

## **Parish of Bay L' Argent**

Should we call this a parish or a small diocese? It consists of 15 villages, eight buildings and long distances. The Parish extends in three sections with 52 kilometers of highway. From end to end it is actually three parishes rolled into one and is over 100 kilometers. Such a parish has many wonderful rewards and challenges.

**Worship** - To satisfy the worship needs, the parish agreed to the following:

- a. Two services a month for each church - this schedule alternates from one part of the parish to the other.
- b. A variety of services - BCP, BAS, Prayer and Praise.
- c. Each Church has its Anniversary on its Patron's Day - congregations enjoy this service and often have a pot luck dinner and great socializing.

### **Music**

Since musicians are at a premium, our **two organists** are willing to move around the parish for services. We have a parish choir and a parish band which move around the parish. The band and choir often attend our Prayer and Praise services. They are appreciated and have increased our congregational participation.

### **Lay Ministry**

Lay ministers, readers etc. play an active part in worship. More involvement and more numbers helps develop a greater lay ministry.

### **Ecumenical ministry**

Members of the other denominations are invited to be a part of our choir and band. We often take part in their services. Some of the United Church and Roman Catholic members of our choir are very regular. They join with us and we join with them.

### **Youth participation**

Since there are few children of different ages in each congregation we try to involve them in the regular worship as much as possible. Since there are three parts to the parish, the rector has three confirmation classes going at the same time. 25 are being confirmed.

### **Community involvement**

Since some fundraising activities are relished by the communities, each part of the parish has its own. As well many activities are now done by community organizations and the people of the parish become more involved in the own community and offers help when necessary. God is at the heart of all we do. Thank God for the Laity.

## **Parish of Burin**

Congregations of Holy Trinity -Burin; St. Andrew-Port au Bras, St. Matthew-St. Lawrence were invited by the Bishop to prepare a brief story for Synod, outlining a particular element of ministry illustrating how the Spirit is moving through that work and/or activity. We offer the following vignettes with the hint, there is always change, and with change comes new ways of doing old things, also in doing new things.

### St. Andrew's - Port au Bras

Nearly fifteen years ago the men of St. Andrew's were "called" to form a Men's Service Club. It would provide both fellowship and support for the church. Since their branch of ACW disbanded, the ladies helped when the Men's Club took on a particular project.

Soon after its formation, the club adopted the government's recycling program as a means of fundraising. They received widespread support from the parishioners and it became an important ministry St. Andrew's. It became a "glue" which helped keep everything viable. The more visible the club was in its support of the church, the more the club was supported. The Club still financially supports St. Andrew's from the recycling program providing for the majority of maintenance costs including a complete renovation project.

Presently, the club is involved in intentional outreach ministry with our Rector to Home Communicants, to Long Term Care and Retirement Homes for "prayer and praise", and to extending a comforting hand and spiritual support to those who grieve. From fellowship - to stewardship- to outreach, the Spirit is moving among us!

### St. Matthew's, St. Lawrence

Rapidly rising costs meant that St. Matthew's could not afford to retain its hall. Its sale saddened the congregation and left the ACW without a meeting room. Alternative possibilities and options were sought but after prayerful consideration the Vestry decided to construct a multi-purpose room at the entrance to their church. Plans prepared, site work done by men of congregation and volunteer labour, financial help from the sale of the hall, and substantial donations from the ACW and Altar Guild all helped secure the viability of the project. This room is already being utilized for meetings and social gatherings. Best use of all our resources was made, included reusing oak wood from unneeded pews to build the wall facing the church's lovely sanctuary.

St. Matthew's participates regularly in local inter-church activities, including World Day of Prayer. The Rector is assisted by an active Altar Guild, licensed ministers, and Eucharistic ministers who provide a Eucharistic service at the hospital, seniors' home and to home communicants. Our seniors are given gifts and cards on special occasions. The Samaritan's Purse has been an important outreach for years. Our ACW supports World Vision by stocking classrooms and medical clinics. Plans are now made to start a "Moms and Babes" program for families in the third world. The Spirit is alive and continues to surprise us at St. Matthew's.

### Holy Trinity - Burin

Holy Trinity's ACW has an active Social Concern Committee that reaches out to the sick, shut ins and home communicants for years.

At the Burin Peninsula Health Center which services patients from the whole peninsula, all Anglicans are visited regularly and given Holy Trinity ACW "Get Well" cards, and enjoy a chat with the ladies. A visit, a chat often reminiscing, a game of cards and a lunch is part of the shut in ministry. When doing regular home communions, the Rector is assisted and accompanied by a licenced lay minister.

Several years ago a Seniors' Retirement Home opened in our area. As part of outreach, the ladies visit, entertain the residents with songs and skits and present them with fruit baskets.

In 2007 we formed a bereavement committee who visits bereaved families with cards, comfort and support. Lunch or a memorial is given. It is rewarding to know this outreach is so well received and we are blessed to serve God in this way. The Spirit is moving!

## Parish of Fortune-Lamaline

*Thank you to Rev. Fiander for researching Anglicanism in Fortune from which much of this material was compiled.*

The Parish of Fortune-Lamaline was formed in November 1993. While one of the youngest parishes in the Deanery, both congregations have a significant history. Even with many changes, these congregations have been sister churches. Until 1950's the Parish of Lamaline included Lamaline, Taylor's Bay, Point-aux-Gaul, High Beach, Calmer, and Point Crewe, with a few Anglicans in Grand Bank and Fortune. By the 1960's three congregations had resettled; the congregations of the other three places declined; and Fortune/Grand Bank increased. To be more effective, a rectory was built in Grand Bank and a parish formed with Fortune and Grand Bank. Lamaline was with St. Lawrence and joined the Parish of Grand Bank in 1968.

All Saints continued to grow, and with over 800 families, Lochleigh Fiander, lay reader/teacher was asked to serve as an assistant. He was ordained to the Non-Stipendiary Ministry and later to the priesthood. He was the first person to be ordained at All Saints; the first to be ordained by an Archbishop of Newfoundland; and the last to be ordained in the old Diocese of Newfoundland. He retired in 1991 and an assistant priest was hired.

### ALL SAINTS

All Saints was built and dedicated in 1965. By 1980 an extension was built including a wall of stained glass depicting a fishery theme; designed and made in Newfoundland by Newfoundlanders - Norma Godden and Bren Blackmore. There is a chapel that seats forty; used for Sunday School; and often as a funeral parlor.

### **ACW & Altar Guild/ Men's Fellowship**

The church has an active **ACW**, a dedicated **Altar Guild**, and a newly formed **Men's Group** who has 12 members that meet for fellowship, music and song.....and a cook-up! They also assumed the task of organizing and hosting the weekly card games.

### **Roman Catholic Services**

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Joseph's, Lamaline uses the building to celebrate Mass and other services

### **Worship & Laity**

As well as Licenced Lay Ministers/ Eucharistic Ministers, youth servers, and choir, there is active lay participation. Sunday school and Confirmation classes are held every Sunday. We have a youth group called **Soul Searchers**. There is a strong, faithful, weekly **Prayer Group**.

## **ST. MARY'S**

St. Mary's the Virgin Church is one of the oldest churches in the Diocese. Although not now the Mother Church, we are strong and blessed with dedicated individuals.

Our annual Flower Service has the largest attendance for the whole year. Families with roots connected to St. Mary's still return for this service. The horse drawn hearse, used to carry the departed, is on display during the summer months. Food and fellowship following the service add a great touch.

Every Sunday there is Holy Eucharist and Sunday School classes. We host the Annual Level 3 graduation, and the Remembrance Day service. Alternately, we host the World Day of Prayer. We have an outreach program that helps to ease the financial burden to families experiencing medical difficulties.

The work of the CEWA/ACW include taking care of the Altar, serving a meal to a bereaved family, and fund raising. The social concern committee takes care of fruit baskets, get well cards, and birthday cards for the elderly. The tradition of holding a Christmas party with a Santa visit takes place. We decorate for Harvest Thanksgiving and we also do the Easter Garden.

