

The Rivers' Light



Vacation Bible School
· see reverse for more
information! ·

June, 2008 ♦ Vol. 4 ♦ Issue 1

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



From the Rector's Desk

The Ven. Vicars Hodge

Dear friends in Christ

The first news that everyone will be glad to hear is that our construction project is truly underway. The first of the regular "job meetings" was held last week – and all is set to move forward. Digging trenches – including a bit more rock removal – is presently underway. (see picture at right). Soon we will be pouring concrete for the footing course – and after that the building will be assembled and then the slab poured. The process will take about six months – so we have every hope of being in our building for Christmas. Six months from today is the feast of St. Nicholas – wouldn't that be a well received gift! Specific questions regarding construction are best answered by Andrew Logan (Building Committee Chair) and Gerry Peer (our site supervisor.)

Summer is now almost upon us – a welcome time of rest and refreshment that we all need. Sabbath time is needed in all our lives – and so it is right that some of the parish schedule eases up in Summer. Some of you will be away at cottages or travelling to visit with friends and family. During our July vacation, Carole and I will be in Manitoba – another family wedding and a visit with Jenna & Yves and our grandson, Aidan. We plan to spend our last week of vacation at a cottage on PEI. Erin will be working this Summer at Camp Brookwood and Andrew will likely be doing some course work at STU. I do pray that you will enjoy some rejuvenation time during our Summer Sabbath. Summer brings some changes in routine – however, our need of God – and our deep need to worship never goes on vacation. As the Apostle reminds us: ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Hebrews 10:23-25)

It needs to be said each year that our operating costs continue unabated during Summer – however our attendance and income usually drop. More and more of our parishioners have adopted E-Offering as a way to ensure that your gift gets to church, even if you don't. More information on this can be obtained from Jean Wilson (Treasurer),



Sandra Morton (Envelope Secretary) or at: http://anglican.nb.ca/synod/finance/e_offering/index.html

Other parishioners leave a series of post-dated cheques with the envelope secretary – and we are grateful for your thoughtfulness in this.

Summer brings some changes in routine – however, our need of God – and our deep need to worship – never goes on vacation.

For July and August we will be making some changes to our Worship Schedule that I am sure will be welcomed – **for these two months only** we will move out of the River Valley Middle School – and both services will be held at the Parish Centre. So we will have an 8 a.m. said-service of Holy Communion (as usual) and the principal service at 9:30 a.m. Our fellowship time will be between the services – from about 8:45 till 9:20 p.m. This means we will not have to put up with the airless theatre during the hot and sticky months – and we will save some money as well.

Parish Staff and lay leadership have been doing some preliminary planning for our Fall Season to begin in September. While a few items are still being worked on – here is a sampling of what we anticipate:

· *A monthly inter-generational evening – with a shared meal and opportunity for fun together for old and young.*

- *The Marriage Alpha Course – helping married couples build a healthy marriage to last a lifetime.*
- *The Alpha Course – an opportunity to think about the meaning of life and an introduction to the basic shape of Christian faith.*
- *Challenging Lifestyles – a nineteen week look at the Sermon on the Mount and the radical challenge it presents to the modern lifestyle. A course for committed and maturing Christians.*
- *Youth Alpha – on Wednesday evenings our Youth Group will explore the meaning of life using this wonderful life-changing material.*
- *A confirmation class – for those who want to consider the commitment of being Confirmed.*
- *A regular "Movie Night" in which people of all ages will be able to watch a movie together and share a few minutes of reflection afterwards.*

Our Salt Reef will wind up its regular Sunday ministry with Children next Sunday June 22nd. We are blessed with a wonderful team of teachers and two of the best Sunday School Superintendents that I have ever worked with. Marie Hamilton & Jamie Whittaker and their team have had a wonderful year with our children – and they have already ordered curriculum for our Fall children's ministry. In order to ensure that there is a real 'Sabbath Rest' for our Salt Reef teachers – and yet to ensure that we also have something for Children each Sunday during the summer – we have made some plans that will not require our usual teachers to be involved. Summer Sundays will include a Christian Video for Children – shown downstairs at the parish centre during the principal service – with a different parent/grandparent volunteer each week. Emily McCoy will be coordinating the volunteers. If you can take a turn please contact her or the parish office.

I want to say a particular word of appreciation to Cindy Price – Communications Chair from our Vestry who is the editor of the Rivers Light Newsletter. This is a big task – and Cindy brings her particular creative flair to the task. It is not easy pulling this together – and beyond the task of marshalling all the words – there is also the challenge of chasing down the writers and contributors. We are grateful to you Cindy for her ministry.

My prayer is that this newsletter gives some encouragement to all of our parishioners. May God bless you all!

