



FROM THE RECTOR

John Newton

Somehow every year Advent takes me by surprise. Part of the reason, I know, is that I am a summer person and will do anything to postpone the onset of winter that Advent hails. More basically, I am a procrastinator. Much to the frustration of those who have to live and work with me, I abide by the motto, "Never do today what you can put off till tomorrow."

So at about this time every year I find myself asking, "Where has the year gone?" And, "Can it be almost Christmas already?" I have at least learned not to leave my Christmas shopping until Christmas Eve!

It occurs to me that, if these thoughts about Advent may not be very constructive from a practical point of view, they do have a certain appropriateness from a theological perspective. What I mean is that Advent should always catch us by surprise, for it has to do with the Lord's coming.

In the course of the Advent season we shall read from a number of Old Testament passages that foretold Christ's coming: "A branch will grow from Jesse's root ... on whom the Spirit of the Lord shall rest." (Isaiah 11:1,2). "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son..." (Isaiah 7:14). "But you, Bethlehem ... from you will come a king..." (Micah 5:2). "To us a child his born ... and his name shall be ... Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). These words were written hundreds of years before the first Christmas. Yet Jesus' coming took almost everybody by surprise, from the virgin Mary all the way to King Herod and his advisors.

Advent & Christmas at St Paul's

December 2 – ADVENT SUNDAY

"A stream flows upwards" (Isaiah 2:1-5)
Combined service at 10 a.m.

December 9 – Advent 2

"A stump bears fruit" (Isaiah 11:1-10)
Services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

December 16 – Advent 3

"A desert blossoms" (Isaiah 35:1-10)
Services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.
Candlelight service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m.

December 19 – Wednesday

*'Wheels to Worship' service at 11 a.m.,
with lunch in the Memorial Room*

December 21 – Friday

*Neighbourhood Carolling, beginning with a
pot-luck supper at the church at 6 p.m.*

December 23 – Advent 4

"A virgin conceives" (Isaiah 7:10-16)
Services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.
Children's Christmas Pageant at 11 a.m.

December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

*Children's Service at 4 p.m.
Midnight Communion at 11 p.m.*

December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Communion at 10 a.m.

FROM THE RECTOR (*conclusion*)

For many of us the story of Christmas is so familiar that it holds no surprises. Year after year we have gazed with the shepherds, listened to the angels, journeyed with the wise men, and offered our worship and adoration to the baby in the manger.

We all know that "Advent" means "coming". Yet the coming to which it refers is not restricted to the events at Bethlehem centuries ago. Every Sunday we affirm in the creed that Christ will "come again in glory". Central to our Christian faith is the conviction that God's work is not complete in this world, that the day is coming when he will transform the whole creation to reflect his glory.

What exactly that will mean and when it will happen remain a mystery. Jesus told his disciples the day will come like a thief in the night, suddenly and entirely unexpectedly. Come, however, it will, and we can neither hasten nor delay it. But we can be prepared for it, as we open our lives to the love of Christ and allow ourselves to become channels of that love towards others. This is no last-minute rush as we may be accustomed to at Christmas time. Rather it is the development of enduring habits of a life lived by faith.

May this be your experience this Advent and throughout the year. And may you still find yourself constantly being surprised by God!

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!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

We have received requests for Christmas assistance from more than 100 people (with the prospect of more to come). You can be a part of helping them by taking a tag from the Christmas tree at the back of the church and buying a gift for the person whose name appears on it and writing your name in the appropriate space in the list on the table. Please note that all gifts should be delivered to the church unwrapped by **16 December**. If you have wrapping paper that you wish to send along, that would be appreciated. Gifts should be **new** items in the range of \$10 to \$15. In addition, we expect to be distributing more than \$2,000 in grocery vouchers through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. If you would like to make a donation, please use one of the special envelopes provided. Drivers will be needed for delivery on 22 & 23 December. Thank you for your generosity!

WARDENS' NOTES

Joan Malay

The world events of the past few weeks have been disturbing for all of us, but closer to home we were distressed to learn of the burning of St. John's Anglican Church in Lunenburg. On behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's we would like to extend our condolences to the members of the parish and to the community at large.

