

# NORTHLAND

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • [www.moosoneeanglican.ca](http://www.moosoneeanglican.ca) • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • SEPTEMBER 2015

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

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



*Bishop Tom Corston led a fine group of clergy and lay people during the annual Lay Readers' Conference held this year in Hearst, Ontario.*

## LAY READERS' SCHOOL

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

During the weekend of April 17th, 18th, and 19th, the Lay Readers' Weekend was graciously hosted by the people of St. Paul's - St. Matthew's Anglican / United Church in Hearst. Lay Readers, clergy, lay leaders, and all gathered for an uplifting weekend of education, prayer, and fellowship. We were blessed to be joined by people from across the Watershed Deanery as well as from the James Bay Deanery.

Bishop Tom was the main presenter for the weekend. He gave a series of four educational, thought-provoking, and inspirational talks about how and why each one of us must rise up to God's call to be evangelists. He began by outlining how we are not what we once were and so we must change in order to relate to the

world around us and to proclaim a faith that makes a difference in that world. We must live a blatantly Christian life in order that the world may see that God is not unnecessary and that the Christian faith is a worthwhile option. In his second talk, which was focused on our call to discipleship, Bishop Tom used the story of the Frog Prince to illustrate that, as the Church, we are called to 'kiss frogs.' It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that answers the deepest needs of our fallen world. We are called by Jesus, and to Jesus, in order to answer those needs. The third talk addressed the fact that we are all disciples, not just 'followers' of Jesus. We are baptized into this ministry. Bishop Tom discussed each promise that we make, and renew, in our Baptismal Covenant, then outlined the

*land's* readers with four additional pages of material concerned with the work of the Synod. Consider those pages and the explanatory article

Five Marks of Mission and how we can fit all of this into our daily lives. In his fourth and final talk, Bishop Tom addressed the issue of 'Overcoming our Intimidation.' As Christians we often feel societal pressure to remain silent about our faith. In our own social circles we feel self-conscious about proclaiming our faith. But God is ever committed to us and Caleb and Joshua serve as examples of where the real power rests. In the end, God's plan for these times will also unfold. Bishop Tom has kindly made these talks available to us, so, if you are interested, I can forward them on to you if you e-mail me with a request ([susan.montague2@gmail.com](mailto:susan.montague2@gmail.com)).

Catherine Murkin provided us with an exciting overview of Fresh Expressions and the **Lay Readers continued on page 2.**

found on page six with care. Our diocese will have nine persons representing us at the Synod in October.

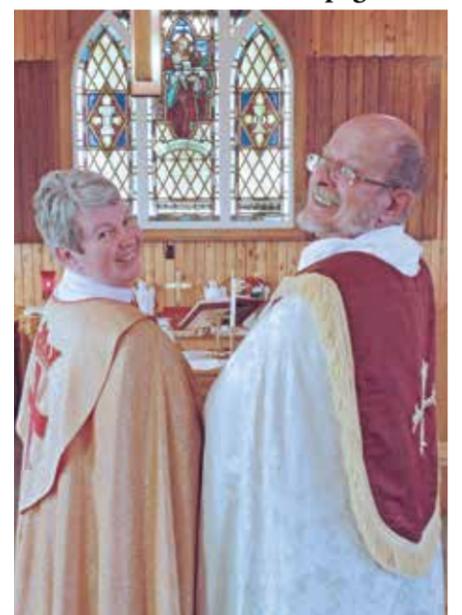
## Installed in Hearst

*Article by James Lonergan-Freake, Lay Reader, Cochrane*

St. Matthew/St. Paul's Anglican-United Church, Hearst, hosted a beautiful service on Sunday, April 19th, 2015 at which The Reverend Larry Armstrong was installed as Incumbent of the Parishes of Western Watershed and The Reverend Valerie Issac was installed as Regional Dean of Watershed Deanery. Assistant Bishop, Tom Corston, officiated and preached a challenging sermon at the service which was also the closing Eucharist of the Watershed Deanery Lay Readers' Conference.

The Reverend Valerie Issac was elected as Regional Dean of Watershed at the Great Chapter meeting held at the end of February. Valerie, who is originally from England, has lived for many years in the community of Kapuskasing. She is well known in the community having worked for Moose FM Radio as an announcer for 20 years before her recent retirement. She is also well known in the Diocese of Moosonee. Valerie and her husband, Ron, have three adult children and eight grandchildren. She was a long serving Lay Reader at

**Installed continued on page 7.**



*Dean Valerie Issac and The Reverend Larry Armstrong wore their special copes at the Installation Service.*



Please be advised that the Ontario Provincial Synod has provided the *North-*





Ruth Corston and Susan Montague were two of the people who made a difference to those people who attended the Lay Readers' Workshop held in Hearst.



