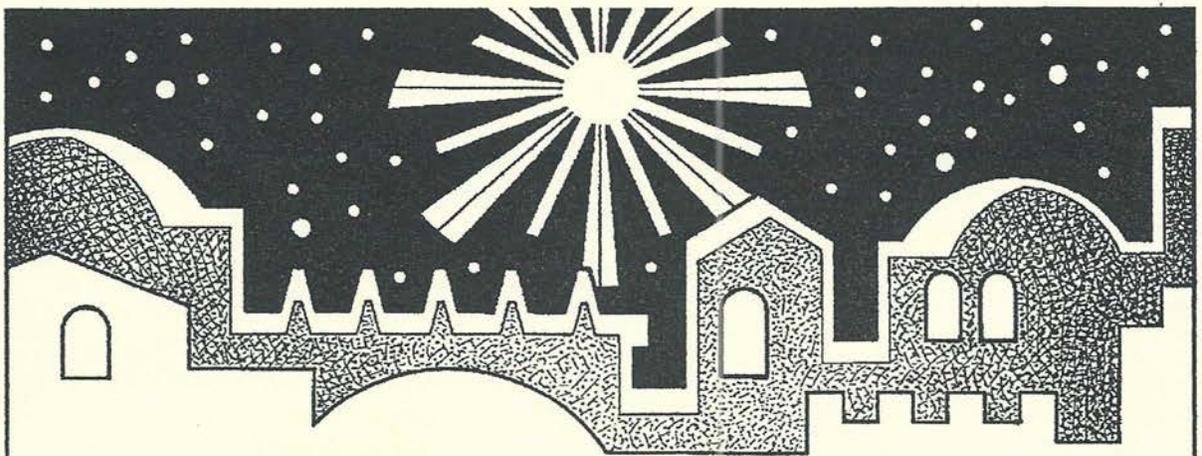


# People's Pulpit

December 1993

St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, Stittsville, Ontario



## Silent Night, Holy Night

*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:10,11

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# The Directory

**St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church P.O. Box 1064, 1619 Main St., Stittsville, Ontario K2S 1B2**

**Rector** The Rev'd Ross Moulton 836-5741 (office)  
836-2467(home)

## Parish Staff

Parish Secretary Shirley Sharkey 836-5741  
Caretaking Brent & Art Read 836-3687  
Organist Don Gillen 836-2229

## Members of Parish Council

Rector's Warden Brian Smith 831-0580  
People's Warden William Passmore 836-2876  
Deputy Warden/ Parish Council Chair Marilyn Johnston 836-5041  
Vestry Clerk Jim Sharkey 831-0121  
Treasurer Cheryl Jefferies 836-3166  
Property Convenor Hugh Sparks 836-1610  
Members of Synod Barbara Bottriell 836-2305  
Barbara Cordukes 836-4178  
Shirley Sharkey 831-0121  
Margaret Stone 836-4152  
Judy Starr 836-3234  
Keldine FitzGerald 836-3970



Worship & Liturgy Rep  
Youth Ministry Rep  
Christian Community Rep

## Convenors, Co-ordinators & Lay Leaders

Choir Director Peter Torunski 836-7375  
Pastoral Visiting Team Coordinator Ian Witney 836-7084  
Coordinator of Prayers & Readers Tom Sandor 831-7269  
Hall Rental Co-ordinator Don Gillen 836-2229  
Church School Recruitment Jane Smith 831-0580  
Church School Registration Judy Starr 836-3234  
Church School Teacher Training Brenda Kerr 836-1685  
Church School Supplies Anne Leighton 836-6137  
Church School Music Mary Passmore 836-2876  
Church School Treasurer Barbara Schizkoske 836-4417  
Nursery Edna Cooke 836-4599  
Youth Group Advisors Luc & Diane Faucon 836-1985  
Youth Group Representative Susan McCorkell 836-2348  
Servers' Guild Joanna Passmore 836-2876  
Altar Guild Joan Read 836-3687  
Sidespeople/ Greeters (8:30) Marilyn Johnston 836-5041  
Sidespeople/ Greeters (10:00) Roger Cooke 836-4599  
Coffee Hour Convenor Elizabeth Norris-Gervais 836-4584  
Lunch Convenor Denise Torunski 836-7375  
Anglican Church Women Bev Cutts 836-4772  
Card Secretary Elsie Standing 836-4495  
Cemetery Committee Chairman Bert Smith 838-4085  
Cemetery Committee Secretary/ Treasurer Beth Burke 831-2657  
People's Pulpit Editor Trish Irwin-Kitt 831-7107



# The Rector Writes

... of new pictures



Christmas is a time of year when our minds are flooded with vivid pictures and images. In one of the multitude of songs that drift across the Yuletide airwaves we hear the words, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." This line suggests that Christmas is a time for dreams and that our imagination is, for a time, freed from the cares that mark the routine days and weeks of the rest of the year. Mention Christmas and most people are not hard pressed to come up with a variety of images. Cosy visions of happy families gathered by the warm glow of the blazing hearth fit well with our sense of the season. In our mind's eye we picture acts of generosity and sharing; images sparked by the jingling bell of the person beside the Salvation Army kettle or the brightly coloured canvas of the Toy Mountain.

The images of Christmas are also an important component in the mosaic that we piece together to form the story of our lives. These images often form the bench marks that help us to recall our own personal history. You may, for example, be able to remember Christmas 1985 but it is equally unlikely that you can remember October 17th, 1985.

The most deeply rooted images of Christmas however are not of domestic bliss, or of acts of kindness or of the personal remembrances of past holiday seasons, but are those handed to us from the pages of scripture. The New Testament books of Matthew and Luke give us the details of a story that, generation after generation, is one of the first learned by children. To have grown up within

the sphere of Christianity is to know the story portrayed by the principle characters of Mary, Joseph, the angel Gabriel, the shepherds, the innkeeper, the wisemen, King Herod and others. The plot unfolds around a young woman, claimed to be a virgin, giving birth in a stable, to a child named Jesus. The place was Bethlehem, the city of King David. Most people can give immediate answers to questions such as, "Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem?" "Why was Jesus born in a stable?" "Who came to see the baby?" and even, "What did he wear?" Such details are etched deep in the minds of those who have called themselves Christians for nearly twenty centuries. The detail is remembered. The reason for the telling of the story is often forgotten.

