

September 1999

**T**his summer I had the interesting experience of helping our daughter, Susan, and her family move out to Pinawa. It was the town where we lived for six years and where I worked as the manager of the computer centre for AECL. We moved from there into Winnipeg 22 years ago so that I could begin my studies in the seminary at St. John's College. It was quite strange to go back into the town, and of course we drove past the house where we used to live. We looked at all the people to see if we recognized anyone. It was all very familiar yet very different. A lot had changed since we lived there. The trees and gardens were all more mature and many houses had improvements, but the biggest changes were within ourselves. When we lived there we had three small children, now we are into the grandparent stage. Susan goes back to the town as an adult with her own family. Time marches on and we move through new stages of our lives.

At this time of year, some children will have gone to school for the first time. For others, there will be new teachers and new schools to get used to. At the other end of the age span, some seniors have moved from the homes where they have lived for many years. It is all part of moving through life. Some of the stages are easier than others, but each of them presents us with some challenges.

In the lectionary readings for the past few weeks we have been reading from the book of Exodus about Moses and the people of Israel as they prepare to set out on their journey out of slavery in Egypt. A theme that has run through the readings has been one of moving forward and stepping out into the unknown. It applies to our journey through the various stages of life and it applies to our journey of faith.

Each stage of life has an unknown aspect to it. We never know quite what we are getting into. Stepping out into the unknown has a sense of adventure to it, but very often there is a sense of anxiety. If we can step into the unknown having invited God to be with us, though, then perhaps we can enjoy the adventure rather than being anxious.

The same is true of our journey of faith. Growing in faith is always a challenge. It is easier to stay with the known rather than wrestle with the unknown. But God is with us on our journey of faith, so we should be able to relax and enjoy the adventure.



\*\*\* *Phil Barnett* \*\*\*

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## **A REPORT FROM THE ST. PETER’S SENIORS:**

An important event at our June meeting was the passing of a motion as follows:

“The seniors wish to place on record their thanks and appreciation to Sophie Mulla for serving on the committee of the Health And Well Being program for the past three years.”

Very impressive was our June “pleasure”; seven members visited the Winnipeg Art Gallery to view the Van Goth exhibition.

We suffered the loss of our member Fred Grainger on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Burial service took place in the Church on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

A traditional English tea was enjoyed on Sunday afternoon, July 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of Orié Owen. The garden looked very attractive. The small tables had pretty cloths and fine china and cutlery. Our repast consisted of dainty salmon sandwiches, home made scones with butter, jam and clotted cream, cheesecake and tea. Guests included Phil and Barbara, former rector Jim Brown and his wife Kay, and Michael Harris, home from music studies in Wales. Special mention must be made of the fantastic Australian sun hat worn by George Green. It was equipped with protection for the eyes, plus dangling cords to ward off bugs and flies.

Everyone loves a mystery. So on August 6<sup>th</sup> several of our members embarked on the Rupert’s Land Mystery Tour. The group of 52 passengers from several locations was under the guidance of Rev. Jim Wolf (who entertained with songs and humorous readings). Coffee break was at Little Mountain Park, after which we went on to Elie, Fannystelle and Elm Creek. Our destination was “Bob’s Wild West Farm” where the scene of a typical Western town in the 1880’s has been created, complete with a bank, a hotel and a saloon! A delicious lunch was provided. Many enjoyed a ride in a horse drawn wagon, and there were sheep and horses to visit. We were home again by 5:30pm.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm in the Parish Hall. We welcome new members.

\*\*\* *May DeWet* \*\*\*

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Notice in an English country church paper: “Due to the high cost of maintaining the church yard, it would be appreciated if parishioners would cut the grass around their own graves.”

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## WHY ST. PETER'S:

*Sincere thanks to Ed Attwater and Estelle Hallgrimson for sharing their stories with us this month. This brings the number of stories we've included in the Elm Leaf to seven. Reading through the articles has given me a real sense of the formation, development and change that makes up the history of this wonderful community. There has been a very positive response to these featured articles, and I, like others look forward to having many more stories shared through our "Leaf". And now, the stories:*

My family and I moved to Elm Street in June of 1951, and when we were moving in Elm Street was being paved.

In the fall we learned that St. George's Crescentwood would be sending a bus to take the children to Sunday School. The Bishop had asked St. George's to sponsor a new parish and in lieu of this they purchased the property at Elm and Grant.

