



HONOURING OUR PAST.  
FORGING OUR FUTURE.

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS  
1910 - 2010

### The Cathedral 2010 Prayer

**A**lmighty God, we give you thanks for one hundred years of your continual presence here among us in word, sacrament and community. Bless us now, we pray, with the same vision and determination as those who built and sustained this Cathedral Church of All Saints in years past. As we look to the future, let your Holy Spirit continue to work in us and through us, so that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of your truth.

Grant us courage and hope, increase our faith, and knit us together in the bonds of love, that our fellowship and witness may be a godly example to all people; this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Honouring the Gordon Group  
Remembering Florence Trynor  
Sunday, May 24, 2009**

**PURPOSE**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN**

To unite all women of the Diocese in a fellowship of worship, study, and offering, with the aim of deepening and strengthening their individual spiritual lives and of awakening a greater desire for Christian service in the parish, community, and the world.

**PRAYER**  
**ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN**

Almighty God, we give thanks to you for having sent Your blessed Son to become the Saviour of the world; grant to us a deep sense of gratitude for Your grace and mercy towards us. Enable us by your Spirit to reveal Your love in all our actions so that Your salvation may become known to all peoples and Your name glorified throughout the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## The Cathedral's Gordon Group an Exemplar of Hospitality, Education, Service, and Outreach

It is hard to imagine the Cathedral Church of All Saints without the *Gordon Group*. For some people, their sense of the Cathedral and a welcoming presence is the *Gordon Group*! This view is due, in large part, to the consistent hospitality that is offered each Friday afternoon, from early September to late May, by the *Gordon Group*. All are welcome in the Hackenley Room at this time, where *Gordon Group* members and friends are folding and stapling the Cathedral Bulletin for the coming Sunday. The Synod Office personnel take particular advantage of the tea and sweets before the weekend begins! Everyone, however, employee, Cathedral member, and visitor alike, is invited, welcomed, and appreciated, so that “strangers [do indeed] become friends”.

When it comes to hospitality, the *Gordon Group* really knows how to throw a party. Whether it is a grand event to celebrate 70 years, as they did in May of 2005, complete with a live band, or it is the annual Hallowe'en fete, noted for costumes, masks, “ghoulies, ghosties, and long-legged beasties”, the *Gordon Group* knows the meaning of celebration and fun.

However, lest one has the impression that it is all play and no work, be assured that such is not the case. While hospitality is very important, so also are education, service, and outreach. Education means guest speakers, films, slide shows, and

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presentations on a range of topics, current and historical. Service and outreach are watch words in programs such as *Shoes for the Shoeless*, knitted teddy bears for children at the IWK Hospital and abroad, knitted slippers and afghans for seniors, filled shoe boxes at Christmas for the *Missions to Seafarers*, and prayer cards for general distribution, to name but a few.

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Using funds collected over the years from fundraising, dues, and bequests, the *Gordon Group* has supported in recent years, at various times, *Feed Nova Scotia* and the *St. Mark's Food Bank*; *Missions to Seafarers*; *Bryony House*; *Phoenix Youth Programs*; *the ACW Nova Scotia Board's Annual Projects*; *the former Alexandra Society of the University of King's College*; *St. John's Church* in Lunenburg; *Coverdale*, *Little Sisters in Jesus* in Zambia, *Fellowship of the Least Coin*; *St. George's Programs for Youth*, and projects internal to the Cathedral, like altar flowers, the nursery, memorials to the *Restoration Fund*, and the purchase of much needed kitchen items, large and small.

Many of these organizations and projects continue to benefit from the *Gordon Group's* generosity. Of particular note is the funding that the *Gordon Group* provides for the deacons of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to enjoy an annual retreat. The most recent benefit to the Cathedral of the *Gordon Group's* approach to service is the funds required for much needed new choir gowns. These will be unveiled and dedicated later in 2009 at a special service to honour the choir and the Cathedral's musical heritage (Patronal Festival Sunday, All Saints' Say, November 1, 2009).

