

# The Anglican News

Contribution: 1 dollar

The Newspaper of the Anglican Church of Belize



Vol. 22 No. 2

EASTER ISSUE

APRIL 2007



# HE IS RISEN!



He is risen! He is risen indeed! This acclamation of faith is the chief cornerstone of the Christian Church.

The Easter Season is the oldest in the Christian Church: It encompasses the amazing events of Christ's Resurrection, Ascension and the Day of Pentecost. These are seen now as then as a unit, each complimenting the other, all important to the total revelation of Jesus' Mission. We call them, 'the Great Fifty Days.' The Season's English Name, Easter is derived from Eostre, A Teutonic goddess of spring, who gave her Name to what then corresponded to the month of April.

The whole Season of Eater is a festival season. There is evidence that in its early years the Church did not kneel at any time throughout the Easter Season. All the Sundays are part of the season and hence are called Sundays of Easter.

Easter is the earliest of the three Christian Feast Days: the other being Christmas and Pentecost. Originally Easter Eve and Easter Day were called the Pascha and Worship consisted of a Vigil of Scripture Readings, Psalms and Prayers lasting from sundown until dawn, when converts were baptized and communion was celebrated. Pascha was a celebration of the crucifixion and the resurrection as a whole because the early Christians saw the two as invisible. They commemorated not so much the events themselves, but the intrinsic significance of the events - salvation and the eternal life with God. They saw their redemption as their re-entry into God's Kingdom.

At the same time, the emphasis on the crucifixion and resurrection observance began to shift to the historical events themselves, a process aided by the evolution of the Seasons of Lent.

By the 4th century, Good Friday became firmly established as the memorial of the crucifixion, thus splitting the original Paschal theme and leaving the resurrection theme of only Easter Day.

The Paschal Mystery is expressed effectively in the events of these incredible days: Christ's

Crucifixion saved us, redeemed us, atoned for our sins once and for all, and reconciled us with God, Christ's establishment of the Kingdom of God. Although the mystery defiles our complete comprehension, to Christians. It is very real. It is in fact, the heart of our faith. It is regrettable that sometimes as we divide



Lent and Holy Week and Good Friday from Easter, the essential unity of Crucifixion and Resurrection also tends to be broken. We must always remember that the latter completes the former.

The resurrection throws the magnificent light of understanding over Christ's life and death. And so accomplishes our Salvation, which was began with the Incarnation and sealed by the Crucifixion. Without the Resurrection, Jesus would only have been another dead Prophet. No wonder this event and the mystery it revealed, assumed so important a position of life of the Church. Little time elapsed before Christians

habitually observed Sunday as the Lord's Day, because a Sunday had been the first day of their life: their new beginning. That is why they set it apart and made it an occasion for coming together to celebrate the mystery and to partake of the bread and wine by which Christ's presence was made known.

### Symbols of Easter

Flowers as an expression of returning life have long been considered appropriate for Easter. The traditional Easter lily is one of the loveliest with its white color signifying purity and with its shape like a trumpet to announce the Good News - Christ is Risen!

Eggs are connected with Easter because they represent new life and thus the Resurrection, but the tradition of decorating eggs is older than Christianity itself, Christianity borrowed this custom from pagan world, probably Persia and Babylon. Nevertheless this does not negate from its appropriate significance of new life.

As for that ridiculous figure, The Easter Rabbit - it is probably of German origin. Regardless to whatever tale is told, the ultimate symbol is one of life. The Rabbit is known for its fertility in producing more offspring than any other animal in a given year.

Easter has truly shaped our thinking and its foundational and indispensable to our faith. We are the celebrants of life that abundant life Jesus promises. Because of Christ's victory we can be victorious people and live as such rather than cruise down and defeated under the pressure of daily life.

# Diocese Honors Faithful Member

## Majorie June Cabral nee Powell

**By: Gweneth Gillett**

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2007, hundreds of Anglicans and Belizeans from all walks of life filled St. Mary's Parish Church to overflowing. Led by the Rt. Rev'd Philip Wright Bishop and members of Diocesan clergy; all gathered to pay tribute to the late Majorie June Cabral nee Powell. Ms. Lumpsey as she was affectionately named died on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007, from a heart attack at her home in Belize City on the said day at approximately 4:15 pm.

The service began with the Hymn "All hail the power of Jesus' Name." This was followed with a Remembrance of Miss Cabral's life – done by Gweneth Gillett, Lay Minister – Mapsy Smith, old Girl's Association of Former St. Hilda College and Mr. Bunny Panton. The Hymn *O Praise Ye the Lord* then followed. With Canon L. Flowers (Pastor) and Fr. Carlton Turner (visiting Priest), leading the sentences.

