



WELL REPRESENTED—The Windsor area delegation was the largest from the three southern counties to attend the 101st Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Huron at London, Ont. From left: W. G. Mitchell,

St. Aidan's Church, Riverside; Rev. V. K. Blake, St. Peter's Church, Windsor; Canon B. A. Silcox, St. Paul's Church, Windsor, and Rt. Rev. G. N. Luxton, Bishop of Huron.



COUNTY DELEGATES—Essex County representatives at the London, Ont., Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Huron include, from left: Manson Jessop, St. Stephen's

Church, Oldcastle; Canon A. S. H. Cree, retired, Leamington; Rev. E. C. Grey and V. A. Redmond, both of St. Stephen's Church, Oldcastle.

ST. STEPHEN'S FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE ANNUAL REPORT 1979-80.

Mrs. George Parr began to invite some senior ladies of the parish to her home in the Fall of 1977 more or less to get together and socialize. They met two or three times that year and the next on special days or times like Christmas, Valentine's, St. Patrick's, Mother's Day, etc. Then on Oct. 11th, 1979 the group was officially named "The Friendship Circle" and a date was set to have Corporate Communion at 11.30 in the morning, followed by a sandwich lunch and entertainment once a month. I believe Marjorie Shuttleworth was responsible for thinking up the name. We first met on the second Thursday but later changed our meeting date to the first Tuesday of each month. It was formed essentially for senior ladies but we welcome any one to our meetings so feel free to come. Mrs. George Parr (Doris) is our director and founder assisted by Jean Koning and Myrtle Crowder. We remember all those on our list at birthday time each month and some one volunteers to make and bring the cake. Mrs. Doris Mitchell keeps our birthday list up to date.

We have one collection box passed around each meeting, proceeds to be voted for social service or local missionary work. Mrs. Edith Bailey has charge of this box backed up by Jean Koning. Out of this fund is taken 10% of the monthly collection which goes in Mrs. Crowder's box for cards, flowers, 80th Birthday gifts and memoriams. The proceeds in the original box, we call it the "Thankoffering Box" is voted to some worthy cause, so far it has gone to Paul Wheeler, a theology student, and you only have to read the thank you letters to know it has been needed and appreciated. In all we have donated three different allotments for a total of \$170.00 to this project.

We have two volunteer hostesses at each meeting who are responsible for setting up the table and making tea and coffee. The program consists of a variety of speakers, films, courses, demonstrations and displays of "bring and tell", and just plain games, readings or poems, contests, sing songs and entertainment available. Mrs. Crowder is in charge of publicity and sees that notices as well as each meeting report is sent to the Essex Free Press. Mrs. Doris Parr presented each birthday lady with a lovely imitation rose from our inception through the first year.

There were 11 meetings held in 1980 with an average attendance of 11 present.

In January 1980 we started off the year with our usual Corporate Communion at 11.30 a.m. and Rev. Koning officiating followed by a sandwich lunch and birthday cake. There were games, contests, and Mrs. Beth Pettypiece gave a humorous reading entitled "The Old Party Line", and Mrs. Nellie Vollans displayed 4 different articles she had in her possession for many years and told of their history.

February - Corporate Communion and lunch and the ladies departed for the Essex United Church where the Institutes were having an Achievement Day on "Indoor Gardening".

March - Mrs. Koning showed the film "Dene Nation", the story of the native people in the MacKenzie River Valley of the North West Territories and exchanged favorite recipes.

April - Following Corporate Communion we went downstairs where the table was set for a seder meal, with the rector acting as leader, assisted by Irene Webster, Doris Mitchell, Doris Parr and Jean Koning. This event helped us to understand the history of the Jewish people.

May - Our guest were Ruth Graham from St. Aidan's Church, who is social action chairperson for Essex Deanery Anglican Church Women, and Jean Smith, of St. John's Sandwich, who is social action for Huron Diocese A.C.W. Diocesan Council. Jean Smith told us of the House of Sophrosyne in Windsor which provides refuge and rehabilitation for women with an alcohol problem.

