

For the Clergy of NS & PEI

“This N That”

March 4, 2011

1. We are coming up to the busiest block of time in the liturgical year for most of us. As you try to help parishioners take stock of their spiritual well being, take time to review your own spiritual disciplines as well. We are only helpful to others in so far as our own spiritual health is maintained.
2. Social Justice, Mission, Outreach Consultation, March 12, 2011 10am to 3pm.
The earlier consultations have been excellent and provided the basis for moving forward with intentional focused ministry for the next five years with a proposed new structure to initiate, facilitate and support parish ministry. Some have suggested that Mission, Outreach and Justice initiatives are part of healthy congregations and that there is no need for a special committee for this work. Others have suggested that there needs to be specific focus at the diocesan level because parishes seem to always leave this work to last or leave it out altogether. If you have input on this, please join the Consultation March 11, 2011 at St. Margaret of Scotland. If you have ideas, but are unable to be present March 12, please forward your ideas to Bishop Sue smoxley@nspeidiocese.ca.
3. The Retirement Seminar will take place on March 29 at St. Thomas Fall River. Those within 10 years of retirement have been notified. If we missed you, or you are younger and would like advanced warning, you are welcome. Details are on the website. You must contact Kathy Saunders to register to ensure that we will have personalized information for you from the pension office.
4. Long Term Pastorate Workshop. If you have been in your parish 6 or more years, this is for you. It can help you to decide whether to stay for the long term or to move along. See the Netnews for more information. Registration can be paid using your Continuing Education funds. The Clergy Wellness Commission also has some funds to assist clergy to participate in Continuing Education events. Please contact +Ron rcutler@nspeidiocese.ca.
5. Quiet time and Renewal of Vows - April 7 evening and April 8 morning. Our speaker will be The Rev'd Charles Lafond. This will be a time of reflection on our call to ordained leadership and an opportunity to gather with colleagues to renew our commitment to the vocation to which God has called us.
6. Synod – Synod is coming! May 26 – 28, 2011. The time for submission of resolutions has passed. There are several and the Resolutions Committee is reviewing them now. They cover several topics. Please help your delegates to Synod prepare for informed discussion. You can encourage new delegates to get to the Orientation session which will be led by Paul Kent. You can encourage your Youth Delegate to get to the Youth

Orientation which will be led by Debra Burleson. Please note also that each delegate will be asked to contribute \$10 toward the cost of the meals supplied at Synod. The parish can send one cheque for all their delegates with one of them or people can pay separately at Check In when they arrive at Dalhousie.

7. Potential Ordination Dates: These depend on people successfully completing Pre Ordination Reviews and on graduation.
 - a. May 6, 2011, Cathedral, Halifax
 - b. May 8, 2011, St. John the Baptist, North Sydney
8. Clergy Wellness – Just a reminder that you can get up to \$200 to assist you in being “well”! Contact +Ron for advice on whether your proposal will fit the guidelines!
9. Sabbatical – If anyone is interested in taking Sabbatical in 2013, I would be happy to tell you about the Louisville Institute and their funding. Lynn Uzans was very helpful to me in getting a grant for my Sabbatical and we are both willing to help others. The Anglican Church of Canada and the Lily Foundation also provide grants for Sabbaticals.
10. Vital Church Planting Conference in Toronto

The Healthy Congregations Fund is open for applications for a parish team (lay and clergy) to participate in this workshop <http://www.vitalchurchplanting.com/>
The Fund will cover up to 50% of the costs. Please check the web site to see if this is suitable for your parish at this time.
11. Back to Church Sunday - Seminar 2. “Double your congregation and keep everyone of them”!
April 27, 2011, 10am to 3pm. Location and registration coming.
12. Anglican Covenant study process. General Synod 2010 committed the Anglican Church of Canada to a study of the proposed Anglican Covenant so that delegates to General Synod 2013 would be able to make an informed decision on whether to accept the proposed covenant or not. Whether we agree with the idea of a world-wide covenant for the Anglican Communion or not, covenant is an important biblical and theological concept. Since we ask parishes to develop a Covenant in Ministry with their clergy, that may be a place to begin a conversation about Covenant. Some resources follow.
 - a. http://www.chiefrabbi.org/CR_Miscellaneous_writings_speeches_broadcasts.aspx
See page 2 for Rabbi Jonathon Sacks’ speech to the Lambeth Conference 2008.
 - b. Communion Study Guide which assumes everyone will want the covenant.
http://www.anglicancommunion.org/commission/covenant/study_materials/docs/The%20Anglican%20Communion%20Covenant%20Study%20Guide.pdf
 - c. <http://blog.noanglican covenant.org/> from some who think a covenant is not needed.

13. I have heard from 13 parishes and seven individuals so far in response to the pastoral letter of October 2010. Please respond when your parish is in a position to do so.

14. The property redevelopment on College St. continues to move forward but somewhat more slowly due to the winter weather we have had here in Halifax. Fall 2012 is now looking like the probable time to move into the new building.

Eat your pancakes, enjoy Mardi Gras and then

“I invite you, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.”
(BAS, p.282)

+Sue

+Ron