

Report to Provincial Council 2005

Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

What's happening in our diocese?

- Leap for Faith Capital Campaign

This \$3.3 million campaign was launched earlier this year to raise the funds necessary for us to honour our \$1.2 million commitment to the \$25 million Settlement Fund negotiated between the National Church and the Federal Government over the legacy of abuse in the Residential Schools; and to provide resources for new initiatives associated with a renewed vision for the diocese. They include Healthy Congregations, Embracing Youth, Anglican Identity, Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness through better use of information technology. The case for support for the Campaign also includes commitments to building up our Growth for Ministry Fund, and the on-going restoration and refurbishing of our Cathedral Church of All Saints.

Through the Quiet Phase in which we have been inviting gifts at Pace-Setting (\$50,000 +), Major (\$15,000-\$50,000), and Leadership (\$2,500-\$15,000) levels, we have reached the 1.8 million mark in commitments to date. We recently launched the Every Member Division of the Campaign. The Bishop has written to every Anglican household inviting a commitment.

October 16th is Leap for Faith Sunday. Liturgical resources and sermon notes have been prepared for the Sunday Service. Many parishes will be hosting a festive meal featuring a presentation of the Case for Support and an explanation of how gifts can be made. It is hoped that by mid November everyone will have made a gift in the spirit of sacrificial giving in good cheer!

This campaign is staffed by RBR, a local professional fund raising group, and co-chaired by Carolyn Chenhall and Paul Kent. The Clergy Division and the Every Member Division are co-chaired by The Rev. Canon David Reid, and The Rev. Michael Mitchell. Along with them are a host of volunteers serving on the Campaign Cabinet, in the area of public relations, and as area coordinators of the Every Member Division. We are most grateful for their dedication to this campaign, the first of its kind in the diocese since “Anglicans in Mission” in the early ‘80’s.

- The Bishop's Commission on Property Redevelopment

Phase I concerned what was commonly referred to as the South Lawn Project of the Cathedral. The Dean and Chapter, with the consent of the Cathedral Congregation, leased that land to a developer for 75 years. Greenwood Lane has

built a very attractive complex known as Chapter House. It includes several medical clinics on the ground floor, and 3 floors of one and two bedroom apartments. This project will generate approximately \$80,000 a year which the Dean and Chapter will apply to the on-going restoration and refurbishing of the Cathedral, which we hope will be completed in time for the Centenary of the opening of the Cathedral in 2010.

Phase II concerns the lands on the north side of the Cathedral owned by the Diocese and the Anglican Diocesan Centre Corporation. The Commission has completed space requirement surveys for all who occupy the Diocesan Centre; the Cathedral Office, the Synod Office, the Archives, the Diocesan Book Room; and has, with the authority of Dean and Chapter, Cathedral Council and Diocesan Council, invited proposals for the redevelopment of the site. Construction could begin as soon as late next year!

- Synod '05 held in Charlottetown, PEI

For the first time in almost forty years, Synod met on Prince Edward Island. The theme was *Building Bridges* and many of the topics under consideration in what was primarily a Program Synod, reflected this image. We received an update on progress with respect to our Capital Campaign and the celebrations planned for 2010—the 300th Anniversary of continuous Anglican worship in Nova Scotia. The Youth Delegates assumed the head table for a Saturday morning session engaging the whole of Synod in a discussion of more effective ways of embracing youth in the life and witness of the Church. The Synod welcomed Alice Mann, our consultant from the Alban Institute, who led us in a very engaging presentation on *The Life Cycle of a Congregation*, leaving many of the delegates with lots to ponder!

We welcomed Janet Marshall who spoke of the work of *Potentials East*. She is currently working with a number of parishes in the diocese who are committed to the task of discerning how God may be calling them to be the Church in the future. We also welcomed the Rev. Canon Eric Beresford, the new President of Atlantic School of Theology who spoke of the School's commitment to programs for equipping men and women to be leaders with the skills for transformation in the Church's capacity to witness in an ever-changing context. Fiona Brownlee, from the Diocese of Keewatin, spoke about the work of the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. Penny Lockhart spoke of the Companion Diocese Program—of the bishop's upcoming visit to the Synod of Moosonee and the proposed visit to our Companion Diocese of Manicaland in Zimbabwe in 2006. And Ann Kilby, our Coordinator for PWRDF, addressed Synod on the initiative "A Generation without AIDS", including in her presentation a substantial excerpt from Stephen Lewis's address to General Synod in 2004. As Synod was in session, Bishop Sue was at the Council of General Synod as it deliberated over the request of the Primates of the Communion that the Anglican Church of Canada withdraw its members from the Spring meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council in Nottingham, England. Given the wide range of subjects

under consideration, the theme of “Building Bridges” across time, cultures, conditions under which people live, and theological perspectives, proved to be most apt for our gathering, our work, and our prayer as a Synod.