(2) Friendship Circle

Ruth Graham spoke of her involvement in Windsor's "Ten Days for World Development" and as a member of Huron's operation Haiti. It was voted to place a hymn book in the church in memory of Edith Herdman who had recently passed away and was a devoted parish member for many years. Each member present put in a donation to pay for it and this started the "In Memorium Fund". The ladies went to a special outing on May 15th to the Eastern Star Spring Luncheon and craft sale in the Masonic Temple in Essex.

June - Doris Parr demonstrated the art of flower arranging. Several lovely display bouquets and centre pieces were made up.

July - Each member brought some flowers out of her garden, containers, etc. and Doris Parr instructed us on how to arrange our own vases. They were original and varied.

August - No meeting but some members assisted with the Birthday party at the Essex Nursing Home with the Redeemer ladies.

September - Mrs. Bertha Lemkin, handwriting analyst was our special guest. Very interesting. We also had a shower for the House of Sophrosyne at which there were a goodly lot of articles brought in.

October - Display of quilts by Mrs. Marjorie Shuttleworth and a display of articles, mostly jewellery made by Mrs. Ruth Banwell's brother-in-law out of things like stones, woods, barks, etc., he picks up. Cards were played and Mrs. Webster conducted a short contest.

November - Mrs. Crowder entertained with games and contests on apples and Mrs. Burton read a humorous poem. Doris Mitchell had on hand a booklet authored by Joe Butcher, one of our late parishioners. It was entitled "AND FINALLY", from which Mrs. Crowder read one of his humorous poems.

December - Corporate Communion, festive lunch of Christmas goodies, guest invited unable to attend, so Mrs. Crowder entertained with games, contests and carol singing. Sally Meunier's Brownies contributed to our festive table which Mrs. Crowder had set up, with Christmas cracker favours and those that were left after each one got one went into Christmas baskets. Mrs. Ruth Banwell was appointed to send greeting cards to our sick and shut-ins. \$50.00 was voted to be sent to Paul Wheeler and our box is cleaned out ready to start again in the new year.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH THANK-OFFERING BOX FUND

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM INCEPTION TO DECEMBER 31, 1980.

Received from inception to Nov. 4, 1980 - \$162.00

Expenditures:

| | | |
|---|-------|----------------|
| Christmas 1979 gift to theology student | 55.00 | |
| Easter 1980 " " " " | 65.00 | |
| December 1980 " " " " | 50.00 | ----- \$170.00 |
| Received at December meeting | 11.00 | |
| May 6th, 1980 Postage Exp. | 3.00 | |
| Balance | NIL | |

Mrs. Crowder's Box of 10% yielded \$15.71, which she has on hand.

Respectfully submitted

Social Action Convener.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH ANNUAL SOCIAL SERVICE REPORT -1980

Three church ladies attended the "Get Acquainted" meeting in January, 1980 and took shower gifts to be taken to St. Monica's House.

In May I phoned in our order for 55 calendars to the Deanery Convener which each year are ordered at the Annual Deanery Meeting and at which I wasn't going to be able to attend, as I just came out of the hospital. I paid for these at Fall Tea time and they were picked up by Mrs. Norman Malenfant. She had given me a cheque to cover the cost of these. There were only two ladies from St. Stephen's who made it to the Tea which was held at St. John's in Leamington on Sept. 24th, Mrs. Marjorie Allison and myself. I contributed the usual \$5.00 at this time to the Canterbury Tree Fund.

On August 22nd, there were 6 attended and four of these assisted the Redeemer ladies with the annual Birthday party for the residents which we do together each year. Our share of expenses was \$13.00 which I had arranged with Dorothy Esping to be taken out of our group card party.

On October 20th, three attended the Dessert Evening held at St. John's. I turned in used postage stamps at all of these meetings held by the Deanery. These are sent to India and the proceeds are used to assist Leprosy patients, so please cut off your stamps and leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1" around them, any kind and from any country and send them to me anytime and I will see the Deanery gets them. Also used or discarded eye glasses are needed.