Realizing the impact this has had on the congregation and the community of Lunenburg, we have had our Diocesan insurance representative, Mr. Jarvis de Condé, meet with the executive to discuss our coverage. Realizing that we will be shortly undertaking extensive work with renovations and repairs to the basement area, we felt it imperative that our coverage be reviewed and have taken the necessary steps to have increased coverage immediately.

OIL SPILL

There was an unexpected delay in completing the oil spill work when the Department of the Environment sought an additional soil test to confirm that one of the assumptions used in the Risk Based Assessment, prepared by Jacques Whitford Environmental Limited, was valid. The results of this test confirmed that the assumptions were valid and conservative. Having received this information, the Department of the Environment has issued a certificate of compliance, subject to capping the affected areas with concrete. The Oil Spill Task Force and Property Committee have prepared an "Invitation to Offer" for the concrete work in the basement and the replacement of the wheel chair ramp that was damaged when the basement was accessed. This work should be complete in December 2001 or January 2002.

RENOVATIONS

We also wish to update you on the progress towards our space renovations. A group of parishioners and staff (Tom Bauld, Ray Carman, Bill Day, Reagh Dennis, Pat Hartling, Mike Hebb, Joan Malay, Yvonne Messenger, Cathy Naugle, John Newton, John Osler, June Sellers), have been working through the summer and fall to plan all the details that will take the concept approved at the last annual meeting to reality. We are pleased to report that we are moving very close to having all the elements in place (including detailed architectural plans; kitchen, washrooms as well as other design and finish details; financial planning and historic and civic approvals required).

Our intent will be to finalize a few details following our upcoming Parish Council meeting on the 20th, then to generally communicate these plans to you. All being well, we would hope to proceed with construction early in the New Year.

Parking Guidelines for Sunday Mornings

Emergency Vehicle Access:

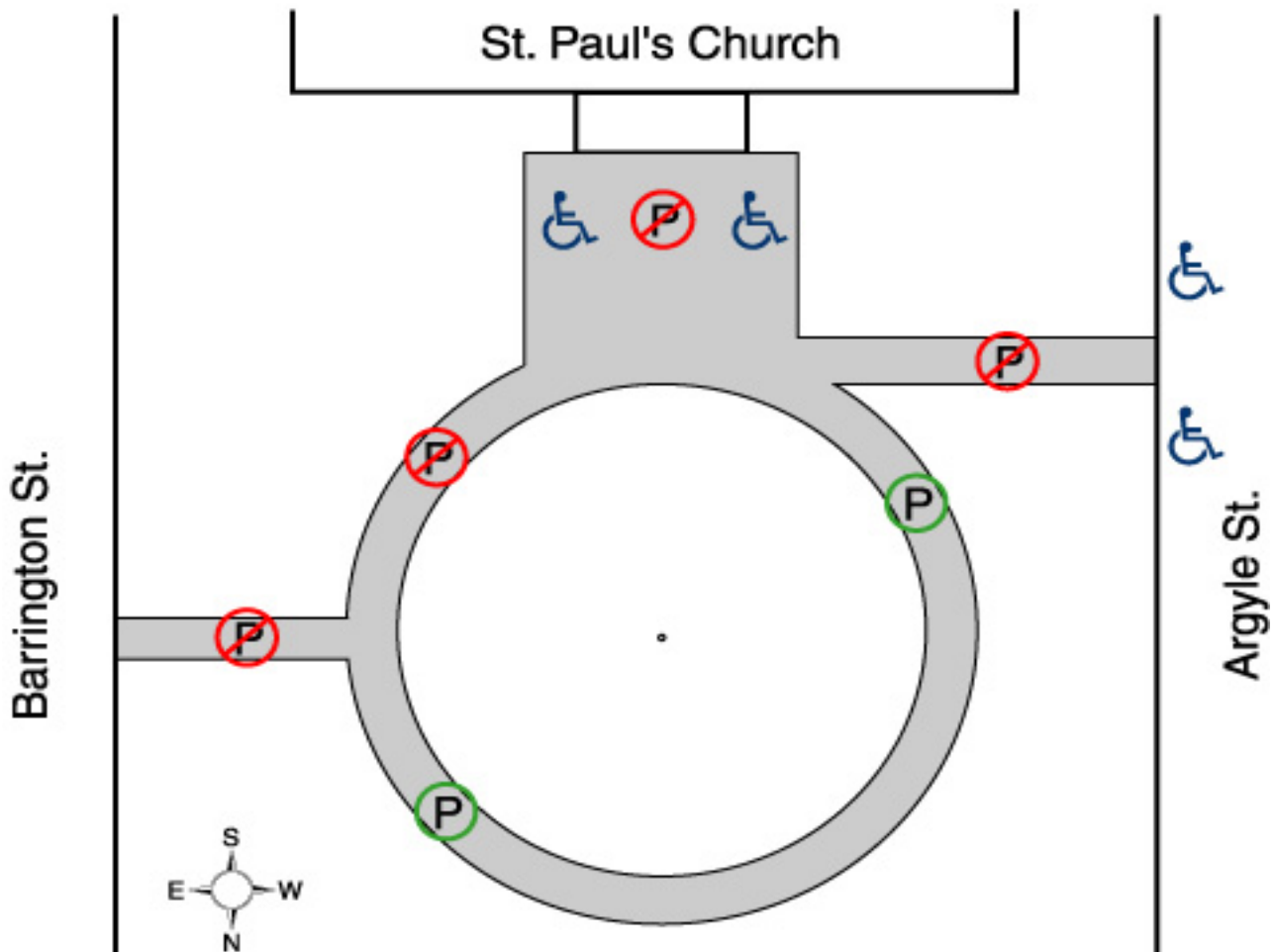
- Passage from Argyle to Barrington and the area immediately in front of church entrance porch must remain clear

