

St. George's Anglican Church
LOWVILLE Ontario Canada

Volume 23 Issue 10

December 2007

BY GEORGE

150 Years

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

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Merry Christmas
May God bless you
throughout this
holiday season

By way of introduction.



It is my distinct joy to introduce Matt Baker to our parish family.

Matt is our new youth minister. He has just moved here from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to work with the youth of our church and our surrounding community. Matt has the heart of an evangelist, and his ministry centres around helping people to know the transformative, healing love of Christ. After a dozen interviews with other potential youth ministers, many phone conversations with Matt and a weekend long interview in November, it became apparent that the Lord was calling Matt to lead this next chapter in our youth ministry. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and to welcome Matt

to St. George's (and encourage him in his efforts to say "eh" at the end of every sentence).

Introductions are exciting. They are loaded with potential. Introductions mark beginnings. Advent is all about potential. It is the season of new beginnings in the life of the church. During Advent, Christian people remember the anticipation leading up to Christmas. Christmas was the greatest introduction in history - the moment when God introduced himself to humanity. Yes, God had made significant appearances in the history of Israel, as recorded in the Old Testament. However, his self-insertion into the human story in the person of Jesus was the culmination of millennia of anticipation.

Colossians 1:19 tells us that "... it

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was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in [Jesus]." Again, in Colossians 2:9 the writer reflects on the great Christmas miracle and says, "... in Him all the fullness of the deity dwells in bodily form." That is to say that there was nothing about God that was not true of Jesus. On the day Jesus was born, when Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men gazed upon that child, they were introduced to God. They met him face-to-face.

In the gospel accounts of Jesus' life we see moments of massive potential every time someone was introduced to Jesus. These same people were healed, restored to community, delivered from demons, saved from the tyranny of sin and handed the fullness of a new life. To be introduced to Jesus meant a life of potential.

The same is true today. People still meet Jesus. People are still healed, restored, delivered from demons and saved from the tyranny of sin. A prayerful introduction to Jesus still offers the promise of life to the fullest.

Two thousand years ago God introduced himself in fullness to the human family in a little baby named Jesus. He is still introducing himself to people like you and me.

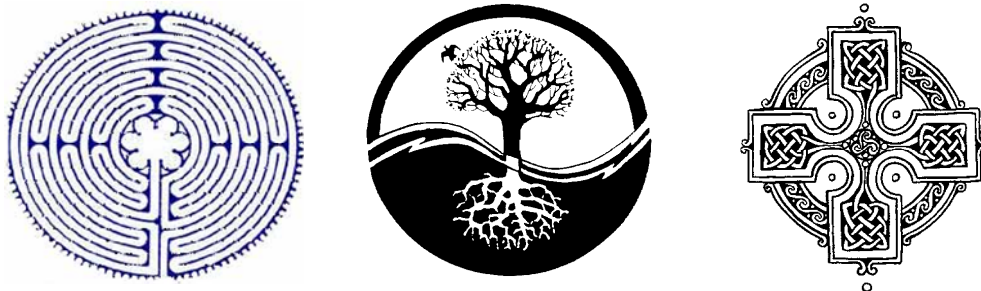
Ray David



Is Our Diocese Schizophrenic?

As one of the lay delegates to Synod I was very much disturbed by what I witnessed, and I must share it with you. As I am sure most of you have heard by now the main item on the agenda “A local option to allow blessing of same sex civil marriages” passed by over 80%. It was then promptly given the Bishops assent, and is no longer a matter of if, but of when. Surprisingly this is not what disturbed me most. That issue is the tip of the iceberg that is clearly visible; it is the glimpse of the portion under that water that disturbed me most.

On Thursday night I had the privilege of attending the Bishops charge. I left that evening with a strong impression that the service was very schizophrenic. It was a combination of solid Christian content including the Lords’ Prayer and the creed, mixed together with a collection of strange Mother Earth and pagan inspired content. The first reading was a poem, instead of scripture. The Prayers of the people was a prayer for the “days of eternal creation”. It was a sequence of prayers for elements of creation like the deer, the satellites, the lichen, and amoeba. It was so strange I could not respond with the rest of the congregation. It was essentially a prayer for Mother Earth. I have since discovered that the concept of “eternal creation” is favoured by pagan philosophers, and was opposed by the church in the second century.



There was also some interesting symbology in the program leaflet, including the following:

The symbol on the left, the labyrinth, is a traditional symbol for Mother Earth. The symbol in the middle is a combination of the pagan Yin yang (The symbol of duality) and the pagan tree of life. Searching “yin yang, tree” on Google images, I quickly found the symbol. The very first site that I visited was a Wicca website of spells, with the focal point being this symbol. The tree of life is a pagan symbol interpreted as the roots reaching down to Mother Earth, and the branches to Father Sky. On another website, the same symbol was the key icon for traversing a new-age spiritualization/meditation site. When I discussed these findings with other delegates at Synod they were not at all surprised. They have been aware of these trends for a while. The program leaflet finished with the image on the right, a Celtic cross, which appears harmless enough. According to the artists’ website for this particular cross, it is either a symbol of Celtic spirituality, or the Celtic Church. Further research reveals that many believe that the equal length Celtic cross is a form of the more ancient pagan Solar Cross. The Solar cross is potentially one of the oldest pagan symbols, representing among other things the four seasons. It is found in many different regions of the world. I expect that

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the creators of the bulletin had Celtic spirituality in mind when they added the symbol.

