

The Northland



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The Bishop's Letter

Dear Northland Readers,

As I compose this letter, my mind goes back thirty years to the pre-Christmas season of 1979. At that time, I was still in parish ministry in the northern community of Great Whale River in the Diocese of the Arctic. Maureen, the children and I were amidst preparations for a major move. This involved completing close to fifteen years' of wonderful ministry among the Cree and Inuit people of that area, saying what would be, to many, final goodbyes, and packing our belongings for the trip south to the Diocese of Moosonee. We have now come full circle, and as Christmas 2009 draws near, we are once again in the midst of preparations for a major move. This time, we will be leaving a community and diocese where we have lived and served for twice as long as in our former home on the east coast of Hudson Bay, and we are involved in the same busyness of packing, saying goodbye to many friends, and completing a ministry in a leadership position which will soon be assumed by others.

I look back over thirty years. There have been such great changes in the life of the Church in this part of northern Canada. In reflections I shared with members of the National House of Bishops, the thirty years can be divided into three distinct periods, each one roughly a decade in length.

The first ten were years of learning, adjusting, and new growth. Soon after coming here and beginning visitations to all of the parishes in this scattered area, we were immersed in a major fundraising campaign known as "Anglicans in Mission". The results were far in excess of expectations as Anglicans responded from all the communities, gathering resources which strengthened the work of the National Church and allowed new programmes and ministries to be set up within the diocese itself. It was a time of growth and expansion, and then consolidation of much of what we had learned in development of plans and policies which would give direction and stability to ministry in the diocese.



Bishop Caleb Lawrence baptizing his grandson Pierre Samuel Lawrence.

~ Photo taken by Rob Goguilot

The 1990's were quite a different story. By that time, the funding made possible through the "Anglicans in Mission" programme had been expended, and we were learning to deal with financial cutbacks and the resulting reductions in programmes and ministry. This was true at both the diocesan and national church level as support grants from the National Church were reduced by approximately one third over a few years. At the

same time costs of ministry were rising rapidly. We struggled to continue the patterns of ministry of the 1980's without the resources to do so. By the mid 1990's, it was necessary to reduce staff. We made the difficult decision to reduce the number of stipendiary clergy in the Diocese by 20%, and the Synod Office staff by 25%. Through this period, the whole church came to the realization that the Residential School System, established with the best intentions, had failed.

First Nations people had become dependent and confused, lacking the tools and leadership enabling the establishment of strong self-government and self-determination in the communities and lands which were increasingly being shared with other Canadians. It was a difficult time for the church as congregations shrank, parishioners were stressed, and things which had once been regarded as firm certainties failed to provide assurance and elicit trust and confidence.

With the dawn of a new century and a new millennium, my sense is that we were able to begin a new way of being "church". More and more, we became a community in which the ministries which we collectively shared were valued and appreciated. There was a willingness to try new ways to offer the full ministry of the church to all those who sought and anticipated such ministry. The concept of baptismal ministry, in each baptized person has a responsibility to share the faith in practical ways, was transformative. Mistakes of the past were acknowledged, and forgiveness and reconciliation became increasingly prominent features of relationships. While some held fast to the assumptions and practices of the past, many others were much more flexible and open to respecting and welcoming a wide diversity of people within the church's fellowship, honouring and supporting one another even when differing from one another. The concept of church has become much more that of a community growing together and affirming and supporting one another, rather than being centered around concerns for buildings and legal or institutional structures.

So we come close to the end of another decade, one which I feel is full of hope and possibility for a rich and meaningful future. As Maureen and I complete our time in this historic diocese, we are thankful for all the blessings which we have received here through the past thirty years. We have learned and grown in ways which could not have been possible elsewhere. Through it all there are so many rich memories and deep friendships with such amazing people. As we prepare to move to Vancouver Island, we leave behind a church community characterized by committed and

faithful people open to the leading of God's Spirit, and with eyes which recognize God's kingdom among us. It is that which we celebrate as we come to another Christmas, and give thanks to God for the love revealed in the birth, life, and saving work of Jesus Christ, who both shows us the reality of God's love in human terms, and brings us into the welcoming embrace of God's family.

May this Christmas be a time of special joy, blessing, and anticipation for you all.

Sincerely yours, in Christ,

Caleb J. Lawrence
Bishop of Moosonee

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Season's Greetings

*Bishop Caleb and Maureen Lawrence
along with the Synod Office staff
wish the readers of The Northland
a blessed Christmas and a
happy and healthy New Year, 2010*



Where There's a Will, There's a Way

The prospect of retirement brings a fresh new perspective to life and to the stage we are in as we approach retirement years. We look back to the past, often with pride and satisfaction at things which have been accomplished and things which are important to us. We realize that for many of us, the energies of youth are now compromised, but our enthusiasm and commitment for the things which are of meaning and value to us as Christians remain vital and strong. As we look ahead to the future, there is a strong feeling that what is of value to us should continue in ways which will bring strength, encouragement, and enablement to those who will follow.

One of the important things we can do to give effect to these ideals is to be certain that we have prepared a will outlining clearly the ways in which our resources will be used after they are no longer of personal use to us. High on the list will be considerations for those who will survive us - our loved ones at various stages in their life's journeys, and the needs they must meet along the way. We will also want to remember things which have mattered deeply to us, and to which we have given priority and commitment. As Christians, much of this will be concerned with ministry and mission, and in the practical ways we show our thankfulness to God in making provision for the needs of God's children.

We hope that you, the readers of The Northland, will remember the ongoing ministry and mission of the Church in this Diocese of Moosonee area.