Canon Bays, a recently retired priest, was assigned to canvass the district. The winter was very cold and there was a lot of snow, but he was very faithful in his mission. Five families began to meet and plan for the new parish.

St. Peter's Church in the core area was being disbanded and we were able to secure some of their church furnishings. The bell came with other things.

Names that were available were listed and we took a vote and St. Peter's was the most popular.

We had a parishioner who was a contractor and he was able to order materials for a portable building. So with the backing of the Diocese we were able to break ground for the new building in the spring. Most of the work was done by the parishioners!

In the fall of 1953 we held a meeting at the River Heights Community Center to set up a W.A. Some 25 members were present and Mary Gateson was our first president.

The Church building was opened in the fall and an official opening was held in January. There have been many happy occasions celebrated at St. Peter's. It was a proud day when we acquired choir gowns! Soon we acquired a Brownie pack and a Scout troop and we were on our way!

In the early years, I was the co-ordinator for the Men's Teas. The women did the baking, but the men did all the serving, the pouring of the tea, and the cleaning up. Together with my husband Bjorn we were able to get the leaders of most of the denominations in our area to come pour tea, including Catholic priests and the Jewish rabbis. We even had Mayor Juba and an alderman come and do the honours!

Over the years Bjorn undertook the task of secretary of Vestry, while I took my turn as a Vestry member, served on the finance committee, and became involved with the Altar Guild, a role I've continued to this day. We pitched in wherever there was a need: at the

bazaars, teas, and other occasions. I enjoyed my time with the Tatters group, and now participate in the Seniors' group.

St. Peter's was our family's church. All five of my children were confirmed here, and my oldest daughter, Linda, was married here. There are many memories for me here at St. Peter's.

\*\*\* **Estelle Hallgrimson** \*\*\*

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***To the parishioners of St. Peter's:***

Back in the late 50's, the girls and I attended St. Peter's Church in the summertime when the Parish Hall was used as the church. Elsie's sister Lillian played the organ replacing Ken Drummond, the church organist. Our Parish church at that time was St. Chrysostom's and later St. Barnabas, but in 1973 our daughter Yvonne was married at St. Peter's so we decided to stay.

Eleanor and Harry McIntyre welcomed us into the Parish and since our daughter Marilyn and her family were already members of St. Peter's it seemed an obvious choice.

In 1974 Elsie joined the choir and sang for 23 years in the alto section. Over the years whenever an event or "work party" needed helpers we pitched in. My fond remembrances were climbing the scaffolding with Ken and Ron to paint the back wall of the Church. Another "painting bee" was the Parish Hall and the colour coded beams. Paint flew everywhere and on everyone, especially me. The only person clean as a whistle was Ross Phillips. The guys said he was the only person they knew who could paint in a tuxedo.

Joining St. Peter's meant catching up with old friends – Lil Shadbolt, Hazel and Fred Grainger, and making new friends and acquaintances.

Being a sidesperson was important to me and working with Bill Shields Sr. was a dream. He could add a column of figures in his head faster than my grandchildren can with a calculator.

We had some wonderful times at St. Peter's, fellowship evenings, Pub Nites and Social evenings. One evening in particular Lois Cameron and I were dancing at Niakwa Golf Club. It was a farewell to the Cameron's who were moving to Saskatoon. An exuberant busboy sprinkled sand, wax or both on the floor, which resulted in Lois and I holding on to each other for dear life. It nearly was her "Grand Farewell".

This is what has made St. Peter's important to me – the people. Although I can't attend Church, which has been such a part of my life, as often as I would like, St. Peter's is still like a home to me and always will be. Warmest regards,

\*\*\* **Ed Attwater** \*\*\*

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## WHEELCHAIR RAMP

One recommendation that came forward from last year’s parish survey was that we consider making the altar area more accessible to those with walkers and wheelchairs. A study group is being formed to look at “ways and means” of constructing a ramp and we would like to extend an open invitation to anyone with ideas and information to contribute to join us. If you have personal experience, professional expertise, or just some ideas you think should be considered, please contact **Lynda Daun** at **489-5519**. Hopefully our group can get some plans ready for the annual meeting and we can get on with making the altar available to all people early in the new year.

