
ST PAUL'S

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA



JOURNAL

THANKSGIVING 2002

FROM THE RECTOR

John Newton

During the summer I happened to pick up a copy of a recent biography of Thomas Cranmer. His name is not exactly a household word for most people. Yet he has to be one of the most quoted people in the English-speaking world. Thomas Cranmer served as archbishop of Canterbury from 1532 to 1556, during the tumultuous reign of Henry VIII and the Protestant Reformation. Our Anglican Book of Common Prayer is largely the product of his deep biblical insights and literary and liturgical skill.

The biography runs to 660 pages, and tells more about Cranmer than I had ever imagined possible. Thomas Cranmer was not only someone who tinkered with words. He was a man with a love and a vision for the church—and we owe much of our Anglican identity to him. So passionate was that love that Thomas Cranmer was eventually burned at the stake for his convictions during the reign of Queen Mary. However, the Reformation which he was instrumental in starting could not be stopped, and his Book of Common Prayer has become one of the most treasured documents in English literature, rightfully taking its place alongside the works of Shakespeare and the King James Version of the Bible.

As he looked at the church and studied the Bible, Cranmer increasingly came to the conviction that the church was out of alignment with the teachings of Christ and the apostles. He looked out on a church that was sadly in need of reform, not only in liturgical matters or even in its structure or

Sermons through October & November "THE CHURCH JESUS YEARNS FOR"

OCTOBER 6 – TRINITY 19

"...where meeting is more important than attending"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

OCTOBER 13 – THANKSGIVING

"...where everyone has a ministry"

Combined service at 10 a.m.

OCTOBER 20 – TRINITY 21

"...where people are empowered in faith and service"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

OCTOBER 27 – TRINITY 22

"...where structure serves mission"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER 3 – ALL SAINTS

"...where worship has a lasting impact"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER 10 – REMEMBRANCE

"...where there is reconciliation and forgiveness"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER 17 – TRINITY 25

"...where the doors open outwards"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

NOVEMBER 24 – CHRIST THE KING

"...where God has no rivals"

Regular services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

FROM THE RECTOR (*continued*)

doctrine, but in virtually every aspect of its life. What a mammoth task it was that lay before him and his fellow reformers! Yet they recognized that this was not their church, but the church of Jesus Christ, and any real change for the good would have to come about through the work of God in people's hearts. The Reformation might never have taken place had their not been thousands of common folk in the parishes of England who shared Thomas Cranmer's convictions.

What does all of this have to do with us today, 450 years later? One of the guiding principles of the Reformation was that of the *ecclesia semper reformanda*. That is, that the church should never cease to be in the process of reformation, always submitting itself in new ways to Christ and the Scriptures. We can never consider ourselves to have "arrived".

Here at St Paul's we have had a pastoral ministry task force examining the life of our congregation since the Annual Parish Meeting. They have carefully studied the Bible and engaged in personal consultation with more than fifty parishioners. And they have produced a report, which has since been approved by the parish council. You will be hearing more about the report and the recommendations it includes in the coming weeks.

At the same time I shall be preaching a series of sermons under the general title, "The Church Jesus Yearns For". The individual topics are listed on the front page of this newsletter. While it is inevitable that my own personal views will find their way into the pulpit, I trust that what I preach takes its primary thrust from the Scriptures, and from what we learn from Jesus there.

At the same time I will admit that another source I am using is the extensive study of a

German researcher, Christian Schwarz. He has meticulously examined literally thousands of congregations on every continent, and has distilled what he has learned in a programme called "Natural Church Development". He has managed to isolate eight qualities that characterize healthy churches. They are not gimmicks or techniques, but the evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in people's lives.

Alongside the sermons, there will be an opportunity to discuss each of these topics and the biblical passages related to them in various home study groups throughout the parish. It is the experience of those who participate that these groups help to make both the worship and their involvement at St Paul's vastly more meaningful. The times and locations of the groups (who always welcome newcomers) are posted in each Sunday's bulletin.

I hope that you will participate in this important process—and even more that through your participation you may discover afresh the joy of what it truly means to be the church.

WARDENS' CORNER

Patrick Hartling

MINISTRY TEAM TASK FORCE

During August, a number of members of Parish Council met to review and discuss the task force report. This report was the subject of discussion for a significant portion of the Council meeting of the 30th of September.

As a study, the report considered the input of a number of parishioners. Its findings go beyond the specific staffing of a position. It addresses the fundamental approach to ministry at St Paul's. It is the hope of the executive that the parish will carefully consider the recommendations, and to that end a communication plan was approved by Parish Council. Expect more on this report to be forthcoming.

