

# BY GEORGE

**153 Years**

A MEMBER CONGREGATION OF THE ANGLICAN NETWORK IN CANADA (ANIC)

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## ***SHINING FORTH GOD'S LIGHT***



January 6<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Epiphany. From this day until Ash Wednesday the church celebrates the Magi who carried the news of Jesus' birth to the Gentile nations. We call it Epiphany because we are celebrating the shining forth of God's light into a dark world in the person of Jesus; a light that no darkness could ever overcome (John 1:5).

We as a parish family are engaged in the same business as the Magi. We take the business of sharing the good news of Jesus very seriously. This is evidenced in our newest addition to the ministry team, Nathan Betts. Nathan is our Lay Evangelist. He will be with us for 8 months and will be working closely with

me to develop our own entry level Christian teaching program. For now, we are calling the project Christianity 101. You will hear more about this as it develops. Shining forth with Jesus is also done through worship. Toward this end, Bryan Hunt has joined our ministry team as Worship Pastor. He will be giving spiritual leadership to us as a congregation, prayerfully leading us in intimacy with the Lord through worship and music. The additions of Bryan and Nathan speak of a congregation shining forth the light of Jesus in 2009!

Sharing the good news of Jesus is central to who we are at St. George's, Lowville; a sentiment captured in our mission statement, "Disciples making disciples." Matt. 28:16-20. We are called by Jesus himself to go into all the world, preaching the gospel (i.e., the good news), mak-

*(Continued on page 2)*

***The light  
shines in the  
darkness***



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ing disciples of all nations. This process begins on our own doorstep. In 2009, I pray that we would all take this mission statement personally and invest ourselves in our neighbours, coworkers, family and friends.

Having said that, I also realize that it can be an intimidating thing to set out the gospel message to a friend or neighbour. Not all of us have been trained in conversational evangelism. That is why our parish model of evangelism in 2009 is simple:

### **Invite your friends to church.**

At both Sunday morning services they will experience fellowship, intimate and sincere worship, earnest prayer and hear the transformative gospel of Christ. Your job is to get them to church, the services and ministries of the church are intentionally designed to do the rest.

The invitation for 2009 is simple. Please pray and ask the Lord to help you identify one friend to bring to church. I pray that every one of us will bring one friend to church in 2009. And when they come to church, they will experience the light of the risen Lord and be drawn to him through the ministry of His church.

“The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined.” Isaiah 9:2 ESV

Epiphany blessings to you and yours,

**Ray David**

## ***THANK YOU, KATHY***



Kathy Powell has served our congregation since 1970. She was the President of the ladies group, choir leader, and vestry clerk.

In 1981, the year after Charlie came to St George's she was employed as church secretary; her first office in the laundry room/rec. room at the rectory on McNabb Crescent, the next in the portable building behind St. George's, then in the portable at St. John's Nassagaweya during our building programme and finally in the new offices when the extension to St. George's was completed.

The Pastoral Visiting programme at Milton District Hospital began in 1987 when Kathy and Linda Golding saw a need for spiritual support for patients. She and Linda took a ten week course learning how to reach out to others in a caring and Christian way. After completing the course they began volunteering at the hospital. They developed a programme entitled “Comfort and Caring

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**Sunday School is coming to the 9am service.**



**Sunday school for children 2½ to 5 years old will be starting in January during the 9am service.**

**This spring we will be looking at the New Testament.**

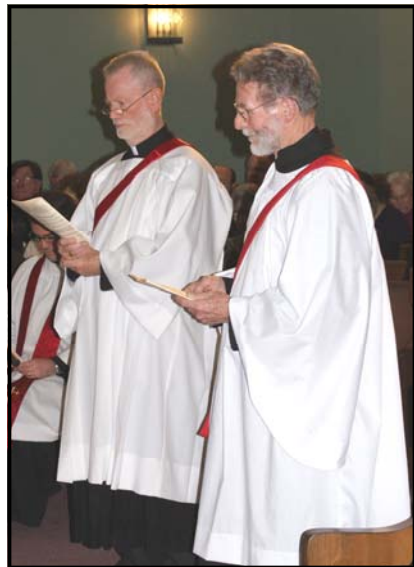
*If you are not already involved in Sunday school and are interested in helping (no help is too small), please contact Angela Hunt 905 875-0350 or Shelley Loveless 905 331-2054*