Handicap Areas:

- 2 spaces in front of church, east and west of entrance porch
 - # spaces on Argyle St.
- We are trying to negotiate one or more permanent handicap parking areas on Argyle. Until further notice, we have permission from H.R.M. to place "No Parking" bags on some meters on Sunday mornings as a means of temporarily designating handicap parking spaces. Parishioners who use these spaces, shall remove the bag and hand it to a greeter/sidesperson upon their entry into the church.*

Remainder of the "Loop":

- Available for parking, but please leave for those who are less agile



FROM THE KIDS' CORNER

Yvonne Messenger

Christmas! For children, the word Christmas instantly brings to mind images of what this season is all about. The month of December is a difficult waiting period, especially for the little ones, as they await the arrival of Christmas morning and the hopes of new toys. A friend and I were talking just the other day about how to approach this season of celebration with our own children. In today's culture, it is very easy to get caught up in society's image that getting the best and biggest toys or gadgets is the whole meaning of Christmas. I find this to be a great challenge. As a Christian, I want to express my love for Jesus during the season. I also want to give my kids the joy of the magic Christmas morning. Perhaps the two are tied together in a way that helps children to understand deeper spiritual truths.

Advent is a season of waiting, of anticipating the arrival of the Saviour. For most of us, it is also a time when our children are waiting for Santa. Maybe during this Advent season, we can help our kids to link these two things together and help them to be as excited about Jesus' birth as they are about the toys. Advent calendars, family devotions, a nativity crèche, a birthday party for Jesus, just talking about the meaning of Christmas—all these things can help children make the links between their faith and daily life. It can enable them to place their focus on God and not just the greed of the season, broaden their understanding of the wonderful gift Jesus is, and bring them a bit further on their journey of faith. My prayer is that, during this Advent season, we will all find ourselves drawn closer to Jesus in a way that lasts long after December 25.

WHAT CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN UP TO:

A big thank you goes out to all those teachers who have helped out for the fall term in Sunday School. We have had a great fall – the kids are having fun and are learning about God's love for them. Our Celebration! Sundays are giving the children a chance, once a month, to worship, sing and play instruments in a fun and somewhat noisier than normal environment. They are really enjoying themselves under the enthusiastic leadership of our music and drama team. Please feel free to come to Parish House during the 9:15 services to see what the children are up to. They have made some wonderful displays that help to explain what they have been learning this term.

