

GREAT CHAPTER

JAMES BAY DEANERY MEETS AT WASWANUPI

*Article by Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston,
Bishop of Moosonee*

ON THE weekend of February 18-20, the yearly meeting of the James Bay Deanery Greater Chapter meeting was convened in the parish of St. Barnabas' Church, Waswanipi. The James Bay Deanery is the largest deanery and has the most active number of communities in the Diocese. In spite of the remoteness of all of the area parishes, delegates look forward with eagerness to their yearly gathering and come from all the parishes on both coasts of the James Bay and inland Quebec.

Alas, this year the weather turned against us and caused problems that hampered and even cancelled the travel plans of some of the delegates. In February most of the Diocese experienced the usual "February thaw", giving those of us tired of winter a little hint that spring is on its way. Then, on the 18th, just as we were to gather in Waswanipi, there was a sudden freeze and winter returned. The James Bay highway had to be closed as it had iced over and in one place there had been an accident. Unfortunately, most of the delegates from the James Bay communities could not attend. In a couple of communities, respected Elders had passed away and there were funerals. Thankfully the Regional Dean and his wife were able to make it out because they had started out a day earlier. The three communities on the west side of the bay had come out to Timmins where a bus had been hired to bring them on the eight-hour drive. The Kashechewan delegates, along with their new minister, the Rev. Phelan Scanlon, drove over their winter road across the James Bay ice three hours to Moosonee in order to catch the train south and then board the bus. The



Susan Villeneuve received her lay reader's licence from Bishop Tom Corston

Bishop joined them in Timmins and enjoyed the bus trip.

The host parish was ready with a gift bag for each guest and then a welcoming feast in their church. There was a mixture of traditional and non-traditional dishes to tempt everyone. Prior to the feast the Bishop was taken to the community's "Elder's Centre" to have his beaded pectoral cross repaired, which was broken on the trip. He was introduced to the ladies of the sewing circle. One of the ladies volunteered to repair the cross and did such a good job on it the Bishop was unable to tell where it had broken. Of course, while he waited, he was offered tea and bannock and was taken to the "kitchen" outside in a large tent where more of the Elders were preparing beaver for one of the feasts to come. A piece of freshly roasted beaver presented to the Bishop was another treat.

Following dinner the first of the weekend's sessions began with a talking circle when everyone was asked to share a positive experience in their

life or parish. The evening came to a conclusion with singing and prayer and then billets were assigned and delegates were chauffeured to various parts of the community.

Saturday broke with deep cold again and ice abounded. Highways were open though and slowly more delegates started to arrive, especially from Mistissini three hours north. The rest of the deanery's business took place at Waswanipi's beautiful Youth Centre. Following morning prayers, officiated over by the Moosonee-Moose Factory delegates, The Regional Dean, The Rev. Rod BrantFrancis, led a Bible study on the theme of "change", using Abraham's call as the example of one who experienced many changes in his response to God. The Bishop then took the floor and for the next hour explained some of the decisions being made for the future ministry of the Diocese, particularly outlined by the new "Vision Quest 2015" proposals. Opportunity was provided for the

See James Bay, p. 4

Licensed to Pray

*Article by Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston,
Bishop of Moosonee*

OVER the weekend of March 4-6, some 42 Lay Readers of the southern Moosonee deaneries of Cochrane and Kenogami gathered at St. Matthew's & St. Paul's Church in Hearst. The planning for such a training event started last fall when it was realized that the Lay Readers had not met together in some years (some who were present indicated since 1991). We hoped for 20-25 to register so we were thrilled when twice that many showed up. Dr. John Hurd, retired from Trinity College, Toronto and Bishop Bill Hockin, retired Bishop of Fredericton provided excellent teachings on the New Testament and preaching and David MacDonald of Thornloe University provided updated materials on studies available for Lay Readers. The participants spent the weekend working hard, enjoying fellowship, worshipping together and enjoying the wonderful hospitality of the host parish. The decision was unanimous that arrangements be made to bring the Lay Readers together again, sooner than later!

