

# NORTHLAND

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## OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

*The Diocese of Moosonee – called by God to live and proclaim the Gospel*



*Diocesan Bishop, Thomas Corston, Bishop Philip Poole, Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Toronto, and Archdeacon Harry Huskins attended the 2013 Clericus for the Diocese of Moosonee along with the diocesan clergy and many lay readers.*

## Clericus 2013 Moosonee Style

*Article by Richard Moore, Lay Reader, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.*

**T**HE DIOCESAN clergy of Moosonee and some guests met at Camp Bickle in the second week of September, to be guided by their Bishop, to pray together, to plan, to listen to the sages of the Church, and to share Christian fellowship. It was an amazing week.

And it was a busy week! Monday and Friday were half-days, to allow for necessary travel, but the three days in between were fourteen working hours long, filled with learning, prayer (up to nine times a day), and inspiration. The breaks that were scheduled for reflection were well appreciated, as were the social gatherings in the evenings. The main focus of clericus was to learn from two challenging and inspirational speakers, and to hear from our own Bishop. However, a discussion of the Living Stones program, in which the Diocese will be taking a learning role this year, and clergy 'sharing circles', served as change-of-pace activities. Parishes and problems were examined and analysed in the discussion circles, and the aims and process of Living Stones, which is designed to assist dioceses like us who are in transition, were explained.

Bishop Philip Poole, Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Toronto, presented a series of sessions on stewardship, from the perspectives of a parishioner, a missionary to South Africa, and from his broad knowledge as a parish priest. His lively, excited humour, and his heartrending anecdotes from his experience in the Third World, kept his listeners enthralled. Bishop Poole challenged us to truly examine our consciences and change attitudes, moving from living with an attitude of scarcity to that of one of abundance, and moving from the 'house of fear' to the 'house of God.' Having worked with us for two days, he, and Karin, his wife, traveled to Moose Factory, adding a northern element to his experience.

The second half of the week was led by Archbishop Michael Peers, former Primate of the Anglican Church in Canada. His teaching style is reminiscent of a Celtic 'seanchaidh' or a Cree elder, seated with his disciples around him, quietly recounting tales from his vast experience. His topic, "Living in Ministry" was set in the theme of the duality of our human existence (i.e. speaking and listening, accumulation

and loss, giving and receiving, calling and choosing, praying and working, being and doing). The pearls that His Grace dispensed inspired penetrating reflection. It was heartening to note that the Christian experience, uniquely, went beyond the duality of our nature to encompass the tri-unity of life, death, and life. The utter silence in the room as he spoke, and the concentrated intent postures of his listeners, testified to the effectiveness of his lessons.

The third facilitator for the week was our Chaplain, Ed, as he asked us to call him. The Reverend Ed Trevors is a young, Nova Scotian priest, a husband, and father, a craft-beer sophisticate, and a joyful disciple of Christ. Originally 'from the Miramichi' (which is like us saying 'proud to be a Northerner'), he was once Bishop Tom's senior server, and then a professional engineer. He will tell you that God brought him to the priesthood, with help from Bishop Tom. His openness and stories and lessons, in groups and with us as individuals, touched hearts and souls, and reminded us all of our missions.

Refreshed and revitalized by our Clericus, continued on page 2

## St. Matthew's 100 Years Young

*Article by Susanne Mavor, Warden, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins.*

**O**N SUNDAY, November 16th, 1913, the first service was held at the new Anglican Church of St. Matthew in Timmins. The service was conducted by a theological student whose study and living quarters were in the basement of the church. The rectory was built in 1915 and in December of that year, the first rector, Reverend J. Douglas Patterson, was installed by Archbishop Anderson. On May 7th, 1916, three years after its first service and with all debts paid, the Archbishop officially consecrated St. Matthew's Church. In 1961, after many years and numerous renovations to the worship area and the church hall, the parish became the Cathedral Church of St. Matthew.

This year, the parish of St. Matthew's Cathedral decided to hold several events in celebration of its 100th anniversary in Timmins. The first of such events was a Mediterranean dinner in January. St. Paul, aka Reverend Greg Gilson, was even seen wandering among the tables! Of course, Shrove Tuesday is never complete without a pancake supper in the parish hall and in May we held a pasta supper. In June, we had our first ever wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres night which we are hoping to make an annual event. A centennial book, *Mana Fest*, is also being published this fall and plans are underway for a turkey dinner in November.