On Friday the official business began. After completing the administrative business, the remainder of the day was spent on the topic of Eco-Justice. Eco-Justice is basically the merging of the environmental and social justice movements. At one point during a Q&A time one of the clergy asked if we should be using the term Mother Earth in our liturgy. The response from the speaker was that this would be a step backwards since the term Mother God had already gained acceptance. A more concerning point was the afternoon activity. After some discussion on Hermeneutics and biblical interpretations, we prepared for a Bible study on Eco-Justice. In the instructions we were asked to take off our traditional glasses, which interpret the Bible in view of the Salvation story and put on new glasses and interpret the Bible from the earth's point of view. Thankfully at our table we just studied the passage on the New Jerusalem through our traditional glasses, and got much more out of it. Though there is benefit in the church working towards correcting social justice issues and protecting the environment, it is not the primary purpose of the church. The church should be focused on sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and changing lives through the power of God.

On Saturday the main event was the vote on the local option to bless same sex civil marriages. Many good points were made against adopting this motion, but they fell on deaf ears. Near the end of the debate one delegate supporting the motion, provided the following definition for sin. "There are only two types of sin, to love too much, and to love too little". That definition is so far from Biblical, I can't even guess where it comes from.

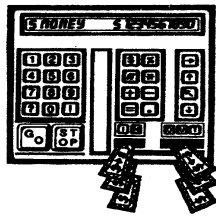
During the course of Synod it became clear that two key terms, evangelism and outreach have dropped their traditional Christian meanings, and adopted the secular ones. The big push of the evangelism committee was radio ads on the theme "You mean more here". The Outreach committee was proud that they sponsored the Eco-Justice presentation, and passed out free trade coffee to each parish. Both terms have had the gospel of Jesus Christ removed. There is more that can be said, but I have been long winded enough already.

After mulling over these observations for a few weeks two things are now crystal clear: Firstly our diocese is not schizophrenic, but it is transforming into a completely new religion. It may be Anglican in organization and ritual, but it is no longer Christian. Secondly the time for working within is past. We must quickly let down the lifeboats and abandon the sinking ship, before we go down with it. I call out to the remnant of faith-full Christians in the Anglican Church to stand up for truth and be counted. The time is now! Please feel free to talk to me further about this.

Kelvin Loveless – Lay delegate

Some thoughts on Stewardship...

Pamela's amazing filing system has recently turned up a copy of the following article I was asked to write in 1986 for Highlight Quebec, a publication of Christian Direction in Montreal.



KINGDOM INVESTMENTS

One Christian businessman shares his thoughts on stewardship based on his own family's system of giving.

by Ron C. Bales

I'm writing this article with hesitation, since I have little experience with disciplined giving. Even that experience is not based on theory but only on what seemed right for our family at the time. Although much of my life has been spent in financial analysis and planning, it is only since our return to Montreal in 1980 that we have actually been analytical about giving. My wife and I had spent many years in churches, only becoming Christians about the time of our move to Argentina with Alcan in 1975. The following five years were a time of intense learning: about our faith, about missionaries' lives and work, about acute social needs, and about differences in people's ability to receive help. Our giving was basically a matter of responding to immediate and highly visible needs.

On our return to Montreal, we felt that it was important to be more disciplined in stewardship. Quebec's high tax rates and generous deductions for charitable donations are very powerful incentives for giving, but they do require good records and the use of recognized channels. We thought it was important to get involved in outreach in Montreal, but recognized that it would take time to find our role in this city. Conscious of Paul's instruction in I Cor. 16, "On the first day of every week, each one of you set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income ...", we put 10% of each

month's salary into a separate bank account. By doing all our giving from that account, we could easily track how we were doing against that target.

Where did the 10% come from? As we had become more familiar with Scripture, we had seen that tithing was taken for granted, so it seemed a good place to start.

In South America we had also observed new Christians begin tithing immediately, even those on minimal incomes. Our friends who worked in very poor areas noted that, with no increase in income, it was the tithing families who were able to share with others. It was as if wisdom came with tithing.

Having set aside the reserve, the next step was to apply it. We soon found that there was no shortage of opportunities. We had left a prosperous Canada, where governments seemed determined to cover all social needs except those funded by very effective Centraide campaigns. We returned to growing unemployment and growing demands on private welfare groups and downtown missions. We had left thinking the missions were for overseas. We returned to a growing realization of the need for missionaries in schools, prisons, offices and other places where there were people who needed the Gospel but didn't go where it could be heard.

A pattern has developed, but I must stress that it is a pattern that seems right for us at this time, rather than any kind of a general principle.

Wherever possible, we get to know the people involved. That usually means getting involved ourselves, with time, talent and treasure. Although we have remained active with the South American Missionary Society and our friends in South America, most of our effort goes to work in the Montreal area. Our involvement is primarily, although not exclusively, in Christian programs. Before we became Christians, we supported certain charity groups and we find our continued association to be instructive and rewarding.

When not directly involved in an organization we direct our support to an individual worker. Missionaries at home and abroad value prayer support as much as financial support. Knowing enough about the work to pray specifically for it has been a valuable learning experience for us and for our church.

We have not been afraid to say no. The number of people and organizations seeking support far exceeds our ability to respond. As we have found work we know and trust, more and more we tend to commit support in a predictable fashion, usually a year at a time, and preferably through a series of post-dated cheques. Having our regular support on a planned basis helps us to respond more quickly, positively or negatively, to the unexpected opportunities that come along.

To cope with this opportunity overload, we fell back on an old practice. As each request or opportunity appeared, we prayed about it and discussed it. When an answer seemed right to both of us, we acted. In some cases, answers were a long time coming, although we rarely disagreed.

The tithe is still a useful benchmark but as a starting point rather than a limit.

Over the past ten years we have found that the principle of involvement and giving continue to grow together and is personally rewarding. Giving does bring joy!

