

# The Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

## Diocesan Report 2009:



### Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

#### Description of the Diocese

With its Cathedral and Diocesan Synod Office located in the provincial capital of St. John's, the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador has nearly 40,000 members on the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland (30 parishes) and covering most of Labrador (4 parishes).

### Good News Stories /Highlights /Initiatives



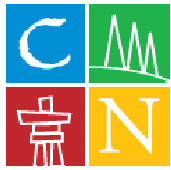
On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 11 Anglican priests partnered with professional dancers to showcase their dancing skills and competed in a gala *Dancing With The Priests* event at Mile One Centre, St. John's. The event included a four-course meal and live music for

entertainment and dancing. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and funds for Vibrant Communities.

Working as part of Vibrant Communities Canada, Vibrant Communities is a non-profit organization that aims to ensure individuals and families in St. John's and Northeast Avalon neighbourhoods have adequate resources to maintain a decent standard of living and to participate fully in the life of our community. A few of their priority areas include; improving high school completion rates for youth in low-income neighbourhoods, providing opportunities for unemployed adults who want to learn and to work, enhancing availability of affordable/quality childcare and helping to build capacity and spirit in low income areas of the city where volunteers are trying to make a difference. All proceeds from the event have gone towards accomplishing these goals.



**The Battle Harbour Mission Project – update.** The project began in 2007 with a proposal to place a second Priest in the Parish of Battle Harbour for two years to enhance ministry in that very challenging parish. The Rev. Mark Nichols developed the plan and received pledges of financial assistance from several parishes. The Rev. Wayne Parsons joined the Parish of Battle Harbour and took up residence, with his family, in Port Hope Simpson. Having a second priest in this parish has made a major impact and the Mission



**Council  
of the North**

project has been deemed a major success. But now, with two priests moving on to other diocese a new model had to be found. In the Fall of 2008, with the help of a Council of the North grant, representatives from all the Labrador parishes came together with the Bishop, and other Synod Office representatives,

in Goose Bay for a conference titled *A New Face of Ministry in Labrador*. The goal of this conference was to evaluate this project and plan for ongoing ministry in the Archdeaconry. These discussions continued at the annual Labrador Planning Strategy conference in January 2009; at the conference this year we were honoured by a visit from the Primate.



### Labrador Ministries

We now are moving forward with a new structure in Labrador. The parishes of Battle Harbour and Cartwright are now combined to form the *Parish of Southeast East Labrador* and are currently staffed by three Deacons, two of whom have recently graduated from Queen’s College and will be ordained priest this Fall, the other is still in training. The parishes of Churchill Falls and Rigolet are now operating as a cluster ministry while the two larger



parishes, Labrador West and Lake Melville, remained unchanged. The annual grant for the Council of the North assists us in the ongoing ministry in Labrador. The Ven. Charlene Taylor, Territorial Archdeacon, is responsible for overseeing this new arrangement.

Another addition to our Labrador ministry is the recent partnership with the Moravian Church in Newfoundland and Labrador in order to put an Anglican Priest in Hopedale. The search went out for a Priest to take on a one-year contract to live and work in Hopedale; we also sought someone who spoke the language. The Rev. Brian Burrows, a retired priest living in Ontario answered the call. Rev. Brian spent much of his ministry in the North and speaks several languages.

## Diocesan Ministry Plan: Phase II

What began in 2004 and was presented at Synod 2005 now need to be updated. Bishop Cy recognized that planning for the diocese had to continue, because without a clear vision for the future and a road map for how to get there, our future would be uncertain. He concluded it best not to proceed beyond the current Ministry Plan without first hearing



from as many Anglicans in the Diocese as possible. A committee was formed under the direction of Dr. Harold Press. The first part of that challenge was to set out to conduct one of the most wide-ranging surveys of any diocese in North America. The survey would include interviews; questionnaires, focus groups and roundtables, and participants would include ordained ministry, laity and staff. The purpose of the questionnaires was to help understand the views and concerns of Anglicans about their faith, parish life and the diocese. The committee encouraged parishes to conduct the survey before or during worship on the last Sunday of May; however, individual parishes were free to choose the most appropriate times for them to administer it. Parishioners who were not at worship on the Sunday when the survey was administered could obtain a copy of the questionnaire from the parish office or download it from the diocesan web site and participate on line. 3200 surveys were received. "Such an extensive survey is important not just for the information it produces, but also because it is *inclusive*. It gives everyone an opportunity to have a say," the Bishop

concluded. "In addition, there will be follow-up for clergy and Diocesan Council. But in the end, we will have a strategic Ministry Plan that will lead us into the future; a plan that most everyone in the Diocese can say: "I had a hand in that." Our updated ministry Plan was unveiled at a Diocesan Conference in the Fall of 2008.



