

THE SOWER

REGIONAL NEWS AND FEATURES
FROM THE DIOCESE OF CALGARY

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Blessing Our Troops



Ready to serve, 20 year old Jay Young received a blessing in Medicine Hat before leaving for Afghanistan.

they are going to do good and going to help people for seven months.”

Facts often unreported about Afghanistan are that children have returned to schools and women can now safely collect water because of the protective military presence.

“And even though we don’t typically think of soldiers this way because of war and weapons, God does work in our lives and calls us out into various places to do things. And what was happening there was the legitimate government of Afghanistan asking for the Canadian military to come in, help with some resettling and keep peace and some order.” the Rev. Ronda Ploughman, priest of All Saints recalls.

Some of Jay’s friends were also going over. Their families and Canadian Forces Base Suffield provide support. To add to the support system, All Saints planned a blessing of the troops. Only Jay’s family attends the Anglican Church. After determining that they all were willing to receive the blessing, the service was designed to be ecumenical to include all the families. Music and psalms were chosen to capture the fullness and breadth of the human conversation with God.

Ronda reports, “The prayers held all those too. We are praising

you but we are bit scared too. We didn’t want it to be about war-mongering. We wanted it to be about justice – God’s justice. Individual parishioners led prayers or read from their pews.”

Voices coming from amidst the congregation emphasized the community involvement. When the troops received the blessing, lay reader Gloria Schirok recalls, “We always pray for the soldiers and people who are in these conflicts in other places but this really gave faces and names to the soldiers who were going to go. It made it more meaningful than just praying for all the soldiers, although our

prayers did include soldiers from both sides of the conflict.

“I really believe strongly in ecumenism and getting along. We live together; we should all get along and get to know each other. It was really special that those families were willing to come and those boys were willing to come forward and receive a blessing. It just gave us a real sense of Medicine Hat community working together.”

Please let us know if you have held a service for troops or civilian support workers in your parish, and send us the names of any Anglicans serving in areas of conflict.



Proud parents Bill Young (left) and Catherine Young (right) stand with their son Jay slated for seven months in Afghanistan.

by Tim Christison

A blessing service for three very young soldiers deployed to Afghanistan has a powerful and lasting impact on the members of All Saints, Medicine Hat. They have a stronger sense of community, a closer glimpse of the impact of soldiering and their own commission to pray for the men and their families.

Catherine Young, a member of All Saints and mother of twenty-

year-old volunteer reservist Private Jay Young, says, “That service showed me just how much of a community this is and I felt overwhelmed by the support that was evident that morning. Everyone came up and hugged us. It was quite emotional. It was all a positive experience.”

“Ronda [Ploughman] geared the service towards these young men. It spoke to them and it spoke to the parents. Ronda talked about how

On the Road Again

by Laurel Hatch

The Diocese of Calgary Vanning Program is up and running again this summer!

If you’re driving the highways of Southern Alberta this coming summer, watch for a shiny van carrying dozens of Rubbermaid bins full of craft supplies and story books to a rural Anglican church near you. The Vanning Program

has been running in Alberta since 1972 and we are pleased to maintain the tradition with another program starting at the beginning of July 2008. Vanners will visit rural Anglican churches, bringing a Vacation Bible School with them. This program is at no cost to the hosting parish and welcomes children from the surrounding community.

We are currently looking for Vanners, young men and women between the ages of 19 and 22, to lead the programs for children in rural communities for the months of July and August. The positions are full time and a competitive salary is offered to the successful candidates. Experience with children is important, as is a desire to show God’s love to everyone. Vanners are billeted with people in the rural communities where they are running their programs and spend their dinners

with various members of the parish they are visiting. Summer mornings are filled with running the program and the afternoons with preparation and some down-time. Before hitting the road, all Vanners are commissioned by the Bishop or his designate. Dates for the mandatory training weekend will be posted. To apply, please email your resume to vanningprogram@yahoo.ca.

To send one team of Vanners for a full eight week summer costs about \$22,000. This covers the leasing of their vehicle, gas, insurance, lunches for the Vanners, small parish host gifts, craft supplies, and much more. Please ask for the Lord’s wisdom when it comes to supporting the program. If you or your parish feel able to contribute please send your cheque to Dorothy Schultz at the Synod Office made payable to the ‘Diocese of

Calgary Vanning Program’.

We are also looking for additional volunteers to join our committee. The Vanning committee oversees the hiring and training of the Vanners, as well as the leasing of the vehicles, on-call support for the Vanners, and much more. To volunteer please contact vanningprogram@yahoo.ca.

If your parish is interested in hosting Vanners, please contact Susan Pedersen in the Diocesan office at spedersen@calgary.anglican.ca.

Above all else, your prayerful support for the Vanners, the parishes they will visit, all the children who will come to know more about God’s love this summer and for the committee would be very much appreciated.

Laurel Hatch is the public relations and recruitment member of the Diocese of Calgary Vanning Committee.



Taking advantage of summer in God’s country, Vanners bring their programs outside.

Dear Friends in Christ,

For the first three months of 2008 I encouraged us to think about our stewardship of the resources which God has given to us, especially with the goal of reducing our carbon footprint. This is one way to approach the question: are we a Healthy Parish...a Healthy Diocese? To rephrase Luke 16:10-12, if we are not responsible in small matters, how can we expect to be given responsibility for greater ones?

What is one of the greater things that we will receive responsibility for when the Lord judges us ready? The most important responsibility we will ever receive during our life on earth is revealed in Luke 24:13-34 (the Walk to Emmaus). Take a moment to read that passage about one of Our Lord's resurrection appearances.

A great story! A story that you could likely tell to a Sunday School class in your own words.

Now, can you think of a time in your life when you were like the disciples in the story? Disheartened, confused, at a loss what to do next, faced with a situation that seemed impossible? What did you do? The disciples went for a walk. Did you? What happened on that walk? I



From the Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Derek Hoskin

think something happened or you would not be a person of faith today. What has been different in your life as a result of that encounter?

All of these questions are pertinent to our exploration about what it means to be a Healthy Parish. A healthy parish is composed of people who have a story to share. It is the story of how they encountered The Story that embraces the Beginning and the End of all that was, is, and will be. In telling their story the person is sharing The Story of how God brought them out of Darkness into Light. You are that person. Your story is important.