The various articles, stories, and informative pieces which have graced each successive issue of *The Northland* through more than half a century, will have informed you of the importance of this work and the partnership shared by both those within and beyond the diocese in accomplishing so many things. Provision for the ongoing work of the Church in the diocese can be either general, or quite specific, in accordance with ministries which are of particular interest to members of this northern church.

Here are some examples of special needs which could be specified in bequests or wills.

- The **Bishop's Endowment Fund** was set up earlier this year in recognition of the reality that for some time there has been no recognized source of funding from within the diocese to cover the costs of the bishop's ministry. This Fund was established through the transfer of some dormant parish funds remaining from the time when those parishes were disbanded. Many people have given gifts into this Fund in thanksgiving for the bishop's ministry. Beginning in 2010, the income from this Fund will be used specifically to help cover the costs of the ministry of the next Bishop of Moosonee.
- The **Easan Estate** has been designated to support the ministry of children and youth in the diocese, particularly with regard for financial support for a diocesan Director of Youth and Children's Ministry.
- Another legacy, the **Edith MacGregor Trust**, has been used to help cover the costs of Diocesan Synods, which are normally held every third year. In 2010, there will be a special one day Episcopal Election Synod to choose the next Bishop of Moosonee. The next regularly scheduled Diocesan Synod will be held in 2011.
- Another Trust is the **Rice Estate**, which is used to cover youth ministry programmes (as distinct from the ministry costs of the Youth and Children's Ministry Director).

- The **Stewardship Trust** was established from the proceeds of the sale of All Saints' Church in Noranda two years ago. The income from this Trust is used to finance stewardship initiatives in the diocese. Since the Trust was established, a Stewardship Task Group has developed plans for stewardship education, both generally and specifically for parishes who are committed to stewardship development appropriate to their circumstances.
- Unallocated gifts of more than \$5000 are deposited in large part in the **Legacy Reserve Fund**. Such funds are available without restriction to meet general needs for ministry provision across the diocese.

These are only a few suggestions, and we encourage you to consider the needs of the Diocese of Moosonee, which you have supported by your interest in regularly receiving *The Northland* magazine. We lay these suggestions before you in thankfulness to God for many years of committed and faithful ministry across this part of northern Ontario and Quebec, and with the hope and expectation that this will continue in ways both new and old among God's people in this part of God's world.

Caleb J. Lawrence
(Retiring) Bishop of Moosonee

Staff Changes in the Diocese

The Very Rev. Sharon Murdoch, Rector of St. Matthew's Parish in Timmins, and Dean of the Diocese of Moosonee was forced to retire at the end of September due to poor health. Sharon was diagnosed with a rare neurodegenerative disease, Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) arising from Sporadic Olivopontocerebellar Atrophy (OPCA)), for which there is no known treatment. Sharon has moved to Kingston, and is staying with her parents until the New Year, when she will move into a nursing home.

Bishop Edward ("Eddie") Marsh, retired Bishop of Central Newfoundland, has agreed to provide interim ministry as Rector of St. Matthew's

Cathedral for a period of up to six months. Bishop Eddie, with his spouse, Emma, will be arriving in Timmins in time to lead worship on December 20th, the Sunday before Christmas

The Rev. Iris Montague, has resigned her position as Rector of St. John the Evangelist Church in Mistissini for health reasons, and is on short term disability. Iris has returned to her home in South Porcupine, where she hopes to recover.

The Rev. John Wiebe with his wife Eileen arrived in Mistissini in November from their retirement home in Ottawa to act as Interim Rector until a new priest can be appointed to the parish. The Wiebes previously served in Mistissini from 1990-1998. Interviews are underway, and hopefully an appointment will be made early in the New Year.

Deborah Lonergan-Freake, formerly of St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish in Timmins, will be ordained to the Diaconate on January 5, 2010. She will take up appointment as Deacon-in-Charge of St. Matthew's/ St. Paul's Church in Hearst; St. Luke's Church in Hornepayne; and St. Stephen's Church in Constance Lake through a three year contract appointment. Deborah and her husband, James, will be moving to Ontario from their home in Nova Scotia.

Please keep Sharon and Iris in your prayers as they face difficult health issues, and uphold Bishop Eddie, the Rev. John Wiebe, and the Rev. Deborah Lonergan-Freake as they provide ministry to these congregations.



Young Canadian Anglicans - A site with blogs, resources and other content written by and for youth and those involved in youth leadership in the Anglican Church of Canada

Farewell to Moosonee



The Rev. Sharon Murdoch

*~Photo taken from the Anglican
Journal Website/Quotable Quotes*

I write this 'so long' from Kingston in the Diocese of Ontario where I moved to stay with my parents last week. A year and a half ago some of you started to notice a change in my movements, I was slower and slightly stooped.

Since then I have had more and more difficulty with my coordination, balance and speech among other things and went on short term disability on June 1 while I waited for a diagnosis and treatment. I got my diagnosis at the London Neurosciences Centre on September 17: Multiple System Atrophy, Sporadic Olivopontocerebellar Atrophy subtype. It is a rare (1 in 100,000) neurodegenerative disease with no known treatment or cure. On September 29th, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, I submitted my resignation as Rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral and Dean of the Diocese of Moosonee and started the preparations for the next stage in my pilgrimage.