In December I made up 10 Cheer Baskets which came to \$12.69 and purchased two boxes of candies at \$4.50, making a total of \$17.19 which went to our sick, shut-ins and Nursing Homes and Huron Lodge. Doris Parr and Nellie Vollans visited Mrs. Gurn in Huron Lodge and delivered her basket and also visited Mr. Wright in a Nursing Home and delivered his basket. Mrs. Wall and I delivered all the rest of them and personally visited with the recipients. Mrs. Evelyn Oliver delivered a basket to Mrs. Ernest Oliver (Sadie) in Riverview Hospital. These were all paid for out of last year's Calendar Reserve Fund.

CHEER CARD REPORT

7 "Get Well's"

11 "Sympathy"

5 "Baby Cards"

29 Cards in all which entailed an expense of \$13.03 - Paid for by the Board of Management. Calendar Balance on hand \$9.31.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. W.A. > Myrtle Crowder
Convener.

NOV 17 1960

Do not
be afraid, for I know
that you are looking
for Jesus,
who was crucified.
He is not here;
he has risen,
just as he said.

Service Times for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday - 31st March, 1985

- 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Saint Stephen's
- 9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Church of the Redeemer
- followed by fellowship over 'Pax Cakes'
(cookies symbolizing 'Peace and Good
Neighbourhood) and coffee
- 11:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Saint Stephen's
- followed by fellowship over 'Pax Cakes'
and coffee
- 7:00 p.m. - Service of Prayer and Praise
- Church of the Redeemer
- followed by fellowship over coffee

Monday in Holy Week - 1st April, 1985

- 11:30 a.m. - Friendship Circle - Corporate Communion
- Saint Stephen's basement

Wednesday in Holy Week - 3rd April, 1985

- 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study Group - Corporate Communion
- Saint Stephen's
- 7:30 p.m. - Lent Course - Compline and Address
- Saint Stephen's

Maundy Thursday - 4th April, 1985

- 8:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service
- Church of the Redeemer

Good Friday - 5th April, 1985

- 2:00 p.m. - Service of Devotion based upon the Last
Seven Words of Christ from the Cross
- Saint Stephen's

Holy Saturday - 6th April, 1985

- 8:00 p.m. - Easter Vigil - Saint Stephen's

Easter Sunday - 7th April, 1985

- 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Saint Stephen's
- 9:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Church of the Redeemer
- followed by fellowship over coffee
- 11:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Saint Stephen's
- followed by fellowship over coffee
- 7:00 p.m. - Service of Prayer and Praise
- Church of the Redeemer
- followed by fellowship over coffee

ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Vol. X, No. 2 Lent, 1985

March 24, 1985

Ah! At last my study is tidy. We have been trying to accomplish this ever since we arrived. Why was it in a mess? My work just spread over everything. Something was begun, only to be put aside as more important things needed doing. The main cause of the untidiness was the computer on a long, low table in the middle of the study: it was the only place the computer would go. We had to step over it every time we came in, or answered the telephone, or needed a book. It was a stumbling block.

Last night I was given a computer table as an early Christmas present. The thought of squeezing something else into the overcrowded study made our minds boggle.

Once the table was in place, everything else fell (not quite literally) into its own neat made-for-it place. It was remarkable.

I turned to Eleanor and commented in genuine surprise, 'Who would have thought that by adding another piece of furniture the study seems to have more room in it?' The 'stumbling block' (long, low table) was put against the wall under the window; the filing cabinet was put next to the bookcase (why had we never thought of putting it there before?); and the new computer table went where the filing cabinet had been. Now we could walk through and around the study and not trip over the wires or the long, low table or the computer or the printer.

Why am I telling you all this? The reason is simply this:-- We began to see an analogy between the above and our lives. If the long, low table represents our cares, worries, and idols, and the computer table represents Christ, see what it is telling us.

Without Christ our lives are muddled and confused because cares, worries, and idols get in our way every day and we keep stumbling over them and do not know how to become free from the disharmony and restriction of our living. Once Christ enters our lives everything falls into its rightful place. Cares and worries and idols are put aside, out of the way. No clutter is left to hamper our movement and growth in Christ.

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This is not to say that once we have asked Jesus Christ to come into our life that living will be a 'piece of cake'. Make no mistake, there will still be difficulties, maybe even more difficulties the closer we grow to Christ (for Satan does not like that) : we are indeed soldiers fighting a spiritual war against sin, the world and Satan. The difference, however, is that having Christ with us, we have a Helper, and, as Saint Paul wrote,

'If GOD is for us, who can be against us?'
(Romans 8:31b)

-- John E. Swain

EASTER 1985

THOU ART RISEN, O LORD!