Bishop Tom, thankfully not fully retired, helped the participants in the Lay Readers' Workshop to understand their roles more clearly and deeply.

Lay Readers continued from page 1.  
ety of forms that church can take in order to minister to the needs of the different communities of which we are a part. The Skater Church in Perth was of particular interest. If we are to be effective evangelists as Bishop Tom was proposing, then we must 'change in order to be the same.' Our faith must meet the needs of those around us in order to grow and remain the faith of the good news of Jesus Christ.

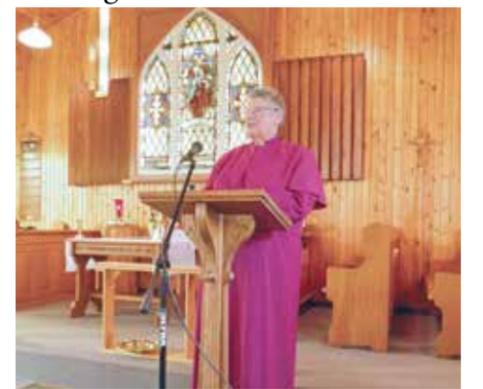
Further to this, I gave a talk on how to live mission as disciples of Christ. 'We are not God's church with a mission. We are God's mission with a church.' As the body of

Christ - the Church - here on earth, our reason for existence is to continue God's mission of establishing His kingdom. We are God's mission and vital, healthy churches are a tool we can use in order to fulfill that mission. An outward looking focus is a crucial part to growing healthy churches. It always comes full circle back to the focus for our weekend. We are evangelists, charged with the mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As always, the weekend was a source of hope and joy for me. It filled me with renewed determination to make a difference and I pray

that it did the same for the other participants. We left Hearst, having been issued a challenge to institute 'A Minute for Jesus' during each of our worship services. One person would take a minute to witness to the worshipping community about how God / Jesus / the Holy Spirit has worked in his or her life. This is a quick way to begin fostering the mission minded, evangelical mindset that is vital to us as Christians. It will help to create an environment in which we feel safe to actually talk about Jesus. Many people feel embarrassed or self-conscious when talking about Jesus so this is

one step to take in once again making this a natural part of being a Christian. If you haven't heard of a 'Minute for Jesus' or haven't started this yet, then I'm passing along the challenge to do so.



Bishop Tom addressed the participants.



Archbishop Moose

## The Archbishop's Message

Article by the Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop of Moosonee

We were looking to buy our first house (now 32 years ago). It was far more expensive than we imagined. In narrowing the choices of what we could afford, the real estate agent asked if we wanted a dining room or not - "not many of the houses have a separate dining room anymore," she added. We had never thought about it but after some discussion realised that, cost notwithstanding, we needed a dining room. We wanted space for a table to gather around. It was

important. Our small 'starter' house became our home for the next 25 years - and yes, it had a dining room. Our family grew up around the common dinner table.

Meals are important to me - you can tell by looking at me!

Cooking is my hobby. I've discovered there is a difference between cooks and bakers. Bakers measure precisely; ingredients and their proportions are carefully regulated. You get to taste the result only at the end after it's come out of the oven.

Cooks experiment. I am a cook not a baker. I follow a recipe, sort of. Check out the flavours, add a soupcon of this, a dash of that, until the result is what I want. Cooking helps with aggression. Onions being chopped up can be named! Frustrations can be worked out. And unlike many aspects of ministry, you get to see the results of your labours within a few hours if not minutes. And the results need to be shared. I delight in cooking for company, and frequently try out  
**Message, continued on p.4**

## Pilgrim Walk

Article by Catherine Murkin, Evangelist-in-Charge, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, ON.



Reflective Moose

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10.