I first visited the Diocese of Moosonee in the summer of 1986 when I arrived in Mistissini with a shipment of books from my parish of St. John's, Kingston. When I went to the rectory I met a blue-eyed man in jeans and a fisherman knit sweater who explained that the rector wasn't there, he was probably over at the church. I was at a loss of what to do next and then he put out his hand and introduced himself, "Hi, I'm Caleb Lawrence. I'm the bishop." I stammered back, "You don't look like a bishop" and he laughed and replied, "Sometimes I don't feel like a bishop." The rest, as they say, is history. I began my full time ordained ministry on September 1, 1992 and since then I have travelled to every community in the Diocese, formally serving the parishes of Geraldton, Jellicoe, Longlac, Nakina, Collins, Ogoki Post,

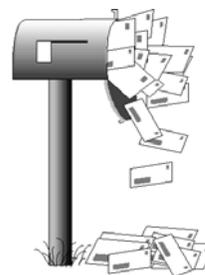
Val-d'Or, Rouyn-Noranda, Chapleau, Foleyet, Cochrane and Timmins. I have loved my time in the Diocese, celebrating its incredible diversity in language and culture and the varied ways in which God has worked through our very different parishes. I have been humbled by the faith of people I have met and been inspired by the creativity and hard work of northern Anglicans. And I have greatly appreciated the fellowship of those members of other Christian communities with whom we have shared and proclaimed the gospel. I have been particularly touched by the kindness and help I've received in the past two months as I prepared to divest myself of most of my belongings and move. The estate sale hosted by St. Matthew's, the meals prepared by a variety of people once I could no longer cook, the help cleaning and sorting through my belongings and packing up all made what could have been a traumatizing event a time of blessing as I have realised how many friends I have made. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Advent is a time of waiting and of hope. I have lived out my Advent through much of the past year waiting for a diagnosis and now for a room in a nursing home. My hope remains for many more 'teachable moments' and opportunities to grow in faith and help others to do the same. I thank God for my time in Moosonee and hope that many of you will keep in touch, dropping by when you are in the Kingston area.

Your sister in Christ,

Sharon Murdoch +

From the Mailroom



*My husband the Rev. G. Ralf Stanley, was Rector of St. Mark's Kapuskasing from 1945-1954 – A wonderful ministry. Our three boys were born there. I look forward to each issue of *The Northland* with great interest. Thank you!*

I. Stanley

AFP & IAWN JOIN FORCES IN MOOSONEE CONFERENCE



Participants of the Conference

~Photo provided by Margaret Dempster

The **Anglican Fellowship of Prayer** and the **International Anglican Women's Network** joined forces and presented the "**PRAYING FOR EQUALITY**" conference in Moosonee on September 28th and 29th, 2009.

On the first evening, there were 22 people who attended the gathering. Hats off to the parishioners of the Church of the Apostles, for their friendship and hospitality. It was greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth Loweth, the Canadian representative of the IAWN was the keynote speaker. Elizabeth is well versed on the plight of women around the world having been a representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women for a number of years. Her talk included information on the mandate of the International Anglican Women's Network, and its reporting relationship to the Anglican Consultative Council.

Mae Joseph and Denise Morin, volunteers at Monteith Correctional Facility, spoke about the lives of the women inmates at the institution. Most are First Nations women. Their presentation was personal and revealed inequities within the correctional system with respect to programming for women inmates.

The Reverend Margaret Dempster gave a presentation on the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

and the importance of prayer in bringing about social justice. As well, there was a meditative prayer session that focused on social/justice and environmental concerns.

Plans are being put in place to hold two events in 2010; a spring retreat and a fall conference. These gatherings are moved around the diocese to ensure that Anglicans throughout Moosonee can attend. Further details will be provided early next year. We hope you can join us.

33rd Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

A report by the Rev. Bruce Roberts

This is the second time in the first ten years of the 21st century that I have had the honor of being at a Provincial Synod but the first time in my home diocese. It was the best of times. We met for three days in the week following Thanksgiving. The pace was full but relaxed. Synod had all the same things that all synods have. The reports were interesting but long. The members of Synod were placed at tables with people who started as strangers but by the end were considered friends.

The day like all residential meetings, was structured. Each day began with breakfast at 7:00 a.m. After a good meal and ample discussion with friends, we began the day's activities. We started each day with worship. Hearing the word of God through varied song and prayer was insightful. We all left that time inspired to go onto the next phase of our time together, Bible study and more discussion.

Bishop Colin Johnson led us through Bible studies and discussion groups. We were looking at the story of Abram and Sarai. God's plan is secure but we often doubt that God is up to doing it all alone. We often think that God needs a little help now and again. So we find Sarai suggesting that there might be another plan. As it turns out not to be God's plan for the couple, but God works with the new situation and does some very creative things with it as only God can do. The Bible Studies and the discussion questions were excellent. My group and others were astounded with the new insights that

were made as we discussed the scriptures. After a brief half hour the tide turned into three larger groups called Indaba, where the wider issues of the church were discussed while applying the scripture to the situation of the church. Above all the message was one of hope. We are not without hope and there is growth in many places where we might have thought it to be impossible in times past. The Indaba group melted into a coffee break at 10:30am where a more informal discussion took place.

I was impressed by the morning's process and how much it impacted everyone present. The day's business was then presented after we had been thoroughly prepared. Each of the day's business took us through the places where the church has been traveling in the last three years. We also had the challenge of saying goodbye to one Archbishop and electing another. We had to sift through six qualified bishops to choose a new leader for the next six years. As you may be aware, the new Metropolitan is Colin Johnson, Bishop of Toronto, who was at one time a parishioner of mine many years ago. The next task was the election of the vice chair of the Provincial Synod called the Prolocutor. The person elected was part of our table group, the Rev. Rob Towler of Kitchener. The evening of the second night witnessed the installation of our new Metropolitan in Archbishop Anderson Memorial Church in Cochrane.

