

NORTHLAND

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OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

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



Who Has More Fun than Us?

Article by Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis, Wemindji, QC

With a fabulous setting like the Island of Moose Factory, and an invitation to 'Come to the River to be Women of Courage, Creativity, and Confidence in Christ,' how could we not have a beach theme as part of our get together?

To our theme, we added some music, tasty food, a storytelling speaker, the Rev. Deborah Lonergan-Freake, who used courage to dress up and share creative crafts. Along with a number of ladies that loved to dance and share their talents, we had a few prizes, a silent auction, a craft sale, a trip to the old St. Thomas Church, and a number of great discussions with friends old and new. One of those discussions being that the next gathering would occur in March, 2016, giving local groups more time to fund raise for the event.

We planned to meet on May 30th - June 1st, 2014, but most of us were

there until the afternoon of June 2nd due to the Heavenly Father's weather plan. The delay in departure was welcomed as we really were having fun being together, so we just continued the party in the Shaptuan (the long teepee) across from the Eco Lodge where many of us stayed. Our teepee tea party was extremely relaxing as we visited around the fire, cooking and sharing a lunch together, but all too soon, it was time to grab our bags and jump in the boats to head over to our departure transportation waiting in Moosonee.

Now we are back to our small groups encouraging ladies to join us as we grow together in Christ, sharing our talents with our communities and having fun together. Who are we? We are the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of Moosonee and we welcome you to join us.

For more information contact the Executive: The Reverend Lisa Brant-

Francis: President, 819-978-3140, Marion Maybee: Vice President, Moose Factory, Virginia Hester: Vice President, Moose Factory, Trudy Sailors: Treasurer, Moose Factory, Marjorie Mark: Secretary, Wemindji.



Tea Time in the Teepee for the ACW gathered together in Moose Factory.

Three Tales

Article by Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, Eastmain, QC



Redfern Mark-Stewart of Eastmain was one of the very first to celebrate the 40th birthday of the new church with a lovely piece of cake.

One year later thousands of acres around Eastmain have dead black trees stark against the sky reminding us of last year's fire. However, in many areas the gentle spring weather has resulted in a verdant green growth dotted with white flowers underneath those black trees, and glimpses of foxes, rabbits, ptarmigan, wolf, and moose enable us to wonder at the power of God's creation. Today, Eastmain has three stories to tell. The first is a celebration of faith among our young people. We welcomed to Eastmain, Archbishop Collin Johnson and Bishop Thomas Corston with their wives Ellen and Ruth respectively for our annual confirmation service. For the first time in many years, our young people were: servers, crucifer, acolytes and gift bearers during their confirmation service. It enriched both their experience and ours.

Our second story is about a birthday party. On a beautiful sunny afternoon in June, young and old gathered at the river to celebrate forty years in the 'new' church. Over forty years ago, St. Mark's Eastmain was a lovely little church beside the Eastmain River.

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Reverend Norm Wesley, Reverend Patricia Dorland, Bishop Tom Corston, Bishop of Saskatchewan, Michael Hawkins, and Reverend Larry Armstrong at the Ordination Service at St. Mark's, Kapuskasing.

Three Priests Ordained

Article by Bishop Tom Corston

The day, Friday, May 9th, was palpable with anticipation and nervous energy as friends started to gather at St. Mark's Church, Kapuskasing, for the ordination of three Diocesan Deacons to the Priesthood. Patricia Dorland, Larry Armstrong, and Norm Wesley had been preparing for the day over the past year. It was pleasing that Bishop Tom Corston could officiate at the ordination with the agreement of Archbishop Johnson as he had been the bishop who had overseen the raising up of all three persons.

Following a dinner filled with laughter, family and friends started to gather at the church. Each ordinand joined the procession with their presenters and took their places. Our guest preacher was the Right Reverend Michael Hawkins, Bishop of Saskatchewan and current Chair of the Council of the North.

Bishop Corston shared words of welcome and introduction inviting

each candidate to introduce their family and guests before he began the formal liturgy. During the service, Bishop Hawkins delivered an inspiring message during which he reminded the new priests that they were stepping into the life where Jesus not only walked but where Jesus is also very present. He shared the reality that when we read the Word, that Jesus is the Word and when we participate in the Eucharistic act that Jesus is the Bread and the Wine and that our ministry is Jesus' ministry and very life.