During the month of December, the children will be getting ready to present a Christmas Pageant on December 23, at 11:00. Each Sunday this month we will take a part of our Sunday School time to practice and prepare for the Pageant. On the 23rd, kids are asked to come to the 9:15 service as usual. We will get ourselves ready during the service and then come over and present the play at the very beginning of the 11:00 service. Please mark your calendars so that you don't miss this special event!

This winter, we are going to start a snack roster and are asking parents to sign up to provide and serve snacks for the children once this term. Please sign up on the poster over at Parish House. We will also be making a more conscious effort to raise money to support Moses Asila, the child we sponsor in Kenya. We are planning to host a bake sale early in the year and will be grate-

ful for all yummy donations. If your children bring offering to church, please remember that there is a special plate for the children's offering. This money is regularly donated for sponsorship.

We are looking for people to volunteer their time teaching Sunday School for the winter term which begins on January 6 and runs until Easter. We need two people for each of 5 classes. If you think you might like to help out, please talk to someone who is involved now to find what it is like, contact the church office or me (Yvonne Messenger 445-1462).

The Nursery is bustling with babies! Laura Mason is doing a great job with our youngest children, providing them with fun, cuddles and a simple program based on Bible stories. If you have gently-used toys that you are thinking of getting rid of, please consider donating them to the Nursery. We would be very pleased for any new additions to our toy cupboard. Also, if you are interested in helping to supervise, please let me know.

In closing, thank you to all those who have supported the Children's Programs this fall. It is greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for the children and their leaders. God is doing exciting things in our midst!

Feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions.

MINISTRY TEAM TASK FORCE

After the resignation of our associate rector, Parish Council appointed a task force to consider the parish's needs for ministry in light of his departure. The task force, a representative group of parishioners, has been asked to: identify and assess, through prayer, discussion and consultation, ministry needs at St Paul's; to creatively consider models of clergy and lay ministry in the spiritual and pastoral leadership; and prepare recommendations to Parish Council. We welcome your input. If you would like to make a written submission to the task force, or would be willing to be interviewed by a member, please contact the church office or Michael Messenger, chair, at 445-1462. Please pray for the task force as it completes its work!

LIFE IN JAPAN

Kathleen and Gordon Flowerdew,

Greetings to all of our friends back at St Paul's from Hiroshima, Japan. It gives me great pleasure to send news and observations after being here four months. As someone we met said, a lot of things we take for granted in Canada (or wherever we come from) are unheard of or difficult to obtain and we need to start at the beginning to set up house and home here. Getting the various utilities/computer hook-ups connected, for instance, has been a major stumbling block which we have gradually overcome. It has been character building, I think one would people say. Misunderstandings happen all the time.

Gordon enjoys his work as a visiting scientist at Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF). The scientific objective of RERF is "to conduct research and studies, for peaceful purposes, on the long-term medical effects of radiation on humans and on diseases which may be affected by radiation, with a view to contributing to the maintenance of the health and welfare of the atomic-bomb survivors and to the enhancement of the health of all mankind. "He finds the cultural differences quite fascinating and he is often called upon to be a cultural mediator or sounding board for both Japanese and American colleagues who are having troubles understanding the way the other nationality is handling a particular situation. He is quite good at it.

We made a conscious decision that this would be a year when we did not have a television or car and we are pleased with the outcome. The boys are finding their own entertainment, using their imaginations and reading a lot, which are all good. We have each bought a commuter/shopping bike, with 3 speeds and two baskets each for get-

ting to work and for daily shopping. All ages. Everyone rides them, you rarely see a mountain bike here and many families do not have cars. Gordon feels the benefit of the daily ride up Hijiyama Hill to work. It's a tough climb. All four of us have been walking much more than we would at home and we go on monthly mountain climbing trips with RERF.

The boys attend Hiroshima International School and travel by school bus. The school is north of town, in a pleasant residential setting, about 35 minutes away. There are 11 nationalities represented in a school population of 68, ranging in age from 4 to Grade 8. I found it fascinating two weeks ago that an American teacher was arranging with an Estonian mother to teach English to a newly arrived boy from Germany, in an international school in Japan! It happens here. The school has a lot of parental involvement which benefits everyone. The boys are getting three Japanese lessons a week but Gordon and I are just muddling along without lessons.

