FEBRUARY 2025 A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

Serving the Anglican Church in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Understanding Love Solar Garden



Photo: The solar array done at the Anglican Church, Old Sackville Road, N.S. by Love Solar Garden Inc. The land clearing of the location will not be completed until the end of March.

In conversation with Al Darrach, Senior Project Manager and Consultant, Love Solar Garden Inc.

Interview by Jennifer Anandanayagam

Perhaps you've already heard about the project. Perhaps you haven't. Love Solar Garden is about respecting all people and respecting all creation. It's an ongoing project in Upper Hammonds Plains, N.S., where, at present, a garden is being designed for 6000 solar panels over 20 acres of undeveloped non-farmable land. One of its most unique features, perhaps, is its collaboration with communities of faith. We caught up with the senior project manager and consultant of Love Solar Garden Inc., Al Darrach to learn more. Here are some excerpts from the chat.

Q. What is the Love Solar Garden project and why are projects of this nature important in this day and age?

A: Love Solar Garden is owned by Wesley Anderson. The Anderson Family has deep roots in the Upper Hammonds Plains N.S. Community. The land was originally owned by Wesley's grandmother over a century ago. The "love" in Love Solar Garden is in memory of Wesley's grandfather's middle name.

The Love Solar Garden project is a new development plan of a vast array of Solar Panels in Upper Hammonds Plains, N.S. We are currently designing the Garden for 6000 solar panels over 20 acres of undeveloped non-farmable land. The Love Solar Garden Inc. will be submitting the Solar Garden application to the N.S. Community Solar Program by the end of March 2025.

The NS Solar Community Program is the outcome of the N.S. Government's earlier three-year pilot program, which included houses of worship, First Nations and non-profits.

The objectives of the N.S. Community Solar Program

- Reducing N.S. dependence on fossil fuels
- Expanding the benefits of clean energy to more Nova Scotians
- Supporting the local economy
- Community involvement in developing renewable energy
- Meaningful relationships with equity deserving or marginalized communities
- Assisting a few select

individuals in need in your community with a small credit on their own electrical bills. This is referred to as the "subscription base" in the program.

Love Solar Garden envisioned an opportunity for communities of faith to be able to participate in the N.S. Community Solar program. We recognized that communities of faith want to do their share to help our environment and expand their outreach to their community. We realize that many communities of faith could use a reliable source of income for the next 25 years to do their good works.

"We recognized that communities of faith want to do their share to help our environment and expand their outreach to their community" – Al Darrach, Senior Project Manager and Consultant, Love Solar Garden Inc.

The N.S. Community Solar is a great program to accomplish all these goals but can be a challenge for many individual communities of faith.

Some of the challenges are:

- The minimum size to apply for the program is roughly 1200 high wattage commercial solar panels. Minimum land space would be over an acre.
- The minimum cost of a solar garden in the program would be in the range of \$1.7M before any eligible grants.
- Limits on your local grid to handle commercial solar production.

Love Solar Garden is a solution for communities of faith to allow them access to this program by investing in the number of units that is right for your organization. This will help in receiving a reliable steady investment



Photo: Al Darrach, Senior Project Manager

income over the next 25 years for your good works, while helping Nova Scotia get closer to their fossil fuel reduction targets.

Love Solar Garden is also very aware that communities of faith are very responsible when it comes to money. Love Solar Garden is currently under discussions with our tax accountants on your nonprofit tax status and where needed, sources of financing. Love Solar Garden application to the government will be based on a positive attractive cash flow for the communities of faith each year of the 25 year contract period with N.S. Power.

Love Solar Garden will also:

- Guide the communities of faith on available grants.
- Guide the communities of faith, where needed, on investing financing options.

The N.S. Community for Solar Program is another important step in helping reduce fossil fuels. The program also focuses on bringing communities together on a common project.

The program also helps

The program also helps employ local people and to help train people in the solar industry. [It's] a great economic boost now and for the future.

[The] Love Solar Gardens model will also help communities of faith with much needed financial resources to offer more help to those in need. This will help increase their profile in their communities of being good environmental stewards and also put faith into tangible actions.

We want people to know

that communities of faith are a necessity, alive and well, and doing good work; an organization that they may wish to become more involved in.

Q: How are Anglican churches in Atlantic Canada collaborating on this project?

Love Solar Garden has been in touch with several Anglican Churches and other communities of faith in the Halifax area over the last couple of years while waiting on the launch of the N.S. Solar Community Program. Once launched in March 2024, we started the process of the required information for the application. For example land prep, N.S. Power interconnection requirements, lawyers, accountants, engineers, investors, design and pricing. In February 2025, we will start our efforts on receiving Expressions of Interest from the various communities of faith in N.S. We are pleased that already one of the Anglican churches that we have worked with for several years is considering 100 panels, a great pre-start!

Q: What is the future vision or goal of this project?

Our vision is to have a multiple diverse group of communities of faith, earning investment dividends for the next 25 years to help out those in need directly or indirectly through non-profits in their local area.

Our financial goal is to have a minimal net annual rate of investment return of over 15% each year for 25 years.

Q: How important is it for faith-based communities to embrace sustainability concepts like solar power production?

A: The faith-based communities can take leadership in their communities. It is an opportunity, a calling for the communities of faith to rally to make positive changes and to be seen making the changes.

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Pray as you can



Winter is no longer than any other season but many of us don't like it much. It is uncomfortable. It requires more effort and clothing to stay warm, snow and salt and slush make maintaining our homes more difficult and travel or even walking is unpredictable and sometimes unsafe. The burdens of the season appear to outweigh the spiritual gifts of slowing down, reflection and regeneration.

Our ancestors were much more attuned to the rhythms of life - of the seasons, of day and night, of activity and relaxation, of work and sabbath – that are necessary for balance. Our culture is at odds with this – we are bombarded with messages to maintain the outward energy typical of the summer season. And, unlike our ancestors whose lives were ruled by

daylight, we can brighten our evenings and early mornings by artificial means - and may find our bodies and spirits flagging if we comply.

There is no question that for most, our lives are based around a September to June calendar with most of the work, education and extracurricular activities falling in this time span regardless of our energy levels. So how do we achieve balance?

Practice Sabbath. Honour rest. Christine Valters
Paintner, Benedictine oblate and author commenting on theologian Walter
Brueggemann's Sabbath as
Resistance, says that the ancient Israelites practiced
Sabbath after being released from slavery in Egypt. Slaves don't rest. Sabbath rest became a symbol of honouring

freedom, justice and God.

Traditionally, keeping Sabbath means keeping one day in seven as a holy day of rest. There is more variety in contemporary expressions of Sabbath but however we choose to "rest",, the practice should still offer us time to integrate the blessings and challenges of our week and give us a place of rest where we can examine our striving, abide in God's love, listen for God's direction and come to wholeness.

Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine sister speaking of practices such as Sabbath, Reflection, Soul Time and Retreat, says that these "times remind us always to make the space to begin—again—and in the midst of the cloying demands of work and family, of money-making worries and the stressors of social systems, to fix the eye of the heart on the really important things of life." The Monastery of the Heart: Benedictine Spirituality for Contemporary Seekers

Shorter Sabbath practices could include: Withdraw for half a day. Remove one activity from your day planner or calendar. Pause and notice – your surroundings, your

companions, the light in the room. Breathe. Worship. Be gentle with yourself. Go for a drive. Listen to music. Do what you love. Have a conversation with God. Be attentive to discomfort. Be grateful. Let go of the "shoulds" in your life. For one day, track your activities- are there any adjustments you could make to make your life more whole?

"Peace comes from living a measured life. Peace comes from attending to every part of my world in a sacramental way. My relationships are not what I do when I have time left over from my work.... Reading is not something I do when life calms down. Prayer is not something I do when I feel like it. They are all channels of hope and growth for me. They must all be given their due." Joan Chittister, Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict

Be intentional about Sabbath – and enjoy the winter!

Heather Carter
Diocesan Representative
Anglican Fellowship of
Prayer
Photo by Ray

Hennessy on Unsplash

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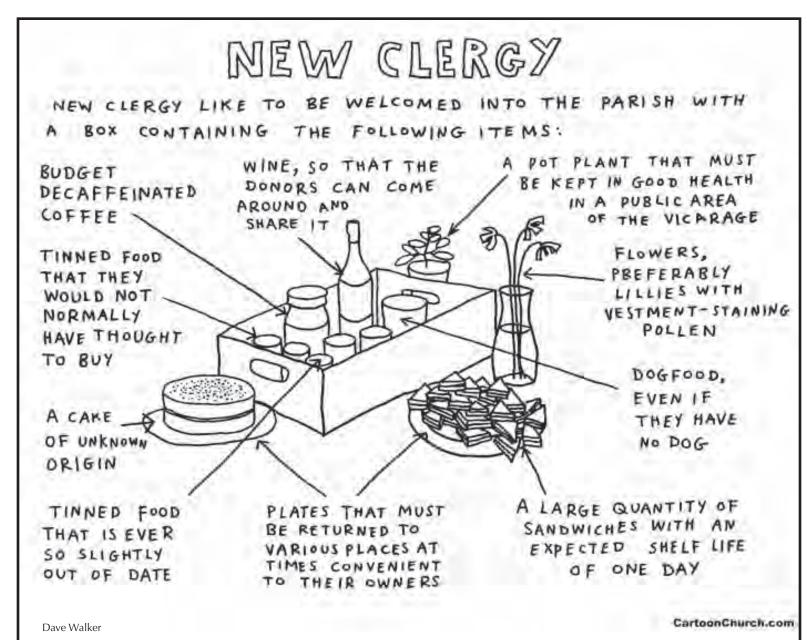
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THE DIOCESAN TIMES - FEBRUARY 2025

BISHOP'S COLUMN

Listening at the heart of the vocational journey



Bishop Sandra Fyfe, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

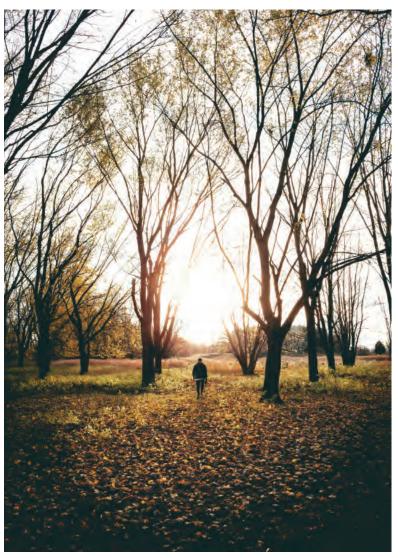


Photo: William Topa Photo © Unsplash

As I write, we have just celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, that time in the Church year when we recall the visit of the Magi or wise men, to the Christ child. Those of us who delve deeper into this story know that for them, this was not a quick trip down a hillside, as it was for the shepherds who just happened to be tending their flock near Bethlehem on the night of Jesus' birth. For the Magi, who might have travelled from places such as Persia, east Syria or Arabia, it was a different story. If they were travelling from Persia or Arabia, for instance, this was a journey of 800 to 1000 miles. It would have taken up to two years to reach their destination; two years of travelling with camels or other pack animals, only to first arrive in the wrong place: that is, in Jerusalem, where they learned the new king had not been born. So, the journey to Bethlehem continued. And when the star stopped over the place where the child was, they knew they were where they had been led to be.

For those of us trying to discover where and to what God is calling us, we are also on a journey, a journey of discernment. Like the Magi, this journey can take time, and it may include some twists and turns along the way. And while we don't typically have the benefit of a new star appearing in the night sky to guide us, or a chorus of angels telling us what to look for or where we'll find it, we do have tools and guidance that can help us find our way. Many people have written about vocation, a word which comes from the Latin verb "vocare," and means "to call." Among them is Parker Palmer, who has been nurtured by the Quaker tradition and its emphasis on listening and silence. His book, "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation," encourages just that – deep listening. He suggests that in order for us to understand what it is that God is calling us to, we must listen to our inner voice that helps us to know who and whose we are, and to the voices of others, who see and know us in family, community and relationship.

He writes, "Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear. Before I can tell my life what I want to do with it, I must listen to my life telling me who I am. I must listen for the truths and values at the heart of my own identity, not the standards by which I must live, but the standards by which I cannot help but live if I am living my own life."

Parker Palmer understands that living into a vocation is about trusting who you are and living into that identity more fully. It is not about trying to become someone you're not. "Vocation at its deepest level," he writes, "is 'This is something I can't not do, for reasons I'm unable to explain to anyone else and don't fully understand myself but that are nonetheless compelling."

While this sounds convoluted, if you are on a journey of discernment, his words just might make sense.

In the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, there are approximately 40 people who are in some form of intentional discernment about ministry: some feel a call to serve as Vocational Deacons; some, to ministry in the Community of Associate Parish Priests; others, to full-time, stipendiary/paid ministry. Of those in discernment right now, about one-quarter are sensing a call to stipendiary/paid ministry, and some of those individuals are not sure God is calling them to traditional forms of parish ministry and leadership. This is a time of deep listening for each of these individuals, and for us as the Church that God is constantly shaping and reshaping "for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14).

If you are sensing that you may have a vocation, whether lay or ordained, we have tools and guidance to offer as you seek to understand more fully how God is calling you to serve, or, as Parker Palmer, might say, how God is calling you to live into who you really are. Please reach out to clergy and lay leaders in your own parish, and others who know you well, so that they can be a part of this journey of listening and discernment. They will often see gifts and qualities in you that you may not see yourself. Once you've done that, you might want to consider sharing in a Discernment Retreat Weekend. Since the Covid pandemic, these retreats have been held online. They offer time for worship, conversation, reflection, listening and prayer.

Reach out to our Vocations Coordinator, the Rev'd Carl Fraser, for more information on the discernment processes in our Diocese, and the educational paths and options that are available to explore.