Finally, this article notwithstanding, we are more comfortable with Matthew 6:3, "But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing", than with Matthew 5:16 "...let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven".



Ron Bales is a Vice President in financial and business management with Alcan Companies in Montreal. He and his wife, Pamela, serve on several boards of Christian organizations. He is a lay reader at the Church of St. Augustine in Pointe Claire.

This seems relevant today, with the change for our family being that the tithe goes to the congregation where we are nurtured and the other needs are met from the givings that follow the tithe.

Ron Bales

Who's Who & What's on at St. Georges

Nursery

Care is available for babies and toddlers at the 10:30am service.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Family Ministries

Sundays during the 10:30am service

Sunday School Programme for 3 years to Grade 5. Each of the three classes use Bible stories, craft and songs to learn about Christian Faith and grow in their love for Jesus

Ray David Glenn 905 336-3145

Youth Programme One Way Youth

Ministries Activities throughout the week aimed at building relationships with the Lord and bringing these relationships to others around.

Sunday. During the 10:30am service, for grades 6 – 8. A teaching time in the youth office..

Thursday. 7pm – 9:30pm for grades 9 and up. Worship and discussion at the church.

Friday C.S.I. (Connect Social Interaction)

7pm to 10pm. A fun night for grades 6 – 8. Games, movies singing etc.

Saturday 7pm – 10pm. A fun night for grades 9 and up. Games, movies, singing etc.

Sunday Unite 7pm to 10pm

Dan Bonham 905-407-4090

Music Ministry

The Choir sings at the 10:30am service in the Sanctuary
Church office 905 878-1363

Prayer Chain

Confidential prayers daily. Please call with prayer requests for yourself or others.

Eileen Phillips 905 681-6850

Alpha

A series of talks on key issues relating to the Christian faith. Each evening includes a meal and group discussion. Offered in the fall at the church.

Donna Rigo 905 854-0197

Home Fellowship and Bible Study

Groups meet during the week at the church or in homes. Please call to find out about locations, times and study topics

Dave Shantz 905 854-1013

Greg Culver 905 854-1181

Adult Education (Potter's Wheel)

Events that provide teaching for adults on Christian subjects and issues. As announced.

Ron and Pam Bales 905 827-1097

Church Library

The library contains a wide range of books, videos, tapes and magazines with Christian themes, for both adults and children.

Gillian Fernie 905 319-2916

Sermon Tape/CD Ministry

Copies of Sunday sermons are available on audiocassette (\$2.00 and CD (\$2.50). Turn-around time from date of request is two weeks. Request forms are in the Narthex.

Betty Pristol 905 873-1918

BY GEORGE

Monthly church newsletter containing news and views about what is happening at St. George's and about our missionaries.

Richard Myers 905 332-9492
email: newtonmyers@cogeco.ca

St. George's Men's Group

Praise, prayer and study over coffee. Held on the third Saturday of the month at the church.

Rick Carpenter 905 690-3086

Women's Ministries:

Annual Conference and Vespers Evenings. Events designed so that women can draw together spiritually, through fellowship, worship, teaching and sharing.
Karen Wilson 905-659-1775

Visitation Ministries:

Congregational Visiting. Those who wish to have a pastoral visit should call the church office.

Seniors' Pastoral Care and Institutional Visiting.

A ministry to St. George's seniors and their families. Also to Milton Hospital, and area seniors' residences.

Kathy Powell 905-335-5399

St. George's Knights

Sports group for those 14 years and older. Softball with the Milton Inter-Church Mixed Softball League in the summer.
Richard & Ruth Mills 905-878-3849

Baptism for Children and Adults Preparation for Baptism includes a visit with the clergy. Held periodically. Rev. Charlie Masters 905-878-1363

Communion Preparation for Children

Classes for children and their parents are held on four consecutive Sundays after the 10:30am service, usually in Advent or Lent.

Rev. Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

Marriage Seminar

Five sessions for those about to be married. Led by church members. Held annually.

Ray David Glenn 905-336-3145

The day-to-day operation of the Church

This is the responsibility of the Wardens and the Rector.

Parish Council advises the Rector and Wardens on all church matters. All are invited to attend the monthly Parish Council meetings. Please call the church office for more information.

Property and Maintenance Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance and care of the church buildings and parking area.
Brian Duke 905 689-3897

Cemetery Group

Responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the cemetery and the grounds.
Wayne Neeb 905 659-0402

Overheard by the Font (& elsewhere)



**Congratulations to Melissa Parrish and Jason
Henwood on the occasion of their marriage which
took place on Saturday December 1st at
St. George's**

Today's Smile...

***After the christening of his baby
brother in church, Jason sobbed
all the way home in the back seat
of the car.***

***His father asked him three times
what was wrong.***

***Finally, the boy replied,
"That preacher said he wanted us
brought up in a Christian home,
And I wanted to stay with you
guys."***

Submitted by Norma Jolly



Christmas Greetings from "Out West"

**Edie sends her love and prayers for all of you
as you celebrate this most Holy and joyful
season. " I am so grateful for everyone at
St. George's, and thank God for you.**

**Most sincerely,
Edie Rittinger**



From the Library...

**Christmas Videos and children's
books are now on display in the
Library.**

**Come by and remind yourself what
the season is truly about.**

Gillian



News from Sudan

At last, I received my visa from Khartoum. My passport is with the Sudanese Embassy here in Canada and, once it is stamped, I'm ready to travel. My flight is tentatively booked for Thursday, 29th November.