I am active with both the school and the Hiroshima International Women's Club and have met many wonderful people through them. Cooking seems to be a common way for the cultures to intermingle and socialize so I have been taking Japanese cooking classes, and teaching some North American cooking classes as well. All great fun. Many Japanese people are very willing to show us the sights and we accept many invitations.

The Japanese school children all wear uniforms from an early age. There is a summer uniform which they wear from May through September and then a heavy winter uniform for October through April. I noticed, that on October 1st all the uniforms changed and I can imagine that the students were very hot in them because in October the weather was still quite warm. The High School girls wear their navy blue skirts as short as possible and wear very heavy, sloppy white socks around their ankles. I guess they feel that this still conforms with the school rules.

Mickey Mouse, Winnie the Pooh, Beatrice Potter, Anne of Green Gables, Audrey Hepburn, James Dean and Brad Pitt are all very popular here. We see their faces everywhere. We went up to Osaka last weekend for the first time and we did enjoy Universal Studios one day. Buying train tickets and finding the correct platform to get where we were going was very stressful though. I was glad to be back here.

It has been a major challenge for me to learn how to cook for a family using just two gas burners and one small microwave. Many of the things I enjoy cooking, I can't do here, because either the oven is too small

or there is no possibility of simmering anything. You can't leave the room or dinner will be burnt.

A lot of our preconceptions about Japan have been true, such as prices, but we are getting to know what is a good value and what is not. In the past 10 years prices of food and goods has become more competitive and a series of 100 Yen shops have opened which is great. We take great pride in finding a bargain.

We attend the Hiroshima Union Church twice a month here because they have English services at 4 p.m. It is an intimate group of professors, English teachers, missionaries, university students and us and we have rotating lay speakers which is wonderful. Gordon is playing the keyboard for the group and enjoys having it at home to play for his own relaxation.

I think I've said enough for this time but would be pleased to write again. We can be reached by e-mail at perlmark@ddt.or.jp, if anyone would like to correspond with us.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

GOD LOVES TO BRING HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Margo Hossley

It was a beautiful fall day in 1993; my husband Jim and I, with our two-year-old daughter Kristina, were living then in Oak Harbor, Washington, and that day we had decided to hike on Mount Baker (in north-western Washington). When we reached the trail head, we noticed a car parked there, with Nova Scotia license plates. It had been six years since I had moved to the U.S. from my hometown of Bridgewater, N.S. We jokingly wondered if we knew the owners of that car.

We quickly hit the trail, following it through the thick forest until we got above the treeline. Once we were above the treeline a vast expanse of rock, sparse vegetation and a stream lay between us and a huge glacier we wanted to explore. Our first task was to cross the stream. We could see several groups of hikers picking their way down through the rocky expanse to the stream, each group searching for that 'ideal' crossing location. As we made our way along the stream, I bumped into someone coming from the opposite direction. We both looked up. I exclaimed, "Karen!" and she exclaimed, "Margot!" It was my friend from Acadia University, and her husband, who had gone to Bridgewater High School with me!

They were the owners of the car with the Nova Scotia license plates, living at that time in Vancouver, B.C. He was taking his Master's degree in teaching, on sabbatical from Bridgewater High.

It is a small world!

Margo Hossley lives in Tuscon, Arizona.

THE RICHARD BULKELEY HATCHMENT

Tinker McKay

Following in a tradition of contributing to the fabric of the church, begun by the ladies of the congregation in the 1820s, St Paul's Church Ladies' Guild has sponsored the conservation of the hatchment of Richard Bulkeley. A founding warden when the church was incorporated in 1759 as the Parish of St Paul, Bulkeley was an unfailing supporter of the church from its construction in the spring of 1750 until his death in December 1800.

His coat of arms, painted on canvas and placed in a black diamond-shaped frame, hung for a year above the door of his home, which now houses the Dalhousie University school of Costume Studies. The hatchment was eventually hung in the church, the only reminder that Richard Bulkeley, "a man of inflexible integrity", was buried beneath the church.