Layreaders' Weekend

Article by Susan Villeneuve

DURING the Layreaders' Weekend of March 4-6, I received two very precious gifts – the gift of knowledge and the gift of inspiration. Among other things, we were all treated to lectures by the Reverend Prof. John C. Hurd who challenged us to think of old scriptures in a new way. David MacDonald from Thornloe University provided us with possible course pathways and Bishop Bill Hockin led us step by step through the development of a great sermon. The best part was being surrounded by people who were openly passionate about their love for Christ and their dedication to His church.



Bishop's Message

Chisasibi Visit

AS I WRITE this message I am visiting in our northern most parish of Chisasibi. In the southern part of Canada this weekend there are snowstorms; winter's last blast. Here in this northern parish it's been very spring-like. Oh, there are still mountains of snow, but it's melting all around. Even the mud that comes through is a sign of new life. Spring will soon be here, even as the Lenten season will soon give way to Easter...the ultimate in the celebration of new life. By the time you read this, Easter will have passed and those signs of new life will be in full bloom and we will be excitedly looking forward to the warmth and relaxation that will soon be upon us. We have a beautiful church building here in Chisasibi...clean, modern, filled with light from large windows. One of the delightful things that the congregation has done here, which I have seen in some of our other northern parishes, is tastefully posted a few hundred photos of their history on the church walls. There are photos of clergy, former and present (we have 5 priests and 2 deacons in this parish), photos of former leading members and highly honoured Catechists, various pictures of the



Bishop Tom Corston and the Clergy and Lay Readers of the James Bay Deanery

old churches that housed the congregations here since the 19th century, photos of the old Residential School with their students and staff. I even found a few photographs with myself in them of many years ago that no one would recognize today! It is obvious that this congregation is proud of their history (which I share in that my grandmother was born here and baptized in the first church).

There is so much rich history in our Diocese of Moosonee. Chisasibi is just one example of the missionary efforts and have been undertaken in this Diocese that has left us with such a rich and enduring tapestry. History, however, is not really static. Whether we appreciate it or not, we are always making history. What we accomplish today is history tomorrow. The Diocese of Moosonee is about to make history yet again. As I write, our upcoming Synod has not

yet taken place but will have passed by the time you read this. To be sure it will be a momentous experience in our history. The "Vision Quest 2015 Task Force's" envisioning of the future of the Church in Moosonee Diocese will have been accepted. To some the process to get to that point might be difficult and fraught with fear. Hopefully, the Synod will have concluded having decided upon a direction that will bring the possibility of new life. Like the birthing of all new life, it will take time and might not be pain-free but, ultimately, we will realize new and stronger Church. And, one day someone will look at photos of this day when Moosonee made a momentous decision to assure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ "is the same, yesterday, today and forever."

Article by Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

Appointment Made

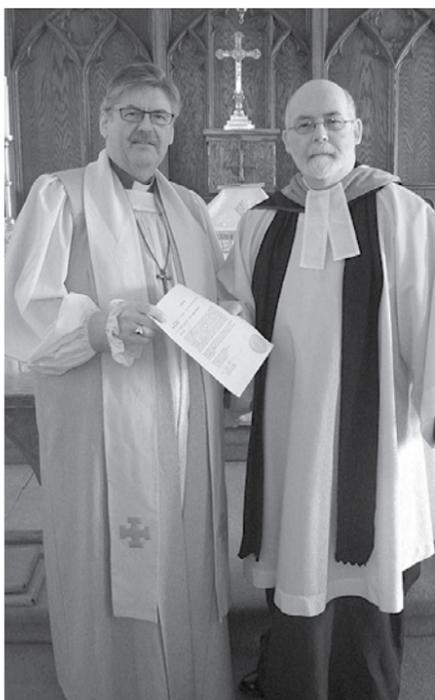
IAM PLEASED to announce the appointment of the Rev. Gregory Charles Gilson as the Rector of the new combined parishes of St. Matthew's Cathedral and St. Paul's Church, South Porcupine, and Dean-designate of the Diocese of Moosonee, effective July 1st, 2011.

Fr. Gilson is presently the Rector of Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe in the Diocese of Caledonia, BC. He originates from south western Ontario and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Renison College, University of Waterloo, 1981, and a Master of Divinity degree from Huron College, London, Ontario, 1985. He also holds a Doctor of Divinity degree from Ashfield Theological Seminary, Ashfield, Ohio, 2003.