Over the past year, we have expanded these to include online learning through Huron College and Queen's College, which will be supplemented with in-person gatherings. This is in addition to the wealth of in-person and online course offerings available through our local Atlantic School of Theology. We are also in conversation with other theological schools to learn more about what they can offer to equip individuals in our Diocese for the ministries to which God is calling them.

As we travel through this Epiphany season, may we find encouragement and joy on this journey of faith, one that we share with shepherds and Magi, and scores of adults, women, men, children and youth, whom God has called into the most incredible adventures. Like them, may we listen deeply, seek the guidance and direction we need, and follow as we're able, trusting in God's leading and enabling along the way. As each of us lives more fully into our vocation, may we know it as the place where God has led us and where Christ will meet us.

Epiphany blessings for the journey ahead, Bishop Sandra

Anger: the indicator emotion

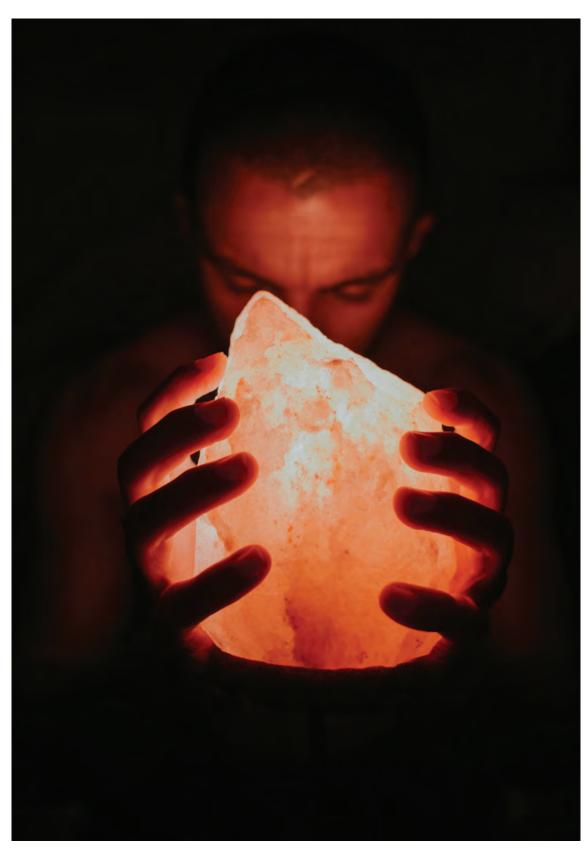


Photo: Marcos Paulo Prado © Unsplash

By Bryan Hagerman

Nelson Mandela is arguably one of the greatest leaders in recent history. Having served 27 years in two prisons, he was released in 1990. His life after imprisonment is remarkable. He could have lived out a very angry existence. But, instead, this was his internal dialogue at his release: "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I

didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." He also said, "Forgiveness liberates the soul (BBC, Feb. 7, 2024). Mandela chose to focus, after prison, on working with the South African leader, President De Klerk, to negotiate an end to apartheid. In 1994, Mandela led his party to victory. After his election, he developed a new constitution, emphasized reconciliation between various racial groups, and created the

Truth and Reconciliation
Commission to investigate
past human rights abuses. As
president, he encouraged land
reform, combated poverty and
expanded health care services.
After his one term as leader,
he became a global elder
statesman focusing on poverty,
democracy and HIV/Aids
through the Nelson Mandela
Foundation.

Mandela realized two indicator emotions – unforgiveness and deep-seated

anger. He spent the rest of his life fleshing out the elements of that anger into a response, creating life-giving results in his personal life, his country and wherever his wide influence took him.

In her groundbreaking book, "Atlas of The Heart," based upon a decade of research with nearly 10,000 people interviewed, Brene Brown writes, "If you look across the research, you learn that anger is an emotion that we feel when something gets in the way of a desired outcome or we believe there's a violation of the way things should be" (p 220). Brown believes from her research that anger is a secondary or indicator emotion that is harder to recognize. According to Brown, some of the indicators behind our anger may be betrayal, fear, grief, injustice, shame and vulnerability.

We all get angry. But for the most part, to repeat a piece of old wisdom, "Where there is smoke, there is fire." Behind an outburst of anger, there is usually a hidden indicator. We may or may not know what that or those indicators might be. Uncovering the negative emotions behind anger is key. Some other indicators might be loneliness, anxiety, depression, stress, jealousy, frustration, shame, impatience, hurt and isolation.

Brown writes, "When we deny ourselves the right to be angry, we deny our pain." Thus the correct response is crucial. As a neutral emotion, our anger can emit either a lifegiving or life-taking response. That is solely our choice.

Mandela gave a life-giving example on how to deal with anger directed at social injustice. Endowed with patience and wisdom after nearly three decades in prison, he forsook his previous pugilistic ways metaphorically, physically and politically. Instead, he pursued the antidotes of social justice and nation building as alternatives to his anger. He also approached forgiveness as an alternative to anger and the indicators behind it.

Any of us who give into negative responses of anger, and want to make a behavioral change, simply need to look at the inner fire fueling a life-taking approach. We can choose to identify the indicator in its context, and then redirect that to a response that offers life.

Here is a possible strategy:

- 1. Be aware of the anger in your life.
- 2. Discover the masked indicators behind the anger.
- 3. Choose a lifegiving response to the hidden indicator
- 4. Execute the response
- 5. Make this a full-blown response whenever anger surfaces.

Discovering the why and what is crucial. What is the fire fuelling the angry smoke? Are you aware of what fuels the fire which makes the smoke? Then name it, and offer a lifegiving alternative when it appears.

Mandela chose forgiveness and social/political justice. Martin Luther King created a movement that would seek to free his people. Gandhi motivated his countrymen by way of passive resistance. Anger can't accomplish this, nor can the indicators behind it.

A friend often gets angry behind the wheel. His indicator emotion is impatience. When he feels his anger rising in the car, he regulates his breathing, creating a calmness in his emotional world, and then concentrates on the road, not the indicators (impatience about cars around him) that would lead him to a negative response of anger.

You too can do this.

Bryan Hagerman RCT Outreach Counsellor St, Paul's Church, Halifax www.bryanhagerman.ca

February 2 - Hymn for Candlemas (The Presentation Of The Lord)

Adapted from Wikipedia by the Rev. John K. Morrell

According to the 2nd Chapter of Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn son, in obedience to the Torah

(The Book of Jewish Law found in the first five books of the Old Testament.) Luke explicitly states that Joseph and Mary took the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford a lamb) by sacrificing "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." This event had to

take place 40 days after birth for a male child, hence the Presentation is celebrated 40 days after Christmas.

Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he

should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ". Simeon then uttered the prayer that would become known as the Nunc Dimittis, or Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus:

"Lord, now let your servant

depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

Celebrating relationships



Photo by Unsplash

By Cynthia Pilichos for Anglicans Powering Potential (APP)

The idea of love for one another is a common feature in February, with St. Valentine's Day on the 14th of the month, coupled with the extensive commercialization of the occasion: hearts, cupids, cards, flowers, chocolates and Hallmark TV movies, many of which are filmed in Canada. All of these features are reminders of love in its many forms, not just romantic love, and the importance of celebrating relationships.