## SERVICE OF ORDINATION

**Scott Christopher Walker as Deacon in the Church of God  
Peter Jean-Guy Parent and  
Keith Alan Stodart as Priests in the Church of God  
By the Right Reverend Donald F. Harvey  
December 14, 2008**



*The light shines in the darkness.*





*The true light is already shining.*



## **ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE CHRISTMAS**

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### *Adopt a Family Program*

*Thank you again to all who supported the 2008 Christmas Adopt-a-Family program/ministry. Your compassion and overwhelming gifts provided for 5 families gifts of clothing, toys, and a food voucher for a family Christmas dinner.*

*My request to the Christmas program coordinator was to provide us with families who were in the greatest need and were least likely to be adopted. There were two single parent families of five each, one parented by a single mom and the other by a single father. Two other families had both parents. However in one of these the father was not expected to live because he had a brain infection. (I haven't heard the outcome.) The one remaining family was a teen mother with a two year old daughter. Most of the children in our families were older than this and had teenage brothers and sisters as well. These age groups are not usually chosen by sponsors.*

*Clothes are always requested, especially winter jackets/coats, socks, and jeans. One of the single parent families requested diapers for the youngest child. We supplied the package with the largest number of diapers possible. Because of your support we were able to provide all the clothing requested plus another non-clothing item for each one [Dora the Explorer dolls, coloring books, videos, basketballs, and music gift certificates]. We had enough money left to buy 3 Wal-Mart gift certificates of \$25 each. These went to teens in families who had no sponsor.*

*My grateful thanks are extended to Margaret Hunt for her help and support. Margaret did the buying for two of the families as well as purchasing items that required the special expertise of a parent. Thank you Dave Shantz and Wayne Neeb for helping load my car during the year. And thank you too to Don and Barb George who faithfully each week provide a necessary item that most people don't consider as a need in food banks—toilet tissue.*

*My thanks to each of you who supported this outreach with your Christmas blessings of love and compassion. I thank each of you who provide food, clothing, and other items throughout the year. I assure you, everything is used and appreciated.*

*Betty Pristol*

(Continued from page 2) *“Thank you, Kathy” continued*

through Christ” with the goal to carry out the weekly visitation of dear ones that had been admitted to long term care in the Milton Hospital, Allendale and Mt. Nemo Nursing Home. They were commissioned in 1990 by the area clergy to train the students that they would supply. From these humble beginnings the program has grown and continues to run today.

In 1998, the wardens and congregation freed Kathy from her secretarial duties to allow her to serve in the area facilities by developing ways to serve the frail elderly pastorally as our Seniors’ Pastoral Care Resource Person.

There was a very real sense for Kathy that she was a missionary in her own home town. She has always loved the challenge of discovering new ways to reach people and help them grow in faith.

The Antioch Encounter week, held in our church in the spring of 2002 confirmed in Kathy’s heart a commitment to write a book that would help lay people train up workers to serve the vulnerable. That book is being used in Vancouver British Columbia and in Botwood, Newfoundland to lead classes there.

Although, Kathy has decided to transition into retirement, she plans to study and look for ways to help our frail elderly and those that serve them reach their full potential in the Lord. She will still be involved with the Coffee and Caring programs at the hospital and Allendale.

She is excited about this new development in her life and is always anxious to hear any questions and ideas that will help her zero in on some topics for study.

*Naomi Neeb*



*The true light is already shining.*



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## ***Edie Rittinger Writes***

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To my dear friends at St. George's

It has been quite some time since I last wrote to you – many events of great significance have happened in the interval. Not the least is the re-location of St. George's to my old workplace– Crossroads Centre. I still have wonderful memories of daily morning chapel services in the space you now worship in. It gives me a great feeling of being connected to you all.

We are experiencing an unprecedented snowfall in Vancouver. Since December 13<sup>th</sup>, we have faced snowy conditions – sometimes very extreme. (I wonder how this relates to Global Warming! – I could use some warmth right now!). For the first time ever, we were forced to cancel 3 of our 5 Christmas services at St. John's. The covered drive-through at our north chapel collapsed under the weight of the snow; we sent out a mass email asking for people to come and shovel snow that we might be able to hold our regular worship services on December 28<sup>th</sup>! All very unusual. The lovely aspect of this snowfall though, is the unbelievable beauty of the trees weighed down with snow, and the incredible silence of the forest I drive through every day on my way to work. God is an amazing Creator!