Dr. Gilson was ordained in the Diocese of Huron and served 19 years in various parishes. In 2004, he became Rector of his present parish and was collated Archdeacon of Caledonia East. In 2003, he produced a book entitled, *Spiritual Development by Personality Type*.

Dr. Gilson has spent much of his ordained career helping congregations achieve growth and financial stability and has led congregations

See REV. GILSON, p. 3

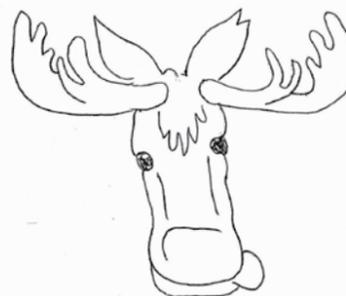


Bishop Tom Corston and the Venerable Dr. Harry Huskins

Executive Archdeacon Appointed

BISHOP CORSTON installed The Venerable Dr. Harry Huskins as the new Executive Archdeacon of Moosonee at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the beginning of the Executive Council meeting, 9 am, Thursday, March 24th (The Annunciation of the Lord) at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins. Archdeacon Huskins brings great experience into this new office. Presently he serves in that same capacity in the Diocese of Algoma on a 3/4 time basis. He will serve in our Diocese on a 1/4 time basis. He also serves as Executive Secretary to The Metropolitan, Arch-

bishop Colin Johnson and to the Ontario Provincial Council as well as Deputy Prolocutor of General Synod. Harry has recently earned his Doctorate in Canon Law. He is married to the Rev. Susan De-Gruchy a priest of the Diocese of Ontario.



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Nirmal Mendis, Ngai Scott, Nimna Mendis, Janaki Bandara, and Anusha Mendis all enjoyed the visit and visitors to Moosonee

Moosonee Visit

From an article by Ngai Scott, written for the Hope network, THN

WE WERE accepted with warm hearts and hugs into the community, and blessed with opportunities to share in the Christmas spirit. In the basement of the church, we made pots of tea, had Bible study, and wrapped gifts until eyes were closing with tiredness. We shoveled snow, prepared for candlelight Lessons and Carols, and were feasted on love and turkey, moose meat, goose meat with trifle and ice cream for dessert. Anusha Mendis fed us in a manner fit for royalty, redefining the meaning of home away from home. We came as visitors, but we were accepted like family. We were taken on skidoo rides, and entrusted with



Moose Notes

personal stories and testimonials of faith. We arrived as brothers and sisters in Christ, and left feeling like we were truly leaving family behind. We left with so many lessons about

community to take back south with us, lessons about a community that lives together like family. With family, it is never "Good Bye"; rather it is "Take care until we meet again." We look forward with open hearts and a further invitation to the Holy Spirit, to continue to work through us in living the love of Christ with our family in Christ in Moose Factory and Moosonee. Thank you for inviting us to share in your celebrations.

We All Need More Prayers

Article by Richard Moore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane

WHEN ONE of your church's "pillars" is facing eleven hours on the operating table, with the prospect of having a heart literally in the hands of the surgeon, it is pretty likely that you'll want to pray for him or her. That's when you realize that there is a need for [at least] a parish structure – a solid organization – that facilitates group efforts at prayer. Having faced that situation this month and in addition heard concerns at the Annual meeting, our parish is now in the process of strengthening and formalizing its prayer resources. In addition to our worship-time prayers, and our individual commitments to prayer, we are establishing further initiatives to make us better pray-ers:

- Our church will now be open every Tuesday at lunchtime for those in our town who want some "sacred space" in which to

pray, meditate and reflect. One of our church leaders will be present for guidance and help, if that seems necessary.

- Additionally, another parish leader is organizing a "prayer chain" which can and will respond regularly and in emergencies, to needs expressed by parishioners and friends.
- Should it seem desirable, a prayer group, where all present pray together with specific intention, will be formed.

Our hope is that in time, the numbers will show our commitment to these preliminary efforts and thus our prayer lives will be enhanced. The lay leadership of Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane, offer guidance upon request to any interested parish. Contact is Rev. CJ Adams: 705-272-3261. Please leave a message and your call will be returned by a team member.



