

The Parish Broadside - St Peter's Anglican Church



Advent, Christmas, 2006 & Epiphany/Pre-Lent 2007



Parish Launches Web-site

Sunday January 7, 2007 will be an extra special day in the life of St Peter's Parish. On that Sunday the cathedral Puppeteers will visit St Peter's for the 11 a.m. time slot and present another engaging presentation concerning God's love. This time will be followed by a gathering in the Parish Hall for the official launching of the new Parish Website.

Will Hyslop, parishioner and professor at UNB, has done a great deal of work in the background in order to make this day happen. Initial previews by vestry members and Rector Hebb have been very positive. The site will give visitors a very accurate sense of the nature of our Parish; the nature of our worship, including organ and choir, the scope and work of our groups, including our Sunday School and ACW will all be described and highlighted. Weekly bulletins will be posted, hopefully, before Sunday mornings as well as the Parish Newsletter.

The plan is to create and operate an up-to-date, accurate and interactive website which parishioners, newcomers and established St Peter's folks will also visit regularly. Please give us your ideas, share in the excitement and visit our site at

stpeterfredericton.nb.ca



**Advent Carols & Lessons
at St Peter's
Sunday
Dec 3, 11 a.m.
First in Fredericton in
2006**



**Sunday School Christmas
Presentation
including
Jesse Tree
Sunday Dec 10, 11 a.m.
Pot Luck Meal to follow
in Parish Hall !! Welcome!**



**FREDERICTON
REGIONAL MEETING
FOCUSES ON AIDS AND
AFRICA**

More than 30 participants attended the Regional Meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick (October 13-15.) The excitement of the culmination of the Bishop's Walk was in the air. RWRDF partner from Tanzania, Christine Kilipamwamba talked about her work in the Dioceses of Ruaha and PWRDF staff gave presentations on PWRDF's work in Africa and on HIV and AIDS.

We started the weekend reflecting on the problems, causes and symptoms of Poverty. There was a rich offering of stories from African villages that have experienced transformation because of the help from PWRDF. All the participants also took time in the afternoon to write an action plan for the future on AIDS and PWRDF.

We learned a lot and were humbled by everyone's excitement about coming (see page 2)

Some thoughts on "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree"
(by Sandra Gereau)

The original poem appeared in a collection compiled by Joshua Smith in 1784 and it was put to music by Elizabeth Poston. The piece fits into both Advent and Lenten themes (and we have sung it in both seasons) but I prefer to sing it in Advent as it expresses ideas of "darkness into light" particularly well. Although we will never know what the author intended us to interpret, the text is so rich in symbolism that it touches many who hear it. Here are some of my thoughts.

The first verse takes us back to the Garden of Eden and the fall of man. The creation story provides an explanation for the development of conscious existence of human beings. Adam and Eve succumb to the desire to know what God knows and, despite the warnings not to do so, they eat the fruit of the "tree of knowledge of Good and Evil." Consequently, they lost their innocence and could no longer live in the Garden – they had to toil for a living, their days would be numbered and they would eventually return to the dust from which they came. God made sure they would not live forever by forbidding them access to the fruit of the "Tree of Life".

*The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit and always green
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree*

In this carol we immediately confront the image of Jesus Christ as the Tree of Life. There is a medieval concept of the "Tree of Life" as the cross – indeed, during the Good Friday service the choir sings a communion hymn "Tree of Life and awesome mystery in your death we are reborn." So, too, in this carol we see the juxtaposition of the tree in the Garden of Eden, which (See page 2)

(Continued from page 1)
 brought about man's
 destruction through sin
 versus the Tree of Life in
 the cross which brought
 about man's redemption.

*His beauty doth all things
 excel
 By faith I know but ne'er can
 tell
 The glory which I now can
 see
 In Jesus Christ the apple
 tree.*

There is a Russian
 saying that "when you see
 with your soul you can
 behold the beauty of
 God's love". This verse
 reminds us that our faith
 can reveal truths which
 reach beyond our
 empirical world, beyond
 the notion that "seeing is
 believing."