It's been a good and very full year for me. I've had a few health problems which kept me from a planned visit to Bolivia in December with Health Partners International. This is the same ministry I traveled to Afghanistan with in 2007. We have now received a 5-year commitment from the Canadian Government to fund our development work in that country, building sustainable health-care facilities in Kabul, and eventually in Kandahar as well. My work with women here in Vancouver is going well also – the next event being a retreat for my Bible Study groups in downtown Vancouver in February. I plan to use the movie produced by Billy Graham Ministries - “One Night with the King” – a study on Esther - as the focus of the weekend.

I continue to remember each one of you, and am so thankful for the connection that Richard Myers brings with his group emails – an invaluable service for those of us who are “scattered” in various parts of the world.

I will close this note with my fondest wishes for a most Happy and Fruitful 2009 for each and every one of you. May God continue to guide and direct you as you follow where He leads.

With deep affection,

edie

*The light shines in the darkness.*



## ***LEAH STUDIES IN GUATEMALA***

On January 3, Leah Culver left for the city of Antigua in Guatemala. Leah is there along with 17 other students and one professor as part of a semester abroad program through the University of Guelph. Leah will be living with a Guatemalan family. She will attend classes related to her major, international development, taught by her professor. In addition, she will take a Spanish class instructed by a professor from the University of Antigua. Throughout the semester Leah will have the opportunity to travel around Guatemala and some surrounding countries, and she hopes to spend some time volunteering with one of several NGO's that are working in the impoverished areas of the country.



Please pray for: safety and for wisdom as Leah travels, also that she would have a positive impact on those she lives with and works with, and that the Lord will give her guidance about where to volunteer.

Read about Leah's life in Guatemala:

website: [www.leahculver.blogspot.com](http://www.leahculver.blogspot.com)

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. George's,

Thank you so much for your cards, messages, and encouragements to me at and after the ordinations on December 14<sup>th</sup>. And my special thanks to you all for the wonderful Parish gift of a portable Holy Communion set. This has already seen use, and will, I trust, see much more in the future.

It is an honour and privilege to be called to serve St. George's as a presbyter. May God continue to bless us as the people of St. George's, and in all our ministries in His service.

In Christ,

Keith Stodart

Honourary Assistant.



*The true light is already shining.*



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***OUR MISSION PARTNERS WRITE***

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Dear Friends at St. Georges Lowville (ANiC),

Chris and I want to thank each one of you personally for your continued prayers and support of the ministry. We value your prayers, and appreciate your support and partnership with us in the work to which God has called us, as this is a challenging region, with people who have grown up to know only war and fighting. We are praying daily for opportunities to shine the light of Christ into this place so that people will come to know peace with God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We would have loved to come and visit you all in your new location at the Crossroads Centre, but our time was very short here in Canada. We had no idea that it was going to be possible for us to come home for Christmas until a week before we left. What a special surprise and gift that was for us!

Our plan is to come home for a month some time next summer or early in September. We will let you know as soon as we have been able to organize our visit back to Canada next year because we would love to visit you at your new location, and share some of the wonderful ways the Lord is working in the ministry you have invested in over the years.

Please be assured of our prayers for all of you too. We know you have had your challenges this past year. May the Lord continue to bless you all and make you a blessing to many, as you faithfully serve our King. Thank you so much for keeping in touch with us, and for your continued encouragement and support.

God bless each one of you as we enter this new year with Jesus,  
Bev and Chris

*The light shines in the darkness.*

## ***“THERE IS NO GREATER THING”***

I had a friend some years ago who called the New Year’s celebration “Old and New”. In my mind “Old and New” is not always a happy celebration because of the old year that was not without trauma and the future, the new year, that seems precarious at best.

The media at this season sees its role to produce the year-end summaries of events of the past year: all the nightmares, the crises, the terrors and fearful events spaced out through the year, but now crowded into a few jarring moments of remembering. In irrational contrast to these reminiscences the focus often seems to be froth and frolic and anticipation of a coming year filled with mirth.

