



FROM THE RECTOR

John Newton

He must have cut a peculiar figure standing there, waist-deep in the muddy waters of the Jordan. His clothing was just a simple rough-cut tunic made from a camel's skin, fastened by a crude belt around his waist. And the food he ate! A diet of locust-beans and wild honey.

This odd-looking character is, of course, John the Baptist. The Bible does not give us any physical description of the apostles—Peter or John or the others. It does not even tell us what Jesus looked like, and only informs us indirectly about what he ate and how he dressed. So what moved the gospel writers to give us this very vivid description of John?

I believe that it was his very oddness. It did not have to be in the Jordan River. In any setting John would have stood out. People would have whispered to one another, "Who is that peculiar character?" "What does he mean by dressing like that?" "Do you think he ever combs his hair?" "And get a load of those strange meals!"

More alarming than John's appearance was his message. It seemed that John did not care what he said or whom he insulted. He called the respected religious leaders poisonous snakes. He spoke openly about the extortionate practices of the local tax collectors and the members of the Roman military. And he was not afraid to say what everyone knew about King Herod but were afraid to express in the open: that he was as vicious and devious as a fox in a chicken

Advent & Christmas at St Paul's

December 1 – ADVENT SUNDAY

"His name was John" (*Luke 1:5-25*)

Combined service at 10 a.m.

with music from the Children's Choir

December 8 – Advent 2

"A voice in the wilderness" (*Mark 1:1-8*)

Services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

December 15 – Advent 3

"I must become less" (*John 3:22-30*)

Services at 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m.

*Candlelight service of Lessons & Carols
at 7:00 p.m.*

December 18 – Wednesday

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

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

December 22 – Advent 4

"More than a prophet" (*Luke 7:18-28*)

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.

yard, and that under the provisions of Jewish law his supposed marriage was an adulterous relationship.

Now we must not mistake John for a first-century *Frank* magazine. I am not sure what purpose (if any) *Frank* serves other than as a vehicle of destructive gossip. John's concern, on the contrary, was to serve as an agent of God's reign and to play his part in bringing about God's justice in the world. We know that this commitment led to imprisonment and death—a bloody and senseless execution by beheading.

John saw himself as a messenger, "a voice in the wilderness". He came to prepare the way for God's Anointed, whose sandals he regarded himself as not worthy to untie. Yet Jesus looked back on him and observed, "I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist..." During the season of Advent I hope you will join me as we engage in a four-part look at this unique figure who heralded the coming of Jesus. Who was John? What does he have to say to us today? How can we play our part in proclaiming the message that the kingdom of God is at hand?

May God richly bless you throughout the short season of Advent. Amidst all the pre-Christmas rush may you find time to fix your mind and your heart on the Lamb of 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!



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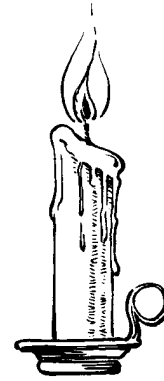
Submissions to ST PAUL'S JOURNAL are always welcome. The deadline for the next issue is **15 January 2003**.