Let the Gospel trumpets speak, and the news as of holy fire,
burning and flaming and inextinguishable,
run to the ends of the earth.

THOU ART RISEN, O LORD!

Let all creation greet the good tidings with jubilant shout;
for its redemption has come,
the long night is past, the Saviour LIVES!
and rides and reigns in triumph now and unto the age
of ages.

THOU ART RISEN, O LORD!

Let the quiet Altar dazzle with light;
let us haste to thy Presence
wondering and incredulous for joy;
and partake of thy Risen Life.

THOU ART RISEN MY LORD AND MY GOD!

Rise up my heart, give thanks, rejoice!
And do thou, O Lord, deign to enter it despite the shut doors.
Shew me thy hands and thy side, that it is thou thyself.
Send me about my business, servant of the living King,
the King of kings;
And hide my life in thine for ever and ever.

(Milner-White)

The Season of Easter continues for 50 days, from Easter to Pentecost. It is a time for joy, founded on faith in the resurrection of the Saviour, and on the hope of our own resurrection. 'Alleluia' is sung throughout, expressing the exultant joy of those who are raised, as we are with Christ.

The 8 days following Easter form, together, one great feast of the resurrection, as Holy Week was one great celebration of Christ's Passion. The eight days are devoted to remembering the baptism and resurrection, through which we have died and been raised again with Christ.

For 40 days, the Paschal candle, lit at dawn on Easter Day (traditionally) is a symbol of the living presence of the Risen Christ among his disciples. The Sundays take us gradually towards the separation of Christ from his friends and disciples by the Ascension, and then towards a new presence of GOD, through the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and in each one of us. It is the Holy Spirit who makes us hear the Word of GOD, and who consecrates the signs of Christ's presence and work: The Sacraments.

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Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

It is true, he has risen,
alleluia! alleluia!!

A JOYOUS AND BLESSED EASTER TO ALL GOD'S PEOPLE

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Thank - You

We would like to thank Rev. and Mrs. Swain and all our friends at Redeemer for the beautiful plant they gave us for our 45th Anniversary. God bless you all.

- Henry & Agnes Hartley

Untitled

Many will be shocked to find
 When the day of judgement nears ---
 That there's a special place in Heaven
 Set aside for volunteers.
 Furnished with big recliners,
 Satin couches and foot stools ---
 Where there's no committee Chairman
 No group leaders or car pools.
 No eager team that needs a coach
 No bazaar and no bake sale,
 There will be nothing to staple,
 Not one thing to fold or mail.
 Telephone lists will be outlawed
 But a finger-snap will bring
 Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,
 And rare treats fit for a king.
 You ask, 'Who'll serve these privileged few?'
 And work for all they're worth?
 Why, all those who reaped the benefits ---
 And not once volunteered on earth!

(Author Unknown)

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Lord, we pray Thee, visit this dwelling and banish from it
 all the snares of the enemy. Let Thy holy angels abide here
 to keep us in peace, and may Thy blessing be ever upon us.
 Amen.

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Heaven and Hell

A priest spoke with the Lord about heaven and hell. 'I will show you hell,' said the Lord, and they went into a room where a delicious smell filled the air. In the centre of the room was a large pot of stew, but around the pot sat famished and desperate people. All were holding spoons with long handles that reached to the pot, but, because the handles of the spoons were longer than their arms, it was impossible for the people to feed themselves.

'Now I will show you heaven,' said the Lord. They entered an identical room with a similar pot of stew. The people had identical spoons, but the people were all well-nourished and happy, talking to each other. At first the priest did not understand. 'It is simple,' said the Lord. 'You see, they have learned to feed each other.'

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Blest be the tithe that binds.