However, an earlier occasion in February (Feb. 1-7) related to our relationships with one another is World Interfaith Harmony Week. This is an annual observance

that promotes dialogue and harmony between people of different faiths. The week is based on the work of The Common Word initiative, which started in 2007. This initiative encourages Muslim and Christian leaders to engage in dialogue based on the fundamental religious commandments of love of God and love of neighbour.

As World Interfaith Harmony Week has evolved, the idea is the expansion of peaceful coexistence among people of different religious beliefs. It can be a way forward for peace and prosperity in a world of increasing political and economic dissonance and a very specific way for those of differing faiths to show leadership for peace and justice, respect and dignity for

all. At their core, major world religions have wording around the concept of what we in the Western world typically refer to as the golden rule – do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

We will already be a month into 2025 when you are reading this issue of The Diocesan Times, but the writing of this column is taking place at the very start of the new calendar year and already Nova Scotia has another murder/suicide of intimate partner violence (IPV). There were three in quick succession in October and November 2024 and it is devastating to have 2025 launched with more evidence of the epidemic level of IPV.

But there is hope; indeed, there is a sense that the gifts

of the Advent season of hope, peace, joy and love are more than possible in 2025. Here is but one positive sign: The Healthy Relationships for Youth (HRY) Program/ Relations Saines pour les Jeunes (RSJ), an initiative of the Antigonish Women's Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association received \$2.5 million in funding in the spring of 2024 from federal and provincial sources, to expand the program.

With this funding, along with the partner support of the regional centres for education and the francophone school board, Moraig Macgillivray, Operations Manager of Antigonish Women's Centre and Sexual Assault Services Association, notes that grade 9 students across Nova Scotia will have opportunities to be equipped with skills to address conflict peacefully, to foster healthy relationships of all kinds and to be leaders in their communities. Macgillivray notes that the strength of the peer-facilitated HRY program "allows youth to experience an approach to relationships that encourages empathy, celebrates diversity and challenges social norms. .. [with the expectation of shaping] their future relationships." This is very promising.

There is another very hopeful sign within our own diocese and that is the Community Roots Day Camp under the umbrella of the diocese's Youth and Family Ministry Team. These day camps provide opportunities for children of various faiths, or no faith, to build healthy relationships while having a great time. It is

a capacity-building/leadership development opportunity for the participating parishes.

Learn more about the diocese's Community Roots Day Camp here: ttps://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/diocesan-youth-and-family-ministry/pages/participate-incommunity-roots-day-camp

Anglicans Powering Potential (APP) is accepting contributions for the Community Roots Day Camp project until Feb. 28, 2025, because we know that one of the best ways to build a peaceful and just society is to foster respectful relationships ... and to start young! The funds raised are to promote restorative approaches that further the concept of "equality of relationship"; that is, relationships where "we accord one another equal respect, care, dignity and concern" (Prof. Jennifer Llewellyn, Director, Restorative Lab, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University).

Here's how to support this project: Cheque payable to: Anglicans Powering Potential, Community Roots Day Camp in the memo line, addressed to: Marjorie Davis, #204 - 111 Pebblecreek Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 0L1 OR E-transfer to: app. nspeidiocese@gmail.com Check out the poster ad in this issue and if you have any questions, e-mail: app. nspeidiocese@gmail.com

So, let's celebrate relationships this month of February. It may be the coldest weather-wise, but it can be the warmest heart-wise.

REVIVE: Transformation through spiritual formation



Rekindle the spiritual fire and engage in a popular discipleship program called, REVIVE. It is a three-part Anglican formation series for people who have been active congregants or those who have been away and are seeking to know more. REVIVE offers participants an opportunity to be energized in faith and strengthened in prayer practices.

Created by The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis, formerly from our diocese, now a professor at London's Huron College, the study was developed through RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement, a publisher from the Episcopal Church.

The small group curriculum features downloadable resources – participant handouts, short videos and a

facilitator's guide. REVIVE may be offered over 10 months or broken down into shorter workshops. There are also options for an opening and closing retreat. Three six-week components are included in this experiential learning forum:

- · Module 1: Communicating with God (approaches to prayer)
- Module 2: Engaging in Scripture (various methods to

study the Bible)
• Module 3: Called for
Ministry (discernment and
serving)
REVIVE works best with
4-12 participants in each
small group. Sessions take

small group. Sessions take two hours. Parishes may choose to join with other neighbouring congregations, host it in a region, on Zoom, or invite ecumenical friends. Participants will:

- Learn about themselves and discern their life's calling
- Explore their faith journey and enter into a relationship with God
- Enjoy a sense of community and deepened relationships with peers
- Gain confidence with prayer, scripture and

spiritual leadershipDiscern gifts for the

 Discern gifts for their calling to serve God's world

REVIVE also includes a simple homework assignment for each session. Mate are all downloadable, including printable PDFs and 29 accompanying videos. Clear instructions explain how to invite participants, and plan and organize. For information about REVIVE, visit: www.revive. forwardmovement.org Copies of the series are available from our Diocesan Resource Centre or contact Lisa at missiondirector@ nspeidiocese.ca or 902-789-4840.

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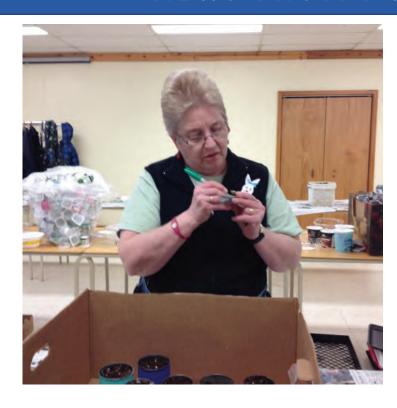
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NEWS FROM AWAY

Dear Diocese,

During this time of climate despair, people of faith are seen as a beacon of hope, whether we act as eco chaplains and advocates, support others in their efforts to care for creation, strive for net zero emissions in our parishes or march in an Earth Day Parade. At the recent COP 28 conference and here at home, people of faith have been recognized for our role in the climate crisis. Local parishes are turning to green forms of energy and are engaged in working with the communities they serve in fighting climate change. As a diocese, we have gained the respect of environmental groups and have established good working relationships.

In 2023, the Diocesan Environment Network (DEN) was as active as ever, sharing information, providing support to and partnering with local parishes and others committed to caring for God's creation. We were recognized by the national church and the Anglican Communion. We are involved regionally, nationally and now at an international conference



being held in Assisi, Italy in preparation for the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

All of this can be attributed to support and encouragement by the diocese and the number of people in the diocese who contribute, each in their own way, to DEN.

But I have even more exciting news!

Thanks to a decision by

the Diocesan Council, an expression of confidence in DEN's growing ministry, anyone submitting an expense form to the diocese now has the option of offering all, or any percentage, of their mileage claim to DEN. This is an option, not a requirement.