While the *Gordon Group* is a well known and loved entity at the Cathedral, it is probably fair to say that many of us know little or nothing of its early history, even to its name – why the name *Gordon Group*, a moniker that only came into being in 1969? Back in 1935, seven women of the Cathedral congregation met regularly in the home of Florence Gordon (remember this was pre *Anglican Diocesan Centre* days) to roll pennies collected by their children, who were members of the *Little Helpers*, a children’s group at the Cathedral. These women decided to form a support group within the Cathedral to assist the Sunday School and to help in whatever way was needed, within the Cathedral, and beyond. Given that much of this original assistance was in the form of sewing, especially for Halifax’s *Protestant Orphanage*, the group’s first name was *The All Saints’ Sewing Group*. Their help was very eclectic, however, as a big part of their original mission was to help reduce the Cathedral debt. Their fundraising efforts with teas, fashion shows, sales of handiwork and pantry items were impressive and were directed to Cathedral restoration projects and numerous other initiatives far and wide, including the “New Hall”, in anticipation of the building of the current Anglican Diocesan Centre. The varied nature of the *All Saints’ Sewing Group* projects over the years, including collaborating with the *Cathedral League* and *Mothers’ Union* with fund raising initiatives, gave rise to a name change in 1969, when the group was re-named the *Gordon Group* of the *Anglican Church Women (ACW)*, after its founder, Florence Gordon.

The sense of service and outreach, so integral to the *Gordon Group*, found expression from the very beginning and, especially, during World War II, when the *All Saints' Sewing Group* women furnished a chapel room at the YMCA for the use of the men in the services and made up boxes of clothing to be sent to churches in England. There is no way that a short article can do justice to the extensive and varied work that this dedicated group of women undertook. Suffice to say that, over the years, they saw a need, and did what was required. And this tradition continues to the present with the current membership of the *Gordon Group*.

The sense of celebration and fun that is still so evident in the *Gordon Group* has a long history. In 1937, a *Coronation Tea* was held to mark the coronation of King George VI. The ladies each wore a "gold" crown and the table centerpiece was a large "gold" crown placed on a plush cushion! There was a *Valentine's Tea* to aid the Queen's Coronation Club in England. A twenty year anniversary supper was held in 1955 at the Lord Nelson when Florence Gordon was thanked by 38 members, including four of the original penny rollers. The presentation made to her was a thrill, but not her first, that being reserved for her wedding day of 41 years earlier when she married her "heart's desire". A celebration for Florence Trynor, long time president of the *Gordon Group* and former *ACW Nova Scotia Board* President, was held in 2003 when she was presented with a plaque for her service. On May 24, 2009, the *Gordon Group* dedicates engraved candlesticks in memory of Florence Trynor.

The *70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tea* of the *Gordon Group* in 2005 was a grand event and enjoyed by many. Vivian Whynacht, long time *Gordon Group* member, was suitably feted in 2006 on the occasion of her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. The service to church and community that Vivian, like the two Florences before her, has offered in her lifetime is an inspiration, just as the mission of the *Gordon Group*, under the current leadership of Ruth Ballah, with its focus on hospitality, education, service, and outreach is a continuing legacy for the Cathedral, the diocese, and the community. It is with much pride and a sense of thanksgiving that the Cathedral congregation expresses its appreciation to the *Gordon Group* for all that it has been and done in its almost 75 year history. As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Cathedral, we honour the Cathedral's *Gordon Group*, originally the *All Saints' Sewing Group*, and its dedication to the mission of the church. We wish the *Gordon Group* continued success as it provides hospitality and education and offers service and outreach within the Cathedral, the diocese, and the community. Bravo!

- *Cynthia Pilichos, Cathedral 2010 Anniversary Committee, May 2009*

## Acknowledgements

**Flowers have been given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florence Trynor by the Cathedral ACW.**

**The Bulletin has been sponsored by the Cathedral ACW.**

Join us in 2010 for special worship & music events as we celebrate 100 years of Christian witness at the Cathedral

■ **Love to Learn Lecture Series**\_\_\_\_Jan-Mar/10  
Featuring archives & architecture, vestments & vessels, woodwork & windows, music, melody, and more!

■ **Tea in the Transept**\_\_\_\_\_ Apr/10  
An elegant afternoon tea, 1910 style

■ **Cathedral Capers**\_\_\_\_\_ June/10  
Cathedral Hospitality Day for the children of our diocesan family

■ **Cathedral Tours**\_\_\_\_\_ Jul/Aug/10  
In costume and drama

■ **Grand Patronal Festival**\_\_\_\_\_ Nov/10  
Featuring a 1910 style dinner in the Cathedral and a majestic church service

■ **Christmas at the Cathedral**\_\_\_\_ Dec/10  
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