WARDENS' REPORT

John Osler

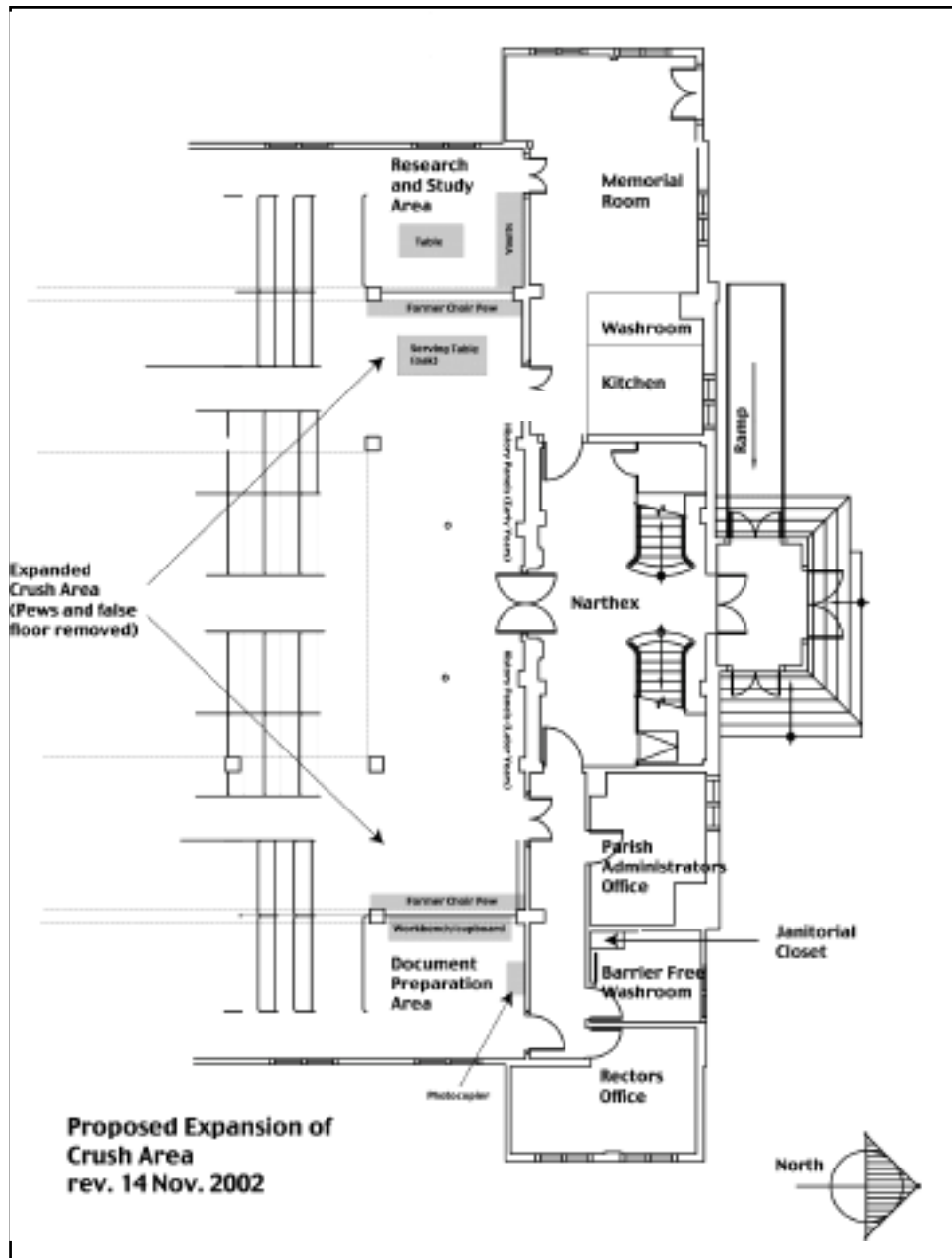
This fall, Parish Council has placed an emphasis on considering existing and future ministries at St Paul's. The report and recommendations from the Pastoral Ministry Task Force have been adopted in principle and a task force has been struck to communicate the findings and recommendations, and to consider the staffing recommendations. I am pleased that the theme of St Paul's providing a place to grow in our Christian faith and a place to serve our Lord seems to be taking root. I urge all parishioners to read the report from the Pastoral Ministry Task Force as it will shape our approach to ministry at St Paul's. We are grateful for the skilled leadership that Michael Messenger has provided. With regard to existing ministries, Parish Council received presentations concerning the Children's Ministries and the "Fish" coffee house. In both cases, short-term and long-term challenges were shared with council for its consideration and action.

For some time, Parish Council has been concerned by the decision of New Westminster, British Columbia, to authorize the blessing of same-sex unions. The following motion was passed unanimously by Parish Council and conveyed in a letter to Bishop Hiltz:



The St Paul's Church Parish Council views the recent resolution of the synod of the Diocese of New Westminster to authorize the blessing of same-sex union as divisive and potentially schismatic for the Anglican Communion and urges the Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to request the House of Bishops to oppose its implementation.

The extremely close quarters during recent receptions and the weekly fellowship periods have emphasized the need to consider expanding the "crush area" at the back of the church. A schematic diagram of the proposed expansion has been prepared. It would provide for a modest increase in the standing area (two pew widths, one on the east and one on the west) plus some sitting area on the east and west perimeters using the former choir pews. It also includes an area for the vaults containing archival material and a small research/study/meeting area on the west side. This area, or the west choir pew, might also be of use to nursing mothers during the services who want to be close to the memorial room, but still participate in the services. The east corner includes a document preparation area that has already been constructed and is proving to be extremely useful. The panels that describe the history of St Paul's would



progress in cleaning these areas by working closely with the Archives and Property Committees. The material is being: 1) returned to the renovated areas; 2) discarded; 3) incorporated into the archives; or 4) re-used in other areas. It is taking a little time to make sure that the correct option is identified for individual items. There is the potential for additional storage in the new research/study/meeting area, but that should only be permitted if proper (functional and aesthetic) cupboards are used. Our goals are to make a limited number of modifications that blend nicely with our existing facilities, to address our fundamental space requirements, and to prevent the clutter

all be located on the north wall of the nave. In so doing, the stained glass windows in the northeast corner will no longer be obscured by the panels.