As you responsibly share it, others will rejoice that the living God walks with us, just as He did on the Walk to Emmaus.

Yes, there are dangers when we share our story that is why I said "responsibly" share. How do we learn to do this? We learn in the safety and security of our parish family, in small groups. Such groups are available through programs like Alpha, EFM, Cursillo, TEC, and others. As a result of these small group experiences we become better equipped to share our story as a way of introducing another person to The Story of how God so loved the world.

A Healthy Parish is intentional about helping people articulate their story in their own words so that when the opportunity comes they will be ready to take on greater responsibility.

Where do we begin? Perhaps a place to begin is to read this article again and wrestle with the questions...not just alone, but as a parish family.

The Lord bless you as you share your story.

Derek
Bishop of Calgary

Dear Readers,

Throughout my life, the arts have nourished and sustained me as my vocation and as an avocation. Sometimes I confess, I play music or read a book to escape reality. And who wouldn't want an escape these days from the confusion, rancor and litigation that has invaded our beloved church? I've been reading more than usual lately and trying not to read all the press releases but instead read biographies of those who were tolerant but principled.

I chide myself that I need to remain present and listen but it has been in preparatory reading for Education for Ministry seminars that I have found hope. As we study church history in year three and four of EFM, we learn how fraught



From the Editor's Desk

Tim Christison

with varying and differing perspectives our history has been.

Our group is quite eclectic with scientists and artists, a wide age range, cradle Anglicans as well

as those who have come to Anglicanism as adults from other faiths. But we are open to others' views and our debates are lively and respectful.

In an EFM exercise recently, we experienced the difficulty in achieving a consensus on creeds or a metaphor for Jesus. Even after accepting individuals' image of Jesus, we could not agree on a few simple words that then we all could proclaim, "We believe ..."

We could laugh, leave our attempt and move onto something else. Our leaders can't. They must daily struggle to find that place of tolerance, and those few simple words we can all proclaim and live by.

Your Editor,
Tim Christison
sower@shaw.ca

Your comments, emails, letters, conversations and phone calls indicate that you read and enjoy the Sower. More and more of you are sending in articles, opinions, letters to the editor, brief notes on events, and supplying photos that amuse, inform and touch the viewers.

The Sower appeal for donations got a very positive response and with the cheques came encouraging and positive comments. So I was a bit surprised that there were not more announcements coming into the Sower.

Then when I began receiving queries about rates for our ads,

the reason smacked me upside the head. The perception was that the announcements were "ads" which had to be paid for. They are free listings.

Would you send us your announcements if you knew that we don't charge to carry them in the classified section of page seven? If so, email to sower@shaw.ca 30-50 words and we will print them under the appropriate category.

If you want to place a display ad - those that contain artwork - for which there is a small charge, send it to Allan Millar sower@shaw.ca. If you want us to print an announcement, format it as the

announcements appear. Please send announcements before the first of the month prior to publication. That is for June publication, our last before summer hiatus, we need to have your announcement before the first of May.

Parish the Thought by Gord Gathercole



"I think he has misplaced his sermon again"

THE SOWER

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OUR MANDATE

The Sower endeavours to reflect the diversity of the people and activities of the Diocese of Calgary through news stories, feature articles, opinion essays, and photos usually provided by local contributors.

DEADLINES

For current deadlines contact sower@shaw.ca

SUBMITTING MATERIAL

The Sower welcomes story ideas and unsolicited editorial material. Guidelines are available on request. All material must be in typed form and may be submitted to The Sower, #2, 721 - 13 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2R 0K8 or sent by email in Microsoft Word as an attachment to sower@shaw.ca. Photos with clear identification and relevant information may also be sent by regular or email to the same contacts.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness and length.

CIRCULATION QUESTIONS

Parishioners may support The Sower with a yearly \$12 contribution for 10 issues (January through December). This can be paid through your parish or mailed to: The Sower, 56 Granlea Place S.W., Calgary, Alberta T3E 4K2; or phone (403) 249-9048.

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Use a NET to catch some faith...

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Letter to the Editor

Holy Land Trip

Dear Editor,
All the people I know, clerical or lay, who have visited the Holy Land, have been modest income people but they managed to pay their own way. So did we.

Might I suggest that anyone who visits there will have their trip enhanced by staying at either the King David or the King Solomon Hotel. The buffet breakfasts are superb. Try Craig Tours. If you take the boat trip across the Sea of Galilee, be prepared for the boat to stop midway – they then tell you to get out and walk the rest

of the way on the water.

Sincerely,
Mary-Jo Burles

Questioning the Creed

Dear Editor,
What a relief! I finally attended a service at an Anglican church in Calgary where I did not have to deal with the moral dilemma of whether or not to join in the recitation of the Nicene Creed. Even though the service was from the BCP, a hymn was sung in place of the creed. This creed does not re-

flect my Christian beliefs (or that of many church members I know) Surely it is time to have a public conversation about the relevance of repeating week by week a creed from the fourth century whose language of expression belongs to an entirely different intellectual era.

I am concerned that the words of the creed are a deterrent for enquirers (both young and older) into the Anglican church and would welcome comments and or ideas about this.

Sincerely
Jan Heath

Bishop Hoskin Elected Chancellor Election of Chancellor, University of Emmanuel College

I am pleased to announce that The Right Rev'd Derek Hoskin, Bishop of Calgary, has accepted the election of the Senate of the University of Emmanuel College and agreed to be our University Chancellor. His term of office is for an initial period of three years. Bishop Hoskin has served for the past

two years as a member of the College Council. The Chancellor is the chief officer of the University of Emmanuel College, which is established by Federal Statute. Under the governing statutes, the Chancellor must be elected from among the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land. The Chancellor presides over meetings

of the University of Emmanuel College Senate, and grants degrees at Convocation. We are grateful to Bishop Hoskin for taking on this role and look forward to his participation in our May Convocation. Walter Deller, Principal of the College of Emmanuel of St Chad, and Vice-Chancellor.

The note that Bishop Hoskin was named chancellor of Wycliffe College was incorrect.