## **Conclusion**

This Parish is blessed to have the ministry of the many clergy who have helped shape the individual congregations and current Parish. We are also blessed to have so many dedicated lay people who participate in all activities of both churches daily. We also must recognize the efforts and dedication of those who served and are no longer with us. There were many strong, devoted leaders who committed to the work of God. Without their determination and foresight, we would not have such a firm foundation.

## **Parish of Grand Bank**

There is an air of excitement at the Sunday service at St. Alban's Church. As the Rector is welcoming the congregation and making announcements, the children are waiting quietly in the porch, baskets in hand. The baskets are for the collection of pennies. The pennies are being collected to provide children in other parts of the world with fresh water.

It began last fall, as Sunday school was beginning. It was municipal election season, and the children were given the opportunity to learn about elections. A polling station was set up and they voted for their choice of charities. One child, one vote was the process, and the children by a large majority voted to save towards the provision of fresh water. So each week, when the opening welcome and announcements are complete and congregation enters into the opening hymn, the porch doors open and the children, baskets in hand, collect the pennies on their way to the chancel steps for the weekly children's talk.

In this process there is joy in the act of giving; joy in the faces of the congregation as they give to the children; and joy in the hearts of the children as they pursue a goal of providing for the less fortunate and learn of the blessings of participating in outreach.

The children's penny drive is the newest outreach program in the parish.

As well, each year in the midst of the Lenten season the St. Alban's ACW participate in a long running annual activity. They plan a rice supper to follow one of the mid-week Lenten Services. Everything is Rice! Rice salads, rice main courses, rice desserts; wonderful rice dishes to match any taste. Congregation and guests are invited to attend this veritable rice feast for the price of a freewill offering. The total amount of monies collected is matched by ACW and forwarded to the PWRDF fund. Over the years thousands of dollars have been collected through this event for this charity.

Outreach is not just all about collecting for charities; it is also about bringing Christ's presence out into the world. In our parish, we seek ways to be involved in our local community. Two activities which demonstrate this involvement are participation of a small group in Holy Eucharist services at the local Senior's Home, and those of the St. Alban's Choir.

Each month the group visits Bluecrest Senior's Home with the rector to provide a service of praise, worship and Holy Eucharist to the residents. The residents truly enjoy and involve themselves in these opportunities to celebrate the Lord in the tradition they grew up with. Most of the residents are Anglicans but they are joined by those from other faiths.

St. Alban's Choir has small numbers, but large hearts. Each week they lead the congregation in songs of praise. But they do so much more. They participate in ecumenical activities - annual 'Carol-fest' services', or special concerts such as the one held for Haiti. They touch many hearts as they raise their voices in praise.

The children, the ACW, outreach worship team, and choir - these groups continue to make large contributions to the life and growth of the Parish; groups that continue to shine for the Lord in family and in community.

They are not the only groups, nor are theirs the only activities where we seek to serve the Lord. The mission of St. Alban's is to build up the Body of Christ through prayer, study, worship and action: working together to the glory of God to make Christ's presence known and desired. As we strive to meet this mission, we will enter into many more activities, and by the grace of God we will continue to grow and reach out in His name.

## **Parish of Marystown**

This is a five-point parish. We are a family made up of Saints - Peter, Mary, Michael, Giles and Luke. For the past four years, our congregations meet, as one, for a monthly parish service. The larger congregations host most of these services alternately.

This idea has brought us closer together as a parish. Faces have become more familiar, hand shakes and greeting smiles more frequent. We can now identify and greet our fellow parishioners, not only in our churches, but also in our communities. We have become known to each other through our parish services.

All of our choirs participate in the services, each proudly wearing the choir gown of their own church, creating a nice array of color and a strong blend of voices.

Our services are followed by sharing a light meal together where much mingling and chattering takes place. Since everyone has come together for worship service, we will occasionally, have a parish council meeting following our meal. Killing two birds with one stone so to speak.

Our two smaller congregations do not have the facilities or the members to host services regularly. St Luke's congregation is situated next door to a Provincial Park so in every July, they host a parish picnic. Our parish purse treats us to hotdogs and hamburgers, barbecued by the men. The women provide salads and sweets. The picnic begins with a short service, followed by games and lunch. The Lord has let his face shine upon us so far. Only once in four years have we had to retreat indoors because of weather. Then the community center was given to us to use.

In August, St. Peter's hosts the service. It's a treat to visit the beautiful, well-cared-for, little church and the beautiful scenery en route puts us in a thankful frame of mind for the worship.

I was reminded recently that from time to time we have guest speakers attend our parish services. Two ladies from Queens College paid us a visit and gave us their thoughts on what they conceive Queens College to be for them.

So, with God's help we are looking forward to another great year together. The Spirit is alive and moving in this parish.

## **Parish of Bay d'Espoir**

The Parish of Bay d'Espoir is a two point charge - *Church of the Ascension*, Morrisville and *Christ Church*, Milltown-Head Bay d'Espoir where outreach is an integral part of ministry. This was evident Sunday when I joined the majority on their way downstairs to enjoy one of the monthly brunches prepared by the men's service club. Fellowship was a significant part of this gathering, as was evident in the quiet din that followed the blessing. Spontaneous laughter sprang from one table to another.

Along the way, I inquired about the balcony camera and was told that the weekly service is recorded for broadcast, on Tuesday afternoon, to all cable subscribers in the Bay d'Espoir area. This week's viewers will share in a Baptism that welcomed a new member to God's Family. She was presented with the traditional candle, a new shawl for her Mom, and a gift package provided by the ACW Cradle Club which would continue to recognize significant events in the child's life until her fifth birthday. I was pleased to learn that these items will also be delivered to new moms who may not be on the Parish list.

I note that our communities are kept informed of upcoming activities, not only through the weekly broadcast but also through a quarterly Newsletter that is delivered to all households.

Following the delicious meal, I looked to my right, as I exited the Church basement, and noticed a picture of a foster child, one of several sponsored by the ACWs of both congregations. Right below the picture, a bottle full of change; a "Pennies for a Purpose" initiative of both congregations to purchase materials, through World Vision, for individuals in a third world country.

On the way out, I peeked behind the door of the ACW room to see knitted goods being prepared for needy recipients both within and outside the Parish and the Province. I noticed the Prayer Shawls which will be delivered to the ill, hospitalized and shut-ins during one of the more than 500 visits made each year by the Parish Visitation Teams. I think this peek revealed just a little of the significant work being done by the ACWs. Maybe I will join? I wonder, does ACW stand for Anglican Church Workers?

## **Parish of Belleoram**

The Parish of Belleoram consists of the five communities of St. Jacques, Mose Ambrose, English Harbour West, Rencontre East and Belleoram. As in many Christian communities, the work of the Holy Spirit inspires us to continue such ministries as weekly Bible studies, Sunday School, youth group and fellowship events. These ministries are ongoing and build upon the work that laity and clergy have been committed to over many years as led by the Spirit.

The Church can sometimes find itself focused primarily on the maintenance of its buildings, which is necessary, but the mission of God's people is to reach out to others in word and action with the good news of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit guides us for outreach beyond our places of worship, beyond our regular attenders and into the mission field of our neighbours. We care for all in our small communities but we pull together especially when there is a need in times of illness.

Being situated over 200 kms. from the nearest hospital where the best care can be provided, the cost of traveling these distances over time can leave people in need of financial support. Our parish, indeed the whole community, has come together on several occasions with a ministry of fund raisers for the needy. Local musicians have donated their time and gifts, our ACWs have put their energy into cooking and serving meals and many people have received monies from community outreach in order to lighten their financial burden during their treatment.

While parishioners have organized some of these events, we have worked with community organizations for a common goal of outreach to those in need. Indeed, distance is no barrier to outreach.

As the people of God, we give all glory to God in our endeavours, as his Holy Spirit guides us into important ministries such as these in our communities.

*“So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” 1 Corinthians 3:7*

## **Parish of Harbour Breton**

This parish has been in a very unique and unfortunate situation during the past several months. Rev. Graham Hill and Gladys moved to Harbour Breton in September 2008 as the new rector. Throughout the fall of 2008, Rev. Graham led a very active ministry, providing wonderful leadership to the parish.