The weaving of those characters and events into this story had the singular purpose of answering the question, "Who is Jesus of Nazareth?" The setting in Bethlehem, the angelic announcement to Mary, Joseph's dream, the appearing of the star, the homage paid by majestic visitors from the east were all understood in the context of a faithful community who recognized in the risen and glorified Jesus the saving work of God. To recall the Christmas story, to immerse ourselves in its images and pictures, without being riveted to the truth that it was formulated to illustrate is to miss the point. And I think, sadly, that has happened to Christmas!

The traditional religious images of Christmas - that so familiar pageant - have been sentimentalized and robbed of their power to

the point that they often fail to communicate the original truth. The truth is that in Jesus, God was acting to bring about the restoration of God's creation; in Jesus, God was overcoming the brokenness and distortion that was and is a reality in life; in Jesus, a new light was dawning on the darkness of chaos and disorder that every person, in every generation, has experienced. Does the world see that truth as we replay the stories of shepherds, wisemen, and angelic choruses over the hills of Bethlehem?

As we go into the twenty-first century, charged as every generation of Christians before us, with proclaiming God's good news to God's world, we need to tell our story with pictures and images that can be understood by those who hear us. Where do we find those images?

I wrote earlier that scripture, specifically Matthew and Luke, provide us with the deeply rooted images that form our Christian tradition. I still believe that is true but I find convincing and powerful images that are more compelling for the twentieth and twenty-first century in the fourth gospel, the Gospel of John. Just as the early chapters of Matthew and Luke attempt to explain who Jesus was, so the prologue of John's Gospel proclaims Jesus' genesis. But the images are different and the story is told in a different way. John's primary picture is God's eternal word depicted as a light shining in the darkness. I find power in that image for we will celebrate Christmas in a world that is no stranger to darkness. Whether that darkness is most real for you as you shake your head

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## The Rector Writes

... continued

at the horrors of Bosnia, or are gripped with the explosion of violence in our society, or as you feel the sting of unemployment or economic uncertainty, you will know, in one way or another, the chaos that is expressed by the image of darkness. In the face of all that, we, as Christians, dare to speak good news. We speak of Jesus and we speak with this image:



As a new mother, the story of the birth of Christ takes on fresh meaning. I can't read the story of the angel announcing to Mary that she was to have a baby without thinking of the moment I learned I would have a baby. I'll never hear the familiar story of the long journey and the search for a place to give birth without thinking about my own baby and his birth. And as I rejoice and delight in our new baby I, too, cry with Mary, "You have done great things for me. Holy is your name!"

Can there be anything more wonderful than the birth of a child? Is there anything as awe-inspiring as the creation of new life? I still sit and look at Trevor and contemplate the absolute miracle of new life. I hope I never lose this sense of awe and appreciation at the creation of new life. It is a great privilege, as well as a tremendous responsibility, to care for a

**"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."** (John 1:4,5)

My prayer for you this Christmas is that as we celebrate the coming of Jesus you will think of Him as the light that shines in your darkness and that you will

find strength, comfort, and most of all joy knowing that the darkness never overcomes that light.

In the light of Christ, Merry Christmas.



## From the Editor's Desk

child. I pray daily for his safety and protection from harm, and that we will be good parents.

Meanwhile we're looking forward to our first Christmas together. While it won't mean much to Trevor this year (he'll be all of 4-1/2 months), I know that in due time he'll catch the excitement that Christmas generates for all children. And eventually, when he's a little older yet, I pray he'll come to understand the specialness of this day, the birthday of our Lord Jesus.

In this issue of *People's Pulpit*, Shirley Sharkey and Georgina Purchase separately reflect on the sense of excitement that children feel on Christmas day. (See pages 7 and 13 respectively.) On page 5 you'll find the Christmas Service Schedule for St. Thomas' this year. Why not paste it on your fridge or wall for reference as the time approaches! You'll also find in this issue all sorts of updates (Sunday School, Transformation, Finances, ACW) as well as a view of the Transformation process from an individual's point of view (pages

11 & 12), and a look at the Junior Youth Program (page 9). William Passmore reflects on God's provision of all our needs in "Give us this day..." (page 14). An article on the value of time spent quietly with God is reprinted from last Christmas' issue (page 17). Please re-read it and consider spending your "free" time during Communion quietly with God. Various advertisements which appear in this issue help pay for its production during this time of tighter finances. We'd ask you to please consider supporting these businesses because they support us.

Finally, I always welcome articles, poems, letters or viewpoints for *People's Pulpit*. If you have a story to tell of God's working in your life but would have trouble writing it, I'd be glad to be of assistance.

Kevin and I wish all of you a Christmas season filled with the joy of Christ, and His peace that passes understanding!

Trish Irwin-Kitt  
(831-7107)



*Share the Joy  
of Christmas Worship  
at St. Thomas*

*Sunday, December 19th - Advent 4*

*8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*

*10:00 a.m. The Nativity Story - a pageant presented by the children of the Church School, Advent and Christmas Carol Singing followed by a parish luncheon.*

*Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve*

*4:30 p.m. Family Service with the Blessing of the Creche, Carol Singing and Holy Eucharist.*

*7:30 p.m. Sung Eucharist with Carols*

*10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols*

*Saturday, December 25th - Christmas Day*

*9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*

*Celebrant: The Rev'd Sharron Tate*

*Sunday, December 26th -*

*First Sunday after Christmas*

*8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*

*10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Service with Christmas Carol Singing and Eucharist*

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# Transformed by God's Calling

## Church Transformation

**A**t Diocesan Synod in October a budget for 1994 was passed that had several dramatic cuts from the budget originally proposed to parishes prior to Synod. Parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa indicated that they would be able to accept \$324,000 less than the \$2 million requested for 1994. While cuts were made in many areas, the largest cut of \$170,000 saw all financial support for the transformation process, "Transformed by God's Calling" withdrawn. This means several things. The consultant relationship with the Centre for Parish Development in Chicago, which has designed and guided the process since its beginning 2-1/2 years ago, will be terminated at the end of 1993. In the Diocesan process "Transformed by God's Calling" will be concluded at the end of stage three, leaving stages four and five - the phases of implementation and ongoing management - unfinished. At the parish level there will be support from the Church Transformation Management team and the Parish Transformation Consultants



to assist parishes in finishing the first part of Phase 2 - "Building the Strategic Profile". While many parishes, our own included, are keen to build on the learnings of "Transformed by God's Calling", there are no plans in place at this time for support or coordination of that continuing work.