If you choose to donate a portion of your mileage to DEN, those funds will provide us with the ability to assist local parishes, support the ministry of DEN and help us all live out the fifth Mark of Mission.

The opportunity is timely. For example, by the time you read this, DEN will have already hosted a Zoom information meeting that has the potential to allow local parishes to install EV charging stations in their church parking lots.

Incentives for the installation of EV charging stations are starting to emerge. In December, the federal government announced mandates on EV production (20% by 2026 and 100% by 2035). "To power those vehicles, Natural Resources Canada estimates that depending on the availability of home charging, Canada will need between 442,000 and 469,000 public charging ports by 2035" (CBC, Dec. 20, 2023).

The first meeting held with people from local parishes that have expressed an interest in installing the charging stations, provided clergy, wardens, property committee members and members of outreach committees to learn more about reducing carbon

emissions while engaging in outreach to the communities they serve through the installation of EV charging stations in church parking lots.

Alan Jarvis, who successfully led his local church community in the U.K. in the installation of EV chargers in their church's parking lot, shared his parish's experience and his knowledge, and addressed questions such as:

- What are the costs to our church?
- What is the benefit to our church?
- What knowledge/ skills are involved with installation?

As we explore the possibility of providing this service, please let DEN know if your parish might be interested. Email DEN at endionspei@gmail.com

Thank you for your support and encouragement in 2023 and we look forward to serving you in 2024.

Blessings, The Rev. Marian Lucas-Jefferies Coordinator, Diocesan Environment Network

Remembering Fr. Eric Beresford

A tribute from the wardens and parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto

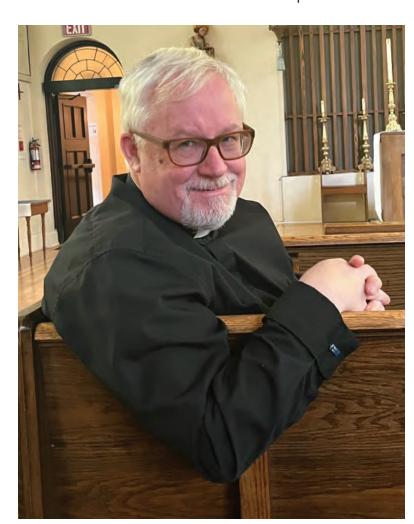


Photo: Fr. Eric Beresford

Photo credit: Norah Bolton

Fr. Eric Beresford, Incumbent of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, died suddenly on December 31. Fr. Eric came to our parish in April 2022, and during his short time with us, he was instrumental in restoring St. Mary Magdalene to its place as a vibrant Anglo-Catholic community, after some difficult times. He brought a strong commitment to the parish, a deep love of the Anglo-Catholic tradition and a breadth and depth of theological understanding that was reflected especially in his preaching.

Fr. Eric came to our diverse urban Toronto community with a broad range of experiences. Immediately before coming to St. Mary Magdalene, he was the Incumbent of St. Timothy's North Toronto. At various times prior to that, he taught in the Faculty of

Religious Studies at McGill University, was Consultant for Ethics and Interfaith Relations for the National Church, and was President of the Atlantic School of Theology. We were so fortunate to be able to draw upon Fr. Eric's ability to bring this experience to all aspects of his parish ministry with us.

Fr. Eric loved music, especially the music of the Church, and was a strong supporter of the choirs and the music program at SMM. He took an active interest in developing and supporting the children and youth program, inviting even the youngest parishioners to participate in liturgy and music, championing family events and coming downstairs to Sunday School whenever possible. Father Eric's warmth, humour and kindness made him popular among the kids, and opened them to his lessons in faith, history and liturgy.

Fr. Eric connected with members and friends of SMM on a personal level. We have received many remembrances of Fr. Eric. They speak to his role in people's faith journeys and his generosity and kindness in times of need. He was deeply involved in the parish's community dinner outreach program, where he regularly served as its chaplain, faithfully attending to the spiritual needs of guests and volunteers, even though Fridays were often his day off.

We give thanks for Fr. Eric's time with us, though much shorter than we expected. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

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Rest in peace and rise in glory

The Rev. Dr. Linda Yates, Chair of the Board of Governors, and the Rev. Dr. Heather McCance, President of the Atlantic School of Theology express the University's deep sorrow on the sudden passing of the Rev. Canon Dr. Eric Beresford.

Chair Linda Yates shared, "I first worked with Eric Beresford during my time as President of the AST Alumni Association at its inception. He was keen for AST to remain connected and supportive of alumni through this new organization. He was interested in all things ecclesial and theological. Eric had a wonderful, ironic sense of humour. He was President of AST for 10 years. The Board of the Atlantic School of Theology appreciates his positive contributions to the life and work of the school. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and, in particular, to his spouse Janet, who was a valued presence at the university during Eric's time as President."



Mourns Former President The Rev. Canon Dr. **Eric Beresford**

The Rev. Beresford served as AST president for a 10year period from 2004 to 2014. During his tenure, he was recognized by the board for his exemplary work in building external relationships and "putting AST on the map." He worked closely and effectively with the three founding partners and denominations (Anglican, Roman Catholic and United Church of Canada) of

AST and with Saint Mary's University. He laid a solid foundation for the further advancement of AST. He also earned a reputation for being a fine preacher and theological reflector, thoughtfully and faithfully relating the gospel to contemporary life. His leadership sought to strengthen and cultivate positive community relations. An advocate of the spiritual and theological connections

with art and music, he strongly supported AST's ventures into a new arts and theology initiative that included a sacred music concert series and an art show series. He was also very supportive of the now-defunct Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs which was of particular interest to him since ethics and theology were some of his special fields of study. Prior to his departure from AST, he

led the university through an extensive discernment process that prayerfully reflected on the question, "Where is the Spirit leading AST? The entire AST community was invited to participate individually, in small groups, and in plenary sessions, over a period of five months. A deep affirmation of core elements of AST's vocation came out of this process and informed a new strategic plan.

"Eric has always been passionate about the Atlantic School of Theology and committed to the work of theological education. His contributions to the work of this university in the 10 years he served here as president are too many to number," said AST president Heather McCance. "He was also a personal friend, and I will miss him. I ask all to join me in praying for his spouse Janet Marshall, their children and grandchildren, and all who love him. May he rest in peace and rise in glory."

Liturgical colours for the month of February

By the Rev John K. Morrell

"As God has flooded the earth and sky with colour, so the Church has sensed the symbolic use of colour in its worship. As dominating colours in nature change

with the seasons of the year, so in the Church Year, there is a structural change in the colours of the Eucharistic vestments".*

Paraments or altar, lectern and pulpit hangings change colours to serve as subtle

reminders of the importance of church feasts and holy days as we go about our liturgical seasons.

WHITE – [Symbolizing joy, purity and truth]* February 2 – The Presentation of the Lord

February 14 and 15 for the commemoration of three missionaries of the Church

GREEN - The color of living things]* is used for the balance of all the days of February.

*Adapted from the Episcopal Church Calendar - The Church Year Guide. Copyright by Ashby Company, Erie PA. U.S.A.