The two corners in question are notorious for collecting “junk”, some related to the renovations project and some pre-dating it considerably. We are making steady

that accumulates in these areas. This proposal for the “crush area” expansion is presently being considered by Parish Council and your comments are welcome.

THE KIDS' CORNER

Yvonne Messenger

One day a King will come,
bringing life to everyone.
Come a promise to fulfil,
"God with us, Immanuel."

These are words from a song the Children's Choir will sing on December 1. In this busy season as we are trying to get ready for Christmas, it is easy to forget those words from long ago: Immanuel—God with us. Even as I write these words, I have to pause to grasp the magnitude of their meaning. God is with us, each moment, each decision, he desires to be there in the midst of it all.

I love working with the children at St Paul's. It is especially fun during the season of Advent and Christmas as we are getting the pageant together. I think that my favourite thing is the absolute wonder and amazement the kids show us as they celebrate Christmas. It brings the story of Jesus' birth alive for me. It makes it new and fresh. Somehow I'm able to come to Christmas and see it almost for the first time, as I watch everything that happens through the eyes of my own children.

During the Advent season, each Sunday you will find a "Kids' Corner" insert in the bulletin. It will give families some material to read and some activities to do during the advent season. You can use them with your advent wreaths or simply as a family devotion at a time that is convenient. I hope that they help to capture the drama of the story of Jesus' birth and help us to take some time out to focus on God's love for us during the week.

I pray that all of us will experience God's presence in Jesus a little more this season. May his love surround us and may the wonder of the baby in the manger strike us anew.

What Children's Programs have been up to:



This fall has been an active and fun one in Sunday school. We have a great team of leaders working with the children and we also have a wonderful group of kids. We have had a number of new families join us this year and each Sunday we see between 30 and 45 kids. This fall we have been learning about the Ten Commandments and how they relate to our life and relationships, both with God and with each other. In November we have been asking the question, "Who is Jesus?" and have been reading some of the accounts of Jesus' life from the book of Mark. This fall we also had a great Saturday fun day. The children met at the church for a hot dog lunch, then we all went to see the Veggie Tales movie about Jonah at the theatre. We had about 25 kids and parents and it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves so much. We hope to plan another fun day in the winter. Come out and join us!

In the months of November and December the children are collecting coins in their "Money for Moses" pots. We all painted pots a number of weeks ago and are focussing on raising the rest of the money we need to continue our sponsorship of Moses Asila. So far this year the children have raised over \$300. Way to go, kids! We have just over \$90 to raise before January. The money will be collected on November 24 at the Celebration Sunday and then on

December 22. Kids, please remember to return your coins on those days.

We have started a Children's Choir this year for the first time in a while. The children are practicing on Thursdays, from 4 to 5 and are preparing to sing at the Advent service on December 1. We will take a break after this date and then start up again in the spring. As this is a new thing, I am anxious to hear how parents and kids feel about the choir, timing of practices and music, so please let me know.

During the month of December, the children will be getting ready to present a Christmas Pageant on December 22 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 22nd, 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!

The Nursery is a busy place this year. Laura Mason is doing a great job with our youngest children, providing them with fun, cuddles and a simple program based on Bible stories. Thank you to the adults who are volunteering each week and to the folks who have donated gently used toys to our Nursery. The children are enjoying having new toys to play with and they are also enjoying the new space in the Memorial Room.

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, that God will continue to lead us and show us his love and that we will continue to follow after him.

Feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions (445-1462).



WE NEED YOUR HELP

with the children. Here are some ways you can get involved.