Following the sermon, the candidates were charged and examined by the Bishop and each made their declarations of faith and obedience witnessed by the congregation. Following a required time of prayer that included the always moving chanting of the Litany by Canon Edna Murdy who returned from her retirement for the service, the high moment of the 'laying-on-of-hands' began. Each ordinand knelt before the Bishop who was joined by all the priests present and the prayer beseeching the Holy Spirit to rest upon each for the ministry of priesthood was said. As each new priest was ordained they were vested in the priestly vestments and presented with a Bible and a Chalice

& Paten as the symbols of their ministry. It was a joyous and emotional moment as the new priests were presented to the congregation.

The new priests then concelebrated the Eucharist with Bishop Corston and shared in the administration of the elements to the gathering. At the conclusion of the celebration the Bishop presented each new priest with their Ordination certificate. The social gathering that followed the liturgy included good food and great conversation and laughter.

Each of the new priests is busy serving in their new ministries in our Diocese. Patricia Dorland who is the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese also serves part-time in her home parish of Cochrane as well as at St. Mark's Church, Iroquois Falls. The Rev. Larry Armstrong, following a year at Kashechewan begins a new ministry this summer in the Western Watershed parishes of Hearst, Hornepayne, Constance Lake and Geraldton/Longlac. The Rev. Norm Wesley serves in his home parish of St. Thomas' Church, Moose Factory and the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee. It is a blessing to the whole Church that these newest priests in the Church of God are committed to serving in the Moosonee Diocese. Laus Deo!

The Archbishop's Message

Article by Archbishop Colin Johnson



Archbishop Moose

In June, my wife, Ellen and I joined Bishop Tom and Ruth Corston for a week long visitation to the coastal parishes of Eastern James Bay. In Chisasibi, Bishop Tom and I confirmed 78 young people ably prepared by the Reverend Canon Jacob Sealhunter and Kathleen Kitty. What a glorious service it was in St. Philip's Church, still in the midst of final repairs after a fire last year. It was my second visit to Chisasibi but my first as Bishop of Moosonee and Ellen and I were warmly received. I have only once before presided at

such a large confirmation, and that was a multi-parish service.

Over the next few days, we confirmed another 53 people and baptised six children in Wemindji, Eastmain, and Wasaganish. Bishop Tom went on for more services in Val d'Or and Pikogan.

It was a week of firsts: watching geese roasting over an open fire in a teepee, a feast in a shabotawon, bannock on a stick, fresh sturgeon pan fried over a fire, a semi-circle of all the confirmands formed at the end of the service so that the whole congregation could shake their

hands to welcome them.

As I write this, I am returning home from a weekend at St. Thomas', Moose Factory, and the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee for more confirmations.

All these people making a commitment of their lives to Christ, what an inspiration! I'm not naive enough to think that all will follow through on their commitment but a good number will and it will be the task of the members of the church to encourage and support and call them back to the faith. Not once but over and over again.

The really important thing to remember is that this is **Message continued on page 4.**



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Loving All People

Article by Archdeacon Paul Feheley, Principal Secretary to the Primate.



Archdeacon Paul Feheley in Cochrane, ON.

I have had the joy of being in the Diocese of Moosonee many times over the years. I have grown to appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's grandeur in your part of creation, and also the difficulties of isolation and separation that great distances produce.

In my travels across the church in this country, a mission question continually seems to be asked: what can we do to help those who are alienated or who have never come to church to see, feel, and experience God in their lives?

Not so long ago I was talking with a person who said, "I left the church about 20 years ago." She paused, then said, "I didn't leave God, just the church." Her pain and frustration were very clear - it was members of the church who had caused her to leave. When I pursued the conversation, she talked about being judged by them. Her circumstances were difficult and people who proclaimed the faith and heard the gospel Sunday by Sunday placed her in a category where they determined that they

were right and she was wrong. Did she have any other choice but to leave the community?

Ironically, the gospel that was proclaimed in that church weekly was in sharp contrast to the condemnation she experienced. Jesus spent most of his time with people who would have been considered 'wrong' in his day. He ate with the despised tax collectors, the unclean, the sick, Samaritans, women and rough fishermen. These people

See Loving All on p. 3





The Reverend Patricia Dorland and Susan Montague, Warden of Layreaders, attended the Living Stones Partnership Annual Meeting held in Las Vegas.

Living Stones Partnership

Article by Susan Montague, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee.

The Living Stones Partnership is comprised of Episcopalian and Anglican communities of faith from across the United States and Canada. On their website, you will find a passage from 1 Peter: "Come to God, ... and like living stones let yourself be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood." This partnership operates on the firm belief that lay people and clergy are called to engage collaboratively in their baptismal ministries in ever evolving ways in order to fulfill God's mission here on Earth. I think of Living Stones as a self-help support group for congregations endeavouring to grow the church through baptismal ministry in their own little 'neck of the woods.'

