



THE ELM LEAF

NEWSLETTER

The Parish Church
of St. Peter

September 2010 issue

What's inside...

Prayer List,
Prayer Chain,
Prayer Bowl.....2

Summer
Vacation.....3

Senior Sunday
School.....3

Catechesis
of the Good
Shepherd.....4

Musical
Notes.....5

Women's
Friendship
Group.....5

Ten Years
Ago.....6

Summer
Reading7

Parish Caring
Ministry.....8

Creation
Care.....9

Profile10

F.A.Q.s11

Right to
Housing12

A Series of Conversations

I recently discovered an HBO special, televised several years ago, in which comedian Robin Williams was featured. It was here where I first realized that he is an Episcopalian, which as you know, is the name given to Anglicans in the United States. On his comedy special he joked about this and with a nod to David Letterman he gave his Top Ten Reasons for Being an Episcopalian (or Anglican). I thought you might find them somewhat amusing. Here they are starting with number ten.

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs. Evolution is O.K.
8. Male and female he created them, male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is colour-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry – none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

And the number one reason for being an Anglican?

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Anglican who agrees with you.

As is so often the case, Robin Williams' comedy here is rooted in some deeper truths and questions: Does the Anglican Church simply believe in dinosaurs, or is it also in danger of becoming a dinosaur? As we recognize the value of our 'intellect', how do we integrate matters of the intellect with matters pertaining to our faith? How has the ordination of women affected the life of the church? How might we honour the liturgical postures of standing, sitting and kneeling without it appearing as aerobics to the non Anglican visitor? What exactly is the purpose of liturgical colour? How might we find unity in the midst of our adversity, particularly throughout these increasingly changing times?

Underlying much of this in the primary question: What is the purpose and role of the church in the midst a culture that has changed so radically since the 1950's? How is the church relevant within the context of a rapidly changing culture? Five or six decades ago Anglican Church membership remained substantial enough that many church buildings

(continued next page)

Conversations (cont.)

were being erected; today church closures are part of our ongoing fear and reality.

These truths and questions have laid the foundation for a 'Series of Conversations' that will be taking place very soon at St. Peter's. We will be exploring such things as:

1. What has motivated Anglican Church decline over the past five or six decades?
2. What are the signs that God is creating something new in the midst of this decline?
3. Where might we discover renewal within the context of this decline?
4. In today's cultural context, how might we discern the role of the church in the public life of our communities – in our neighbourhood(s), locally and globally?
5. Where is God calling St. Peter's into the future?

Dates and times for these conversations are yet to be determined. Please make note of these gatherings and plan to attend.



Rev. Donna Joy

Prayer List – Prayer Chain – Prayer Bowl

Recently a few people have asked for clarification on the different types of prayer requests offered at St Peter's. Here is a quick summary which we hope is helpful.

The **prayer list** is printed in the bulletin each week and those people are prayed for during the two Sunday services and at the Wednesday Eucharist. Usually people on that list have serious physical, emotional or spiritual illnesses, often of a long duration. Family members or friends, and sometimes the person themselves, speak to Donna or phone the church asking to be put on the prayer list so that the church community may pray for them regularly. These names stay on the list for 2 months but if a longer period of prayer is required, a call to Eleanor in the office is all that is needed. Parishioners are encouraged to take the bulletin home and to pray for those people during the week.

The **prayer chain** is a ministry of prayer carried out by several members of our parish. Often we have worries or concerns about ourselves or friends – an upcoming exam, a doctor's appointment, a short-term illness, an interview, an operation, a difficult decision regarding a relationship, our

career, or a disagreement with a friend. The prayer chain is a quiet way of offering our cares and worries to God by asking others to pray for us. Dorothy Heaton coordinates this ministry. Anyone wishing prayer for themselves or for another simply contacts Dorothy, giving a first name only, and indicating the length of the request (eg: a few days, 1 or 2 weeks). There is no need to say why you are asking for prayer – God knows. Dorothy then starts the 'chain' by contacting the people who have volunteered to be a part of this ministry. This is a rewarding ministry and a powerful form of prayer. New members are always welcome. Phone Dorothy for information or to request prayer: **488-0521**.

The **prayer bowl** is a way of offering silent prayer for ourselves or for others. There is a small bowl at the back of the church on the sound equipment cabinet with papers and pencil. Simply write the name of the person requiring prayer on the slip of paper provided and place it in the bowl. At the end of the Prayers of the People the person offering those prayers will take the bowl and place it on the altar.