*For happiness I long have
 sought
 And pleasure dearly I have
 bought
 I missed of all but now I see
 'Tis found in Christ the apple
 tree.*

Our secular world can
 offer many pleasures and
 pastimes, but, ultimately,
 they may be transitory
 only and not sustain us.
 This verse reminds us
 where true happiness can
 be found.

*I'm weary with my former
 toil
 Here I will sit and rest a
 while
 Under the shadow I will be
 Of Jesus Christ the apple
 tree.*

This verse alludes to the
 ideas in one of my
 favourite duets in Handel's
 Messiah – He Shall Feed
 His Flock – with the line
 "come unto Him and He
 shall give you rest unto
 your soul." When I was
 younger I would work with
 my father and my uncles
 on the family farm.
 Whether we were tending
 cattle or working in the
 gardens, there was
 nothing as blissful as the
 break at the end of the
 day – either on the step
 with a cool glass of water
 from the well, or with a
 fresh apple from the tree.
 I am also thoughtful of the
 hectic nature of our lives
 and how hard it is to have
 time for oneself. The
 Season of Advent allows
 us to remember to be
 still, to think and to
 prepare ourselves for the
 birth of our Lord.

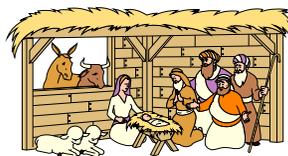
*This fruit does make my
 soul to thrive
 It keeps my dying faith
 alive
 Which makes my soul in
 haste to be
 With Jesus Christ the
 apple tree*

Finally, in the last verse,
 we find the denouement
 of the story. The fruit of
 the Tree of Life keeps us
 alive and give us the
 desire to be grafted onto
 the apple tree itself.
 Some members of the
 congregation have
 mentioned to me that this
 is the most powerful
 verse, especially - *This
 fruit does make my soul
 to thrive, it keeps my
 dying faith alive* – because
 for most of us, faith and a
 commitment to that faith
 is a life long struggle, and
 life can send us many
 situations which tests our
 faith. So we need to take
 solace in the end of this
 carol -

*Which makes my soul in
 haste to be with Jesus
 Christ the apple tree.*

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Christmas Carols &



Lessons Service

Sunday Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Creche

Program

& Carol Sing

Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

[designed for children
 under 10 yrs of age]



Peace: Pray for it globally,
 work for it locally, see to it
 internally - in your heart first
 and foremost - as you are
 touched by the love of Christ!

(AIDS & Africa: -
 continued from p. 1)
 together, commitment to
 the Primates Fund and
 dedication to walk on this
 earth as Christ calls us to.

On Sunday Bishop Miller
 presented a cheque for
 \$50,000.00 from his walk to
 Christine Kilipamwamba for
 AIDS relief in Africa. St.
 Peters should be very proud
 that we raised \$1500.00 of
 that amount. St. Peters
 Sunday School was
 mentioned by the Bishop
 during his presentation of
 the funds for their hard work
 and dedication.

Agnes 16 to 87, men and
 women, clergy and lay
 people, everyone left feeling
 energized and blessed by the
 time we had together.

(Submitted by Bob
 Matthews)

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A Sunday School Prayer

This prayer was written by the
 primary Sunday School Class

Dear God,

We love you. To show you that we
 love you, we will...

Sing, dance, color, pray, read, clap,
 jump, skip, play run, help, clean,
 laugh, be kind and nice, love, and
 care for other people. **Amen.**

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Donations for flowers at
 Christmas can be given to either
 Freyda Gereau or Maria
 Matthews.



A warm 'thank-you' to all who
 have made donations of money
 or flowers throughout the year to
 help beautify God's House for
 worship.

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Help Needed!

Saturday Dec. 16 the Fredericton
 Food Bank requires aid in delivering
 their Christmas Baskets to Families
 in the City. Volunteer by going to
 the Exhibition Grounds between
 8:30 and 10 a.m. Addresses will be
 marked on each basket: Parish
 contact: Paula Allen 363-3769