To look back and to look forward is actually a wholesome thing. My family is a family of historians. Looking back through my sister’s diary of the past year, we can see that in personal terms and in terms of our parish and our church the year was not without hardships and difficulties. But even more than those things, we can see our Mighty Saviour’s hand. And nothing is too difficult for him.

Looking forward is wholesome too. Life is not just frolic, froth and mirth. The purpose of life is not get ahead in the world, be a success, make yourself comfortable. **“What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world but forfeits his soul?”** We have work to do, important work of eternal consequence and lasting value.

God knows the future and rules the future. Throughout history He himself has drawn back the curtain and disclosed the future: through Abraham, through Daniel and the prophets, through the apostles. Jesus spoke about the future [Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21]. His words about the times that we live in have proved to be surprisingly accurate. He spoke of dangerously deceptive false prophets to come; he spoke of war, earthquake, plague, famine, and increasing lawlessness. He spoke of hatred, persecution, betrayal, believers martyred, people falling away from the Lord, love growing cold. And He spoke of certain coming judgment.

Jesus’ words to his disciples were words of urgent warning. He said, “See to it that no one leads you astray.” “Stay awake” “Watch yourselves.” **“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place,**

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*The true light is already shining.*



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**and to stand before the Son of Man”** [Luke 21: 34 – 36, ESV].

As we see the future unfold do we live in fearful expectation? Jesus said the reverse. **“Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”** [Luke 21: 28, NIV]

These days are precious days, days of opportunity, days of purpose. We are appointed by God himself. Each of us is appointed. Jesus said, **“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide”** [John 15:16, ESV]. We are God’s workmanship. Our work has been appointed ahead of time. **“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”** [Ephesians 2: 10, ESV]. These are precious days of opportunity. We must not waste them.

The future does not belong to folly, waste, hardship and pain. It belongs to Jesus! This is what is certain about the future: the gospel of the kingdom is going out to the ends of the earth. Then we will see Jesus come in his glory. **“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come”** [Matthew 24: 14, ESV]. This is our job! This is our future!

Graham Kendrick, the worship song writer understood.

*All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres and wars to own;  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss—  
spent and worthless now compared to this  
Knowing you, Jesus, knowing you,  
there is no greater thing:  
you’re my all, you’re the best,  
you’re my joy, my righteousness;  
and I love you, Lord.*

***Mary Ann Masters***

*The light shines in the darkness.*

## ***A VISION FROM CHINESE CHURCHES***



[Stephen Leung is rector of Good Shepherd in Vancouver and Asian Ministries Liaison for the Network.

He graduated from Wycliffe College, and was ordained in Hong Kong in 1984 where he served as a curate for two years. He then began a 5 1/2 year post in Macao. In 1990, he moved to Vancouver to serve at Good Shepherd.

What follows is the presentation that Stephen Leung made to “First Things First”, the Inaugural Synod of ANiC in November 2008. His vision for ANiC and for ANiC churches stretches us far beyond our own local church cocoons. This presentation is very important for our parish; it challenges us to reach out to the growing multi-cultural community right on our doorstep. This is our Lord’s command. This is our mission. Eds]

### ***Preaching to Cornelius’ Household***

Text: Acts 10: 34-35, 44-48.

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation *whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. . . .*

While Peter was still speaking these words, *the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.* And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because *the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles* also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

### **Message:**

1) Acts chapter 10 is the turning point in early church evangelism, extending the missionary work from mainly among the Jews to the Gentiles. Cornelius illustrates the dividing line in Acts. After chapter 10, the entire outreach focus in Acts has been switched mainly to Gentile mission, becoming a cross-cultural mission.

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***The true light is already shining.***







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2) But who made the change? Who was the architect? And who made the outreach plan work? God himself. It is God who gave Peter the heavenly vision in the beginning of Acts 10; and it is God who sent the Holy Spirit to guide Peter to Cornelius and his household. However, it is in fact Peter who was not ready for gentile evangelism. The Jerusalem church was not ready for cross-cultural mission. They were too busy and being absorbed entirely in Jewish mission.

