



The St. David's Connection

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Issue

www.stdavids.nf.ca

St. David's Presbyterian Church • 98 Elizabeth Avenue • St. John's • Newfoundland • Telephone 722.2382

Musings on Ministry



Ten years ago at Easter, I was in Antigua, Guatemala, enrolled in an intensive program of one-to-one instruction to learn Spanish. I was there because I wanted to learn Spanish. But I was also there because I needed a change of scene from my ministry in a congregation which had just completed a project of relocation and dedicated a brand-new church building. That had been challenging for every one in the congregation, but I had found it especially demanding. Having reached the goal that we all had looked forward to, I was finding myself “burned out”, unable to offer what the next stage in the congregation’s journey needed from their minister.

I arrived in Antigua just in time for that centuries-old colonial capital’s observance of Holy Week and Easter. Every day of Holy Week there was a procession from a different church, following routes through the old city. Before the procession came, people worked at laying down decorative “carpets” on the street, some made with intricate patterns laid down in various bright colours of sawdust with the use of stencils, some created with thousands of flowers, leaves, or seeds put together to form a picture. These “carpets” reminded one of the response of Jesus’ disciples on the first Palm Sunday, when garments were strewn in the path where Jesus was entering the Holy City. In the procession, a statue of Christ on its heavy platform would be

carried through the streets like a float on the shoulders of teams made up of dozens of men, who volunteered for the duty, and passed the burden on to another team after carrying the platform for a block or two. Ahead of the platforms, young boys waved censers and filled the streets with the smell of incense; along the parade route, people in traditional costumes greeted the procession and kept the crowds in order. In this way the story of Jesus’ journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday had been re-enacted and celebrated for hundreds of years.

For Easter, there was a midnight service in the cathedral. During the service the people were sprinkled with water flung from palm fronds, a reminder of our baptism, in which we die with Christ and are raised with him to newness of life. At the end of the service, the people lit small candles from the Christ candle, as we sometimes do here at a Christmas Eve service, and came out of the cathedral to walk around the central square, singing glad Easter hymns. It was an experience I will never forget, but equally precious was the quiet but joyful service the next morning in the little Lutheran chapel, in the midst of a garden profuse with lilies.

Discovering that the crucified and risen Christ was present in a far-way place during that vivid celebration of Holy Week and Easter in Antigua helped me get ready to accept a kind of dying — to the kind of ministry I had exercised over the previous ten years, but couldn’t any

more, because both the congregation and I needed something different. It also made me open to resurrection—to God’s gift of life which transforms us in the midst of our faltering and dying, rekindles hope, restores joy, and opens up new pathways we never imagined we could walk. My new pathway after 1990 took me back to university, then to a practicum in El Salvador, and four unforgettable years of ministry among the poorest of the poor in Managua, Nicaragua.

For me, coming to St. David’s has marked another kind of resurrection, because with your prayers and kindly encouragement I have felt gifts of ministry in me being rekindled, and I was able to respond to your invitation to remain for a time as your full-time minister, not in my own strength, but in the grace and power of the One who raised Jesus from the dead. “God being my helper”, I look forward to the coming days of ministry among you.

And I pray that as you come to this Easter, you too may be empowered to let go of whatever in your journey no longer represents life for you, and to lay hold of the new possibilities which God is ready to open up for each one of us.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed!
A Blessed Easter!

John C. Duff.



THE GOOD COMPANIONS

Rev. John Duff and his wife, Viola, shared a luncheon with the Good Companions on March 16th to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The meal was graciously prepared and served by the ladies of the W.A. This annual event is enjoyed by many senior members of our congregation.

Kay Scott

NEWS † from the † NEWS

- ▶ David Peach, son of Bill & Edith Peach and Jennifer Burton of St. John's, were united in marriage at St. Petersburg, Florida on January 28, 2000. The couple reside in Kingston, Ontario.
- ▶ Patsy and David Carmichael are visiting their daughter, Janet and her family in Germany during the month of April.
- ▶ Congratulations are extended to Joy Carmichael, a second year student of Dentistry at Dalhousie University, on being awarded a Canadian Millenium Scholarship.
- ▶ On February 25, 2000, Susan Crawford was awarded the degree of Doctor of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. She graduated cum laude, received a Certificate of Merit in Clinical Radiology, was named to the President's List, as well as being designated an All American Scholar for academic achievement. Well done!



