

Burin North Ministerial Association

Ecumenical Holy Week Service

*Held at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Port au Bras
Wednesday, April 8, 2009*



Lent

“The Wonder of the Cross”

A Brief History

In 1995, the clergy representatives who made up the Burin North Ministerial Association began discussing the possibility of holding some type of joint service, which would essentially promote fellowship and unity within the community.

It was ultimately decided that this service would take place on the Wednesday of Holy Week, and that it would be rotated through the various churches within the Association each year.

The very first service of the Ministerial Association took place in 1996, and was held at St. Michael's Anglican Church in Creston South, NL, and was referred to as an “Inter-Faith Church Service”. The Rector of St. Michael's, (and the Parish of Marystown), at the time of this very first Inter-Faith Service, was the Rev'd Robert Peddle.

This Joint Service of the Burin North Ministerial Association, now referred to as a “Ecumenical Holy Week Service”, has been held every year since it's inception in 1996, and this year entered into its 13th year with history seeming to repeat itself to some degree. This year the Rector of the host Church, was once again the Rev'd Robert Peddle. Rev'd Peddle,(who was away from the area for a while, returning to Burin in 2008),stated that he was very pleased to see that the practice of holding these services was being continued. This shows the deep level of trust which has developed between the various clergy and their churches since 1995; a faith bond which we trust will lead us to new heights in the work of “*God's Church*”.

“The Gathering of the Community”

On Wednesday, April 8th, 2009 both representatives of the Burin North Ministerial Association and members of the “faith community” in general, converged on St. Andrew’s Anglican Church in Port au Bras, Burin to share in this special fellowship service.



*People of the different
religious
denominations in the
community come
together during this
Holy Week
Service to bear
witness to the Life,
Death and
Resurrection of the
Lord Jesus Christ*



The various clergy within the Burin North Ministerial Association sat as one body during this service. The different portions of the service were likewise shared amongst the clergy representatives and added a special flavor to the service.



*Clergy shown above[L-R] are: **Pastor Paul Perry** (Pentecostal); **Majors Gary & Sandra Ward** (Salvation Army); **Father Ted O'Connor** (Roman Catholic); **Rev'd John Nicolle** (Regional Dean / Parish of Marystown); **Danny Locklin** (Pentecostal Youth Pastor); **Rev Sue White and Mary Harris** (United/ Burin & Lewins Cove respectively); **and the Rev'd Robert Peddle** (Rector – Parish of Burin)*

Faith leaders united their voices with that of the choir, lifting high their praises to the Lord, exemplifying the unity which we need to maintain within our “faith community”, and which we so desperately need in our troubled world today. Indeed, as the entire congregation joined in the singing, the rafters of St. Andrew’s seemed to echo the message of a very familiar chorus –

“We Are One In the Bond of Love”!



Congregation listens with fixed attention as the Clergy and Choir lead in song and prayer, reminding us to look to the cross and always remember the debt which Jesus paid for our transgressions.

This “Ecumenical Holy Week Service” was the first of its kind for St. Andrew’s, but they trust it will not be the last. The members of St. Andrew’s, Port au Bras, are not unfamiliar with uniting in fellowship with other faiths, and so preparation for this service came rather natural. The numbers which attended, reaching nearly 200, certainly ranked this service a tremendous and over-whelming success. This was also evident in the number of people that stayed and shared in the social time and fellowship which followed the worship service.

It is quite evident, that even though we live in a region where many different faiths form the fabric of our community, we all share the one bond, which is our faith and belief in the ***Life, Death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ***. In closing, Youth Pastor Danny Locklin sang the song identified at the beginning of this article, and I both trust and pray, that we never lose – ***“The Wonder of the Cross”!***

*Article and Photos by Gordon Abbott
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