

Good news across the Area

St Paul's in Brighton has new life in its Children's Ministry. In the fall of 2008, the Children's Ministry piece needed some extra work. The parish hired a Christian Education worker. When she left because she moved to another community, St Paul's contacted the local Christian Reformed Church. They invited part of their Christian Education team to "come alongside" and help re-build our Children's Ministry. Across this spring, a renewed vitalized Kids' Ministry has been emerging. We have new parents involved, new children coming, and a new curriculum. What is truly exciting is not only the ability to work with another Christian denomination in town, but the new approach to fulfilling this important part of our life together.

In June, the Northumberland Deanery Clericus had a Quiet Day with the Bishop. This was the first Quiet Day that the Deanery Clergy have had and Bishop Nicholls was present to share some of her insights into leadership and ministry. The day was held at the Victoria Inn at Gore's Landing, and we even enjoyed some canoeing on Rice Lake. It is hoped that such a quiet day for the clergy can be held on an annual basis.

And looking around the world: St John's Bowmanville will be heading off to Guatemala for a 14 day mission trip: blankets have been collected from the local community. There are also a number of small building projects that the team will be engaged in. St Paul's in Brighton will be sending a team through its own parish, in conjunction with Youth for Christ, will be sending a team to Ghana to work alongside local church groups and continuing to work on building a leadership training centre.

St Paul's on the Hill, Pickering, wants to head in a new direction to the ministry for those with HIV/AIDS. They have begun branching out into the community in a new way. Doug Willoughby, a member of the parish and has been doing a great deal of speaking engagements in churches and community agencies. Doug will be more than happy to share his experience with parishes in the Trent-Durham area. The work that St Paul's is doing is one of the few HIV/AIDS ministries in our Episcopal area. The Area Council has talked about how they can support the work that St Paul's and Doug Willoughby's ministry.

The Area Council has been encouraging the use of Natural Church Development (NCD). Bishop Nicholls is seeing how the Area Council can help offer financial support for this initiative. St John's in Bowmanville has had a very good experience of this program, and St Luke's in Peterborough is about to embark on it. NCD looks at eight areas of growth in a parish, from leadership to small groups, worship to spirituality. It can be a valuable tool, done over a number of years, to measure the health and growth of a parish. NCD assumes that, like a seed in the ground, if a parish is healthy, it will grow!