

Where Do We Go Now?

Article by Right Reverend
Thomas Corston

IN THE AUTUMN edition of the *Northland* the Editor provided a goodly amount of news of the proceedings of last June's Diocesan Synod. It was a Synod that made an historic decision that will eventually make a huge change in the way our Church in this Diocese will be administered. It was a decision that did not come without a good deal of angst and frustration, but one that was made with prayer and professionalism and one that made me every proud of everyone who worked so hard to bring a new vision to our history.

The decision was made in the words of the following motion...

This Synod directs the Executive Council and the Officers of this Diocese to enter into discussion with the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario for the purpose of establishing a mission area consisting of all the present parishes of the Diocese of Moosonee; and that the Diocese of Moosonee be placed in suspension with its spiritual jurisdiction lying with the Metropolitan; and further recognizing the possibility of again making the Diocese of Moosonee functional...

I echo Fr. John Edmonds' impression produced on our website following the Synod:

I think Synod got it right. When the motion first surfaced, I was skeptical, because I thought it avoided the hard realities of fiscal insolvency. But, on second thought, I believe Synod faced into what we are about as a Church. It's all about relationships, this Church of God. Synod understood that. Organizations may come and go. The Body of Christ is always, and we're part of it. When Synod ended I knew we had made a bit of history.



Bishop Thomas Corston discusses the installation service with Dorothy Rogers

The Church is alive and well. We live in hope for the journey ahead.

So, as a result of the decision, where do we go now? On the surface it would appear that life in Moosonee Diocese continues as it has been but under the surface, our staff has been busy working to prepare to enact Synod's motion when the time comes for that to happen. Indeed, it has been a busy few weeks as there are certain deadlines that need to be followed and there is not a week that goes by without some telephone call or e-mail that sets out more of the required process. It is very much a priority on our weekly work schedule in the Synod office.

Since Synod, a draft edition of a "Transition Plan" has been created and is being worked through by members of our Diocesan "Vision Quest" Task Force, who were charged at Synod with the respon-

sibility of overseeing the process. To date, the Bishop and Archdeacon Harry Huskins have made verbal presentations to our partners in the larger church... The Primate, the Ontario House of Bishops, the Ontario Provincial Executive Council, the National House of Bishops and the Council of the North. All have been gracious in their support of our actions. Our Diocesan and Provincial Chancellors, the lawyers who assist us, have been consulted and have provided us with valuable advice and guidance. By the time you read this edition of the *Northland* our Diocesan Executive Council will have adopted the draft plan as the guide forward.

Legal matters need to be dealt with, including the need to incorporate the Diocese. Since our beginnings in the nineteenth century, the Bishop has been "Corporation Sole"...one of a very few Canadian

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A Dean for the Diocese

Article by George Cribbs, Editor

ST. MATTHEW'S Cathedral in Timmins was the site for a joyous occasion on the evening of Thursday, September 15th. The entire Diocese of Moosonee was blessed to have the Reverend Doctor Gregory Gilson installed as the Dean of the Diocese of Moosonee. Moreover, the blessing was doubled by the licencing of the Reverend Deirdre Roach as Honorary Assistant to the new Dean. This same service was used to have Reverend Gregory installed as the Rector of St. Matthews Cathedral and the rector of St. Paul's, South Porcupine. It is no wonder that Reverend Deirdre is needed as assistant – there are so many hats to be worn!

The service was carefully crafted to emphasize the fact that the two parishes of St. Matthews and St. Paul's would equally share in the benefits which Reverend Gregory and Reverend Deirdre will bring to them both and indeed to the entire diocese. The service employed the combined choirs of both parishes, as well as the active participation of the lay readers, the wardens and other leaders of the parishes.