The journey begins and I am filled with trepidation. I had driven down from Kirkland Lake, meeting my friend Shirley Kitchen; we were on our way to Camino Nova Scotia 2015 - a 230 k. trek along the South Shore beginning in Summerfield Beach

and ending at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. Shirely and I will be making this Camino for the second time. Are we crazy? Why would anyone do this voluntarily a second time? Recalling last year's journey, I remember: pain, pain, pain, a need for dogged perseverance, and more pain. Legs that did not want to take another step, feet that were blistered, toenails blackened. And yet, here I am

again, heading for Halifax and a grueling 230 k. 10 day journey. It had been suggested that I use this time as a pre-ordination retreat; a time to reflect upon my call to priestly ministry and to realistically assess myself. Certainly as I hold myself before the mirror of Christ, I find much that does not look like anything at all like the image I am to reflect. Indeed the image

See Pilgram on p. 3



### The Northland

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The Reverend Bill Jones (United Church of Canada) and Nicky and James Alexander of St. Matthew's surveyed some of the sausage which they helped to make.



Diane and Jim Nicholls, Neil O'Connor and Lynn Alexandre took a quick break during the sausage making event at St. Paul's Anglican Church, South Porcupine.

# Saintly Sausage Sales

Article by Valerie Gilson, St. Matthew's Cathedral & St. Paul's.

Right and early on the morning of May 2nd, people from St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins, and St. Paul's, South Porcupine gathered at St. Paul's for their first joint sausage making experience. Dubbed the 'Saintly Sausage Makers,' work had commenced 8 weeks earlier with the selling of the sausages and then the day of labour arrived.

This huge project began with an exceptional donation of all the necessary equipment from the South Porcupine Lions Club. The club had been meeting in St. Paul's basement for years and had been making and selling sausages twice a year. Unfortunately, with the low membership, the club had to make the tough decision to dissolve in December, 2014. Many of us had been enjoying the sausages over the years and were disappointed that we would not have them for our barbeques this summer. The parish was pleased and eager to accept the donation of the valuable equipment and made the decision to take on this project as a joint fundraiser between St. Paul's and St. Matthew's. With former Lion members in the congregation, including our own Fr. Greg, and several other former Lions willing to come and teach our parishes, we embarked on becoming sausage makers.

Picture this ... one long table for mixing the pre-ground (thank heavens!) pork with the perfect seasonings for either mild or hot (and a few of Fr. Greg's special recipe - very hot). Each 50 lb. cube of meat took 4 - 6 people to get right in there, almost to the elbows, to mix each piece of spice throughout the batch. Even a vegetarian got her - gloved - hands messy with the mix; now that's dedication!

Off in the corner, it took another group of 4 - 6 people to separate the sausage casings so there were no tangles when the stuffing started.

Next came the stuffers in 3 separate teams of 3 or 4 - one to turn the handle which 'smooshed' the mix through the pipes and out into the casings. One person had to hold the casing steady and ensure a smooth flow as the sausage mix slid neatly into place, and another person to two to spin the full casing into individual sausage links. A separate table of spinners was also necessary as the casings filled up quickly and necessitated extra help. From there, they went on to the weighing station and became 5 lb. bags of sausage links.

In the end, 1700 lbs. of ground pork became hot or mild sausage seasoned to perfection for fry pan or barbeque. The funds raised from our first experience as



Cathy Millions linking sausage.

'Saintly Sausage Makers' will go towards the shared costs for the rectory.

For a first attempt, it was a smooth run; even our Lion helpers agreed. We expected to be there for the whole day but from start-up to clean-up it only took about 6 hours - including lunch when we pre-sampled the goods! Our Saintly Sausage Makers are even going to have their own aprons for our next day of labour.

We've heard many praises and recommendations from people who bought our saintly sausages and they, and those who missed out, want to know when we are doing it again. We are happy to tell them our next undertaking will be in mid-September. Orders are being taken now and sales sheets, with pre-payment, have to be in by September 4th.

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## Pilgrim continued from page 2.

all Christians are to reflect. In front of this mirror, we are all found marred. Is it not incredible that when God looks at us, believers, he does not see our broken, sullied selves but sees the image of his beloved Son, Jesus Christ. It is not that God is unaware of our shortcomings but that He loves us in spite of them, and uses us despite them and has created a way for messed-up us to be in relationship with Him. Scripture tells us that as baptized believers we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ. When God looks at us,

He sees His Son. I am pondering this as I walk.

As I walk the Camino this second time, I hike the same paths as in 2014 and yet my experience is quite different. Last year it was about pain and perseverance, it re-established my sense of moving forward through difficult circumstances. I learnt that determination and resolve can be your allies and that pain is not necessarily there to stop you; it could be to strengthen you. It could be to prepare you for an otherwise unendurable time to come.