AT THE MOVIES

by Dr. Norman Knowles

Unseen parallel worlds inhabited by brownies, sprites, goblins and ogres, the corrupting force of pride and power, the perennial struggle between good and evil, and the universal need for healing and reconciliation provide the central themes of *The Spiderwick Chronicles*.

Based on the books of the same name by Holly Black, this film tells the story of the Grace family. Deserted by her husband for another woman, Helen Grace has relocated her daughter Mallory and twin sons, Simon and Jared, to a creepy Victorian mansion inherited from an elderly and purportedly insane aunt, Lucinda.

While Mallory and Simon accept the need to start over, strong-willed and short-tempered Jared wrongly blames his mother for the break-up of the family and lashes out at his more accommodating siblings. When articles begin to go missing and unexplained noises are heard in the middle of the night, Jared is quite naturally blamed for the mischief.

Determined to prove his innocence, Jared sets out to find

the source of the trouble and discovers a secret room where he stumbles upon his great uncle Arthur Spiderwick's *Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You*. Ever defiant, Jared ignores a note warning against opening the book, throwing himself and his family into the middle of an epic struggle between the forces of good and evil. Seeking the knowledge found in the book to control both the magical and human realms, a malevolent, shape-shifting ogre, Mulgarath, unleashes a goblin army against Jared and the rest of the Grace family.

In the havoc that ensues, resentment and rivalry give way to trust and cooperation as the fractured Grace family pulls together and learns to value each other's unique gifts.

As a parable, *The Spiderwick Chronicles* illustrates the dangers of prideful disobedience.

When warned of the danger of the knowledge contained in his field guide, Arthur Spiderwick obstinately refuses to destroy his life's labour. As a consequence, he is separated from his wife and daughter

by sprites and confined to a timeless realm where he can do no harm. The same fate might well have befallen the hot-headed and obstinate Jared had he not recognized the consequences to his actions, not only for himself but to those closest to him.

Significantly, it is the elderly Aunt Lucinda, confined to a home because of her 'delusions,' who has the special wisdom needed to defeat the powers of darkness. Ultimately, it is only through generosity of sharing and the willingness to sacrifice self for others that the powers of evil are defeated and the grace of healing and reconciliation received.

The Spiderwick Chronicles is an entertaining fantasy that is sure to captivate young and old audiences alike. It is also a reminder that there is more to life than what we can perceive with our eyes alone.

PG—Some scenes may be frightening to young children.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Knowles teaches history and film at St. Mary's University College in Calgary.

Images of Spirituality 2008

by Ann Rondeau (St. Stephen Ukrainian Catholic, Calgary) and Jane Jensen (St. Martin's Anglican, Calgary)

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

Joy permeated the weekend as women of diverse denominations met for an inspirational and joyous gathering of fellowship, study and meditation last April at the Images of Spirituality gathering at the Entheos Retreat Center. Rev. Marty Tuer and Rev. Helen Smith provided a wonderful contrast as they led the women through group activities and celebration designed to explore and experience the presence of joy though Christ in our lives.

Images of Spirituality is an opportunity for women to escape the distractions of everyday life and to focus on spiritual growth and community building. The theme for the 2007 gathering centered on joy with each color of the rainbow representing an aspect of joy. The red represents the blood of Christ that redeemed us and serves as the healing power of joy. The orange and yellow represent the joy of service, the giving of ourselves out of the gratitude that comes from God's

hands. Green represents the joy that comes from the beauty of nature and Christ as the source of this joy. We were invigorated by the symbol of Christ as the tree of life and we, as the branches, forming a huge living vine. Blue represents the spirit. Joy is one of the fruits of the spirit. This translates into creativity, clarity and peacefulness. Indigo represents laments. Unless we experience sorrow we cannot fully experience joy.

Christ is the root of our joy. Our lives should be lived as witnesses to our Creator so we may reach out to others in love and joy as was experienced over the weekend. Participants expressed joy and renewal and are looking forward eagerly to next year's gathering.

Images of Spirituality 2008 will be April 11-13 at Entheos Retreat Center. The gathering ends at 1:00pm Sunday so people can go to services Sunday evening. The theme is "Be Still . . ." (Psalm 46:10a). The guest speaker is Sandra Donnelly (Catholic) and the worship leader is the Rev. Jean Morris (Presbyterian). Registration is \$220 (which reflects necessary cost increases at Entheos). Contact Registrar Laurette Roth (St. Pius Catholic) 403-288-1256 or lauro@telus.net for info or to register.



Walk and Talk in The Rockies with Professor Tinu Ruparell

Saturday, April 12t, St. Michael's Anglican 709 7th Street, Canmore 9:00 am – 4:30 pm Register at (403) 678 5191. \$25 includes lunch and guided walk.

Recent critiques of religion from prominent atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Christopher Hitchens have seriously misconstrued the nature of religious belief. However these critics have thrown light onto an area of theology which needs to be re-examined for our times. This talk will consider the nature of religious belief for a scientific, 'post-modern' age.

Living with Our Religious Others

Multi-cultural societies highlight the need to find ways in which we can live with and learn from those who do not share our religious traditions. This presen-

tation will look at how we might go beyond merely a 'benign tolerance' of our religious others towards a position where we can more authentically affirm the dignity of difference.

Dr Tinu Ruparell has been an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Calgary since January 2003. He holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion from the University of Cambridge. Previously he was the Director of the Liverpool Hope Centre for the Study of Science and Religion in the UK. His publications include, *Encountering Religion* edited with Ian Markham (Blackwell, 2001) and *Dialogue and Hybridity* (SUNY Press, 2008). His research focuses upon Hindu-Christian Dialogue, issues related to Science and Religion and comparative philosophy of religion. He is a member of All Saints Anglican Church in Cochrane.

African Outreach

from the Cathedral Outreach Committee

A Place for the Spirit in the Heart of the City - The Cathedral Church of the Redeemer congregation is devoted to fulfilling this mandate but we are reaching beyond ourselves by providing *A Place for the Spirit in the Heart of Africa*.

The Cathedral has been home for years to a Sudanese Dinka Anglican Congregation. In 2006, we met a group of 15 men and women who were born in South Sudan, migrated to Ethiopia during the civil war and while in refugee camps, were sent to Cuba for education. War in Sudan delayed their return home so they came as refugees to Canada. Here they worked at non-medical jobs, but despite many obstacles they were determined to return to their homeland and work as doctors.

