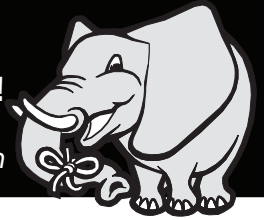


The Rivers' Light



Don't forget!
Clocks go ahead one hour
on the evening of March 11th

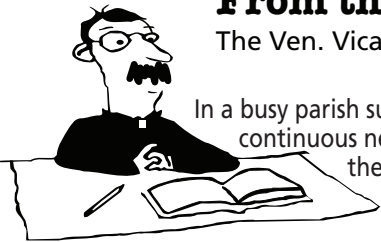


March, 2007 ♦ Vol. 3 ♦ Issue 1

St. Paul's, Oak Point ♦ The Church of the Resurrection, Grand-Bay/Westfield

From the Rector's Desk

The Ven. Vicars Hodge



In a busy parish such as ours, there is an ongoing and continuous need for communication – so that all the diverse areas, ministries, ages, and congregations are kept in touch with what is happening in our

Church. A great deal of communication effort and activity goes on here every week – and yet, no matter how much we do, there is always more needed. That is just the nature of our reality. One of the very important vehicles for communication is the Rivers Light, our Newsletter – it reaches every home in our parish and others beyond through our website.

A quick glance at this Lent issue makes it clear that there is a great deal of ministry taking place in our parish. To be sure there are many places where we would like to improve – but we can only do as much as we can do as fast as we can. And certainly we are doing some things very well. In this issue you will read about our Puppet Team, our Salt Reef Children ministry, Youth Ministry, progress in our building program, our Lent Mission and a Newcomers Brunch. One of the most fondly held dreams of those who went through all the pain of amalgamation was that the new church would become the sort of Christian community that could cultivate a diversity of ministries by and with various ages and groups and reflect the light of Christ into our area and beyond.

All Churches are all either growing or shrinking. The key to congregational growth is to have your leadership team and parishioners focused on the call of the Gospel and on a shared vision of how that might be done. This is the secret to a healthy church community – and healthy churches grow. We talk quite a bit about our Mission Statement – and there is a reason for that. If we can keep ourselves aimed at the same goal and travel the road together – we will be faithful as a church and experience the blessing of God that flows out of faithfulness.

One of the widely accepted conclusions of a couple decades of study of growing and shrinking churches is simply this. Churches are either shrinking or growing – and the ones that are growing are generally speaking, focused on Christ and have a plan. These churches have an understood goal that is communicated regularly. Growing churches usually are not trying to be all things to all people – they realize that they cannot do all things with excellence – so they make some choices. One of the choices we have made is that we will be particularly attentive to the needs and aspirations of young people and youth. Another clear priority for us is that we want to provide good quality pastoral care to those who because of age or illness are unable to be physically present when the church gathers. To enhance our ministries in these areas we have added two people, both part-time, to our pastoral staff.

Marie-Hélène Morell is our new Youth Minister, who began her ministry here on February 1st. She is an enthusiastic Christian with

gifts and aptitudes that will be a real blessing in our church. Her responsibilities are focused on ministry by, with and to our younger members: our youth, and young adults. Most of the time, when you find Marie-Hélène you will find Jamie, her husband nearby. For her first month or so she is simply trying to get the feel of the place, meet our youth and other leaders, fit herself into youth ministry as it is already unfolding in this church. Very soon you will see some new initiatives and ideas begin to emerge – already there is a plan afoot for a 'family night' to become a regular part of our church life.

The other new face on our ministry team is the Rev. Canon Ed Coleman – his ministry as Pastoral Assistant commenced January 1st. He will be working about half-time – Tuesdays through Thursday and three Sundays a month. His responsibilities will be chiefly in taking a share of liturgical leadership and in pastoral care. Week by week, Ed will be involved in our Sunday worship – rotating through our various services. And he will be spending three afternoons a week on pastoral visiting – in homes and hospitals. These are ministries for which Ed, a 26 year veteran of pastoral ministry, is particularly gifted. Ed also gives leadership to our Wednesday evening Christian Education evening, which, at the present time consists of a LIFE group that are looking each week at the upcoming week's scriptures and learning a bit about Ignatian Spirituality. I do hope you will make Ed and his wife Ruth very welcome in our parish.

