

MAGDALA NEWS

February
2010

LENT / EASTER

OUR MISSION

Claiming the power of Christ to enable us to have meaningful worship, spiritual development and leadership in order to undertake pastoral and outreach ministries. (October, 2005)



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

(Anglican Church of Canada)

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From The Editors

My mother was born in Victorian times. It seems my childhood was punctuated by the wise sayings she would use, many too old-fashioned for this day and age; but they still have an influence on my life and are a happy way for me to be reminded of her. However each age has its own adages and “It takes a village....” came to mind at the recent Annual General Meeting of our parish. Re-read the annual reports and you will see what I mean. So much service and activity by so many people, and all we trust, to the glory of God.

The full quotation of the ancient African saying, “It takes a village to raise a child” was made famous in 1996 by Hilary Clinton in her book titled, “it takes a village: and other lessons children teach us”. Of course the child we are raising is the Christ child himself, whose birth and gift to us we so recently celebrated at Christmas.

How are we doing in this quest? On a day-to-day basis are we looking to find and nurture Christ in one another, or are we too preoccupied with our own needs or too shy or too busy text messaging to pass the time of day with strangers or people in our path?

A recent train trip reminded me how fruitful and enjoyable the give and take of conversation with strangers can be. On VIA Rail it is understood that one should converse with fellow travelers in the dining car and in the dome car too. I met a young man from Germany who was purposely traveling by train to Vancouver so that he would have the opportunity to practice speaking English. That was fun. I met two women who are Anglican and members of our Diocese, each

making a difference in their lives of service, but needing a listening ear because of recent life events. That was an awesome blessing. I met a man with stories to tell, whose mother and aunt had both worked in Stafford making Wedgewood Pottery. This was made all the more interesting because of the pottery exhibition I had just seen at the Royal Ontario Museum. The list goes on.

Perhaps the greatest excitement was that-- you’ll never guess--I actually met Santa Claus himself, hard to miss with his white beard.

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Opinions expressed in articles or notes in this publication are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, The Diocese of Rupert’s Land, or The Anglican Church of Canada.

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From the Rector's Desk



The Reverend
Preston Parsons

I've been reflecting a bit about what it means for a church like ours to have a vision for ministry. In some ways our vision is already provided for us - we are the church so long as we preach the gospel and administer the sacraments.

But there is more to mission and ministry than that, I think. Sure, we can preach the word, and administer the sacraments, but what does it mean for us to be the church in St. Vital? What does it mean to be *this* church, with all of our particularities and personalities?

In an economy of gift, our question isn't "what are we doing as a church?", but "how can we support one another according to how God has gifted each one of us individually?" Part of this will be continuing to identify one another's gifts, another part will be supporting one another in those gifts, according to the desire that God plants within each of us to do good work. When we do things out of duty, we can get dragged down and be joyless. But when we do what we do best, and work according to our gifts, we will

be a place of happiness and joy.

The best analogy that I've come up with, to illustrate this kind of vision, is that of fibre optic cable. And not the single strands that connect your tv to your stereo, but the really, really big bundled cable. When you look at those big bundles of fibre-optic from afar, it looks like a single light. But if you go up close, you find that the big bundle is made up of hundreds of little strands, each carrying light to its end.

Think of the whole cable as the church, and as each stand of the cable as each person in the church, and the light as the light of Christ showing in each of our ministries, as we bear witness to that light.

Our question isn't "what is the ministry of St. Mary Magdalene?" any more than it is "which strand carries the light to the end?" Each of us, carrying out our individual ministries, contributes to the vision of this parish. The question about our ministry is answered best by you. What is your ministry? And how can we best support you in that, and help you carry it out?

As we all give witness to the light of Christ in our ministries, we become, each of us bearers of this one light of grace.

faith and film

February 21st - *Moon*

a futuristic parable about sacrifice, love, and becoming human in the reaches of space

February 28th - *Henry Poole is Here*

a lighthearted comedy about finding hope and healing in unlikely places

March 7th - *The Wrestler*

the life of a washed up hero reveals both grace and the wages of sin

March 14th - *Lars and the Real Girl*

a sociably inept introvert finds belonging - despite his very odd relationship with "Bianca"

March 21st - *My Father My Lord*

exploring piety, idolatry, and the distance between a rabbi and his son, in a retelling of the story of Abraham and Isaac

March 28th - *Gran Torino*

a prejudiced man learns the cost of love, despite unwanted changes in the world around him

hosted by Karen and Preston, in their home
call the office to register (253-0555)

7pm, sunday evenings in lent

Deacon's Corner



The Reverend Deacon
Dayle Michaud

Seasons

We have many seasons in our lives. We live with four distinct seasons, particularly in Manitoba--Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We live with the seasons that come as we move through life from

childhood to teenage years to adult years--middle age, and elder years.