\*\*\* **Lynda Daun** \*\*\*

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## The Bible In 50 Words:

God made	Adam bit	Noah arked	Abraham split
Joseph ruled	Jacob fooled	Bush talked	Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued	People walked	Sea divided	Tablets guided
Promise landed	Saul freaked	David peeked	Prophets warned
God walked	Love talked	Anger crucified	Hope died
Love rose	Spirit flamed	Word spread	God reigns.

*(6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School, St. John the Divine, Houston)*

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No one is so poor as he who has nothing but money.

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A national public service campaign in the States is displaying messages signed by “God” on billboards and bus shelters in various cities. Among the messages:

We need to talk.  
 Don’t make me come down there.  
 I don’t question your existence.  
 What part of “Thou Shalt Not...” didn’t you understand?  
 Loved the wedding; invite me to the marriage.  
 I can think of ten things that are carved in stone.  
 That “Love Thy Neighbor “ thing? I meant it.  
 There will be a test.

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## FELLOWSHIP HOUR

Our after-church coffee time will now be hosted by groups and committees as well as individual parishioners. This will allow us to meet those who serve on the various committees/groups, will provide an opportunity for all parishioners to speak with the members to find out about the work done by the group, and will afford individuals the opportunity to learn how they might become involved in areas they have an interest. As well, more people will become familiar with the kitchen, and the task of hosting will be shared by a larger number thus making the work that much easier. Those groups that would like to provide “nibblies” are more than welcome to do so. Nothing draws people together faster and holds their attention longer than a table with food!

The schedule until Christmas is as follows:

September	12	- Welcome Back (Coordinator: Joanne Conger)
	19	- Outreach Committee
	26	- Vestry
October	03	- Karen Dunlop & Eileen Warren
	10	- Altar Guild
	17	- Congregational Committee
	24	-
	31	- Youth Group
November	07	- Faith and Daily Life Committee
	14	- Choir
	21	- Stewardship Committee
	28	- Antoinette Zloty
December	05	- Sunday School Staff
	12	- Men's Breakfast Group
	19	- Christmas Reception (Whole Congregation)
	26	-

Thank-you to everyone for your support and participation.

\*\*\* *Joanne Conger* \*\*\*

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When I see a church  
I try to make a visit;  
So when I'm carried in  
The Good Lord won't say, "Who is it?!"

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## MEREDITH IN GUINEA

On Sunday, Aug. 21, at the end of the prayers for the people, St. Peter's parishioners participated in a laying on of hands blessing for Meredith Daun. The following Sunday,

her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, she left Winnipeg to travel to Guinea, West Africa, to participate in a 7 week internship program working with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR). Guinea has been a popular destination for people displaced from the civil wars and unrest in neighboring Sierra Leone and Liberia. Meredith, who has just completed her degree in International Development Studies, was sponsored for the program by World University Services Canada (WUSC). Note: Guinea is a French speaking country so Meredith's years in French immersion will be put to good use. Her flight to Conakry, the capital city of Guinea, took her to Toronto, Paris, Mali and then Conakry. After hearing that she had arrived in Paris safely and had located the connecting flight to Conakry, we did not have any news for the next two days. Finally, just after we had begun to try to call UNHCR in Conakry (a difficult task given the primitive telephone system), I received an EMAIL at work from Meredith indicating that she had arrived safely and all was well. EMAIL through the UN's system, seems to be the only sure method of communication beyond normal mail which takes about 10 days to arrive. It is amazing how we tend to take for granted instant communications for most parts of the world. We have received several EMAILs and a post card from Meredith (below) and I have included several excerpts from the EMAIL and post card to let you know how she is finding the work.

.... I hope that the power does not go out again. Every few hours the generator punks out. I have met many nice people here. They are very friendly. There are 8 of us that will be going to the camps. I will be going to Forcarriah which is about 2 hours from here. It mainly houses refugees from Sierra Leone and a few from Liberia. Luckily the programs available also include the local residents.

I am staying at a house with three other girls and a woman from Canada. We are still expecting a girl from England. We will then decide how we are going to be separated. The house is beautiful, I do not feel that I am roughing it. Resort like. We were given a tour of the camp office and I was able to have a good look at the countryside on our way here, it is beautiful. In most work buildings there is air conditioning, so there is some relief from the heat. I was able to eat chicken and French fries for lunch today (not very African).