Just because it hurts, does not mean you are travelling in the wrong direction. This year was quite different. Very quickly, I discover my boots are too small - hence a huge contribution to the pain of last year's journey. I discover that when wearing the correct sized shoe the road travelled is not nearly so difficult. Do I still experience pain? Yes. Do I get blisters? A few. Do my legs still feel like blocks of cement? Sometimes. Is this Camino 100% easier than last year? Absolutely. As I walk, I am pondering my call to ordina-

tion. One evening, a fellow walker asks me if I am being a Jonah, running from God; as is our morning routine, a scroll is pulled randomly from a bag. It reads a message of being called and walking in that call; the following morning I pull out a scroll with the heading in capital letters, OBEDIENCE. What am I learning from this? Be willing to find the shoe that fits, and then wear it. Walk in that role God has prepared, even if you are afraid you might stumble and fall. Be of good courage pilgrim and walk on!



## Message continued from page 2.

new recipes on guests.

We value our meals around our large table, which once belonged to my parents. Not only family gather there but also friends, and diocesan and international visitors. When Ellen and I travel on behalf of the Church, it is not sightseeing that is the attraction but the privilege of sitting around a table for conversation over a meal that builds relationships and deepens understanding across cultures and traditions. We listen to each other's stories. We hear the frustrations. We celebrate the joys. We learn new ideas and affirm old ones. We find solace and healing, challenge and dreams. We are bound together in more profound connections where the other is no longer a stranger.

Have you noticed that hospital, hospitality, hotel, hospice, and host all have the same root? They come from 'hostes', a Latin word meaning stranger or foreigner, hence a guest. Welcome and healing, sharing meals, and making whole are intimately linked in both language and experience.

Meals play an important part in Jesus' ministry. The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, the Dean of the Seminary of the Southwest and professor of New Testament, argues that the Gospel of John is shaped around a series of five meals. In each, an aspect of Jesus' person and teaching is revealed, the Kingdom is effectively proclaimed and the emerging church is built up.

This summer, because of the com-



*Archbishop Colin Johnson and Catherine Murkin received food for thought at a Great Chapter meeting.*

mon lectionary, Anglicans along with Roman Catholics, Lutherans, and in fact the majority of Christians around the world, heard over a five week period the reading of just one chapter of the Gospel: John 6, the feeding of the multitude and an extended interpretation of the meaning of that life giving meal.

Christians gather round the Eucharistic table to be fed through word and sacrament by the risen Christ, our living food.

For some of us, the hectic pace and fragmented lives we live leave little space for gatherings around a table and shared family meals. For others, loneliness, loss, and isolation will rob them of that chance. That is such a great sadness.

Whenever you can: gather around a family table, sit around a camp fire, share a table in a nursing home, meet at a restaurant, share a meal, and engage in conversation. Consider not only how you are nourishing your body with the food set before you, but also how the

conversation deepens your relationships, expands your horizons, and enriches your perception of the image of Christ in your neighbour.

(And don't forget the cook!)

I am thankful that we chose to have a dining room. It has been a school of discipleship.



*Archbishop Colin Johnson led part of his flock in worship at St. Paul's.*

## Blessed Wheels

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake.



*James Lonergan-Freake and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake.*

On Saturday, May 9th, members of Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane gathered at Roly's Service Station on Highway 11 West to conduct a service of Blessing of Wheeled Things. The Victoria Day weekend usually marks the beginning of summer driving season. This event was timed to pray for safety on our highways and byways. With summer weekend and holiday traffic added to the 1500 to 2,000 long haul trucks which pass through our community daily, the purpose of this informal service was to remind all of us to use care on the roads, in the bush, and on the waterways.

An appropriate scripture, Ezekiel 1:19-21, was read followed by a Litany of Blessing, which included prayers for people on their way to work and play, around their neighbourhoods and across the country. Prayers were said for those driving everything from: first responders' vehicles, to 18 wheelers, farm tractors and equipment, to bicycles, and skate boards. We prayed that people would be mindful of other vehicles, animals, and rocks on trails. We also prayed that those operating any sort of wheeled thing would exercise patience, be attentive, courteous, and would drive in such a way as to demonstrate that we value the life that God has given to us.

A variety of vehicles were present for the blessing including: numerous 18 wheeled trucks, pick ups, all terrain vehicles, school buses, cars, a piece of tracked equipment, and a U Haul truck taking its occupants and their goods from New Brunswick westward.