The lessons were read by Lay Ministers: Guelda Allen and Brindel Munnings with the Gospel read by Rev'd Lynda Moguel, Assistant Priest of St. Mary's Parish. The Prayers of the People was lead by Lay Minister Jean Gardner, while Ms. Kathleen Staine was at the piano.

The Sermon was delivered by Parish Priest – Rev'd Canon LeRoy Flowers. In a powerful, heartfelt moving, spirit filled sermon, Canon Flowers commended all to follow Marjorie's example of love, forgiveness, faithfulness and commitment to God and his Church. Ms. Lumpsey served the Diocese for 34 years as School Secretary and an additional 4 years as Office Secretary at St. Mary's and 3 years as Secretary at St. John's Cathedral. She sang in various city choirs and was head of the sick visitor's Altar Guild of St. Mary's up to the time of her death.

The text used by the Pastor was 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Members were challenged to forgive and live a life of love, humility and integrity as did Lumpsey all her life as a faithful witness to God.

The rousing hymn *Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart*; then followed with the Lord Bishop celebrating the Eucharist. The hymn "*Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem*" ended the Eucharistic Celebration. This then followed the Commendation led Fr. Carlton Turner (Visiting Clergy). He was joined by the Bishop and Rev'd David Goff – President of the Methodist Church., Ms. Lumpsey sang in various Methodist choirs over the years as



well. The Cathedral Choir did a special item in thanksgiving for the life of Ms. Cabral. The service ended with the hymn, "*Crown Him with many crowns*".

The passing of Ms. Majorie Cabral was an opportunity for a great celebration. She was born 24<sup>th</sup> September 1931 and died 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007. "May she rest in peace and rise in glory."

The overflowing of the church and the celebration and with the tone of the entire service was a powerful witness to the



We are six months removed from Synod and it is time for us to take some stock of where we are and how we are coming along with the vision Synod put before us. This is an exercise we need to do individually, on the parish level and on the diocesan level. Here are some reminders to help us with the process of review.

Synod framed the way forward along the lines of four major initiatives: **THE CHURCH IN ITS SOCIAL CONTEXT, STEWARDSHIP, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND CHURCH GROWTH AND**

## **SYNOD UPDATE**

**EXPANSION.** Each of these initiatives were then developed into programs that included things like **education opportunities, single parent issues, youth and crime, use of time, talent and treasure, adult and youth programs, church activities, inclusiveness and resource utilization.** Emerging out of these programs are the various projects which Synod has committed us to undertake. The projects will have their project leader and supporting team.

Progress has been made in some areas such as the establishment of a diocesan scholarship fund, the start of a series of workshops for single parents, a morning devotion format for schools, drafting of guidelines governing the

by one a host of peace and rise in glory.

relationship between church and school, and preliminary work on the comprehensive Christian Education Curriculum for our schools.

There is obviously still a lot to be done. With the aim to assist in this process a workshop was held on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> April. The workshop focused on the drafting of project proposals to be developed by some key players who have made the commitment to the cause. These individuals include the Champions of the programs listed above: **Education Opportunities - Canon LeRoy Flowers, Single Parenting and Common Law Arrangements - Ms. Cecile Reyes,**

Cont'd on p. 4

## Bishop's Message



**The  
Bishop's  
Message  
April 2007**

**The Rt. Rev'd Philip S. Wright  
Bishop of Belize**

### EASTER MESSAGE

*Acts 10: 34 – 35*

*And Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him".*

There is little doubt that the gospel records of the life of Jesus, as we now know them, were practically told in reverse. The proclamation actually started with the resurrection accounts and then was filled in with events and incidents in our Lord's life, reaching back to the narratives concerning his birth. What most excited the early disciples was the experience of the resurrection. Once convinced of it (through the various appearances of the risen Christ, the experience of the Ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost), they could not hold it in and were willing to die for this message of good news; of the gospel. As contradictory as it may sound, if there was no Easter, there would be no Christmas. Remove the accounts of the resurrection and the memory of Jesus was likely to die a natural death as was the case with so many other figures of his day. At best he might have been remembered as a miracle worker.