The St. Thomas Parish Transformation Management Team is proceeding with work on the four part strategic profile. This work involves a careful examination of our parish under four major categories:

**Heritage Profile** - asks: "Who do we say we are?" and explores what

we believe about the nature and purpose of the Church.

**External Environment Profile** - asks: "Where do we live?" and gathers information about trends in the external environment where the parish conducts its ministry.

**Membership Profile** - asks: "What do we look like?" and examines the characteristics of our membership. Elsewhere in this issue of the *People's Pulpit* you will find a confidential survey that is vital to the work of this panel. Please complete it and return it to the parish.

**Organizational Profile** - asks: "How does our Church organization function?" and through interviews with people in the parish discovers how the internal management system of our parish actually functions.

Even without the context of a major change process, the work of and information generated by these four panel groups will prove to be a valuable tool as our parish continues to be faithful and effective as the People of God in this place.

The Rev'd Ross Moulton

## Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant is at 10:00 a.m. on December 19th, with a luncheon following. People with last names starting A-L please bring sandwiches and people with last names starting M-Z please bring dessert (i.e. cookies, squares).

Several sewing elves in our parish are busy making costumes, the children are learning their parts and practicing a special song. So be sure to attend this much enjoyed telling of the "First Christmas" by the young people of our church family.





## “And who is this Frank Intense anyway?”

While some of us are more vocally convinced of this than others, every grandparent knows that grandchildren are special and this is obvious in the way they approach grandparenthood as opposed to the way they approached parenthood. Doting is always allowed, indeed is a prerequisite (hence the term doting grandparent). Indulging, pampering and silly talk are all mandatory, and excessive loving goes without saying. All of this, naturally, comes with none of the frustration, discipline, responsibility and general wear and tear that makes up such a large part of the job of parenting. As the bumper sticker goes, “If I’d known grandchildren were so much fun, I’d have had them first.”

I love being a grandparent and never more so than at Christmas; that miraculous time of joy and peace, of love and sharing,

of secrets and happy laughter. I love being there on Christmas morning to witness the shining faces when they see the tree for the first time in all its glorious splendour; to be able to read to them the Christmas story and try to answer impossible questions about whether the baby Jesus minds lying in the straw in the manger and doesn’t it tickle him? Do I think all that singing from the angels might be keeping the baby awake? And who is this Frank Intense anyway? To watch them open their gifts and to hear one little girl worry that her smaller sister might not have received as many presents as she did; to see them meet in the middle of the living room and hug each other just for the sheer joy of it. And lest it appear that these particular grandchildren are preposterously perfect as well as incredibly special, it will also be necessary to negotiate a peace treaty when one sister decides to abscond with a treasure belonging to the other. And to mop up a mini-torrent or two of tears when they both get overtired and cranky and have probably eaten far too much choco-

late and very little of anything else.

And so it goes until the evening when at last, two little girls, rosy and sweet from their bath, snuggle on their grandpa’s knee, watching “The Little Mermaid” for what surely must be the *umpteenth* time today and vainly trying (along with their grandpa, I might add) to stay awake “just a little bit longer, please.” This is the stuff that memories are made of; grandchildren *really are special*.

I count my blessings. Somehow, tonight, it takes me longer than usual to give thanks. I seem to have so very much for which to be grateful. And as I watch my special ones, I think of that young mother on the first Christmas night so long ago and of how she, too, must have prayed for her child as I pray for mine; as mothers and grandmothers have always prayed, that each and every child in the world may be safe and warm and happy, not just for this night but for always.

Shirley Sharkey





## Our Outreach to Others

by Barbara Bottruell

Even though money designated for Outreach was one of the areas cut from our budget this year in an effort to trim costs, we have managed to do a little as a parish, and I hope we'll continue to find ways to reach out.

### *Centre 454*

The response to the request for winter clothes and useful items like toiletries was most generous. About twenty bags of clothes and assorted things were loaded into a van and taken down to Centre 454. Their coffee area was full of people who come in regularly for some human contact and a snack. Some of them have HIV and feel the cold particularly.

### *Collective Kitchen*

The Collective Kitchen which will use our kitchen facilities, should begin toward the end of November. Louise Beggs, a nutritionist, is coordinating it. This is a project that the Outreach Committee was interested in seeing happen and Louise wanted to undertake such a project, so together we worked out a way we could both contribute to it. We provide the facilities, she provides the leader-

ship and coordination. It is open to anyone in the community and provides a way to cook together more cheaply than on your own, as well as the enjoyment of working with other people.

### *Foster Children*

Two foster children are currently being supported by our parish - one through the Sunday School and one by eleven individuals and families who chose to be part of this project last year. This is a yearly commitment and a decision can be taken in the new year as to whether we want to continue the support in 1994.

### *The Fintons*

Andrew and Heather Finton, to whom we sent \$1000 at the end of 1992 for their work in Brazil, have sent another fascinating newsletter. I can't begin to quote it all but I urge you to read it. It will be up on the bulletin board in the foyer. It's a wonderful connection for us to have and they'd love to hear from any of you by mail, I'm sure.

Heather is teaching the boys to read and Andrew is giving them woodworking classes. The oxen they used to plough the fields were

stolen by robbers. They have a cosy little house but it leaks and they sometimes wear track suits to bed. They are struggling to learn Portuguese.

### *Christmas Suggestions*

So here are two Christmas suggestions: The people at Centre 454 still need winter gloves. I'm going to put a box or a basket in the foyer of the old section of the church. If you can buy a pair of men's gloves or have a pair in good condition you don't need, please put them in the box. We'll deliver them.