Betty Currie

What I Did For My Summer Vacation

Katherine Almeida worshipped at St. Peter's and sang in the St. Peter's choir for 3 years while studying music at CMU. She graduated in the spring and returned to Thompson and to St. James Anglican Church which has been her family church since she was baptized there. She has shared her faith and musical gifts with her parish for many years and the people of St. James count themselves lucky to have her. While Katherine has been studying, the parish has eagerly awaited her arrival home during school breaks so she could play the organ; for without her, they have to rely on taped music. Finding a church organist in the north is not easy.

While in Thompson this summer, we met up with Katherine at Sunday worship.

The congregations from the nearby United and Lutheran churches were joining the Anglicans. Worship is shared among the three churches during the summer. Katherine was at the keyboard, even though she had just worked a night shift at her summer job. She played the hymn selections and also sang a solo, *You Who Dwell in the Shelter of the Lord*. At coffee time we met a LAMP (Lutheran Associations of Missionaries & Pilots) minister. He told us that he had just crash-landed his plane in the bush near Norway House the day before and hearing Katherine's solo had been quite emotional for him....a blessing of sorts.



Katherine at the organ in St. James, Thompson

Katherine is heading back to school this fall, taking education through University College of the North. We wish her well. The people of St. Peter's will miss her but the people of St. James are glad she is home.

 Ann Harwood

Senior Sunday School

In this "post-Christian" era, we are bombarded with media featuring disasters, wars, climate problems, crime and other negative issues. This has been cited as one of the reasons that church attendance has been failing. With so many things going wrong in the world many people think there is no room for God.


This year the senior Sunday School (ages 9 and up) will be studying a Faith Response

to world issues. They will be assisted in their curriculum by newspapers, online media, some prepared exercises, and a variety of speakers. As of Sept. 12, 7 youth ranging in age from 9 to 17 had registered. Several more are expected to register before the end of September. Sunday School teachers include Jim Daun, Ellen Gould and Glenn Morris.

Please join the Senior Sunday

School in praying about Our Faith and World Issues:

Creator God. We thank you for the world and our place in it. We thank you for the ability to choose between right and wrong. Help us to make the right choices, Also help us to learn what we can do to help the world to move towards the Kingdom of God with love and justice for all. We ask this in Jesus name. AMEN.

 Jim Daun

Children's Religious Formation - A New Approach at St. Peters

In April, 2010, the Women's Friendship Group invited Laurie Collier from St Mary La Prairie Anglican Church in Portage to come and speak on 'The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd', a Montessori based religious education approach for children that she has been involved in for over 10

years. Several men from St Peter's attended as well. Following that presentation, Vestry approved introducing The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St Peter's this fall for children ages 3 to 8 years.

The **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** is an approach to the religious formation of children that is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. The early years of life are a rich and creative period. Young children have a tremendous capacity for learning and a particular spiritual hunger and understanding. All presentations and activities are carefully chosen to be appropriate to the child's emotional and spiritual developmental age and stage.

We have created a children's worship space, called an

Atrium, in the back room behind the kitchen. Many parishioners have generously volunteered time and talent



Prayer table: the most important place in the atrium

in preparing the room and simple, beautiful materials for use. In the Atrium the child can ponder a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy

by taking the material and working with it – placing wooden figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd,

preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist or setting sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table. Older children who can read often copy parables from the Bible, lay in

order written prayers from the rite of baptism, read specific scripture booklets or work with materials pertaining to the various presentations.

Some things that are different from Sunday School 'programmes' experienced previously are:

- **Atrium** rather than a classroom,
- **Catechist** rather than a teacher,
- **Approach** rather than a programme,
- **Presentation** rather than a lesson,
- **Work** rather than play,
- **Joy** rather than fun,
- **Discover** rather than being told.

In July, Caroline LeNabat, Donna Joy and Betty Currie attended an intensive 8-day training programme for

catechists. Five people have volunteered to be atrium helpers. Caroline and Betty will alternate Sundays being catechists in the atrium and the helpers will rotate so that there will always be 2 adults present. We are very excited

and committed to this way of helping children develop their spiritual and religious lives and look forward to learning a great deal from them.



Practical Life activities: ready to be used



Betty Currie

Musical Notes

“O sing to the Lord a new song...” from Psalm 98

If you attended services at St. Peter’s in September, you probably noticed that we have added music to the psalms. On the 5th, we sang a refrain and read responsively as the organ played softly. On the 12th, cantor David Friesen sang the psalm text and the congregation sang the refrain. In the coming weeks, we will do more of those types of things and also will sing metrical versions of psalms such as “On eagle’s wings”, the modern-day paraphrase of Psalm 91 and “All people that on earth do dwell”, the 16th century paraphrase of Psalm 100. We also will have a vocal solo and an anthem based on Psalm texts.