Divine revelation, my sisters and brothers, has a way of being unfolded gradually over space and time, as we finite human beings slowly come to understand and embrace what God is trying to show

us, what God is trying to teach us. The evidence for this is clear throughout the biblical witness. From the day of creation until now, humanity has shown a tendency, even a propensity, to not readily embrace what it is that God is trying to unveil about himself, or about humanity itself. Our pride and self-centeredness have often gotten in the way of God's revelation. Failing this, we run the further danger of offering too much of our own interpretations of God's revelation.

In the passage from the Book of Acts, quoted above, we see where St. Peter is coming into a gradual realization and understanding of the power and extent of the gospel message.

*Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation any one who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him".*

Peter was not always at this point in his faith journey. He had gotten to this point after some specific revelations from God. Yes, the same Peter who spent so much personal time with Jesus, who even confessed him as the Messiah, did not immediately understand it all. He continued, for a while to be plagued by his own prejudices and pre-conceived notions of who God is, and what he believed God was up to, and what God requires of us.

I believe Peter's ultimate transformation, as with Paul's conversion, was the direct result of an encounter with the risen Christ – be at different times and under different circumstances for the two of them.

The question for you and I this Easter Season is this: What transformation, what

conversion, will occur in us as a result of our encounter with the risen Christ this Easter? What did this past Lenten Season teach us about ourselves that we must now surrender in the face of the risen Christ? What is it that still prevents us from clearly seeing what God is trying to reveal to us? Where are our prejudices; hatred of the other that eats at our soul like a cancer; hang-ups that we hang on to; past hurts we cannot let go of; ignorance that blinds us; and intolerance that desires nothing less than the demise of the other? Where have we hidden these things? The experience of the risen Christ can break these chains of oppression.

Peter's embracing of God's revelation and his subsequent transformation propelled him to become, in the true sense of the word, a world-changer. Peter ended up impacting the world for Christ.

Will each of us be like Peter this Easter? Will we be so transformed as the impact our world – whether that world is limited to our family, our neighbourhood, our workplace, our community, our nation? You need not look very far in our society today to find where there is the need for transformed lives who will in turn transform others and the structures around them.

May this Easter Season, which brings the hope for new beginnings and fresh starts, be one to give us that encounter with the risen Christ that has the power to transform each and every one of us. Amen.

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## Around The Parishes and Schools

Anglican Diocese Website

# WWW.BELIZEANGLICAN.ORG

## Rev'd Ilona Smiling

The Rev'd Ilona Smiling Priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Corozal is on an extended sick leave. Rev'd Ilona has been in and out of the hospital since mid February 2007, following the Clergy Retreat in Punta Gorda.

Rev'd Ilona Smiling made her communion last Sunday 22nd April 07 at her bed at the Belize Medical Associates Hospital. The Rev'd Canon LeRoy Flowers joined by Rev'd Lynda Moguel, Ms. Mapey Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Derrick Aikman & Family joined in prayer and communion with Rev'd Smiling. Following prayer and singing after communion, Rev'd Ilona Smiling left for Miami seeking specialist treatment. The entire Diocese continues to uphold Rev'd Ilona Smiling in prayer. Get well soon Rev'd Ilona. God bless!

## Synod Update

*Youth Crime and Violence - Mr. Derek Courtenay, Stewardship - Mr. Roy Pandey, Adult Programs / Youth Programs - Dean Lloyd Neal, Clergy / Church Activities*

*- Bishop Philip Wright, Inclusiveness - Canon Jerris Valentine, Resource Utilization - Ms. Jacqueline Marshalleck*

Each of these Champions are expected to serve as a "big brother or sister", helping to overcome barriers serving as a spiritual guide and coach. They are also expected to liaise with the project leaders and teams. The project leaders consist of both clergy and laity and their role is to chair the team meetings. They are also ultimately responsible for the execution of the projects by closely evaluating the efforts of the team members.

It should be noted that Rev Shirley Johnson has been appointed the Diocesan Project Coordinator who will oversee the progress of the various projects.

Do get in touch with your priest or the Diocesan Office to find out more about the projects and how you can be of service or can assist in any way.

# BISHOP ATTENDS CONFERENCE FOR MISSIONARIES



Bishop Wright with Bishop Allen of Honduras

Bishop Wright and Allen with representative of SOMA

This past April, Bishop Philip Wright had the opportunity of attending a conference of mission partners held in the USA. He was invited by the Director of the South American Missionary Society (SAMS) – USA, Mr. Stewart Wicker. The first two days were spent in retreat with clergy and laity involved with mission projects from around the world. Bishop Wright was able to sit in on several sessions dealing with different aspects ranging from the preparation processes leading to the deployment of missionaries, to the debriefing of individuals returning from the mission field.

