

## **REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CHURCH BUILDINGS**

Since last year's meeting of Diocesan Synod the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings has been active providing informed and impartial advice to parishes concerning problems with some aspect of their church building. This assistance is freely available to parishes through the Diocesan Executive Officer. Depending on the nature of the request, the Executive Officer, in consultation with The Chair of the B.A.C.C.B., may assign a member of the committee to meet with the parish representatives to discuss the parish's plans and offer suggestions. The intent is always to work hand and hand with the parish representatives.

When a parish wishes to embark on a major renovation or new construction they must seek the Bishop's approval. (Canon 4.6.1) When such a request comes to the Bishop, the Bishop may invite the chair of the B.A.C.C.B. to nominate someone from the committee to join the parish's Building Committee. This person, through the chair of the B.A.C.C.B., recommends to the Bishop regarding the granting Episcopal Approval. What is important to remember is that if a building permit is necessary then a parish must receive approval for the project from the Diocesan Executive Officer. If further information is desired, please check the B.A.C.C.B site on the Diocesan web page.

In the period since last Synod we have seen the completion of the new parish hall at St. Luke's, Burlington. We are happy to report that the rebuilding of the new parish hall at St. John's, Thorold is well on the way to completion. We commend the leadership and the members of the building committees for the tremendous amount of work that they have done.

The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings is made up of dedicated and knowledgeable people in all aspects of the construction business and related matters. We are here to be of assistance to any parish free of charge, to assist the parish in fulfilling their building dreams. Please feel free to contact the Diocesan Officer who will forward your concerns to the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,  
Archdeacon Paul Jackson, Chair

## **REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S DECENNIAL INSPECTION COMMITTEE**

This Committee was formed as a separate committee from the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings in the Diocese of Niagara.

A Decennial Inspection must be done before any new construction, alterations or additions to existing Parish facilities are commenced.

This Committee operates under Canon 4.6.1 as approved by Synod and under the direction of the Bishop.

I wish to congratulate the following parishes for completing their Decennial Inspections in 2005- 2006: St. Alban's, Beamsville; St. Alban's, Glen Williams; All Saints, Hagersville; Cathedral Place, Hamilton; St. Paul's, Hamilton; Good Shepherd, St. Catharines; Grace Church, St. Catharines; St. Columba, St. Catharines; Christ Church, Wainfleet.

There are a number of parishes due for inspection in 2006 and a number from prior years, which we hope to have all cleared up in 2007.

Some parishes have submitted their Plan of Action based on the Inspection Report and others have requested help in drawing up the Plan. Two members of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Church Buildings are designated to work with each parish on an advisory basis.

Overall the Inspection of Church Buildings is working well due to the cooperation of the Regional Archdeacons and the parishes.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mr. William J. Parker, Chair

## **REPORT OF THE BISHOP'S TASK FORCE FOR A SAFE CHURCH**

### **Focus:**

It was in the 1980's that this committee was first constituted. At the time, our mandate was around educating clergy and lay workers about the sexual abuse of children. Many years later, our focus has widened. We now offer broad-based support for the Diocesan Bishop, clergy and lay workers and parishioners in the establishment of a "Safe Church". In the work of this committee, foremost is the concern for both victims and alleged perpetrators. Overall, the Team serves the Church by providing educational support for those engaged in preventing and/or responding to misconduct. We accomplish this through: training and empowerment, theological dialogue, and policy development. We also respond to specific circumstances in which our support is needed.

### **Activities:**

In the past year, the Policy was applied comprehensively. The work that we did in the past year points out a significant need to revamp the policy. That work is being undertaken as this Synod Circular is being prepared. The Policy that served this Diocese well in the past is now out-dated. Issues such as the adoption of the Privacy Act now require that we adapt our procedures. We now join many other denominations in refurbishing our Policy to reflect the issues and concerns of being a Safe Church in the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

We continue to train clergy new Ordinands as well as clergy who are new to the Diocese, around issues of harassment and abuse. We work in tandem with the Volunteer Management and Screening efforts in facilitating workshops in parishes and in regions as they are requested. We continue to work to make the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Niagara to be a Safer Church for all.

### **Membership:**

At present, the team includes clergy, pastoral specialists, lawyers and professionals with child welfare expertise.

Members during the past year were:

The Right Reverend D. Ralph Spence

Mr. Graeme Leach

The Reverend David Long

Mr. Roderick McDowell

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell (chair)

The Venerable Jim Sandilands

Ms. Joyce Wilton.

Note should be made of the work of the Reverend Canon Robin Graves with this committee as a consultant in the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell, Chair

## **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM**

The work of Evangelism in our diocese has continued in earnest this year. However, it is my opinion that the commitment to evangelism is not happening fast enough or our efforts are sometimes derailed by the stresses and pressures of doing ministry in this time and place. The more I travel about the diocese and beyond, the more convinced I become that God is calling us out of the status quo into a new way of being the Church and challenging us to offer the Gospel in new and creative ways. If we seek to be a vibrant, healthy, responsive community of faith, then evangelism is not an option. The Bishop's charge last year identified evangelism as one of the three components of the overall vision for ministry of our diocese. It was with that in mind that the evangelism working group moved forward with initiatives and support to parishes in order to realize that vision.

In response to the charge, a conference entitled "Developing a Blueprint for Evangelism" was held early in 2006. The 130 people in attendance assisted in defining criteria and the elements of evangelism necessary for the parish; they were Parish resources, Communications strategies, Marketing and Tools, Special Events and Clergy Support and Resources. In order to make this ministry more manageable, an organizational structure such as this was identified as being necessary. Assistance with developing a parish based strategy is available through the evangelism office.

Bruce Kuhn presented the Gospel of Luke on four evenings in the spring of this year. This was an opportunity for people to introduce the Gospel to others in a non-threatening and accessible manner. There was a study guide produced for groups or individuals to follow with and workshops, also presented by Bruce, to assist us in finding new ways to present the Gospel. Over a thousand people attended these performances and the response was overwhelming positive. It is our hope that we may bring Bruce back again in the near future.

This past year saw a number of parishes continuing with the Natural Church Development process by engaging in their second round of surveys with tremendous results. There are presently 25 parishes in the diocese utilizing NCD. It is one of the most effective and helpful means to determine what direction a parish should move in and we would highly recommend having someone assist your parish in determining whether it may be right for your community.

Workshops, ideas, and support are available to assist you in understanding how to begin evangelism within your community. Much of the work of the EWG is done with individual groups or churches; to date 72 parishes have contacted the evangelism office for some sort of assistance over the last two and a half years. We would encourage you to contact this office in order to determine what we may do in order to assist you in making evangelism an integral part of your mission and vision.

Thank you to all members of the Evangelism Working Group for your continued commitment.

Michael Patterson  
Cindy Blades  
Hugh Haney  
John Baxter  
Jim Newman

Paul Tinker  
Mark Tiller  
Cheryl Fricker  
John Bowen  
Pam Guyatt

Renee Desjardin  
Michele Stanford  
Rob Hurkmans  
Roxanne Lloyd

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Canon Michael Patterson