This past February, I went with Rev. Patricia Dorland to the Living Stones Annual Meeting and conference not knowing what to expect and wondering if it would be in any way beneficial to our diocese. By the end of the first day, I was already feeling inspired and re-energized. I had a wonderful experience.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Sheryl Kujawa Holbrook. The theme for her three presentations was hope - a very ap-

propriate topic in light of why we were all there. Her talks were very interesting, informative, and (no pun intended) hope-filled and hopeful. Add to that the worship, the fellowship, and the networking with knowledgeable, experienced people and the conference was already immensely valuable - and we haven't gotten to the heart of why we were there.

That brings me to BMERS and cluster groups but, before I start, there is one more important thing you need to know. Throughout the conference, people are known by their baptismal names and not by any title they may have acquired along their life's journey. Over the course of the conference, especially within your cluster group, you do come to learn the positions of the people around the table but their position, or status, is not their primary identity at this event.

BMER stands for Baptismal Ministry Experience Reflection. Each diocese attending the conference must prepare a BMER outlining the issue, or updating and expanding upon a previously addressed issue, that they want their cluster group to explore. Each cluster group was composed

Loving All continued from p. 2.

were often not allowed into the temple, but Jesus didn't judge - rather, he walked with them, and taught and healed them with his mercy and love.

I have never been in a church that didn't insist that its members were friendly and welcoming. The experience that I, and many others, have had is the exact opposite - members spending all of their time talking with each other and ignoring the stranger in their midst. A person who returns to church after a long absence comes because something has prompted them; perhaps they are troubled, dis-

tressed or anxious. They are looking for acceptance, care and compassion. Too often they are treated to contempt, coldness or indifference.

We also face the challenge of people coming to church for the first time. An English survey recently indicated that more than 71 % of parents with children ages 3 to 16 said they didn't think their children had ever read, seen or heard the story of Easter. In the world we live in, not only many children and their parents but also their grandparents have never been to church. Our need for evangelism has



The Reverend Anne Stenabaugh, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, welcomed pets and people to the blessing of the animals.

All Creatures Great & Small

Article by Reverend Valerie Issac, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing

St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, was host to an event that hadn't taken place in more than 10 years last October. In celebration of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, we held a blessing of animals service. The service was held on the front lawn of the church. The service was open to the public with members of other churches stopping by. A few of the pets came 'in person', if you will, and some came in the form of a picture. The animals were welcomed by Reverend Valerie Isaac and Deacon Anne Stenabaugh for the blessing service. The animals were well

behaved and eagerly waited for their turn at being blessed. As this had been a first for Rev. Valerie and Rev. Anne, neither knew what to expect but it was a wonderful celebration. With the success of this service and the encouragement of those who attended both have decided to continue this new tradition with a service again this year. For those in the area it will be held on the first Saturday of October, St. Francis' day, come and join us and the animals for the love and joy that these pets give to us and we can return to them in this small way.

of the contingency from three dioceses. Moosonee was joined with Maryland and Idaho.

I was told that the process evolved from a Quaker method of conflict resolution and it involves a lot of listening as other people discuss your issue. In fact, once the presenting team has taken 20 minutes to outline their issue, with 10 additional minutes of clarifying questions, there are 100 minutes of just listening and madly writing down the ideas that are flowing. I worried that I wouldn't be able to keep my mouth shut as I listened to the discussion (no comments, please)

but it was actually surprisingly easy. Each BMER discussion was very intense and very mentally draining. It was, nonetheless, a valuable experience. Resources were named, ideas for mission were generated, and practical steps were outlined.

The success of this method depends, first of all, on the fact that the cluster group sessions were wrapped in prayer. Secondly, before even starting, the 'ground rules' were decided upon in order to maintain a respectful and trusting environment. How is this process valuable to such a wide cross-

Stones continued on p. 4.

never been greater. In 2011, I addressed this issue in an article for the Canadian Church Calendar: "What I fear we have forgotten is that our church buildings can be strange and foreign places for many people. Most of us, without an invitation from a friend or neighbour, would not walk into a synagogue or mosque. We would worry about what to say, about whether we are wearing the right clothes, whether to sit or stand, whether I will embarrass myself by lack of knowledge etc. Those questions and many others are no doubt also in the minds of many who

pass by our churches and fear to come in. Our baptismal vocation, when it is lived out within our buildings, is to make them places of radical hospitality where our initiatives as Christian community are gracious, warm, and loving. It involves allowing the stranger to move from fear to comfort.