The remaining three days were spent with another organization called "New Wineskins for Global Mission".

This conference featured well over fifty workshops, far too many to attend over the three-day period. One therefore had to make some selections. Bishop Wright opted for the workshops dealing with areas such as: 'Creative Access Projects and House Church Planting', 'Engaging as Christians in a post-modern culture', 'Linking Churches globally – a strategy that works', and 'Growing dioceses through vision for mission'.

The event was also marked with very lively worship, incorporating both traditional and modern hymns. A live band performed at the services; and it was a moving experience to see well over a thousand Anglicans together

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## VOLUNTEER MISSION WORKS

## Return to Holy Cross Anglican Primary School San Pedro , Belize

It was my very great pleasure to return to Holy Cross School in March of 2007 with a group of eager friends and family. A team of 12 youth and adults mostly from Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Yellowknife , Northwest Territories Canada arrived in San Pedro March 18<sup>th</sup> to undertake a week of building, teaching, medical support, washing dishes, taking church services and having a great time interacting with 150 eager students.

Having spent five weeks in September and October 2006 at this fledgling school with 80 new students, teachers, a cook, workmen and local manager Francis at the helm (and Vernon in the background, because he doesn't appear in the foreground) with three buildings in place, the return to see six classrooms and a double building up and running was a

fantastic site.

For me, being able to bring my husband Rick and son Matthew to this school, and experience the feeling of giving to others was worth all the work it took to organize this trip.

Our clergy, Ron our Rector and Chris the retired Bishop of the Arctic preached and taught in the classroom and Chris took the Sunday service of Holy Communion in the newly completed chapel/cafeteria.

The three youth on the mission contributed by helping in the class rooms, taking the kids to play soccer, and to the library. They also helped paint a sign welcoming people to the school and to create a banner. Heather (the other Miss Heather, the accountant) set up the financial books for the

school that will enable Francis to keep track of the business of the school.

Everyone sanded and varnished tables and bookshelves, served meals, washed dishes and enjoyed a craft morning with the kids.

Enjoying Miss Rosalia's home cooking was among the many highlights of the trip. Others included returning to the Cathedral in Belize City and having our clergy join in the service, seeing my special children, Destiny, Jeritzy, Jamie, Job and Gabby and many others who greeted me with "Miss Heather, Miss Heather". Greeting my friend Francis at the boat dock and seeing Miss Monicka, Miss Laura and Miss Sharon at the school reminded me of how much I missed them.

We managed some fantastic sight seeing as well including snorkeling, a trip to the zoo, trips to three different ruins, cave tubing, horse back riding and a mountain bike trip.



## THE PASSING OF BROTHER BERNARD MAHLER

Bishop Wright joins with the family of the Anglican Diocese of Belize in expressing sincerest condolences to the family of Brother Bernard Mahler. His seemly untimely departure comes as a great loss to church and nation. Brother Mahler served the people of Belize as an exemplary civil servant for many years and his church as a faithful and generous member for even more

years. Most recently he was one of the People's Wardens at All Saints' Parish in Belize.

Our prayer is for God's Spirit of Comfort and Strength to abide with the family of Bernard Mahler in this their time of bereavement.

And we thank God for the faithful witness of Brother Mahler and the cherished memories he has left us.

**I VOLUNTEERED,  
YOU BETTER BELIZE IT!**

*Volunteer opportunities abound in the Diocese of Belize! Groups have worked to repair and rebuild schools, churches, rectories and teacher's homes. They have provided medical assistance in local hospitals and village clinics, participated in disaster relief and have served in numerous capacities in our Anglican Schools. If you are interested in organizing a one or two week mission team from your church or community, please contact:*

Francis Wilson, Volunteer  
Coordinator

Diocese of Belize

Email: [bzediocese@bt1.net](mailto:bzediocese@bt1.net)

Fax: 011-501-227-6898

Phone: 011-501-227-3029

011-501-227-8055

OFFER YOUR SERVICES TO GOD  
AND BE A PART OF A WORTHY

# Diocese Celebrates

The Rt. Rev'd Philip Wright Diocesan Bishop of Belize, lead the Diocese in a special celebration on Maundy Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The Diocesan Clergy from across the Diocese gathered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist for a solemn celebration of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy of the Church. Teachers and other representatives from across the Diocese joined in the celebration. Ms. Kathleen Hope was the organist, while Fr. Wayne Kirton acted as Bishop's Chaplin for the service.