For All The Saints – February 2025

Excerpted from Stephen Reynold's "For All The Saints"

Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman priested in the Anglican Communion

By Rev. John K. Morrell

At her birth in 1907, Li Tim-Oi's father called her "much beloved." When she was baptized as a student, Tim-Oi chose the name Florence from "The Lady of the Lamp." Florence is celebrated worldwide for the witness to Christ that she lived out as the first female priest in the Anglican Communion. In 1931, at the ordination of a deaconess, she heard and responded to the call to

in 1941 and was given charge of the Anglican congregation in the Portuguese colony of Macao, thronged with refugees from war-torn China.

When a priest could no longer travel from Japaneseoccupied territory to preside for her at the eucharist, the Bishop of Hong Kong asked her to meet him in Free China, where on Jan. 25, 1944, he ordained her "a priest in the Church of God." To defuse controversy, in 1946, she surrendered her priest's license, but not her Holy Orders, the knowledge

ministry. She was made deacon of which carried her through Maoist persecution. For the next 39 years, she served taithfully under very difficult circumstances, particularly after the Communists took over mainland China. In 1983, arrangements were made for her to come to Canada, where she was appointed as an honorary assistant at St. John's Chinese congregation and St. Matthew's parish in Toronto.

> The Anglican Church of Canada had by this time approved the ordination of women to the priesthood, and in 1984, the 40th anniversary of her ordination,

Tim-Oi was, with great joy and thanksgiving, reinstated as a priest. This event was celebrated not only in Canada but also at Westminster Abbey and at Sheffield in England, even though the Church of England had not yet approved the ordination of women.

From that date until her death in 1992, she exercised her priesthood with such faithfulness and quiet dignity that she won tremendous respect for herself and increased support for other women seeking ordination. She was awarded a Doctor of Divinity by General

Theological Seminary, New York and Trinity College, Toronto.

The very quality of Tim-Oi's ministry in China and in Canada, and the grace with which she exercised her priesthood, helped convince many people throughout the Communion and beyond that the Holy Spirit was certainly working in and through women priests. Her contribution to the Church far exceeded the expectations of those involved in her ordination in 1944. She died on Feb. 26, 1992.

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RETREAT: Pathways to Peace

Jesus says, "Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while." (Mark 6:31)

Soak in the quiet. Prayerfully listen to God. Discover new spiritual disciplines.

A Diocesan RETREAT is being hosted June 6 to June 8, on the beautiful campus of Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.

Pathways to Peace: Seeking the Spirit, is open to anyone and is especially designed for lay people. The weekend retreat includes plenty of opportunities for quiet and prayer, and for those who desire, walking in the scenic Annapolis Valley. Explore several contemplative prayer practices, brief reflections,

worship and silence. Participants have the opportunity to slow down, deepen their faith, strengthen their connection to our loving God and cultivate transformative spiritual disciplines.

Everyone is invited to Pathways to Peace — whether laity, clergy or ministry professionals. DATES: Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8.

LOCATION: Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S. INCLUDED: Five meals (Friday dinner to Sunday breakfast), 2 nights' accommodation, free parking, retreat program and materials.

FEATURES: Plenty of quiet time, short talks on spirituality and prayer

practices, healthy food, worship that refreshes the soul and new friendships.

OPTIONS: Walking in beautiful settings, small group Bible study and more!

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$160/person

(Those staying off-site – \$110)

Although this retreat is sponsored by the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, we warmly welcome our friends from other denominations, the Diocese of Fredericton, Lutherans, United Church of Canada, Presbyterians, Baptists, etc. Share the invitation.

For details and to register, visit our Diocesan website: www.nspeidiocese.ca

The Connectors Seven

Listen. Learn. Experiment. Connect.

Don't miss your chance - apply by Feb. 28 for participation in our Diocesan missional learning cohort! Enjoy a year of learning and growing with like-minded peers. Explore how to do deep spiritual listening and connect in your neighbourhood with impactful ministry initiatives. The Connectors SEVEN is a mission-focused cohort that guides participants in discovering fresh possibilities in their local community. Meeting 10 times over 12 months, participants commit to exploring prayer, discernment and engaging in missional ministry. Each of the two-day sessions includes topics like identifying your spiritual gifts, rediscovering



your neighbourhoods, gathering community, nurturing discipleship and building faith-related bridges with new people. Six of the sessions are hosted in Debert, N.S., and four are held on Zoom.

This cohort – a blend of lay and clergy – support and encourage one another, while being held accountable to missional goals. The Connectors involves study, discussion, goal-setting, trying new approaches to ministry and dynamic guest speakers. Emphasis is on experimental ministry. Cohort members who have completed the year say they now have clarity about their sense of call and more leadership confidence.

- Do you sense that God is nudging you to try something new?
- Do you wish to reach out to people who might never come to Sunday worship?
- Do you desire to be the hands, feet and heart of

Christ to your community?
Would you long to
experience joy and deep

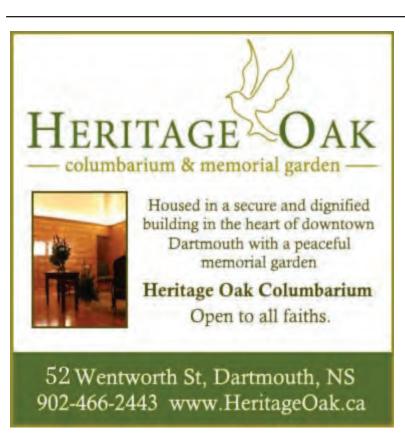
satisfaction that God can use you to make a difference?

Program costs are covered by

the diocese.
Curious? Interested? Know someone from your church who would be?
APPLICATION FORM is HERE: http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ConnectorsSEVEN

DEADLINE is midnight on Feb. 28.
Need information?
E-mail: missiondirector@
nspeidiocese.ca or call 902-

789-4840.





THE DIOCESAN TIMES - FEBRUARY 2025



26 January 2025

10 am Contemporary Eucharist
The Most Rev'd Brian Dunn
RC Archbishop, Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth

11 May 2025

7 pm Choral Evensong Mr. Jonathan Eayrs Formerly: Associate Priest, St. Paul's Halifax

1 June 2025

10 am Contemporary Eucharist The Right Rev'd Sandra Fyfe Bishop, Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island



Saint Paul's on the Grand Parade

stpaulshalifax.org







Photo: Bishop Sandra Fyfe addressing DCS Fall Gathering

Forward Together

Prince Edward Island Anglicans' news

The Diocesan Church Society of P.E.I., commonly referred to as the DCS, is a unique feature of the Anglican Church of P.E.I. and serves as the regional Anglican Council on P.E.I. Our Diocese of Nova Scotia and P.E.I. is divided into regions, and region one is the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Diocese has determined that each region meets to provide a forum for parishioners and clergy to discuss:

- matters of importance to the region and its parishioners and churches
- matters of diocesan concern, including subjects which arise for the wider church
- organizing continuing education for area Anglicans, outreach, and mission and justice ministries, and more as needs arise
- and provide opportunities for worship and fellowship to build up the Body of Christ.