But above all these things, what most encouraged us was the address made by our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, who gave a detailed and lengthy list of the good news that the church is generating in our troubled times. We were fixed on every word and amazed at the number of good news items that the primate stated. When he finished, the Primate remarked that this was but a taste of what could be said that he was only getting warmed up and could speak for an hour or so more if allowed. But, there were many other things that

needed our attention. The Synod ended by noon on Friday morning and by 3:00 p.m. some of us were already home, while others were waiting in the Timmins airport for the flight home. A well done Synod and time well spent. We all look with hope towards the next chapter in the life of the Province of Ontario.

33rd Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

Report from Anne Dyas.

The Thirty Third Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario is over but not forgotten. The Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church takes place every three years; this year saw the Synod held in the north, in the Diocese of Moosonee, for only the second occasion, the previous being 1988 in Timmins.



Archbishop Collin Johnson
~Photo taken from the Diocese of Toronto Website

The members of Synod arrived on Tuesday October 13th, either by car, bus, train or by air at Cochrane or Timmins Airport where they were met and driven to one of three reserved hotel/motels in Cochrane. Registration and hospitality were provided that evening at the Archbishop Anderson Memorial Church.

The following day, a bus helped provide transportation for delegates to and from the Church of the Transfiguration Hall where the Synod was being held. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were provided by Trinity Catering (the women of Holy Trinity Anglican Church) during the proceedings.

The days were filled with fellowship; Bible Study; updates on the work of the Provincial Executive and Provincial Committees over the past 3 years; news regarding possible governance and constitutional changes and the National Indigenous Ministry; consideration of motions referred from General Synod 2007 and information regarding Theological Education was shared. The possibility of a covenant between the Anglican and Lutheran Churches was presented,

as was the budget for the next triennium. Discussion on Vision 2019, a proposal by the National Church took some time.

Since Archbishop Caleb Lawrence was retiring as Metropolitan (head Bishop) and will be retiring from his ministry as Bishop of Moosonee in January 2010, elections took place to choose the new Metropolitan and a new Prolocutor. After two ballots Bishop Colin Johnson of Toronto was chosen to become Metropolitan and thus given the title Archbishop. The new Prolocutor (presiding officer of the Provincial Executive) is the Rev. Rob Towler of Kitchener.

Archbishop Johnson and the Rev. Towler were installed in a colourful Eucharist ceremony on Thursday evening, October 15th, at Archbishop Anderson Memorial Church to which everyone had been invited. The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz was the preacher at the service. His address to Synod of Friday morning spoke of 'a church on the move' and 'moving in the right direction especially with regard to financial stability'. Attendance at Sacred Circles and lobbying Government to renew the Truth and Reconciliation Programme together with the importance of the provision of a National Indigenous Bishop were highlighted. This year we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). This fund began as a response to the Springhill Mine disaster and has continued to grow and provide assistance all over the world. There are several exciting new youth projects being developed and the "Amazing Grace" project has raised sufficient funds to put in place a suicide prevention programme for our northern youth. [The "Amazing Grace" project of the Council of the North was one in which church groups and congregations sing "Amazing Grace" and take up a special 'twoonie' collection in addition to making a video or taking a photo which was placed on the Council of the North website.] Synod ended at 11.30am Friday, October 16th following motions of thanks indicating appreciation of the hospitality shown and of the arrangements made by the congregation and friends of the Anglican Church. Delegates

returned home feeling they had completed a significant task and filled with good food, leaving the organizers glowing in a final accolade from Bishop Caleb Lawrence of how proud he was of "the little parish that could".



Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane

By Edith Belair



Holy Trinity Parish in Cochrane has had a very busy summer season. Over the last few months we have held a Music Workshop with the talented Miss Crystal Bartel from Winnipeg. Miss Crystal is a very talented musician and choir leader and it was a great privilege for us to have her here. People from around the area were invited to join us in welcoming Miss Crystal and we all learned much from her. Miss Crystal has offered to come back at a later date and hopefully more people from around the Diocese will be able to attend this wonderfully educational Music Workshop.

In August we hosted the 10th Annual Blueberry Festival. Scores of people browsed around our huge yard sale. Children were treated to a fish pond and the Guild members had a huge bake table. Needless to say all the baking went in short order so we are already planning on how to get more baking for this event. At noon the ACW hosted a Blueberry Luncheon and served fancy sandwiches, wraps, vegetables and dip, and their famous Blueberry Shortcake. This event was a huge success. Next year being Cochrane's 100th Anniversary, we are planning for a bigger and better Blueberry Festival.



John Sands Concert Organist Performs

John Sands, who has graced the concert halls in Britain and Europe, was the guest of Holy Trinity Parish this past September, where he gave many renditions of his organ music.

A native of England, he now lives with his wife, Maryanne and his two dogs in Nova Scotia. He has been travelling for several years across Canada and the USA bringing his glorious music of many of the older tunes. John Sands Concert was a fundraiser for PWRDF to help support a refugee from a third world country. Many people from the community supported our endeavour and after the concert were treated to tea and coffee and decadent desserts. Also they were able to purchase CD's and meet John. He was also available to sign your CDs.

This was a great treat for Cochrane and hopefully we can persuade John to return to Cochrane for another night of wonderful music.



Remembrance Day in Iroquois Falls

By the Rev. Margaret Dempster

This year's Remembrance Day service in Iroquois Falls was a remarkable one. There wasn't a drop of rain, or a flake of snow unlike in previous year's celebration. About 700 people lined the parade route and gathered around the town's cenotaph and beautiful Veterans Park. The cadets and scouts were out, as were the children from the public and high schools. There were elderly people, babies in strollers, and even the pets were part of the remembrance.