The Liturgy of the Church was solemnly and majestically carried out under the guidance of the the Bishop. Various aspects of the Liturgy included:

Renewal of vows by the Clergy, The Washing of Feet, Renewal of Baptismal Vows, Blessing of Oils, and Commissioning of Lay Ministers were all part of the day's event. The high point of the event was the celebration of the Eucharist, as instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ. See the Sermon preached by the Bishop on pp 10.

The 3 ½ hours activity ended with an Agapa Meal prepared by the Cathedral's Church Committee.

This celebration of the Maundy Thursday Liturgy by the Bishop has become an annual event in the life of our Diocese over the years.

Following the conclusion of the fellowship, members of the Clergy headed to their various stations to celebrate similar events with their congregations to mark this most holy day in life of the Church's Calendar. A snap shot of the event in pictures.





# MOTHERS' UNION SENIOR CITIZENS TEA

The Over 70's Tea Party was held on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at St. Mary's Parish Hall. This is an annual event hosted by the Mothers' Union, the Guild of the Holy Name and the Women's Auxiliary. These three organizations are all women's organizations of the Anglican Diocese. This event has been hosted for about forty years and is not only for Anglicans and women. Invitations are extended to all other church groups and the wider community. As the years roll on the

number of invitees has increased as the senior citizens look forward to this tea. The attendance is usually over 100 persons.

The evening opened with a short service, conducted this year by Rev'd Lynda Moguel. She led the singing of the hymns and choruses and the prayers. She also gave a short talk on Love. Canon LeRoy Flowers delivered a short talk on Fellowship, Faith and Love. He shared the experiences of some church women and reminded us of the love

we should share.

The highlight of the evening is usually the distribution of gifts. This is done by age groups: 70-79, 80-89 and 90-100. The oldest male and female of each group receives a gift.

This year's program was highlighted with beautiful organ music by Mr. Jorge Babb. Mr. Flowers also played beautifully on his harmonica. The Guild of the Holy Name gave an item as well as the Ebenezer Women's League. After an enjoyable evening of tea and entertainment, the Doxology was sung and this brought the evening to a close.



## Ecumenical Service

By Phyllis Jex

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2007 was celebrated and marked as Good Friday in the Christian Church Calendar. For the people of Burrell Boom in the Belize District, it marked the 45<sup>th</sup> year of unbroken hosing of an Ecumenical Witness to the Community and Nation.

The three main Churches of the Community; the Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Anglican Congregations gathered at the Methodist Church grounds for the Annual Ecumenical Service. Each year the event is held out doors at one of the three churches.

The Service got underway at exactly 7:00 pm with Mr. Lincoln Gillett acting as Master of Ceremonies. Rev'd Fr. Marhr of the Roman Catholic Sacred Heart Congregation gave the 1<sup>st</sup> meditation on the Cross. This was preceded by scripture reading from Isaiah 50 ff. Canon LeRoy Flowers – Pastor of St. Francis delivered the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meditation on the Cross. This was followed by the Scripture reading Luke 23:ff. Rev'd David Goff, Pastor of the

Methodist Congregation delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final Meditation on the Cross.

The Methodist choir of Burrell Boom led the singing. Members from Ebenezer Methodist, Belize City traveled with Rev'd David Goff to join in the public witness. Ms. Barbara Young Lay Leader of the Methodist Church also participated in the service. During the service members prayer for the Most Rev'd Dorick Wright of the Roman Catholic who underwent emergency surgery earlier in the evening.

The two hours of witness was a great spirit filled, testimony to the shared witness of the congregations to the glory of God.

At the close of the Service the three Pastors pledged to continue working together for a better community and common witness to Jesus., to the community and Nation.

## Rev'd Shirley Johnson

IN AN OFFICIAL LETTER FROM REV'D SHIRLEY JOHNSON, HAS OFFICIALLY RESIGNED AS A PRIEST OF THE DIOCESE. THIS IS DUE TO HEALTH REASONS. REV'D SHIRLEY JOHNSON NO LONGER THEREFORE IS EXPECTED TO PERFORM PASTORAL DUTIES ON A REGULAR BASIS. AS A RESULT, REV'D FR. WAYNE KIRTON HAS BEEN APPOINTED BY THE BISHOP TO ASSUME MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL SAINTS PARISH, BELIZE CITY, WHICH WAS THE FORMER RESPONSIBILITY OF REV'D SHIRLEY JOHNSON.

ANGLICAN NEWS EDITORIAL BOARD SENDS BEST WISHES TO REV'D SHIRLEY JOHNSON AND FAMILY AS SHE RETIRES. GOD'S CONTINUAL BLESSINGS.