Each parish on P.E.I. elects representatives to DCS at their annual meetings.

The Diocesan Church Society meets regularly throughout the year and also hosts special workshops and gatherings of particular interest to our Island parishioners. DCS also provides funding to congregations for missional projects and for Lay Christian Education. Parishes can request a DCS visit to learn more about our ministry.

Since the pandemic, the Diocesan Church Society has hosted an annual autumn gathering for all P.E.I. Anglicans using a theme "Forward Together." This year's gathering "Forward Together – Celebrating our Churches" was held on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Crapaud Community Hall, centrally located on the Island.

The afternoon gathering took the form of a Ceilidh with entertainers from parishes throughout the region. Each parish was

asked to prepare display boards celebrating their faith community. These wonderful displays lined the walls of the hall and were the source of great interest and wonderful conversations throughout the afternoon. We welcomed Bishop Sandra Fyfe who brought greetings, shared an opening reflection, and led the closing Evening Prayer service with the help of Island Lay Readers and clergy. It was a wonderful afternoon and Regional Dean, Fr. David Garrett extended thanks to all the performers and to the MC, Chris Pharo (Diocesan PWRDF Representative). Fr. Garrett also extended thanks Bishop Sandra Fyfe and presented her with a gift from DCS to the PWRDF.

On November 16 the Diocesan Church Society held its Business Meeting at St. John's Church in Ellerslie (Parish of Port Hill). It was a delight to be able to resume a "prepandemic" practice of holding meetings in parishes throughout the Island. Since resuming "in person" meetings, gatherings had been limited to larger halls in Charlottetown, Summerside, Kensington and Crapaud.

Submitted by,
The Rev. Margaret Collins
DCS Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Rev. Ann Bush resigned as rector (40%) for the Parish of Alberton / O'Leary, effective November 30, 2024. Rev. Ann will continue her ministry as rector of the Parish of Port Hill (60%).
- Rev. Dr. Jane Magrath appointed as priest-incharge for the Parish of

Fall River and Oakfield effective November 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025.

Rev. Bert Chestnut appointed as pastoral administrator for the Parish of St. Andrew's Locks Road, effective November 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025.

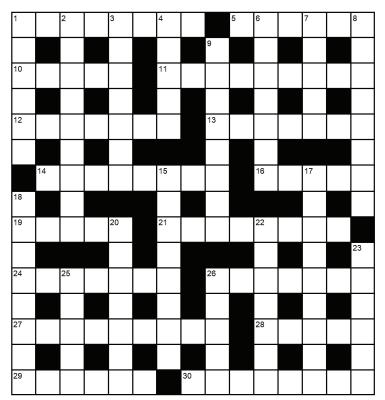


Photo: Parish of New London Chorus

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February Bible Crossword

by Maureen Yeats



January Puzzle Answers

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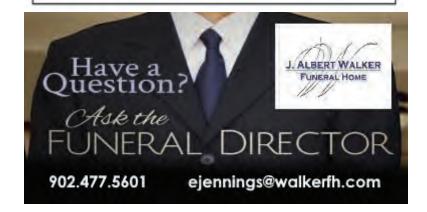


by Heather D. Veinotte, Playwright

Great fun and fundraising!

Check out my website:

www.heatherdveinotte.com



FEBRUARY 2025 Clues

ACROSS:

- -1- Old Testament book of aphorisms (8)
- -5- Mother of Samuel (1Sam. 1) (6)
- -10- Insignificant person (5)
- -11- Sir Roger _____, first to run a mile in under 4 minutes (9)
- -12- Pretence (7)
- -13- One who stands because there is no seat (7)
- -14- Ore of mercury (8)
- -16- "Then God said:'let there be __ (Gen. 1:3) absence of darkness (5)
- -19- One who possesses something (5)
- -21- "They exchanged the glory of the ___ God" (Rom. 1:23) never dying (8)
- -24- "He was ... _____ by Satan" (Mark 1:13) put to the test (7)
- -26- Place where fruit trees are grown (7)
- -27- Spines (9)
- -28- ___ Bruckner (1824-1896), Austrian composer (5)
- -29- Sound reflections (6)
- -30- Frenzied rush of frightened animals (8)

DOWN:

- -1- German word for coup or revolt (6)
- -2- Surgery (9)
- -3- Make clear (7)
- -4- Christian Holy Scriptures (5)
- -6- A sister of David (1Chron. 2:16) (7)
- -7- Wrote down (5)
- -8- "They shall be ashamed of their _____ (Jer. 12:13) reaped crops (8)
- -9- Very small unit of length (8)
- -15- Edifice (8)
- -17- "God ... has given us the Spirit as a _____" (2Cor. 5:5) assurance (9)
- -18- Able to be carried (8)
- -20- Decorative structure behind the altar with a shelf (7)
- -22- Restore (7)
- -23- City in Denmark (6)
- -25- Old Testament minor prophet (5)
- -26- Beginning (5)



THE DIOCESAN TIMES - FEBRUARY 2025

February – a reflection on the month of love

By Mary Stone

In February, a red heart symbolizes both Valentine's Day and Heart and Stroke Awareness Month. Both focus on matters of the heart in different ways but are still based on love. "Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all." This is the first line of the Mothers' Union Prayer, recited in many languages in 84 countries worldwide. When we recite it, and perhaps others such as the Lord's Prayer, we may not give much thought to what we are actually saying. Habit may do that. One year I decided to memorize the Mothers' Union prayer and in doing so, I also began to consider what it might mean, not to the rest of the world,



but just to me. God is the ultimate 'love' but how or where is that 'love so freely given to us all'?
This morning as I sat in our

living room, it was filled with sunshine. The sun was shining directly on me. It was so hot that when I closed my eyes I could picture myself somewhere on a beach surrounded by palm trees and turquoise water. I was wrapped in a warmth that filled me with comfort and peace. 'A love so freely given ...,' it felt wonderful.

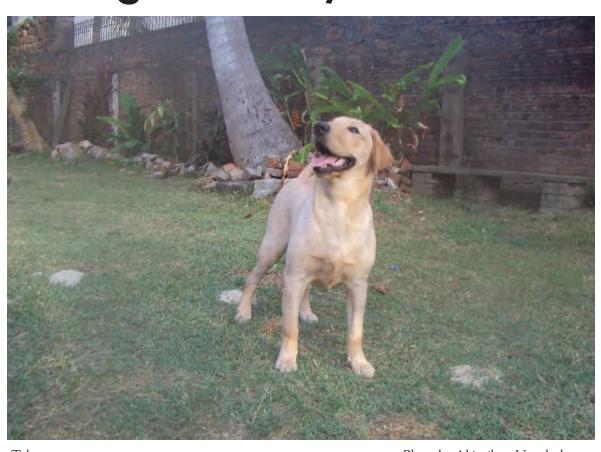
As I think back to the Christmas services and the Festival of Lessons and Carols, the presence of all those attending, the joyful singing and the thoughtful prayers, I am reminded of a 'love so freely given ...' Walking on a tree-lined trail and looking up and considering the height and magnificence of the forest, it fills one with awe and respect, of a 'love so freely given ...'