The revised common lectionary provides a psalm for each Sunday in the three-year cycle of lessons. Usually, the psalm is related to the theme of the Old Testament lesson for the day.

It is appropriate that we are restoring music to the psalms. Psalm means song. The psalter, the hymnal of ancient Israel, was compiled from older collections of lyrics for use in the temple. According to the New Oxford Annotated Bible, most were probably composed to accompany acts of worship and may be classified as follows:

- Hymns (acts of praise)
- Laments (either an individual seeking deliverance from illness or false accusation, or the nation asking for help in time of distress)
- Songs of trust (expressing confidence in God’s readiness to help)
- Thanksgiving (expressing thanks for deliverance)
- Sacred history (telling the story of God’s dealings with Israel)
- Royal psalms (used at coronations or royal weddings)
- Wisdom psalms (meditations on life and the ways of God)

- Liturgies (for special cultic or historical occasions)

Since the psalms were conceived as song, they lose some of their inherent meaning when they are not sung. In the words of Alan Barthel, “Music adds a depth of meaning, experience and emotion that moves us beyond where mere words can take us.”

In the year I have been at St. Peter’s, I have been very impressed with the wonderful congregational singing and I know that you will participate just as enthusiastically in singing the psalms.



Linda Fearn
Music Director

Women’s Friendship Group

The Women’s Friendship Group usually meets on the third Saturday of each month, and our next breakfast is planned for **Saturday, October 16th at 9 am**. At this breakfast we will be having a ‘brainstorming’ session regarding the future of the Women’s Friendship Group.

Items that we need to discuss are as follows:

- over the last couple of years, attendance at the breakfasts has declined considerably;
- we are finding it increasingly difficult to acquire presenters who may be prepared to come out to such small numbers;
- the volunteer base to set up and prepare the breakfasts has decreased;
- the Planning Committee has also decreased: we need to rebuild our numbers and we need a new Committee Chair.

We therefore encourage as many Women as possible to attend the October breakfast, and provide us with your input so that we can decide how (or if) to go forward with the Women’s Friendship Group monthly breakfast program.



Frances Tester

Ten years ago

in **THE ELM LEAF**

An initial browse through the Elm Leaf of 2000 immediately speaks of challenge. It is not just the challenge of a year with too many mosquitoes and rain. It is the immediate and far greater challenge of how both St Peter's and the National Church can respond to the Government and more specifically to the Department of Justice which is driving the church into bankruptcy.

A letter to all Anglicans from the General Secretary, Archdeacon Jim Boyles accompanies the Elm Leaf, informing and encouraging everyone to write to their M.P's. The goal is to promote the church's role as an agent of healing. How does forcing the church into bankruptcy assist that goal, the letter asks. All parishioners are encouraged to write their own letters.

Once again I am reminded of the essential work of Community Ministries as Jim Daun writes encouragingly of the work at St Matthew's Maryland. The development of Community Gardens and our link with St Matthew's through the Food Box was and is part of the life giving relationship between the two churches.

As always, fall is a time of new beginnings and two in particular stand out. First is the three week Communion Preparation Programme, and I find myself wondering if there is still a place for this important time of teaching and formation. Secondly, I discover St Peter's once hosted a Fowl Supper. Karen Dunlop and Judy Heubner describe not one, but two sittings which filled the hall. Further new beginnings include "Musical Opportunity Knocks" and the invitation to join in modern and traditional music. New welcomes then extend to Aaron Lea Gislason and Keira Leigh Julie Gislason through the Sacrament of Baptism; also to Martha and Catherine Holmen who are 13 and 11 years respectively. Both write of their active lives at St Mary's School and all their extracurricular activities.

The seniors, too, are again active, lunching out at Larter's, St Andrews followed by a visit to St Andrews-on-the-Red and St Clements, Lockport. A month later found them lunching once again at Pepper's, part of a farewell to Della and Roger Harris before their move to Halifax. May DeWet then wrote of Sophie Mulla's presentation to the group, the account of the life of the family during the "dirty thirties" before Peter and Sophie moved onto Winnipeg and then Toronto. Who would have known that Sophie was once an expert cattle herder?

