

NORTHLAND

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Active Anglican Women

Article by Anne Dyas, Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane

THE FOCUS OF THE 46TH Annual Meeting of ACW branches in the Diocese of Moosonee, which was hosted by St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins, was the Five Marks Mission.

Dean Greg Gilson addressed "Proclaim the Good News" and 'to respond to human need by loving service.' Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis spoke on 'teaching, baptizing, and nurturing new believers.' Reverend Edna Murdy conducted a short workshop in identifying and transforming 'unjust structures of our society' and Mrs. Valerie Gilson, a renewable energy expert, gave examples of how to care of God's creation and reasons for doing so.

Annual elections were conducted by Bishop Tom Corston who, with his wife Ruth, the ACW Honourary President, attended every session and led the opening and closing Eucharist. There is no change in the executive: President is Edith Belair; Past President is Eva Lazarus; Secretary is Anita Assad; and Treasurer is Patricia Lake.

Members returned home to work



Marion Maybee, St. Thomas, Moose Factory, learned more about the Diocese of Moosonee from the Anglican Church Women's Convention and the Northland.

on the challenge set each branch: to provide a new wardrobe of clothes for Hope Bear. Hope Bear will travel to Calgary for the Annual Meeting of Diocesan Presidents where costumes will be judged before the bears return home. Hope Bear is a project of the Anglican Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of each bear

and Hope Bear books go to the Kids Helping Kids Trust Fund and will enable kids to attend camp, access counselling and supportive health care, attend wheelchair accessible church and provide resources for learning and spiritual formation.

"God be with you 'til we meet again."



Bishop Tom Corston met with the Anglican Church Women at their conference in St. Matthew's Cathedral.

New Chapters

Article by the Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake

IN MARCH, I JOINED Bishop Tom Corston, Archdeacon Harry Huskins and delegates from Moosonee, Moose Factory in Timmins for the long, snowy bus ride to Mistissini, Quebec. There we were welcomed by the people of St. John the Evangelist Church and the Reverend Elizabeth Sipos, and delegates who had driven to Mistissini from parishes scattered throughout the James Bay territory. What joy and laughter as people greeted friends and relatives! We were joined by Bishop Dennis Drainville of our partner diocese, Quebec. Throughout the weekend, the delegates tackled subjects such as the Diocesan Transition Plan, our future as a diocese, and matters particular to James Bay. All of the work was encompassed in a prayerful atmosphere set by Regional Dean, the Reverend Captain Rod BrantFrancis, who also saw to it that there was lots of laughter, sharing, and wonderful singing. It was a pleasure for all of us to join with the people of St. John's, Mistissini in the Service of Celebration of New Ministry with the Reverend Elizabeth Sipos.

The next meeting was that of the Deanery of Kenogami, held early in May at St. Mark's Church, Kapuskasing. The agenda set by Regional Dean, the Reverend Hal Graham, for the Friday evening and Saturday meeting was organized around the Marks of Mission, which was explained by the Reverend Edna Murdy. Discussions were held on topics related to the Marks of Mission and the Diocesan Transition Plan. Delegates participated in the beginning of a visioning process. Those gathered unanimously approved a motion to amalgamate Kenogami and Cochrane Deaneries into the Watershed Deanery as of June 1st, 2012.

A week later, I found myself at St. Paul's Church, South Porcupine, for the Cochrane Deanery Great Chapter led by the Dean of Moosonee,

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Bishop Tom Corston and the delegates to the Cochrane Great Chapter held at St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

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 the Reverend Greg Gilson. The entire day was set in the context of the Eucharist. Topics similar to those raised in the other deaneries were discussed; the motion to approve the formation of the new Watershed Deanery was passed.

As I reflect upon my experiences in the three Great Chapter meetings, I am impressed and encouraged by the strong faith, the love of God and God's people which was evident in each part of this diocese. There is a bond of love which runs throughout this vast and diverse part of the North and draws its peoples into one family. Together, we are seeking the guidance of God's Spirit in overcoming the challenges we face while exploring new ways of being Church.

Bishop's Letter

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee.