Over the centuries the hatchment canvas has developed splits and holes and become very dirty. John Thomson, a young conservator who worked on the interior restoration of St George's Round Church, has restored this unique artifact. It is one of an extraordinary collection of eight eighteenth-century hatchments hanging in St Paul's.

Thanks to the generosity and vision of our Ladies' Guild, our founding warden's hatchment has been saved, to hang once more in the gallery as a memory of Richard Bulkeley's distinguished service to God, this province, and this church.

UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN

Denise G. McKay

Couples from the Middle East want their child to be a boy,
Especially with the first born, he would be their pride and joy,
For males are most important in their culture and their life,
Females have no status, just bear children, be the wife.
Women in that culture accept it like it is,
They see, and know, a brother gets first choice, most things are his.
That's why it seems remarkable how God devised his plan,
To have his Son born of a woman, and grow to be a man.
But I guess he wanted Jesus to be like us, a human way,
Despite the attitude towards women in the customs of that day.
God knows our heart and how we think, goes not by outward seeing,
He chose with care a virgin young, a faith-filled, pure, sweet being,
To be the human mother of his Son sent to the earth,
So he could dwell among us thirty-three years from his birth.
His mother Mary was blessed indeed with Jesus as her son,
He not only was a first born child, but the Messiah, Holy One.
We can only but imagine what went through her mind those days,
From the time of the announcement of the Son that she would raise,
To one day be the Son of Man, our Saviour, God be praised!

Written and composed with God's help for Advent/Christmas 2001.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." (Isaiah 9:6, King James Version)

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Andrea Nicholls

Parish Council has recently formed a new Stewardship Committee which is separate and apart from the Finance Committee. Its members are Neale Bennet, Patrick Hartling, Margery MacIsaac, Joan Malay, Diane Paquette, Gretchen Gillis, and Andrea Nicholls.

We are looking for more members to join our committee. Please speak to one of us if you would like to join.

The Stewardship Committee is directed to gather and share information to the parish on how we at St Paul's Church currently donate our time, talent and treasure to our Lord's service. We hope to establish a list of the various ministries both internal and external at St Paul's over the next year and to share this information with the congregation to create a clear picture of how God is working through us within our community at St Paul's Church and within the broader community.

As part of this role the Stewardship Committee will be sending out bi-monthly bulletins highlighting one aspect of how people at St Paul's donate their time and talent as fine stewards of God's precious gifts.

As many of you know, the Property Committee recently arranged for a Fall Clean at the church. The following people kindly volunteered to help by cleaning the pews, the stairs and banisters in the gallery, cleaning the kitchen, mending hymn and prayer books etc.:

Tom and June Sellers

Laura Zwicker

Anita Simon

Michael Hebb

Cathy and Larry Naugle
Don and Gretchen Gillis
Pam and David Hazen
Andrea Nicholls

We are grateful to our fellow parishioners for giving of their time and using their talents to care for our historic house of prayer.

FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S

Dot Kelly

We send special greetings to our friends at the beginning of our church's new year. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the coming of Christmas and our Saviour's birth. It is a time of preparing through Bible readings and Bible studies. Especially as we reread the words of the Collect of the Second Sunday in Advent:

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

You are in our thoughts and in our prayers.

DIOCESAN SYNOD OF NOVA SCOTIA AND PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

MAY 24 – 26, 2001

Bill Lord & Andrea Nicholls

The 132nd Session of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island was held on May 24 -26, 2001 at St. Mary's University, and combined both business and program issues. St. Paul's Church was represented by our two clergy, John Newton and Jonathan Eayrs, and by lay delegates, Bill Lord and Andrea Nicholls.

The first morning was taken up with registration and orientation for first time delegates. While this latter was helpful, we felt much of the information dealt with could have been circulated prior to Synod. However, it did provide an opportunity to get to know some of the other delegates, many of whom were youth delegates.