- get involved with the youth group (1-2 times a month)
- teach a Sunday school class (usually 10 Sundays in three months) during the winter or spring
- supervise the nursery 5 times this year
- do a children's talk once or twice this year
- be a member of the Children's Program Advisory Committee (4 - 5 meetings a year)
- provide and serve snacks at Parish House (2 times a year)
- share your special talent
- plan and do a craft

Call Yvonne Messenger if you want more information. (445-1462)



OUTREACH & MISSION— THAI STYLE

Maureen White

Many people will recall that during the past year the Outreach and Mission Committee at St Paul's was preparing to sponsor a refugee family. When this process stalled due to a variety of unpredictable circumstances we had to postpone the refugee initiative. That change left Outreach and Mission with funds which were earmarked for international work and deserved a special focus. This focus emerged through dialogue with Ron and Leng Kue Viergutz, who are Christian missionaries in Thailand. Some people will remember when Ron was with of the Inner City Youth Club. For the past 10 years Saint Paul's has prayed regularly for them and made an annual contribution to their work.

This year we will also fund a project which directly assists them in spreading the gospel in Thailand. The project is called "Good News Made Visible" and is based on a series of 25 colorful flip-chart-sized cardboard pages. The content is mainly by Thai artists and depicts nine evangelistic stories. These visual aids are used effectively in small groups or one on one teaching with both children and adults; both Thai national and expatriates use the charts. The accompanying tracts and audio cassettes are available only in Thai. The flip chart book has already been published and produced and re-printed 4 times over several decades. It is presently out of stock and too expensive to re-print while being in very high demand throughout Thailand. The Outreach and Mission Committee's forwarding of a one-time donation of \$5,800 from St Paul's will pay for the printing of 1,500 flip charts to be distributed through "Kanok".

Kanok is a 51-year old Christian publishing house with 17 full-time Thai staff. Ron and Leng Kue currently oversee this work. Kanok is an arm of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, recognized by the government of Thailand. It supplies the small but growing church and Bible schools in Thailand. Examples of their work can be seen on the world wide web at www.thaiholybook.com

Through ongoing contact with Ron and Leng Kue Viergutz we hope to learn about the impact of this project. Please continue to pray for them.



MARY'S INCREDIBLE BLESSING

Denise McKay

In the lifestyle and the thinking of the people of today,
If one asked them, "What's your greatest wish?" I wonder what they'd say?
With all the love of money, bingo, and lotteries everywhere,
No doubt a lot of people would wish to be a millionaire.
A married couple wants a baby, no doubt they'd wish for one,
An athlete at Olympics longs for a gold medal to be won.
And so it goes for all of us, we fantasize and dream
About our future, talent, hopes, love, job, or any scheme.
In life we need fulfilment, a goal, a reason to succeed,
Something meaningful to do, some praise, like, "Very good indeed!"
No person who has ever lived and walked upon this sod
Would ever in their wildest dreams, think they're a 'favourite' of our God!
But incredibly it *did* occur in a most amazing way,
To a humble, godly Jewish girl on one particular day;
An angel came from heaven, and to her stunned surprise,
Informed her that her pure mind and faith were favoured in God's eyes.
And because of her pure innocence of body, mind, and soul,
Almighty God had chosen her for her most important role;
She was going to be the Mother of his earth-born holy Son,
So he could be like one of us, and dwell with everyone
Right here on earth, to teach us all about God's wondrous love,
And later on in future years he'd return to heaven above.
No doubt this virgin Mary had, like us, hopes and dreams along life's way,
But not the incredible blessing and honour, told to her that day!
What tremendous news it must have been to such a humble one,
She must have been in shock for days! She was to give birth to God's own Son!
God's angel laid to rest her fears of how the news would be
Taken by her Joseph, and the surrounding community.
The virgin Mary trusted God, and her faith would never sway,
It helped her through to Jesus' birth, that we celebrate this day.

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

"And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.'"

Luke 1:35 (King James Version)

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMASTIME

Gretchen Gillis

The love that warms our hearts at Christmastime, when we celebrate Jesus' birth with worship, songs, pageants, gifts—that love came down from the beauty of light and joy and life with God and the heavenly beings, down to an emergency shelter in a stable!—down to a young Jewish woman who had said “Yes” to God, whose husband stood by her, faithful to God's message of love to him.

We see this love all around us at Christmastime, and we wish it could last all year long. It can! But sadly, we are apt to let it fade away as we revert to our ordinary selves after Christmas is over. I think what has happened, at least in our society, is that the Christmas season has become largely sentimental. There is nothing wrong about sentimental love; it simply does not provide the sure foundation of deep, enduring love that will see us through every eventuality. This is the love that comes to us from God. I like to think of the birth of Jesus as the beginning of love (though certainly not a beginning for God, who is love).

