



## Happy Birthday!

26 February 2015

I took part in a 100th birthday celebration at St. Luke's Home this afternoon. It was for Bertha Randell who is exactly 100 years old today. She has been part of the St. Luke's Family for 17 years beginning in Bishop Meaden Manor before moving to a cottage and then to the main building. In the press release sent out by St. Luke's Home to mark the occasion Bertha is described as "... a strongly independent [and] proud individual blessed with a sharp inquisitive mind ... Bertha is a lady of strong faith [and] takes great care to ensure all [are] well on her unit ... Bertha speaks of the wisdom of her years saying 'she just wants to be her own person in her own home and ... likes to take it day by day.'"

The party held in her honour this afternoon was hosted by Debbie Manuel, the Social Worker at St. Luke's Home and included the Lieutenant Governor the Honorable Frank Fagan and Her Honour Patricia Fagan. Representatives of the Province and City were there as well as the Chair of Anglican Homes, Robert Barnes, and the Administrator, Kelly Manning. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Donna Mercer, brought greetings and prayed. Members of Bertha's family along with friends as well as many other residents and staff filled the Southview Lounge. There was singing and storytelling and refreshments throughout including a birthday cake with three candles that Bertha blew out! It was a wonderful celebration to mark a milestone in her life and in the life of the community around her. It was also the fourth such party I have attended lately and I learned today that Bertha is the 39th resident of St. Luke's to reach "centenarian status." I have been joking recently that Anglicans are living longer than ever these days and I am seeing abundant evidence of that!

As we celebrated Bertha Randell's 100 years I was aware that St. Luke's Home (through Anglican Homes Incorporated) is celebrating 50 years of providing care to seniors. Since 1964 when St. Luke's was first opened there have been many hundreds of seniors who have received top-quality care in a safe and appropriate environment for them. Indeed, the Anglican Church in this province was on board with affordable housing long before the term was ever popular. Today we are a leader in housing options and services for seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador. I have also been part of the St. Luke's Family in two ways: my own parents lived there and as a parish priest I visited and conducted services many times. Something that has always impressed me is the way that spiritual care to seniors continues to be a priority at St. Luke's Home with a beautiful chapel and clergy on duty for the residents.

I am proud of my church for the work it has done over the years for our seniors. The initial vision of St. Luke's Homes has come to great purpose today and continues to grow with another expansion already under way. I quote from the Mission Statement of Anglican Homes:

**Anglican Homes Incorporated provides long-term care and adult day programs in its Saint Luke's nursing home, and affordable housing in its cottages and Bishop Meaden Manor. A continuum of care is available to residents, tenants, and day program participants with emphasis on Christian values, family involvement, and respect and dignity towards all. This care community operates under the auspices of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador in partnership with the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority and with the support of volunteers.**

Well done thou good and faithful servant! May Anglican Homes have another 50 years and more of Christian service to our seniors. And may God bless you and all whom you care for along the way!

Blessings,  
*+Geoff*



Saint Luke's Homes is proud to host  
a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party Celebration  
in Honor of  
Miss Bertha Randell  
February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
2:30 p.m.  
Southview Lounge  
Saint Luke's Homes