And I'll let Heather's words tell you what they would like. "As you discover more about our 'kids', please do send us your questions, your advice, your pictures and your letters. It means a lot to us and it means a lot to the boys to know that people 'far away' are interested in them. We look forward to hearing from you soon!"

*Andrew and Heather Finton  
a/c Instituto de Menores  
Caixa Postal 14  
Cangucu, RS Brazil 96.600-00*

## Christmas Greetings from the Rectory

We wish you much joy, love and peace in this Holy Season as new light dawns and we rejoice again in Emmanuel - God with us.

Merry Christmas

Donna, Ross, Laura and Emma Moulton



## A look at the Junior Youth Program



Each Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, a group of 12 and 13 year olds get together in a small meeting room in the church. They have a discussion (usually something to do with God's role in their lives or the pressure of peers and society). They usually play a game too, before joining the church service for communion with their families.

It was in September, 1992 that Sue McCorkell agreed to lead this new program. She was assisted by Laura Matthews and J.P. Torunski, with adult guidance provided by William Passmore. Now studying in grade thirteen, Sue has agreed to continue the program for

a second year, until next June. This year, Joanna Passmore is helping to lead the program.

On an average Sunday, the group consists of anywhere from four to ten participants, most of them in grade eight. Sue says she decided to lead the program because she would have enjoyed a similar program when she was that age. She says group members have a chance to discuss subjects that don't get raised in school, but are too advanced for Sunday School. She's been drawing discussion topics from books in a series called "Junior Highs Only". She's pleased that kids seem to enjoy the program, because they don't seem to

be at an age where they enjoy being in church yet.

Sue and Joanna would both like to see a larger youth group formed in the church. Many of the teenagers in our parish now go to other churches, to take part in their youth programs, even while their families worship at St. Thomas'. They feel they need some adult assistance and guidance to set up a more comprehensive program. It has been a couple of years since there was an active youth group in our parish.

Brian Smith



The ACW would like to thank everyone for their support of the bazaar. Whether you donated, worked or purchased, we say a sincere "Thank you". The proceeds of \$1400 will be turned into the Church coffers. Again, thanks!

Once more it is time for our Woolly Tree. All items will be removed on the last Sunday of Advent, December 19th, and will be taken to Nelson House, a home for abused women and their children in Nepean. Please help decorate our tree. Odds

and ends of yarn and needles can be left under the tree. Help yourself if you have time to knit.

As we become more aware of uses for our throw-aways, it seems that our Narthex may develop into a recycling depot. Juanita Snelgrove, the Diocesan ACW liaison with CHEO, is requesting used greeting cards and magazines (especially children's) for the children's crafts and waiting rooms of the hospital. The children get much pleasure and amusement from using the cards in many ways - scrap books, cutting and pasting, etc. Juanita told us of a teenage patient making a joke book from cuttings from Readers Digests. With the Christmas season upon us, remember to save all your cards. However, this is an ongoing project so a container will remain in the Narthex (entrance of the Church) for all cards and current magazines.

Yes, we are still collecting

used postage stamps (with a quarter inch border of envelope), eyeglasses, frames, lenses, hearing aids and Campbell's labels. The used stamps are sold to dealers and the proceeds go to the operating costs of the Leprosy Mission. The glasses and hearing aids go to Operation Eyesight. The Campbell's Labels for Learning project go to the Mission to the Deaf in the US, and the Mission has broadened its scope to include Schools for the Deaf in El Salvador and St. Croix. The School for the Deaf in Puerto Rico received a 15 passenger van (995,000 labels) as well as educational and sports equipment last year. Ottawa Diocese contributed 134,000 of these labels. Your soup tastes better knowing this, doesn't it? Franco American labels are also needed. A complete list of product labels will appear in the next issue of *People's Pulpit*.

Elsie Standing

## Notes from Sunday School



With nearly 70 children registered in the Program, things are really “humming” down in Sunday School land! Regular attendance is on the rise, and everyone seems to be well pleased.

The launch of our team teaching approach is serving us all well. With the exception of our 3 - 4 year old class (which could use one more teacher), I am delighted to report that all teams have their full complement of teachers. Help is always needed, however, particularly as our numbers swell, so don't be shy to get involved. I am sure we could find you a spot in the age group of your choice.

Didn't our children sound great when they sang along the Stittsville Oktoberfest Parade route? Thanks to Mary Passmore and Sylvie Dawes who provided us with musical accompaniment! I have heard a lot of positive feedback from those bystanders who “caught our act”, and I know everyone on board had a great time. Thanks, Bert Smith, for providing us with the transportation for the day!

Many of you joined us for a

great day of fun at Saunders' Pumpkin Ranch. We all evidently worked up great appetites, as evidenced by the bare platters at the pot luck supper following the outing. We have held a couple of other family style events in the past, and these seem to be growing in popularity. Undoubtedly there will be other events in the New Year. Let me know if you have any ideas or if you would like to help in the planning of an outing.

We were delighted to welcome Leslie Haubrich, coordinator of the Food Bank, to our Sunday School on November 7th. Leslie spoke to the children about the 20 families - and 30 children - that the Food Bank is currently serving. It is very helpful for us to know that the Food Bank would welcome items that could be put in lunches for snacks and treats. You might keep in mind, then, that on *Caring and Sharing Sundays* (the 2nd Sunday of every month), the children could bring items such as cookies, granola bars, juice boxes, fruit or pudding cups, etc. for the Food Bank. Leslie also mentioned a need for coffee and tea.

Sunday School hosted a “Bring a Friend Sunday” on November 14th, with many of the children participating. Once again this seemed to be a fun event. The children were treated to an extended song session (thank you Mary Passmore - what would we do without you?!), stories, crafts and games, and though there were around 90 children, everything ran quite smoothly.

We are now gearing up for our next session of Sunday School, and undoubtedly the highlight will be the children's service on December 19th. At 10:00 am on this day, the children will lead the entire service, and will be performing the pageant. There is to be a lunch following the service. More information will be forthcoming on these events, but please reserve the date.