Lynda Daun writes of the progress of plans for the Worship Space as a committee is formed to address three issues: replacing the carpet, better access for people with disabilities and the space as focus on the message of Christ present in the Gospel, Prayers and Eucharist. It is out of this vision that our present worship space is to develop and grow as we know it today.

Summer Reading

Enter at your own risk!

Recently I told our new priest Donna that it was dangerous to walk into her office and get into a conversation with her! Several times this summer, I left her office with an urgent need to read a book she recommended. She has hijacked my reading list!

First was *The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister. A Benedictine sister, Joan Chittister asserts that growing older is not a time of loss and diminished ability, but a time for thoughtful reflection on opportunities that might not have been present when one was younger. There may now be time to learn new things, use one's leisure time for service to others, and enjoy

freedom from some of the responsibilities that younger people have. I read a copy from the Winnipeg Public Library.

Next was *The Comfortable Pew* by Pierre Berton. This book caused intense controversy in the mid-1960's when The Anglican Church commissioned Berton to reflect on the state of the church. Donna had remarked that the book was quite a prophetic look at the reality of the church then and in the decades that followed. It is an easy book to read, a real polemic, as Berton was not shy about expressing his opinions. Again, I found it at the public library.

Then, when I stopped in to talk briefly with Donna about

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Please submit articles you wish to see published to one of the editors for consideration. Next issue is planned for Dec. 2010.

some of the challenges I found in visiting people in hospital and personal care homes, she recommended *The Wounded Healer* by Henri Nouwen. Published just over 30 years ago, this profound little book "speaks directly to those men and women who want to be of service in the Church but find familiar ways crumbling."

This last time, instead of heading home to my computer and the on-line library catalog, I stopped at our St. Peter's library in the narthex. I was pleased to find a copy of *The Wounded Healer* right in front of me! Marie Chalmers has done a great job of organizing our library—it is easy to use and full of interesting books.

All three books have been worthwhile and I do thank Donna for her suggestions!



Virginia Platt

2010 PWRDF Christmas Cards

Give relief, development & justice this Christmas. Sending PWRDF cards is a wonderful way to support the work of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund.

This year's card is "Mozambican Nativity". The inside message: "Christmas Peace" in the five languages of the Lambeth Conference of the worldwide Anglican Communion: English, French, Japanese, Spanish & Kiswahili.

Cost \$15.00 for a pack of 12 cards and envelopes. Available from Ann Harwood.



Parish Caring Ministry

This is one ministry which in essence involves the whole congregation, with each member caring for others. At the same time there is a formal structure to provide specific ministries of caring. These ministries, with a brief description, their coordinators and contact person are outlined below.

To access these ministries, one can call the appropriate contact person on their own behalf, or on behalf of another, with the permission of that individual.

Friendly Phone Calls

This would entail social phone calls for someone who is shut-in to keep in contact with another individual and the life of the parish of St. Peter's.

Contact Person and Coordinator: Vera Sim – 489-5109

Rides to Sunday Services

To match up someone in need of a ride to church with someone who is willing to offer a ride.

Contact Person and Coordinator: Peter Gould – 888-2605

Greeters

People who welcome parishioners to church on Sunday morning, invite newcomers to sign the guest book, see that they feel welcome and introduce them to our church offerings.

Contact Person and Coordinator: Linda Ellis – 489-4303

Hospital Visits

To visit and provide support & companionship to someone who is in hospital.

Contact Person - Priest – 453-8791 or Secretary – 488-8093

Coordinators: Lynda Daun & Virginia Platt

General Visits

To visit and provide support & companionship to someone who is shut-in at home or in a personal care home.

Contact Person - Priest – 453-8791 or Secretary – 488-8093

Coordinators: Lynda Daun & Virginia Platt

Communion Visits

To ensure that people who are unable to attend church receive communion at home, personal care facility or hospital, if they so wish.

Contact Person - Priest – 453-8791 or Secretary – 488-8093

Coordinator: Maureen Tate

Casseroles

To ask for donations of casseroles as necessary and to encourage the delivery of a casserole to a parishioner, friend or relative who may benefit from this gift.

Contact Person and Coordinator: Lynda Daun – 489-5519

Prayer Chain

When contacted, people on the Prayer Chain will offer prayers for those for whom the request has been made.

Contact Person and Coordinator: Dorothy Heaton – 488-0521



Creation Care

St Peter's Trees

Have you looked up recently and seen the changes in our trees? St Peter's has a great heritage of trees. Some, like the magnificent elms, are beautiful and need preserving, while others are self planted, vying for light and nourishment. There is disease in many of the branches. David Friesen likes a challenge and he agreed to prune St Peter's trees this summer. You can already see a significant difference. Keep looking up and thank you, David.