Shortly after Christmas 2008, Rev. Graham became ill but continued to carry out his ministry. He was subsequently diagnosed with cancer. By May 2009 he was unable to work full time; but in a much reduced capacity did some of the activities. It was his intention to return to work full time after a series of treatments for his illness.

When it was discovered that he would be unable to return to work, the Parish Council decided to have him and Gladys remain in the rectory until his death. Going back to their home in Cartwright would not be an option since he could not receive the medical attention he so desperately needed. In Harbour Breton, he had access to a hospital and immediate medical attention.

In spite of the advanced stage of his illness, Rev. Graham planned and conducted the Christmas Eve 2009 church service in Harbour Breton. The church was filled almost to capacity and everyone present was moved by his determination and faith.

On Ash Wednesday in 2009, Rev. Graham organized a service and with the other clergy from the churches in Harbour Breton and parishioners from all three churches, carried a cross to a hill overlooking the town. The cross was erected during a brief ceremony and was left in that location during Lent. Although Rev.

Graham was too ill to participate this yr, the cross was again erected during a ceremony conducted by Rev. Colbourne and the other two clergy.

During his time in the parish, Graham helped many people bear their cross and, as it turned out, the people of his parish, along with many other people in Harbour Breton, helped him to bear his cross. Rev. Graham passed away on February 28, 2010.

## **Parish of Hermitage**

We have started a particular Outreach Ministry to help build a church for the people of Sudan. Their bishop, Bishop Frances Loyo [after coming out of a 21 year war] and his congregation has decided to rebuild a church that has been burned down three times since 1932.

The church remains the symbol of their community and it was the first center to bring the community the Good News in the area where it has now grown to a bigger community to the diocesan level. By doing this we are helping to build God's Kingdom. We are doing it because Bishop Francis needs money to build his church and this would help bring people to a gathering place to hear God's word.

Spreading the gospel to the people is the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that provides full and free deliverance from the power and penalty of sin, according to the grace of God alone through faith in Jesus Christ. The church is the body of Christ of which He is the head. Our mission is to ask people to commit themselves to God through raising funds. This would be to help Bishop Francis to complete the building of his church in Sudan. We are reaching out to others in our parish and asking for their help in this mission.

This way others would be able to have a place where they can go to worship God. By doing this we are hoping others will see the love of God working through us and want to become involved. We are willing to give of our time, talent and treasure. We hope and pray that this church in Sudan will become a reality.

Our Parish began this outreach mission as a concrete way to use us as "good building material" to alert us to the mission of service for which we are called or chosen with Jesus as the foundation.

We~~the Parish community~~~ are the building material that will work together to fulfil the proclamation of the word. The best way we can give thanks to God for the gift of His life within us, is by opening our hearts to the Risen Jesus and by allowing ourselves to be sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News of Christ's love."

## **Parish of Bonavista**

An important part of being an active member of a church family means to feel connected... to feel a sense of belonging, and bonding with others with the love and peace of Christ within us.

Over the past few years we have tried to expand our ministries and programs to reach all age levels and we have seen spiritual growth in our congregation from the very young to the elderly. It has involved developing relationships with each other and this in turn enhances our relationship with the Lord.

One area we have focused on is prayer. We want to be a “Praying Church”. We have tried to emphasize the importance of prayer in each of our lives. We have an active Prayer Chain as well as a Prayer Box for prayer requests. We have a Thursday prayer group meeting where church activities and individual needs are lifted up in prayer. We have a Prayer Room where members of a Prayer Team pray before each service. This room is also used for one on one prayer during healing services.

One of the best ways we have promoted the use of prayer is in our Prayer services. In this service, any person can share with the congregation how they have seen answered prayer in their life. By talking about prayer this way, it is encouraging to others to share and pray as well.

Youth and Children’s ministry is also an important part of our church. Lively activities for our young people help them connect with God on their own level. Puppets, video segments and upbeat music enhance our children’s programs. An idea that has been mentioned is a mid-week program for elementary children. We are hoping to develop this in the future.

Our Youth group meets every second week. Listening to their concerns, praying with them and allowing them to lead in Youth services has helped them grow spiritually. We are hosting a Youth rally for the deanery in May.

Music is an important part of worship because it often connects us with the spirit of God. It allows us to enter into His presence. We have been fortunate to have various types of music in our worship. We try to focus the style of worship music to the type of service we are having. Right now we have formed a new committee to devise some ways to enhance our worship in music.

Outreach has been another focus of our programs. It is not enough to just keep our worship within the walls of the church. We have to go outside the comfortable boundaries and reach out to others. We have done this through events like the Vacation Bible School, the Alpha Program, Monthly Soup Kitchens and “Invite a Friend” Sundays. Some of our Ladies Groups and Men’s fellowship have visited the hospital and senior homes to provide worship and prayer.

We have a post-baptismal follow-up program and those that have been recently confirmed are approached to join our Youth group. There has been success with much of this outreach and lives have been touched.

We have seen the spirit working in many ways in our church community. The Men’s fellowship and ladies groups have been centering more of their activities on spiritual growth and reflection rather than fundraising. Many people are talking openly about how the Lord has been working in their lives. We have seen a desire to learn more about the Lord and what He can do in our lives.

We thank the Lord for His work in our Parish. We thank Him for our “Team Leadership”. We know that there are many areas that we need to improve on. We pray that with the Lord’s guidance we will develop more servant leaders. We know He has huge plans for us. We just need to surrender to His will for us and let Him lead the way.

## Parish of Brooklyn

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St. Matthew, Lethbridge    St. Mary the Virgin, Winter Brook  
St. Andrew, Brooklyn    St. John the Divine, Canning's Cove  
St. James, Jamestown    St. Michael and All Angels, Bunyan's Cove

### Parish Events & Services

In a multi point parish, it is very challenging to schedule activities to bring the whole parish together. However, this parish has attempted a couple of ongoing activities.

For one Sunday during each two-month schedule, we have a parish service in one of the churches. It is the only service scheduled for that Sunday and all parishioners from each of the congregations are encouraged to attend. Usually, a musical group and/or choir from outside the parish are invited to lead us in singing/music. Depending on the preference of the invited music/choir group, the service is either a morning or afternoon service. For the most part, the service is well attended and followed by fellowship, organized by the vestry and/or the ACW if facilities are available nearby. A pot luck meal is usually enjoyed by all.

Another special service is organized around a fund-raising event called *The Parable of the Talents*. When first started, each participating parishioner was given \$5.00, now no money is given out. The member tries to increase his/her talents throughout the days before the special service and meal, on the last Sunday of October. It began as a Parish fund-raising event, but turned into a congregational event. Congregations raise anywhere from \$200.00 - \$2000.00 each year. Some ingenious ways are used to raise funds, from bake sales, garage sales, picking blueberries, making & selling cookbooks, knitting, donations, etc.

We usually book a special musical/singing group to lead us during a morning service. After the service we have a fellowship lunch. Each person who did some activity to make their talents grow is given an opportunity to tell the group about it. All parishioners who attend the service and pot luck meal is asked to bring a dish of food. A wonderful time is enjoyed by all and is well attended from nearly all congregations.

## **Parish of Catalina**

Most ministry in a parish this large is centered around St. Peter's, Catalina. Much time is spent with Pastoral Visiting, Worship, Education, Choirs, and Sunday School. A great amount of time is spent in Administration, and office work. The other congregations are Holy Martyrs' - Port Union; St. Nicholas' - Amherst Cove; and St Andrew's - Newman's Cove.

At St. Peter's we have 20 sides persons , 14 as the newly formed Altar Guild; 4-Servers; Lay readers 4; Eucharistic Assistant - 2; and Sunday school with 20 children and three teachers

### **Christian Education**

We have been doing the Alpha Course and will continue with it as long as the response is there. We have had 70 people go through the program. It has been a time of growth, fellowship and prayer in the parish. It has given the Church a feeling of closeness. As a follow up to Alpha, we do a Bible Study through the Instant Bible Institute. In June we have organized a Workshop for Lay Pastoral Visiting

### **Pastoral Care**

We continue with Home communions & visits to shut ins. Visitations are made monthly to Luxury Estates and Shirley's Haven for Sunday Worship. Visits are made to the hospital and Golden Heights.