As padre of Branch 70 of the Royal Canadian Legion, I have grown to know and appreciate the veterans, the members of the Women's Auxiliary, and the many people who work tirelessly to keep the Legion strong and a giving organization not only to veterans and members but to the town at large.

The annual dinner meeting that evening had The Reverend Stanley Johnstone as guest speaker. Stanley is a retired brigadier general of the

Canadian Armed Forces and a former Chaplain for the Dominion. He spoke eloquently about his time as a chaplain in the armed forces and told those gathered how impressed he was with the number of people who came out to pay homage to the country's war dead. Having been in the presence of the Queen, and conducting Remembrance Day services at the cenotaph in Ottawa, he said that there is a unique and special feeling when being in small town Canada to celebrate Remembrance Day.

Before the close of the evening, the Women's Auxiliary presented Joe Leblanc, the president of the Legion, with a \$8,000 cheque. These women many of whom are well into their 70's, 80's and at least one in her 90's, are dedicated members of the Legion. Their efforts support the town's local hospital, walk-in clinic, and organizations of need in the community and beyond.



Sgt. Aubrey Cosens
*~Photo taken from
National Defense
and Canadian Forces
Website*

St. Mark's Anglican Church appreciates Branch 70 and its members who attend the annual Aubrey Cosens Memorial Service held on February 26th of each year. St. Mark's has the Sgt. Aubrey Cosens memorial window that was transferred from St. Stephens Anglican Church in Porquis Junction after it was deconsecrated.

Aubrey Cosens was the recipient of the Victoria Cross and a long time resident of Porquis Junction and member of St. Stephen's.

For a little town, Iroquois Falls has a special place in its heart for its war dead and the many town's folk who served our country and continue to do so.

*Please send your
Submissions for the
Spring Edition by March 5th,
2010*

Parish of West Kenogami Christmas 2009

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’” Luke 2: verse 15

In the letter to the Philippians the apostle Paul says “The Lord is near.” There are different ways that we may think of the Lord being near. One way is to remember the coming of the angels to the shepherds on the hillside and the birth of Jesus in a simple shelter. We can almost smell the warm cattle breath in the crisp night air.

Another way is to live the way Jesus lived and to share his journey; to know the relevance of his example and the enabling power of his presence as we live by what he commanded.

A third and final way is to anticipate the promise of “a new heaven and a new earth”. “Keep awake!” we are told. Otherwise we might come across an installment of God's future reign and toss it aside. We need to recognize the coming of truth or justice even when the circumstances surprise us.

The kingdom of God may be closer than we think. The shepherds on the hillside encountered angels in the night sky and were given direction: “... you will find the child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” May we discover God's nearness, in different ways in our own lives. Then, our daily chores and choices will be directed towards eternal significance.

May Christmas be a season of many blessings for you and yours,

The Rev. Hal Graham

St. Matthew's Cathedral Parish, Timmins

October 24th was an auspicious day in the life of the Cathedral Parish. That was the date of the 90th birthday of Canon Reg Pope. Representatives of the Parish visited Reg and Graye at their retirement home and presented a basket of gifts in celebration of the occasion.



Reg and Graye Pope

~ Photo taken by John Shaw

Reg is one of the few members of St. Matthew's remembering Canon Cushing, who served a long incumbency in the early years of both the parish and the developing mining town of Timmins. In a recent conversation with the Bishop, he recalled that the church was a much smaller structure at that time, with a porch entrance at the side, where the tower now stands. After returning to Timmins at the end of World War II, followed by the arrival of his wife Graye and twin sons, Alan and Graham, Reg became much more active in the parish, serving as People's Warden for many years. His acquaintance with Canon Harold Shail, then Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese led him to offer his training and experience as an accountant in setting the finances of the diocese on a solid foundation. He served as auditor for both the Cathedral Parish and Diocese for many years, and has been a shrewd and careful advisor in the investments held by the Diocese until his retirement earlier this year.

The Diocese of Moosonee joins the Cathedral Parish in wishing both Reg and Graye a happy and peaceful retirement, rich with a lifetime of memories of adventure and surrounded by many friends who are awed by the contributions they have made to the life of the City with a Heart of Gold.



St. Peter's Church, Waskaganish

A Gift of Grace

By the Rev. Hal Graham

On Monday, December 21st, 2009, Bishop Lawrence will ordain Gladys Matoush to the Diaconate in St. Peter's Church, Waskaganish. Gladys hopes to conclude her theological studies at Thorneloe College, Sudbury, in 2010.

Celebration of New Ministry at Waswanipi

By the Rev. Canon Cliff Dee

Sunday, December 6 the Regional Dean of James Bay, The Rev Captain Rod BrantFrancis, officiated and preached at the Celebration of New Ministry of St Barnabas' parish, Waswanipi and the Rev Canon Cliff Dee. Canon Cliff has been the rector of St Barnabas' parish since May 1 – but this was the first opportunity for the Celebration of New Ministry service. (He is half time rector at Waswanipi and half time Coordinator of the Diocesan Program for Cree Christian leadership development.)

During the celebration, liturgy members of the congregation presented Canon Cliff with various symbols of Christian ministry. These symbols included an eagle feather, presented as a sign of the First Nations (Cree) culture and traditions of the Waswanipi parish.