FINANCES

The finance committee report presented an analysis of current financial matters. There are several significant points of note for the parish:

- A stewardship initiative was partially undertaken; about 50% of parishioners were assigned to 13 volunteers who called parishioners. These calls were undertaken to remind people of the parish's financial situation, and ask for their consideration of each household's personal giving. Further efforts need to be taken on stewardship, and active support of Parish Council will be necessary.
- Current envelope revenues are higher than last year (same period). This is an encouraging trend which deserves further analysis, to be undertaken by the executive and the finance committee.
- The renovations project finances are generally within the parameters set by council, and at the annual meeting.

PROPERTY

There are several matters of note for the congregation:

- The front of the church building has been painted, after scraping and washing. The face was badly weathered, and this painting represents a very visible improvement in the appearance of the church. The work includes a guarantee.
- A new oil tank has been installed in Parish House.
- A new roof has been installed on the Prince Street building housing the travel agency.
- A garden plan has been prepared, and significant progress has been made on implementing it. A number of volunteers assisted with this initiative.

Jack Stanton continues to make progress on a number of routine maintenance items which are steadily improving the appearance of the church.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

A number of volunteers delivered the summer children's program, as well as replacing John Newton during his annual summer vacation.

The fall children's program is up and running, and has a record number of students. A few volunteers are still needed at time of completion of this report.

ARCHIVES

The archives committee and the executive have consulted during the renovations, and as a consequence, many improvements in archive storage have been either planned or achieved. These include improved fire safe storage vaults. This represents a welcome advance in the presentation and security of our heritage.

STAFFING

During the latter part of August, the wardens received with regret the resignation of Rob Paddock. His early notice will allow council and the executive to undertake a search for a replacement. Parish Council has established a search committee.

OUTREACH & MISSION / THE FISH

The wardens have invited representatives of the outreach and mission committee to prepare a report for Parish Council updating members on the "Fish" ministry project and direction, as well as the current budget status of the committee. The executive have been encouraging the committee to communicate and engage the congregation in this ministry opportunity, and to create plans which will sustain this initiative.

CHURCH PICNIC

The executive note the many activities that have occurred this summer, and appreciate the ongoing efforts of many to contribute to the quality of life in our church community. In particular, the church picnic organized by the Messengers, presented an excellent opportunity for fellowship among the many different backgrounds of St Paul's members. Our observation would be that social events such as the picnic, and work projects such as the garden are important components of a healthy church life, and will support the objectives of the ministry task force and Parish Council, engaging members of St Paul's.

In that spirit, the executive and renovations task force have recommended that at the combined Thanksgiving service, a suitable opening and dedication of the revamped facilities be held. The facilities will

allow significant flexibility in our hospitality, rental, and fellowship activities. We thank all of you who, by your donations of money, time, or talent, have made this project a reality, and for your continued generosity through weekly offerings in support of St Paul's ministry activities.

SUMMER PHOTO ALBUM

Photos on opposite page (clockwise from upper left):

- 1 The happy campers, Kejimikujik National Park, September 1.
- 2 Gathering at the Gazebo, parish picnic, September 15
- 3 Andy van Slyke, "the human playground"
- 4 Good food and good conversation
- 5 A quiet moment by the water
- 6 Mike Hebb, hot dog chef extraordinaire
- 7 Did these folk sing for their lunch?

IMAGES OF SUMMER



IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

Elizabeth Ferguson

In the early morning of May 16, 1965, an emergency call came from the Grace Maternity Hospital to the Rev. Canon Mark Ferguson, who had been appointed Anglican Chaplain for Halifax hospitals a short time before. Twin girls had been born prematurely and they were not expected to live. Their parents wanted them baptized, but were so distraught they were unable to think of names for them. They asked Mark for suggestions. He chose the names of the two people dearest to him: Irene May, his wife, who had been diagnosed recently with cancer, and Gwyneth Marion, his teenaged paraplegic daughter. Then he baptized the babies, laid hands on them and prayed over them.

For many years Mark had no idea whether the babies had lived or not. In the meantime, Mark's wife died, and his daughter married. He became interested in the healing ministry, and at some point while he was rector of a church in the Annapolis Valley, he met the mother of those premature twin girls. He was delighted to learn that in fact they had lived, and had experienced no ill effects from their early entrance into the world.

Mark told me this story sometime before we were married in the mid-1980s. The Lord works in mysterious ways: following Mark's unexpected death in 1987 I continued my work as organist in various parishes. In 1999 I received a call from a prospective bride, wanting me to play for her wedding later in the year. When she told me her name, I began to get goose bumps. I asked her to spell it: it was Gwyneth. I said, "You have a twin sister Irene, don't you?" She did, and wondered how I knew. I told her the story; and I found it so moving to

play at her wedding. Now we often see one another at church.

It gave me great joy one day in June, 2002, in my home in Newport Landing, to introduce Mark's daughter Gwyneth Marion Matthews to her baptized namesake, Gwyneth Marion Tebodt, thirty-seven after the baptism. It was a heart-warming occasion!

God loves to bring people together!