### **Music**

We have a Senior Choir in Catalina.; a Gospel band made up of members from the parish; three regular organists and a youth organist that works with the Sunday School.

### **Liturgy**

Sunday services are mostly Holy Eucharist, while the lay ministers lead Morning and Evening Prayer. Two monthly evening services are Prayer and Praise. There is an Easter Vigil and Lenten pot luck dinner after the Eucharist.

### **Outreach**

Members of a committee of St. Peter's visit the sick and shut ins. ACW deliver flowers, fruit baskets etc. We have a committee responsible for zones. They deliver envelopes, Lenten/Advent folders and collect for the Building Fund and three different weekly bulletins are prepared to accommodate different parish points. Recently, a ten member Emergency Response Committee has been established to respond to disasters.

## **Parish of King's Cove**

The parish of King's Cove is consists of six congregations with six churches within a half hour drive from one end of the parish to the other. It has a half time priest in charge.

There is less than 100 families in the six congregations. It has an organist in four of the six congregations and a choir in one. The worship takes place in three of the six every Sunday morning alternating each week within the parish. Three services in one of the parish one week and three services in the other end of the parish the following week. The worships are 3 Eucharistic services once a month and 3 morning and evening services once a month using both BAS and BCP. The average attendance at worship in four of the six congregations is 3 - 10. In the other two congregations the average attendance is about 95% of the total parishioners.

The people in the parish are very hospitable people. They treat their parish priest with the utmost respect. They are very caring and friendly. Yet, having said that, there are only a very small number of people in each congregaion who do it alll for their respective churches and the same group have been doing it for years.

Their offerings to Christ and His Church are very low in many of the congregations. This is making it very difficult for the respective congregations to pay their assessment to the parish. Many of the congregations are struggling just to keep the doors of their church open for worship every second Sunday.

Although they are struggling financially, there are people out to worship who haven't attended church in over 20 years and are making their regular offering to the Lord which have resulted in an increase in the offerings in each of the congregations.

Yet, having seen this small growth, there is no doubt, because of the aging population, I feel, this parish cannot survive and will close within ten years.

## **Parish of Port Rexton**

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St. Andrew's Trinity E.  
Christ Church, Port Rexton

St. Clement, Champney's West  
St. Nicholas, Champney's East

The Parish has approximately 200 families and like many rural parishes faces challenges where resources ,both human and material, are decreasing with the population decline. In 1996 the Parish began to pool all resources in a more realistic, efficient manner and developed one "main gathering" for the liturgy per Sunday. The 11:00 a.m. Eucharist is held in a different church building on a rotation throughout the parish. Parishioners move from church to church for worship. This initiative was well received, supported and is still active to this present date.

An outreach ministry has blossomed tremendously. A few years ago, we as combined congregations decided to support a foster child. One of our more "talented carpenter" parishioners fashioned a beautiful box for our donations. At the end of a year we found we had enough money to sponsor a second child which we did for another three years. This past summer our funds had built up to a point that we are now supporting three foster children.

In our churches we have both organ music and band music. A Parish Band was put together in 1996 consisting of one or two persons from each congregation providing the music for the morning Eucharist services. For the traditional evening services we use organ music. This past year another band consisting of family members offered their service once or twice a month, and now thanks be to God, a third group has come forward to add to the wonderful worship services that we have as combined congregations. These musical groups have added tremendously to our worship.

To God be the Glory for raising up those who would serve Him and glorify His name "whose power working in (them) can do infinitely more that we can ask or imagine."

## **Parish of Smith's Sound**

### **A FEW GOOD WOMEN**

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near Hebrews 10:24-25.*

On September 18, 1969, within the Dioceses of Newfoundland, the inauguration of the Anglican Church Women took place. Since that time many Anglican Women have stepped up in faith and have united in worship, learning, and offering.

Over time, many forms of ministry have come and gone, but the ACW continue to stand firm and strong for the Lord. This parish is truly blessed- forty-nine Anglican Church Women continue to **serve** God within the church and throughout the community.

Service is the optimum word to describe the ACW. Where would we be without their hospitality and love, especially in moments such as: hot soups and sandwiches served after a funeral; delicious meals served for visiting clergy, confirmation celebration, and more? What would Christmas be without Christmas puddings, baskets and greeting cards extended to the shut-ins and sick?

These women also serve in our choirs, participate in the reading of God's word, and in the beautification of our churches. As well, where would we be without the energy they give toward church finances -finances that often need a little extra boost to help make ends meet.

Women are truly blessed by the way they treat each other and this gift is truly shared as invitations of fun and companionship are often extended to women of other denominations.

In 1992, a movie entitled A Few Good Men was produced in which honour and trust was the central theme. Because of its focus on goodness and truth A Few Good Men won many awards. The same can be said for A Few Good Women in this parish whose honour, trust and goodness speak, by way of service in action. Their love of God is very visible and shine in the church and in the community. They deserve more than an award, you deserve a medal for all that you do. One day a crown of glory will be your reward. May God Almighty continue to bless you with strength and encouragement.

## **Parish of St. Mary's**

The focus of St. Mary's Parish is to become a "mission model" church, and ongoing efforts are being made by the congregation to make this happen. The strategic plan which was put in place following St. Mary's becoming a one-point parish in 2003, is being reviewed and acted upon.

St. Mary's is becoming very active and vibrant. There is evidence of numerical, financial and spiritual growth. Some lapsed members are now attending worship regularly. Parishioners are taking up new ministries' eg. Eucharistic Ministry, Licensed Lay Ministry, readers, greeters, Sunday School teachers, new ACW members, new servers, new choir members, etc.

During the summer of 2009, great efforts were made by our rector to try and reconnect Anglicans with the church. This was done by way of her going door to door, knocking on doors, ringing door bells, introducing herself, and inviting people to come to church.

St. Mary's is blessed with a wonderful ecumenical group of young people (approximately 30 members) who meet every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The evening begins with worship in the chapel. This is followed by activities/games, a snack, and ends with prayer. Part of the opening worship includes a time of teaching, e.g. for the past number of weeks they have received teaching on the Apostles Creed. Our Youth Group leads worship at the church from time to time and this worship is well attended and supported by members of their families as well as members of the congregation. They visit and lead worship, as well as participate in fun activities at some of the Seniors Residences in the town. In December, they took a giant leap of faith as they participated in the Santa Claus Parade. On the Tuesday night previous to the parade, they prepared more than fourteen hundred candy canes with the story of the Candy Cane attached and distributed them to people along the way! They had another first in February of this year as they helped out with the Congregational Pancake Supper.

The Prayer Group at St. Mary's meet regularly on Wednesday morning and the Bible Study Group meet on Friday afternoons. Thursday nights are shared by the ACW ladies, members of the vestry, and the Anniversary Planning Committee. Fridays are Seniors' night.

We come together for one worship service on the fifth Sunday of every month that has five Sundays. Worship is followed by a potluck meal as people enjoy food and fellowship. Members are moving outside the church building to visit the sick and shut-ins, to participate in worship at the Seniors complexes and at the hospital. Sometimes we have as many as twenty members!

Efforts are being made to reach out to the community by way of inviting other groups to join us for ACW gatherings, afternoon teas, and by way of invitation to worship with us on a particular Sunday morning (Lions Club, Cancer Survivors, etc.)

During the Christmas season, the true spirit of giving was very evident as members of the congregation came forward to sponsor a needy family. Some did this by way of gift giving and provisions for Christmas dinner while others chose to give Gift Cards from one or more of the supermarkets.

We are presently very busy making preparations for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a number of activities are taking place throughout the year. Our celebratory weekend is Oct. 1-3.

It seems that the town of Clarendville has approximately 2000 Anglicans who are not in any way connected to the church. In the months ahead the parish will be making every effort possible to reach out to them with the hope that at least some will discover for themselves that St. Mary's is a wonderful family of faith with a warm and nurturing atmosphere, and has a lot to offer all those who would like to become a part of our family.

