

Farewell to the Memorial Hall in Nelson

St. Saviour's, Nelson, says a fond farewell to the Memorial Hall at a Thanksgiving party

photo john kemp

BY JONN LAVINNDER

St. Saviour's, Nelson, celebrated the selling of their Memorial Hall with a Thanksgiving party. The Memorial Hall has played an important role in the community of Nelson and the diocese of Kootenay. This event brought many people together some from the community of Nelson, church members old and new, as well as other congregations along Kootenay Lake.

The contents of the cornerstone "time capsule" were displayed in a protected case provided by Touchstones Museum.

The evening began with each table singing for their supper. A few lines from a hymn that fit a description hidden under the table number: a hymn about angels, or alleluia...

People's warden Julia Roberts welcomed everyone including special guests Archbishop John Privett, Canon Neil Elliot, Jennifer

Pring, Canon Jim Hearne, and Greg Nesteroff representing the Nelson Star.

Julia Roberts said, "Let's start our reminiscences by going back to the beginning of this Hall. I obtained copies of church committee minutes from our diocesan archives. Plans for the hall were first mentioned in minutes from July 1919. A motion to build the hall was passed in Feb 1921. Plans for laying the cornerstone were made at the church committee meeting in June 1922 and the church committee met in the new Memorial Hall for the first time in March 1923. The minutes sound very similar to contemporary minutes with much concern about where money will be raised to pay for the hall. The Mothers' Club and the Boys and Girls Club contributed and a loan was received from the diocese. The cost of building the hall was about \$10,000."

"The cornerstone included a time capsule and Greg Scott,



SINGING FOR SUPPER — Archbishop John Privett sings for his supper along with Jennifer Pring, Gordon Weese (left), Lydia West, Jean Simpson, Jim Simpson, and Tobias Jenny.

our parish history enthusiast, encouraged us to open the capsule before we give up the hall. We had the capsule opened a couple of weeks ago. Greg Scott is out of town so Ean Gower will tell us about opening the cornerstone and the contents of the capsule," she added.

Incumbent's warden, Kitty Wright, honored two special women from the congregation: Rose-Anne Marshall treasurer for the past 17 years and St. Saviour's senior advisor; and June Mills who, it was discovered, was celebrating her seventieth birthday. June was St. Saviour's parish secretary for 8

years from 1998 to 2006. She served with 5 incumbents. Cake cutting and singing of Happy Birthday with John MacKay on the keyboard. Two other seventieth birthdays were celebrated — Jane Gower and Sue Barrett.

Music was provided by Second Wind. □

Dan Meakes enjoys telling stories

BY SALLY SCALES

Dan Meakes is a storyteller. He came with his wife, Cathy, to Salmon Arm to farm after 35 years of ministry in the Anglican Church. Most of his ministry was in small towns so he ended up doing all sorts of jobs as well: school principal, college teacher, businessman, and even a touch of politics. When all is said and done, the only common thread is the stories.

Much of their life was spent in the north: truly Canadian. When they were living about a block from Robert Service's restored home in Dawson City, Dan was a young deacon. He tells the story of one Sunday sending out the



STORY TELLER — Dan Meakes

collection plate to a particularly small number of people in church. To start the process he put a \$10 bill in the plate. When the plate returned, the

bill was missing. Someone had taken his gift!

At first he was angry. Then it dawned on him that many people in the congregation were

a lot poorer than he was and needed the money. They needed to have a chance to work. So Dan went to the chief of the band and two young men, and together they organized the fishing industry.

It was a two-year process and started by organizing a transportation company to haul fish on the Yukon River. Then a company was started to clean and smoke the salmon. It became a First Nations' project. They knew the river, the fish, and the people who wanted to work.

The fish were HUGE, and when smoked they were very valuable. At first, buyers in Japan and Amsterdam bought all their product, and CP Air

flew the fish to distant corners. Given a chance, people take charge of their lives, says Dan, and take pride in their contribution. Dan says it was the best \$10 he ever invested in his education.

Today, Dan farms tomatoes, peas and beans on six acres in Salmon Arm, and sells them at local farmers' markets. However, his greatest treasure is the 350 stories he has gathered from his lifetime.

He preaches in churches in Chase and Revelstoke; and always takes time to hear stories and share yarns. He says, "To live is to make sense of our lives through the stories we share." □