AS I WRITE I HAVE just observed my second anniversary as Bishop. In one sense these two years have passed like a blink of the eye, but it has been a busy time. To be certain, it has involved a lot of driving and flying to visit our congregations. The huge joy for me has been getting to know many in our congregations and to share in worship, discussion, planning and visioning.

On a diocesan level, it has been two years of change as we have dealt with a realistic goal for our future. At this point, much of our original "Vision 2015" transition plan has been accomplished. While some would look upon our actions with a jaundiced view and, to be true, not everything we have had

to do has been easy, most of us see our restructuring as realistic as well as being a positive move forward to ensure our mission and ministry into the future.

A few weeks ago I attended a meeting in the Diocese that brought me up short in my attempt to be positive. Discussion at the meeting went on far too long on a negative and depressing note. Unfortunately, without many of the participants even realizing it, the majority spoke of death and dying in the local congregation. It was disheartening.

It is true that some of our congregations are struggling to keep their doors open. We have done much to assure congregations of ongoing ministry, albeit a restructured form of ministry with our few clergy travelling more kilometres to provide sacraments and leadership. Our program of raising up local leaders for possible ordination

is beginning to see positive results as some are stepping forward. We are working towards the creation of a new mission statement that will direct our future path. I can list a number of items but I recognize that as positive as much might be, in some cases it is difficult. It is hard to stay positive when you attend worship with a mere handful in a building originally built to accommodate a hundred!

But, all of us need to remind ourselves of our first calling as the community of believers - even a small community - that our task is to be witnesses to the blessings that God has been providing us. We cannot be a witness if all we do is wring our hands and speak of death. In most cases that will mean that we need to wrestle ourselves out of our deep-seated pew and try new ways to be effective in the community. One of the biggest excuses I hear is that "we are too old

to change", and yet change is what is vital. Yes, it takes effort. Even if we are a remnant of the former congregation, our focus needs to be firmly focussed on mission and ministry in Moosonee. God is good and we are blessed, even in the little things. Carry on...be faithful...serve the Lord in spite of the difficulties, and we will be blessed in this Diocese. "Love one another... Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." (Romans 12:10-11)

Yours in this ministry we share...



Passionate Moose

Are You Passionate?

by the Reverend Edna Murdy,
 Holy Trinity Parish

TODAY, WE SEE SO many signs around us of people who are passionate about something. There are the literal signs on people's lawns in North Eastern Ontario showing their passion about the railway. I see physical signs of passion by the many gardeners in our community as they are digging, weeding, landscaping, painting, renovating their homes and gardens - working to enhance God's creation to make a space where they can find peace and serenity on a warm summer's day. I experience signs of compassion as family and friends comfort

and uphold a loved one as they are going through some difficult time in their lives. And in this Diocese of Moosonee I am excited about the many parishes who are passionate about remaining together as a diocese, as one family, as we are heading into a time of transition of becoming a Mission Area of the Diocese of Toronto in our future. But it isn't often that I find passion of spreading the Good News of the Kingdom being expressed, shown, or lived. I feel deeply the faith of all of us as we allow God to guide and strengthen us for our journey
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Reverend Edna Murdy, Bishop Tom Corston, Reverend Elizabeth Sipos, Mr. and Mrs. Sipos all joyfully participated in the ordination service.

Ordination in Mistissini

Article by Layreader, Allsion Cline-Dean, Sudbury

THE EVENING OF SATURDAY 9 June (the feast day of St. Columba) was a lovely evening for the ordination to the priesthood of The Rev. Elizabeth Sipos at the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Mistissini, Quebec. Parishioners joined with family members, friends, clergy, and visitors to rejoice in this next step in Elizabeth's ministry. Some people drove 10 to 15 hours one way from various parts of the Dioceses of Moosonee and Algoma to attend the service.

It was a heart-warming and joyful celebration conducted by The Rt. Rev. Thomas Corston with the assistance of various clergy and parishioners. After the processional hymn, Bishop Tom invited Elizabeth to introduce the family and friends who were in attendance which she did with much joy.