## **Parish of Trinity**

The Parish of Trinity became a half time ministry in 2004. Also in that year, the congregation in Old Bonaventure closed. Since that time, there has primarily been a maintenance ministry. Where before each of the four congregations had a service each Sunday, we have recently moved to two services each Sunday. People are encouraged to attend a service each Sunday, but most attend only when the church is open in their own community. Each Sunday there is an 11:00 am Holy Eucharist service and a 7:00 pm Evening Prayer. Both the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services are used.

There are two Licensed Lay Ministers, and a couple of people have shown an interest in doing the LLM training. Each congregation has a dedicated group of people who serve on the Vestry, act as sextons and sides-persons, and look after the altars. The Parish Council has discussed having a Sunday School, but there are few children and they are spread throughout the parish. Confirmation classes will start soon, with Confirmation scheduled for the Fall of 2010. Several people have attended Cursillo Weekends from the Parish of Trinity, and there is one ongoing small group reunion.

In 2007-2008, the Rector and one lay representative participated in the Deanery Study that anticipated more deanery cooperation in ministry. There is some talk of more cooperation with the Parish of Port Rexton, but not much concrete is happening yet. The Deanery Study suggested one parish for the eleven communities and eight congregations in Trinity Bite, but most agree that this will not happen for some time.

## **Parish of Fogo Island East**

Church of the Holy Spirit

Growing as one Church family:

As we begin a new chapter in our parish (a multi-point to a single point) we are focusing on being a welcoming, inviting congregation for all ages. We are focused on encouraging and empowering lay leadership, with emphasis on making disciples for Christ.

We feel blessed to have 30 plus children registered in youth church (Sunday school) and eight registered in our confirmation class. These young people have created excitement and bring freshness to our Sunday worship. To coin an old phrase “Kids don’t care how much you know if they don’t know you care” helped us to understand the importance of having a healthy youth budget. With this budget the leaders are able to focus on different types of programming and learning aids. One of the blessings of having the young children at worship is that we have young families attending worship as well.

Our confirmation program runs for a year and these eight individuals offer a ministry to their church. They have options of what kind of ministry they would like to offer - server, reader, greeter, taking up collection, and teaching Sunday school. The program is somewhat different in teaching because they meet formally once a month but are required to be in church on regular basis.

All families celebrate birthdays. The vestry has agreed that annually we will celebrate the birthdays of the oldest male and female member of our congregation on the Sunday closest to their special day. We have a birthday cake, the children make a giant size card (which they all sign) and they perform a short program of thanks to God for their years of life. This year it was a blessing to celebrate the birthdays of Lucy Rowe (99 years) and Arthur Ludlow (97 years). The Wardens presented the cake and following the service the congregation enjoyed a piece of cake -*Dessert before dinner!*

Our church has recently received new kitchen cabinets. This allows us to offer coffee/tea before worship starts. It is an opportunity for relationship building. We have purchased a building next to our church to be used for our new church hall. This will enable us to offer church dinners, a place for youth, ACW meetings, bring in guest speakers, and many other opportunities for fellowship.

## **Parish of Fogo Island West**

**Photos of recent events on** Diocesan Web site especially the subweb site, 'Youth & Young at heart'. There are photos of Easter Activities, Bible Society with Major Lorne Pritchett, Christmas Activities, Welcoming The Baptized, Prayer & Praise Band, Valentine Activities, Easter at Deep Bay singing How Great Thou Art, Sunday School -Fogo.

Praise Band & Choirs took part in the Ministerial sponsored gospel concert raising \$1500 for the Red Cross for Haiti. They also participated in the World Day of Prayer Service in the Pentecostal Church in Seldom.

### **Up coming Events.**

- Confirmation preparation in progress for November 28<sup>th</sup> , with six candidates.
- Planning for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Good Shepherd Church, in Deep Bay on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- Planning for Personal Festival St. Andrew's, Fogo with Bishop David on November 30<sup>th</sup> .
- Resume Bible Study- Eight people had attended previously
- Resume Prayer Group that had met during Rev. Jessie ministry.

### **Concerns/ Plans for Future Ministry**

- 1) Young Families ministry. There are 13 mothers with children under 5yrs - we are proposing monthly meetings
  - a) mothers and children together.
  - b) mothers meeting by themselves.
- 2) Investigate setting up Men's Association.
- 3) Youth ministry, Youth group and or Youth Bible Study.
- 4) Friendship Meals.
- 5) Enlarge Praise Band and its ministry
- 6) Invite similar groups from Fogo Island East Parish for Special Events and fellowship.
- 7) Initially host monthly 'Ultreya', when Diocesan Ultreya is not in the Gander Deanery on Fogo Island.
- 8) Endeavour to reach more young people who are not in Sunday School and have a Vacation Bible School each summer.

## Parish of Gander St. Martin's Cathedral

The Purpose of St. Martin's Cathedral Is:

*To be a family of worshipping Christians; where the faith is taught where people of all ages can grow in love and commitment to Christ in an atmosphere of caring, sharing, loving and respect for all persons; - where opportunity is provided for witness and service in the wider community.*

The everyday focus of the Clergy and People of St Martin's is to live out this mission. We endeavour to connect the dots of faith, worship, and service, from Sunday gatherings to weekly routines, helping people to encounter, grow, and live out their Christian witness. Worship ranges from the traditional BCP Holy Communion to Contemporary; from BCP Evening Prayer to Prayer and Praise; and is led by the music ministries of the Cathedral Choir, Praise Band, Junior and Youth Choirs, the Youth Band, with help from the youth Dance group. Services include involvement of over 25 servers, 30 sidespeople, and 60 readers.

We have developed into a generous people for Christ. Last year we provided funding for a well in India through the HAVE program (\$2,500), supported PWRDF (\$10,000), and provided our hall free of charge to non-profit community groups. During the Haiti appeal we collected over \$5,000. As part of his job, our custodian provides free gratis odd-jobs services for seniors, and families in need. Our Church family is frequently called upon as a Diocesan resource helping to lead workshops on Human Sexuality, Congregational development, spiritual retreats, inspirational worship, and healing services.

Youth are vitally involved in worship. Gander is a town with many attractive diversions that challenge the faith of young people so we have initiated the St. Martin's Youth Challenge.

Besides those noted, active groups include ACW, Sewing Group, Bible fellowships, Biblical Studies Class, Altar Guild, and Sunday School, to name a few. Communication is key. We routinely use multimedia during worship services for music, teaching and inspiration: during the monthly Vestry meetings; and the annual Lenten/Advent retreats. There is the weekly bulletin, and the monthly Bridge - an informative news publication distributed to over 500 Anglican homes. We have a webpage, blog, and a Facebook page especially for contact with the youth. St Martin's is helping people of all ages to connect faith in Christ to all aspects of their daily life.

## Parish of Gander Bay

This parish is comprised of four churches: Holy Trinity-Wing's Point, St. David-Davidsville, St. George- Boyd's Cove, and St. John- Baytona. In the last few years, we have progressively moved from being servants within our own communities to becoming servants in our whole parish.

We began a Parish Worship service regularly. These services are held in a different point of the parish and have gained momentum as each congregation gets use to hosting the service. We have found that we worship well together, sing well together, work well together, and fellowship well together (with an abundance of food at the end of each worship service). We have gone through growing pains but have developed some new friendships and ongoing relationships in a spirit of love and understanding.

Even though we worship regularly, we have congregational ministries which identifies each as unique but yet part of the whole. The Congregation of St. John sees Outreach as their strongest form of ministry. They delight in reaching out and responding to the needs of all families, regardless of religious affiliation, both in their own and surrounding communities. With a few phone calls, food hampers are filled, household items compiled, monetary gifts collected, stocking stuffers provided and visits made. A thank-you note from a child of a single parent saying, 'Thank-you for the apples and other goodies....' Makes everything they do so rewarding and uplifting. St. John also has a keen interest in World Vision and at Christmas send monetary gifts to provide food, livestock, immunization, antibiotics and care packages to needy children. This is an alternative from the traditional exchanging of gifts within their groups. St. John believes that their gestures of outreach have undoubtedly made their church body stronger, keeping them united in Christian love and stewardship.