I want to particularly commend to all our parishioners – and their friends and neighbours – our Lenten Mission – March 17 to 20. Of course our chief goal is to provide an opportunity for all who participate to be energized and renewed in their faith as we continue the pilgrimage of following Jesus as our Lord. This year's missionary is the recently retired Bishop of Western Newfoundland, the Rt. Rev. Len Whitten. He has a solid reputation as a Biblical preacher and teacher – and a great encouragement to the whole church. While the mission really gets underway on Sunday morning March 18 – the evening before the Bishop will join us for a pot-luck supper. Bishop Whitten will be speaking about refreshing waters that Jesus seems to be so often pointing to. I know this will be an exciting time in the life of our church and urge you to circle the dates and keep these days free.

A news item that is in the works at 'press-time' is another mission type ministry that is being planned for April 22 and 26-28, 2007. A group of students (and some of the teaching staff) from Taylor College (Church Army) will be offering a variety of ministry and pastoral events and activities in our parish. This will be part of their preparation and training as Commissioned Evangelists and will no doubt be a great encouragement for the people of our church. These plans are at present just begun – but I am excited about the possibilities. So note these dates as well!

I pray this will find you well and that you will have a holy Lent as we move toward Easter.

Blessings to you all!

Vicars Hodge



"Building of Faith for Tomorrow" Campaign

The *Building of Faith for Tomorrow Capital Campaign* fund continues to grow. In the first two months of 2007 we have added almost another \$22,000 in pledged funds to the account. Our total received for the capital campaign pledged funds now stands at \$325,311.44. This represents 49.7% of the total commitments made to the campaign.

By the grace of God and thanks to your commitment, our stewardship program is making our vision a reality. If you have not made a commitment to the campaign but would like to, please contact Andrew Logan 635-2625 or Jean Wilson at 757-8004. With work on the church site starting already, every dollar received means one less dollar we have to borrow.

It is a privilege to give unto the Lord and to follow His leading. "Freely ye have received; freely give." Matthew 10:8

Jean Wilson, Parish Treasurer and co-chair with husband David, for the Capital Campaign Follow-up Committee

Is it Brunch or Binner?

A **Newcomers Brunch** was held on **Saturday, March 10th**, at the parish centre. This was a way to meet and greet some of the new faces we have welcomed into our church family since last fall and familiarize them with some of the great ministries we extend. The brunch included a variety of quiche, spring salad, breads and a delicious dessert of fruit and marscapone cheese in puffed pastry shells. Thanks to everyone who helped – it's tough being new - but food definitely helps!

Cindy Price, Congregational Development



Celebrating with cake!

- a great Anglican past time -

Bottom left is a real Valentine's sweetheart, Doris Wilson (February 14) and at top left is the dashing Jack Crabb (January 21st)



Focus on youth.

Marie Hamilton, Sunday School

Hey everybody,



It's Francis from the SALT REEF. It's still a great place to hang out on Sunday mornings. I've been missing some of you kids, where have you been this winter? Basketball? Hockey? I hope you just haven't been sleeping in ...my mom won't let me sleep in on Sunday mornings, she says I need to be in Sunday

school and guess what? She's right - every time I come to the REEF and hang out with my friends, singing with Jamie and listening to my teacher tell me stories about Jesus and getting a blessing from Father Vic, I just feel GREAT!!!! And then it really helps me have a good week at school and at home! Plus the kids and I are having so much fun building our mountain of food for the River Valley Food Bank. Each week until Easter we bring in non-perishable food items, like drinking boxes, snack crackers ~ all the yummy stuff we like for our lunches ~ and we donate them to the food bank. We are still bringing in our pennies to support the Children of the Dump mission with our "Fresh Fruit Fund". So far we have \$53.00 in pennies collected. Did you know that one roll of pennies will feed one child a hot meal? We can feed 106 children so far. YEAH! ~ SALT REEF KIDS!!!! That is amazing ~ and so cool! Thanks kids for sharing your blessings both locally and internationally. We are going to keep saving our pennies until June and then send them off to Lynn and she'll make sure the children of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, get some good food and fresh fruit from all of us at the SALT REEF. So keep those pennies coming!

I've been busy since Christmas; sometimes I hang out with the big people when we have the Children's Focus at the beginning of church. Father Vic is pretty cool to talk to and he told me that it's ok to be a little person and try to help people ~ that we all can make a difference, no matter how big or small or how young or old, every one of us has a place and a part in God's family, I like that idea how about you? We even got the whole big group at church, wait a minute I think they call them the "congregation" to do what we've been doing at the REEF, we do prayer circle with everyone. It's awesome to see everybody join hands and pray together, like a big family at dinnertime! Well that's what it reminds me of, like when all my relatives come for Easter dinner and we all squeeze around the table, holding hands and praying. The kids wanted me to make sure I tell everybody at church "thanks" for helping us out with that. We love it!