Council became the focus of this next phase in our Plan. At the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of this Council in May 2009 a 6<sup>th</sup> Mark was endorsed, based on a request from the Anglican Church of Canada and the 2009 Mutual Responsibility and Mission Consultation in Costa Rica to add a sixth "Mark of Mission" that relates to peace, conflict transformation and reconciliation to the current list of five

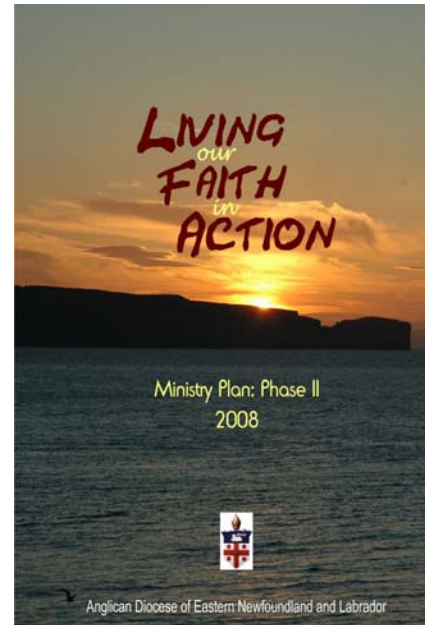
The Five Marks of Mission, adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Anglican Consultative

While these *Marks of Mission* are not the only ways of doing mission, they serve as a guide and help define how churches within the Communion can live out a mission lifestyle in their local contexts and in a variety of ways. In the end, the *Marks* can be a *litmus test* of our own mission.

Our Mission Statement calls us to reach out to all people everywhere and proclaim the good news. In the next three to five years, our new Ministry Plan will focus on the following seven priority areas:

Areas of Mission;  
Spiritual Development  
Evangelism  
Parish Life  
Social Justice, Outreach, Service and Advocacy

These will be enabled by;  
Inspirational Leadership  
Stewardship of all our Resources  
Sound Administrative Practices



## Celebrating New ministry

In January of 2009 the Archdeaconry of Trinity Conception, under the direction of the Bishop and the new Territorial Archdeacon, the Ven. Gerald Westcott, came together to reaffirm their commitment to one another and to the continued unity of the Anglican Church of Canada and of the Anglican Communion. Clergy and lay gathered at the



Parish of the Resurrection for fellowship and education and shared a meal together before joining with many lay people, representing every parish in the Archdeaconry, in a celebration of the Eucharist in the evening. During this service a covenant was signed: “As faithful partners, we will carry out our ministries in support of and in response to the commitments we make together today. On

behalf of the parishes of the Archdeaconry of Trinity Conception and with the support and assistance of the entire Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, we make this **Archdeaconry Covenant** in the presence of God at the Parish of the Resurrection on

this 13<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2009.” Our next step in celebrating new ministries is to bring the “Fresh Start” program to our diocese. Archdeacons Sandra Tilley and John Dinn took part in the training session in Niagara Falls this past spring and will be offering sessions to parishes in the New Year.

### **CLB mission to Belize**

In late June, the C.L.B. Mission Belize team travelled to the community of San Mateo on the island of Ambergris Caye in Belize. Under intense heat the team, numbering 44 (mostly youth aged 14 – 20) worked alongside Belizeans in refurbishing an Anglican School while also operating a Vacation Bible School for 100 children. A substantial donation was made which will provide breakfast, snack and lunch for the children of the community for two months, not to mention 44 suitcases filled with various school supplies. The mission opened their eyes to indescribable poverty – yet they felt empowered as part of a church that encourages our youth to get involved in making a positive difference in our world. Our youth have seen and felt the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through them. Our mission was so successful that the Diocese of Belize has begun plans to develop their own CLB; and God willing, we will be pleased to help.



### **Challenges/Issues**

We continue to struggle with the impact of a declining birthrate and very significant out-migration that presents challenges to rural parishes as they seek ways to provide effective ministry. Also with shifting demographics as more and more of the Newfoundland population resides on the Avalon Peninsula we also struggle with ways to reach out to growth areas. With all parishes, and the Diocese itself, working extremely hard to make ends meet the challenge is finding ways to bring ministry to newcomers. Staffing levels and staff stress continues to be a concern for us.

## Opportunities/Suggestions for sharing with other Dioceses

The Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador shares with the Diocese of Central Newfoundland and the Diocese of Western Newfoundland the responsibility for the



operation of Queen’s College. All three also share in the administration of our newspaper “Anglican Life” as well as health and financial matters through the Joint Committee that meets annually and with diocesan executives meeting as necessary. Anglican Joint Investments (AJI) also oversees shared investments for the three dioceses. We would like to see opportunities for enhanced communication between the Provincial dioceses, possibly through the website. Other options, especially in Newfoundland, would be to pool resources to allow us to deliver a higher calibre of clergy education opportunities.

## Some ways your Diocese can contribute to the Provincial Structure and how the Ecclesiastical Province can support your Diocese

We are open to a serious conversation around the area of governance as identified at General Synod in 2007 and now ongoing in the Province. We believe the Province has unlimited potential for shared ministry but we need a mechanism to put this into action.