St. George congregation boasts a history of an ecumenical prayer group who gathers weekly to pray for the needs of the community, the parish, and the Church. As well, they participate in outreach projects such as World Vision, Happy Tree, monetary donation to needy families and sick children, and visitation of the sick and shut-ins.

Although St. David congregation is struggling to survive, the other congregations have seen their need and have reached out to help, encourage, and support. The congregation has seen an increase in numbers, a source of encouragement to the faithful few at St. David. The congregation welcomes members of the parish who come to worship— it is a sign of belonging and building up of the Church of God.

At Holy Trinity the ministry which speaks our greatest movement forward is our Children's Ministry which is not strictly Anglican. It is open to all children within the parish and community. The group started with two leaders. This year we have grown to 9 leaders with several to join us in September 2010. Our children's ministry is a time of fun coupled with learning about God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). There is an abundance of energy, aliveness, participation, chatter, laughter, games, crafts, singing, and food. The children thoroughly enjoy each evening of planned events and learning.

Our Children's Ministry has also seen the formation of a Junior Choir. We began with 7 children and have increased to 15. Great news for the Parish! The children are enjoying singing during worship for special occasions or special events. The junior choir also participated in a recent parish worship. An offshoot from our Children's Ministry is that of our adult leaders stated that they wanted to be more involved. As a result, some young mothers became members of the ACW and some joined the Firettes.

As we have grown in leadership, we have also extended outwards. We involved the ACW in a Mother/Daughter event which we hope will happen biannually.

There is no end to what children can cause to happen in a Parish. They are so flexible, formative, engaging, alive and energized that parents (adults) are challenged to move forward and to keep pace with them. A beautiful dynamic: the child – a sponge soaking up the learning and running non-stop to the finish – with the adult seeking ways and means of changing to move with them and to keep pace.

## Parish of Twillingate

This parish is alive and well. We are a very vibrant parish, moving forward together, doing God's work. Two very vital ingredients to our success as a parish are **love** and **togetherness**. Over the past number of years we have come together in this parish in a way that has seen us grow in love and respect for one another, despite our differences. God continues to pour out His blessings upon us.

A few years ago we embarked on a new venture - a parish service in the months that had five Sundays. With the geographical lay out of our parish we were uncertain how this would pan out. After all, this service was meant to bring us together as a single church body throughout the parish. There would be no other worship service in our parish on that Sunday. Well, we were overwhelmed to say the least! Thanks be to God! People came from every congregation, including Change Islands. This was indeed something to be proud of considering the ferry ride and driving distance involved. After this service we usually enjoyed a "pot-luck" or some "finger foods" as we spend time together in fellowship. This is a highlight in our parish life, so that now there is a parish service every fifth Sunday as opposed to just months that have five Sundays. God saw that it was good, He blessed it and it grew!

Although this is one event in our parish that we are elated over, there are many others:

- \* We have taken on a children's orphanage in Haiti as an outreach ministry. To have some small impact on those who need our support, love and prayers is something that gives us joy and satisfaction as we reach out to others where they are.
- \* We continue to support Daffodil House with our "Dimes for Daffodil" campaign that we have every year.
- \* We have an active Bible study group and prayer group.
- \* We have two ACW groups who are very active as well, doing God's work as a vital arm of the church.
- \* People in the parish enjoyed a short course "Christianity 101"
  
- \* Our 15 Cursillo members are very active with others hoping to do the spring weekend. We have held social gatherings, visited the seniors home and hospital, participates in other activities. The whole parish is included when we do a Cursillo event.
- \* We are hoping to put visitation teams in place throughout the parish. This will help lighten the load of the rector and form a bond between God's people. These visitation teams will be in consultation with the rector and after proper training.
  
- \* We have an active men's group of approx. 22 members who has conducted worship services both within our parish and outside. They are active in visitation and interacting with other mens groups of various denominations. All are eager to take part and look forward to new challenges together.

We have excellent leadership skills in our parish and most of our activities can be realized without taking our rector away from her very important ministry.

This is a brief summary of the many exciting things that are happening in our parish. Under the leadership of the rector exciting things are happening. We have been exposed to many new forms of worship services as well as outreach ministry.

To have an effective ministry we must be open to change. True ministry happens outside the church building. It is there that we are the hands and feet of Jesus, as we mix and mingle with "all" God's people, living our daily lives under His banner of love, compassion and commitment to doing His Holy Will. If we work together despite our differences, God will continue to bless us in our efforts.

This parish is alive in the Spirit as we continue to grow together, loving and respecting one another in Christ. As we continue to participate in the various events in our parish, as we look forward to taking on new challenges, the life and growth of this parish will continue to be enhanced into a strong community of faith. Remember the necessary ingredients to success... Love and Togetherness!!

## Parish of Badger's Quay - Pool's Island

Children's Time: An Effective Worship Ministry

Each Sunday, a different child is given the cloth bag to bring home and find one object, put it in the bag and return it the following Sunday. There are three requirements:

It has to fit into the bag. It can't be alive. It can't be dead.

Every Sunday, the children look forward to a special time in our worship. As the priest sits and calls them to come, they run, skip, jump and walk to the chancel steps and sit by him. It really doesn't matter if there's one or many; the same warm greeting is extended. For if there's just one child in the congregation, he'll ask for teenagers to come along side of the child. A parent or a guardian is welcomed to come forward with a toddler. Sometimes you can hear the pattering of young feet run back to mom, dad or grandparent and then return.

The children are relaxed and eager to see what is in the bag and what the priest will do with the object. He engages them in a guessing game by purposefully giving funny and incorrect clues to its identity and use.

Within a short time, a child will name the object. From their comments, he draws a few simple statements of truth. Then this familiar question is asked. "How can I tell someone about Jesus using only this object?" The discussions are summed up in one or two sentences that show how they can use that simple object to tell others about Jesus.

Before returning to their various places, they do a little ritual of handclapping, extending arms upward, fingers twinkling, bringing hands down, locking them together and praying together. The prayer is something like this: "Thank you, Lord for today, for all our fun at work and play. Thank you, Lord for -----." The last sentence consists of thanking the Lord for the particular truth about Jesus which was brought out in the discussions.

It's interactive and fun with a positive message of Jesus' love.

## **Parish of Gambo**

*St. George's-Gambo; St. Michael's- Dover;  
St. Augustine's-Hare Bay; St. Edward's-Glovertown;  
Holy Trinity-Terra Nova.*

What do you do with a parish that is 96 kms. from one end to the other and takes one and one half hours that distance?

Ask anyone from this parish and they will tell you that we are too big. Ask anyone and they will tell you that it is too much. Yet this is our reality.

In the spring of 2008 we decided that we needed to start somewhere to bring us together as a parish. Our annual Seder Supper followed by the Maundy Thursday liturgy was an attempt at that. Gambo, being the centre of the parish, is the host congregation but all congregations contribute to the meal. Representatives from each congregation sit at the head table with a lead father and lead mother which rotates from year to year. At each individual table there is a “mother” and “father” seated with others not necessarily from the same congregation. There is always a wonderful sense of family as we come together. As our rector says, “It is like having all your children home for supper at the same table at the same time.” It is also a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with each other and then to celebrate in the eucharist together. For some congregations it was the first time they had participated in a Maundy Thursday liturgy of footwashing and stripping of the altar.

What was really exciting about this 2008 event was that it inspired Parish Council to then suggest that on the fifth Sunday of every month we would meet at 3 p.m. for parish worship followed by a potluck meal which would rotate around the parish. This is seen to be a real boost to the smaller congregations who look forward to hosting the service and having a “full church” It also gives all of us the opportunity to see what each other’s church looks like and to hear different music styles. In 2009, the fifth Sunday in May fell on Pentecost so everyone was instructed to wear something red as we gathered at St. Augustine’s Church, Hare Bay to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who came on that first Pentecost but continues to come and inspire us and fill us as we move forward in faith.