A reminder to parents that there are 5 Christian Children Videos available for borrowing from the Sunday School. Please let me know if you would like to take advantage of this offer!

SHALOM!

Judy Starr

### BBQ a Sell-Out Again!

Once again, there were no left-overs after the annual Chicken BBQ on October 2nd. The excellent taste of the oversized portions resulted in hundreds of satisfied customers. The pies and cole slaw which you contributed to the event

were simply delicious!

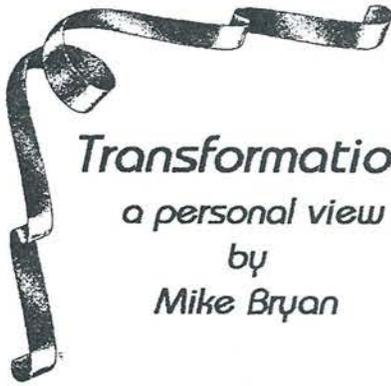
The donated bedsheets formed a canopy over the fire pit, and the odd shower dampened neither the fire nor the enthusiasm of the chefs.

As a result of the efforts of the cooks, service crew, clean-up crew, pie crew and the many peo-

ple who donated pies and cole slaw, we raised about \$1000 from this BBQ. That money will be used by Parish Council for operating purposes, and will be credited for eventual use in the organ fund.

A hearty “thanks” to all of you who helped!

Pete Torunski



# Transformation

*a personal view*

*by*

*Mike Bryan*

It's trite to say it, but institutions and living organisms that can't face up to change, or evolve in response to their changing environments, may not be around for much longer.

The church Transformation movement afforded the Diocese of Ottawa an opportunity to buck national trends; evolve spiritually and stay alive. But sadly, the member parishes of the Diocese could not provide the funds to sustain something as fundamental as a group exercise in their own survival!

The Transformation idea, however, is not dead. At least, not at St. Thomas, Stittsville, and in a handful of other parishes scattered throughout the Diocese.

In the wake of October synod's disappointing — if maybe unavoidable — decision to cancel in mid-stream the Diocesan-led Transformation renewal project, the more faithful individual parishes were left to pick up the pieces and contemplate, "What do we do now? We've come this far so . . . ??".

*"The church Transformation movement afforded the Diocese of Ottawa an opportunity to buck national trends; evolve spiritually and stay alive."*

Our own parish Transformation management team met promptly with the rector October 27. Team members, with Ross, unanimously decided to go ahead

with our own, now to be "made-in-Stittsville," version of "Transformed by God's Calling."

That's the official name that had been given to the ambitious, multi-year project originally born of the late Bishop Edwin Lackey's bold vision for leading his 60-parish flock out of the gloom of declining church attendance, a growing financial crisis, and mounting secular claims of our irrelevance and looming institutional death.

Bishop Lackey's program had first called for teams from each Parish to become intimately acquainted with what the Bible and the insights of consultant experts in parish development could teach us about what it really means to be "the called people of God." Thanks to a couple of weekend training sessions, special Bible studies and other exercises, this work had been virtually completed when Synod axed Transformation.

Even though we will now be left "alone", without benefit of either the wise and experienced assistance of the fine Christians from the Centre for Parish Development in Chicago, nor even much if any support from our own under-funded Diocese, I think we have what it takes to see the original Lackey vision through at the local level in Saint Thomas.

What lies ahead of us over the next couple of years, then, must be a series of very carefully planned steps to renew our parish life spiritually and make us all more effective as a loving, living, evolving community of God's called people. Through these steps, I believe we can come to love one another more fully and — together — grow to be faithful, effective and newly alive as Christians. That way, St. Thomas can better fulfill its calling as a happy "sign, instrument and fore-

taste" of the Kingdom of God.

I must confess to a crushing personal sense of true disillusionment and disappointment that the Diocese of Ottawa proved itself unequal, unable or unwilling to the task of seeing Transformation through to its end once we had begun it. For a few weeks, I even felt my continuing commitment to the Anglican church as an institution called into question; for Transformation, I felt, and what it seemed to stand for, were utterly fundamental both to being faithful to God's most basic call to us, and to our very survival as a viable organization. At the national and diocesan levels at least, if maybe not in Stittsville, we now seemed to me to be in irreversible organizational decline — that is, if attendance figures, contributions and our ability to remain committed to renewing ourselves augured anything for the future of the Anglican Church of Canada.

*"Through these steps, I believe we can come to love one another more fully and - together - grow to be faithful, effective and newly alive as Christians."*

But I am now heartened by the response of my fellow Transformation team members here within the St. Thomas family. In effect, we looked at one another and spontaneously chorused: "We've come so far with this; . . . we can't go back now; . . . we've got to go forward and complete this on our own."

I have no doubt that our parish has all the vision, faith, commitment, "smarts" and common-sense needed to become a more loving and inclusive community that will better minister to both its own members and the broader local and world

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## Transformation - a personal view . . . continued

communities in the challenging years ahead. This is the essence of what the transformation movement means to me: we must move down this path to remain spiritually and organizationally alive. If we achieve the first; the second should follow naturally.

What happens next?

St. Thomas will now move to complete the work of four special parish study panels inquiring into:

- "Who do we say we are?"
- "What is our external environment?"
- "What is our membership profile?"
- "How does our organization function?"

These panels will:

- 1) Delve into the current facts and history of our heritage and traditions as Anglicans — in the world, and here in our local community;
- 2) Conduct and analyse original and existing research to properly identify, define and project the future of the secular community within which we operate — and

which we strive to serve — namely, Stittsville and vicinity;

3) Take what will probably be the most systematic, thorough and analytical look ever at just who we are as individual parish members — measuring such parameters as age, sex, income bracket, family status and other characteristics;

4) Put our parish organizations and organizational dynamics under the microscope — to determine how we really operate; how decisions get made, and so on.

When these panels, each consisting of about six to eight parishioners, finish their work and issue their written reports to the parish, we should through their efforts have before us a number of major issues. How well we grapple with these issues will determine whether our parish future is bleaker or brighter.

While exact time lines for dealing with strategic issues have not been finalized, it would be my guess that from roughly mid to late 1994 we will have opportunities as a complete parish family to work with the panel reports, discuss,

prioritize and better define the more serious issues we face, and begin to discern brighter visions for our future.

