

The Nicodemus Project



A mixed Economy church has nothing to do with money

A mixed economy church respects the needs for its people. Some, especially newcomers, are not attracted to the traditional and are seeking new forms of worship and spiritual encounter. Countless others love the familiar liturgies and would count it a great loss if they were changed beyond recognition. In a new economy church both types of worship and encounter exist, although some of the new forms don't resemble worship as we know it.

The Parish of Bright's monthly Stew 'n Art evenings held in the church hall in Zealand over the winter are a fine example of a new form of encounter. The work of local artists, musicians, poets, writers and storytellers fed the creative spirits of those who gathered there once a month. Turkey stew, founded on the racks of the turkeys left from the parish's annual turkey supper, fed their bodies. In no way did this creative gathering interfere with the traditional Sunday morning services at St Paul's, Zealand and at All Saints', Keswick Ridge.

The Rev. Deacon Debbie Edmondson came up with the Stew 'n Art idea. "When God's creativity is released in song or dance, painting or sculpture, poem or narrative, composition or drama we are able to communicate heart to heart with our Creator," she says.

One evening a painting done by Rowena Scott of the old Pugh's Crossing School sparked an avalanche of reminiscing and storytelling about the school that delighted everyone there.

In his preface to *The Mission Shaped Church*, the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams writes: "If Church is what happens when people encounter the Risen Jesus and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other, there is plenty of theological room for diversity of rhythm and style, so long as we have ways of identifying the same living Christ at the heart of every expression of Christian life in common."

The evenings in Zealand certainly provided a place for community, and God was very present.

The Nicodemus Project is both urgent and necessary. Over many years we have moved away from being the church that God calls us to be, so now we are a church in decline. We need to ask God to transform us — as individuals and as his church — and help us re-learn the true meaning of being Christian and Anglican.



MAY 2010

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from the bishop

- Today is Anglican Foundation Sunday
Celebrate the more than \$26 million in grants and loans it has made to an enormous variety of ministry projects across Canada.
- Prepare to celebrate Back to Church Sunday on Sept. 26!
- Watch for your Legacy Gifts Initiative letter from Archbishops Claude Miller and Fred Hiltz.

Recent announcements

- The Rev. Peter Gillies is appointed priest and rector in the Parish of Kingston effective August 1, 2010.
- Padre Karl McLean, who was ordained and served in this diocese until he was recruited to the Canadian Forces in June 1987, was recently named the next Canadian Forces Chaplain General.
- Archdeacon Tom Corston of the Diocese of Algoma, who served in this diocese from 1988 until 1992, was recently elected Bishop of the Diocese of Moosonee.
- The Rev. Gerald Laskey is appointed part-time priest-in-charge of the Parish of St. Martins and Black River effective May 1 through Dec. 31, 2010.

Anglican Family Dinner

*Come to an Anglican family dinner in
Celebration and Thanksgiving*

for the appointment of

Archbishop Claude W. Miller as

Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queen Street in Fredericton

Friday evening, May 7 — reception at 5:30, dinner at 6:30

Guest speaker Bishop Bill Hockin on "Simply Anglican"

Music by classical guitarist Stephen Peacock and

Soprano Sally Dibblee

Tickets \$50 — must be purchased by Monday, May 3 (tomorrow)