All the hymns were sung in Cree

accompanied by guitarist Lloyd Cheechoo. The Old Testament and Epistle readings were read in English by Dinah Snowboy and Irene Otter respectively. The psalm was said in whatever language a person was comfortable, and the Gospel read in Cree by Canon Jacob Sealhunter (who travelled 11 hours from Chisasibi to attend the service). The Rev. Canon Clifford Dee preached with his sermon translated by Mary Ruth Georgekish. He focused on the similarities of ministry between St. Columba and Elizabeth – adapting to different cultures and languages whilst proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and inviting people to open their hearts and minds to Christ's teachings. Fr. Dee also said that it was important that Elizabeth receive and feel the support of the parishioners of Mistissini during her ministry.

Elizabeth was presented for
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through life in this world and into our new life with Christ in his kingdom. This is something we as Anglicans are good at, allowing God to lead, but not as willing to express our passion of the reality for us by living it in such a way that others catch the fire and seek what we have.

As we remember the Day of Pentacost - the day the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles and filled them with PASSION for the

good news of Christ - we perhaps should also remember the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentacost - a time when Jesus continued to teach, to console, to encourage them to be patient until he sent the Holy Spirit to them. They obeyed. They met quietly, went to the Temple each day and spent time in prayer, and waited. On the Day of Pentacost, when the Holy Spirit filled them, waiting was no longer an option. Their passion to share this good news of the kingdom, this good news of eternal life

Martha's Kitchen

*Article by Catharine Cribbs,
St. Paul's, South Porcupine*

A NEW PROJECT IS in the works downstairs at St. Paul's in South Porcupine. The Marthas of the parish are starting a small business: the first community kitchen in the region, for rent to small food businesses, groups, and individuals.

Incentive for this project came when a young woman approached Select Vestry asking to rent the church kitchen to start her own baking business. We knew that our kitchen, while well equipped, would not meet current health and safety codes. Co-incidentally, we heard about the possibility of financing from the Timmins Venture Centre's Local Initiatives Fund which aids small business projects.

Bolstered by the enthusiastic support of the many Marthas - both male and female - who work in our church kitchen, and with the dream of a modern community kitchen firmly planted in our brains, four of us took on the task of making this kitchen a reality.

After receiving approval from: Select Vestry, Bishop Tom, and our insurance provider, we set out to find what was needed for a state of the art kitchen. We invited inspections from: a Public Health officer, a Fire Marshall, and an electrician. We had contractors in to provide quotes.

Armed with facts, we tackled the Venture Centre grant application. We were most fortunate to have the expertise of Valerie Gilson (our rector's wife) who worded our dreams into a strongly crafted business plan. Personnel at the Timmins Economic Development Corporation helped us to organize a realistic budget.



Martha Moose

Our proposal was submitted to the Venture Centre. How long can four Marthas hold their breath? In short order, we received the news that we would be given a grant of \$5,000 to get our community kitchen up and running! We now have an additional \$3,500 from private donors.

The old church kitchen is quickly becoming the new church kitchen. Martha's Kitchen will provide a small income to St. Paul's. Martha's Kitchen will help small, local food businesses to flourish. Moreover, Martha's Kitchen will allow St. Paul's to take a more active role in the community.

If you might be considering a similar project, have a look at the Martha's Kitchen business plan posted on the Diocesan website. The Local Initiatives Fund grant application is posted on the Community Futures Development Corporation's website. This grant ends in March, 2013.

with Christ, was so inspired and enlivened within them they could no longer simply sit and talk about it amongst themselves, but had to leave all thoughts of safety and comfort and head into the world, speaking languages they never knew before, going places they would never have gone without the Spirit's strength and guidance, and look, we are here now, believing, living in and with Christ!

But has the passion diminished?
Are we - you and I - truly pas-

sionate about peace, about love, about eternal life? Are we passionate about restoring our world to the safe, nourishing place our God created it to be? Are we passionate about coming together in our various churches at least once a week to sing praises to our God, to pray for each other and this world, and to go forth after the service to love and serve God with passion? May we all think about the many things we are passionate about and then make a decision to place God and Gospel at the top of the list.