## Visiting Priest Conducts Mission

By: Gweneth Gillett

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin was alive with music, praise, praying, and preaching March 16<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The Parish hosted its annual Mission under the Theme: "To be Like Jesus."

The Rev'd Carlton Turner, Assistant Rector of All Saints New Providence, Bahamas was Missioner for the event. While in Belize – Fr. Carlton Turner was guest of St. Mary's Parish during his 9 days visit.

The Parish's Mission Team comprising Mr. Brindel Munnings, Mr. Rashid Murillo, Ms. Carolyn Arnold, Ms. Josephine Flowers, Ms. Shifana Flowers, Ms. Lorraine Broaster, Ms. Guelda Allen, Ms. Jean Gardener, Rev'd Lynda Moguel, Canon LeRoy Flowers and Gweneth Gillett, organized the event. The Mission Team met several times in planning while a Prayer Team was set in place from January to pray for the mission.

The Sub-themes covered by the missioner were: Prayer, Sacrifice, Service, Healing, and Mission to be like Jesus.

Each evening there was singing and praying and the Laying on of hands by the Mission Team. Each evening began with the Mission Team meeting in prayer for half hour prior to the commencement of sessions.

Hundreds of members of the Parish, friends, and other congregational members attended.



It was a privilege to have journeyed with the people of Belize and more specifically the people of St. Mary the Virgin, during the third week in March. On all counts I have had an enjoyable encounter. I fell in love with the culture and the peculiar mixture that one finds in your country. We in the Bahamas do not have such a mixture. I was enlightened by the Spanish, the Creole, the Garifuna and all the other interrelating cultures found within your borders. Just imagine! In one instant I am able to go to Mayan ruins in San Ignacio where I see structures and vegetation I've never before seen in my life. In the next instant, I am in Belize City where that Post-Colonial thread is so apparent: I see it in the policeman's

The 4<sup>th</sup> night was the climax of the mission – with the missioner teaching on healing. The Lord Bishop was the special guest of the evening, as symbol of wholeness of the Church.

Half hour before the Service began a thunder storm blanketed the city. However, this did not prevent members from attending, in large numbers..

Following the Teaching, the Bishop led the congregation in the Healing Liturgy and invited all to come for anointing.

In a most wonderful spirit filled atmosphere many responded and were anointed by the Bishop and members of the Mission Team.

Saturday was another wonderful spirit filled atmosphere as the Parish held its Prayer Breakfast at the Chateau Hotel. At this Service where over 100 persons attended, Fr. Carlton Turner delivered his final powerful Teaching on a Mission Church. He commended St. Mary's not only for organizing its annual mission but for its regular varying mission activities to the Community.

The Church Committee members were very pleased with the support of members and friends to this spirit filled experience in the life of the Church. An evaluation will be carried out as to the way forward following this event in the spiritual

development of the Parish. "To Be Like Jesus" experience." To be like Jesus." Thanks to one and all. God be praised!

## Mission Services St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church, Belize City, Belize

Fr. Carlton J. Turner

uniform; I hear it in the creole speech; I taste it in the 'rice and peas'. In short, I was at home yet in this new home there was so much more to discover.

It is within this context that I conducted the mission services. Belize, just as the Bahamas and all other Caribbean territories, struggle with the same issues to some degree or the other. We all struggle to make sense of brokenness and displacement. There is a deep fight for identity and authenticity; for self-discovery and at-oneness. The evidence of this struggle is seen in our crime waves, in our intercultural relations, in our international relations. It is seen in our homes, in our schools and even in our

## St. Ann's Belmopan



The Rev'd Lynda Moguel Assistant Priest at St. Mary's has been appointed to assist the Congregation of St. Ann's Belmopan, Second Sunday of each month. This becomes effective May 2007 until further notice.

Presently due to clergy shortage, St. Ann's Parish, Belmopan is without a full time priest. This vacancy was created when the Parish Priest Rev'd Philip Wright, was elevated to the office of Bishop October 2006. The Bishop maintained oversight of the congregation, while the lay minister Mrs. Lelara Moody, Mr. Moody and Mr. Roy Pandey looks after the day to day affairs of the

churches. It is within this context that 'being' and identity becomes paramount.