The Editorial Committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items for this edition of The St. David's Connection and we encourage you to continue to do so. Feel free to drop items or notes off anytime to members of the Newsletter Committee listed below, or leave them in the Church mailbox.

Tonya Bassler	753-3135
Jean Bruneau	722-6436
Lillian Crawford	754-2362
Neil Ellis	722-0140
Judy Rudofsky	726-3184

MEDITATION ON JOHN III: XVI

Would that we meditate a worthy while:
Each, committing thought to the "WHOSOEVER
POOL"; and, in the committal, vowing never
To desecrate God's CREATION PLANS with vile
Disruptive schemes scheduled on Lucifer's file –
That Printout aligning designs to subtly sever
The Creation of God's Kingdom, Power and Glory for ever;
(Please God: Lucifer never shall hence beguile!)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whosoever
Believeth in Him should not perish, but have
Everlasting life." But – lo! The grave;
Despite long silencing: The Holy Giver
Of Eternal Life shall impart His Healing Salve.

By Harry R. Burton
Written March 27, 2000

St. David's now has a web page:

The address is
www.stdavids.nf.ca



FLASHBACK NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

200 Years Ago

▶ Standing six feet tall, John Jones would have been an imposing presence in the pulpit, first in the small meeting house built in 1777 (site unknown) and then in the meeting house of 1789 (on the site of the L.S.P.U. Hall). His height was listed in the 1758 muster roll of Captain Brome's Royal Artillery Company, so too was his age, 19, and his place of birth, Preston, Herefordshire, an English county, on the Welsh Marches.

▶ His ministry of 25 years as pastor of the dissenting congregation of St. John's earned him the love and respect not only of the congregation but of the whole town. His friend, the Rev. Samuel Greathead, formerly serving with the Royal Engineers in St. John's, described how almost 2000 people (about

two thirds of the town) attended his funeral on a snowy March 4, 1800, following his death on March 1, St. David's Day. Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Skinner, at his own request, was in charge of the funeral, for which John Jones had requested the least possible expense. Rev. John Harries, the Anglican minister, officiated and the whole Company of Artillery at the garrison voluntarily attended the funeral of the former bombardier. His burial took place under the steps of the meeting house.

▶ When a name was sought for the new church on Elizabeth Avenue, it was thought fitting to commemorate the birth, life and death of the founder of the congregation by naming the church for St. David, the patron saint of Wales.

Pam Bruce



Chelsea Jean Critch, daughter of Jennifer & Paul Critch, granddaughter of Clayton & Jean Collins of this congregation, was born February 22, 2000 and baptized April 2, 2000.



Born to Lori Peach-Sezer & Fuat Sezer, a son, Jack Thrace Ethan in Corpus Christi, Texas, on February 1, 2000. A brother for Phoebe and grandson for Bill & Edith Peach of this congregation.

Born to Paul & Margaret Mallam, December 23, 1999, Holly Jean Mallam, sister for Victoria, Laura and Darcy.

Born just after midnight on April 5, 2000 to Heather & Bob Patey, a daughter, Eleanor Elizabeth, weighing 9 lb. 7 oz. A little sister for Jeannie and second grandchild for Sylvia & Bob Taylor of St. David's.



Bertha LeFeuvre, died February 1, 2000, age 96. Bertha was a member of the Good Companions and mother of Sue Crichton.

Winnifred Meta Grandy, of Mount Pearl, formerly of Grand Bank, on December 23, 1999 at age 83. Among those leaving to mourn are her son Max and daughter-in-law Bonnie of this congregation.

Saying "THANKS"

For the past few months, and there will be a few more, I have been coordinating the after Worship coffee time. I would just like to take up a little space to say thank you to all the willing members of congregation, both male and female, who so kindly respond to my request to prepare and clear up each Sunday.

Coffee time is a very important part of our church service, giving us an opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends. Through this very pleasant task I have had the chance to catch up with congregation members and get to know new ones.

Again many thanks.

Christine Gray



SUZUKI BENEFIT CONCERT

This year's St. David's Benefit Concert, held on Saturday, February 12 in the sanctuary, was a great success, featuring a wonderful variety of performers who entertained a large crowd with an evening of music and dance.