Composting

Organic waste is always welcome at St Peter's. Fruit and vegetable matter can be placed in the composter on the west (not east) side of the church. A third composter was purchased this year so we can have a 3 year rotation, each year giving more compost to the flower beds around the church.

Photo credits:

Page 3: Ann Harwood

Page 4: Ian Chalmers

Page 9: Yvonne Kyle

Page 10: Joanne &

Guntis Rozitis



How can we love nature if we do not know it?

Connecting the Drops

In 2009, Kairos sent a delegation of Church Leaders to the Athabasca tar sands. The delegation prepared a DVD of their experience with footage that includes images from flying over the projects, time in the community at Fort Chipewyan and their reflections. We will show the DVD at a soup lunch in November, giving us all an opportunity to become better informed about the tar sands issues.

Plants in the Church

We have a beautiful place of worship but the light source has always been a challenge to growing plants large enough to be seen from all over the church. For many, creation inspires worship. We hope over the next few months to raise the money to cover the costs of three canes standing 6-7 ft high, together with their containers. These plants are appropriate to the space and

containers will be on wheels for easy movement. We are exploring ways to raise the money to literally green our church.

Summer Activities

How can we love the earth if we do not know it? An abundance of summer activities have been advertised on the Creation Care notice board. Some parishioners attended the Butterfly Festival at the Natural Prairie Museum. Others saw wild orchids growing in the wetlands. Still others went canoeing on our rivers and lakes. Many have intentionally sought out time with Creation while for others it is Creation itself who sought us out. The sky at night, the giant elms changing colour, a caterpillar slitting a skin to become a chrysalis, all create wonder as we explore our relationship to the land, seeing it for what it is, sacred in all its parts.



Fenella Temmerman

Profile on... Donna Joy

I have recently interviewed the Reverend Donna Joy over e-mail. I've asked her some questions (12, to be exact) and she has answered them very well. These are the questions I asked Reverend Donna Joy followed by her responses.

Where were you born?

I was born in Vancouver, B.C., grew up in West Vancouver and moved to Winnipeg when I was in my mid 20's.

Do you have children? If so, where do they work?

I have been very blessed with three children: Colin, who is married to Candice, and together they are parents to Dylan who turned one this year on the 2nd of September; Donovan who is not married; and Stephanie, who is married to Leo. Colin manages a luggage transport department at the Winnipeg International Airport. Donovan is a Master Corporal with the Canadian Military. Stephanie manages the Club Monaco store in Polo Park and also serves as an advisor/trainer to stores in Calgary, Montreal and New York.

Do you have any siblings?

I have two sisters: Sandra who lives in Winnipeg and Linda

who lives in North Vancouver. Linda, her daughter Samantha and grandchildren Arden and Avery are all travelling to Winnipeg this year to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving with us.

What is your favourite part about your job?

I love: working with a broad generational spectrum;

world; working creatively with energetic, inspired lay and ordained leadership. I really appreciate the opportunity to work in an environment that is committed to recognizing God at the centre of creation. And, of course, at St. Peter's – in the midst of all this – the cakes at coffee hour after church are very appetizing as well!

What is your least favourite part about your job?

Paperwork, although I do acknowledge that it must be done.

What do you do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family (as much as they can tolerate); read (lots); garden; run; do weight training; cycle.

What's your favourite food?

Anything spicy!
Very spicy!

Did you have another job before you were a priest? If so, what was it?

I coordinated the Special Education Resource Centre at the West Vancouver School Board. After moving to Winnipeg I worked for a while but soon thereafter began having children. I



Rev. Canon Mary Holmen, Rev. Donna Joy and Bishop Don Phillips at Donna's installation

preparing worship (respecting the tradition and at the same time discerning that which may be innovative and surprising); studying theology and figuring out how those studies may be useful within the context of teaching, preaching and pastoral care; empowering and supporting the people of God to challenge unfairness and work toward a more just

began studying theology and preparing to become a priest when my children were still quite young.

What's your dream vacation?

My husband David and I dream of walking the Santiago de Compostela. This pilgrimage began as Europeans crossed Spain to visit the sacred tomb of Saint James.

How many different places around the have you been to? What were they?

I've travelled throughout most of Canada and much of the United States.

What's your favourite book?

So many favourites, but if I were to name just one it would have to be 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. There are so many wonderful lessons to be found within the pages of that book.