We are called to follow Jesus and his example of loving all people. My prayer is that, through the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, we may be a people who reach out to the alienated and welcome the stranger.





Many ladies from the community came to enjoy the Mothers' Day Tea held at St. Paul's in South Porcupine - it was a time of good fellowship for one and all.



A group of confirmands gathered together in the arena in Wemindji for their Confirmation Service with Archbishop Colin Johnson and Bishop Tom Corston and their parish clergy.



Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Tom Corston, and the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen were delighted to be a part of the Confirmation Service for many of the young people of Eastmain.



The people of Eastmain, wished their church, St. Mark's, a happy 40th birthday and celebrated with a community meal and picnic open to one and all.

High Tea Article by Susan Montague, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee.

St. Paul's in South Porcupine hosted their Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 10th. Although the weather outside was far from a beautiful spring day, guests were treated to gorgeous spring-like decor on the inside. Guests were greeted at the door and then served their tea and coffee by friendly young ladies from the South Porcupine Girl Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers. There was, of course, plenty to

eat. Finger sandwiches, along with veggies and dip, were followed by a wonderful selection of fancy desserts that were a treat to look at as well as to eat. Each pot of flowers was given away after having done its duty as a centre piece for the afternoon. Nobody went home empty-handed. Each guest received a hand-crafted chocolate flower to make the occasion just a little more special. Thanks to all who supported this event.

Message continued from page 2. what God does for all his people.

The story of Scripture is of an ever faithful Creator who continues to seek out those who forget him, abandon him, reject him, betray him, not in order to punish them but to call them to fullness of life. As Eucharistic Prayer 5 in the BAS prays, "You created us to love you with all our heart, and to love one another as ourselves but we rebel against you," and then says of Jesus, "Betrayed and forsaken, he did not strike back but overcame hatred with love. On the Cross, he defeated the power of sin and death. By raising him from the dead, you show us the power

of your love to bring new life to all your people." (p.205) In Eucharistic Prayer 1 we pray, "When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us but opened a path of salvation for all people."(p.193)

It is God's work and we are invited to join in it.

I feel enormously privileged to be part of this ministry in Moosonee and I am so thankful for the faithfulness of clergy, lay readers and catechists, and the leaders of parishes who week by week and day by day provide a visible witness to the power of God's love to change lives and give life.

Three Tales continued from page 1.

Grandparents took their grandchildren to Sunday services. The confirmands learned to be servers or sang in the choir. Tragedy struck and the church by the river burned down. In 1973-74, with the help of the Very Reverend Duncan Abraham and the congregation at St. Clements, Toronto, Eastmain built a new church. Now the children are off to softball tournaments in the summer and hockey or broomball tournaments in the winter, but on this particular warm afternoon forty years later, we all gathered by the river to sing 'Happy Birthday' to the church and to share a meal. We consumed: one hundred and forty-four hot dogs, thirty sandwiches, a case of juice, thirty-six Rice Krispy squares, ten litres of water and a big cake. For a couple of hours we talked and laughed and smiled and were good neighbours to one another. We welcomed and served all who came, including visitors from outside and

visitors from other Cree communities. For a little while, we lived the Gospel to the fullest together. The party was over all too soon, but we returned to our homes nourished in body, mind, and spirit.

The third story is about our future. August 8th to 10th the Cree Nation of Eastmain will welcome people from around the diocese and beyond for a Gathering whose focus is Healing. There will be: Cree Culture activities, sharing circles, counseling, mentoring, and lots of praying and singing. Like many communities, Eastmain struggles to envision and strive together towards a healthier future. Spiritual and physical strengthening needs to occur at both the individual and community levels. We hope that our efforts will lead us into that future, that together we can envision a path to a future well-lit by the light of Christ and able to be walked together with all our brothers and sisters.

Stones continued from page 3.

tion of the population? Each member of the cluster group is expected to have read the other BMERs that they will be discussing. The 20 minutes presentation consists of additional information that is not in the BMER. Most importantly, although there are cultural, geographical, and socio-economic differences within the issues, at their core there lies concerns rooted in human nature

and, for better or worse, human nature is universal. It may take on different forms and expressions yet fundamentally remains the same. Each person sitting around the table brings a unique perspective and personal schema to the discussion. This process is the embodiment of the well known saying, "two heads are better than one." In this case, it's many heads.