Our adult years bring seasons as well--from the time when we enter into committed relationships, bring new life into the world, become parents, raise children to adulthood, and then move into our later years and become grandparents, and settle into retirement and so on.

The Church has seasons too. In the last piece I wrote in the *Magdala News*, I talked about Advent--we were in that season at that time. Since then we have been through the season of Christmas, and Epiphany. We are now approaching Lent.

When I wrote about Advent, I talked about it being a time of waiting--waiting for the birth of a child--the Christ child. Advent is a time for waiting and reflection, followed by joy and celebration. Lent is a similar season. It is a 40-day season which begins with Ash Wednesday, when we take time to think about our own mortality, and ends with the death of the child we have just welcomed at Christmas and who we mourn on that sad day--Good Friday. Lent is a time to wait and reflect as well--that's why churches very often have Lenten programs. There is much to consider--to ponder. The child that came into the

world--who grew to be a man, to teach, to preach, to heal, to be an example of love, and to show the way, and who died an early death is why we as Christians take the time to reflect. We reflect on why God chose to send us his son--why he had to die a dreadful death on a wooden cross, but then reappeared three days later to those who loved and followed him. We reflect about how this story and example has become a way of life and a following for Christians all over the world, and what it means to each of us, personally, as we walk through the seasons of life.

Let us have a reflective Lent, and think about the seasons of our lives, and the child that was sent to help us understand who God is, and the gift of life.

Blessings as you reflect during Lent, and Joy as you rejoice at Eastertide.

Dayle+

"Silence frees us from the need to control others ... A frantic stream of words flows from us in an attempt to straighten others out. We want so desperately for them to agree with us, to see things our way. We evaluate people, judge people, condemn people. We devour people with our words. Silence is one of the deepest Disciplines of the Spirit simply because it puts the stopper on that."

- **Richard Foster**, *Freedom of Simplicity*

Companions on the Faith Journey

Tim Perry

by *Heather Birtles*

For several months we have been fortunate to have The Reverend Dr Tim Perry with us at Sunday services, and where there is Tim, we can also enjoy fellowship with his wife Rachel and children Calvin, Sara and Huey. Tim came from St. Margaret's to experience parish life at St. Mary Magdalene in a student placement, and after his ordination in November, he continues with us in a Diaconal placement, awaiting his ordination to the priesthood sometime in the near future.

He knows how to dress for winter and could be taken readily for a prairie Canadian, but he did in fact grow up in the upper Ottawa Valley in the village of Shawville, Quebec. Shawville is also the home of the Ottawa Senators' General Manager, Bryan Murray, who was Tim's Grade 1 teacher.

The town is predominantly English speaking, and its economy is based in agriculture. Its history is not well documented, but it was certainly a place of settlement for Irish protestant families during the 19th century. Much of its Victorian brick architecture stands today.

Tim's faith was formed in the Wesleyan church and at 18, he set off to study for three years at a Bible College in Sussex, New Brunswick. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he attended the Ontario Theological Seminary in Toronto for further studies. In 1993 he left for England to study at the University of Durham where he obtained his PhD. Although tempted to spend more time in England, in pursuit of employment he returned to Toronto to teach.

In 1999, Tim accepted a position at

Providence College here in Manitoba. This is where he met Rachel, and they soon married and began to raise their family. Currently they live in Steinbach to be close to Rachel's work. Tim is very busy being a stay-at-home Dad, so doesn't have too much time for hobbies; but his interests lie in writing and he is eagerly awaiting the publication of a book, which is co-authored with his brother Aaron titled *He Ascended into Heaven: Learn to Live an Ascension Shaped Life*. The book is due out in June of this year, so we hope to be invited to the party when it is launched!

We are grateful to Tim for his involvement in the activities of our parish and wish him a long and happy life in God's service. Thank you, Tim, and your family, for being companions with us on the faith journey

(Editorial - continued from page 2)

His red suit I imagine was at the dry cleaners.

He and Mrs. Claus were taking a break after all the excitement, and coming to visit his mother in Winnipeg. He said something about going to Dauphin for Ukrainian Christmas!