Vicars Hodge

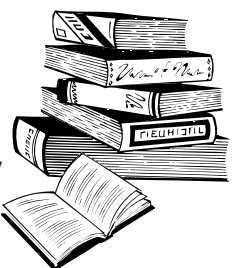
The Ven. Vicars Hodge
Rector



BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY JUNE 8TH CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF '08

Pictured here are some of the graduates who each received a Bible and much deserved attention as they close a chapter in their educational lives and prepare themselves to move forward with their dreams. Shown here, left to right, Danielle London (*Saint John High*), Kristina Hogan (*Saint Malachy's High*), Elyse McWilliams (*Saint John High*), Erin Hodge (*Saint John High*) with 'Dad' in the middle (our Rector), Emma Logan (*University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, with a Bachelor of Science*), Hannah Palmer (*Harbour View High*), Alyson Cosman (*Harbour View High*) and Emily Nearing (*Harbour View High*).

Congratulations also go out to Sara Carson (*University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, with a Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Environmental Management*), Avril Toner (*Master's Certificate in Special Education with a speciality in Autism*), Catherine Tunney (*Harbour View High*), Jordan Vallis (*Harbour View High*), Sarah Machum (*Harbour View High*), Justin Lohnes (*Harbour View High*) and Jason Smith (*Memorial University with a Bachelor of Education*) who are all on our minds and in our hearts!



Get ready for...



VBS 2008

When: July 14 - 18, 9am - Noon

Where: Parish Centre

Who: All kids ages 4 to 12

What: Stories, Games, Crafts, Snacks, and Learning about God in a fun and colourful way!

Each day will be celebrated with a different colour:

Monday - Green

Tuesday - Black

Wednesday - Red

Thursday - Blue

Friday - Yellow

For more information, call the parish office at 738-3474.

An Evening to Plan for this Fall

Vestry has approved the request for a large scale fundraising event that is presently in the planning stages by Andrew McKay who oversees Fundraising for our parish.

The evening is scheduled for **Friday, October 24th, at 6:00 p.m.** and will include a served dinner with entertainment and a silent auction.

We will be looking for input from groups outside of our Anglican community for their assistance with the meal, the venue and the entertainment.

The children will also be having their own evening off-site at the Parish Centre. This undertaking will be managed by Marie-

Hélène, our youth minister, and her youth groups. They will have full reign in organizing this special evening for the kids which will be happening simultaneously to the adults evening. It is a great mentoring opportunity for the youth to take a leadership role in making it a night all their own.

More information will follow over the summer as the plans come together. This will also give everyone time to set that evening aside. In addition, we will be promoting the event outside of our parish community within the diocese at large.

Any questions, please contact Andrew McKay or Cindy Price.



Fran and Charles Dupuis with their grandson Jack.

The Parish Welcomes The Dupuis's

Returning to the Grand Bay area, Fran and Charles and their grandson Jack joined the Church of the Resurrection last December. Asked about why they decided to join this church, they unanimously proclaimed, 'The people! We've never met such a genuinely warm and friendly group of people. They reached out to us immediately'.

Fran loves the make-up of the services; quite different from the high Church of England. Jack really likes Sunday School and both Fran and Charles were absolutely smitten with their first introduction to Alpha.

But what also endears them to the Church of the Resurrection is the Rector, Vicars Hodge. 'We just love the sermons; Rev'd Hodge explains everything so well and it's easy to understand the whole context of the service.' **Welcome Fran, Charles and Jack to our family!**

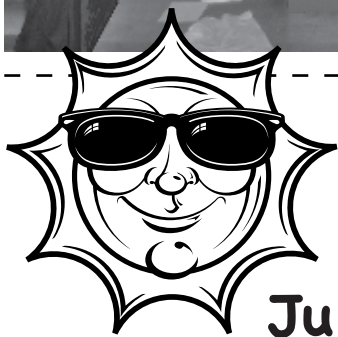


Emily & Esther's Famous Yard Sales

You can always count on some terrific finds at the weekly yard sales held at the Parish Centre, every Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m., coordinated by no other than Emily McCoy and Esther Chapman (shown to the left) and their dedicated committee of people who coordinate drop off, sorting, pricing, storing and plain old dependability in being there every Saturday, rain or shine.

If you have any articles to donate, they can be dropped off at the Parish Centre from Monday to Thursday, at 9:00 a.m. to noon. Or call Emily McCoy at 738-3474 to arrange an alternate drop-off.

In just two Saturdays since the beginning of this year's Yard Sale Extravaganza, they have collected over \$1,600.00!

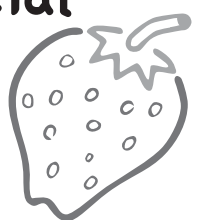


Changes in the Summer Service Schedule
July and August only!

Church of the Resurrection
8:00 a.m. • Parish Centre
Fellowship at the Parish Centre
8:45 a.m.

Church of the Resurrection
9:30 a.m. • Parish Centre
St. Paul's
10:00 a.m. • Oak Point

Come celebrate our
FIVE YEAR PARISH ANNIVERSARY
with a **Strawberry Social**
Sunday, June 29
3:30 p.m.,
at the Parish Centre



This will be an informal reception providing opportunity for people to mingle and enjoy cold drinks and strawberry shortcake. We will then have the privilege of being introduced to the Very Rev. John Wright of the Anglican Foundation as our guest. Dean Wright will engage in a short exchange about the work of the Anglican Foundation. **What a blessing these five years have been, providing our parish with so many great events and introductions to many interesting people!**