Rev. Gilson, continued from p. 2

that were on the verge of closure, to positions of sustained growth; spiritually, numerically, and in financial stability.

Greg is married to Valerie and they have one daughter, Anastasija, aged 13. Greg has two adult children from a previous marriage, Michael, aged 28 and Courtney, aged 26. The Gilsons will be living in St. Paul's rectory.

Article by Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

Hats On in Support of Cancer Patients and Parishioners!

THERE ARE many ways to support each other in our church families when any one of us goes through hardships. We give hugs and words of comfort. We bring food and take on extra duties. We pray for each other and we stay connected. St. Matthew's found a very practical way to accomplish this through the innovative planning of Rector's Warden, Susanne Mavor, and her sisters Judith Barkel and Jennifer Larose.



St. Matthew's Hats on Parade

On Sunday, March 13th, the Cathedral of St. Matthew organized a Hat Day in solidarity with parish members receiving chemo for can-

cer. The church was decorated with hats of every description at the end of each pew. There were old hats, new hats, working hats, flattering

hats and some just downright ugly hats. A small table at the front had some floral hat confections and a brightly decorated hat box was

placed to receive donations for the Oncology Department at Timmins District Hospital.

Can you imagine being the incumbent on Hat Sunday and gazing down at a congregation of hats from colourful summer straws to elephant ears? Also, others who came minus chapeau, were asked to don one of the available hats. As a fundraiser it was successful as nearly \$300 was presented to the Oncology Department at Timmins District Hospital. As a fun fellowship event, it was equally successful.

Article by Faythe Colbert





Moose Gallery



Susanne, Judith, and Jennifer all participated in St. Matthew's Hat Day



There was a great deal of harmony at the James Bay Deanery Great Chapter



The Regional Dean, Rev. Rod BrantFrancis lead the Bible study at the James Bay Great Chapter.



Laity Empowered

The Lay Readers' conference was held in Hearst to the satisfaction of one and all

Synod 2011, Updated

THE PLANNING committee continues to work on the details of Synod. Tasked with making arrangements for accommodations, transportation, worship services, translations and meals, the committee is continuing to work behind the scenes to ensure everyone who arrives at Synod is well taken care of, from getting a good night's sleep to being fed both spiritually and physically. There has been an overwhelming response to the request for help with the meals and donations towards coffee break snacks. We are pleased to say that all meals are being

prepared by volunteers in order to keep overall costs at a minimum.

"Moving on the Winds of Change," the theme of the 45th Synod, reminds us that the Holy Spirit is moving among us and guides our decisions. Worship services and quiet prayer rooms will reflect this theme and provide an opportunity for reflection on the discussions of the day.

May God bless this Synod and those who are attending and volunteering.

Article by Susanne Mavor

James Bay, continued from p. 1

delegates to ask their questions and make comments about the future of their ministries. The afternoon session was taken with more explanation of the Vision Quest's proposals in preparation for the upcoming Synod. The afternoon was filled with other presentations and time for singing and fellowship. The evening feast saw others from the host community join the delegates, including Waswanipi's band council Chief who brought greetings and told us that the community is thankful for the presence and leadership of the Anglican Church.

Sunday morning saw everyone back at St. Barnabas' church for the Eucharist. Bishop Corston presided and was assisted by a number of the clergy and people, with the lessons being read by the youth. The Rev. John Edmonds of Mistissini delivered a thought-provoking sermon on change and culture. During the service the Bishop blessed two new traditional sacred drums that

have been made for the parish in their decision to use them regularly in their worship. Following the dedication Parish Layreader Helen Ottereyes sang a moving drumsong.

Lunch and the deanery's afternoon session were held back at the Youth Centre. Various elections took place for positions in the Diocese. A spirited competition took place at the end of the sessions by the parishes of Moosonee and Mistissini as to which would host next year's meeting. By the time the decision was put to everyone, the promises of the Mistissini delegates that they would provide better oatmeal, bannock and baked beans won the day! All too soon the week-end came to an end with a hymn-sing, traditional feast and closing worship. In spite of the fact that we missed many friends, it was a good weekend of fellowship, business, and worship. The people of Waswanipi were the very best hosts.