ANNUAL SALE

Rose-Marie Dennis & Jodie Knowles

From the members of St Paul's Ladies' Guild and the Jubilee Unit, Anglican Church Women: a well-in-advance notice of the annual sale of baked goods of all kinds, knitted and craft items, to be held on Friday, 8 November 2002, at 10:00 a.m. in the Halifax Shopping Centre.

We are hoping for full support from St Paul's family members (the sale cannot be successful without your support!). St Paul's Ladies Guild recently made a gift of a new stove and refrigerator to the newly made church kitchen and, of course, it is mainly by holding successful sales (such as we're hoping for on November 8th, with your support) that our Guild can donate such gifts to our church. If you do not knit or sew or make jams & pickles or bake items for our tables, cheque-support is "nice" and always acceptable! More later...

ARCHIVES UPDATES

Fiona Day

No doubt the plastic draping of the pews in the Argyle Street side gallery has been obvious while the renovations were carried out, but that is about to be removed, and the flags on either side of the galleries have been replaced. These flags were taken down for the same reason.

The hatchments will also be going up on the walls again, and we hope you will see some of these more clearly and with their colours looking brighter, because we are in the process of getting them cleaned and repaired, an undertaking which will last for quite a few months. Tinker McKay, Marie Elwood, and Don Lordly have been responsible for getting this done by a conservator, John Thomson, and for applying for and receiving grants and donations to have this done (the conservation of the Richard Bulkeley hatchment having been generously paid for by our Ladies' Guild); they have also been working on a definitive guide to each hatchment, all of which is a truly major undertaking. (What is a hatchment? Watch this space in the next *Journal!*)

Now the summer, and the renovations are over, the Archives Committee will get back to work. Events to date this year have been exciting: Three members of the committee took courses on archival management, through the Council of Nova Scotia Archives (CNSA)—the Nova Scotia Archives Archival Core Curriculum, six two-day very intensive core workshops—and have certificates to prove it!

We have had two major grant awards: one from the Canadian Archival Information Network (through the CNSA) consisting of a computer, scanner and all the archival software needed to put our records on a database; and one of \$1,468.20 from the Canadian Council of Archives (also through

MILESTONES

We offer congratulations to **Ray & Corinne Carman**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 4 October.

A good number of parishioners, as well as many from the wider community, turned out for the funeral service on 23 September for former parish treasurer **Joe Erving**. Please continue to keep **Vivian** and their family in your prayers.

Our sincere condolences are also extended to **Dennis & Peggy Pilkey** on the death of Dennis' sister-in-law Donna, and to **Tom & June Sellers** on the death of June's mother.

Our best wishes and prayers are extended to the four couples married at St Paul's during September and November: **Chuck Kline & Susan Hanlon**, **Susann Hudson & Neil McNally**, **Anne Marie Salter & Peter Giberson**, and **Camille Bonnell & Will Allanach**.

In addition, we are grateful for two past parishioners, **Ruby Dellapinna** and **Joan Renouf**, for generously remembering St Paul's Church in their wills.

the CNSA) for archival supplies to properly house our collection.

Now we need to put all these supplies, computer and software, and knowledge to good use!

So if you see silent, engrossed members of the Archives Committee working in the gallery, you will have an idea of what we are doing.

A THANKSGIVING LIST

Denise G. McKay

Thank you Father God, thank you Lord Jesus Christ, thank you Holy Spirit:

- Thank you for coming into the lives of those of us who've invited you to, thank you for salvation, and a guaranteed place in heaven. Thank you for your guidance in our daily living. Thank you for this planet world we live in, and for its beauty, so perfect for our daily needs, and health.
- Thank you for giving us eyes to see what's around us. Thank you for assuring us that you love us, and will always be there for us through every problem or need. Thank you for the strength to resist Satan and his devious ways to attract us to him. Thank you that you are more powerful than Satan, and can keep us in your care and protection.
- Thank you that you assure us that death is only a last breath away from a glorious eternal life with you.
- Thank you for our family, friends, and fellow believers. Thank you for emotions, and feelings of compassion, happiness, peace, joy, faith, patience, self-control,

love, sincerity, gentleness, kindness, laughter, tears, sense of humour, which make up the lives of humans in one degree or another.

- Thank you that we aren't all the same, like robots. Thank you for our gift to choose, and that we have a will for that very reason. Thank you for all the practical things in life: food, water, sun, rain, plants, places to live, health, etc.
- Thank you for the animals in the world, and for our pets (for those that love animals).
- Thank you for everything.

We praise and thank you, Lord God our Father, Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit.

Written and composed with God's help for Thanksgiving 2002.

"Stand up and bless the Lord your God for ever and ever." (Nehemiah 9:5, King James Version)

"Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure, they are and were created." (Revelation 4:11, King James Version)

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Submissions to ST PAUL'S JOURNAL are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue is **15 November 2002**.