The timing of the service allowed many of the diocesan clergy to be present and involved because this service was the culminating activity of the diocesan clericus. The homily was ably delivered by the Right Reverend Linda Nicholls who had been a participant in the clericus. The presider and celebrant was the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee. Reverend Gregory did stand out in the midst of the assembled clergy not only because of his pivotal role but also because he was adorned with superb vestments made for him by his loving spouse, Valerie Gilson.

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Bishops who retain that function. Executive Council, acting as the Synod (another decision that was made at Synod), will transfer by legal Canon that designation to the Diocese so that we will become "The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Moosonee". That will make the process canonically easier to move forward.

Another legal step that needs to be made is to create a new Canon that will help us to be in step with the Provincial Synod of Ontario's Canon that will eventually come into effect making us a "Missionary District."

Our Metropolitan, Archbishop Colin Johnson of the Diocese of Toronto, is most supportive and receptive of the eventual change. Prior to that, a detailed examination of our finances will need to be made with the assistance of the Finance and Property Committee and the Diocesan Chancellor. Eventually they, along with our other financial work, will be transferred to Toronto.

Once the final transfer takes place, provision will be made to assure that the new "Moosonee Mission Area" has one or even two "administrators" who will oversee that work for the Archbishop. As well, Episcopal oversight will be maintained by the appointment of an "Assistant Bishop" to the Archbishop responsible for the new mission area.

It might all appear a little confus-



Bishop Tom Corston and clergy from around the Diocese of Moosonee came together to take part in the installation of Reverend Greg Gilson as Dean of the Diocese and the elevation of Reverend Diardre Roach as his assistant.

ing to you at this point, but efforts will be made to provide every member of the Church in Moosonee with information. Both the Bishop, the Archdeacon, and members of the Vision Quest Task Force will be making arrangements to visit your parish to explain the process. Those visits will be made this winter in advance of our spring meeting of the Executive Council. The topic will also be a priority at each meeting of the Deaneries.

The final presentation and request will be made to the meeting of the Ontario Provincial Synod to be held next October in Kingston. It will all be ratified at the next gathering of our national Synod in June of 2013.

Two things we need to remember. While all of this work takes place and the requests are made, it will not take effect until we make

the decision ourselves. The Bishop will effect that decision when he decides it is time to step down and retire. Even then, the final decision to move will come from the Moosonee Synod.

As well, you should not see any of the above in your local parish ministry. Your parish ministry will continue as always. Indeed, while there are some areas in our Diocesan family where there are difficulties, life abounds across the Diocese in a number of ways. There are candidates for ministry coming forward and the hope is that all parishes will be staffed by mid-2012. Innovative and exciting endeavours are happening in a number of our communities. Let us all move forward to see that life abounds in our own congregation. Be of good courage, hold fast to the faith, for this is Christ's Church and we are His people. *Laus Deo!*

St. Matthews and St. Paul's have embarked upon, what is for them, an unprecedented experiment in sharing. It is, of course, an old Christian concept but one that needs to be used anew. This sharing has obvious financial benefits for both parishes; it will also bring about an increased awareness of each other and many opportunities for co-operation. Reverend Deirdre and Reverend Gregory are entering into a team ministry which will bring rich spiritual benefits to the people of their communities just as the people of St. Matthew's and St. Paul's are entering into a time of mutual support.



Reverend Gregory Gilson accepted congratulations from Annie Fairies, and many others, after the service.



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Reflective Moose

A Christmas Tale by Reverend Greg Gilson

THERE IS A STORY told every year at this time. It is a story that has forever changed the relationship between God and his creation. It is the story of the birth of Christ, the Messiah of God.

It is a story of wise men, and angels, of shepherds and prophets, of God made human, and those who come to know that this was a unique act of God. He entered his creation in a way that opens to us the gates of heaven. The Christmas story is shared with the whole world; but owned by Christians alone. It is the story of God's abiding Love for his creation; a story without parallel in history—your story.