The theme was quite appropriate. Interestingly enough, it has been something that has been on my mind for some time. I love the idea of 'Being' – 'Being Like Jesus'. It may look simple but it is quite profound. At one level we may speak of the slogan that has become so popular: "WWJD" (what would Jesus do?). This though, can often result in simple 'imitation'. Being like Jesus can be confused with 'Doing what Jesus Does'; being like him in our actions.

But we must get deeper than this. To be like Jesus is much deeper than doing what

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY at the Cathedral

The annual Maundy Thursday service held at the Cathedral was quite an occasion this year. Well over 150 members attended. Many remarked how it was a moving service, while others commented on the fact that it was the first time they were experiencing a service like it.

The Bishop used the occasion to highlight a few things:

- 1) The traditional liturgy which includes renewal of ordination and baptismal vows, washing of feet, blessing of oils and commemoration of the institution of the Lord's Supper, among other rituals, dates back to the early centuries of the Christian Church.
- 2) The occasion calls for us to embrace the **sacredness** of our calling – both as ordained and lay members of the Church. This sacredness has to do with the Holy, the Holiness of God himself. So often in the exercise of our ministries we are made the handle holy things – the Word

of God and the Sacraments. We are also called to live holy lives before God and each other.

- 3) Akin to the sacredness of our calling is the **seriousness** with which we are to exercise and live out that calling. This seriousness comes by way of humility as demonstrated by our Lord himself as he washed the disciples feet. The seriousness of our calling lies precisely in the knowledge that truly, it is 'when we are weak that we are strong' (2 Cor. 12:10).
- 4) In years to come the Maundy Thursday service will have an increasingly diocesan face to it as it becomes the occasion for the entire diocese to take seriously the fact that we all have received a sacred call from God. Priests, Lay Ministers, Heads of Diocesan Organizations, Acolytes and others will assemble to renew their commitment to the work they have undertaken for God and his people.

## REMEMBRANCE Nellie Gendolyn Hyde Tucker, M.B.E.



Nellie Gwendolyn Hyde Tucker, M.B.E., died on Tuesday, October 17 2006 in New York with her family beside her.

Born June 3, 1920 to Owen and Ila Mae Hyde in Belize City she was reared by her grandparents George and Amy Hyde. They were devout Anglicans and worshiped regularly at The Cathedral of St. John's the Baptist. Nellie was educated at Maheia's Private School then went on to the Diocesan High School for girls, later named St. Hilda's College. During that time, she acquired her Junior Cambridge Certificate.

Nellie began her teaching career in 1939 under Mr. J.L. Blacket and gained her 1st Class Teacher's Certificate in 1941. She became Principal of several Anglican schools including St. Paul's, in the Corozal District, Placencia Anglican, Banana Bank Anglican, and St. John's Infants in Belize City. She also taught at St. Mary's Primary, Belize Teacher's College, and St. Hilda's College/Anglican Cathedral College all in Belize City. During this period, Nellie was an Executive member of the Belize Teachers Union. Also, from 1989 - 1992, Nellie was an Assistant Grade 5 Teacher in the U.S.A. at St. Joseph Parish Day School under the management of Fr. Lloyd Anthony.

Nellie's extensive church involvement includes Sunday School Teacher, member of Sacrisant Guild, member of church committee of St. John's Cathedral, and attendant at Annual Synod of the Anglican Diocese. She is also a member of Church Women United and Council of Voluntary Social Services. In 1987, Nellie represented the Department of Women's Affairs for Belize at a conference in Zimbabwe. She is one of the founding members of the Girl Guides of Belize and became Deputy Commissioner in 1982 then Chief Commissioner in 1987. Nellie represented Girl Guides of Belize at several conferences in Mexico, Canada, Barbados, Trinidad, Jamaica, Scotland and Kenya. She made it her life's ambition to introduce Guiding to all she came in contact with and the highlight was the establishment of a preschool at the Hilda Rosado House. Her many community activities included college meetings, census of the homeless and caring for youths.

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## Bishop attends conference.....

worshipping God and fellowshiping with each other.

A highlight for Bishop Wright was to be able to meet with Bishop Lloyd Allen of Honduras, who was also attending the conference. They were able to share ideas and talk in brief about a possible way forward for the Dioceses Belize and Honduras to move in the direction of closer collaboration with each other.

Bishop Wright, in sharing his own reflection on the experience, commented on the following:

- 1) There are many opportunities for us to partner with several groups in the area of missionary work. We, however, need to make sure we have

certain things in place and are clear as to the priority areas we need assistance.