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Darien Weekend

Early in 1984, shortly after our rector, Rev. John Swain, came to the Parish of Saint Stephen's, Oldcastle, and Church of the Redeemer, Colchester North Township, he asked some of us if we would be interested in travelling to Darien, Connecticut, to visit with an Episcopal church there. We would be billeted and fed while there (physically and spiritually) and our only expenses would be travel and meals on the road. Over the years I've been to a few workshops and even though I enjoyed them, Connecticut seemed a long way to go for yet another one. However, partly because I couldn't think of a good reason to refuse, and partly because John was new to us and I didn't want to have to start saying 'no' to him right away, I said 'yes'. It was eventually decided that we would charter a bus, and on the evening of Thursday, October 18, 1984, we left Essex County for a weekend in Darien.

We weren't exactly going into this blindly, as we had been asked to read a book entitled 'Miracle in Darien' by Bob Slosser. It tells the amazing story of a medium size (175 in attendance on a good Sunday) Episcopalian parish, who greeted a new rector in October, 1972, and thus began the unfolding of a major phenomenon. I highly recommend you read the book, as this article tells only of one parish's weekend and cannot recount the whole Darien story.

FRIDAY MORNING - We're still on the road at 5:00 a.m. and as I make one more desperate effort to sleep sitting up, I am thinking to myself, 'This better be worth it!' We have had fun so far, laughing, singing, and tossing jokes back and forth with our two super drivers, who spell each other off due to the length of the trip.

FRIDAY MIDAFTERNOON - We've been seeing gorgeous countryside ever since the sun came up and the setting of St. Paul's, Darien, is truly the finishing touch as we finally arrive at this lovely, yet simple church. Perhaps because we've read the story, perhaps because we are overtired and excited in our anticipation of our weekend, or - just because this serene church, set amidst trees ablaze with autumn and a carpet of leaves, seems to call out to us; perhaps that is why we feel so transfixed. As we entered Darien, Connecticut, and 'wound' our way toward St. Paul's, the whole picturesque community seemed to say 'welcome' and that feeling never left me all weekend and remains with me today.

ST. PAUL'S - We entered the church and were welcomed along with people from other parishes and instructed as to our luggage placement, freshening up, registration, refreshments, church layout, etc. There are good facilities here for everything imaginable - offices, meeting rooms, lovely kitchen and dining facilities, small chapel, and they even have their own book store. We have free rein to explore around and meet people. There are about two hundred people

being billeted this weekend from various parishes. One group has even come from Bermuda. Oh yes - the church; There's not too much to say really, inside it is elegant in its simplicity just like the outside. Despite its large size and its plainness, one feels a coziness and warmth that's hard to describe.

LATER FRIDAY EVENING - All the visitors have had a lovely dinner in St. Paul's dining room and a teaching by Father Fullam in the church. We are to receive three more teachings by Father Fullam tomorrow. Three of my fellow parishioners and myself are being driven to the home of Arthur and Nancy Zavras. Art has introduced himself to us at the church, midst the introduction of the others and again there's that overpowering feeling of warmth and welcome pervading the air, with the addition of a sense of giving and sharing such as I've never experienced on such a large scale.

SATURDAY MORNING - We are in the church singing with Father Fullam before his teaching. He is a gifted musician whose love of music is contagious and is an integral part of his faith. He shares the music with us as eagerly as he offers his teaching, and like everything else about this parish, music is simple, straightforward and uplifting. We've had a lovely, restful evening with Art and Nancy. They have fed us royally and have offered us every consideration and hospitality imaginable in their lovely home. We feel like we've always known them. After chatting with others in our parish earlier, I find that we've all been treated in the same gracious way.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON - All the visitors are meeting with their individual parishes in different areas of the church. We've had two more teachings this morning and a bag lunch put together with such taste and creativity, that bag lunches will never be the same again. The 'Kitchen Angels,' as the staff is called, provide an excellent ministry of their preparation and service of delicious meals, such as the picnic lunch we just shared and the scrumptious dinner we enjoyed here last night.

We are together in a meeting room engaging in a discussion with a member of St. Paul's as our enabler. Now it is time to review and contemplate what we have learned. We have a responsibility to share what we have been given with others and we also have the even greater responsibility of sharing our gifts sensitively and wisely, so as not to frighten or intimidate those people that we care so much about back home.