We have some special things coming up...the kids at the REEF are going to have a visit from Bishop Len Whitten in March while he's visiting our parish. We've got another Super Sunday coming in April! I can't wait! We have so much fun on Super Sunday's. Hummmm....I wonder if Bishop Whitten likes cupcakes?

Bonjour Marie-Hélène Morell ...Our new youth minister!

Marie and her husband, Jamie.



Hello everyone,

Let me tell you a bit about myself.

After my graduation from SJHS in 2003, I headed to Montreal for a Discipleship Training School with Youth With A Mission. There I took part in 3 months of training, teaching, being mentored, and experiencing different faces of ministry. The next 3 months were spent on outreach in Mexico where I had the privilege of working with many different groups and churches, doing evangelism, puppets and friendship ministry. I loved YWAM so much that I went back the following year as a part of the Montreal staff team. There I was stretched, being a very young leader (19) and faced with many challenges that come with putting 20 young adults into an intensive spiritual pressure-cooker. My friend Ben Peterson and I then led a 2-month team to Paris and Geneva where we did lots of creative evangelism and encouraged several churches. Leading a mission team was definitely a huge growing experience for me, and only served to whet my appetite for missions. Early on I felt God calling me to disciple children and youth. This was accentuated when I spent 2 summers working at Camp Medley. Counseling young girls and seeing them come to know God more just made me come alive!

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. - 1 Tim. 4:12

The Salt Reef Sr. Puppet Team was recently asked by the 1st Ketepec Girl Guides to perform and assist the guides in earning their performance badge. After two fun packed night's, 18 guides were awarded their performance badge.

Before the team could perform their skit and songs they needed a stage. The guides were divided into groups and each group was handed a job. The stage had to be put together, the great invention of duct tape had to be applied to the stage, curtains had to be put on, cushions had to be put into place (very sore knees if we don't have these), and the props for the skit had to be laid out in place. And what would the puppets be without songs. So the sound equipment was hooked up with music ready to be played. With set up all done, the performance was able to begin. The team performed the skit and songs on forgiveness that was recently performed for the children at Salt Reef on Nov. 18 at the Church of the Resurrection. Following the performance, Pete and Kelly Ann MacGougan showed the 5 basics of puppetry to the guides and leaders. Pete did try to use the escalator a few times to come on stage but after a little of coaching from Kelly Ann mastered the correct way to enter and exit the stage.

The puppet team then helped the guides made their own sock puppets. The guides were then divided into three groups of 9 -10 to learn a song with actions. The guides practiced, practiced and practiced some more. After getting the hang of puppetry and much complaining of their arms hurting, each group then performed their song with actions for their fellow guiders and guide leaders. They all did a great job!

It was great two evenings of laughs and learning by all who attended. It's amazing to see how not just the children light up whenever they see or use a puppet. It's such a great way to help spread the great word of God. Both of our puppet teams prove this every time they perform. ***You all deserve a great big pat on the back!***

Since I was young I participated in King's Kids summer camps, (King's Kids is a family/children division of YWAM) where I got my feet wet doing short-term outreaches. In these camps I had several strong experiences with the Lord, and I firmly believe that children have a huge capacity to know God. I think that in the church today, we have underestimated this capacity, thus we are not seeing our children reach to their full potential in Christ. What I am passionate to see happen at the Church of the Resurrection is the full re-integration of children and youth into the Body of Christ. I believe that when all the generations are united together, the church will be truly life-giving.

This begins with families. The family is where true discipleship happens.

That is why Jamie and I do not want to limit our giving to the youth, but also focus on the family. If a child does not know God in the context of family, it is much more difficult to disciple them outside of it.

Our goal is to seek God in His will for the youth and families of this parish, and to follow Him one step at a time in the direction He shows us. I believe if there is some new 'strategy' out there for bringing people to know God, then He must know it! Let us seek Him together to discover how to further His kingdom.

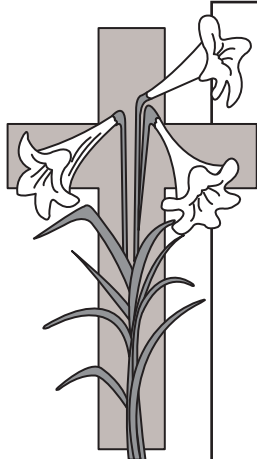
Let us know what you think.