## **Parish of Greenspond-Newtown-Pound Cove**

### **Good News Story #1: Worship Road-Trip**

Sometimes, going away from home helps us know ourselves better; stepping out of our comfort zone teaches us to have greater faith. A group of our singers from Greenspond - Newtown - Pound Cove was asked to come and help lead a worship and service at St. Aidan's in Port Blandford. None of our choir members had done anything like that, but we agreed to go. We chose many of the contemporary songs which we had sung in the past year as well as some traditional favourites. We taught the songs to the people and their musicians by singing solos, anthems and congregational pieces. We ranged in age from 16 to 60 and drew closer together as Christian friends. We enjoyed worshipping with our brothers and sisters in Christ and hope to encourage other parishes.

### **Good News Story #2: Newtown Playground**

One of the highlights of our past summer was repairing and rebuilding the neighbourhood playground in Newtown as a "gift of love" from St. Luke's congregation. The playground was in sad shape and only suffered further abuse from neglect. As part of our outreach through our Parish Mission Statement, we decided to restore the playground by our own labour and expense. The work gathered our own parishioners as well as the residents of the area. The refurbished playground is now a vibrant place, well-appreciated by young and old alike. Not only has the project produced a tangible result but our congregation has become more mission-minded and is looking for other ways to serve the community and draw them into a closer relationship with Christ.

The Spirit is alive and moving in this Parish

## Parish of Indian Bay

We are one in the Spirit....

The Parish of Indian Bay is in the Bonavista Bay North Deanery. Geographically, it is a small parish comprising four churches: St. Alban's-Trinity; St. Bartholomew's,-Centreville; St. John the Baptist; Wareham; St. Mary the Virgin-Indian Bay. The towns of Trinity, Centreville, and Wareham are all under one municipality under one council, and Indian Bay is a town itself. Each of the parish churches is less than 15 minutes drive from the others, a very real strength that contributes to the unity of the parish, and its ability to come together for different services and events. In that way I believe the parish is somewhat unique. Bible Study groups, Youth Events, Parish church services to celebrate different church festivals and seasons, a joint parish choir and a men's choir are all ways that the unity is demonstrated.

People come together to worship, celebrating different church festivals or community events. One of the most anticipated events of the Winter Carnival activities and is very well attended by members of the four communities is a closing worship service. The parish (joint) choir and the men's choir help lead the singing, and members participate in the worship. This is one example of how the parish and communities unite in praise and worship. Other examples have been joint services for Reign of Christ Sunday, A Service of Prayers for Peace (cosponsored by the Lion's Club), and Christmas and Easter. It is a joy for all to be as *"One in the Spirit."*

### **Licensed Lay Ministry**

We have eight Licensed Lay Ministers and two Eucharistic Ministers Schedules are arranged each week for the following Sunday. Each week, Licenced Lay Ministers prepare for the Sunday services by choosing the various tasks and preparing the order of service for the bulletin. Licensed Lay Ministers lead two services each Sunday not necessarily in our own congregations. This is another way we support the unity in our parish. I thank God for our team of Licensed Lay Ministers. May we be blessed in the Lord's work for His church.

### **Vacation Bible School**

The Parish has been offering a Vacational Bible School for 4 years. With devoted adult leaders , dedicated young Junior Leaders and excited children, the VBS has been a huge success. This past summer we had 70+ children registered with 14 Junior Crew Leaders and 12 full time adult leaders. Parish people dropped by to pay a visit to learn what VBS offers.Each year VBS has been a huge success with great attendance.

The Parish Council has purchased curriculum and the items required. The decorating of the Lions Center has been organized by Parish Youth Committee members and volunteers. Our VBS is extended each day to include lunch for everyone. The Parish people graciously donated a portion of the food supplies for this lunch meal.

The children learn a lot about God's love for them and to recognize God in their daily lives. We accept children from the parish and children visiting the parish. The youth committee motto is that 'no child will be turned away from learning about God and His Love for them. The Course 'Crocodile Dock" offered devotional sessions for the leaders before the day started with the crews; these were very spiritual and got leaders all geared to handle the VBS day.

A Vacational Bible School can be uplifting to children but it can minister to adults as well , if they allow it. This was very evident at 2009 VBS. The youth committee along with our rector, Rev David, is excited about working on this years VBS in the parish.

The Parish Of Indian Bay Youth Committee are very busy all year around working with the youth of this Parish. They organize church services for Christmas, Easter and when ever asked to arrange one by the clergy. We have a lot of potential in the youth of this parish. All they need is a little encouragement, guidance, and a warm welcome greeting from the congregation. The youth committee are very excited and can't wait to continue to work with the youth of this parish and help them to grow as young Christians who will one day be the foundation of our churches.

## Parish of Salvage

Each Maundy Thursday we have participated in the Passover. Breaking the Matza-welcoming Elijah- praying for Peace - awaiting the Messiah. The ladies of the parish have begun a Prayer Quilt Ministry. They pray as they make quilts for individuals who are hospitalized or receiving care. In total they have prayerfully made and given twenty plus quilts.

The Anglican Church Women support members of the community during a time of bereavement by cooking meals and taking them to their homes. They provide gatherings at the church hall after a funeral for family and friends to reminisce over a cup of tea.

The Holy Cross Church has worked in partnership with other community groups to sponsor events such as "Handel's Messiah" and the Christmas Pageant. "Friends of Holy Cross" support fellowship by planning events such as a community pot luck on "Holy Cross Day". This provides an excellent opportunity to outreach to regular church attendees and the community at large. The Altar Guild has enriched the lives of the ladies participating in designing and producing banners to the glory of god. It is an opportunity for fellowship while adorning the church with their handiwork.

Special services including "The Aids Benefit Service", the "Youth for Haiti" service, and others have reached out to those in need. Participating in the Christmas "Shoebox" program has helped children the world over. The food drive at the Church and during the Christmas Pageant provide relief for needy individuals. Letters and gift boxes to members of the Canadian Armed Forces abroad provide much needed encouragement.

Holy Cross Church Anniversary Committee and the Happy Adventure-Sandy Cove ACW have both produced written publications that have added immeasurably to rich history of the community and the important position that the church has held in it.

Regular bible study groups and special study groups are offered to help participants understand the teaching of Christianity and special focus groups have begun exploring the role of the church in the community - its future and discovering how it can better meet the needs of parishioners.

## Parish of Botwood

**“For we are God’s servants, working together, You are God’s field, God’s building.”**

This parish has so much happening that it's hard to pick one particular element that illustrates how the spirit is working in the parish.

We have bible study, group reunion, ministry to the Seniors in three seniors homes, food bank services and a school lunch program. We have Confirmation classes starting in the fall and Sunday School Programs. We are looking at providing new ministries to youth. We had a group reunion workshop last winter which resulted in revived group reunions in Botwood and Leading Tickles and six people going to the Cursillo Weekend in May.

We are part of outreach programs with the Bay of Exploits Ministerial Association. We participate in the programs offered by ministerial associations such as Graduations, Christmas Kettle program, keep Christ in Christmas, Week of Christian Unity, World Day of Prayer, the food bank, and this year Botwood Come Home Year Celebrations.

These are great opportunities for Christian outreach. We work well with the other denominations. This is shown in St. James Bible Study where we have three denominations represented on any given week. We sometimes have more Salvation Army People in St. Paul’s Church, Glover’s Harbour than Anglicans for worship. Of course St. Paul’s Congregation reciprocate with services in their Church.

One of the most interesting events, and has the greatest potential for outreach is when the Ministerial meets on Wednesday Mornings at 7:30am for prayer and talk. We meet at the Agape Church for prayer for our denominations, for ourselves, for our congregations, and for the world at large. The Wednesday meetings are a source of inspirations for all who meet there.

When we meet we realize who we are:

**“For we are God’s servants, working together, You are God’s field, God’s building.”** We come away feeling revived and soft hearted after a morning of prayer.

