And sometimes uses messengers, or by a 'still, small voice'.
God's greatest surprise miracle was the birth of his own Son,
Who was sent to Earth in human form, a gift for everyone.
Jesus didn't come with fanfare, or a 'news flash' like today,
God had his Son born in a stall, laid on a bed of hay.
He even had him hidden in a strange and foreign land,
And only brought him back again when ready for his plan,
To eventually place Jesus in a world of human woe,
He'd preach a period of three years, to help the people know
About God's great *agape* love, and of his kingdom come,
That God is Jesus' Father, and that's where Christ came from.
His message was rejected, and he was crucified,
His followers know he rose from death, and now is glorified.
Nowadays we look for him to come to us again,
To rule as he has promised, in a thousand year long reign,
But no one knows when that will be, but believers know one thing,
Christ will come with angel host, in triumph, our eternal King!

The King is coming! Hosanna to our King!

"Behold, thy King cometh unto thee..." Matthew 21:5 (King James Version)

written and composed with God's help.

FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S

Dot Kelly

Greetings from the members of St Paul's.

We trust that you felt a part of the celebrations in reading the sermon by the rector, "The First 250 Years."

Phyllis Redman is recovering, nicely, from surgery and wishes to extend her love and blessings to caring friends.

You are in our thoughts and prayers as we enter the season of Advent preparing for the glory of Christ's birth, "putting upon us the armour of light".

THE YOUTH GROUP

Leonard Bednar

The Youth Group has been meeting regularly all fall on Friday nights. The group is mostly Junior High students, but all are welcome.

This fall we were invited to help out with the Kids' Help Phone annual Hallowe'en fund raiser and public awareness program called the Pumpkin Patch. Several of our Youth Group helped with face painting Thursday and Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon. Over 400 families came to the event.

We have also begun a new pattern of activity ideas generated by our participants with the challenge that it does not involve too much money. We have already had a day hike to enjoy the fall scenery, joined an all-age square dance, and are planning to organize a visit to Seniors' home. We have also begun the challenge of dramatizing some of our Sunday readings. Our youth group leader is hoping to raise interest in a youth Alpha this winter. So if you have interest, help make it happen.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION

Do you know of any who, for reason of illness or infirmity, are unable to attend the Christmas services? Please give the church office a call at 429-2240, and the clergy will be pleased to arrange to celebrate Holy Communion with them in their homes. Thank you!

THE PARADOX OF OUR TIME

Quoted from George Carlin

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less; we buy more, but enjoy it less. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment; more experts, but more problems; more medicine, but less wellness. We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry too quickly, stay up too late, get up too tired, read too seldom, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom and hate too often. We've learned how to make a living, but not a life; we've added years to life, not life to years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet the new neighbor. We've conquered outer space, but not inner space. We've done larger things, but not better things. We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've split the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more, but accomplish less. We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information to produce more copies than ever, but have less communication.

These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion, tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallow relationships. These are the times of world peace, but domestic

Please see bottom of next page

WORSHIP

Roger Bureau

"Almost inevitably, we narrow the scope of worship to something that resonates with who we are rather than resonating with who God is."

What kind of worship service should we have at St Paul's? Why do we need two main services with different approaches to communicating the word? Who is right and who is wrong? The latest issue of *InCourage* does an excellent job of putting these kinds of questions in perspective. Let me quickly state that *InCourage* does not support one approach versus another. In fact, in discussing the worship service styles it becomes clear that what is addressed goes far deeper than mere rhetoric on the rights and wrongs of the *Book of Common Prayer* versus the *Book of Alternative Services* or organ versus other instruments.

What comes through is the question of how we should respond, as Christians, to one another in these matters that are so close to each of our hearts. To quote Peter Robinson "There is no room for superiority in the battle over worship styles for there is far more ignorance, fear and prejudice fueling the debate than there is wisdom and patience." The quote that starts this article and subsequent quotes all come from the latest issue of *InCourage*. Copies are at the back of the church.

First, then, what is worship all about?

In Bishop Tony Burton's article on the subject he makes it quite clear that worship is about God. As Burton points out, "John's gospel begins with God and then goes on to show where we fit into his life." Dieter and Val Zander's article puts it this way: "Worship that is heading in the right direction is

worship that helps people:

1. See God the way he really is;
2. See themselves the way they really are;
3. Experience and understand God's ministry in their lives.

Dieter and Val go on to define what worship services should be, namely: "An encounter with God (which) is too potent to leave us unchanged. Worship ought to transform us over time."

How then should we understand different forms of worship? This is where the crunch comes. What is right and what is wrong? Strangely, our faith is very dependent on the theological absolutes which separates us from our non Christian friends who are quite happy living in a "relative" world. Yet in the matter of worship we do find that absolutes do not apply. Why then is liturgy such a divisive issue? Tony Burton suggests that "Making liturgies is an act of power since it not only affects what congregations do on a Sunday morning but is has a strong influence over how a community thinks about God." He goes on to say that "liturgy is always a cultural battlefield." Clearly we need to recognize the changes, just as our predecessors did, in lifestyles, attitudes and customs which occur from one generation to another.

How can we know that what we are doing is honouring to God? Rosemary Kidd in her article puts it this way. Amos recognizes "the displeasure of the Almighty towards those who got it right formally but who just didn't get it at all" (Amos 5:21-24). This suggests, as we all know, that form and content is not nearly as important as intent. I find that this issue, through its discussion on this divisive issue, gives me new insights

into far bigger questions such as tolerance, love, patience, and understanding which are, in fact, the true hallmarks of our faith.

For each of us we should thank God that we can worship in love and peace knowing that each day that we meet for prayer we have an opportunity to get to know God better and an opportunity to learn to become his servants in this, our place of worship.

Note: If you wish to be a member of Barnabas Anglican Ministries and receive your issue of InCourage on a regular basis, please call me at 479-2164 or use my e-mail address roger.bureau@ns.sympatico.ca.

PARADO... (CONTINUED)

warfare; more leisure, but less fun; more kinds of food, but less nutrition. These are days of two incomes, but more divorce; of fancier houses, but broken homes. These are days of quick trips, disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one-night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom.

HE IS ALWAYS WITH US

Denise G. McKay

The world is full of babies, there are millions born each day,
Some survive and some do not, there's just no other way.
Generations come and soon they go, and fade into the past,
Photos, monuments, books and plaques, help make the memories last.
Some people live outstanding lives, that impress us, one and all,
Then years soon dull the memory, they're gone beyond recall.
When God sent baby Jesus to this world on Christmas Day,
He did so in a humble and a very simple way.
And from that lowly cattle stall began life's greatest mystery,
God's Son, made flesh in human form, would dominate world history.
No other person, ever, whose been born upon this earth,
Has fascinated people such as Jesus has, since birth.
They either love or hate him, ignore or seek him out,
Denial or acceptance, he's here always round about.
He gives joy to those who love him, peace to a faith-filled heart,
Renewal and a future hope for a new beginner's start.
Although Jesus is no baby now, as on that Christmas Day,
He's still remembered year by year, in a very special way,
As the 'Word made flesh', our Saviour, our Lord and Prince of Peace,
And one day he'll return as King, and his rule shall never cease.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." John 1:14 (King James Version)

written and composed with God's help.