Puppets in Motion

*Kelly Ann MacGougan,
Puppet Team Leader*



Easter / Holy Week Services



*Palm Sunday, April 1 -
Holy Monday, April 2 -
Holy Tuesday, April 3 -
Holy Wednesday, April 4 -*

*Maundy Thursday, April 5 -
(Parish Centre)*

Good Friday, April 6 -

Eve of Easter, Saturday, April 7 -

Easter Sunday, April 8 -

services as normally scheduled
7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, St. Paul's, Oak Point
7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer, Parish Centre
7:30 p.m. Evening Prayer with dramatized Story-telling of the Passion Gospel by the Rev. Paul Donnison, Parish Centre
6:15 p.m. Potluck dinner - including a Seder Meal to help us understand what the Last Supper may have been like;
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, the symbolic washing of the feet and stripping of the Altar
10:30 a.m. Celebration of Our Lord's Passion, River Valley Middle School
7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter, River Valley Middle School, the first service of Easter with renewal of Baptismal Covenant
Refreshments after service
services resume as normally scheduled

2007 Lenten Mission

Saturday, March 17, 6:15 p.m. - Pre-Lenten Mission Potluck Supper
This is an opportunity to gather the community as a whole and welcome Bishop Len Whitten who will be speaking, as a leader, to all leadership on the subject of leadership itself. All are welcome.

This is an invitation to everyone to come and join us for a mission journey from March 18th to March 20th, 2007. This year the parish will have a special missionary all the way from the "Rock" - The Rt. Rev. Leonard Whitten, retired Bishop of Western Newfoundland. Bishop Whitten and his wife June are people of prayer whose desire it is to lead people to Christ and then into a deeper walk on that journey. They are strong supporters of Teens Encounter Christ, Alpha and Christian renewal. The theme of this year's mission is "Living Waters" which will be a call to refreshing and renewal as individuals and as community. The times and dates are as follows:

Sunday, March 18, 2007 10:00 a.m.	"Water for Cleansing"	River Valley Middle School
Sunday, March 18, 2007 3:00 p.m.	"Ministry that Points to God"	St. Paul's, Oak Point
Monday, March 19, 2007 7:00 p.m.	"Water for Healing"	Parish Centre
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 7:00 p.m.	"Water for Renewal"	Parish Centre

There will also be Bible studies as shown below:

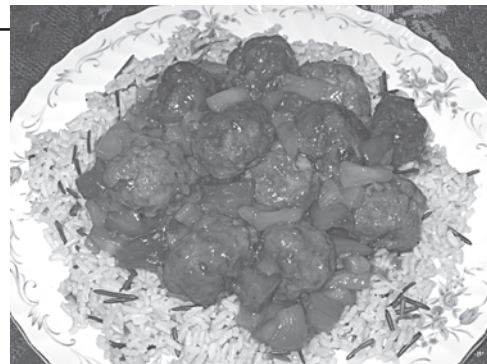
Monday, March 19, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Parish Centre	A Bible Message for Seniors	
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 1:00 p.m.	Parish Centre	Tuesday, March 20, 2007 10:30 a.m.	Kiwanis Lodge

At the Tuesday evening meeting, the parish will also have as their guest the Rev. Paul Donnison, a shakespearean actor who will be performing a dramatic reading of scripture.

Did you know that of all the rock around, our new property site has the best rock -- local construction company, **Keele Construction**, has done their preliminary work excavating and the **rock bed is easy to break-down**; no need to blast - and that's good news because it will cost a lot less to prepare for construction. Also, the mechanical engineers have done their **preliminary work mapping** out the electrical, plumbing and HVAC system.

*Can't get away to any place warm and sunny?
Try these Waikiki Meatballs and you'll think you're on the beach,
sipping a tall, cool drink with the waves tickling your toes!*

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 1/2 lb. ground beef | 2 Tbsp. cornstarch |
| 2/3 cup cracker crumbs | 1/2 cup packed brown sugar |
| 1/3 cup minced onion | 1 (13oz.) can pineapple bits |
| 1 egg | 1/3 cup vinegar |
| 1 1/2 tsp. salt | 1 Tbsp. soya sauce |
| 1/2 tsp. ginger | 1/2 cup chopped green pepper |
| 1/4 cup milk | |



- submitted by Kelly Ann MacGougan

Mix meat, crumbs, onion, egg, salt, ginger and milk. Shape mixture into balls. Brown and cook meatballs. Pour fat from skillet. Mix cornstarch and sugar. Stir in reserved syrup from drained pineapple bits, vinegar and soy sauce until smooth. Cook, over medium heat, stirring it constantly until the mixture thickens and boils. Continue to boil and stir for 1 minute. Add meatballs, pineapple bits and green pepper. Cook in oven 20-25 minutes until green peppers are slightly soften.

