

The Bishop's Charge

PART I



PLACES OF REFRESHMENT

DIOCESAN SYNOD

142nd Session of the Diocesan Synod of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island May 28-30, 2009

Welcome to this 142nd Session of our Diocesan Synod. It has been a year since we last gathered for a meeting of Synod, and we have made some changes to Synod preparations this time around. Please make the effort to complete the evaluation form; it is valuable information for those planning the next Synod, to take place in 2011.

Our guest speaker this year is Dewitt Jones, former freelance photographer with National Geographic. We will hear from him via DVD. Some of you have already met him at Companions on a Journey through the program “Celebrate What’s Right With the World.”

Our theme for Synod is “Places of Refreshment”. On our journey, with our companions on the way, we need to pause from time to time for refreshment: physical, mental, spiritual. We need to celebrate the journey completed and renew ourselves for the remainder of the journey. Our time together at Synod is one of those places of refreshment.

Diocesan Personnel Changes

Bishop Ron Cutler was elected Suffragan Bishop at our last session of Synod and subsequently ordained and installed on June 29, 2008. He officially began work in August after attending the Lambeth Conference as his “vacation!”. Our Bishops’ Covenant in Ministry is posted on the diocesan web site so you can see how we share the episcopal work in our diocese.

The Rev'd Janet Hatt was appointed Executive Secretary of Synod and began work on June 1, 2008.

Ms. Christine Newcomb is currently on sick leave, expected to return on June 1st. But things have not slowed down in the Finance Office at all. I ask for your prayers for Christine and your applause for the finance team for their extra work!

Michael Janz resigned as Diocesan Youth Coordinator to move on to a different form of ministry. We are just getting ready to interview for a new coordinator.

After a careful review of costs and benefits, the Diocesan Council voted to close the Diocesan Bookroom at the Halifax location as of December 31, 2008. Canon Gordon Redden worked with bookroom staff to ensure an orderly transition and appropriate compensation. We give thanks for the ministry of the Bookroom over the years. However, we have had to acknowledge the huge impact of the Internet on selling books and the large cost to the diocese to finance a book room.

Personnel are not just paid staff. Mr. Art Fordham has volunteered his considerable skill to writing and revising Canons and the Constitution for us for many years. His unexpected death this spring is a great loss to his family and also to our diocesan family.

Property Redevelopment Update

Since last summer we have been working with a developer on a plan for a building that will house our Synod offices, Cathedral offices and a gathering space next to the Cathedral. Currently we have an application in to the Halifax Regional Municipality for their consideration. We are praying for some good news in the near future.

2010 Planning

Regions are beginning to do exciting things in preparation for 2010! These are taking on many different forms: church pilgrimages, episcopal trading cards, a renewal weekend, concerts, a 2009 version of using the money entrusted to you wisely! The 2010 vestments and the Gospel Book have been traveling the diocese. The book of photos and signatures is growing.

The Anniversary Committee put in the Budget \$2,000 per region for you to have a regional event. If your region has no plan yet, speak to your Regional Dean or Regional Council Chairperson. The money is there.

Ordination to the Diaconate Anniversaries

- 25 Years The Right Reverend Sue Moxley: June 29, 1984
- 40 Years The Reverend Kirby Walsh: May 15, 1969
- 50 Years The Reverend Dennis Andrews: May 24, 1959
The Reverend Everett Hill: March 17, 1959
The Reverend Ernest Linton: May 25, 1959
- 60 Years The Reverend Harry Corbin: June 12, 1949
The Reverend Douglas Sherren: June 12, 1949
The Reverend Rodney Stokoe: September 25, 1949

Faithful Service Medallions

We will be presenting at this Synod a Faithful Service medallion to one of our members: Mrs. Charlotte Cochran of the Cathedral Church of All Saints. A citation recognizing her outstanding service in church and community has been written by Mary Lu Redden and will be read by Archdeacon Paul Smith.

A second Faithful Service medallion will be presented to Mrs. Lillian (Deedee) Rayner of the Parish of Alberton-O'Leary in August in her home parish.

Memorials

We record with thanksgiving the lives and ministries of those who have been members of our Synod and died since our last session. Their names appear in the "In Memoriam" section of the Convening Circular. They will be remembered in prayer at the Eucharist.

*Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
Amen.*

Thank You's

In our work throughout Synod we are served by:

- The Synod Arrangements Committee, chaired by The Reverend Randy Townsend, and a number of Sessional Committees
- The Executive Secretary of Synod, The Reverend Janet Hatt

- The Clerical and Lay Secretaries of Synod
- Our Chancellor, Mr. Anthony Chapman, Q.C., and our Solicitor, Mr. John Cooper, Q.C.
- The Synod Office Staff; some of whom work “on the floor” and some others “behind the scenes”

In anticipation of their guidance in matters practical, constitutional and pastoral, I thank them on your behalf.

In drawing Part I of the Charge to a close, I call you to prayer . . .

*ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by thy Holy Spirit didst preside in the Council of the blessed Apostles, and hast promised, through thy Son Jesus Christ, to be with thy Church to the end of the world: We beseech thee to be present with the Synod of this Diocese now assembled in thy Name. Save its members from all error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice; and of thy great mercy vouchsafe so to direct, govern, and sanctify them in their deliberations by thy Holy Spirit, that through thy blessing the Gospel of Christ may be faithfully preached and obeyed, the order and discipline of thy Church maintained, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour enlarged and extended. Grant this, we beseech thee, through the merits and mediation of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

[p. 42, #7, BCP]



The Right Reverend Susan E. Moxley
Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island