The concert is organized annually by the Suzuki Talent Education Program (S.T.E.P.), a strings program for children who hold concerts and rehearsals for free at St. David's Church and express their gratitude for this service by holding a concert and donating all proceeds to the church. This year's concert featured emcee Francesca Swann, host of CBC's "That Time of the Night". Performers included a fiddling extravaganza featuring the S.T.E.P Fiddlers and Celtic Fiddlers in combined forces, our own St. David's Choir, harpist Gayle Tapper, the Atlantic String Quartet with pianist Kristina Szutor, "The Forgotten Bouzouki" — children and adults of the Greek community performing ethnic dances and music, Corryvreckan Scottish music and the St. John's Scottish Country Dancers. Student chamber groups and soloists also performed, and the evening ended with the lively tunes of "The Mahers Bahers", a folk group consisting of Christina Smith, Jean Hewson, Frank Maher and Rick West.

Intermission refreshments were provided by the WA and donations by the St. David's Sunday School. Proceeds for the concert totalled \$1400. Thanks to all who participated and attended.

Over the past year, both the congregations of St Andrew's and St David's have become familiar with the Presbytery of Newfoundland. The retirement of the Reverend Ian Wishart, the induction of the Reverend David Sutherland, the translation of the Reverend Ted Thompson to Saint John, New Brunswick, and the appointment of the Reverend John Duff first to St Andrew's and next to St David's all involved the Presbytery. Usually, however, Presbytery works quietly in the background and few church members have little or no idea of its function.

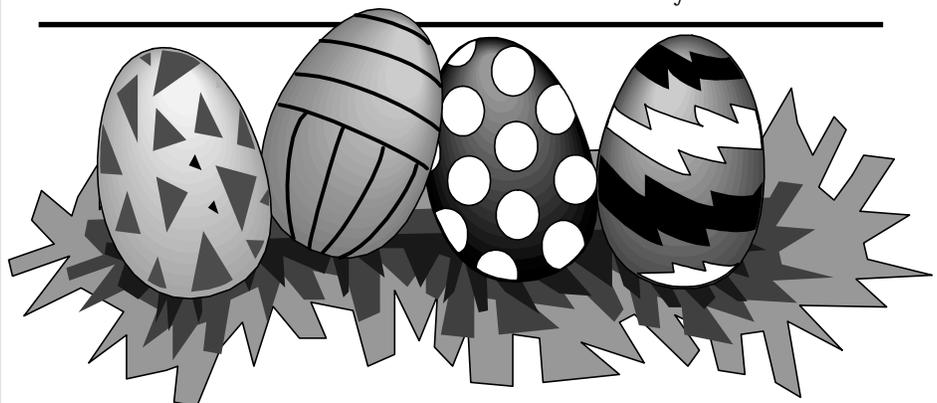
Presbytery has as its membership the minister and one representative elder from each congregation within its boundary. It may also have as members retired or other ordained ministers. For each such extra teaching elder, there must be a ruling elder. Currently, the Presbytery of Newfoundland has a membership of three ordained ministers, John Duff, David Sutherland, and Ian Wishart, the clerk; four elders, David Carmichael (St David's), John Henderson, (St. Andrew's), Robert Thompson (St. Matthew's in Grand Falls), and Andy den Otter, (St. David's), the moderator. In addition, a representative from the Atlantic Mission Society, Ms Betty Barrett, attends meetings of Presbytery.

As the name of our denomination implies, Presbytery is the basic level of government. Presbytery's mandate is to supervise the preaching of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, the maintenance of discipline, and the care of the physical properties within its jurisdiction. Presbytery is also called to encourage candidates for the ministry and to supervise their progress and eventually to licence them.

The Presbytery of Newfoundland is comparatively small and, while it can manage the routine supervisory business, it is unable to be pro-active in the spiritual growth and development of the congregations. To help solve that problem, it has established some committees which it hopes to staff with members as well as non-members of Presbytery. In short, in the near future, it will invite you to join in undertaking tasks it has previously been unable to execute. Examples are in the fields of congregational life, community concerns, ministry, and church doctrine.

Soon, Presbytery will ask sessions to solicit volunteers to staff these committees. At this time, Presbytery asks you to prayerfully consider whether you have a talent useful in the spiritual development and physical growth of the Presbyterian Church in Newfoundland.

Andy den Otter

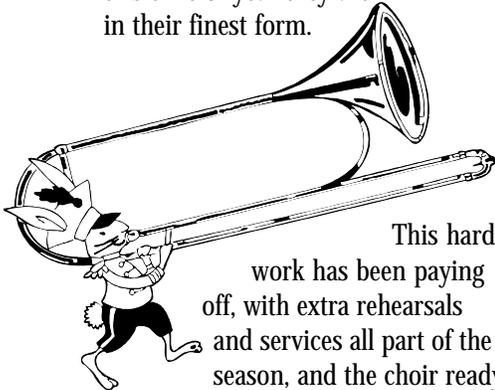




BENCH NOTES

Well, April is upon us, and as tempting as it is to reflect on the venerable unavoidable income tax season, the choir won't be crooning "I Surrender All" anytime soon. Not yet, anyway. They've got enough on their plate as it is.

