

# The Wardens' Wire

## WARDENS' WIRE .....ISSUE 7

### EVENTS FOR WEEKS OF APR-30-MAY 13

#### SUNDAYS;

10.30 am Morning Prayer (30<sup>th</sup>) Communion (7<sup>th</sup>)

2.00 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

#### MONDAYS:

9.30 - 11.3 am Craft circle

1.30 - 3.00 pm Friendship club

7.30- 9.00 pm Hamilton Schola Cantora practice

#### THURSDAYS

7 - 9 pm pm Bible Study

#### FRIDAYS;

1.30- 3 pm Bible Study

6 - 9 pm AA group meets

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### THE HISTORY OF THE REC-ANIC CUBA MISSION SOCIETY 2003-2021

In July 2003, the Diocese of Western Canada of the Reformed Episcopal Church received an email from a man in Moa, Cuba, asking us to provide Episcopal oversight to a small group that wished to affiliate with the Reformed Episcopal Church. The name of the man was Alejandro, who was leading a small group of people. In the 1950's an REC clergyman travelled regularly to Moa from the United States, bringing services to the miners at the local nickel mine. Alejandro's grandfather was one of the miners who attended services. Alejandro had a desire to have a church like the one that his grandfather had described to him.

As none of the bishops in the USA could oversee Cuba, because of the existing embargo in place, it fell to this Canadian Diocese to respond, and we did. Bp. Charles Dorrington, contacted the REC Presiding Bishop, Leonard Riches, and received permission to travel outside the continental North America and establish a mission outreach.

In the fall of 2003, Bp. Charles travelled to Cuba to investigate this interesting request. He was met by a small group of people trying their best to be Reformed Episcopalians. Bp. Charles caught the vision that they had and gave them and their Pastor permission to continue to function as they had been, and to refer to themselves

as an REC Church Plant. After Charles returned home from this trip, Claudia had a vision from God that showed flames of fire from one end of Cuba to the other.

Little did she know at that time, that this was a vision of the Cuban Reformed Episcopal Church, as it would come to be, stretching the full length of the Country.

The following January, 2004, Bp. Charles travelled to Cuba again, this time with his wife Claudia. Much prayer had gone into this decision, during which Claudia received another vision, this time of a baby, the small church that would in the years to come have over 50 churches and church-plants. On his arrival in Cuba, Bp. Charles was not at all pleased with what he saw. He immediately dismissed the Pastor, reformed the group, and appointed another man, an Evangelical Pastor named Ramon Torrente Batista, to the position of Pastor. The church was given a name, Iglesia San Marcos, and it consisted of Ramon, his wife Dalvis and 8 people. That church eventually would grow to 195 people under the capable leadership of the Rev'd. Williams is now the Suffragan Bishop of the Missionary Diocese. San Marcos is now the cathedral Church of the Diocese, and the home of a Theological Seminary, Cranmer House.

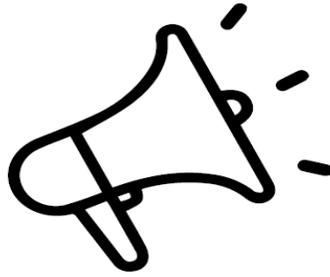
**Fast forward to 2023** The mission that was started by Charles & Claudia Dorrington is now joined with ANIC and named The REC-ANiC Cuba Mission Society, and is going strong, led by Chair Bishop Walter Banek of Texas, with a committee of 20 people, Bishops, Canons, Clergy and lay people from REC and ANiC working together for the church and people of Cuba. ... providing over \$100,000 yearly to meet the budget for the Cuban diocese. Salaries and all expenses are covered in this budget. The Board of Foreign Missions REC is committed to approx 50% of the budget; the remainder comes from people from all across Canada, in both Reformed Episcopal and Anglican Network in Canada churches.

**St George's now supports Eric Matteo Parera and his parish in Havana area, providing \$1,200 a year for his salary.**

Ironically our own Rev John Smith also had a strong connection with the people and church in Cuba and visited at least 4 times, taking medicines and goods and connecting with our friend Gianni Torrente in Havana unknown to the Dorringtons and their initiative.

ALISON

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## HONING IN ON HYMNS

There is a fountain filled with blood...

Wm Cowper 1731-1800

William Cowper was born in England. His life was full of personal anguish. At five, his mother died, and Cowper, a timid and sensitive child, was treated with great cruelty by an older boy. At 18 William began to study law, and fell in love with his cousin but her father did not approve of the match. Neither of them ever married. After completing law studies he was offered a government position for which he would have to be examined. He was so terrified of having to answer questions that he worked himself into a fit of madness. At one point, he became so despondent that he attempted suicide. After time in a private asylum, he recovered and moved to the Olney, where John Newton, the ex-slaver, was pastor. Soon they were close friends. In 1771, Newton, became concerned with Cowper's increasing melancholy. Hoping to lift his spirits by keeping him busy, Newton suggested that he and Cowper co-author a book of hymns. Cowper wrote 68 of the hymns, including *There is a fountain filled with blood.*"

There is a fountain filled with blood  
Filled with Emmanuel's vein  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see  
That fountain in his day  
And there may I, as vile as he,  
Wash all my sins away

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood  
Shall never lose its pow'r,  
Till all the ransomed church of God  
Are safe, to sin no more:

'er since by faith I saw the stream  
Thy flowing wounds supply,  
Redeeming love has been my theme,  
And shall be till I die:

When this poor, lisping, stamm'ring tongue  
Lies silent in the grave,  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song,  
I'll sing Thy pow'r to save:

## AM 1380 ARISE CHRISTIAN RADIO

Let us know if you listen to AM 1380 ..or know someone who does . St George's subscribes to the radio station and our sermons are regularly broadcast. Is this a worthwhile Outreach? Spread the word!!

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*Life too busy?? need a quiet spot? .... The church doors can be open for anyone who would like to spend a few minutes or more alone in the sanctuary ... just call, arrangements will be made.*

## The BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

One of our great treasures at St. George's is The Book of Common Prayer.

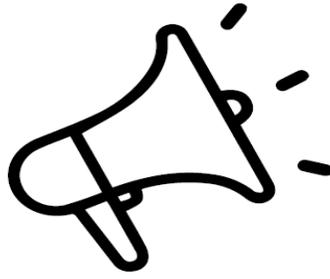
Words hold such power. There are three small phrases that are special to me in the Prayer Book. I'm hoping you have some that you can send to Alison so we can consider them too.

The Collect for Peace, page 11, includes my favourite phrase of all of them; "whose service is perfect freedom." When I accepted the fact that Jesus is truly who He says He is I knew this small phrase to be absolute. We don't always get smooth sailing but there is great freedom in knowing that with trust and patience the waters will calm.

On page 14, we pray for "all conditions of men." I think of the microcosm of people in our own city, of the rich and the poor and those in between, of the healthy and the sick, of the fortunate and the wounded in body and soul. God knows their names and loves them and has asked us to do His work on earth for them. That's why Jo-Anne's food bags for Crossfire are so well received by all of you, so that we can be His hands and His feet in Hamilton.

In the General Thanksgiving, on page 15, we ask that "our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful". We don't use that word any more but perhaps we ought to bring it back. The 'human' in me often forgets that I'm living in the midst of so much for which to give thanks. Starting the morning with gratitude changes the outcome of the day every time.

Let Alison know what you're thinking about the Prayer Book. Words, phrases, ideas like this need celebrating. [<abuffett30@gmail.com>](mailto:abuffett30@gmail.com) - Judy



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