Centennial celebrations were held on the weekend of September 21st. An open house on Saturday afternoon allowed parishioners past and present to reminisce about their time at St. Matthew's. That evening, an anniversary banquet and dance were held at the Day's Inn Ballroom. As we listened to the musical styling of pianist Steve Kessler, we welcomed our guests and former



parishioners, some of whom travelled great distances to be with us. The master of ceremonies for the evening was long time parishioner W. Peter Colbert and the saying of Grace was done by Dean Greg Gilson. Following a delicious buffet supper, our guest speaker, Bishop Dennis Drainville of the Diocese of Quebec, provided us with not only words of wisdom but also humour as well. In addition, Bishop Tom Corston reminisced about his time as a curate at the Cathedral and his time in the Diocese while Archbishop Colin Johnson passed on greetings from the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. Lastly, Mayor Tom Laughren presented a certificate of congratulations to the wardens on behalf of the residents of the City of Timmins. The evening was concluded with lively dancing to the melodious serenades of the Timmins All Star Band.

A special service of praise and thanksgiving was held on Sunday, September 22nd. To assist in the music we were joined by the Fifth Avenue Strings and the choir of St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine. Our guest preacher, Archbishop Colin Johnson, wisely reminded us to reflect on the past; to reflect and to remember

but not to live in the past, and to use the past to move forward into the future. Afterwards, Bishop Tom Corston dedicated a beautiful Spirit frontal, burse, veil, and hangings created by Valerie Gilson that were commissioned to commemorate the centenary and the wardens received a certificate of congratulations on behalf of the Primate. Lastly, a reception and the Anglican tradition of 'Sherry on the Lawn' followed the service.



Clericus, continued from page 1

week, but with a sense that we wanted it to go on just a little longer, the participants left Camp Bickell and colleagues on Friday, better prepared to face the challenges of the new church year, and thankful for the gifts that Clericus and its mentors had brought to them.



Bishop Denis Drainville, Archbishop Colin Johnson, and Bishop Tom Corston presented a certificate of congratulations from the Primate to St. Matthew's Warden Susanne Mavor.



St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins has been made even more beautiful with the addition of a Spirit frontal, burse, veil and hangings made by Valerie Gilson.



Canon Harry Huskins and Bishop Tom Corston relaxed after the collation service at St. Paul's.

## Bishop's Message

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

**D**EAR FRIENDS, near the end of the last war, European industrialist, Oskar Schindler, had to flee the American forces who were pushing the German Army into defeat. In spite of the fact that he had saved hundreds of Jews from the holocaust, he had, nevertheless, served the Nazi regime. In the movie version, *Schindler's List*, in a poignant scene, as Schindler and his family embark on their escape, the people whom he had saved presented him with a gold ring,

made from their own teeth, engraved with the words from the Jewish Torah, "He who saves one soul saves the world." In that moment, Schindler emotionally ponders, "Could I have done more. Could I have saved just one more?"

While not quite so emotionally, the scene nevertheless comes to mind as I write this final letter to you as Bishop of Moosonee. I wonder, could I have done more?

For most of the past forty years, I have thoroughly enjoyed my ministry. I

have endeavoured primarily to share my love of Jesus Christ throughout. It's been a 'blast' as I look back and recognize that I have been led down paths and taken roads I would never have taken had I not known the Lord Jesus. I have met a whole lot of interesting and wonderful people along the way.

These past few years as Bishop have been among the most challenging of my life. The need to effect positive changes and restructure the Diocese to guarantee ongoing ministry was never

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Editor: George Cribbs  
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georgecribbs@yahoo.ca

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or mailed to:

Diocese of Moosonee  
c/o Administration Office,  
Box 735

113 Third Street,  
Cochrane, ON  
P0L 1C0

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## Christmas Moose

## 'Amazing Moosonee'

Article by Reverend Ed Trevors, Christ Church, Shelburne, Nova Scotia

**G**REETINGS AND love and blessings to the amazing people of the Diocese of Moosonee, my brothers and sisters in Christ.

My name is Ed Trevors and I am the Rector of Christ Church in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Recently, I was immensely blessed to spend a

week with many of the ministers of Moosonee during a retreat where we studied, prayed, mediated and shared in the Eucharist. I was there to serve as chaplain, but honestly, I feel I was the one who was cared for. I cannot tell you how much I learned from the stories and experiences those ministers, lay and clergy alike, shared with me. I heard so much about you, the people of the diocese,

how faithful and giving you are, how brave and strong, and how traditional and yet powerfully creative. Your testimony has and will continue to positively influence my ministry here in rural Nova Scotia.

I write to you today to share encouragement and praise and to ask you to continue walking this path that you've chosen, being a bright light to Anglicans everywhere.

See Amazing Moosonee on p. 3





*Bishop Tom Corston visited at the grave of a former student from Waswanipi.*

## Residential School Cemetery Restored at Chapleau

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

**M**ANY RESIDENTS OF Chapleau at the southern tip of the Diocese of Moosonee have lived their lives without even realizing that it was there. Those now elderly former students of the St. John's Residential School, located just outside town, never forgot the sacred place or their former schoolmates who were buried there. Thanks, however, to the Chief and Council of the Chapleau Cree First Nation and the encouragement of the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on a warm and sunny morning in mid-August, friends gathered on the site to remember.