Chris hopes to come up to Khartoum to meet me at the airport, and then we'll spend a few days there, waiting for my travel permit to take the 12 ½ hr. journey south to our new home. I'm looking forward to seeing Chris...that goes without say! I'm also looking forward to visiting all the precious street boys at the Boys Hope Centre, and catching up with friends in Khartoum before traveling south. It will be nice to settle

down...is this possible? Sounds like we will be moving around quite a lot! Whatever the case may be, we're looking forward to the adventure ahead – together!

Quick update: I have been truly blessed to have this extra time with my family. Pam has gone through numerous tests but continues to be filled with joy & hope in the Lord; currently she is only suffering from a few symptoms, and could enjoy many good years ahead. Dad starts radiation soon; Mom's 1st wrist operation went well. Wayne is still in need of prayer and possible surgery on two toes. God's grace is sufficient for whatever we go through in life. We are thankful for the reminder that our lives are in God's hands. Thanks for your prayers.



This is one of two offices we will be working out of. At this location a solar panel is used, enabling the running of one computer; at the other location (over 2 hrs away) a generator comes in very handy.

By now most of you have heard about the hard adjustment period Chris has had to endure since his arrival over a month ago (jet lag, stomach problems, poisonous caterpillars, itchy rashes all over his body, temp. over 40C without electricity to run a fan). On a more

positive note, Chris wants to thank each and every one of you for your prayers. He is feeling so much better, and says the caterpillars are dying off (their poisonous hairs are still everywhere...that will take some time to get rid of).

I'll share a few of our email conversations with you:

Q) How are you getting along with the Arabic language, since few people speak English? *He writes*, "I am having fun trying to learn and the people are very helpful."

Q) Where are you getting water from to have a shower and to hand wash your clothes? *He writes*, "we have to go to another area, fill up containers of water and bring them back to our compound."

Q) Are there any churches in the area? *He writes*, "no, but I have found a few people who want to get together for a Bible Study. We will try to meet each week. One guy here said he was starving for some Chris-

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From St. George's With Love ...by Kathy Powell

HOW CAN FRIENDS SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ADULT CHILDREN WHO ARE CARING FOR THEIR LOVED ONES AT HOME?

- ♥ Pray for them daily, asking for patience and strength.
- ♥ Arrange to help them hold a bible study in their home or a hymn sing.
- ♥ Tell them of your admiration for their efforts to care for their loved one.
- ♥ Keep in touch regularly - listen to them and don't judge them on their thoughts.
- ♥ Drop them a quick note of encouragement.
- ♥ Offer to visit with the loved one while the caregiver gets out.
- ♥ Bring over a treat once in a while and stay to share it with them.
- ♥ Are there yard tasks you can help with?
- ♥ Does their car need to be taken for a tune up?
- ♥ Share books, music tapes and videos with them and then discuss them together.
- ♥ Are their support groups in the area to help with care?
- ♥ At Christmas:
 - ♥ bring over some hot chocolate and popcorn, wrap presents, address cards, decorate together
 - ♥ have a group of friends come to sing Christmas carols outside the window
- ♥ What an opportunity we have to encourage others in the care of their loved ones either at home or in facilities.
- ♥ Thanks to Jane and Mary Ann Masters who faithfully visit at Heritage House.
- ♥ Thanks to Rose Robertson, Jim Mighton, Eileen Phillips, Deanne Patchett and Edgar Stokes for helping with our dear friends at Allendale and Peter Parent (volunteer chaplain there)
- ♥ Thanks to Mollie Myers, Ann Broderick and Peter Parent who visit at Mount Nemo Christian Nursing Home.
- ♥ I am sure that there are many in our congregation who make visits of their own and for that we are grateful. So much is accomplished by taking time to visit those who cannot get out to join us.
- ♥ Have a blessed Christmas season!

Kathy Powell

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tian fellowship. He was very happy to get together.”

Q) How is the work going? *He writes*, “there’s lots to do and I really need prayer for wisdom to know the best way to serve these communities. There are so many needs. As it looks right now, we will be travelling a fair bit; one week in one area, the next week in another area. Right now I am going around with a Village Survey Team, visiting all the different villages in the region, in order to complete a CIDA pre-assessment survey. It’s very interesting and informative (even though it’s all in Arabic, through a translator).

Q) What exciting cultural experiences are you enjoying there? *He writes*, “last Saturday I went to a Harvest Festival...and that was quite something! There were probably 10,000 people. I was the only white person...I stuck out a bit. The people were very friendly; everyone was having fun, with 10-15 different villages represented, all dressed in different traditional clothes, performing traditional dances, and with the big event being wrestling, which the local folk seemed to really get enthused with”.

Praise for...

- For Bev’s visa so she can now go and join Chris
- For the dying off of the caterpillars
- For dear family and friends – thank you for your prayers and encouragement – for Chris, Bev & her family. We love you all and are praying for you all too.

Prayer for...

- For wisdom to do the best job possible – that will bless & help the people there
- For continued health & strength, with all the changes in diet, and with the heat and harsh environment
- For Bev’s dad, sister and brother-in-law

Chris & Bev Rupke



PRAYERFULLY SPEAKING



Redeeming the Time to Pray

Garth V. Hunt

One of the wonderful by-products of these difficult and painful days in the Anglican Church has been the increased commitment to intercessory prayer by hundreds of people from coast to coast. Given the focus of these monthly emails, it is with great joy that we hear of this growing tide of prayer for the Church. For instance, during the three weeks in November prior to the Anglican Network in Canada's recent conference, there were daily prayers shared by many people both individually and in small groups. Some churches had special prayer gatherings, early in the morning, with people rising much earlier than their norm to participate. Other have shared with us over recent months of their increased sense of being "called" to pray for specific leaders or important meetings.