Let me tell you again of the Love of God, though it is beyond the use of language to convey its fullness. For it is a story most fully told through the experience of the 'holy', that experience is harder and harder for us to have because we look for it in all the wrong places. We often look for God in the big and the noisy, much like the prophet when he re-discovered that God was not in the wind or the fire or the earthquake but rather in the silence and in the still small voice. We need to re-discover that the experience of God is in the ordinary, in the day to day, in our waking and in our resting. Take a few short minutes just to sit, **See Christmas Tale on p. 3**

Clowning Around



Bea and Bizzy (JL Chouette and Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake just buzzing around).

Article by Rev. Deborah Lonergan-Freake

I GREW UP in a pretty typical church environment, but that's not the reality of either the society or the church in which we live today. Yet there's a genuine thirst for spirituality and meaning, but many are unwilling or unable to discover living water within our churches. As a baptized disciple of Jesus, I feel compelled to find ways of reaching out to those beyond our church doors. Since coming to live in Hearst, I have noticed again and again that townspeople seem almost unaware of our Church's presence.

Although our small congregations are inviting and

welcoming, we can't wait for people to come to us. I've been aware of Clown Ministry for many years. The more I read and prayed about this type of ministry, the more I felt it was something I could do. I began to acquire the necessary props and allowed a Clown alter-ego to emerge. My Christian name, Deborah, means bee in Hebrew. My Clown is "Bizzy" and my puppet helper is "Bea".

I mentioned my thought of this new venture to Bishop Tom, probably secretly hoping he'd shut me down, but he was encouraging. That was it, I was committed.

I can relate to how Peter must have felt when he stepped out of the boat to walk on the water. I too felt doubt and fear, called beyond my

comfort zone to new ways of being involved in God's work in the world.

I began practising putting on the special makeup and costume and soon, Bizzy and Bea made their debut. Bizzy and Bea have turned up at various occasions this year, including blowing bubbles and chatting with children, as volunteers from our Church dipped ice cream cones. Bizzy and Bea tell Bible stories, and the occasional joke, blow soap bubbles and give away free balloons, stickers, stamps and glow sticks. Bizzy's helpers also provide welcome brochures, prayer cards, book marks to interested adults. One girl told me that she "likes it when Bizzy comes to Church."

Hopefully, we are planting seeds that will someday grow.

MOOSE NOTES



St. Chad's Legacy

PARTS OF ST. CHAD'S Church, Schumacher, live on in St. John's Foleyet. The large oak cross which hung behind the altar in St. Chad's now looks superb behind the altar at St. John's. The processional cross is mounted beside the altar rail and will be used during the bishop's visit. The message board now hangs outside the church, proclaiming the times of services to all who pass by. Moreover, the altar book from St. Chad's is being used at St. John's, Chapleau.



St. John the Baptist Church in Wemindji provides a new home for many of the furnishings from St. Chad's in Schumacher.

Most of the furnishings from St. Chad's were shipped to Wemindji in September. The altar, small pews, prayer desks and chairs all made their way from Schumacher to St. John the Baptist Church in Wemindji. This is not the first time that St. Chad's has helped their northern neighbours and fellow Anglicans. When the Diocesan Office was first

located in St. Chad's some furnishings were sent at that time. The special bond between the two parishes lives on. The good people of St. John the Baptist are most pleased to provide a new home for St. Chad's legacy.

Article by Reverend Iris Montague and the Diocesan Website.

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actually close your eyes and just breathe. Then hear again the story while you create around yourself a still small calm. Hear the story of your saviour's birth.

In the beginning was God, and God spoke creation into being. That creation has culminated in two things. The first is the act of love which is your creation and mine. For God loves you so much he spoke your creation. You are not an accident but rather a deliberate act of creation by the author of creation. For God carved you in the palm of his hand. He carved you, in you he created a partner in the dialogue of time, creation, and

love. You are singularly important and precious to God!