The Diocese of Moosonee held within its borders three of the now infamous residential schools at Moose Factory, Fort George (Chisasibi), and Chapleau. Unlike the other two schools, Chapleau's institution was located outside the local community. Across a field from the school, a small cemetery was located where some of the young children, who had succumbed to illness and died, were buried. These children have been numbered with so many across Canada who were taken from their family, located in schools miles from home, who never returned.

Unlike the other communities where the schools were located, the Chapleau school had its own cemetery. In the

other communities, when a child died, she or he was buried in the local community cemetery. At Moose Factory's annual memorial service, community members decorate the child graves and stand in silent tribute. In Chapleau, after the school closed in 1947, the cemetery was neglected. In the early 1970's, a group of young people tried to restore the site but the local community, including the Indigenous communities in the area, would not provide oversight. In the last 65 years, the little burial ground became overgrown, and except to their families, the children were forgotten.

In the summer of 2013, with funding from various sources, the old cemetery was cleaned up; the old boundary of the site has been fenced in and graves marked with a granite marker. There are plans to erect a memorial cairn.

Bishop Tom Corston, a member of the Chapleau First Nation, was on hand to open the event in prayer and bless the site again. He was joined by the Chief of Chapleau Cree, Keeter Corston, Commissioner Marie Wilson of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and members of the local indigenous communities. The site is now a significant memorial and a reminder that this site is a sacred space.

**Amazing Moosonee cont. from p. 2**

Jesus tell us that to follow Him we must be willing to give up all that we are (Matthew 19:16-30); that we must love Him more than everything and everyone (Luke 14:26). This is the cost of discipleship - to put God first, ahead of our expectations, our anxieties, and our perceptions of self and community. When I heard about how you had decided to restructure your diocese in order to save it and the lengths to which you went, the sacrifices you made, I was amazed. It is

such a marvelous example of true discipleship. You came together to do what was right for the community even though the individual costs were massive. It is a great example to an Anglican Communion that is struggling to adjust to their surroundings which seem to be in states of perpetual flux. You set aside egos and traditional ways of doing things, and you stepped out into a model of ministry that few have ever seen - this is the edge that Jesus asked us to walk. This is where

Jesus empowers His Church to make real and significant changes in our communities. Thank you for your leadership.

There is an entire generation out there that has never heard Jesus' Gospel of mercy, hope, and eternal life; and this generation, perhaps, needs this message more than any other that has come before. At a meeting last night, my friend and colleague, Reverend Ian Wisser (Mahone Bay) spoke to the question of "Why would it matter if the Church disap-



*The Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Bishop Tom Corston, and the Reverend Phelan Scanlon all assisted the people of St. John's in the closing of their church.*

## St. John's Longlac Closes

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

**A** BITTERSWEET MOMENT came to the people of St. John's Church, Longlac on October 17th, when Bishop Corston presided at a final celebration of the Eucharist and then deconsecrated the building. Some fifty people attended the final service, joining the faithful remnant in saying goodbye to the building that had been so important in their lives. The Bishop was assisted by the regional Dean of Watershed Deanery, Fr. Phelan Scanlon, and Archdeacon-elect, Deborah Lonergan-Freake. Visitors and former members travelled from Geraldton, Nipigon and Thunder Bay. Members of the congregation shared in parts of the service and hosted everyone to a final reception at the end of the evening. The Bishop shared some of his own memories and thanked the remnant for their care of the church and for the hard decision they made.

The decision to close Longlac's Church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness was made by the small congregation who had seen the day coming over the past couple of years. In recent years, the local industries ceased operations in the area. Today, the community is economically depressed and for little St. John Church, the congregation dwindled to a faithful half-dozen. At a meeting with Bishop Corston in September, the congregation voted to close their church and put it and their property up for sale.

St. John's was opened in 1947 as an Interdenominational congregation. It served members of the Anglican, Presbyterian, and Lutheran faiths. In the 1970's, a Pentacostal congregation also used the building. On May 30th, 1948, Moosonee's fifth Bishop, Robert Renison, consecrated the building and dedicated it to St. John.

The first resident Anglican cleric in Longlac was the Reverend Tom Granger, who moved to Geraldton as a high school teacher where he remained until retirement. Three other Anglican priests resided in Longlac (one being Bishop Corston in his early ministry when he ministered to nine congregations in a 2500 square mile area) until the decision was made to pair Longlac and Geraldton in the 1990's. In the 1970's the Presbyterian Church withdrew their ministry and the Pentacostal community built their own church. By the 1980's the Lutheran Church also withdrew regular ministry. In the end only the Diocese of Moosonee provided regular ministry to the congregation. When the Reverend Hal Graham retired in July of this year, the decision was made to close.