Last month, we began a reflection on what St. Paul meant when he exhorted the church at Thessalonica to "pray continually" or "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess.5:17). During the weeks since then, my experience may have run something similar to yours. I found myself praying, "Lord, I have my 'quiet time' in the morning where I read the Word and pray, but I have a growing sense that You're asking more of me than that. But my life is so crazy busy, and I wear so many different 'hats', I can't find the time to pray more. You know, Lord, that I believe this is vital . . . really critical . . . but there still are only 24 hours in the day. Help me, Lord, to redeem the time to pray."

I was reminded of Jesus' disappointment with the disciples in Gethsemane when they kept falling asleep while He anguished in prayer. "Could you not keep watch with me one hour?", He asked them.

"Yes, Lord, I can", I want to reply, "but You'll have to help me find that hour".

For the next few days, it was almost as if the Lord was walking at my side, with a stopwatch in His hands, and together we began to find some time each day that otherwise was either squandered or spent with my mind and spirit in "neutral". Let me share some of these "redeemed" moments: -

ten minutes in the shower and shaving (I'm normally really in neutral here) spent in quiet, conscious worship

twenty minutes in the car driving to work (I really don't need to hear the weather forecast 3 times) spent praying for our Rector, Curate and wardens

six minutes standing in line at the TD Bank waiting to make a deposit (they now have large LCD TV

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screens for you to watch) spent again in worship and expressing my love to Jesus. In fact, I felt drawn to commit myself to worship every time I'm in a queue, whether it's at the grocery store, the post office, the airport (lot's of them there!) or even waiting in line for a movie.

a fifteen minute "prayer walk" on my lunch hour, exercising both my body and my spirit, spent in interceding for the leadership of Essentials and the Anglican Communion world-wide.

a five minute prayer "break" during my afternoon at work spent in the gentle recitation of the Lord's Prayer and the simple prayer of gratitude, "Thank You, Father".

twenty minutes driving home from work (frequently in the past consumed by listening to some mindless dissection of the Maple Leafs' most recent losing streak) spent in bringing before our Father the needs of our parish family, whether it be financial provision, physical healing, employment issues or comfort in the times of bereavement.

momentary bursts of joyful, silent prayer during the commercials of a TV show I watch with my wife and family. Rather than being offended by such "casual" prayer, I believe that the Lord delights in our learning to focus on Him, whatever we are doing.

five minutes in brushing my teeth (and the dreaded flossing) spent in thanksgiving for the day, and His loving care and provision for my family and me

If you do the math, you'll see that the Lord found me much more than an hour each day. Although it was difficult at first to not let my mind wander in these less structured, "redeemed" moments, I am finding it easier to bring my attention back to the Lord, without guilt or recrimination, and simply begin again. It's not strenuous or hard work. It's about becoming more comfortable in God's presence, and capturing every available moment for Him.

St. Paul, in writing to the Ephesian church, gave them, and us, the following imperative: -

Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5: 15,16

NIV

"Making the most of every opportunity" in the King James Version is rendered, "Redeeming the time". Surely that's what we want to do in these difficult days. In this Advent season, as the Church year begins anew, let's allow the Lord to redeem lost moments in our day that we can use to worship and pray, indeed making the most of every opportunity. Amen.

This article was originally written for the December 2007 Essentials 1st Friday Call to Prayer

The Bell

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ(1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom.8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship(Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child(Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are!?

"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace."
Numbers 6:24-26

Submitted by Grace Clarke

ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE CHRISTMAS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMME

When you receive this issue of By-George, Christmas will be less than 3 weeks away. Again, St George's will be supporting the Christmas St Matthew's House Adopt-A-Family Program.

Have you begun to think about gifts and all of the activities that are associated with Christmas? Would you like to consider a special way to share your Christmas with someone less fortunate than you? If so, I invite you to be join with fellow parishioners from St George's in making a more joyful Christmas for a low income family, by supporting the St Matthew's House Adopt-a-Family Program. For over 43 years, St Matthew's House has given Christmas new meaning for thousands of families. Every year the number grows. Last year they helped over 3,000 individuals who through poverty, unemployment and economic hardship had insufficient income to make Christmas a day any different from any other day of the year.

As a church we would "adopt" **1 or more** families at the cost of \$125 - \$175 per family, depending on the size of the family, and provide for them:

- 1/ a winter jacket/coat for younger children
- 2/ gift wrapped toys for children or suitable gifts for teenagers in attendance at school (ages and sizes are provided)
- 3/ a food voucher from Fortino's in Hamilton to cover the cost of their Christmas dinner of meat/fowl, potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

Fortino's do not reimburse any unspent money from food vouchers but require all of the money be spent in the store on food items. Thereby assuring all of the money is spent on food.

Envelopes marked for St Matthew's House will be in your Sunday church bulletins on Sunday, November 11th and Sunday November 18th, 2007. The gifts and food vouchers must be provided to St Matthew's House not later than December 10th. All financial gifts, small and large, are gratefully received.

Please place your gift in the labelled envelope in the offering plate not later than December 2nd. Cheques should be made payable to St George's Church with a "note" in the left hand corner of your cheque indicating the funds are for "St Matthew's House Christmas Program". Please be sure to include your name and address so an income tax receipt can be provided.

Please Note: Families registered at St Matthew's House are eligible for assistance from only one agency, thereby avoiding duplication.

If you have any questions please contact me either after the 10:30 AM Sunday Service, by e-mail at drumard@sympatico.ca or at 905-873-1918. Voice mail records after 6 rings if I am unable to take your call.