Yet God moved forward according to his time and plan. God took the initiative to invite Peter to take part and then asked him to witness what the Holy Spirit had done in Cornelius. God spoke to Cornelius and the Holy Spirit poured out onto Cornelius before his baptism. Fair to say, God moved ahead of the steering committee of the Jerusalem Missions Department. In Acts chapter 9, God prepared Paul for Gentile mission leadership. God also prepared Peter to support Paul later in the Jerusalem Council and missionary journeys, letting Peter witness first-hand God's grace upon Cornelius.

It is God's work; God prepares his servants. It is God's plan; God makes it work.

3) However, we need to discern when we are Peter and when we are Paul. Peter is the pastor among his own people, and Paul is the cross-cultural missionary. In Church history, when Western missionaries came to the East, those missionaries served like Paul. Later, local leaders were raised up and took up their responsibilities, so that they became Peter. When I came to Canada, I was called to minister to first generation immigrants, thus I am Peter; but when I minister to local-born second generation, I become Paul. Therefore, vice versa, when the Canadian-born or Canadian-raised Chinese (whom we call CBC or CRC) rise up to local leadership, they become Peter. When they take up the role to minister to the first generation immigrant, they become Paul. To me, Bishop Don is my Peter and I will be Paul.

The reason I bring forward Peter and Paul is that we need both Peter and Paul in team work in order to face the challenge from cross-cultural missions. God puts both together who are complementary in outreach ministry.

4) Now in Canada, a post-modern world, we are living in times of high mobility and globalization. Canada is experiencing a drastic change in population composition, becoming a pluralistic society. There are huge numbers of Asian Canadian immigrants and local-born

Asians. For example, by statistics, Chinese is the largest ethnic minority, nearing a million people across Canada. In Vancouver, there are hundreds of Chinese and Korean churches, and many are Baptist, Alliance, Mennonite, for example. This means that God has done great work in reaching Asian Canadians.

**5) But what about Anglican churches in Canada or the United States? Do we see the changing local mission field and allocate resources to the unreached ethnic groups? I have been in the Anglican Church of Canada for 18 years and I don't see much action being taken. Do we have a new page and a new paradigm for ANiC? Are we going to draw a new picture for our future?**

**6) My vision for ANiC is that one day, in our future Synod meetings, we will have delegates representing different ethnic roots according to the composition of the Canadian population. They then are truly one in Christ and one in community. Thus, our gathering has a living gospel to proclaim.**

**7) In order to reach our goal, as Canadian Anglicans, we have advantages to make it work through the Anglican Communion. As we probably agree, today the Global South has taken the leadership in saving the crisis in the Global North. God has made use of the fast growth in Global South to reform and redirect the Global North back to biblical faith and Christian commitment. Therefore, ANiC should take serious consideration towards mission partnership with the Global South, so that we are able to link up and work among immigrants from the Global South with Global South Anglican provinces. I myself would like to see closer and more active missionary relationship with Asia so that we can venture together in outreach missions.**

**8) In order to develop the outreach mission to Asian people in Canada, we need to nurture and build up pastoral leaders who know how to minister to different Asian generations in North America, which is in fact very complicated and much different from ministering to European or Australian immigrants. There is a bigger difference of languages and cultural gap between the East and the West than between Europe and North America. We need to develop new modes of pastoral theology and pastoral care to Asian Canadians.**

*Stephen Leung*  
*Church of the Good Shepherd,*  
*Vancouver*



**St. George's Anglican Church,  
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**Rector  
Youth Pastor  
Seniors' Pastoral Care  
Ministry Coordinator  
Church Secretary**

**Rev. Ray David Glenn  
Scott Walker  
Kathy Powell  
Naomi Neeb  
Donna Rigo**

**Services are for the whole family and  
everyone is welcome.**

**Crossroads Centre Chapel, 1295 North Service  
Road, Burlington**

**9:00 am Morning Prayer or Holy Communion**

**10: 45 family service, nursery and Sunday school**



"The 12 Days of Christmas" presented by the children at the 4pm  
Family Service Christmas Eve.

*Arise, shine,  
for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has  
risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the  
earth, and thick darkness the peoples. But the Lord will  
arise upon you, and his glory shall be seen upon you.  
And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the  
brightness of your rising.*

*Isaiah 60: 1-3*