*One of the blessed vehicles and drivers.*

## Council of the North: Applications



### Council of the North

Generous funding from the Diocese of Toronto provides for Regional gatherings where travel costs are high and local funds fall short. Through this gift to the Council of the North and Indigenous Ministries, Council of the North members as well as more southern communities where there is a considerable indigenous presence will be able to apply for funds.

These regional gatherings will support the work of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous non-stipendiary priests, deacons, catechists, and other recognized lay leaders in indigenous and non-indigenous com-

munities. Gatherings will centre on the healing power of the Gospels and will be individually designed to suit the needs of the ministers in the area.

The National Working Group will evaluate each proposal based on how well it fits the mandate for the regional gatherings, the timing of the event, and the plans for reporting back to the wider church on the learning and gathering.

Mandate for Regional Gatherings:

- Drawing church leadership together for renewal and healing;
- Focusing on those doing unpaid ministry - lay or ordained;
- Encouraging youth to participate;
- Focusing on renewal of local communities and emergence of new ministries;
- Addressing the concerns and joys of the local church, honouring the traditions and culture of the particular regions;
- Providing adequate time for rest and recreation, fellowship and fun during each event.

A two step application process will include a one page proposal, which, once approved, is to be followed by a full application. Deadlines for proposals: June 1, 2015; September 15, 2015; March 15, 2016; September 15, 2016; March 15, 2017; and September 15, 2017.

Application forms may be obtained in one of the following ways:

Download Application forms:  
<http://www.anglican.ca/cn/regional-gatherings>

OR:  
<http://www.anglican.ca/about/cc/acip/>

OR Contact:  
The Regional Gathering National Working Group  
c/o The Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior  
360 Nicola St.  
Kamloops, BC  
V2C 2P5

OR:  
E-mail Bishop Barbara Andrews:  
[apcibishop@shaw.ca](mailto:apcibishop@shaw.ca)  
Phone: 778-471-5573





# Reimagining the Church in the Public Square

## Provincial Synod Special Insert



Provincial Synod 2015

# ‘Our baptismal vows include a very public dimension’

Archbishop Colin Johnson

Thank you for learning more about the Ecclesiastical Province and Provincial Synod of Ontario. This insert will give you a brief overview of what we do as the Anglican Church beyond your diocese in this part of Ontario and Quebec.

I’ve been the Metropolitan of the Province, or senior bishop, for six years, chairing the triennial Synod, the twice-yearly Executive Council and the House of Bishops. Because of a closer alignment of civil and church boundaries than most of the other ecclesiastical provinces, we have taken a very active role in engaging with the civil government on a number of issues, ranging from policies on human rights regulations, water, heritage buildings, accessibility, and oversight of cemeteries, to advocacy for poverty reduction, social housing and chaplaincy services. We have developed a good rapport with our elected officials and civil servants, in cooperation with other major denominations, not only for our own benefit but to contribute to the well-being of the people of our province.

A key strategy has been to find ways of cooperating across diocesan boundaries to share resources and avoid duplication. Communications, training programs, theological education, human resources, financial management, and



Archbishop Colin Johnson. Photo - Michael Hudson.

legal expertise are areas of consultation. The Province’s bishops also consider together strategic issues facing the Church today and take considerable leadership in bringing these before the national House of Bishops.

The triennial Synod of the Province meets in Toronto this year, with the theme “Reimagining the Church in the Public Square.” The Anglican Church has always been engaged with its wider community, both formally in its connections with the civil leaders but also through our members who have served on countless boards, agencies and acts of service that have helped establish and maintain the well-being of our society. For a time we were a dominant, sometimes even dominating, voice. Recognizing the changes in our culture, we both voluntarily drew back, and sometimes were sidelined, in an attempt to accommodate the growing

multifaith complexity of our province. For a while, equal treatment of faith traditions was achieved by studiously ignoring religious views in public discussion. But that can’t be done. Religious values undergird and inform the very heart of how people of faith understand the world and our place in it. Our baptismal vows include a very public dimension: “Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being? Will you safeguard the integrity of creation and respect, maintain and renew the face of the Earth?”

So this year we will look at the theological background to our call to engage in the welfare of our society. We will hear politicians’ take on it. We will explore ministries that are actively involved in direct service, policy development and advocacy. We will learn how the seven dioceses engage in their own setting. And we will pray for our neighbourhoods to God who “by your holy prophet taught your ancient people to pray for the welfare of the cities in which they lived” (BAS p. 690).