- Holy Conversations

This is the title for conversations between and among parishes discerning their future together. From the experience of such conversations to date in Pictou County, Sydney, the Greater Glace Bay Areas, Annapolis, Halifax, Truro-Bible Hill, Liverpool-Eagle Head, Lockeport-Barrington and Shelburne, we prepared a Case Study which Bishop Sue took to the 2005 Living Stones Conference. We received a lot of constructive feedback including counsel that we give more attention to two things in the early stages of such conversations:

- 1) time for the parishes to get to know one another through joint gatherings in worship, learning, and fellowship
- 2) theological reflection as it relates to and informs the work of discerning the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Another significant even in our on-going work in this regard was a gathering on May 28th with Alice Mann, our Consultant from the Alban Institute. People from every place where there has been a conversation of this kind gathered in Pictou. It was a wonderful mix of people; some are living the decisions made as a consequence of conversation—some for up to 3 years, some for just up to 9 months; some in the thick of discernment; some just beginning such a conversation; and some considering one, albeit with some degree of hesitation. It was a marvel to watch how people at different points in these “holy” conversations resourced, counseled and cared for one another. The event was well received. As we left we were counseled whether we be participants, local leaders, of facilitators for these kinds of conversations to use as a resource a publication entitled “Distinctive Thumbprints in Regional Ministry” by Patricia Ellertson. It is a collection of case studies of regional or cluster ministries. Each chapter includes a description of the churches involved; the formation, governance and ministry in the cluster; the distinctions and flavour of the cluster; and findings or learning from the experience. It is an excellent resource!

- Clergy

- Vocations

We are encouraged by the number of people who are testing a vocation through our discernment process

- Candidates for Ordination

3rd Year of Studies and Formation—six
2nd Year of Studies and Formation—three
1st Year of Studies and Formation—two

- for NSOM

seven studying plus
three ready for ordination

- Appointments

The diocese continues to experience a high degree of clergy appointments. In the last 3 years we have had an average of 20-25 clergy moves. 75% of our parishes have experienced a change in clergy.

- Fresh Start – a Resource for Clergy and Congregations in Transition

This program “enables ministry by

- Assisting with the transition issues inherent in any new ministry
- Sharpening the skills of lay leaders and clergy for congregational development
- Strengthening collegial relations among the clergy of a diocese
- Deepening trust and interconnectedness, between and among clergy, the lay leaders of congregations and the bishop and bishop’s staff”

Six of our clergy have completed the training for introducing the program in our diocese. Next Spring, we hope to send a number of lay leaders for the training. In the meantime we plan to formally introduce the program through a number of regional gatherings this fall. This program is an initiative that addresses a number of issues related to Healthy Congregations and Healthy Clergy.

- The Bishop’s Commission on Clergy Health and Well Being

On my behalf, Bishop Sue chairs this Commission. To date, attention has been given to

- Gathering information and resources from across the Canadian/Episcopal Church
- Preparation of new guidelines for the Bishop’s Expectation of Parishes
- The introduction of the Fresh Start Program
- Consideration of the forming of a Clergy Association for Personal and Professional Development
- Drafting of a guideline for Continuing Education, Study Leave, and Sabbatical
- Dissemination of articles on clergy health and well being
- Monitoring matters related to human resources and clergy benefits
- Convening gatherings of the clergy to take counsel together and to be resourced by those with expertise and experience in the subject of health and well being for clergy.

- Retired Clergy

We have about eighty!

Archbishop Arthur Peters (retired) acts as Episcopal Chaplain to these clergy and their families.

The bishops host an annual fall gathering for the retired clergy and their spouses, and clergy widows. It includes a Eucharist, a luncheon, and a time of fellowship. This year's gather will be on November 5th.