Moose Gallery



Bishop Tom Corston visited St. Paul's in June.



The 2012 Graduating Class from the Diocese of Moosonee's School of Ministry in Wemindjii, Quebec.



The Reverend Elizabeth Sipos was well supported by the Diocesan Clergy and Lay Readers at her ordination in Mistissini.

Ordination continued from p. 3 ordination by The Rev. Glen Miller of Christ Church, Lively (Diocese of Algoma), where Elizabeth had worked as a Pastoral Assistant, The Rev. Canon Captain Rod BrantFrancis (Parish of Wemindji and Regional Dean of James Bay), The Rev. Canon Clifford Dee and parishioner Karen Trapper. The litany was led by The Rev. Lisa BrantFrancis. Following the laying on of hands by Bishop Tom and all the clergy present, Eucharist was celebrated with Bishop Tom presiding and Elizabeth assisting. At the end of the service, Elizabeth's parents, Mike

and Mary Sipos, presented a beautiful quilt, which Mary had made, to the parish in thanksgiving for welcoming Elizabeth and providing a starting point for her ministry.

Following the service, a reception was held in the parish hall. The ladies of St. John's announced that a special stole was being created for Elizabeth which was not quite finished and would be given to her at a later date. It was a good start to Elizabeth's ministry as priest which saw her present to Bishop Tom 12 candidates for confirmation the next morning.

New Housing

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

THE COMMUNITIES of Eastmain and Wemindjii, on James Bay's east coast are both the recipients of new housing for the Anglican clergy, thanks to the generosity of the Cree Nations.

In Eastmain, in advance of the new incumbent, the Cree Nation of Eastmain agreed to provide a modular home as their rectory. The new home is brand new, complete with three bedrooms, large dining room, kitchen and living room. It has also been fully furnished with much of the furniture and other items that were situated in the small apartment that had been previously used at the rear of St. Mark's Church. The construction company that is presently contracted to the Eastmain band Council did the work of siting and installing the new home, next door to the church. The congregation had a work day and moved items from the old apartment into the house.

In Wemindjii, a beautiful new home is almost complete and it will replace the present Rectory. The new home, also provided to the Church by the Cree Nation of Wemidjii, is situated next door to the recently enlarged Church of St. John the Baptist. The old rectory, which has been used for the past 30 plus years, will eventually be dismantled and the land used as a parking lot for the congregation. The handsome new house will include a large living room/dining room and modern kitchen. The basement of the house will include a family room, bedrooms and laundry room. It is hoped that the new Rectory will be ready for occupancy very soon.

The Diocese of Moosonee is indebted to the Band Councils of Eastmain and Wemindjii for their generosity in the provision of adequate housing for our clergy in these communities.-

School of Ministry

Article by the Reverend Cliff Dee, Waswanipi

THE 2012 MOOSONEE School of Ministry was held on July 2nd - 6th, at St. John the Baptist, in Wemindjii, Quebec. The School of Ministry is an annual one week event which provides training for lay and ordained ministers who serve in the Cree communities of the Diocese.

This year the school was attended by 12 students. Five came from Kashechewan, four from Moose Factory, two from Waskaganish, and one from Wemindjii. Most were Lay Readers or training to be Lay Readers; one is a priest.

The school began with a Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Canon Rod BrantFrancis of the hosting Wemindjii parish. Norm Wesley of Moose Factory was the preacher. In his sermon, he got us thinking about 3 questions - which were to be addressed in the sessions Norm would lead: Who am I? Where have I come from? Where am I going?



Wemindjii's new Rectory.

Each morning began with worship and then we went into Bible Study groups. Each of the 3 Bible Study groups worked in a different language: Moose-Albany Cree, northern Quebec Cree, or English.

The second part of the morning sessions was a course led by Norm Wesley entitled, 'Being Cree and Christian.' The afternoon sessions were led by Charles Meeks, a doctoral student at Wycliffe College, Toronto, in which we looked at some of the writings of the early church fathers who were the generations of leaders after the apostles.

