

Religion

Reverend Carol Skidmore believes in 'open door' policy

There was a period of 10 years when the church was not the focus of Reverend Carol Skidmore's life. But she maintains the experience has made her realize how important that spiritual "missing piece" can be.

As the new reverend of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams, Rev. Skidmore has a mandate to make the church more visible and to encourage more people to attend. Even if it means making a simple phone call to a family who hasn't been to the church to see how the family is doing.

Coming from a large Burlington St. Luke's family parish, Rev. Skidmore is impressed at the level of activity shown by the 130 family parish Glen Williams Church community. Only 50 children of the 1,000 families who attended the Burlington church went to Sunday School, said Rev. Skidmore, but of

the 130 families in Glen Williams who attend her church, about 40 children attend Sunday School.

As she began introducing herself to the community, Rev. Skidmore noticed people who lived in the area for several years weren't even aware the church existed. As part of her mandate to make the church better known, Rev. Skidmore plans to initiate a drop-in centre for Glen Williams seniors and those in surrounding communities.

"We're realizing we do want new members and we are encouraging more people to come," said Rev. Skidmore. "We have an open door policy that hopefully makes people feel comfortable."

Rev. Skidmore would like to see more teenagers attend the church regularly but said at '18 and 18 there are so many things to draw you away from the church that unless the church takes an active

role and invites you, teens tend to leave it."

Everyone goes through phases, explained Rev. Skidmore. During the first years of marriage couples put emphasis on material gains, she said, continuing to say there comes a time when everyone begins looking inward, searching for spiritual values.

When this time comes the church must be available to help those whose "spiritual part needs to be nurtured," Rev. Skidmore said. "If people want to talk you're there," she said. "The church has to be sensitive to people's needs."

After graduating from high school, Rev. Skidmore started her professional career with positions such as clerical typist, and secretarial work.

Although she attended church while raising her three children, Rev. Skidmore said she was not active in the church community.

Clergy Comment

Heed God's election call

By REV. FRITZ SCHMITT
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Georgetown, Ontario

As I write this, it is still election day and the results have just come out as to who will form the next provincial government. Those who are supposed experts are beginning to analyze why things turned out in such a way that majority government is being formed with such a low total popular vote. The results may bring out the question of what really happens when a government is elected, or when people cast their ballots for a candidate or party.

Looking at some of the individual ridings shows that the fringe parties may have had a significant effect in drawing votes away from main-line-party candidates. The voters who supported these parties most likely did so because they wanted to see a government which supported certain important principles, principles which the three major parties failed to support, or compromised, or even suppressed.

Another factor might have been

that many people wanted to send the previous government a very strong message about their dissatisfaction with the way government had been working, or not working. It is a strong theme, perhaps not only in Ontario, but in other provinces as well as on the federal level. People do not feel that their personal interests have been properly addressed by the government, so they try to vote it out of office.

In a way, this is what voting is all about, to choose the one who will act in your best interests on a variety of issues that may come up. But, do we always know what is in our best interest, and what about our government. Would a human government ever be capable of acting in the best interests of all citizens, all the time? If you knew of someone like that, would you even vote for him?

Those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour claim to have found such a choice. The Bible talks about Him as taking care of all of our needs and always acting in the best interest, whatever

the situation. Yet others have a difficult time with that, because they have experiences which don't seem so pleasant, and so they vote God out of their life.

However, God is not a politician who goes back on His promises, nor is He capable of making mistakes, even when it seems like it to us. He's also different from politicians and bureaucrats in being able to say how something is going to come out without needing studies and long committee hearings.

God's plan for this world and for each of us allowed the problems of sin and evil to trouble us for a while. But then His solution was to take on our guilt and punishment to free us from the consequences. The end result is that by accepting His plan we are citizens of a much better world to come.

God also does not call an election when it isn't necessary, but He is calling one today. We need Him today, and every day into the future, and we should give Him our vote of confidence to take care of us and trust Him to do what He has promised us.



There's an open door policy in St. Alban's Anglican Church in Glen Williams and all are welcomed by the parish's new Rev. Carol Skidmore and B.J. her companion. Rev. Skidmore has been introducing herself to the community during the past few months and says the task has been a pleasurable one. (Herald photo)

Established 1973
HALTON HILLS COLLISION
R.R. 1, ACTON, ONT.
853-2860

Elizabeth's Fashions
Bridal Boutique
77 Main Street South
Downtown Georgetown
873-1470

The Feminine Way
Passive Reducing Exclusive Ladies' Salon
NOW HERE! Colours by Dorri
873-4907
116 Guelph St. (Rear Entrance) Georgetown

J. V. Clothing
Men's • Ladies' • Children's ALTERATIONS & REPAIRS
877-1598

NELL'S DRIVING SCHOOL
NEXT CLASS SEPT. 10th-Oct. 3rd
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 6:30-9:30 P.M.
For Information About Courses or Private Lessons
PHONE 877-2671

JUST ARRIVED...
Seerey-Lester's "Dawn Majesty"
art effects
GALLERY and FRAMING CENTRE
348 GUELPH STREET
Next to Bell Glass in the Postcrest Centre
GEORGETOWN 416-877-7491

PROBLEM:
Contaminated drinking water.
SOLUTION: THE WATER DEPOT
232 Guelph St., Georgetown
(416) 873-1090

STORE HOURS
Monday Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday & Friday 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

\$4,000⁰⁰ SHOPPING SPREE VALUE STORE
Designer Eye Glasses
Soft Contact Lenses
Coloured Contact Lenses
Gas Permeable Contact Lenses
At Affordable Prices
Limited Time Discount Offers Available
Eye Examinations Arranged
Call 873-3050
FAMILY OPTICAL
232 Guelph St. Unit 8
GEORGETOWN Behind the Royal Bank