- Embracing Youth

- TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) celebrated its 11th gathering this year!
- The 3rd Annual Diocesan Youth Conference takes place at AST October 28-30 with jazz musicians and priest, The Rev. Tim Elliott. The theme—you guessed it—"Rhythm". He writes:

"Your life has a structure but you have the freedom within that structure...think of it like a piece of jazz music. On the score you are given a basic rhythm and chords. What you do with those rhythms and chords – your own improvisation – is something you must decide. Our lives are like that. Our faith provides us a structure and we have to decide how we're going to live out our lives in that faith."

- Youth Ministry Coordinator

Through a special \$500 appeal from each parish in the diocese, the budget for 2006 and funds anticipated through the Capital Campaign, we anticipate funding a staff position in Youth Ministry in the new year.

- A Windsor Report Gathering

On April 9th, clergy and laity from across the diocese gathered to consider the Windsor Report on Communion. Participants heard an overview of the report and its recommendations and then discussed the theological, ecclesial and pastoral dimensions of the same. The event was well attended and well received. Many commented that it was a good model for discussing contentious matters in the Church. Many said they learned a lot about how the Church in its ever-widening circles takes counsel together. It is our hope to plan a series of Regional Gatherings concerning the Windsor Report and the St. Michael's Report on The Blessing of Same Sex Unions (prepared by the Primate's Theological Commission) this fall and next Spring.

- Synod 2006

Next year's Synod will be held in the Fall; October 12—14 in Halifax. It will mark the 150th Anniversary of the Synodical Movement in Nova Scotia and we are delighted to know that our Primate, The Most Rev. Andrew Hutchison, will be with us for this historic gathering!

- 2010 Celebrations

2010 marks the 300th Anniversary of continuing worship in the Anglican tradition in Nova Scotia, the Centenary of the opening of the Cathedral Church of All Saints, and the 50th Anniversary of the opening of the Diocesan Centre. We intend to have a year-long celebration with the theme, "A Journey Just Begun,"

(borrowed from the hymn “She Comes Sailing on the Wind”, #656 in Common Praise). There will be Regional celebrations in our oldest parishes and a diocesan-wide celebration on October 3rd to which we have the Archbishop of Canterbury as preacher. And we are delighted to announce that the Council of General Synod has accepted our invitation to host General Synod when it meets in 2010. We are very excited!

- Relations with Other Dioceses
Moosonee – Bishop Fred and several others from Nova Scotia, attended the Synod in Moosonee in June. Among other events at this Synod, the two dioceses renewed their 25 year relationship as partners in prayer and good works in support of the Church’s work in the North.

Keewatin – We welcomed Fiona Brownlee to our Synod in June. She spoke of ministry in the Diocese of Keewatin where her husband is the Dean; and of the work with the Council of Indigenous People.

Manicaland in Zimbabwe – We look forward to a delegation making a visit to Manicaland in June, 2006. The visit will be made in connection with celebrations associated with the Commemoration of the life and witness of Bernard Mizeki, the first Catechist and Martyr of Zimbabwe.

How could the Province of Canada impact your diocese?

At Meetings of the Council or Synod

- Diocesan Displays
- A Presentation by each diocese featuring a particularly exciting project, and a particularly challenging situation and how it is being addressed
- Sharing of resources and contacts for further information concerning the matters addressed in the diocesan presentation.
- A presentation by the Tri-Diocesan Committee for the 3 dioceses in Newfoundland (and Labrador) would be interesting. It might spark other dioceses in close geographic proximity to work on some issues in a similar kind of way.
- Forums on the Church’s response to major socio-economic issues facing the constituencies we serve.

Between Meetings

- Prompt reporting of the proceedings of a meeting of the Council or Synod and more extensive coverage in the Anglican Journal
- Broader and imaginative use of the Provincial web site
- The resurrection of Provincial News—with a Spring and Fall Edition
- Occasional meetings of Diocesan Executive Officers
- Continued use of Provincial Prayer Care

***What does your diocese have to contribute to the life of the
Province of Canada?***

We have some good resources to share for:

- A Discernment Process for those discerning a vocation
- Clergy Health and Well Being
- Developing of Parish Profiles
- Covenants in Ministry
 - Making, celebrating, reviewing and renewing
- Conversations between and among congregations discerning their future
- Logos Facilitator Training Workshops
- The Ministries of Archdeacons and Regional Deans

Respectfully submitted,

The Right Reverend Fred J. Hiltz
Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island