The season of Easter tends to be the most dynamic, diverse and the busiest musical time of year. The Palm Sunday Intergenerational Service was a great start to what will be a very interesting week. The choir has been working quite hard, as they've continued to do, and around this time of year they are in their finest form.



This hard work has been paying off, with extra rehearsals and services all part of the season, and the choir ready to tackle new musical challenges and time commitments.

Easter is the perfect time to reflect on our continued strength as a group, while celebrating the many individuals who add so much musically here at St. David's. I have tried to include as many as I can into the musical life of the worship service, and I'm happy that Easter is a time when so many people are willing to express themselves in music, and this year I've dug up some great stuff. Some great older anthems, some 20th century hymn settings, psalms, based on Orthodox Russian chants, and some sacred choral works incorporating the words of such poets as Walt

Whitman and E. E. Cummings. I'm not even sure if there's enough time to use them all before Easter, but I will make sure that they will be heard soon.

The upcoming Easter Cantata at St. David's on Thursday April 20th at 7 p.m. is a performance that is happening very soon, and one that you should certainly not miss. What makes this musical evening so special is the teaming up of St. David's and St. Andrew's. This talented combined choir has been rehearsing for many weeks, and I'm glad that St. David's and St. Andrew's have come together to present what will surely be a high point to the Easter season and the entire church year. As Glen Keefe of St. Andrew's directs this dedicated bunch, I'll accompany from the piano. Not too often do I get the opportunity to hear the choir without having to conduct at the same time. I'm really looking forward to this event. Even Rev. John Duff has changed his role (and his robe) for the evening. He and Viola have joined the choir for this great service.

The role of music at St. David's has not changed, though. I hope that, despite our differences in personalities and backgrounds, music helps us to reflect on our roles as members of one church. I hope everything you hear throughout Easter helps you to recognize part of someone else in yourself. I've seen the choir at work. By reaching out and really trying to understand and share with each other, our individual voices are finding common joys. Enjoy the Easter Cantata this Thursday. We're all better for it.

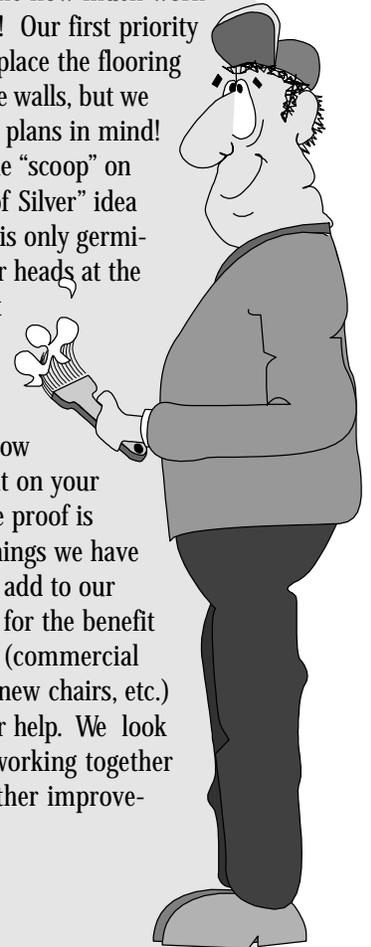
Glenn Nuotio

FROM THE W. A.

LOOKING AHEAD .. To the Flipper Dinner, Wednesday, April 26, 2000 at 6:30 P.M. Please contact Harold Hammond (579-4248) or Fred Chancey (579-7100) for tickets. Don't Delay ... Space is limited!

To the Garage Sale, Saturday, May 7, 2000 at 10:00 A.M. Watch your mail for more information, but start collecting your "treasures" now!

The W. A. are initiating plans to refurbish the Armour Library and are trying to think of a creative way to raise the necessary funds to do so. How successful we are will depend on your support and will determine how much work can be done! Our first priority will be to replace the flooring and paint the walls, but we have greater plans in mind! Watch for the "scoop" on our "Sacks of Silver" idea (a seed that is only germinating in our heads at the moment but which will likely hatch early in the Fall). We know we can count on your support ; the proof is evident in things we have been able to add to our Church Hall for the benefit of everyone (commercial dishwasher, new chairs, etc.) through your help. We look forward to working together to make further improvements.