I have now visited the first camp close to Forecariah. The things that they do here are amazing, but we are constantly reminded that there is a lack of provisions and money. Many of the NGO's are working under the umbrella of UNHCR. It seems to be working well. Everyone here has a common purpose so it makes it easy to get along, other than personality conflicts between some. One of the people that works with us was just at the other camp (Guekadou) and mentioned that there were many rumours about the current situation in our fighting counties and the relationship with the Guinean military. I do not think that I want to know what is going on..... but for education sake I have learned the situation so when references are made I will not be lost and I will sympathize with the plight of the refugees, the displaced and citizens of Guinea. There is some fear of attack near the other camp, but these rumours are (*not?*) being taken seriously. I will have to explain better when I return because the situation is very difficult to explain. I hope that things are going well with all. It rains every night and everyday from light to heavy rain, it can be cool as well as hot. It is a geographer's dream to be in this environment with the climate and environment that surrounds.

Ha! You call the lake rainy? It rains constantly here. It has not stopped in 24 hours. The only variation that we have is the strength of rainfall. We were lucky that we had some sunshine yesterday. I was able to take a walk.

One tip from the market is that you should mark up the prices for foreigners 100% because they are rich!!! When we go to the market, a driver comes with us. Last time he would tell us to stay in the car and he would shop for us. We were to lock the doors. We have not started to work in the camps yet but we are well on our way to getting there. I have access to a small freezer but please do not send any perishable goods because the power goes off often and it is very small. I have seen many birds, bugs, rats, fish, monkeys etc..... and Cockroaches!!!!!! I have heard that there are snakes and scorpions. The countryside is full of trees and tall grass, but on a clear day we can see the mountains and cliffs.

The food here is good. I have not had much time to eat African food, mostly European as my room mates do not like my cooking. They are good at it so I will let them cook. We shop at the market but we do not buy bread as it has bugs. Fruit is wonderful, pineapple, guava, avocados and soon mangoes YUM! My room mates are Laure (French), Els (Belgian) and Rosemary from England. I will be sharing the house with just Laure as the other rooms will soon be available. We get along very well and I can see that we will be very close. I think that Laure and I have much in common. If the e-mail stops that is because I will not have the opportunity to come into the office. To reassure mother, there is a wall that surrounds the house, a dog, a gardener, and a radio. We also are in an area where our co-workers are close. It is very safe. We are not able to go out after dark. Even if it is a special event. Did I tell you that Miriam (maid) is washing my clothes and dishes? it is like being at home:) I will pay her somehow.

It looks like we are going to spend the next few weeks doing some research. Since most of you have much experience with research I guess you might be interested. We are going to survey people in three camps from the ages of 15 to 25 about education backgrounds and needs. We are then going to interpret the information and make some recommendations to UNHCR of where they can fill some holes. I think that then they will also use our statistics for showing that funding is justified in this area. After that we are going to another camp area, Guekadou, where the other Camp Sadako members are to have a visit. we also allowed some time for another small video project for the HCR in Geneva.

**Today was a hard day. We started interviewing the refugees about education. There are many sad stories. Many of them want me to help them to go to school. I feel for them but I do not know what to do. I have kept their addresses and names so that if I think of anything, then I can help them. One guy sent me a letter telling me about how his parents died. It is very frustrating. One woman offered Els her baby because her husband had died. I never know what to say when they tell me these things. Some of the people here are insensitive to this, many do not like to talk about it.**

We are very grateful that things are progressing well in Guinea for Meredith and that she is having a good experience and will be doing some worthwhile work while gaining some experience for her planned life work. We pray that she will continue to be safe. We would like to thank the parishioners of St. Peter's for including Meredith in their prayers and we look forward to welcoming her back home on October 16.

\*\*\* *Jim Daun* \*\*\*

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“We are often so caught up in our destination that we forget to appreciate the journey, especially the goodness of the people we meet along the way. Appreciation is a wonderful feeling. Don’t overlook it.” – Author Unknown

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## **GIANT GARAGE SALE - A GIANT SUCCESS**

The 3 garage sales held on September 10 and 11 were very successful. The weather was pleasant, unlike last year’s rain and wind. There were a lot of very fine donations. We had over 60 volunteers and we got to know different folks. We had a lot of fun and we cleared \$1,500. A huge thank you to the Dauns, the Petersons and the Cranstons for donating their garages for the week and to everyone who so willingly donated their time and goods. This was truly a parish event. Thank you all.