There is nothing as exciting as being with a person who has been rejuvenated or restored in some way, sharing their happiness and basking in their warmth. However, there is nothing as disconcerting as a Christian who goes off on a spiritual weekend only to come back with the intentions of turning the parish upside down overnight. This attitude is not only frustrating for parishioners, but very devastating and disappointing for the person who has so much to offer. We pray that we will be loving and patient with our friends and let God 'call the shots' instead of charging in on our own limited strengths.

LATE SATURDAY NIGHT - Sleep is going to take over very soon, so I am trying to collect my thoughts quickly. The Zavras both work, so another family of St. Paul's, who are also billeting visitors, invited Art and Nancy and ourselves to dinner with one or two other St. Paul's couples (and their visitors). We enjoyed a delicious dinner in a lovely home; but the amazing thing is that these St. Paul's people all share the same enthusiasm. We thought that Art and Nancy were the only ones. But this same simple, straightforward Christian charity radiates from all these people and that is what you see first. This is a wealthy community and one could easily be bowled over by this fact alone; but when one's faith and love is great enough to shine out over and above wealth, that in itself is a miracle. It was hard to break up that wonderful gathering and return to St. Paul's for another teaching. Now the teaching has been over for about two hours and we've had a delightful evening with our own dear Art and Nancy back at their home. I look forward to Eucharist tomorrow.

SUNDAY NOON - Art and Nancy and the four of us are all crying because it is time to board our bus and head for home. We've just attended a glorious communion service in the auditorium of Darien High School. The main Sunday service is held here because the church isn't big enough and zoning laws won't let the parish expand or rebuild at this time. A few moments after sitting down I forgot I was in a school auditorium. During the weekend we visitors had learned a lovely anthem and between the Epistle and the Gospel, two hundred of us mounted the auditorium stage and sang it to St. Paul's congregation. Anthem singing is not unusual; in fact there was really nothing unusual or out of the ordinary about this Episcopalian (Anglican) Communion Service, except that extra people were there. But it was truly glorious, and the only explanation I can offer, at the risk of repeating myself, is this exciting feeling of a church 'alive in Christ', full of people who have discovered, through good leadership, how to live their faith and how to lovingly and sensitively share their faith, enabling others to learn how to be 'alive in Christ'.

Of course, this all began when Father Fullam came to St. Paul's parish, and it goes without saying that good leadership is vital to this healthy growth and progress. So much has already been written by and written about Terry Fullam, that it would be senseless to go into his life and background. It would also be against everything he believes and stands for, to place him on a pedestal. There are many people (including Terry) that have given positive influence to my life; people that I admire and respect, but I'm not into 'hero worship'. I think it's a dangerous thing, not to mention a bit immature (puts me in mind of movie and rock star fans). So what I have to say about Terry is hopefully as simple and as sincere as I can make it. He is the man entrusted with five talents who has given back ten. Some of us are entrusted with many talents; they are a challenge to pursue and a great

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responsibility that we must not ignore. Father Fullam has many gifts. He is a dynamic teacher, a gifted musician, a phenomenal student of the scriptures and possesses a delicious sense of humour. But best of all, he knows his responsibility and uses these gifts to show others how to discover and fulfill their own talents. He acknowledges Christ as Head of the Church, encourages his people to be a part of that body and moves only through shared prayer.

I use the word 'shared' at great risk. Too often we 'share' in a self-centred way and it becomes no different from common gossip, monopolized conversation or a neverending dumping of our problems on anyone within range. The dictionary defines 'share' as 'enjoying or enduring in common'. I take that to mean that, if you are going to share a part of your life with someone, it should be of some benefit to them also. Sure, it's O.K. to tell your problems to someone; we all have that need sometimes, but I don't personally call it sharing. Terry's whole life - his knowledge, his struggles, his joy, his commitment to Christ - is truly 'shared'. He is simply a man whom God has entrusted with talents. But that's not what sets him apart from most of us, whether we have many talents, few talents, or whether we're still trying to figure out where our talents lie. The difference is that, when the Master returns to collect, Terry is going to be able to give a good account of himself; and just as important, his love and concern is demonstrated as he encourages others to be able to make themselves accountable also.