Perhaps only St Paul can adequately describe what Love truly is; his words (1 Corinthians 13) are so well-known, so often quoted, especially in wedding services, that they readily come to mind. His further words (chapter 14) are not as well-known but are crucial to Christian faith and commitment: *“Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it—because it does.”* (*The Message*, Eugene Petersen)

Every time we fail to forgive those who offend and hurt us, every time we fuel antagonisms, repeat gossip, and criticize others, we miss God's message of love. When we hold onto grudges and resentments, we miss God's message of love. I can say this because for a long time this was the way I

lived. Years ago I thought I was a Christian because I was a Canadian and went to church! It was easy to sit in a pew, think my own thoughts, and pay little attention to God's message of love in Jesus Christ. Thankfully, God has helped me recognize and confess my errors, and accept his call to love. None of this was easy; love is not easy; I often fail. Graciously, Jesus forgives; there is still much to learn.

I ask, as others do, how can I ever love as Jesus loves? I believe it is a process of learning and growth, with Jesus as our compassionate, forgiving teacher. In him we find God's love for humankind, love that has grown from the beginning of creation to a new beginning in Bethlehem to the perfected fullness of self-giving love. In his risen life Jesus knows our every need and struggle; we have only to tell him how difficult it is for us to learn to love, and through the gift of his Holy Spirit he helps us.

On that first Christmas Jesus was the beginning of a new way of life, the way of love. Today and every day he can be that beginning for all who will say “Yes” to him. It is a life that would trade for no other.

I am convinced that God's desire for the church of Jesus Christ is that we learn to love: love God, our neighbour and each other. As Christians, we need this urgently, we need to be able to bring God's love to the darkening world around us, to build bridges of understanding and respect to people of other faiths, and crucially to bring God's love to our children, and our grandchildren. If we will commit ourselves to this process of learning and growing in love, we will have that longed-for enduring Christmas love all year round; not just for our own benefit but for the blessing of many.

STAND UP FOR CHRISTMAS!

Skippy Mardon

The Christmas season is near—or here. The countdown is on. Everyday we read or hear how many days are left until the big day. The newspapers don't describe these as ordinary days but as "shopping days". Yes, this is the time to shop, to choose.

No store has a problem with standing up for the commercialism of Christmas. But many Christians have a real problem in standing up for the real Christmas, the spiritual Christmas, the good news that Jesus came.

Many of us are not very outspoken in our Christian witness. At this time of year there is a very special way that we can give out the good news about Jesus—with our Christmas cards.

What is the message your card brings? Does it say, Yes, there is a spiritual element to Christmas and this is really important to me. I want to share this with you. Is your card truly Christian, offering a message of comfort and hope and the good news that Jesus became the God-man and came to earth for us?

For me, Christmas is a deeply spiritual time. I brush off the commercialism and entrenched secularism as much as possible and there is no better way to oppose this than with Christmas cards. To me, each Christmas card is a statement of that person's spiritual values. A card depicting a Ho, Ho, Ho Santa Claus is a statement of what that person treasures most about Christmas.

In recent years I have received Ho, Ho, Ho-type cards from Christians and even ministers of the church. I am saddened that a person who says they believe in the Lord Jesus could not send me a Christian message, a message of comfort and hope at this special time of year. How do you know that

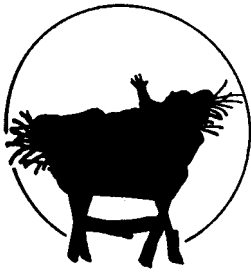
the person you are sending the card to doesn't have some spiritual or emotional need which the Ho, Ho, Ho, card will not fulfil?

The Christian Christmas card business has made great inroads in producing quality cards to meet various age and interest groups. There are cards with a gentle good news message for those who may not be devout Christians. Just check out all the various kinds of Christian cards available these days:

- cards portraying animals and pastoral scenes for nature lovers,
- pictures of angels for angel lovers (includes New Agers)
- quotations from authors for the literary,
- quotations from the Old Testament for our Jewish friends
- meaningful cards for children
- more traditional cards for Christian church-goers

Admittedly there are times when there does not seem to be a card to fit every need. There are those sad situations—the person who has a terminal illness and is living out their last Christmas, the family that has experienced a tragic loss or death. But, no problem. Today there are blank cards where we can write in a special message. So if you can't find a card for a person who is having a "blue Christmas" for whatever reason, buy a blank card and add your own thoughts. In addition perhaps you can add a Scripture verse. If you need help in selecting meaningful verses, some Bibles, as well as Bible societies list references of where to turn to find verses about peace, joy, comfort, hope, etc. Where possible, encourage the receiver to seek a deeper spiritual life in Christ.