The University of Calgary and Samaritan's Purse Canada partnered to provide their medical upgrading program. We joined this partnership by offering the group a spiritual home. They completed our Alpha program and were warmly welcomed into our church family. When they completed their upgrading in October 2006, the Rev. John Pilling officiated at a service of thanksgiving and the physicians returned to Africa with

our prayers.

They are now completing a one-year residency program in Kenya, and then returning to South Sudan to fulfill their mission of practicing medicine in their homeland. Their presence will significantly impact the health care in South Sudan, which has a population nearing 10 million people and only 50 medical doctors. Three of the physicians are in a teaching hospital in the South Sudan capital of Juba, others are in their home villages, and two are leaders with State health management.

Our hearts and lives were touched by our brief encounter with these remarkable people, and we continue to hold them in our prayers.

Our second African outreach program involves a partnership with the Christian Health Centre Foundation in Idominasi Village, Nigeria. The Director, the Ven. Dr. I Bode Akintade, is an ordained Anglican Archdeacon who completed postgraduate training in obstetrics and gynecology in England before returning home to answer a call to minister to the Nigerian people.

In rural Nigeria, the Health Centre provides health care and hope to hundreds of destitute peo-



The Rev. Dr. Bode Akintade, Director of the Christian Health Center in Nigeria, during his visit to Calgary in 2005.

ple. Our members have visited the clinic, delivered medical supplies and helped develop organizational strategies to improve efficiencies. In 2005, Bode visited with us to help celebrate our Centennial. Last year, funds were raised to support two micro-enterprise opportunities: bee keeping and snail farming. Proceeds from these businesses support the Health Clinic.

We are now responding to a request to fund a third, more ambitious micro-enterprise: the proposed "Cathedral Piggery". Under the direction of an agro-economist and veterinary assistant, donations will support the purchase of 40 pigs and assist with the required building and operating costs.

The pork industry is quite lucrative in Nigeria, and the benefits

of this enterprise include employment for the local community and an increased source of protein in the local diet. All financial proceeds will go to support the Clinic.

The first successful fundraising dinner - pork was featured - was held March 1st. Its success

ensures more fundraising dinners. You are invited to support the Piggery by attending a dinner, hosting a dinner at your church, or buying a pig (the going rate in Nigeria is \$100 for parent stock). Please contact Peggy Morton at 246-1520 for more information.



Dr. Michael in Juba with patients.



Dr. Daniel with many patients and few resources.



The fundraisers at pork dinner to support the Cathedral Piggery.



Finally back in his homeland where he is able to do what he has struggled years to do.



Three young Medicine Hat volunteer soldiers with their mothers received a blessing from All Saints congregation.

THEOLOGICAL Reflection

by Leighton Lee

If Easter is on the one hand the most viscerally accessible Christian observance – all those fanfares and thundering organs and chanting choirs and gorgeous robes – it is also, of course, on the other hand the most evasive observance. The whole resurrection story seems so implausible, so remote, so removed from our present reality. In fact the idea of a man (who was also God) who died and then rose from the dead seems so ludicrous that most people, in fact, now practice a benign form of pantheism believing they can worship God just as well under the skies or on the mountaintop or in beautiful music.

But the Resurrection is not an otherworldly tale unconnected with our present – that is to say human – condition. It is the basis and the means by which we participate in the life of Christ, a life that has now been glorified, lifted and liberated from the strictures and limitations of earthly existence and abides in indissoluble unity with the Godhead. Christ's resurrection is the revelation to us of what God has eternally purposed for humanity: our final goal, now made attainable because it was revealed and achieved by Jesus, who represents the truest human, though one unmarred by human failing.

We are not asked to understand resurrection in a kind of scientific, forensic way; we are not required to prove it by

some kind of ecclesiastical formula. All we need do, all we can do, is live lives now which are, in some sense, lives of resurrection. That is to say, if the resurrection means that all of the darkness and corruption and despair which seems to characterize human life is defeated – if even death is defeated – we must make our lives Easter lives, which is to say we must live lives full of joy and hope and peace. But of course you and I can't make ourselves live Easter lives, we can't force ourselves to be joyful and hopeful and peaceful.

But what we can do is give ourselves permission to take time away from the entire hub-bub of daily life so that the truth of resurrection may penetrate us, seize hold of us and transform us. Easter faith does not dissolve tragedy into comedy; the promise of light does not dispel the darkness. To live by Easter faith, with Easter expectation, is to be enabled to do, in the darkness, what Jesus did in Gethsemane: namely, to sustain, in that darkness, unswerving trust in God's invisible light. That is the power of the resurrection, the power which enables us to proclaim today, against all odds and in the face of darkness: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Rev. Leighton Lee is Priest-in-Charge at the Cathedral Church of the Redeemer

Open Hearts, Open Minds

For several months some members of our congregation have been meeting with members of the Muslim communities in the city's southwest and northeast. Our purposes include becoming better acquainted with one another, our two faiths and building bridges of trust between us. One of our initiatives was the showing of the documentary 'The Imam and the Pastor' in a downtown theatre on January 28th. It was attended by over 200 from a diversity of faiths, and much learning took place! The attendance of the story's central characters, Imam Ashafa and Pastor James, former combatants in Nigeria, was an added bonus as they answered our many questions.

A further initiative was spon-

sored by our own Cathedral Church of the Redeemer on Saturday February 23rd when Imam Syed Soharwardy of the Islamic Supreme Council of Canada and the Al Madinah Calgary Islamic Centre in the northeastern part of the city addressed a small but interested body of Christians of different denominations. His abbreviated presentation of 'Islam 101' was followed by a question and answer period that exceeded an hour. Further engagements between the communities are planned to follow.

Should you wish further information or desire to become a part of this venture please contact Keith and Joy Newman at (403) 208-1602, or Michael and Sandra Prior at (403)239-6575



Imam Jamal Hamoud (left) welcoming Imam Ashafa (middle) and Pastor James (right) to showing of the film. The Imam and the Pastor about their inter-faith relationship.