ARE YOU THIRSTY?

Submitted by Pam Dowber

As chair of the committee which produced the CD, book and talking book to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CBC Radio Christmas Sing-In from The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal, may I extend to you, the congregation of St. David's Church, our sincere thanks for your most generous support of this project.

I understand that, under the leadership of Mrs. Jean Bruneau, you sold close to 100 items. We are so grateful.

To date, the sales of CDs, books and talking books, together with the offering collected at last year's Sing-In, have brought in \$75,180.00. Your sales benefited in particular the good work of Tyndale-St. George's, a joint mission of the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches, but 15 other charitable organizations in Montreal, who help the hungry, women in crisis, people with physical and psychiatric disabilities, homeless men, troubled teenagers and so many more – also shared in your generosity.

The link between our two congregations is J.S.S. Armour, your minister for 21 years, ours for 15. Reading the Twelve Tales of Christmas, you sense how happy the Armours were in St. John's and what a nice congregation you must be. I understand that like us, you are beginning a new ministry. May we wish you every blessing. Thank you for all your help in making the 20th anniversary of the CBC Radio Christmas Sing-In such a success – particularly for 16 hard-working charities in our city.

On behalf of the Committee,

Sincerely,
Susan M. Stevenson

The human body consists of muscles, bones, organs, nerves, cells, glands, tissues, blood, oxygen, and water. The largest component is water, which is the major component of all living matter – also, the major component needed by all living matter.

Our intake of water should be no less than six 8 oz. glasses per day. When enduring summer temperatures, or any physical activity or labor that would promote perspiration, water intake should be increased. It is OK to consume water before, during and after physical activity or labor.

DO NOT WAIT TO "THIRST" before you drink water, as thirst is actually a warning sign that your water level is really low. Some symptoms of low water levels are: thirst, lethargy (abnormal drowsiness), becoming overheated, exhaustion, headache, dizziness, irritability, dehydration.

The major component of spiritual life is also water. It can be found in every word written in the Word of God. It is called **LIVING WATER**.

This Living Water may be abundantly consumed and comes from a source which never runs dry. This water is pure, the taste is sweet, and Jesus pours it out upon us to refreshen us into a newness and fullness beyond comprehension. It quenches every thirst known to many and satisfies fully.

DO NOT WAIT TO "THIRST" before you drink of this water – "O taste and see that the Lord is good; ..." (Psalm 34:8). Some symptoms of low Living Water levels are: depression, hopelessness, rebellion, blindness, bitterness, anger, doubtfulness, hardness, emptiness, stubbornness, dryness.

Wait not for the warning sign of thirst, but quench yourself in Him now.

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks *this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst."

*this water – i.e. the things and pleasures we try to fulfill ourselves with)





A TRIP NOT EASILY FORGOTTEN

What excitement, our plane was about to touch down in Quito. We were most anxious to see our daughter Allison who had been gone for 6 months, living with a host family in a foreign country. Facing life on her own without even having the ability to speak Spanish. We had every reason to be nervous, more so as the tales of civil unrest, galloping inflation and rumbling volcanoes had been tormenting our sleep for sometime.

As we proceeded through customs we could see this smiling face through a glass wall, suntanned, happy and just as excited as we were. It took forever to satisfy the officials and then there we were in each others arms. The power was out as we made our way through streets with heavily shuttered shops, and we arrived at her hosts parents apartment where a heavily armed guard opened the gate to the underground parking garage.

This was Quito in darkness, Ally advised us that sometimes things got a bit crazy but if only we could see Ecuador the way she saw it! We expected her to change but we were starting to wonder by how much. The following day we drove through the capital, it was throbbing with a rhythm all of its own, at every traffic light or stop junction small children would descend on the vehicle peddling fruit and trinkets. Their eyes were begging and many were without shoes.

Later that day we travelled to Riobamba where Allison was staying, the house was quite beautiful and the family warm and hospitable, the gate was high as were the walls around and there was glass embedded into the concrete at the top of the wall. The

security system was set when we went to bed and no trips to the fridge for a late night snack were allowed as the alarm would be tripped.

Well we were not quite sure what we had got ourselves into, but we were going to investigate the town for sure. Next day, we sallied forth some what apprehensively, led by our intrepid leader (Ally) who now spoke fluent Spanish much to our amazement. We were fed raw sugarcane at the street corner and



freshly cooked donuts, then off for frutas ensalada (made with exotic tropical fruits) topped with double cream. All for 40cents each.