Betty Priestol

Building on the Solid Rock

Building on the solid rock! What a name for a conference! How heartening to find that we are not just a handful of sober fear-the-worst Christians in the midst of a mass of “let’s live in the twenty first century and bury the superstitions of the past” Anglicans. We are not alone! There are many more out there: little pockets of faithful people, bigger groups, whole churches, lone courageous individuals even, left standing by themselves in the midst of the wilderness of their church. People just like us, from right across the country, from small parishes, large parishes, cold parishes, encouraging us and being encouraged. We found them there at the conference. Though insignificant in the collective mind of the Anglican Church of Canada, we span the whole country.



Our technical team—Dave, Clairelle & Christian

But not just this country! There are even more that think like us in the United States, in Great Britain, in fact everywhere that the Anglican Church exists, right around the globe, millions of people. They stand with us. We can count on their support. They have dared, even as we have, to take a stand, to speak up and now to take action. We found them there at the conference too. Canon Dr. Chris Sugden of Anglican Mainstream came from Great Britain bringing greetings and expressions of support from many orthodox Anglican bodies. He stated that the real diversity of Anglicanism is that it embraces all peoples and races, bringing the Gospel to them in their own languages. This is the real diversity, not the acceptance of tolerance as some would say. We need to focus more on our relationships with Anglicans in other provinces.

This is one of God’s methods to ensure we are not overwhelmed by the surrounding culture. Bishop John Guernsey, Bishop of the Church of the Province of Uganda in the United States came also with greetings and encouragement. Many jurisdictions from around the world sent expressions of solidarity with us.

What do others say to us? “You are clinging to a view long since abandoned by thinking people everywhere” “You are causing a needless fuss, a tempest-in-a-teapot. You are causing a schism.” “Isn’t it better just to do as they say? You can do more good for the Lord if you don’t rock the boat.” All this is not merely well-intentioned advice. It is false and dangerous. “You in your small corner and I in mine” as an approach to Christian discipleship will not cut it any more.

There is a solid rock! Jesus lives! The Scriptures are still true. Still true, what we testify to in our creeds, confess in our worship Sunday after Sunday. The Book of Common Prayer continues to be “a priceless possession of our Church” as the preface to the Prayer Book begins. It’s still true. The witness of our fore bearers Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Whitefield, the Wesleys, and John Newton and many others still

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stands; not only are all these the treasure of a rich Anglican heritage, all are still solid bedrock. Nothing has changed; Jesus is still the Saviour and the living Lord of Glory. It is right not only to hear Him, but to obey.



Our Musical Team

We have a vital obligation to act.

At the conference, J. I. Packer set things in perspective by contrasting historic Anglicanism with the liberal theology of a church that has been grasped by contemporary culture. "You will either suffer for the Gospel or you will be ashamed of the Gospel;" there is no middle ground, said George Sinclair teaching from 2 Timothy, chapter 1. The Gospel is about the exaltation of Jesus as Lord; it is not about tolerance, David Short said, teaching from Ephesians 1: 15 - 23. He continued: Ephesians speaks more than any other scripture about the principalities and powers. They are real, evil beings whose aim is to "vandalize the glory of Christ." Jesus is safe, exalted at the Father's right hand, so the strategy is to vandalize His body, the church. Any structure which proclaims a counterfeit gospel is being used as a

medium for the evil one. It ceases to be part of the church, the body of Christ. The church is the "fullness of Christ". The glory of Christ dwells in the church which is His body. It is through the church that God makes His glory known. Therefore, there is something vital at stake for us.

"Take care how you build" we were reminded by Charlie Masters, reading from I Corinthians 3 as he introduced the events of the second day. Bishop John Guernsey read from II Corinthians 4. "We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake." We are to preach Christ not ourselves or our cause. We are not to say, "I belong to Uganda", or, "I belong to the Southern Cone." We need to forge a united biblical Anglicanism. This is only possible if we preach the Gospel. Preach Christ.

What are we going to do about all this? There is a plan! That is what is so exciting! In the Anglican Network in Canada, the groundwork has already been laid for a biblically faithful, historically authentic expression of Anglicanism, in full communion with biblically faithful global Anglicans. That is: believing, orthodox Anglicans acting in concert all over the country in real unity together, in unity also with Anglicans beyond our borders, working together with them and supported by them.

The first steps have been taken. Archbishop Gregory Venables, Primate of the Southern Cone, has offered his oversight with the full support of his province. Bishop Don Harvey has come out of retirement to be the moderator under Archbishop Venables' authority. Bishop Malcolm Harding has also come out of retirement to participate. Churches have already come under this authority. Clergy have already been licensed to serve. There are to be ordinations. Network churches and other churches now have the opportunity to come under this jurisdiction. The plans have been laid for the interim period of transition as well as for the

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future where an orthodox Anglican province is envisioned for North America. We are excited about outreach, church planting, and actually doing what Christians are supposed to do: proclaim the gospel. Our own Ray David was one of the presenters.

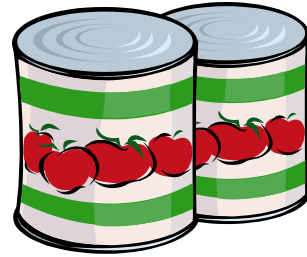
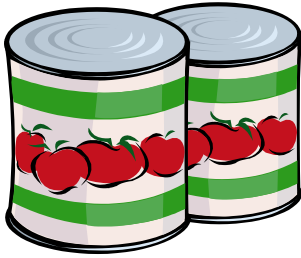
There is already a central body available to those who need support in affiliating with the Anglican Network in Canada, (ANiC), whether individuals, house churches, congregations, in fact any who are seeking support.