Whats your favourite movie?

Again, so many: 'Fargo'; 'Dead Man Walking'; 'Blazing Saddles'; 'Bowling for Columbine'; 'An Inconvenient Truth'; to name just a few.



Sarah Le Nabat
Age 11

Rector Responds to Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I've noticed that during the offertory, when the collection plate is being passed around, the bread and wine for Eucharist are brought forward from the back of the church. Why?

A. This practice helps make it clear that bread, wine, and money are all elements in the offering of the life of the Christian community. (Food for thought: If a community regularly brings gifts for a food bank these offerings can also be included among the gifts presented in this procession and placed in front of the table – altar – bearing the bread, wine and collection plate or basket.)

Q. Why is it necessary to interrupt the flow of the service in order to shake

hands and/or hug in the Passing of the Peace.

A. Our physical engagement in the 'Passing of the Peace' is an expression of the reign of God. In other words, we physically enact what it is to be a citizen of the peaceable kingdom.

Q. It seems that certain prayers within the liturgy are sometimes changed to say 'God' rather than 'Him'. Why is this?

A. At a Diocesan Synod in the early 1980's it was agreed that inclusive language be used in all Diocesan Services and Parishes were encouraged to do the same.

Please pass on your questions to our Parish Priest, Donna, and she will attempt to respond accordingly.

Reminder: Please Do Not Disturb!

The sidespeople count and record the collection, which is a big responsibility. Distractions make their task more difficult, and also they need to keep the information that they are dealing with confidential.

While counting is taking place on Sundays, the door will be locked, and we respectfully request that you do not knock, ask for admittance, or use your own key to enter the room. If you need something – photocopies, casseroles, etc, – please get them before the service or wait until the count is completed.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Marie Chalmers
Assistant Treasurer

Right to Housing Coalition

The Right to Housing Coalition, of which our parish is a member, continues to advocate for the promotion of affordable housing and housing policy solutions for people in core housing need. Over the summer, we have learned that affordable housing for middle-income folks is in jeopardy too.

In our own neighbourhood, the conversion of apartment blocks to condominiums and luxury apartments has displaced renters who cannot afford to purchase a condo—or simply don't wish to. Rent increases of as much as 50% after a building is renovated and advertised as "luxury apartments" often price the suites well above the means of the previous tenants.

To advocate for action on housing issues, Right to Housing has three working groups attempting to lobby federal, provincial and city governments.

Our federal working group is encouraging you to participate in a special event happening in October. Right to Housing, along with the Make Poverty History, the Social Planning Council and Winnipeg Harvest is taking part in a National Action Day on October 19. It is called the Red Tent Campaign. This is a national event planned to coincide with the up-coming third reading in Parliament of Bill C-304, to

mandate a sustainable national housing strategy.

You may remember that over two years ago, many of us at St. Peter's wrote our MPs to ask them to support just such a strategy. Our Primate Fred and National Lutheran Bishop Susan Johnson made a similar written appeal to the Prime Ministers to "join with the provinces to develop a comprehensive housing strategy as a part of an overall national poverty reduction strategy." Bill C-304 would require the federal government to initiate this process.

If you would like to participate in the National Action Day on October 19, please speak to Virginia Platt. Details of time and place to follow!

Another important event this October is our civic election. With a vacancy rate of less than 1% for rental housing, Winnipeggers with low to moderate income face a major difficulty in finding decent and affordable housing. Our city can do more to encourage the development of rental housing by adopting mechanisms used in other cities—inclusionary zoning, municipal housing funds, land banking, and demolition and conversion control policies.

Right to Housing's City Working Group urges you to engage in discussion with candidates for mayor and city

council. Questions will be sent to candidates and answers will be posted on the Coalition's website <http://righttohousing.ca/>

You as a voter may have your own chance to ask these questions of candidates:

Will you support the development and implementation of an affordable rental housing strategy for the City of Winnipeg that will facilitate the development of decent, affordable rental units in our city?

Will you support close collaboration with the other levels of government, community organizations, market and non-market developers to plan innovative projects?

Will you vote for a dedicated, affordable housing budget with sufficient human and financial resources to support the City's expanded role in housing?

What about the "Not in My Backyard" phenomenon? Will you make leadership to overcome this challenge a priority?

Stay tuned for more information! If volunteering with one of Right to Housing's working groups interests you, please let me know. These issues are important to the health of our community, and our national church has taken a strong stand in support of working to ensure long term, lasting solutions to homelessness and the risk of homelessness.



Virginia Platt