*"How well we grapple with these issues will determine whether our parish future is bleaker or brighter."*

It is at this point that we will have two fundamental choices:

- 1) "Continue as we are" . . . and let the future come, as — and if — it will. . . OR
- 2) Define a vision of some preferred future more faithful to God's calling; and then set out to make whatever changes we may then deem necessary to realize that vision.

To my way of thinking, there will really be only one choice. And there is, for me, no course open but to get on with the exciting opportunity God has given us with vigour, faith and commitment. We will create our own future — not sit back and let external events and trends determine it for us.



### A Thought

*I asked for strength that I might achieve;  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked for health that I might do greater things;  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches that I might be happy;  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I had asked for,  
but everything that I had hoped for.  
Almost, despite myself my unspoken prayers were answered;  
I am, among all people, most richly blessed.*



## Through the Eyes of a Child



Despite the fact that 2000 miles separate me from my roots in England, and the people and places that remind me of my childhood, it still takes only a certain smell, or a sound, to cause that gut twisting excitement of by-gone Christmas'. The familiar aroma of peeled tangerine oranges lingering in the air with that of the Christmas tree. The smell of onions and celery as Mum prepared mountains of veggies for stuffing, soup and the turkey dinner. The hiss of the pressure cooker as the turkey giblet soup got its advance cooking, and the snap of the coals on the fire that always burned in the grate, sending smoke curls up the chimney with our letters to Father Christmas. Yes, I feel it now, that stomach rolling excitement that makes it impossible to eat and to sleep. My parents laugh and joke about my anticipation of the big day, how I was in my teens before I actually ate a Christmas dinner!

I love Christmas; the joy it brings to the faces of old and young in the sharing of Christmas cards, nativity plays and gifts of infinite variety. My own childhood memories are filled with such sweet visions. Singing carols at school, our concert at church (I even played Mary once!) and the bells. Christ Church bells were always a part of Christmas, reminding me of that tiny baby long ago, and the first Christmas presents. The presents. Yes, like most children the commercial side of Christmas was what created the excitement. Feeling for the bulging stocking on the end of the bed; its bumps and knobs, the tangerine in the toe and the new pennies. Sneaking into my brother's room to share the excitement as we each went

through our loot. Then into Mum and Dad's room to show them what had been left! The worst was having to go back to bed until morning. We were never allowed downstairs without our parents because Mum always "wanted to see our faces" when we saw our pillow cases by the tree with their new tantalizing shapes and hidden surprises. After the Father Christmas presents came our own gift exchange, followed by the parade of new clothes. We all looked our best for dinner! The great feast was served at one, along with the Queen's speech. Always the same menu, even to this day; turkey soup followed by turkey with all the trimmings (sausages wrapped in bacon, peach halves filled with cranberries), then the pudding, "Oh the pudding". Heavy with fruit and laced with brandy that was aflame, this delight was brought to the table topped with holly. There was always a silver sixpence or two to be found so we had to take care not to swallow what the custard may hide. After dinner there was lots of play time and no shortage of companions as relatives and friends popped in and out all day long. Those Christmas' were certainly for us children.

Now I am a mother. My children are very young and still learning about Christmas. My daughter, who is four (almost), is in awe of the glittering lights and fancy trees she sees in the shopping malls, but she's very wary of that man they call Santa. Despite that, she's written to the North Pole with her modest request for goodies for both herself and her little brother, and she has expressed some concern as to how this jolly fellow will fit down our chimney! She talks

about snow and makes it one with Christmas. I hope she won't be disappointed. (As a child myself I remember only one white Christmas, and in all truth it was really a grizzly grey!). We are trying our best to create our own family traditions for Christmas. The cutting down of the tree (we dread having one this year as our son is bound to fell it a few times himself!), the hours spent decorating it (most of our novelties hold special memories and many are home made, something we hope to get our little ones into), the secrets and surprises! Lying under the tree and looking through the boughs for fairies. The Christmas Eve Carol Service and the anticipation of that special birthday. Hanging stockings and leaving a snack for a weary Santa and reindeer. So many things, and yet I find myself drawn to the one thing my mother always said, I just want to see their faces. The joy, the laughter, the tears. I can experience it all, feel it all, through the faces of my own little ones. I hope that we as parents can give our children what is rightfully theirs, a Christmas full of love and hope, of giving and caring, of being a family.

Despite the 2000 miles that separate me from "home", I shall be as close to my parents as my children are to me, through the values and traditions we are both creating and continuing. As I look at my son and daughter I see that Christmas is for children; it's about their future. Thanks, Mum and Dad, for giving me what I can now give to them. I shall watch their faces and think of you.

Georgina Purchase

## Give us this day . . .

For more years than I care to name, I have said sincerely yet superficially the words, "Give us this day our daily bread." During childhood and teenage years the "daily bread" was always there. Then through nearly a quarter century of working life the salary arrived, thereby assuring that there was always food on the table. To this point in time prayer for my daily requirements was theoretical - everything good comes from God but only missionaries or other Christians who were called to give up their jobs and work without a source of predictable income were truly living by faith.

So it was with some surprise that I found myself among the 1.5 million Canadians, many of whom are Christians, who are without a job. Very soon the dark vision of the possibility of *NO* daily bread loomed large. My family's daily needs were no longer guaranteed

by my salary. Suddenly the Lord's Prayer had a new edge.

As 1993 rolled on it became clear that even as a church we did not have all that we needed as a parish to meet our needs and that it was almost impossible to reduce our budget without severely impacting what we felt called to do. As a parish our need for our "daily bread" becomes not just an expectation, but a matter for prayer. The same situation is faced by us as a Diocese and as a national church.

Where is God in all of this? Has He taken leave of His senses to put us sometimes individually and certainly as a group in this uncertain situation? Is this our Lord's way of persuading us to give proportionally and sacrificially? Perhaps. Although this is an important issue, I am convinced that it is not the main one. I believe that we are being called to trust and believe God's promises for everything.