Many of us take considerable care and



thought in choosing a present which is just right for our relatives and friends. If the dollar store doesn't meet our needs, we go to a number of specialized shops until we find just the right thing. But do we devote the same time and care in choosing our Christmas cards? I encourage people to leave the secular Christmas cards on the store shelves and to seek spiritual cards with a special message.

We can buy religious cards that support the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund right in our own church (at the welcome table) or by contacting Maureen White, 454-9974. These cards, nice as they are, may not fulfil the needs of all interest and age groups, as cited above, so we could visit the Witness Store (West End Mall) or Blessings Marketplace, or check the Internet for additional choices.

A Christmas card is a special kind of present. Say a little prayer, then choose each card with care. If possible, select one with a meaningful Scripture verse. Pray that each friend may be blessed by its message.

Many of us use Christmas cards for decorating our homes, offices and churches. Once again, as far as possible, let's send a meaningful spiritual message.

I offer this challenge. Share your spiritual roots. Let your friends and family know that your real values lie much deeper than the Ho, Ho, Ho variety. Stand up for the real Christmas, the spiritual Christmas, the Christmas when God came to this earth as a baby, to live and to die for us. This is the true meaning of Christmas and it is a message to be shared.

YOU'RE BLESSED WHEN...

Eugene Peterson

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

"You're blessed when you feel you've lost what's most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One who is most dear to you.

"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are—no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought.

"You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat.

"You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full', you find yourselves cared for.

"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

"You're blessed when you can show people how to co-operate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.

"You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom."

Matthew 5:1-10 from *The Message*, the Bible in contemporary language.

WHAT'S A HATCHMENT?

Tinker McKay

A hatchment is a diamond-shaped painting, usually oil on canvas, framed in black, of the coat of arms of a person who has died. Hung for a year and a day above the person's front door, the hatchment was a public notice of death, and of a family in mourning. The hatchment was then deposited in the deceased person's church. In Britain hatchments were used in the sixteenth century as part of the "feudal funeral", and their use continued until the middle of the nineteenth century. The same practice with some variations began in Halifax at St Paul's eleven years after the founding of the settlement in 1749, but if hatchments were used at funerals in the church between 1801 and 1850, none survived.

On a Sunday morning in October 1760 Richard Bulkeley, Secretary of the Province, was suddenly charged with arranging a state funeral for his friend Charles Lawrence, Governor of Nova Scotia. Perhaps Bulkeley's thoughts turned to the funerals of his boyhood in Ireland, or during his army career. He must have decided a hatchment was required to announce the Governor's death to a largely illiterate population, and to increase the grandeur of the funeral he was planning. He found in Thomas Lawlor, a painter and glazier from Boston, a man who could quickly prepare a hatchment, and even provide the lead to line Lawrence's coffin. Since it was common in the eighteenth century for men to create their own coats of arms, maybe Bulkeley looked up his heraldic reference books and gave Lawlor instructions on the design and colours of arms used by people surnamed Lawrence.

At four o'clock on Thursday, October 24, 1760, a solemn procession marched up the hill from Government House to a black-

draped St Paul's. During the committal Lawrence's coffin was lowered into a vault close to the communion table and his hatchment deposited in the church. His death and funeral marks the first use of a hatchment at Halifax.

Hatchments were part of seven St Paul's funerals over the next forty years, ending with the burial under the church of Richard Bulkeley in December 1800. Seven eighteenth-century founders and defenders of Nova Scotia are buried under the church, and their hatchments hang in the east, north and west galleries. The eighth, to Charles Morris, the first Surveyor-General, who is buried at Windsor, was hung in the church sometime after his death in November 1781.

Apart from attempts in 1908 and 1949 to clean or restore them, the hatchments have enjoyed benign neglect. During our 250th anniversary celebrations the rector invited Dr Marie Elwood, former Chief Curator of History at the Nova Scotia Museum, to give a talk. Her topic was "Three Gifts to St Paul's" and she chose as one of the gifts the hatchment of the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Bryan Finucane, buried under the church in August 1785. Close inspection of the canvas revealed its urgent need for conservation. It seems even the restorer/over-painter of 1949 did not dare touch this one.

