

# *The Parish Broadside – St Peter’s Anglican Church*

Lent and Easter 2011  
[www.stpeterfredericton.nb.ca](http://www.stpeterfredericton.nb.ca)

## What's Been Happening?

Although the cold snows of March continue to pile up, the life of your Parish has not been frozen this winter. Our annual meeting in January witnessed a respectable attendance, great food and informed and interesting discussion of various matters. The Natural Church Development (NCD) survey process was explained and approved. February 20<sup>th</sup> was the survey date and we are now compiling the data for submission to the company. Once the results are returned to us, a major open meeting of *all interested parties* will be held. The results will be shared and all ideas as to how to address the weaknesses of the Parish will be heard and entertained. It must be stressed that ideas and those to put them into effect are what is truly needed at this time. The annual meeting also discussed, at length, the ongoing issue of the rectory building, its condition, difficulties in renting and future use and usefulness. The balance between its long-term use to the Parish versus ongoing maintenance costs is a significant issue. The structure is 164 years old and has been renovated many times over the centuries. Your vestry continues to struggle with this issue which will not go away even when it is rented; as it will be as of April 1, 2011. As for your vestry, there are two new members this year, Ria Neish and Anne Klinck. Each brings a diversity of life experiences and a unique perspective to the table. Finally on the Parish Hall front there has been continued usage and rental activity. The Fredericton Rug Hooking Guild continues to meet every second Wednesday. The hall was also rented for a funeral reception and a one year old's first birthday party. It was also made available, free of charge, for a charity dinner and gathering. Obviously, the hall continues to be used on a weekly basis by the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and we were pleased to be able to open our doors to these folks when they found themselves double-booked for their major winter camp-out at their facility at Yoho Lake. As this event coincided with our annual Baden Powell Sunday Church Parade it worked out very well for both the Parish and the groups concerned. We trust that this diversity of Parish Hall usage will continue by those who

value and appreciate the facility and its role within the community.

## What's coming up this Lent?

Lent 2011 will see two all new initiatives at St Peter's Parish. These are opportunities not to be missed for it is unlikely that they will come our way anytime soon again. First, Fr Hebb is pleased to announce that Ria Neish, a nursing student at UNB, who holds a MTS (Master of Theological Studies) degree has agreed to present a series of Lenten Talks. Ria's talks will be on Sunday afternoons in the Church building at 4 p.m. Entitled "Lectio for the Soul," her talks will focus on the Sunday Gospel (Prayer Book) reading of the day. Her approach will be both educational AND devotional. Slow, deliberate reading of the text followed by scheduled silent reflection time will be part of each session. Sessions will close with the saying of the short service of Compline (Prayer Book .722-728). Folks will leave the Church in silence and proceed to the Parish hall for a cup of tea and conversation. This unique six week course begins on March 13<sup>th</sup> with the first Sunday in Lent. The other unique and first ever event of its kind is the Adult Saint Michael's Conference scheduled for St Peter's Parish, April 8th and 9<sup>th</sup>. Modelled off the successful summertime Youth Conference of the same name, this first ever Adult Conference is designed to meet an ongoing request from those who are aware of that Conference's draw and vitality. Designed for those older than 19 years, this Conference has adopted the Lenten theme of "passio" or suffering. Not just asking, "What are Christians to make of the suffering in their world?" but more pointedly, "What are we, as followers of Jesus, to make of our own suffering?" Are we being punished? Is our God cruel? What light and/or insight does Jesus shed on these pressing questions? The Conference will include shared meals, times for fellowship and four talks by knowledgeable individuals as well as time to explore our Cathedral (a guided tour) and visit a special exhibit of Anglican material at the Provincial Archives. If you are interested in being a participant contact Fr Hebb at 454-8752 or [spph@nb.aibn.com](mailto:spph@nb.aibn.com).

## Anglican Parish of St Peter, Fredericton: Rector's Report on 2010

The year 2010 was a solidly good year for our Parish. I am pleased to report that after several years of decline, attendance not only levelled off but actually increased. The increase was also large enough to be heartening. Average weekly Sunday worship attendance came in at 55.92 souls. In 2009 it had been 52.57 and in 2008, 54.6. In sum, an increase of 3.35 souls over the previous year – as a statistical average this increase is indeed heartening. We have nonetheless some distance to go to return to 2007 and 2005 levels of 61.90 and 62.78, respectively. Progress, at faithfulness in worship, is being made. Oddly, there was only one baptism in 2010, but there were two funerals and two committals. Other good news, no doubt connected to this turn of events, is the fact that the Parish ended the year with sufficient funds to pay the Diocese all that it requested instead of the 10% Vestry was determined to pay. In short, instead of \$10,000.00 the Parish sent \$13,860.00 to the next level of the Church's administration. This good news must also be recalled within the context of our two year Restoration Project which saw \$40,000.00 given to accomplish the Church building's exterior Restoration. This Parish initiative concluded successfully in the autumn with the Episcopal visit of Archbishop Claude Miller and our special Evensong service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The year 2010 has been an encouraging one on many fronts.