**"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:19)**

In these days when lifelong employment is not guaranteed, and its effects can affect the wider church, we must remember that our Lord supplies our needs in several ways; through the talents that God has given us (our work skills which translate into a salary), through the loving support of family and Church family, and by the direct hand of God. "Give us this day our daily bread" is now a living request for all of us and we have God's assurance that He will answer our prayers and meet our needs.

William Passmore

### Hamburger Soup

Don't be deceived by the name - this is a family favourite and great for entertaining. This recipe makes 18 soup ladles and it freezes very well. (This was the excellent soup served by the ACW at the bazaar. Let's hope they serve it again soon!)

1-1/2 lbs ground beef	4 carrots (chopped fine)
1 med onion (chopped fine)	1 bay leaf
1 28 oz can tomatoes	3 sticks celery (chopped fine)
2 cups water	parsley
2-3 cans consomme	1/2 tsp thyme
(or beef soup base)	pepper to taste
1 can tomatoe soup	8 tbsps barley

Brown meat and onions. Drain well. Combine all ingredients in a large pot. Simmer covered, at least 2 hours, or all day. Depending on ingredients, you may wish to thin soup by adding more water at the end. Serves 10. (Taken from the *Best of Bridge* cookbook)

### Membership Profile Survey

Included in this issue is a *Membership Profile Survey* form. Your cooperation is requested to complete the fourteen questions as accurately and fully as possible. Please return the completed form to the "Survey Collection Box" on the table at the back of the church, or mail to St. Thomas Church on or before January 2nd, 1994. Thank you!

### Wall Panels

We are looking for any old pieces of wall panel, 1/4 inch plywood or masonite measuring about 2-1/2 feet x 3-1/2 feet in any colour or pattern. Small holes are not a problem. We want to use them for light duty moveable shelving. If you have any, please contact Pete Torunski, 836-7375.

## Towards a Firm Financial Footing

Our Parish Council has taken number of steps to place St. Thomas on a firmer financial footing. The objective has been to control expenditures, while encouraging parishioners to contribute generously, in order to meet those costs.

It will probably be January before we have a good idea about the parish's financial situation. Still there have been some hopeful signs. These come at the same time Parish Council is starting to work through next year's budget.

First and foremost is the *Emergency Financial Appeal*. Although many parishioners have yet to respond, there have been some encouraging results. For example, our monthly contributions so far this year have averaged \$8000. In October, because of the Appeal, we contributed \$23,000. Just as encouraging, many parishioners have agreed to make a monthly pledge. Hopefully, that will stop the parish from "falling behind" quite so much in 1994.

There are still a few weeks left this year, so we can't say yet whether the Appeal has been a success. But if the final pledge cards get returned and more people commit to monthly giving, perhaps we

will meet our parish budget for 1993.

A few months ago, the *1994 Budget outlook* seemed particularly bleak. While our contributions were falling behind, our 1994 costs were going up. The clergy salary scale has been frozen, but the cost of benefits will be going up because of new taxes. Insurance costs are also increasing.

However, the biggest challenge has come in the area of *Diocesan Apportionment*. Because the size of our budget has been increasing, our share of Diocesan programs has also been growing. For next year, the Diocese has requested \$17,000 compared to about \$10,700 in 1993. Parish Council has been struggling with this request, trying to balance our own financial situation with the critical needs faced by the Diocese. Eventually we agreed to a *preliminary* response of \$8000 with a promise that our apportionment would be reviewed, once our budget situation is clearer. This has been a difficult choice, knowing that the Diocesan budget had to be cut based on preliminary response, without waiting for our final acceptance.

As a way to balance these conflicting demands, St. Thomas'



has been negotiating with the Diocese for a reduced mortgage rate. Our "low interest" mortgage was negotiated at a time of higher interest rates and stands at 8.5%. That's much higher than the rate paid by other parishes. The Diocese is now considering a lower rate of 4 to 6%, which would save our parish several thousand dollars a year. If the parish's books are in dire straits, that money could be used to pay other expenses. However, we have also indicated that we would like to use it to pay our fair share of Diocesan apportionment, if that is possible.

Because most of us don't contribute a consistent amount on a monthly basis, we won't know until January first whether we are back on budget. But if we are, it will be thanks to those who have contributed consistently through the year, and to those who responded generously to our *Emergency Financial Appeal*. Thank you!

Brian Smith



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### Holy Baptism

*"The water of baptism ... in it we are buried with Christ in His death, share in His resurrection, and are reborn by the Holy Spirit."*

September 12, 1993

**Silas Colby Bradley**

son of  
Christopher and Sandra Bradley  
sponsored by  
Michael J. Iannone  
Corleen Bradley

**Patrick Nevin Carty**

son of  
Scott and Heather Carty  
sponsored by  
Cindy Choleras  
George Choleras

**Juliet Emily Mattock**

daughter of  
Blaine and Gillian Mattock  
sponsored by  
Mary Passmore  
Sarah MacLeod  
Richard Hayward

November 7, 1993

**Taya Mieke Broeren**

daughter of  
Ted and Sheila Broeren  
sponsored by  
Karin Zimpelmann  
Rob Zimpelmann

**Robin Michael Hayward**

son of  
Paul and Joan Hayward  
sponsored by  
Kathleen Walsh  
Jerome Walsh

**Trevor Andrew Kitt**

son of  
Kevin Kitt and Trish Irwin-Kitt  
sponsored by  
Roger Briggs  
Carole Briggs  
Stephen Irwin  
Jackie Fraser

### Marriage

*"... bound together in these holy mysteries, become one in heart and soul."*

**Neil Rodney Durant**

and  
**Kim Kelly-Leigh Winch**  
September 4, 1993

### Holy Burial

*"Increase our faith, deepen our hope, and confirm us in your eternal love."*

**Doris Ennis**

August 7, 1993

**Walter Phillip McCorkell**

October 1, 1993

## Slow Me Down, Lord

Slow me down, Lord!  
Ease the pounding of my heart  
By the quieting of my mind.

Steady my harried pace  
With a vision of the eternal reach  
of time.

Give me,  
Amidst the confusions of my day,  
The calmness of the everlasting  
hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves  
With the soothing music of the  
sighing streams  
That live in my memory.