Under Dr Elwood's inspiration and guidance, the hatchment project of St Paul's Church archives began. We received encouragement from the Canadian Heraldic Authority at Rideau Hall, Ottawa. The chief herald of Canada said that these eighteenth-century hatchments are "highly significant" and based on Don Lordly's excellent photographs, Saguenay Herald wrote for us the

heraldic description of each hatchment. Mr Ian Muncaster of Zwicker's Gallery provided essential support. Professors in the Classics department at Dalhousie University unravelled the obscure motto in the Morris coat of arms. *Quamvis Sera Tandem Veniet*, we now know, can be interpreted as "The good servant will be waiting, no matter how late the Master comes." Dr Terrence Punch advised on the mysteries of the Baron/Colonel De Seitz.

In the past twelve months three hatchments have received careful and totally reversible conservation by Mr John Thomson, who is documenting every stage of the process. Richard Bulkeley's was discovered to be in even greater need of conservation than Finucane's, and St Paul's Church Ladies' Guild soon offered to sponsor its restoration. Next, through the interest and clan connections of Mr Donald F. Maclean of Halifax, the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust of Scotland, the Clan Maclean Atlantic, and individual Nova Scotian Macleans sponsored the hatchment to Brigadier General Francis McLean. A photograph of the restored hatchment was a feature of a meeting of over a thousand Macleans held last summer in Edinburgh. Then the Association of Nova Scotia Land Surveyors agreed to fund the hatchment of the first Surveyor-General, Charles Morris, and an almost actual-size photograph of the conserved hatchment was displayed at the Surveyors' recent annual meeting in Pictou. Our earliest hatchment, Lawlor's painting of Lawrence's arms, is currently being conserved in John Thomson's studio.

In July the Halifax Regional Municipality Community Heritage Grants Program

awarded St Paul's Church archives a very generous grant, a wonderful contribution towards the conservation of the remaining five hatchments. We were touched, and grateful, to learn that the councillors of the Halifax Regional Municipality increased the amount of the grant in recognition of the church's history and its role in the community.

By next summer the hatchments to Governor Lawrence, Vice-Admiral Durell, Chief Justice Finucane, Governor John Parr, and Colonel De Seitz should all be conserved. We hope to produce a tourist rack card, a brochure for the many visitors to the church, and a booklet about this unique collection, the largest in North America.

As you leave your pew next Sunday, look up to see hanging in the East Gallery the three conserved hatchments. Richard Bulkeley's hangs closest to the chancel, and in the middle, Brigadier-General McLean's. The third, with a blue shield is Charles Morris'. In the north gallery in the baroque frame is the De Seitz. In the west gallery at the north end is the hatchment to Vice-Admiral Durell, and next is the one to Governor Parr. The space closest to the pulpit will soon display the first hatchment, to Governor Lawrence. Chief Justice Finucane's is under protective cover until it can be conserved.



THE STAR IN THE EAST

Denise McKay

In this modern age of transport, ship, plane, bus, train or car,
 You have to marvel at those wise men, on camels, travelling far,
 No doubt in much discomfort, over sand, under burning sun,
 To a place they'd never ever been, to seek God's Holy One.
 They'd started out in trust and faith, that the star rumour indeed was true,
 Even though they had no proof, and the outcome? No one knew!
 But they felt the urge to travel, and a mounting inner joy,
 Deep down within their being they sensed they'd find God's Baby Boy.
 Wisely they decided to follow that bright eastern star,
 And trust themselves to its guidance, whether near or far.
 Their faith was well rewarded, when the star stopped overhead,
 And suddenly they sighted a small, crude cattle shed.
 Their hearts beat fast, their joy increased, they'd never be the same,
 They knew they'd found the Christ Child, 'Emmanuel' by name.
 We, too, by trust and faith in God, can go the wise men's way,
 And seek Christ Jesus for our life, feel joy, today and every day.

Written and composed with God's help for Advent/Christmas 2002.

"...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over the where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matthew 2:9,10 (King James Version)



FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S

Dot Kelly

Winter seems to have come quickly following a very lovely late summer and fall.

We were very happy to receive a visit from the Reverend Harry Newman, his daughter, and granddaughter in October. Mr Newman was a curate at St Paul's at the time when Archdeacon T.W. Savary was the rector. We enjoyed a very pleasant luncheon, hosted by Mr and Mrs David Redman. Mr Newman also visited Mrs Peggy

(Wickwire) King, a former parishioner and choir member.

You are in our thoughts and in our prayers as we look forward to the quiet time of Advent when we reflect on the Advent Collect looking for the coming of Jesus Christ "who came to us in great humility".

Phyllis Redman joins me in sending her love and good wishes.