Helping the Homeless One Family at a Time

by David Stauff

In November 2006 at a meeting with The Bishop's Companions, our Bishop Derek Hoskin spoke at some length about the plight of the homeless in Calgary. More specifically he talked about the Inn from the Cold program, which is operated by a number of churches of various denominations.

It provides overnight accommodation in different churches every night for families who would otherwise be on the street. Each morning they are returned downtown in order that the children can go to school and the parent(s) to their jobs. It is not generally known that at least one parent of many, if not most, homeless families is fully employed. They just don't have the funds required for damage deposits, etc. for permanent housing.

He made the point that if 45 churches in our city would each sponsor just one of these families on a permanent basis we could substantially reduce, if not eliminate, the need for the Inn from the Cold program.

The bishop was quite passionate in his comments. He pointed out that such a move would help establish each family with a happier, successful life in Calgary. They could become part of a parish community, become friends with parishioners, and then in turn would be able to network for a start of a more normal family life. The emotional boost would also help in

their search for permanent status in the community. In summary the benefits are too many to mention.

These comments had a strong effect on one particular person who was there as a guest of one of the Companions an unassuming woman who happened to be in the right time at the right place. She has no direct connection to the Anglican Church, being a committed member of the Holy Spirit Roman Catholic parish community in southwest Calgary.

She became a link among three elements: the Companions of the Bishop, a purely Anglican organization; the Inn from the Cold, a totally ecumenical organization dedicated to helping the homeless; and a Roman Catholic parish committed to its role of helping people.

The next day she was in contact with her parish priest to suggest that perhaps Holy Spirit might consider taking on such a project. He referred her to the parish's Inn from the Cold organization, which enthusiastically accepted it. The parish adopted a family in March of 2007.

The net result is that 12 months later the adopted family is now independent, and has "graduated"! Plans are now underway to adopt another family and perhaps two.

The question that immediately comes to mind, is, "How many other parishes, regardless of denomination, are prepared to rise to the challenge of really making a difference in another family's life?" The answer is one that you can provide - one family at a time. Let's limit the number of homeless families one family at a time.

For further information please contact the diocesan office at (403) 243-3673.

David Stauff is married to the woman so affected by the Bishop's speech.



Sri Lankan Women Press for Peace in The Midst of Chaos

by Keith Knight

In the middle of the chaos and the turmoil, the women of Sri Lanka are strong and resilient. This despite the fact that there is on average five abductions per day and everyone is viewed with suspicion.

Kumi Samuel, director of the Women and Media Collective in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and a former international partner on the board (1997-2004) of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, spoke to staff at the national office of The Anglican Church of Canada on Feb. 27.

She spoke of the long and strong connection between PWRDF and Sri Lanka, dating back to the 1980s when PWRDF staff members would visit the country. That led to a vibrant mentoring relationship where PWRDF provided en-

couragement and support to help organize the advocacy movement. In 1991, PWRDF brought to Sri Lanka a delegation of 20 Canadian parliamentarians who added their support to that human rights movement by visiting many parts of the country. They came in the middle of intense internal conflict.

The Women and Media Collective has a 25-year history, diligently engaged in peace-building and peace-making. That work continues throughout the current civil unrest where thousands have been forced to flee their homes and villages, where dissent is not tolerated and where there is a heavy policing of civil rights groups. Neighbours are encouraged to spy on each other and to report any suspicious activity.

Ms. Samuel says media face daily censorship and intimidat-

tion. She says her organization has called upon the United Nations to send in peacekeeping troops. "I am not optimistic about a peaceful solution to the present conflict," she said this week.

The plight of women in Sri Lanka has improved considerably in recent years, thanks to organizations such as the collective. There is a high literacy rate among women, thanks in large part to free education. Most women in leadership tend to be about 30 years old, said Ms. Samuel.

The collective mobilizes women. It was instrumental in introducing legislation on domestic violence, which was passed into law. Ms. Samuel continues to press for legislation offering land rights for women, and encourages greater participation by women in the media.

Stewardship

by Stephen Koning, Director of Finance for the Diocese

Apportionment is the Anglican Church's way of "apportioning" or sharing financial resources among the different levels of the church structure. Thus, parishes pay apportionment to the Diocese just like the Diocese pays apportionment to the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land and the General Synod (National Church). In fact, over 26% of Diocesan income goes to pay apportionment to the Province and the National Church.

Apportionment to the Diocese is paid by each of the parishes in the Diocese.

Many years ago a Diocesan Synod decided (by adopting a Canon – or Bylaw – regarding the payment of apportionment) that it was through paying apportionment that they (all the parishes) would fund the operation of the Diocese.

Diocesan apportionment was set by a Diocesan Committee that assessed each parish with a certain amount of apportionment that had to be raised by the parish and paid to the Diocese. In the late 1980's, the Diocesan Synod decided that it would be fairer to adopt a formula based on

parish income that could be used to calculate an amount of apportionment to be paid each year. Although the formula has been adjusted since then, it is the formula that determines the amount of apportionment that each parish is asked to pay.

Apportionment is paid on an annual basis. Most parishes pay monthly to even out the payments during the year. For parishes that pay smaller amounts of apportionment, an annual payment or a series of quarterly payments reduces the amount of administrative time to process apportionment payments.

The money goes to the Diocese to pay for (a) the Diocese's apportionment to the Province and the National Church; (b) the provision of financial support to parishes, clergy, and lay people within the Diocese; (c) providing financial support to various ministries and groups in the Diocese (e.g. the Refugee Committee, the Candidates Committee, the Sower, the Campus Chaplaincy in Lethbridge, the Executive Committee, etc.); (d) providing for the ministry of the Bishop and other Diocesan Leaders (Executive Archdeacon, Secretary-Treasurer, Archdeacons, etc.); (e) the cost of the operation of the Diocesan Office.

Why should parishes have to pay apportionment when they

have trouble paying for the programs that they would like for their own parishioners?

All parishes are asked to pay apportionment as a sign that they belong to a church that is larger than themselves. The paying of apportionment is a tangible expression of the idea that all congregations are part of the Diocesan family.

Why do some parishes pay full apportionment and others do not, sometimes for many years?

