

Area Council News: March 9, 2010

We had a really good meeting at Area Council on March 9 in St John's Peterborough. We had a good tour of their new facilities.

There will be a **churchwardens and treasurer workshop** in May at St Paul's in Lindsay. This can be a great opportunity for those in church leadership to learn more of their roles and share with others their experience and questions. More details are to follow!

The Bishop shared with us about how things have been going at **All Saints' in Whitby** and things continue to progress with insurance companies, the wardens and the new interim pastor, the Rev'd Jeannie Loughrey. It continues to be a difficult experience for many of the parishioners, suffering from the loss due to the fire. But they are moving forward slowly and carefully.

The Rev'd Steve Smith shared some thoughts about **Area Day**. There were over 300 people registered. The workshops were well attended and the book table was a terrific asset to the day. There was some good discussion about trying a few things different, such as location, worship, music and an opportunity for people to share a bit during the Eucharist about their own reflections for the day.

The Bishop shared some information about **FaithWorks** and how the Area is participating in that, particularly on the financial front. Bishop Linda is pleased with the amount of money and support that the parishes in her Episcopal area is offering this valuable part of our Diocese. Faithworks was initiated to take much of the outreach funding out of the regular Diocesan operating costs, and establish it as a separate pool of resources to provide more effective ministry.

We briefly talked about an opportunity to host a **Trent-Durham Bonspiel** to raise money either for the Bishop's Company or Faithworks or other similar kind of fund. There was considerable interest in organizing one of these. The Rev'ds Michael Calderwood, Dana Dickson and Ted McCollum would look into the day for January or February 2011. The location would be a central rink, perhaps in the area of Peterborough or Lindsay

There will be continued education around **Stewardship** in the Area. Archdeacon Gordon Finney would provide some more events in the future.

Christian Harvey, the **Area Youth Social Justice Co-ordinator**, gave an update on his work. He has been in this position now for 6 months and outlined his contacts with parishes, youth, youth workers, and clergy. He has met all but very few benchmarks of progress. One of his challenges that been developing a working group of youth leadership in the Area. It has been easier for Christian to gather leaders for particular events, such as youth and artistic abilities. He has experienced the same thing with the formation of a youth council. There is a website and FB site.

We also had a chance to look at two ministry grants.

We also heard about some amazing news from Beaverton where the parish of St Paul's is seeking new ways to reach out to the **Mexican workers** who arrive in their community every summer. Ted and his parish are making some good plans and we look forward to hearing how this new bit of outreach will unfold.