One of the first matters of business was an announcement by Archbishop Arthur Peters that he intends to resign his office on March 1, 2002. Consequently, he believes that the Diocese requires a Coadjutor Bishop and, to this end, a motion was placed before Synod requesting that it concur in the opinion of the Archbishop. The motion passed and, accordingly, an Electoral Synod will take place on November 9, 2001

Among other major matters dealt with was a motion to adopt a new Canon 35 which deals with organization and governance issues for churches and parishes. This motion was passed after much discussion and some amendments. Several additional motions were passed to allow for the introduction of Bills in the respective legislatures to amend the Anglican Church Act of Nova Scotia, and the Anglican Church Act of Prince Edward Island to conform to the

changes made to Canon 35.

Another significant motion endorsed the Diocesan Council's decision to declare the Dioceses of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to be a Jubilee Community. Recognizing the gross inequalities in our country and the world, a Jubilee Community "chooses to live out the Biblical vision of Jubilee" and, in so doing, "commends to all parishes a program of study and action to implement the goals and objectives of being a Jubilee Community". For those who are interested, a copy of the background to the motion, i.e. the Jubilee Pledge, is available from your delegates.

There was also a motion requesting the formation of a task group to "consider the limitations imposed by Canon 37.23". It was felt by the movers that lumping raffles and lotteries together in its proscriptions, the Canon severely limits the manner in which churches and parishes can currently raise funds. After considerable discussion, the motion passed. The task group is required to report back at the next regular meeting of Synod. Other housekeeping motions were passed. Only two motions were defeated and they dealt with when Synod should be called, whether on week-ends or weekdays, and

whether Synod should alternate between a program synod and a business synod. How and when to call a Synod remains within the discretion of the Bishop.

On Thursday evening (Ascension Day), the Synod Service was held, at which Archbishop Peters delivered Part 2 of "The Bish-

ops Charge", which consisted principally of reflections upon what he considers to be "unfinished agenda items". While the Archbishop dealt with the issues of Congregational Development and the Vocation of the Whole People of God, his main emphases were on the notion of "Belonging", i.e. acceptance of diversity, and "Human Sexuality". With respect to this latter topic, it appeared from his remarks that the Archbishops primary concern is the "pressing issue of justice" as it relates to acceptance and inclusion of gays and lesbians within the Church. Archbishop Peters concluded his charge by referring to the theme of General Synod (July 11 - 14, 2001), "Toward Healing, Reconciliation and The New Life" and reiterating the Primates Call to Prayer.

The next day, various Hearings were held, most of which were well attended and informative. While we were not able to attend all of them, two in particular, "Ministry Renaissance in Northern Michigan" and "Residential Schools" were most interesting and thought-provoking. Other topics included the Jubilee Commitment, the Anglican Refugee Initiative, "Christians Exploring Sexual Values and Attitudes", "Spiritual Direction ... An Invitation" and "Every Member Ministry".

Following the Hearings, the Task Group on Human Sexuality presented its Report to Synod. The report acknowledged that the Task Group did not entirely fulfill its mandate, and dealt frankly with the difficulties it has encountered since it was struck in 1996, not least because of the wide differ-

ences in theology of the members themselves. As a result, more limited aims were adopted, the primary one apparently being the development of a "values clarification workshop". Recognizing that much work remains to be done, the Task Group made four recommendations, each of which would require Synod to establish a (separate) task group. After considerable discussion, it was felt that, because the current Task Group was established by Diocesan Council, the recommendations should be referred to this body for disposition.

On Friday evening, a Symposium on Rural and Town Ministry was held. Those present were reminded of the many challenges facing small (and, usually, shrinking) congregations in the outlying districts. However, we also heard of a couple of cases where the establishment of new sub-divisions has reversed the decline.

Following Holy Eucharist and Meditation, the final day was taken up largely with housekeeping items, notices of motion and results of elections.

ELECTORAL SYNOD – LAY DELEGATES' REPORT

Bill Lord, Andrea Nicholls

As noted in our report to Parish Council on the 132nd Session of Synod, an Electoral Synod was held on November 9, 2001. St Paul's Church was represented by the Rector, John Newton, and lay delegates, Bill Lord and Andrea Nicholls.