As explained above, the amount of apportionment is determined by a formula. However, a mathematical formula cannot account for the various situations that parishes find themselves in from year to year. Thus, there are times when the Diocesan Executive Committee recognizes that a parish cannot pay the amount of apportionment as calculated by the formula. In these situations, the parish is granted a reduction of apportionment. If the situation requiring a reduction of apportionment continues for several years, then the apportionment paid will be less than the amount calculated by the formula for a number of years. Parishes receiving apportionment reductions are encouraged to return to the apportionment amount calculated by the formula as quickly as possible.

Refreshing A Successful Ministry

In the March Sower, Barbara Simoes related how her experience at Storyline 2007, Canadian Youth Workers Conference in Vancouver BC will be translated into her combined youth ministry with SoulSERVivors at St. Michael's Anglican and Ralph Connor United Churches both in Canmore. With this article, she completes her report.

by Barbara Simoes

Doris Kizinna, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, BC conference of the United Church of Canada presented Engaging Youths in Spiritual Practice. She has been in youth ministry for 20 years, and is passionate about creative worship, building community and creating sacred spaces where all are welcome.

Christianity has a rich tradition of many prayer forms which allow the participant to engage the senses, body, mind and heart. Too often youth evenings just focus on activities that entertain while youth are looking for a way to engage with the Spirit that is authentic to them.

"Spiritual practices bring us closer to how God enters our lives. Youth want to belong. Youth naturally seek. Spiritual practices open a space up for them," she reminded us.

To learn prayer is to experience prayer so Doris set-up stations with a variety of prayer forms. Attention to detail and making the room aesthetically pleasing is critical to engaging the participant – reminiscent of the mystery that Orthodox services provided. For 45 minutes we chose stations to learn and practice the Jesus prayer, to write a letter to God, to open a box holding a great gift, to write a postcard prayer, to color a Mandela, to con-

template different crosses, to reflect on scripture, use Lectio Divina, to listen to Taize chants and so on. A rich experience and over much too soon. I am introducing this collection of spiritual practices to the youth group. Their response has been enthusiastically positive!

The impact of this session on Soul SERVIVORS youth program will be to organize a spiritual practices session with the group and to use a different spiritual practice each time we gather.

A practical discussion of the importance for open and clear communication within a church community centred on church and youth ministry politics. The success of a program can be derailed by the differing expectations of vestry and the youth leader. Defining a youth program, defining the role of the youth leader, defining responsibility for the three different aspects of the ministry, spiritual, service and social and creating criteria to evaluate the program were discussed. Youth leaders are often expected to be a committee of one, able to balance church objectives with youth needs while still fulfilling other roles in the community; hence the high rate of burnout and the fluctuating status of youth ministry in any church.

The impact of the session on Soul SERVIVORS will be to use the

three aspects, spiritual, service and social, to analyze the program's effectiveness; to determine reasonable accomplishments with the existing resources (money and personnel) and adjust the program accordingly; to continue to pray for the youth program weekly and include updates regularly in the newsletters and bulletin.

Youth ministry is one of the priorities for our Diocese and I am thankful for its financial support to attend the conference. Engaging youth within the context of the church takes many forms and there is no "one program fits all." Attending this rich and diverse conference has helped me to refocus on priorities and to encourage me to keep going – the kids are worth it!



Irene Norman, former parish secretary at St. Augustine's, Lethbridge chats with Bishop Derek Hoskin. They served together between 1973-1975.



AT THE MOVIES

by Blake Kanewischer

Driving Lessons (2006) is a well-crafted coming-of-age film, with some similarities to *Harold and Maude*. Ben Marshall (Rupert Grint) is the son of a Church of England vicar, Roger, (Nicholas Farrell) and an overbearing, perfectionist, evangelical mother, Laura (Laura Linney). Ben is quite repressed. Laura also has a penchant for helping people—including 70-something Mr. Fincham, who is living with the Marshalls. When she suggests Ben get a job to help out about the house, he answers an ad for a personal assistant to aging, slightly manic actress Evie (Julie Walters).

After dubbing him "socially autistic," Evie and her young assistant embark on a journey of discovery that takes them camping and along an improbable single-lane road to Edinburgh. This journey instills a love of poetry and literature in young Ben, leavened with a healthy dose of life's indulgences. The chemistry between these two actors is unmistakable [first observed briefly in the Harry Potter series] but here their portrayals are pivotal and exceptional.

The most astounding scene of the movie occurs during a church play in which Ben has the demanding role of a eucalyptus tree. Evie bursts into the hall and proceeds to steal the show, which catalyzes the dysfunctional Marshall family into action.

First-time director Jeremy Brock, who also wrote the movie, takes a straightforward approach to the film, eschewing special effects and technically difficult shots. The approach complements the characters' relationships nicely.

I find several themes at play throughout the film. One set of under explored themes in the movie is the tension between Robert's view of Christianity

and his wife's. Robert preaches a benign, inoffensive, and borderline secular humanist approach to Christianity. Laura's faith is expressed very differently. Which approach to Christianity appeals to you more? Are they necessarily incompatible?

Ben is a teenager, and Evie is a senior. At first, their relationship is constrained by the employer/employee dynamic, but eventually evolves. What can we learn from an intergenerational relationship? Are we better off being friends with those who, at first blush, are different from us?

Evie nurtures a poetic / literary streak in Ben, culminating in a touching scene where he reads his poetry to Evie. How do you nurture your own artistic talents? Who incubates and encourages your talent?

Laura and her cuckolded husband, Robert, raise Ben in a very sheltered world (my favorite line of the movie: "Mobiles [cell phones] cause cancer!"). How do you strike the balance between providing a solid grounding for children and exposing them to the world at large? Ben takes a rebellious journey (despite his upbringing) with Evie—what rebellious experiences played a significant part in your life?

This movie pushes the PG-13 envelope with a notable amount of profanity, in addition to quintessentially British expressions. The film is worth watching for its exploration of family dynamics and its ultimate message of hope and self-realization woven in amongst many classic literary works.

Blake Kanewischer regularly reviews movies for The Sower and in his fourth year of Education for Ministry.

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FREE LISTINGS

WORSHIP SERVICES

Eucharists at the Cathedral Tuesday and Thursday at 12:15 pm. Seniors' Eucharist and tea is held the third Wednesday of each month. Short Eucharist begins at 2:00 pm. Further information call the Cathedral at 269-1905.