On the afternoon of the day preceding the Celebration, a parish workshop and Bible Study took place. Following the Celebration liturgy there was a pot luck luncheon, and then members of the congregation went over to the empty house which Canon Cliff started to move into the next day. The new Waswanipi Rectory is a recently renovated Waswanipi Band rental housing unit. The Regional Dean led a service of blessing of a new home – in this liturgy the congregation walked through each room of the home, led by Roy Ottereyes, who smudged each room with sweetgrass. Prayers were said in each room of the home.

I seem to be into the mode of telling stories about elderly folk. (That means older than me.) For example I was visiting in the hospital yesterday with an 89 year old American man who had fallen while at his hunting camp. He may not survive but his son told me that he had served on both the European front and the Pacific during WW II. The man had retired from a lumbering business and got bored so he and his son bought the fishing and hunting business just north of Geraldton. He had been sturdy and healthy except for the occasional dizzy spell.

This may be why I was also thinking about my own father, Oliver, quite a different personality, who passed away in 2008 just shy of 91 years. Dad was reticent and could easily be self recriminating but also "kind" in his own way. He'd suffered from depressive spells for most of his life. At the time of his death he kept shaking his head back and forth, while largely unconscious, as though to deny some unseen discussion. I was not looking forward to giving the eulogy at his funeral because he had taken a defeatist stance and had frustrated many who had tried to help. At the visitation, however, I was touched by the favourable comments and the positive attributes that others saw in his life. That evening as I lay in bed my thoughts seemed to be led past the shortcomings to also include his special interests in his carpentry work, raising beef cattle, and especially in his home-made inventions with which he could save money.

As the funeral approached I had the distinct impression of a younger Oliver with a smile on his face, set free from the encumbrances that had clung to him most of his life. I felt that in fact some transaction had transpired near the end that had allowed him to finally get his perspective straightened out. One of our last verbal exchanges had been over a drink of tea and then one of water. One was too hot and the next, I think he tried to say, was too cold. In his accommodating manner he had said "it's hard to get it right". And we agreed "It's hard to get it right".

Now I felt that he had fulfilled his own words and finally "got it right".

A year later we were in Kingston just after I had settled the estate and received the gift of an inheritance. Margaret and I had previously begun to ask ourselves about a retirement location. We were not ready to make a deal because we will not retire until 2013, but we liked what we saw in the area. I had the brainwave of calling a real estate agent about keeping an eye out for a corner lot and close to the entrance to provide some distinctiveness. A site of this description was available and, in fact, the whole process seemed to move forward without obstacles. The agent was very perceptive but kept things moving so that we could have a house built in the coming year at current prices and available for rental purposes. It just felt right and again I imagined that my father was completing his life's assignment. My eulogy had been to tell about his life's work even though I explained to people that the inner, and really important part, did not come until his death bed. Well, some of the important work may have come even after his death because when the agent mentioned that the lot we had chosen was on "Grace Ave." it sounded like exactly the right word. I felt that "by grace" my father was able to complete his wishes, even after his death.

Who, what, when, where?

The year is 1910 and early pioneers to Cochrane are arriving by train to settle in "New Canada". They come from all areas of life and all parts of the world with many stories to tell and secrets to keep!

To initiate the festivities of Cochrane's 100th birthday, Holy Trinity Parish is hosting a dinner/drama New Year's Eve Party. It will consist of a six course menu interwoven with an unfolding of mysterious circumstances as told by our cast of local actors and culminating in solving the crime of the untimely death of a weary traveller.



For an evening of intrigue, fun and celebration come to Cochrane and help solve the mystery of the "Murder on the Polar Bear Express". Advance tickets are \$30/person with after December 15th ticket prices being \$35/person. Period costumes are encouraged. You can book your tickets by telephoning (705) 272-4311, emailing pdorland@puc.net, or picking them up at The Westway Motel Hwy 11 West in Cochrane.

Thanks to the Circle of Faith Parish!



**Circle of
Faith
Church
of the
Messiah**

In August, Archbishop Lawrence visited the Circle of Faith Parish in Kincardine, Ontario, (Diocese of Huron) in response to an invitation to speak about ministry in the Diocese of Moosonee. This parish is made up of 5 churches, and on the day of his visit, only one service was held in the parish so that parishioners of all the churches could attend the Church of the Messiah in Kincardine to hear him speak. They were pleasantly surprised when their Metropolitan also celebrated the Eucharist using both Cree and English, and led the singing of one verse of "Amazing Grace" in Cree.

As a result of his visit the congregations, church groups, and individuals of this parish have responded with generous financial gifts to the Diocese of Moosonee, which have been earmarked for Youth and Children's Ministry. Recently, one of the A.C.W. groups has donated money to the Diocese of Moosonee rather than exchanging Christmas gifts with one another! This financial support is greatly appreciated, and is a great source of encouragement to us.

Hey Youth!

Are you looking for a Challenge this Spring Break?
Want to have a greater voice in your church?

Come look at the
Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP)

YLTP helps people grow in 6 areas:

Call: to be able to speak about a sense
of personal identity, awareness, and mission

Stewardship: to understand and
practice service to others

Living Community: to work with others
in an intentional, safe community

Spiritual Enrichment: through
Christian worship and study

Fostering Self: to enhance leadership
and related skills

The Heart: to have fun with good friends

YLTP is grounded in leadership: learning,
modeling and practising effective leadership in
church, school and community.

4 youth from this diocese will be offered a free
trip to Southern Ontario, providing a wonderful
camp experience and leadership training, along
with youth from another diocese.

Do you want to be one of those youth

If you or someone you know might be interested
in this interesting challenge of growing in Christ
and learning about Christian leadership, please
contact the Rev. CJ Adams by phone: (705) 272-
5336 or by email: cjadams@mehere.net

This opportunity is being offered through a joint
partnership between our diocese and the Diocese
of Niagara.