MONDAY - 4:30 a.m. - The couch in my livingroom feels pretty good after tiptoeing through my front door aching and exhausted. There's no point in disturbing anyone at this hour. The bus left Darien about noon Sunday and we had an exciting, happy drive back to Saint Stephen's. We thanked our drivers, wished them well, and had a short time of prayer and meditation in the church before going home. We left with a strong feeling of commitment.

Well, my family survived without me and in two hours my life with them will resume as usual, I think. Darien, St. Paul's, Father Fullam and Art and Nancy are back in Connecticut, yet still inside me. I'm so tired!

Oh, by the way - it was worth it.

Good Night (Morning?)

-- Peggy Leithead

The weekend of February 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 1985, a seminar called 'Christ in the Marketplace' was held at Saint Stephen's Anglican Church, Oldcastle, in Essex Deanery. It was sponsored by Saint Stephen's and Church of the Redeemer. under the direction of Rev. John Swain.

Ray Greiner, a businessman from Darien, Connecticut, who is an active lay reader at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, has chosen to make the Marketplace Seminars his life's ministry, and we were certainly fortunate to be recipients of his special service. Ray was joined by his lovely wife, Jere (pronounced 'Jerry'), an extremely gifted vocalist, and Jim Paroline (pronounced like 'Caroline'), from Grace Episcopal Church, New York City. Jim, who recently joined the Episcopal Church (confirmed in December, 1984), has been called to the ordained ministry, as he revealed to us in his exciting testimony.

The seminar began at 7:00 p.m. on the Friday evening with registration and refreshments. We were then called together with music, of which there was an abundance throughout the seminar. The songs, chosen by our Rector, and compiled into convenient booklets, were uplifting and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

In our first session with Ray, he began by reminding us that we are not on this earth by accident and that we should start taking our individuality seriously, using it to accomplish God's purpose in our lives. When we are born anew, we are not trying to imitate some behaviour or life-style that we admire in someone else. We are called to do what we do and be what we are in God, and it is not our work that determines our spirituality. It is our spirituality that makes the job holy. Ray cited many scriptures to reinforce his message to us and in our packages that we received was a list of the Bible verses used throughout the weekend. Daily use of the principles outlined in scriptures was compared to body building. The more you work at it, the easier it gets.

We broke into small groups later in the evening to discuss the obstacles in our various daily lives that prevent Christ from entering the marketplace, and it was so interesting to hear from so many different walks of life - from students to businessmen, from women in the home to women in the work force. We had a very good cross section of marketplace people, which was exactly what we had hoped for.

Saturday morning Ray took us through a printed 'Christian Checklist', comparable to a pilot's checklist before taking off, and this quote at the beginning sums it up: 'All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals; and the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them back; letting that other larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.'

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We then set out to list the obstacles we had discussed the night before and one glaring truth came through it all. We are fearful of many things and only our commitment to Christ will get us over these fears and allow us to be identified as who we are in the Lord instead of what we are in the world.

After lunch on Saturday, we began to look at our priorities as Christians in the marketplace and learned that Christianity is the norm and we must learn to fit the world into it. If we allow God to direct us in everything, using the fruits of the spirit, the world will never be able to prevent us from doing what we want to do. Our witness will be displayed in our daily lives, and with constant prayer we will become God's answer to other people's needs.

Ray reminded us to guard ourselves against luke warm Christianity, which is always a disturbing topic, and rightly so. It is the easiest thing to fall into and the most destructive condition that a Christian can experience. Ray gave us this quote that medical people will latch onto quickly: 'A mild case of Christianity protects us from the real disease' - you have to think about it a bit. Commitment is essential to true Christianity. Without it, things don't really quite fall into place. Picture a boat (Christ), picture a dock (the world) and picture someone with one foot on the boat and one foot on the dock. What's going to happen as the boat sails away?

On Sunday morning our three guests attended Redeemer's 9:30 service where Jim spoke about his respect and appreciation for the Episcopalian (Anglican) faith. - a real shot in the arm for all of us. Then they joined us at Saint Stephen's at 11:00, where Ray spoke about sharing God's love in the marketplace. Jere also treated us to two songs that she had composed herself. We enjoyed fellowship afterwards, and as I sipped my coffee, I thought about the way we all influence one another's lives, and I began to silently thank God for everyone I've ever met.

-- Peggy Leithead