- 2) The stories of dioceses around the world that were growing had a consistent theme: they grew by looking outward. They were mission-minded and aggressive with their outreach programs. For us to grow we need to have the same attitude Successful diocese spent enough time and energy setting up the structures and systems that allowed them to be more efficient, and more accommodating.

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## "To Be Like Jesus".....

he did. It is much deeper than our outward actions. Our 'doing' is a result of our 'being'. We do things because of our nature. Our doing comes from **something much deeper within us. Therefore, being like Jesus has to do with a change of character and a change of nature. Our Lord did not come onto the scene simply for us to imitate him – He came to change us from within. Our good works simply become the result of a Life rooted, and grounded in a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is about us truly becoming the Children of God.**

During the four nights of services, and the prayer breakfast that Saturday morning we were challenged not simply to 'do what Jesus did', but to be rooted and grounded in Jesus, to share in relationship so deeply with Him that our own natures are changed. To facilitate this we looked to John's Gospel. There is no other Gospel that so explicitly speaks about 'Being like Jesus'.

- It begins with explaining who Jesus was – The Word of God made Flesh
- Jesus makes Seven declarations of who He was – 'The I am Sayings'
  - o I am the Bread of Life – 6:35
  - o I am the Light of the World – 8:12
  - o I am the Gate to the Sheep Fold – 10:7
  - o I am the Good Shepherd – 10:11, 14
  - o I am the Resurrection and the Life – 11:25
  - o I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life – 14:6
  - o I am the True Vine – 15:1, 5
- It speaks about our Being in the Kingdom in Chapter 3:5 – "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit"
- It explains that to continue in the Kingdom is to be abiding in the very nature of God –

drawing upon God as a source one's source of Life – John 15

In short, This Gospels goes at length to explain for us exactly who Jesus is and exactly who He calls us to 'be' once we're called according to His name and we claim Him as Lord and Saviour.

However, I specifically concentrated on a very familiar section of John's Gospel – the Upper Room. The night before Jesus is led to his crucifixion and death on Calvary, John devotes 4 (four) chapters to Jesus' last scene with His disciples (13 – 16 & 17). I believe that in these four chapters we found a powerful teaching on what it means to be like Jesus. In His last words to his very own, those who would carry on His work in the World, He would show and tell them how to 'be'! They needed to be a certain way; there were certain definite requirements and expectations if their witness were going to be fruitful. After He would leave them mere imitation would not cut it! They actually had to be Christ's extension in the World. We exist as church to show the world that Christ is alive – He is alive in us. This is the power of the Gospel!

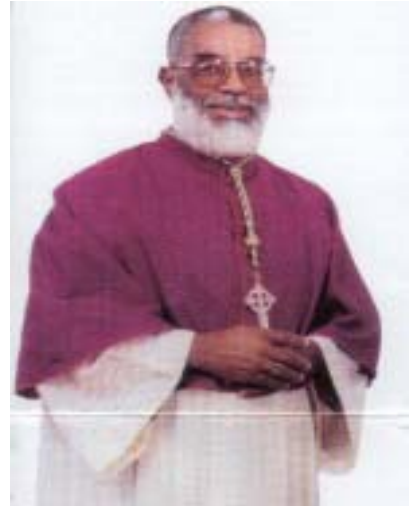
Bearing this Johannine Witness in mind and in reflection upon our socio-cultural contexts it was only appropriate to speak on the following topics:

- 'Being for Prayer'
- 'Being for Sacrifice'
- 'Being for Service'
- 'Being for Healing'
- 'Being for Mission'

These things are central to who Jesus is – to who God is. A church that shows these things in its life and witness is a church that is on fire for Jesus Christ. A life that shows these things is a life that is on fire for Jesus Christ. A nation that allows itself to be changed from within, down to its very core, is one that will experience the transformation that only Christ can bring.

I urge all Belizeans as I do all Bahamians to continue to 'BE LIKE JESUS'. I thank you for the privilege of sharing with you. God bless and

## Roman Catholic Bishop



The Most Rev'd Dorrick Wright newly installed Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Belize, is convalescing comfortably at the Palatine Convent here in Belize City, after undergoing emergency surgery, on Good Friday 6th April 2007. The surgery took place at the Belize Medical Associate Hospital.

Bishop Dorrick Wright has been visited by our Anglican Bishop Rt. Rev'd Philip Wright (Cousin) a number of times since his illness. The Anglican Community join with our Roman Catholic community and indeed the wider Christian Community praying for healing and God's will in the life of Bishop Dorrick Wright.

Here at the Editorial Board we send our prayers and love to Bishop Dorrick Wright praying for his speedy recovery.