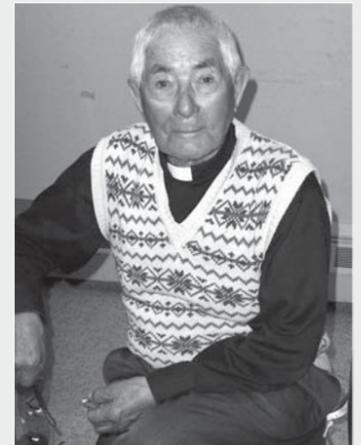
But the greater act of creation and God's love yet was the birth of his Son. The first act was because God loves you, me and all humanity. The second is because He loves you, me and all humanity and wants an eternal relationship with us. Through Christ, we are inheritors of His Kingdom, for all eternity. The profound impact of that love cannot be passed over quickly but takes time to have the effect upon our lives it should have. You are invited to spend all eternity in the presence of God! He wants to sit, talk, and share eternity with you his well beloved child, one He

created, redeemed, and sustained just because He loves you. That is the miracle of God's love, that is the extent of His love, that is the full extent of the why of God's sacrifice for you. God's creative act will end with our salvation achieved through our faith in the sacrifice of His only Son. That is the wonder, beauty, and truth of the Christmas story, your story.

We are the blessed because of God's great and abiding love for us. We are God's children because of Christmas. We are the inheritors of His Kingdom because of our response—faith in Christ.

Thanks be to God!

In Memoriam



Sam Hughboy
1916-2011

Sam's career in the church began in the 1960's. He was raised to the priesthood in 1975 and was appointed the incumbent at Eastmain where many of his family joined him and enjoyed a fulfilling ministry for 7 years. Sam retired in 1971 but continued to assist at services for many years and in 2008 he baptized his 2 great granddaughters.



Anne Ginn Peter Ginn
1919-2011 1914-2011

Peter and Anne Ginn were for many years excellent builders of their parish, St. John's, in Mathe-son. They served their church as Wardens and on diocesan committees. They were the mainstays of their community.

In Pace Requiescat





Moose Gallery



Reverend Deirdre Roach, Bishop Tom Corston, and Dean of the Diocese, Reverend Greg Gilson at the installation service held at St. Matthew's.



Reverend Valerie Issac, Reverend Edna Murdy and Bishop Tom Corston enjoyed a light moment at the Diocesan Clericus held in September.



Diane Nicholls and Dorothy Rogers let everyone eat cake at St. Paul's Centennial Supper.



A new church building in the Diocese! St. Stephen's Church Centre, in Constance Lake, was consecrated on October 29th by Bishop Thomas Corston.



Terry Murray, Reverend Greg Gilson, Catharine Cribbs, Valerie Gilson, and George Cribbs—all of St. Paul's, joined Lion Don Gillespie to clean Highway 101 between St. Matthew's in Timmins and St. Paul's in South Porcupine.

Not the Last Supper

Article by George Cribbs, Editor

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN Church in South Porcupine celebrated its 100th year anniversary on Friday, September 23rd. A parish dinner was held at the South Porcupine Legion and over 100 people from the community and parish attended this event. The Bishop of Moosonee, the Right Reverend Tom Corston, gave the key note address and Reverend Jeanette Lewis, a former rector of the parish, also spoke to the people who had gathered to honour those who had served the church and community of South Porcupine over the last 100 years. It was a time of good food, good fellowship, good cheer, and

good memories. On the Sunday following the dinner, the bishop celebrated the Eucharist with the people of St. Paul's and blessed the church anew as it begins its second century of ministry to the people of South Porcupine. As part of this special service, a young man was confirmed and a tree, which was a gift from the Porcupine Horticultural Society in honour of St. Paul's centennial, was dedicated. The parish provided a wonderful luncheon for everyone following the church service. This excellent weekend in the life of St. Paul's addressed the social, dietary, and spiritual needs of those who had the good fortune to attend.



Reverend Greg Gilson received a plaque from Tom Laughren, the Mayor of Timmins, honouring St. Paul's for its century of service to the people.