As the forests in the area have become silent again, communities and congregations like Longlac's increasingly come to moments of hard decisions. Longlac's congregation will join that of St. James', Geraldton.

peared?" His answer struck me as both simple and profoundly fundamental. He said, "Without the Church there would be no voice to speak against the message of the world."

We Christians have an important job to do. We are to stand up against the negativity and hopelessness of messages that tell us what a 'good' life looks like; what wealth, happiness, and success look like. We are called to combat these fairy tale standards with the truth of Jesus Christ; to silence the

voices that demean and shame our people and communities into believing that they are inferior and to offer the freedom, love, and joy that God desires for all of us.

With your new footing and outlook, you are being called to continue to walk bravely into the future. You have leaned down to your fighting weight, and it is time to step into the ring. I pray you will continue to march boldly into the struggle and that we would be courageous and wise enough to follow.



# Honours & Farewells

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee



Canon Harry Huskins, Bishop Tom Corston and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake relaxed after the collation service.



Reverend Cliff Dee did not let the weather dampen his spirits at Clericus.



Lay Reader Richard Moore and the Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake took part in group work as part of their 14 hour long working days at Clericus, 2013.



Reverend Deidre Roach and Dean of the Diocese, the Very Reverend Greg Gilson enjoyed a tea break and a laugh at Clericus, 2013.



St. Matthew's Cathedral celebrated its 100th anniversary with a service that included: Dean of the Diocese, the Very Reverend Greg Gilson, the Reverend Deidre Roach, Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Thomas Corston & the Reverend Dr. Marilyn van Duffelen.



Bishop Tom Corston was surrounded by the faithful clergy of the Diocese of Moosonee in St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine during the collation service held there on November 5th.

Following a day-long workshop, the clergy and layreaders joined with the representatives of parishes across the Diocese and the local congregations for a liturgical celebration at St. Paul's Church, South Porcupine with Bishop Corston as Presider. The celebration included the 'collation' of two clergy into positions of Diocesan leadership.

The occasion was also the last time that the Bishop could be with all of the Diocesan clergy before his impending retirement. Using the occasion to bid his farewell, he shared a moving and stirring message in his sermon. In an unusual expression of thanks to the Diocese, Bishop Corston told everyone that while he asked that they would be blessed and cared for, he wanted for them "no peace." In his message, he spoke of the need for the Diocese to be restructured indicating that it was a surprise for him to discover the crisis situation when he became Bishop. He expressed gratitude for the assistance so many had provided as he believes they were guided by the Holy Spirit. He told the congregation that, while he was sorry to leave, he felt that it was the right time to step aside so that the new restructured configuration of the Diocese can move forward. The Bishop charged the congregation

to carry on as effective witnesses to assure that the Church in this part of the north "burns bright with new light." He ended his message repeating his wish that they have "no peace."

Following the sermon, the Bishop then collated Dr. Harry Huskins, our outgoing Archdeacon, as a new Canon of the Diocese. In doing so, he explained to the congregation that Harry had provided extensive assistance to the Diocese throughout the transition program, often behind the scenes, and making him a Canon was an expression of the thanks and respect the Bishop and the Diocese has for him.

The Bishop then installed the Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake as the new Archdeacon of Moosonee, explaining to the congregation that he was doing so in recognition of her new ministry as the Diocesan administrator following his retirement. He explained that Deborah is ideal for the new position as she has lived in the Diocese since 1979 and served in both the Church and secular fields.

Numerous presentations were made to: Canon Huskins, Canon Edna Murdy, and the Bishop. Ruth Corston shared some of her memories of her ministry with the Bishop and then presented him with a 'Honey-do' list and a blank journal for him to use.

## Message continued from page 2

something that I would have thought I would need to do. I first served in this Diocese when life was much different. But, I believe it has all been part of the grand call of God and by His leading and guidance what is being accomplished is a new way of doing ministry in these challenging days. Nevertheless, the question persists, 'could I have done more?'

Well, yes, I suppose there is more that could have been done. To be sure, in the restructured entity, I will continue to be involved after retirement. But, for now, I think I have done my best with the help of a dedicated staff and I am ready to step aside. The rest is up

to you. The evidence of our efforts will only be realized by you and your own continued faith and convictions. I pray that the Church in Moosonee will continue to witness to the life-changing and fulfilling message of Jesus Christ. Keep active in worshiping our Lord, and serving Him and His people with gladness. "The joy of the Lord is your strength!" (Nehemiah 8:10).

Ruth, Andrew and Stephen join me in expressing our thanks for your fellowship in this journey and in extending to you best wishes for a happy Christmas whose blessings will strengthen you in the years ahead.

Every blessing ... Thomas Corston