Meeting a neighbour on the road and stopping for a chat; then moving on, feeling uplifted by the

conversation, 'a love so freely given ...' I think of the volunteers who offer their services in the Soak Your Soles program and humbly offer a 'love so freely given ...' When Archbishop Chris, at the Mothers' Union conference in June, spoke about the love of all peoples, it was of a 'love so freely given ...' In the friendship revealed through the Neighbourhood Soup Servants Project as people gather to prepare and distribute soup to many thankful people, is a reciprocal 'love so freely given to us all.' God's love is a continuous offering to us all, ready for the taking and the giving. We love because he first

loved us. 1 John 4:19

Let regret teach you



Tyler as a pup

By Jennifer Anandanayagam

I didn't want to start the new year with regret. However, the recent passing of my dog all the way back in Sri Lanka brought up feelings of remorse. My golden Labrador retriever named Tyler was 14 years old when he passed away, and although my Sri Lankan family members called from Lankan shores to have me on video call and (hopefully) stay present in Tyler's last

moments, I couldn't help but wish I could stroke his soft fur one more time before he left this earth.

He had a good old age, being cared for by loving relatives who doted on him. But it didn't take long after the call ended for my mind to start going over the, "What ifs." "What if I hadn't moved?" "What if I had been the one caring for him in his old age?" "Did I take him to the beach

Photo by Abigail on Unsplash

often enough?" "Did he get to play fetch as much as his doggy heart would have liked?" "Did I do enough for him?" "Did he miss me?" "Was he waiting for me to come back?"

Learning to quieten the mind and take deep breaths, and learning to bring my thoughts back to the present and the facts before me have been exercises that I've been practising as a student of life. In times of deep sorrow,

like the passing of a pet, losing of a job or the death of a loved one, these become mammoth tasks. But when you sit at God's feet and let the tears flow, there is a sense of acceptance that envelopes you. This acceptance is for all ranges of emotions. There is space for regret, remorse and tears. There is space for the anger, yearning and conviction to do better. What you don't feel is judgement. What you don't feel is a Savior pointing fingers at the things you could've done differently or how you could've loved better.

So this is what I did. I knelt down on my colourful carpet by the bed and stayed there until waves and waves of His love wrapped a warm blanket around me. This is what I continue to do every morning when I wake up with a fresh feeling of remorse for having lost a dear friend and companion.

I know many people in my life who don't believe in feeling regret. Try as I might, over the years, to adopt a similar attitude in the hopes that I could avoid difficult emotions, I don't think I'm being successful. What I've learned through the passing of my dog is to take the regret, roll it over in my palm and see what it is teaching me. American naturalist, essayist, poet and philosopher, Henry

David Thoreau said, "Make the most of your regrets; never smother your sorrow, but tend and cherish it till it comes to have a separate and integral interest. To regret deeply is to live afresh."

Regret can be a great teacher, if you let it. If you take the time to draw lines from the painful feelings to what they are showing you about life, you can make vows to yourself. You can draw up life lessons and give yourself intentions to live a better life and to do better.

This is the thought I'd like to leave with you this month of February. What are some of the things you regret doing or saying in your life? What are these teaching you? Perhaps you can find a way to align these difficult emotions with some values you have for yourself. What kind of person do you want to be? How do you want to love and be loved? How do you want to make an impact? I pray that you're able to "live afresh" when these lessons become clearer to you.

Jennifer Anandanayagam is a freelance journalist, editor and writer. She lives in Dartmouth, N.S. with her nurse husband and nine-year-old cockapoo. She can be reached at jenniferrodrigo99@gmail.com

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A Christmas miracle



Photo: An old Christmas bauble hanging in the Christmas tree in Finland (C) Unsplash

By Claudia Zinck

"I'll meet you at St. Barnabas at 1 p.m.," said Patti. "See you there," came my reply.

We wanted to decorate 'our' or (our village's) church for Christmas. With three church buildings in the parish, St. Barnabas would have a service for the third Advent candle and the message of the Magi on January 7. The church building needed to be spruced up.

None of us had decorated the church in a decade or more, but we knew where the decorations were kept, or so we thought.

We arrived together and discovered that a tree was not waiting for us. Several calls later, we learned of a clerical mistake equated to no tree this year. No one was home at the local tree yard. Everyone's extra tree was in use.

"Let's just decorate for now, and maybe something will come back from our calls," was the sentiment we went with.

Pulling a dust-filled garland from under the belfry steps, I started wrapping it around the balcony railing. The next handful of garland I pulled out was in the middle of an artificial tree.

"Dig deeper," called Cheryl.
"Maybe you can find the
rest!" The three pieces were
discovered, but looked the
worse for wear. The base
was nowhere to be found.
Grabbing the evergreen tree
stand, Cheryl headed for the
front of the church. "We need
something to stuff in the tree
stand to keep it upright."

Stealing, ah, 'repurposing' a sheet of Styrofoam from the nativity set box, she managed to have the tree standing close to upright. Using floral wire, a couple of nails and a hammer

she pulled from her bag (yes she came with these and more supplies), the tree was anchored into the corner.

After trying several sets of lights, a long string was found and very gingerly tossed around the tree. A thin silver garland was found to add sparkle. With a star for the top and a multitude of ornaments, the little discarded tree sparkled. There stood a decent-looking tree!

The rest of the church was easily be-glittered and be-dangled. Now we were ready for Christmas. As Arthur Ashe said:

"Start where you are

Use what you have

Do what you can."

The story of patching together an old artificial tree for a Christmas service is symbolic of what our parish and many parishes are going through right now. Attendance is down. Funds are low. There are too few people to fill positions. It seems all dark and gloomy.

When thinking about what we three old(der) church ladies accomplished in an afternoon, things don't seem as gloomy.

Looking at our parish, we remember that suddenly we have a new treasurer, a role no one wanted to fill until someone moved back home.

We have three children who attend most weeks.

We have a new organist so there are two people to play now.

All warden positions are filled.

We haven't fundraised in two years, yet our heads are above water.

A recent Christmas letter from a friend said that he had grieved for his husband for two years. It was time to think of new things or to simply get back to doing some things he enjoyed in the past.

Maybe our parish is suffering the same. We are grieving for the 'glory days' when our churches were the hub of the village. That was a time when church decorators normally arrived with a hammer and nails in their craft bags.

It's time to start where we are, bring along what we have and do what we can to further our church's presence today.

Somehow that decades-old artificial tree gave us a reason to hope for a better future.

Hope – that is the miracle.

Claudia Zinck can be reached via email: claudiaazinck@gmail.com

WANTED: PARISH NEWS!



Something going on in your parish? Why not share it with the rest of the diocese?

We are looking for news items, events and activities from around the diocese.

Send your contribution (with a photo or two if possible) to: DIOCESANTIMES @GMAIL.COM

We will do our very best to get it into the next edition.

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