In terms of parish life, we are in the season of Lent, an opportunity for reflection and spiritual growth; and then we come to Easter and the fifty glorious days of celebration of Christ's death and resurrection. Let us participate as fully as we are able in all the activities at the church, so that we can be present to one another; but when weather or other reasons prevent us from being physically present, always remember the power of your prayer ministry in support of the work of the church and the individuals involved.

Heather Birtles

In the Parish

St. Matthew's-Maryland Community Ministry

by Barbara Bater and Margaret Jones

Once again this March, our Parish is providing 20 sets of food to be used as prizes for the Nutrition Bingo program.

There is always a need for food for hospitality and emergencies, and so we invite you to donate items on the wish list and to donate food to the emergency food bin.

The annual garden tour will be held in June, and we will be selling tickets so you can attend this enjoyable fundraising event.

Encounter with Canada Trip *by Mike Chan*

In 1978 the Canadian Unity Council assessed the national interest for a pan-Canadian youth program which would raise awareness of Canadians' heritage and institutions.

Encounters with Canada started September 19, 1982. It is our country's largest youth forum. Every week of the school year, 120-138 teens (ages 14-17) from across Canada go to Ottawa. Here they discover the country through each other, learn about Canadian Institutions, meet famous and accomplished Canadians, explore exciting career options, develop their civic leadership skills and live an extraordinary bilingual experience. So far over 81,000 youth have participated in this program.

My experience with Encounters began September 2009. I boarded the plane in

Winnipeg. All Encounters kids sat in one section of the plane. When we arrived at the airport in Ottawa, there was a man with a sign who shuttled us to the Terry Fox Centre. We got to hang out all together for two hours until everyone arrived. During that time we got to meet the chefs. Once everyone one arrived, we played name games and then divided into groups. There were three dorms for the girls and only half a dorm for the guys: no line ups for showers in the morning.

During the week we listened to speeches from Doctors without Borders and United Nations Peace Corp.

We visited the parliament buildings and had our own ceremony at the National War Memorial. We visited the Museum of Nature and had workshops on genetics, viruses and biochemistry. There was a large list of activities to choose from. I chose a Haunted Walking Tour of Ottawa--it was interesting except for the rain.

One activity we participated in was Canada 360, in which representative of each province made their own skit. I was the Golden Boy.

I had a great time and met many new friends from different provinces with whom I still keep in touch.

The Parish Register

Marking major life events and passages in our congregation.

Baptism

Welcome to **Alex Rudnicki-Enns**, son of Glenda and Charles Enns of Edmonton and grandson of Hilda Rudnicki, baptized January 18, 2010, at St. Mary Magdalene.

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Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday worship will take place on February 17. If you have any palms saved from last Palm Sunday, please bring them to be prepared for the imposition of ashes. Call the office for service time (253-0555).

Our Favourite Recipes

Kitchen Table Wisdom, the Youville Clinic cooking group we are in partnership with, recently made some delicious food with a French Canadian flare to honour the Festival du Voyageur.

Here are some of the recipes, shared with permission.

Basic Crepes

1 c All purpose flour
2 Eggs
½ c Milk
½ c Water
¼ tsp Salt
2tbs Butter, melted

In a large mixing bowl whisk together the flour and eggs. Gradually add the milk and water, stirring to combine. Add the salt and butter; beat until smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled skillet or frying pan over medium high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the skillet using approximately ¼ c for each crepe. Tilt the pan slightly using a circular motion so that the batter coats the surface evenly.

Cook the crepe for about two minutes until the underside is light brown. Turn and cook

the opposite surface. Serve hot.

For dessert these are great rolled with a filling of berry fruits and/or lemon and sugar.

French Canadian Pea Soup

1 lb. Peas, dried yellow variety
8 c Water
½ lb Salt Pork
1 Onion
¼ c Carrot, grated
½ c Celery, chopped
¼ c Parsley Leaves chopped
1 tsp Savory
1 Bay leaf
1tsp Salt
1tsp Black pepper

Wash and soak the peas in cold water overnight.

Drain and place peas in large pot. Add water and all the spices. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer approximately two hours until peas are very tender. Add more water if needed.

Remove pork, chop, and return to soup. Discard bay leaf. Season to taste.

For thicker soup, one or two cups can be pureed in the blender and returned to the soup. This is a wonderful dish for a cold day.