REFLECTIONS

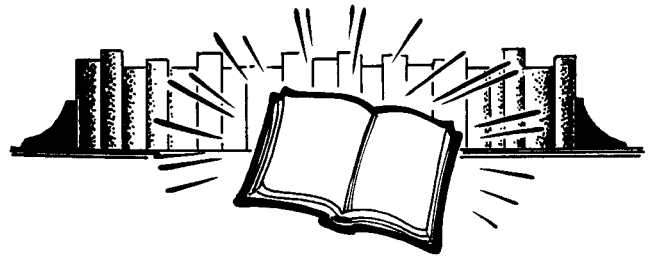
Pat Hartling

A review of *Writing In the Dust* by Rowan Williams

I have begun to read and reflect on this recently published book by Rowan Williams, the newly appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. This book arises not merely as an abstract theological discussion of the meaning of 11 September 2001. It is built upon the experience of one who was at a Wall Street church, only two blocks from the World Trade Centre. We can feel the masses of dust blow up around us and settle, we can hear the confusion and the unreality of that reality. But Williams quickly moves us out of the experience and into a thoughtful assessment of the meaning of this act, of its origins, and to an analysis of what the Bible and our faith has to offer us.

There is, he reminds us, much in the Bible for our reflection and instruction in the face of this event. Relevant biblical teaching ranges from the need to consider our reactions, our grief and our anger, to the opportunity that such an event provides for each of us to reach out in understanding to others, to a thoughtful evaluation on the nature and future of war. In particular the emergence of a new definition of heroism is at the heart of what Williams offers us. Heroics, he suggests, are not always found in the dramatic and physical. There is a significant and crucial heroism in the maintenance of community order, of health and security, and in the act of reaching out to care for and understand others. Such heroic acts of habit and faith, emerge at times such as 11 September 2001 to help us respond to the impossible.

Thus, heroism can be described as much as a state of mind as a physical act; a code of



conviction and deeply held behaviour towards others that drives us to service rather than a discrete action taken at a point in time. Like the Anglican Church, it is a combination of the spiritual, the mental/intellectual and the physical.

There is, I know, much more in this deceptively small book to be discovered. That is Williams' second great achievement in this work. Like the artist who invites us to look at a view through her or his eyes, Rowan gives us the opportunity to look at this event in a way that transcends the physical, that moves beyond the stereotypes towards "something that is not part of the competing systems operated by man".



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

Pat Hartling

This has been an eventful and fruitful year in the life of our church. We have seen members involved in activities ranging from renovations, to heritage and archives, to music ministry.

Two significant events in our fiscal life represent significant engagement for many. Envelope revenues have exceeded the previous periods on a month to month comparison. Generally, this trend has seen our giving increase by 10% over the prior year's amount. Secondly, many have given or pledged monies in support of the renovation project. These donations and pledges, which total \$60,000 plus to date, represent a generous response to our decision to move forward on the renovations.

On the expenditure side, significant repairs and preventative maintenance efforts have improved our church appearance. Roofs have been replaced on the Argyle Street property, a sill under the front of the building has been replaced, the front of the church building has been painted, and the area inside the front entry has been repaired and improved.

There are challenges remaining, however. The ambitious property budget coupled with a general market malaise has left us with a deficit. Two challenges in particular are:

- to expand the numbers of active envelope contributors
- to develop giving patterns that reflect God's will for our personal stewardship, which in turn will free St Paul's from an unhealthy reliance on past generations.

We thank you for your faithful contributions and responses, both on the operations front and on the renovations side of our activity.

MILESTONES

We offer congratulations to **Len Hannon**, who celebrated his 95th birthday, and to **Libba Wainwright**, who celebrated her 90th, both in October.

Funeral services were held for **Doris Billard**, **Eunice Major** and **Hilda Mitchell**. Doris had been handicapped for many years following a stroke, however many may remember her mother Maisie, who died a few years ago at the venerable age of 97. Eunice is remembered for her gracious and efficient work over many years to co-ordinate St Paul's part in the St George's hot meals programme. Hilda's involvement at St Paul's spanned generations and a wide variety of activities, from drama group and choir to the Jubilee Unit Anglican Church Women and weekly volunteer work in the church office.

Our sincere condolences are also extended to **Hilda Ridgway** on the death of her son David, and to former parishioner **Ian Mardon**, whose father David was one of the two civil servants murdered in Kamloops in October.

We also rejoice to have welcomed into the fellowship of Christ's church through the sacrament of baptism **James Harvey**, **Liam Harvey** and **Alvssa Barkhouse**.