## **Parish of Buchans**

The Parish of Buchans has been struggling for the last several years to maintain even a part time Ministry. However, in spite of this there are many ways that it is evident that the Spirit has been moving.

Since their Confirmation this year, we have been blessed with three new servers who are really dedicated to this service and attend the regularly.

A Sunday Brunch is held in the congregation of Buchans on a monthly basis. There is a Men's Group that prepare, cook , serve the meal and clean up after.

The Ministerial is very active in the Parish and we are pleased to be part of the group. We shared services at the home on a rotation basis.

During the season of Lent the Ministerial held services in each church, and on Good Friday we join together in carrying a cross to the center of town, with a prayer service followed by breakfast.

On Easter Sunday morning, as a Ministerial, we gather once again at the cross to rejoice in the risen Lord. This too is followed by a breakfast and fellowship.

In Badger and Millertown we have developed a schedule that allows the sharing of facilities with the United Church. How wonderful to have this opportunity to fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Through government grants over the past year, we have done major renovations on the Parish Hall in Buchans. It is now a great facility for fellowship and fundraising activities. Just very recently, we have installed a new wheelchair accessible bathroom in our church building.

The parish has been blessed with strong commitment of the ACW, and the Altar Guild who work tirelessly to fulfil their Baptismal ministry.

## Parish of Grand Falls

Our good news story is the building of relationships in and for Jesus Christ. As we journeyed through the year, we focused on all members of our congregation--the very young, the youth, adults and seniors. In many areas of church life we were blessed with growth and are excited about what God is calling us to in the year ahead. The following are some examples of our new initiatives.

We had an evening of fellowship with the bible study groups with a pot luck supper with a dinner theatre setting and a movie, "Amazing Grace." Many favorable comments were received and requests for more such evenings. We have a number of very active bible study groups that meet on Thursdays.

The Women's Quiet Day enabled us to meet in faith and friendship, and to share our spiritual journey. We now have ideas to practice in our prayer life to deepen our relationship with Jesus.

We held a first ever Men's Retreat Day. Men of all ages came together to hear Rev. Perry's presentation on "God and Masculinity: What's Expected of Us." It's a great start for many more to come.

The Order of St. Luke group is now visiting the Senior Citizens homes in the area for a service of healing and music, and a time of fellowship and refreshments. The OSL and healing groups are active.

Our first Prayer Workshop for men and women was held. It was an opportunity to explore different ways of communicating with God and with each other through prayer.

We offered the first Youth Alpha program for 11 -14 years of age. It was ten weeks in fellowship with the young people and learning about how to live in a relationship with Jesus. Learning came from talks, discussions, food and fun! Twenty three registered and 21 completed. Each session was a talk with video illustrations, object lessons and personal stories to highlight biblical truths of what Jesus did and taught. Topics include, "Is there more to life than this?", "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did Jesus die?"

As we shared, we are confident of Jesus' promise in John 12:32 "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth will draw all people to myself". We are very pleased with the faithfulness and dedication of these young people and their parents.

Approximately 60 people including parents/guardians attended our last evening of Alpha for fellowship and refreshments. We presented the candidates with certificates and an Alpha course book. The parents expressed their appreciation. Some parents had initially insisted that their child had to come; but after the first few nights, the youth came because **they** wanted to attend. The feedback received indicated that the reaction of the children reached out to the parents.

To involve youth is important so at the end of the Youth Alpha Program, the Alpha Youth Leaders and candidates conducted the 11 a.m. Sunday Service on March 21. The congregation was very supportive throughout our program and very excited to see so many young people attending and involved in the church service. Many of these children had not been attending church.

Because it was such a success, we decided to help them continue their journey by meeting each week for a time of study, fun, games, fellowship, and refreshments. We had 15 young people come for our movie night, and 10 for our activity session. This is an "open" group and new people can come at any time.

One of our greatest assets at Holy Trinity is the large number of leaders in all areas of ministry, and they are so willing and excited about giving of their time and gifts. In the past year, in addition to all the outreach and ministry in our parish, we were able to do much work on our church building and reduce our debt to almost nothing. We are very proud of our building that enables us to come together as the body of Christ in service.

Overall, here at Holy Trinity this year we have been very encouraged and truly blessed. We are excited about what God is calling us to in the year(s) ahead, and will use the success of the past year to build on ministry to our children, young people and adults within the church and in the wider community.

## **Parish of Lewisporte**

### Outreach Ministry

We will share one of our Outreach Ministries—Our Mission to Honduras. Our priest at the time, Rev. David Pilling and Lay delegates at Synod in 1997 were inspired with a presentation by Rev. Roger Hurtubise regarding his work with the Church in Honduras and the great need for “Church Planting”. The poverty, despair, and deplorable living conditions there echoed a cry for HOPE - A “HOPE” that we knew could be found only through the Power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Meetings took place within the Parish and their cry for help was heard. Two and a half years later, luggage bulging with goodwill gifts and musical instruments a Team of 18 set off on a Church Planting Mission to the Honduras . On January 28, 2000, surrounded by love, prayer and faith, this novice group stepped out into unknown territory.

Their first challenge was adapting to an extremely opposite lifestyle in the mountain village of Oropoli - consuming the same daily diet of beans and rice, sharing open concept accommodations with sky your roof, primitive washroom facilities, no electricity, refrigeration, or hot water, complete darkness after 6:pm, roosters crowing all night, cows, dogs, horses, pigs and other animals everywhere, strange insects and crawly creatures, high daytime temperatures and very chilly nights.

Those lifestyle inconveniences were totally overshadowed as the Team experienced the plight of the Hondurans. Those very humble people survived in homes devoid of the very basic necessities of life. They lived in squalor and at times hunger. The Mission Team has many stories and not all are sad but for them this outreach was expressed as Life Changing. There were many joyous and happy times with the residents of Oropoli as they shared the Good News through Prayer, Praise, Teaching and Playing. The ground was tilled; seeds were sown.

Our outreach still continues. A commitment was made to provide yearly financial support to assist with the cost of Lay Pastors. Funds were provided towards purchase of a motor bike. An annual Worship Service is held focusing on the people of Honduras. Updates continue to be received from individuals and through SAMS.

Ten years ago we Planted a Church in Oropoli and today “HOPE” continues to be a part of their lives. Thanks Be To God!

**Parish of Windsor/Bishop's Falls**  
**An Outreach Ministry - Bishop's Falls Correctional Centre**

All parishes, to be successful, should have two areas of focus - an *inward* focus on the needs of the parish, congregations and parishioners, as well as our Church at large. However, an essential need for a true Christian community is to have an *outward* focus on the world at large and the needs of peoples or groups outside of our own Christian faith community.

Within the geographic area of the parish of Windsor/Bishop's Falls is located a Provincial Correctional Centre, that can house up to two dozen minimum security inmates at any given time. For some years our Parish has been conducting a regularly scheduled outreach ministry to this institution. This effort has been led by the Licensed Layministers of St. Andrew's Congregation supported by the skills and enthusiasm of the music groups of St. Alban's and St. Andrew's. Though scheduled for twice per month, we generally conduct more than twenty-four services over the year.

The ministry we offer is worship, music and fellowship. All those incarcerated at the institution are invited to participate not just Anglicans. The inmates seem to enjoy the ministry. Special efforts are made at Christmas to bring that little extra to the inmates via a Christmas Carol Service, followed by fellowship and lunch. The worship format is taken from the Book of Alternate Services using elements of Evening Prayer or Compline. For hymns we use a parish song book developed which has many more modern, upbeat songs.

Whenever our rector is available to attend the worship service, an opportunity is provided for individual inmates to meet privately and personally with the clergy. Clergy also meet with inmates at other times. The rector, layministers and musicians as well as individual members of our parish attend these services.

We do not claim to have experienced any conversions as on the road to Damascus, or startling turnarounds in the lives of inmates. We have, however, been told that our efforts are appreciated, meaningful and a comfort by some of those we attempt to serve. These signs of appreciation have in turn been meaningful to those who have participated in this outreach ministry - after all have we not been told by the Master that one of our obligations as His followers is to visit those in prison as they too are sheep of His fold.