\*\*\* Sally Cranston and Betty Currie, Co-Convenors \*\*\*

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## **Some Food For Thought:**

You will never be sorry...  
for thinking before acting,  
for hearing before judging,  
for forgiving your enemies,  
for being candid and frank,  
for helping a fallen brother,  
for being honest in business,  
for thinking before speaking,  
for being loyal to your church,  
for standing by your principles,  
for stopping your ears to gossip,  
for bridling a slanderous tongue,  
for harbouring only pure thoughts,  
for sympathizing with the afflicted,  
for being courteous and kind to all.

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A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds.

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## **NEWS FROM THE YOUTH GROUP**

Welcome back for another year of laughter and learning. This year, the youth group will be a combination of the two.

There will be the usual Sunday meetings held each week from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the St. Peter's Parish Hall. Also, there will be weekday discussion/bible study group meetings (date to be arranged later).

This year should prove to be both exciting and energetic. There are many events and workshops planned at both the parish and diocesan level for the youth to take part in. Also, our first youth service and luncheon is planned for October 31<sup>st</sup>.

This year, the youth group is open to anyone between the ages of 13 and 20. So, I welcome anyone who would like come out and join the youth group.

If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the St. Peter's youth group, please give me a call at **896-6710**.

**\*\*\* Sheri Kowaski \*\*\***

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## **THANK YOU!**

Thank you to Peggy, Phil, Gene and Joanne for the one-liners, poems and other gems provided for the Elm Leaf.

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The best way to kill time is to work it to death.

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## **CAMPERSHIPS TO ANGLICAN ISLAND**

A special thank you to all parishioners who donated to the 1999 Campership fund. Two youth from our parish and one inner city youth received support from the fund enabling them to attend a week at Anglican Island Summer Camp.

**\*\*\* The Congregational Development Committee \*\*\***

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## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Erik Hjorleifson. Erik became the Canadian Junior Nine Ball Champion in St. John, New Brunswick earlier this month. In early December Erik will represent Canada at the World's in Spain. We wish you much luck and an exciting time as our country's representative. Erik is currently a Grade Twelve student at Kelvin High School.

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It is better to be right half of the time than half right all the time.

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## PARISH POTLUCK SUPPER

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – the annual Parish Potluck Supper is being held on Saturday, October 2 at 6:00 p.m. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the parish hall. Please indicate the food that you will be bringing and the number attending. As some parishioners have severe allergic reactions to peanut products and other foods, please list ingredients for display. Bring yourself, the whole family, or a friend – good food and fellowship are guaranteed!

**\*\*\* The Congregational Development Committee \*\*\***

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We'd like to welcome back all the students and also any newcomers that will be starting into our Sunday School program this fall. We hope that you all had a great summer. Once again this year we will have an active and energetic program filled with activities, fellowship and music.

We are continuing with "The Whole People of God" curriculum. Due to popular demand, there will be four classes this fall and are divided as follows:

- Beginner - ages 4, 5 and 6;
- Primary - ages 7 and 8;
- Junior - ages 9, 10 and 11; and
- Seniors - ages 12 to 17.

Because we find the Beginner Class to be large in number, we could split the 3 and 4 year olds into one separate class and the 5 and 6 year olds into another class. If any parents are interested in this idea, please call us as we would need your suggestions and assistance.

We are always in need of teachers and helpers. The teachers we do have this year are not available to teach for the entire year. Therefore, we are asking any parents to please contact Brian or Sylvie King at **489-9092** anytime. We are asking approximately 5 hours of your time (which includes preparation time) for one month of the year. We have the class plans and the material and equipment. All we need are more parents. Also, if any teenagers who would be interested in assisting teachers during Sunday School, please do not hesitate to talk with Brian or Sylvie anytime.

**PARENTS – please note that there will not be any Sunday School on Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, (Thanksgiving Weekend).**

**\*\*\* Brian and Sylvie King - Superintendents \*\*\***

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“Can’t” never did anything until “try” came along.

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## **THE NEXT ELM LEAF**

Our next Elm Leaf will be ready for distribution on November 8, 1999. Articles can be submitted up until Sunday, November 21, 1999.

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