Invitation to Anglican Community at U of C Anglicans are welcome to join the University of Calgary, Lutherans, United Church members, Presbyterians, and Catholics as we gather for an ecumenical Taize worship service, every Friday from 12:30 - 12:50 in MSC 317A. Come back to the Multifaith Chaplains' Centre afterwards (MSC 373) for brown-bag lunch and discussion! The Rev. Klaus Ohlhoff, Lutheran Chaplain at U of C.

St. John the Evangelist**The Feast of St. Mark**

Solemn Mass with Rogation Procession, Friday, April 25, 7:00 pm

Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Sunday, April 20, 7:00 pm

The Feast of the Annunciation, Tuesday, April 1, Low Mass, 7:00 pm

The Feast of St. George, Wednesday, April 23, Low Mass, 7:00 pm

Compline, every Tuesday, 8:45 pm

Sunday Masses at 8:30 am and 10:30 am

Only traditional worship from the BCP/English Missal. For daily Mass and Divine Office times please contact Fr. Michael Heidt: (403) 265-5072, Michael_heidt@hotmail.com or visit website: www.stjohnanglican-calgary.ca.

PARISH EVENTS

Round Table Cooking Club: The Club meets on Saturdays after the 9:00 am Mass in the Cross Hall, St. John's the Evangelist to learn and exchange recipes and cook them. To join, please contact Chris Li at (403) 271-8588 or email dolphini@shaw.net.

St. Mark and St. Philip Church, 1802 - 33rd Avenue SW, will be

holding their "Butterfly Tea", Saturday, May 10, 2008 at 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Admission - \$4.00. Call (403) 244-0198 for information.

YOUTH/CHILDREN

Generation 2008 deadline has been extended to April 10. Please contact Suzan Pedersen at the Synod office (403) 243-3673 ext. 103 or spedersen@calgary.anglican.ca if you are interested in attending.

More Than a Band-Aid - provincial conference on the hurting kid, youth, culture, mission June 6-8, 2008. Cost \$125.00. Speaker Mary Penner and worship leader Anthony Packwood. Contact Suzan Pedersen at the Synod office (403) 243-3673 ext. 103 or spedersen@calgary.anglican.ca for further information or registration forms.

St. Martin, Calgary

April 19 (SATURDAY) Design 1: Parish Event 9:30am to 12 Noon Aligning values, structures and mission with the ideal. Developing achievable plans and steps to make the vision a reality.

Dialoguing What Should Be

May 4 - Testing the Water: An interactive "Liturgy of the Word": the World Café approach to dialogue

Summer Season Design 2: Forming working groups to develop Key Strategic Directions/Ministry Goals

September Deliver: Special parish meeting to review & commit to the Vision for Ministry and Strategic Plan.

CONFERENCES/RETREATS

Stillpoint Pastoral Centre Programs For further information and registration forms please call your parish office or contact Stillpoint at (403) 282-5572 or Stillpoint@holycrosscalgary.org. **Christian Caving: Exploring the Cave of Your Heart** A monthly journey in prayer and Christian living Saturday, April 5, 4:00-5:30 pm. Holy Cross Anglican Church, 2828 - 19 Street NW, Calgary. Cost: a donation to Stillpoint is appreciated. (As a guideline, the cost of this program is \$10 per person.) No registration is required.

Spend a Day in the Rockies on Saturday, April 12, with Dr. Tinu Ruparell. Tinu is a member of All Saints

Anglican Church and an Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary whose specialty is the nature of religion. He has co-authored the book *Encountering Religion: An Introduction to the Religions of the World*. As he says "Religion is simply too important for us not to be as fully informed and aware as we can be of its pivotal and ongoing role in human history." There will be two talks with a guided walk, free time and lunch in between. Please join us at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Canmore. Contact Barb Simoes for registration at (403) 678-8749. Cost is \$25.00.

The Alberta Pastoral Care Association invites you to the 40th Annual Conference entitled "**Faith Based Community Pastoral Care**" to be held on April 14 & 15, 2008 at The Executive Royal Inn, 2828 - 23 Street NE, Calgary. The keynote speakers will be Steve Hill, Director of Mission for Alberta Catholic Health Corp., the sponsor group on behalf of the Alberta Catholic Bishops for 12 faith-based Catholic health care institutions in Alberta and the Rev. Bob Glasgow, Chaplain of the Rockyview General Hospital. If you wish to receive a brochure and registration form for this conference, please email Kelly at kburnie@calgary.anglican.ca.

Faith Engaging the Multi-Sensory World and the Emerging Church A conference with the Rev. Dr. Eric Elnes, April 17-19, 2008 at Woodcliff United Church, Calgary. This 3 day conference is sponsored by the Wisdom Centre for Practicing Congregations - a ministry of St. Laurence Anglican. The conference begins with a documentary film on Thursday evening, all day workshops on Friday during the day, a multi-sensory worship service on the Friday evening and then workshops about liturgy on the Saturday morning. Both a brochure and on-line registration are available on the Wisdom Centre website <http://www.wisdomcentre.ca/events.html>.

Those who are unable to attend the entire conference are encouraged to attend the Thursday evening film and the Friday evening worship. For more information contact The Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee at (403) 249-6184.

Stillpoint Pastoral Centre Programs For further information and registration forms please call your parish office or contact Stillpoint at (403) 282-5572 or Stillpoint@holycrosscalgary.org. **Desert Spirituality for the City Dweller** A four week course involving teaching, prayer and discussion Thursday evenings, May 15 - June 5, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Holy Cross Anglican Church, 2828 - 19 Street NW, Calgary. Cost: \$85 per person. (Some subsidies are available. Please contact Stillpoint.) Deadline: Monday, May 5.

SPECIAL EVENTS

EFM Open House experience a session of Education for Ministry program (EFM) at St. Stephen's, Calgary on Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 pm in the Canterbury Room. St. Stephen's is located at 1121 - 14 Avenue SW. EFM provides a comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of the Christian faith designed to equip persons to live out the ministry to which all Christians are called through baptism. For further information contact Larry Nicolay at (403) 239-4279 or Norman Knowles at (403) 254-3718.

