

June 2025



Camino Nova Scotia – a unique blend of spirituality, nature and community

By Jennifer Anandanayagam

It's hard to escape nature when you live in Nova Scotia. With dozens of hiking trails easily accessible around you, your curious mind will eventually lead you into forests and oceanside paths.

When you're on one of these nature walks, your thoughts slow down, your mind experiences an indescribable feeling of freedom and you're enveloped by a sense of being one with the surrounding sights, sounds and smells.

When I think of Camino Nova Scotia, this is what comes to mind, except there's more to this unique pilgrimage founded by Rev. Dr. Rob Fennell, Professor of Historical and Systematic Theology at Atlantic School of Theology.

Fennell had been "dreaming and scheming" for quite some time to find a way to bring the blessings of pilgrimages like the Camino de Santiago in Spain to the local area of N.S.

While lots of people he knew had walked the ancient pilgrimage routes in Spain which leads to the shrine of St. James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Fennell was also aware that many, if not most people, can't afford the time and money to get away for a whole month.

"So I thought, can we do something on a smaller scale, and offer it right here in N.S.?" shared Fennell. "Atlantic School of Theology, where I teach, has been our home base from day one."

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In this issue
you can expect:

Parish news

Stories of impact

Columns

Laity
spotlight

Events

Games &
Cartoons



Creating safe and affirming churches for our 2SLGBTQIA+ parishioners



By Rev'd Nichola Cumine

It is important to acknowledge that the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has a long history of feeling excluded, hurt and rejected by the Church.

This painful legacy has left many individuals feeling marginalized and excluded from the spiritual community. As leaders in faith, we have a sacred responsibility to heal these wounds and create spaces where everyone feels safe, affirmed and deeply loved.

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SHINE LIKE STARS: Portraits in Faith

By Rev. Canon Lisa G. Vaughn

This month, we feature a portrait of a laity couple who have been offering themselves in faith and ministry for many years. Like our previous profiles, we continue to celebrate the local stories of leaders who commit to their baptismal vows in active and joy-filled ways. Each of these offers us an example of discipleship, modelled on the life and sacrificial love of Christ.

NAME: Dennis and Linda Eisan

PARISH NAME: St. John's, Westphal (Dartmouth), N.S.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN ACTIVE ANGLICANS/CHRISTIANS?

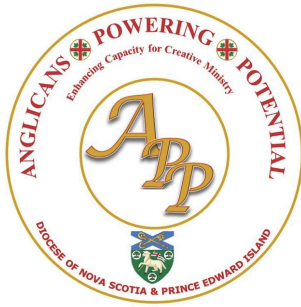
We have both been very active in St. John's Westphal. Dennis served in the Royal Canadian Navy for 29 years. We have been Anglicans all of our lives, but it wasn't until we came back from Germany that we became very active in the life of our church.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVOURITE MINISTRIES?

We are involved in different ministries of our church. I, Linda, am a member of the Altar Guild and Prayer Chain. I am a member of the Parish Council, serve as the Card Secretary and a member of the parish Outreach Committee and I am Sexton. Dennis is one of the Wardens, is a Licensed Lay Minister and is a member of the Spiritual Committee. He looks after hall rentals. Both of us help out with any fundraisers. We love being a part of these committees. It is a work of love.

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Columns



Therefore, we have hope

By Cynthia Pilichos for Anglicans Powering Potential

How fortunate we are to have our faith in God and a prayer life that offers us the opportunity to flex our resilience muscles and embrace hope.



Pray as you can

By Heather Carter

Have you seen gulls soar and glide on the morning currents, wings illuminated by early sunlight? My breath catches and I am reminded of Psalm 139: "If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast."



Emotional well-being and the greatest commandment

By Bryan Hagerman

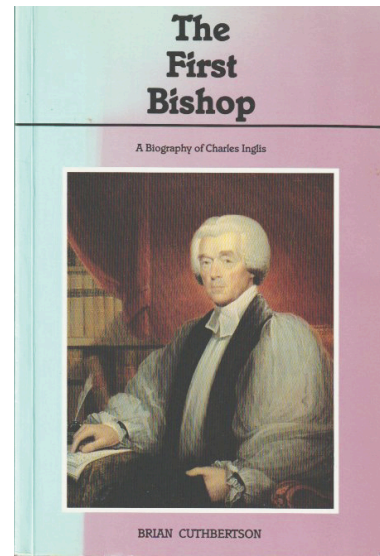
Jesus was asked many questions, but this one is one of the best; "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"



To Thrive

By Monica L. Ebsary

Dr. Maya Angelou shared my April birthday but she came into this world close to 30 years before me. She was "a voice of humanity, speaking out against anything that fettered the human spirit. Her life and her body of literary work trumpet the importance of love, tolerance and forgiveness. She was a warrior for truth, justice and love. . .



Book Review: 'The First Bishop: A Biography of Charles Inglis' by Brian Cuthbertson

By Michelle Bull

To be honest, I didn't have high hopes for 'The First Bishop'. But we should know about our history, so I started.

I was pleasantly surprised. Cuthbertson manages to be scholarly, accessible and engaging. Fascinating, even.

Charles Inglis was born in 1734 to a poor Irish clergy family. The son, grandson and brother of Anglican priests, his career was obvious.

Without influence or money, his only option was the New World.

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Think BIG: How anti-poverty advocates are seeking to redefine what social welfare looks like in N.S.

By Jennifer Anandanayagam

On Saturday, April 5, concerned individuals gathered at Berwick Lions Hall. Among them were Greg Hubbert, resident of Berwick and longtime anti-poverty advocate, Becca Green-LaPierre of N.S. Public Health and Annapolis Valley Community Food Council, Roger Tatlock of Basic Income Nova Scotia and Dorothy Miller, Rector, Parishes of Aylesford and Berwick.

There was an agenda for the afternoon – the showing of ‘A Human Picture,’ a short video on the Basic Income Guarantee pilot program in Ontario (2017-2019) and a discussion on the need for BIG in N.S. and the far-reaching effects such a program could have.

The event was co-hosted by the Annapolis Valley Community Food Council, Kings West Community Health Boards, BIG N.S. and the Town of Berwick.

These passionate individuals are spearheaded by Greg Hubbert in advocating for BIG in N.S.

What is BIG?

Basic Income Guarantee is not a novel concept. However, one might confuse BIG with Universal Basic Income or UBI, especially when you start researching the topic. UBI is a government program that ensures all adult citizens receive a set amount of money regularly.

The anti-poverty advocates I spoke with identify with and support Coalition Canada’s definition of BIG which is that it “is a type of UBI that is universally available but is only provided to those who need it ... [it is] a periodic, unconditional cash payment sent to individuals from the government ... [that] ensures everyone can meet their basic needs and live with dignity regardless of their work status.”

Canada is no stranger to temporary and region-specific BIG programs. Apart from the Ontario pilot project which was set to run for three years but was stopped abruptly in 2019, there was also Mincome in the 1970s which spanned the rural Canadian community of Dauphin, Manitoba.

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