YES I COULD MAKE FIVE THOUSAND OF THOSE, BUT A FEW FISH AND SOME BREAD MIGHT BE A BETTER OPTION

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Josie Cantafio	256-0452	Pam Parisian*	253-9848
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Around the Diocese

Seine River Deanery Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Primate's Fund *by Margaret Jones*

St. Luke's Church was the setting on Friday evening, February 5, for a gathering of about 80 people from the Seine River Deanery. We were there to celebrate the 50th year of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

The churches in the Deanery (St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, St. Mary Magdalene, St. Paul, St. Luke, St. Michael & All Angels, St. Mark, Good Shepherd and St. John's College) contributed food and entertainment. Our very own **Nancy Aasland** and **Bev Josefchuk** offered their gifts of music.

And \$800 was donated to the Primate's Fund by those in attendance!

The success of the evening was due in large

part to the work of our Diocesan PWRDF Coordinator, **Susan Roe Finlay**, who organized the whole event so well.

And in Other News . . .

Sharing Worship in Florida *by Margaret Jones*

In January I enjoyed a mini vacation in Florida, and while there attended a worship service at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, St. Pete Beach.

It was a beautiful building, set on a large corner lot. The pews were arranged in a semi-circular format, in sections. The choir sat in one of these sections. There were lovely modern stained glass windows, and Stations of the Cross on the walls. It was obviously a high Anglican parish as most people genuflected as they moved into their seats, and the priest wore a crucifix. Just before the service started, the organist played and sang *Ave Maria*.

I consider it a privilege to worship in a sister church of the World Wide Anglican Communion.

To Haiti, with love by Debra Fieguth

With a flood of donations coming in to help Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12 earthquake, it's clear Canadian Anglicans are moved by compassion and are digging deep.

"I think it's absolutely incredible – there's no limit to the generosity," says Jill Martin, finance and administration team leader for The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

Two weeks after the quake, which killed upwards of 150,000 people and left more than a million homeless, PWRDF had received some \$500,000 in direct donations though cheques and credit card gifts.

And that's only part of the story. "Our office is deluged, but all the work is replicated at the parish level," says Martin. "That figure could substantially increase." It will be a few weeks before parishes across the country have a chance to tally their gifts and forward them to PWRDF. All funds received by February 12 are eligible to be matched by the federal government.

With so much money coming in for one cause, some donors might be wondering how the funds will be used and whether they will be diverted to other causes. Designated donations, Martin explains, must, under law, go where they are designated. "The Haiti funds will go to Haiti."

Because PWRDF has no partners working in Haiti, money for the time being will go through ACT (Action by Churches Together) International. Some funds will also go through a coordinated inter-church response. As well as immediate relief in the form of

clean water, medical supplies, food and temporary shelter, funding will be used to begin reconstruction. (At the time of the quake PWRDF had no established development partners in Haiti, however we are now establishing a working relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti and are preparing for a rehabilitation project with them, in addition to contributing to an ACT rehabilitation project.)

Martin continues to be impressed, not just with the generosity and compassion of Canadian Anglicans, but with how engaged they are. The last time there was a huge disaster, during the tsunami of December 2004, it was largely activism by Anglicans that caused the government to provide matching CIDA funds for denominational agencies. "That kind of activism and engagement is what is so compelling," she says.

During the tsunami, Martin got a strong sense from Anglicans that they shared in the work of PWRDF. The message is "We're not doing this *for* you, we're doing this *with* you." With Haiti, "we've seen that same spirit emerging."

If you are moved to support ongoing emergency response, consider a regular donation to PWRDF. Anglicans are making a difference.

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A Trip Covering over 470 Degrees of Longitude: Part 3
 by Alan Forest

At the end of Part 2 of my report, I was in Tokyo. From there I took the longest flight of my trip. It took 12¼ hours, flying against the jets-stream, to get back to Frankfurt. Then I took a short hop to Nuremberg, only to find that my reservation had gone wrong, and the hotel where I was supposed to have a reservation was fully booked. Anyway, they found me another place to stay.

I have made a number of visits to Nuremberg. There are some scary aspects to the city, as it was a Nazi stronghold. In spite of its utter devastation during WW 2, it was re-built, and is rather picturesque.



The Albrecht Dürer Haus (above), the well known Nuremberg printmaker. A couple of Dürer's well known works are his "Praying Hands" (top right) and "The Hare" (centre right): Albrecht Dürer 1471 – 1528.

I visited an industrial museum, with some interesting exhibits. There was an early BMW 600, built in 1958. It had a 582cc engine, a max speed 103 km/hr. How things have changed!

From Germany I went to England, to visit the factory where I worked from 1954 to 1974. However, I will leave that story for next time.