Help me to know  
The magical restoring power of  
sleep.

Teach me the art  
Of taking minute vacations of  
slowing down to look at a flower;  
To chat with an old friend or to  
make a new one;  
To pat a stray dog;  
To watch a spider build a web;  
To smile at a child;  
Or to read a few lines from a  
good book.

Remind me each day  
That the race is not always to the

swift;  
That there is more to life than  
increasing its speed.

Let me look upward  
Into the branches of the towering  
oak  
And know that it grew slowly  
and well.

Slow me down, Lord,  
And inspire me to send my roots  
deep  
Into the soil of life's enduring  
values  
That I may grow toward the stars  
Of my greater destiny.

## Quiet Time

Have you ever tried to listen to a conversation or music or to concentrate when talking? Pretty hard ...

Have you ever been meditating in a church in the early morning when the only sounds you could hear were the birds singing or the wind blowing? What a feeling of peace. The same feeling comes when one walks in the woods away from civilization. One understands then what it means to be only a tiny part of this universe that God created for us, to be in unison with creation. It is amazing how many sounds one can hear when alone in the woods or in a house! How much more deeply one can "communicate" with one's surroundings when silence prevails.

Lately some members of our congregation have said how much they wish there would be more silent moments included in our worship. How we would appreciate the time to concentrate or think about the meaning of words just read from the Old and New Testaments. Dur-

ing and after the *Prayers of the People* a period of silence would give us time to add our own petition or thanksgiving.

It seems that where most people were really hoping for silence is during and after Communion. We are sharing the bread and wine as Jesus commanded us. Eucharist is a sacrament, a mystery to be lived. It is a time to open your heart and mind to God. Anyone who has experienced an intense moment of love can remember how suddenly silence becomes part of that moment. Our entire being is focusing on that feeling of love, of complete abandonment to the other.

The celebration of the Eucharist is a time of focusing on the love of God, of His caring for us and on sharing this experience with others. We are gathered in Christian fellowship. We are in communion with Christ and with our brothers and sisters of the Christian Family. Eucharist meaning giving our life to the Lord day by day. How can we do this without silence? How can



there be a "conversation" with God, a time to "listen" to God, when people are talking around us?

Mother Theresa can teach us so much about Christian living, how to live a daily Eucharist, not only at Church but throughout the day. She says that every day she gets up early to meditate and pray. Every day she needs to pray in silence before she starts her work. If such a saint needs to have such a relationship with God, a daily time of worship, how much more do each of us need this?!

Please let us respect the need for silence and meditation for our brothers and sisters. Maybe this is where one can start his or her "transformation".

Denise Torunski

### Complete Computer System for Sale

#### *Ideal Entertainment for the Whole Family*

Someone has donated a complete Apple IIc computer to our church for us to sell. We have an Apple IIc computer, 2 disk drives, 14" green monitor, complete Apple printer, mouse, joystick and extra hook-up for TV.

Programs include *Appleworks*, the award-winning integrated word processor, data base and spreadsheet, *Dazzle Draw* and *Mouse Paint* drawing programs, and *King's Quest*, the exciting adventure game. All original manuals are also available. You can have this system for your children's use at next to nothing! Everything you need is ready to go; all you have to do is hook up the cables! Pete Torunski has agreed to handle the sale for St. Thomas', so phone him and make an offer (836-7375). Act now!



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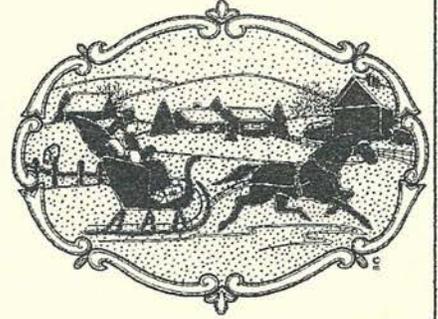
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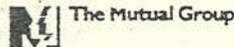
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# kids' page



*"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified."* Luke 2:9

## The legend of the Christmas angel

Many people place an angel at the top of their Christmas tree to remind them of the special part the angels played the night Jesus was born.

Legend tells us that each year the angels weave new cloth for the garments that the Christ child will wear when he brings his gifts from heaven to all the people on earth. The threads of the garments that the angels weave are said to be the prayers of the children who love Jesus and his heavenly Father. Remember the story of the angels and the cloth woven of children's prayers when you say your prayers tonight.

## Three-dimensional angel

*Supplies:* Construction paper or decorative paper (wallpaper or heavy giftwrap); scissors; pencil; stapler; hole punch; yarn or ribbon.

Enlarge the angel pattern on page 31 to whatever size you wish, then cut two pieces from heavy paper. Fold each piece in half lengthwise, then open up flat. Place one piece on top of the other, and staple along the center fold line. Open the angel so it will stand. If you wish to hang the angel, punch a hole in the top and string a piece of yarn or ribbon through.

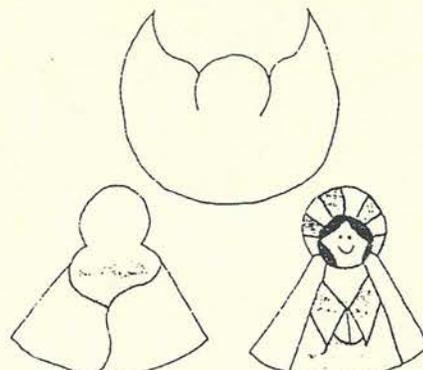
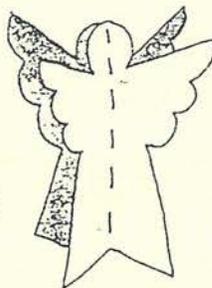
## Angel in the round

*Supplies:* White construction paper; scissors; tape; glue; felt-tip pens (optional).

Enlarge the angel pattern shown below. Cut out along the lines, then bend the head gently away from the body. To complete the angel, fold the wings back until they overlap slightly. Glue, tape, or staple them together as shown. You might draw on features before attaching the wings together.



TWO PIECES  
STAPLED  
TOGETHER



BACK

FRONT



angel pattern