The atmosphere of the conference was joy-filled. The first winter storm of the season could not diminish the joy. What a perfect setting, Crossroads Centre in Burlington, and what gracious hosts to us! Did ever conference plans run so smoothly? What a great job Keith Stodart did, and everyone who worked on the conference as well! Dave Wilson and his technical team were amazing. What mighty answers to prayer! How gracious the Lord is! What glorious singing! What an amazing worship group led by Diane Biggar and musicians all from St. George's. The Spirit was undeniably present.

What will happen to us now? We are not completely sure. But we have a prophetic word, "Lo, I go before you. Be not afraid!"

Jane and Mary Ann

ST MATTHEW'S HOUSE - FOOD AND CLOTHING DONATIONS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ON GOING SUPPORT.

Just a reminder: non perishable suggested food items of need are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Peanut butter | • Soups (all kinds) |
| • Pasta | • Tomato Sauce |
| • Macaroni/Kraft Dinner | • Pork and Beans |
| • Canned fish and meats | • Canned spaghetti |
| • Canned fruits and vegetables | • Powdered and canned milk |
| • Cereal | • Baby food |
| • Similac and S.M.A. baby foods | • Diapers (all sizes) |

**PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS ARE URGENTLY
NEEDED**

From the McDougalls in BC

2510 Prior Street, Victoria, B.C. CANADA V8T 3X6 tel: 250 294 4777 e-mail: dsmcdougall@shaw.ca

Advent & Incarnation 2007

Our Dear Friends,

Just where DOES the time go? It seems that I've only recently gotten used to writing '2007' instead of '2006' on my correspondence & cheques and now it appears that soon I'll have to adjust yet again. Is this one of those inexorable signs of old age I've heard about? Well, if I'm going to bemoan my advancing years, perhaps you and I would be more comfortable curled up on easy chairs next to our fireplace. I'll go into the kitchen to prepare some hot chocolate and a few of Sandi's sweet treats for us and then we can catch up on each other's news.

While I'm occupied, would you put another log on the fire and pull the chairs up close? What a whirlwind this autumn has seemed. Our older daughter Connally (19) began University and Morri (13) began High School—a quantum shift for our family. Fortunately, Sandi and I have remained somewhat stable in our life course but we too have felt fully engaged in life in Victoria, among students and in the larger community. Shall I tell you what's been happening with us?

September began with the University of Victoria's 'Clubs Days', an opportunity for all manner of registered student societies to display their wares on our campus and welcome students into their club activities. This year we were privileged to have our booth next to the 'Atheist and Agnostic Club', so Sandi and I had three days of wonderfully open opportunities to talk about following Jesus among keen scholars whose primary posture is one of doubt. What a strategic place to begin exploring the God who is really there and who loves us more than we can imagine!

While the hordes of people we meet at Clubs Days can be daunting (just remembering non-western names brings its own challenges!), we are also privileged to serve slightly smaller groups with special interests. In mid-November, we took 67 international students and visiting scholars from 19 countries on a daytrip to see the spectacular Fall salmon spawning run at a river just north of Victoria. For many of these keen observers, it was their first opportunity to escape for a few hours from their labs and offices at the university—a practical gift they would rarely give themselves. Not only was it heartening to encourage them with human camaraderie within the beauty of creation but it also gave us a natural opportunity to nudge them toward the Creator who made both fish and humankind. In the river that day were a few local native fisherman netting salmon for their families' livelihood. And as the unwitting evangelist to the right reminded us and our visiting students, "Look at what the Creator gives us!" But even more eye-opening for us have been two groups of students we meet with on Thursday evenings and Friday afternoons. This term, instead of simply wading through a gospel together, we've framed our mealtime and Bible discussions around Christmas and the story of Bethlehem's boy child. And perhaps because we have been fortunate to read it once again through the fresh eyes of those who have never yet heard the story, we are ourselves amazed by its odd angelic visits, socially awkward news, unlikely gifts from strange travelers and murderous plots from powerful leaders—yet all the while undergird by God's "Fear not!" Just who IS this child?

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What's Happening With Our Family?

Morri: What a delightfully creative kid! If she's not crafting her own whimsical line of greeting cards, she's playing dress-up with her friends, cajoling us into playing charades after supper or taking our dog Freyja on backyard expeditions to imaginary places.

Connally: Our bi-vocational daughter is now both a fulltime student at UVic in Fine Arts (Professional Writing major) AND a busy deli chef at a local natural foods store. Proud Parental Moment: how she manages to excel at both amazes us but somehow she does it with poise, energy and expertise.

Sandi: Without question, Sandi is the heart of our family and ministry. On the face of it, this may seem like a warm, fuzzy platitude but what it really means is that she is the one that coordinates all our various schedules, sees to it that nothing important falls through the cracks and makes us all feel loved and significant. Sandi's really enjoying making our house a HOME, where we can enjoy life as a family and also welcome students and others. As if all that weren't enough, she continues to work part-time at the denture clinic and somehow manages to pull it all off with grace and good humour.

Daniel: While ministry among students at UVic has been most encouraging, the onset of complications from a 30-year-old foot injury has slowed me down somewhat. The medical experts are assessing my prognosis but in the meantime, I consider myself blessed that my limitation only affects the end of one of my least important limbs and isn't unduly hindering me in the things I love to do.

Our Family: Clearly, we are entering the season in our family life when outside interests increasingly capture our girls' attention, yet when we seem to appreciate one another's company all the more. We look forward to enjoying Christmas together with no major student events but our girls seem to have a special gift for noticing and befriending the unnoticeable loner so who knows how many folks might be gathered around our Christmas dinner this year?

For your encouragement...