*For other information on this program, you can
check out the following website:*

<http://www.zipsqueal.com/yltp.html>

Ordination of Deirdre Roach

By Jan Maloney

A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind and touches
a heart. Jesus was called Rabbi which means
teacher and He commissioned us to go and preach
the Gospel.

Deirdre Baker was born and raised in New
Liskeard, Ontario. She married Robbie on March
25th, 1967 at St. Paul's in South Porcupine and
proudly assumed his name, becoming Deirdre
Roach. She is a loving mother to three wonderful
children James, Andrew and Sarah Jane and a
grandmother to Taylor and Sam with another due
in March 2010.



Bishop Caleb Lawrence & Rev. Deirdre Roach

~ Photo taken by Maureen Lawrence

Deirdre received her Master of Divinity degree at
Trinity College University of Toronto in 2004 and
on March 25th, 2009, the day of her 42nd wedding
anniversary, Deirdre was made a Deacon at St.
Paul's Church.

Sunday October 18th, 2009, the final step in
Deirdre's dream came to fruition. A procession
led by the crucifer, followed by the choirs of St.
Paul's Anglican Church, St Matthews Cathedral,
and Covenant United Church along with several

clergy, Bishop Caleb Lawrence, presenters, and her family, Deirdre was escorted to the place of honor where she was ordained a priest in the Anglican church of Canada.

Her friend and confidant, the Very Reverend Ted Clarke delivered the homily speaking on the book of Isaiah. The Presenters were Annie Fairies, Jim Anderson, The Very Reverend Ted Clarke, the Rev. Bruce Roberts and her proud husband Robbie.

Flowers were placed at the altar in loving memory of Deirdre and Robbie's parents Katherine and Glen Baker and Samuel and Irene Roach. After the service family and friends joined Deirdre for a reception in the Canon Gibson Hall.

A priest should be prepared, creative, honest, dedicated, and compassionate. Deirdre is prepared for service and her sermons are creative, using life experiences- the human touch. She is honest to a fault, and dedicated, knowing that being a priest is not a nine to five job, answering those 3:00am calls to go to the hospital or a home without hesitation or thinking about herself. She is a very compassionate person knowing first hand what it is like to have a life threatening illness.

Deirdre's present ministry is centered on the chaplaincy at the hospital and assisting churches requiring a priest.

God bless you in your ministry Deirdre being true to your Lord, yourself, and others.

Did you Know?

Frankincense is a sweet smelling gum resin derived from certain Boswellia trees, which at the time of Christ, grew in Arabia, India and Ethiopia. Tradition says it was presented to the Christ Child by Balthasar, the black king from Ethiopia or Saba. The frankincense trade was at its height during the days of the Roman Empire. At that time the resin was considered as valuable as gems or precious metals. The Romans burned frankincense on their altars and at cremations.



OBITUARY

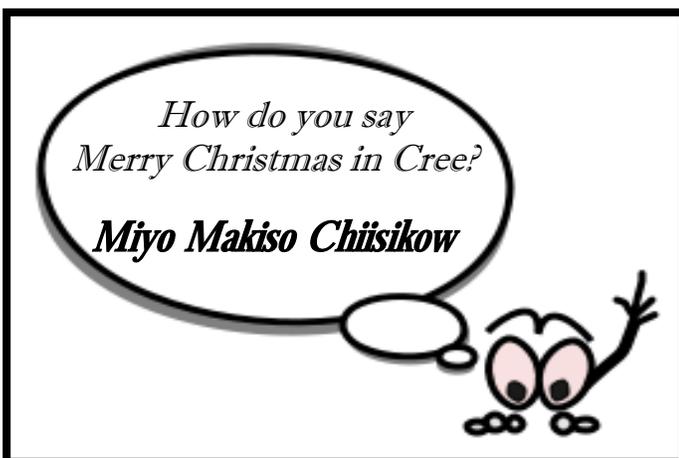
Janet Sutherland

On Monday evening, November 30th, Janet Sutherland, the spouse of Jimmy Sutherland, of St. Stephen's Parish, Constance Lake, died at Notre Dame Hospital in Hearst.



The Funeral Service was held in the School Auditorium in Constance Lake, conducted by the Rev. Hal Graham, Regional Dean of Kenogami. In a brief report to the Bishop, Hal wrote, "There were about 230 people in attendance for the funeral of Janet Sutherland. It was a service of dignity and grace because, I think, of the life that had been lived and also because there has been a long term work of God within that family. It was an opportunity for me to meet and journey a little with the people of Constance Lake. I appreciated that opportunity."

Janet had been active in the Anglican Church Women's group for many years, and had been a frequent attender at successive ACW Annual Meetings in her earlier years. She was a Lay Reader in St. Stephen's Parish through several successive terms, before declining health led to her retirement with her husband, Jimmy. Janet was a strong leader and role model within her large extended family and the wider community.





Links of Interest

Hello Reader! In this section you will find interesting links relevant to particular articles in this issue. Enjoy!

The AFP & IAW (p.6)

- 🔗 www.anglicanprayer.org (AFP)
- 🔗 www.iawn.org (IAWN)

Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Synod (p.6-7)

- 🔗 www.province-ontario.anglican.ca

John Sands Concert - Cochrane (p.9)

- 🔗 www.johnsandsmusic.org
- 🔗 www.town.cochrane.on.ca
(Cochrane official website)

Iroquois Falls - Remembrance Day (p.9)

- 🔗 www.forces.gc.ca (National Defense & Canadian Forces)
- 🔗 www.legion.ca (Royal Canadian Legion)
- 🔗 www.vac-acc.gc.ca (Veteran Affairs Canada)

Ross Pope – Timmins (p.10)

- 🔗 www.rosspope.com
- 🔗 www.stmatthewstimmins.com (St. Matthew's Cathedral)

Circle of Faith Parish (p.12)

- 🔗 www.diohuron.org (Diocese of Huron website)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!!