What Makes a Good City? Urban Life and Faith in the 21st Century at Chirst Church, Calgary - Dr. Elaine Graham, the Samuel Ferguson Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Manchester, will speak on Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm. This public lecture is sponsored by Education for Ministry Canada and the Diocese of Calgary. For further information contact the Rev. Dr. Norman Knowles at (403) 254-3718 or norman.knowles@stmu.ab.ca.



April 2008

April 6 - In Our Diocese - Holy Nativity, Calgary, The Rev. Bryan Beveridge, The Rev. Kathy Ratuski

Companion Diocese of Windward Isles - Holy Trinity, Castries with St. Mary LaCaye, The Ven. Randolph Evelyn

April 13 - Our Diocese - St. Augustine, Calgary, The Rev. Jonathon Gibson, The Rev. Ruth Lillington

April 13-19 House of Bishops Companion Diocese - Grace Church, Riviere Doree with St. Paul and Christ the King, The Rev. Ashton Francis

April 20 - Our Diocese - St. John the Evangelist, Calgary, The Rev. Michael Heidt, The Rev. Canon Bob Greene

Companion Diocese - St. George with St. Vincent, St. Peters, St. Luke and St. Alban

April 27 - Our Diocese - St. Laurence, Calgary, The Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee, The Rev. Vic Cabel, The Rev. Don McLeod

Companion Diocese - St. David and St. Paul, The Rev. Clive Thomas

ANNIVERSARY

St. Edmund, King and Martyr, Anglican Church, Calgary (formerly Critchley Mission) - Parish families of Critchley Mission/St. Edmund are invited to share memories and submit memorabilia as we prepare for our 75th Anniversary in 2009. Contact the 75th Anniversary Committee, 8336 - 34 Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta T3B 1R2. Phone/Fax: (403) 288-6330 or StEdmunds.Calgary@gmail.com.

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Special 2008 Dates

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------------------------|
| February 5 | • 5:00 pm | Shrove Tuesday Supper |
| March 1 | • 6:00 pm | Sock Hop |
| May 21 | • 2:00 pm | Founders' Tea |
| June 14 | • 1:00 pm | Ivy's Garden Party |
| June 22 | • 12:00 pm | Parish Picnic |
| July 6 | • 8:00 am | Stampede Breakfast |
| September 6 | • 6:00 pm | Parish BBQ |

Anniversary Weekend Celebration

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| September 26 | • 7:00 pm | Wine & Cheese Reception |
| September 27 | • 10:00 am | Children's Fun Day |
| | • 5:30 pm | Formal Dinner
(Strathcona Community Centre) |
| September 28 | • 10:00 am | Golden Anniversary Service
Bishop Hoskin officiating |

- | | | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| November 22 | • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm | Christmas Bazaar |
| November 29 | • 8:00 am - 4:00 pm | Advent Vigil |
| | • 7:00 pm | Advent Concert |

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The Way of the Cross by Cathy Fulton

This article first appeared in the Lenten Edition of The Carillon, St. Stephen, Calgary's newsletter. Re-printed here with the author's permission

Some years ago, I was sitting vigil one Maundy Thursday, alone, in an unknown building in the wee small hours of the night. Surrounded by darkness...I was soon mesmerized by the backlit cross in front of me...up on the reredos of the central altar.

That backlit cross being the only light in the vicinity, I abandoned any thought of reading and my spirit was free to simply 'be' in the moment and receive all that was unfolding.

Backlit as it was, the cross seemed immense and demanding of my attention and awareness. Praying through my vigil hours, and those which followed, I needed

to raise my head and my focus to view the cross, which by definition elevated my thoughts as well, and thus I became comfortable and in tune with the stark image in front of me.

The simplicity of the outline spoke commandingly to my spirit that my faith needed to be the sole focus of my life, to be central to all my daily life and activities, to be the core of my world.

Lastly, as I focused on what was truly capturing my attention, an epiphany was mine. As for each of us, the choice was ever before me: I could focus on the darkness and the ominous nature of the cross (and who in life isn't bom-

barded with things which are dark and heavy to handle... or I could name, seek and claim the light (and hope) which was behind it or beyond it, somewhat further from my immediate focus and demanding more from me, for in it I saw the light and hope of living as a person of the Resurrection.

Starting with Ash Wednesday, the journey of our Lenten forty days, followed by Holy Week, offers us abundant opportunities to deepen our faith journey and to more intimately join Our Lord on the walk of a lifetime: His walk to the cross.

Shalom to all

The Rev. Cathy Fulton is associate priest at St. Stephen's, Calgary where she is pastoral care co-ordinator.



A sole totally worn through.



The Rev. Jagdutt Singh, priest at St. Barnabas, Calgary baked this Simnel cake for Mothering Sunday. A traditional British celebration on the fourth Sunday of Lent would bring those who worked away from their parish home for a family visit. Simnel cakes are light fruit cakes with a marzipan icing and sometimes with 11 balls of marzipan to symbolize the loyal apostles - excludes Judah.

Worth Repeating

From St. Mark & St. Philip's Website: www.parishofstmstp.com

There you will find this vision statement: The Anglican Parish of St. Mark & St. Philip's seeks to be a joyful community of disciples who visibly embody Christ's love in all that we do.

And what caught our eye is this reference to a sermon by the Rev. Tara Livingston, a deacon, serving at St. Mark and St. Philip, Calgary.

Reporting back to the parish about the General Synod, the young deacon had used the Bishop's charge as it applied to her parish. Using the Bishop's words as a launching pad, she then challenged the parish to become a healthy parish. And the parish responded.

What made its way to the website was under the heading, Healthy Parish, Healthy Diocese.

"I'm so delighted that there was such an enthusiastic response to my sermon last week. I asked about how we move forward towards a healthy parish, so here is the list:

Do I have expectations about what happens at church that are not being met? If so, how can I explore what they are and take steps to make them happen?

Do I feel that I have voice within the parish and a say in what happens here? If not, how can I go about letting the leadership know?

Is this a place where I feel loved, comforted and inspired? If not, what is missing for me?

If I am holding onto resentments or bitterness about someone or a situation, have I been careful to deal with them directly or have I only complained to other people? And lastly, what is my responsibility in creating a parish family and environment that I am proud to be a part of and would want my friends to come and participate in?

Remember, this is all about you! There is no "them," there is only "us!"