- While during this academic term slightly fewer students have been involved in regular Bible Exploration times in our home and on the university campus, those who are attending are quite keen to really KNOW who Jesus is.
- Our relationship with the university administration only continues to grow in trust and collegiality as we befriend and care for international students. In fact, this term Sandi & I have had unprecedented opportunities to helpfully come alongside those who work in UVic's 'International & Exchange Student Services' suite of offices, certainly NOT at all a tribute to our personal charm but rather to the amazing way God forges relationships. Clearly, we are 'catching a ride' along with the Holy Spirit and what HE's doing on our campus!

And for your prayers...

- Would you pray alongside us for some anxiety issues in our family? We have no doubt that our Father loves to bring release and also that our enemy the evil one enjoys 'poking his dirty fingers' into places of

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grace. Please pray that we will make wise God-ward choices and be a beacon of loving care in our neighbourhood.

- While the rewards of student ministry are many, financial stability does not appear to be one of them ☹. Fortunately, along with her delightful personality Sandi is a prudent and careful money manager ('Frugal McDougall' you might call her!) but if what is happening among students harnesses your passion for God's Kingdom, we'd be delighted if you came alongside us in a practical way. If what WE do captures YOUR heart, in Canada, please contact www.ivcf.ca and in the U.S.

www.intervarsity.org (a variety of donation mechanisms are available).

In this season of Advent, be assured that we McDougalls are waiting alongside you and together we will see the coming of the Lord.

From our home to yours, blessings!

Daniel, Sandi, Connally, Murrigan

From the Editor's desk

As this is the last issue of by George that I plan to edit I thought perhaps I should write a few well chosen or otherwise words to all “my” readers and subscribers.

I seem to remember that I was “persuaded to “do just one issue” whilst Ed Lewis was on a mission somewhere. Unfortunately I made the mistake of changing the previous layout to something more graphic and as a result got “stuck with the job”

Each month has brought it's challenges, most of which comprise trying to extract copy from all you lovely readers. I will refrain from naming those of you who have been the worst offenders, but you know who you are. Of course you are all forgiven for your tardiness but I'm not sure of the toll it has taken from me over the years. (Just kidding) Thank you for all the support over the years.

So why am I relinquishing the editorship? Several reasons actually. First and foremost I firmly believe that it's time for a change of editor and possibly style. Mary Ann and Jane will, I'm sure bring their own influence to these pages and I look forward to seeing the changes they will make. Secondly our lives (Mollie and I) have gotten somewhat complicated by the fact that we plan to spend at least the summer months in the UK. for as many years as we are able. This may sound strange, coming back here for the winter, but actually it's not so crazy. Our tiny flat in England is not really equipped to cope with an English winter. Not that the winters are so severe as here but it seems that the “Brits” have not really yet caught on to the idea of general central heating, car heaters that work in sub-zero temperatures in-house insulation and of course 1 inch (25mm) of snow brings the entire country to a standstill. I think they forget each year where they parked their snow plough and so on. There was the classic example of British Railways whose excuse for the collapse of their rail services during such a downfall was “It was the wrong sort of snow”. It gets dark around 4:00 pm in the south of England and it's damp cold and miserable! At least in Canada the houses are well heated and insulated, the car heaters are efficient and generally speaking our trusty local authorities keep the roads passable. After all is said and done, we don't go to England for the weather! The third reason ? I'm getting older! I enter the second half of my seventieth decade on this planet next month and I'm trying to simplify my life a little.

My thanks to George and Wendy at KwikKopy who for many years did all the printing and binding. And of course to our own Donna who “drives” the large grey beast in the office that magically turns out finished copies of this newsletter every month.

It would be neglectful of me not to give thanks to The Lord for the endless and unstinting help he has given me in ensuring that by George has been published on time (more or less) each month. Without His help in this and many other aspects of my life much of what I do would not be possible. Praise The Lord.

Richard

by George

Volume 23 Issue 10

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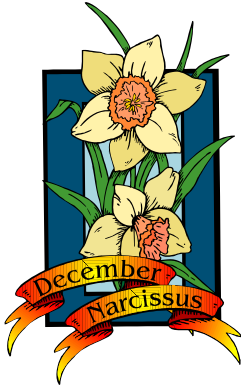
Rector
Curate
Wardens for 2007

Seniors' Pastoral Care
Ministry Coordinator
Church Secretary

Rev. Canon Charlie Masters
Rev. Ray David Glenn
Neil Dennison, Ron Bales,
Gillian Fernie
Kathy Powell
Naomi Neeb
Donna Rigo

Rev. Charlie Masters
375 McNabb Crescent
Milton, Ontario. L9T 3G3

*"I was glad when they said unto me,
"Let us go into the house of the Lord" Psalm 122:1*



By George is published on
the 1st Sunday of Jan-Jun &
Sep-Dec (10 issues)
Compiled and edited by
Richard Myers
newtonmyers@cogeco.ca

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

Sunday Morning
8:30 am Morning Prayer or Holy
Communion
10:30 am Morning Prayer or
Holy Communion
10:30 am (Downstairs)
Family Service

Nursery and Sunday School
for children up to age 11 and
Youth Program for grade 7 to
12 during the 10:30 service

Sunday Evenings:
As announced – call the office
for information

Some Upcoming Dates



*Contact Church
Office for further
details*

December 14th Friday	Ladies Pot Luck Lunch— ! :00 PM Margaret Harris'
December 15th Saturday	Men's Prayer Meeting 07:30—10:00
December 16th Sunday	A Service of Lessons and Carols 4:00
December 24th Monday	Christmas Eve Family Service HC 4:00 pm
December 24th Monday	Christmas Eve Service HC Sanctuary 9:00pm
December 25th Tuesday	Christmas Day Service HC 09:00