Small children were begging everywhere, they reminded me of our Labrador retriever, I guess it was the eyes. It was difficult eating fresh fruit when they had no shoes. Talking of shoes, 4 cents would get the best polish job I have ever seen, polish was applied by hand and the childrens' skin was the same colour as the polish. Ally gave one small boy five times the going rate and he followed us around for an hour just beaming. Clearly we had made his day.

Church is important to the Ecuadorians, many are devout Catholics and the churches are open all day. Inside they glitter with gold leaf and the stunning architecture attests to their faith. The population is 4 million indigenas and eight million mixed or of white heritage. Ally's host family all say a prayer when they set off on a car journey and we quickly saw the need for divine intervention as the roads and driving habits were atrocious.

The Presbyterian church has also made its mark in the country offering aid and medical services. Close to where Allison was staying there was a Canadian couple who ran an orphanage, (which may be a worthy cause for outreach from St Davids). Presently they have forty children and 17 babies who have been abandoned for one reason or another.

We wondered many times whether to give the kids on the streets money, we were often told that that would only encourage them to beg, again the eyes were often too much. I remember Ally getting up from the table in a restaurant one day, wrapping her supper in a napkin and walk out to the street to feed the kids there, my own feeling was that of not wanting to offend our hosts, hers were obviously quite different.

One of the social niceties that was so pleasant was the warm greetings exchanged when one met friends, a kiss to the cheek for women and a hand shake for the men, and then on the departure the same. This was extended to everyone, children included.

Continued on page8



From: Atlantic Mission Society, St. David's Auxiliary, Presbyterian Church in Canada

To: Everyone at St. David's

On Sunday, April 30th, 2000 we will be celebrating both the AMS Thank Offering service and Mission Awareness Sunday along with congregations all across Canada. We are excited because we will be following the same order of service and sermon meditation, thinking together about the mission enterprises of our church. Please come and hear about the work being carried on in Canada and overseas. There will be special envelopes available for your contributions and we count on you to give as generously as always.

Ibulanku Update

Just after the last newsletter went out (of course!!) we received a Christmas card from the folks at Ibulanku wishing the best of the season to all at St. David's and thanking us for our efforts towards the construction of their health center. The photographs will give you an idea of the steady progress of the construction work.



We will be coming back to you in the Fall asking for your help in assembling another parcel, our first one having arrived safely, and in raising some more funds for the center. Meantime, please keep them in your prayers as Mr. Nalukazi has particularly requested.

Sheena M. Findlay
President, AMS

...continued from page 7

We were told to bargain in the markets, which was really a bit of a joke, as we could not speak the language, anyway you could rely on a Scotsman to do his best. Although as I said to Penny, the cost of beautifully handcrafted goods, was so little that one almost felt that you were cheating them of their living. We all left smiling, after a bit of sport.

Our travels included a trip to about 14 thousand feet up in the high sierra, where fields had been cultivated for centuries by complex irrigation, every last piece of ground was used. The Indians were for the most part, proud and very hard working. Their dress in particular was quite striking, the colours were vivid with fuschia in fashion. They smiled easily and had a good sense of humour. Customs varied quite a lot according to the area and heritage.

Well as things happen, Allison has just phoned from Ecuador, the power was out again, her little sisters were squealing and she has just told us that she has mailed some information on the Canadian run orphanage to the church office. She has also set up swimming and English lessons for the kids there!

Allison Gillies is presently living for one year in Riobamba, Ecuador. She is the recipient of Rotary Scholarship abroad. As such, she attends school and will again complete grade 12 but this time in Spanish!



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

- PALM SUNDAY** .. April 16, 2000 – 11:00 A. M. – Intergenerational Service
- HOLY WEEK** .. April 17 – 20, 2000 - 7:00 P. M.
Joint Service with St. Andrew's at St. David's
Theme: **Jesus Christ: Our Prophet, Priest & King**
(Easter Cantata – Joint Choirs – April 20, 2000)
- GOOD FRIDAY** .. April 21, 2000 – 11:00 A. M.
St. Andrew's **at** St. David's – 7:00 P. M.
- EASTER SUNDAY** .. April 23, 2000 – 9:00 A. M. & 11:00 A. M.
Holy Communion
- MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY** .. April 30, 2000
- CHURCH PICNIC & JOINT SERVICE** – June 11, 2000 – Sunshine Rotary Park