The *NEW* and improved Diocese of Moosonee Website has been officially launched. *Have you seen it yet?*

Includes many interesting features such as: parish profiles with current events, recent postings, downloads, Canons, Policies, diocesan goals, full color downloadable current and past issues of The Northland, and so much more.

Come visit us today

www.domaa.ca



Heavenly Humour

A Cathedral was preparing for Christmas services. The Dean decided to have a banner made for the entrance of the church and had the Rector's Warden call the sign company.

The Warden told the man on the phone the message she wanted and the dimensions needed for the entryway.

The sign came back a few days later...

"Unto Mary Jesus was born, six feet long and two feet wide."

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Chapleau, ON, P0M 1K0
Rector
The Rev. Bruce Roberts

Chisasibi – St. Philip’s
PO Box 90
Chisasibi, QC, J0M 1E0
(819) 855-3480
Priests
The Rev. Samuel Bearskin
The Rev. Abraham Cox
The Rev. Clifford Bearskin
The Rev. Stephen Pepabano
The Rev. Jacob Sealhunter
Deacons
The Rev. Annie Herodier
The Rev. Eliza Web

Cochrane – Holy Trinity
PO Box 429, 150 Sixth Avenue
Cochrane, ON, P0L 1C0
(705) 272-3261
Rector
The Rev. CJ Adams

Constance Lake – St. Stephen’s
PO Box 8000, 21 Musk-kok
Constance Lake, ON, P0L 1B0
Appointment pending – January 2010

Eastmain – St. Mark’s
PO Box 116
Eastmain, QC, J0M 1W0
Sacramental Ministry
The Rev. Jacob Sealhunter

Foleyet – St. John’s
PO Box 81
Foleyet, ON, P0M 1T0
Rector
The Rev. Bruce Roberts

Geraldton – St. James’
PO Box 850, 527 Main Street
Geraldton, ON, P0T 1M0
(807) 854-1465
Rector
The Rev. Hal Graham

Hearst – St. Matthew’s/St. Paul’s
Po Box 1029, 28 Ninth Street
Hearst, ON, P0L 1N0
Appointment pending – January 2010

Hornepayne – St. Luke’s
PO Box 67
Hornepayne, ON, P0M 1Z0
(807)868-2540
Appointment pending – January 2010

Iroquois Falls – St. Mark’s
PO Box 489
Iroquois Falls, ON, P0K 1E0
(705) 258-3713
Rector
The Rev. Margaret Dempster

Kapuskasing – St. Mark’s
1 Stewart Avenue
Kapuskasing, ON, P5N 1R9
Vacant

Kashechewan – St. Paul’s
PO Box 238
Kashechewan, ON, P0L 1S0
Vacant

Kirkland Lake –
St. Peter’s on-the-Rock
PO Box 692
Kirkland Lake, ON, P2N 3K1
(705) 567-5522
Rector
The Rev. Edna Murdy

Longlac – St. John in-the-Wilderness
PO Box 354, Forestry Road
Longlac, ON, P0T 2A0
Rector
The Rev. Hal Graham

Matheson – St. John’s
PO Box 345, 416 McDougal St.
Matheson, ON, P0K 1N0
(705) 273-2824
Rector
The Rev. Margaret Dempster

Mistissini – St. John the Evangelist
112 John Street
Mistissini, QC, G0W 1C0
Interim Rector
The Rev. John Wiebe

Moose Factory – St. Thomas’
PO Box 30
Moose Factory, ON, P0L 1W0
Rector
The Rev. Nirmal Mendis

Moosonee – Church of the Apostles
PO Box 124
Moosonee, ON, P0L 1Y0
(705) 336-2321
Rector
The Rev. Nirmal Mendis

Schumacher – St. Chad’s
PO Box 831, 105 Dwyer Street
Schumacher, ON, P0N 1G0
Rector
The Rev. Bruce Roberts

South Porcupine – St. Paul’s
58 Legion Drive
South Porcupine, ON, P0N 1G0
(705) 262-4938
Rector
The Rev. Bruce Roberts
Honorary Assistant
The Rev. Deirdre Roach

Timmins – St. Matthew’s Cathedral
331 Fifth Avenue
Timmins, ON, P4N 5L6
(705) 264-0914
Interim Rector
The Rt. Rev. Edward Marsh

Val d’Or – Golden Valley
171 Rue Cadillac
Val d’Or, QC, J9P 2J3
Lay Leader (United Church)
Mrs. Kathleen Noury

Virginiatown – St. Paul’s
PO Box 692
Kirkland Lake, ON, P2N 3K1
(705) 567-5522
Rector
The Rev. Edna Murdy

Waskaganish – St. Peter’s
PO Box 309
Waskaganish, QC, J0M 1R0
Vacant

Waswanipi – St. Barnabas
PO Box 388, 3 Aspen West
Waswanipi, QC, J0Y 3C0
(819) 753-2559
Rector
The Rev. Canon Cliff Dee

Wemindji – St. John the Baptist
PO Box 29
Wemindji, QC, J0M 1L0
Rector
The Rev. Capt. Rodney BrantFrancis
Honorary Assistant
The Rev. Samuel Hughboy
Deacon
The Rev. Capt. Lisa BrantFrancis

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