What lies ahead in 2011? How do we build on this turnaround in attendance and giving? These are just some of the issues which we hope to see addressed by the Natural Church Development (NCD) Program. NCD is not a silver bullet which will fix all imaginable Parish problems - it is an assessment tool. In May 2010, partially as a result of a presentation by Archdeacon Drummond and at diocesan urging, your Vestry decided that of the options available, NCD was the vehicle most suited to our particular needs. It is a method of assessing where the Parish is at, what are its

strengths and weaknesses and once evaluated, what items we, the Parish, decide to work on and how! The more parishioners involved, the better, the more broadly based the initial evaluation; the more accurate a picture of our Parish at that point in time will emerge. We need a minimum of 30 parishioners to take the survey. Anyone interested in the present life and continuing vitality of St Peter's are encouraged to participate in this process. All ages, all groups and all persons involved in and engaged in any aspect of Parish life are urged to step forward and participate. Please do avail yourself of this opportunity. The presentation later on at this meeting will provide further details.

Other matters which need to be discussed at this gathering include the future of the rectory and the possibility of developing, in some manner, hopefully one which generates an income flow, the parish property behind the hall and rectory. In the cities of New Brunswick, Anglican rectories are fast becoming a thing of the past. While I may have been the first cleric in Fredericton to buy my own home ten years ago, I am certainly not the last. I know of only one Anglican rector living in a rectory in Fredericton today – all the rest have moved out and purchased their own homes. Some parishes have sold their rectories, others, like us, are renting them. Renting presents its own challenges, most notably the challenge of finding agreeable tenants and of getting a vestry member to be a liaison person between the parish and those living in the rectory. This reality, coupled with the ongoing fiscal squeeze that has faced the Parish is the context within which the issue of land development has arisen. Rather than wonder what might or could be done, Vestry decided to find some things out so that discussion can be informed and concrete. That is as far as matters have thus far progressed. It is vestry's wish that this gathering discuss the matter, *in light of this context*, and give further direction as to whether or not to proceed.

Lent 2011 will witness two new educational/devotional initiatives in our Parish. It is my pleasure to announce that Ria Neish, who is possessed of an actual theological

degree, has agreed to give Saturday afternoon devotional talks in the Church. Ria's talks will be devotional and educational in nature and will focus on the next day's Holy Communion service's Scripture readings. Also new and unique to St Peter's, one of the first two weekends in April, St Peter's will be hosting, the first ever, Adult Saint Michael's Conference. Modelled off the very successful week long, St Michael's Youth Conference held each summer, this adult conference is the initial response to an often repeated request by parents and adults who have been exposed to the depth and vitality of the Youth Conference. As with the Youth event, the Conference will revolve around devotion, education and fellowship. Devotion will be Prayer Book and focused, the learning will be in-depth and engaging and the fellowship will be genuine. Save the dates and plan both to attend and to help in hosting a trans-provincial event.

One final note on parish business; several years ago the sanctuary floor was replaced and upgraded with large white marble tile. Is it now time to begin consideration of work on the floor of the nave? What I would propose is a grey slate tile which would be very durable. Soliciting funds for this renovation would be a multi-year project but it is perhaps wise to have some such scheme before us as a mid-term goal. Based upon previously obtained estimates, the cost would run slightly over \$20,000.00. I raise the subject at this time to gauge response and interest.

On a more personal note, I wish to thank the folks of St Peter's Parish for their support and prayers over the past year. Not everyone may be aware that I did so in the acknowledgements of my book, *Samuel Seabury and Charles Inglis; Two Bishops, Two Churches* which was published in April 2010. My thanks also extends to the concern expressed and prayers offered during my absence for eye surgery in Halifax last summer. Thank God that the outcome of that surgery has been so positive. I feel it is also prudent to mention, (not by way of complaint) that due to a change in diocesan policy effected last December by Diocesan Council, I, like many city

clergy in the diocese of Fredericton, will experience a reduction in remuneration in 2011. The method of calculating travel allowance reimbursement has been altered which will result, in my case, to an approximately \$2,000.000 reduction in income. This should aid in keeping the parish in the black through the coming years.

I now wish to officially announce that I will be away on Sabbatical leave from May 1 to July 31, 2011. As our wardens, Bob Matthews and Mary Christie have known, Archbishop Miller granted episcopal permission for this sabbatical last May. I plan to spend a month of the time living, praying and studying at Norwich Cathedral in England. I ask that you remember me in your prayers throughout that time.

May the Triune God continue to bless our Parish of St Peter and grant to every member the desire to deepen in the Faith. May the Father increase in us a knowledge of His Goodness, may the Son convince and deepen in us a sense of His passionate love and may the Holy Spirit convict us by His presence and power that for His children, all is well and will indeed be forever well.

The Reverend Doctor Ross N. Hebb  
Priest & Rector of the Parish of St Peter, Fredericton.

++++  
Special Service of Lenten Lessons and Meditations: Sunday April 3, 11 a.m.

Tenebrae Service led by Confirmation Class Wednesday April 20, 7 p.m.

Good Friday Services: April 22, 11 a.m. Litany & Holy Communion 9 p.m. Compline (15 minutes long)

### **EASTER SUNDAY 2011**

[The latest Easter Date in your lifetime]

Sunday April 24

Holy Communion (said) 8 a.m.

Holy Communion & Holy Baptism (sung service) 11 a.m.

Easter Memorial Flowers:

Contact: Maria Matthews 459-4552