The first item of business was the registration of all delegates, both clerical and lay. Following registration, a service of Holy Communion was held, during which a sermon was preached by Archbishop Peters, and in our prayers, the guidance of the Holy Spirit invoked. Immediately upon conclusion of the service, delegates were requested to take their places, clergy being seated on one side of the cathedral and laity on the other. Information on the three candidates, viz. the Reverend Dr Jody Clarke, the Right Reverend Fred Hiltz, and the Reverend Canon Gary Thorne, had been circulated in advance; there were no nominations from the floor. It was explained that after the first ballot, the name of the nominee receiving the fewest number of votes in both orders would be removed from the balloting. Then, if a second ballot were required, the person receiving a majority of the votes of each order would be elected.

The three candidates were briefly introduced and voting commenced. Following the first ballot, there was a break for lunch while counting of the votes took place. Upon our reconvening, and prior to the results of the first ballot being read out, we were informed that, of the 369 eligible lay voters and 205 eligible clerical voters, 290 and 173 respectively had registered. As these latter numbers meant that over two-thirds of eligible voters of both orders had registered, a

simple majority of each order would be sufficient to ensure election. The results were then read out: Clarke 28, 11; Thorne 40, 28; Hiltz 220, 127. This information was greeted by a spontaneous outburst of cheers followed by a prolonged standing ovation. Archbishop Peters then called Bishop Hiltz forward and asked him if he was prepared to accept the will of the assembled gathering, to which Bishop Hiltz replied in the affirmative. Archbishop Peters then thanked the other two nominees for their willingness to serve and then declared that Synod stood adjourned.

We were grateful for the opportunity to participate in this important event and thankful to God that the outcome was so decisive. As was prayed at the outset of the election, we ask God that Bishop Hiltz "will be a faithful servant who will care for [God's] people and support us in our ministries" (Book of Alternative Services, p. 676).

FAITH AND WORSHIP

Denise G. McKay

In the story of the wise men, who sought to find the 'King',
(Who, of course, was baby Jesus) they set out to do one thing,
To go by faith with a shining star, and follow where it led,
Following it in trust and hope 'til they reached the manger bed,
Where baby Jesus lay content on a makeshift bed of straw,
The wise men, filled with reverence, knelt and worshipped him in awe.
They saw the rumours had been true, their faith had led them there,
Amazed, excited, awestruck, they felt God's presence near.
If they hadn't been persistent, with faith, and very keen,
To find this 'King' they'd heard of, they'd have missed what few have seen,
The actual baby Jesus, God's own beloved Son,
Born a human to this world, for God's love for everyone.
Jesus would grow to manhood, then a sacrifice he'd be,
For all the people in the world, including you and me;
That all who put their faith in Christ, (who'd taken on our sin)
Could be forgiven, saved, new hope, and one day enter in
To a new and everlasting life, (having first passed through death's door)
A life of peace and joy with Christ, and worship God forevermore.

Written and composed with God's help for Advent/Christmas 2001.

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with
Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him..." (Matthew 2:11,
King James Version)

A BOOK WORTH READING

Gretchen Gillis

The Habit of Hope In A Changing and Uncertain World, by William Hockin

Here is a book full of light and truth; clearly and simply written, it can be read quickly. But do not be deceived! For, if we fail to give this book the thoughtful, serious reading it deserves, we will only skim the surface, and we will receive only a small portion of the wisdom it offers. Each of the twelve short chapters is followed by an attractively designed page where the author poses a gentle question an accompanying helpful suggestion and prayer.

In his preface to this book, the author writes, "It is my hope that these chapters will illustrate for you the fact that hope is not just a personality trait given to some but, rather, a habit of life. Like all habits, we can choose to cultivate it... I have discovered that hope is something that needs to be practised every day—by prayer, by listening, by being excite with God's surprises and expectant of his daily grace."

I was pleased to see that this book carries an endorsement from the Right Reverend Peter Mason. It is a book we will want to keep at hand for some timely re-readings, as it does fulfill so well the author's purpose as described above. We give thanks to Bishop Hockin for helping us see how truly desirable is the habit of hope, and how readily available it is to each one of us.

"The Habit of Hope" (ISBN 1-55126-325-4) is available at the Diocesan Bookroom on College Street (423-8978), and can be quickly ordered and received if it is not in stock when you call.

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