*Archbishop Colin Johnson is the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. He is the bishop of the dioceses of Toronto and Moosonee.*



The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario includes the dioceses of:

- Moosonee
- Algoma
- Huron
- Niagara
- Toronto
- Ontario
- Ottawa

## Triennial Provincial Synod: what is it exactly?

Provincial Synod performs a lot of work on your dioceses’ behalf such as bringing stakeholders together around the table.

### OPCOTE

The Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education (OPCOTE) meets twice a year. It brings leadership from the theological colleges and dioceses together to discuss mutual concerns. Provincial Synod provides significant grants to the theological colleges of our Province.

### SHARING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

In the past three years, we have hosted meetings of executive officers, financial officers and communications officers to share ideas and resources and to develop recommended policies and procedures.

### ADVOCACY & REGULATION

Provincial Synod Council meets twice a year and hears reports and makes recommendations on a number of matters affecting the Anglican Church in Ontario. This has included advocacy on issues of justice, government legislation and regulation on chaplaincy, cemeteries, heritage matters, and water usage.

### INTER-GOVERNMENTAL

Provincial Synod employs two executive officers who do much of the inter-governmental work between meetings of the Council and Synod. The Provincial Secretariat is an important group with representatives from each of the political parties in the legislature. It works with the Provincial Synod’s executive officers to ensure that matters of concern to the church are directed to the appropriate government officials.

In the last provincial election, Provincial Synod facilitated the “I’m Voting for a Poverty Free Ontario” campaign. This included lawn signs, press releases and social media postings.

## Looking forward

Rev. Canon Rob Towler

Much like diocesan synods, Provincial Synod gathers to review what we have already done

and look forward to what more we are called to do.

*Much of our work is to continue ...*

- facilitating a sharing of resources and ideas, for the benefit of our dioceses, so those engaged in specific ministries in their diocese can benefit from the experiences of others.
- overseeing the Advisory Committee of Postulants

for Ordination, as part of the discernment process for those feeling called to ordained ministry.

- supporting and promoting the work of OPCOTE (the Ontario Provincial Commission of Theological Education), which gathers representatives from around the province who are engaged in theological education.

- working with the provincial secretariat, a small body with representatives from each of the political parties in the legislature, who engage in issues of justice and to help them stay connected with the grassroots.

Provincial Synod also serves as a forum for delegates to reflect on where we focus our time and

energy over the next three years.

With its theme of “Reimagining the Church in the Public Square,” synod will have no shortage of ideas and conversations as to where we believe the Spirit is calling us to go.

*The Rev. Canon Rob Towler is Prolocutor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario*

# Priorities:

Provincial Synod prepares to set agenda for next three years

Ven. Dr. Harry Huskins

The Provincial Synod meets every three years. The work done between those sessions is guided by the priorities set by the Synod and its Council. From 2012 to 2015, those priorities were:

## 1 Advocacy

### Social Advocacy

Housing and child poverty have been our key areas of focus. We have continued our long-standing work of building relationships in the area of social advocacy with government and other groups working to better our society. Our partner in this has been the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC), to which we provide one of our largest funding grants. We are represented on this coalition of more than 20 Christian churches and faith groups by Murray MacAdam.

### Government Relations

Decisions made by the Ontario government and its agencies touch the lives of our parishes and ministries every day. Wherever possible, our discussions with government have been done in collaboration with the Lutheran, Roman Catholic and United churches in the Province. Examples of these

discussions with government include:

- the Ontario Human Rights Commission and its re-writing of its policies on creed and conflicting rights;
- the government's reorganization of cemeteries and the creation of the new Bereavement Authority of Ontario and our representation on it;
- the Ontario Heritage Trust and how its policies affect our buildings and what we can do with them;
- the new College of Psychotherapists and how much control it will have over what our clergy and laity do in our pastoral work;
- on-going conversations with all three political parties about other matters of concern to Anglicans in Ontario.

## 2 Education & Vocations

Our Commission on Theological Education (OPCOTE) brings together representatives of our theological colleges, dioceses and bishops and enables them to work collaboratively to improve the quality of

theological education in Ontario. The commission has donated more than \$350,000 to our colleges over the last three years from money contributed by our dioceses.

We are continuing to help our dioceses in their work of encouraging Anglicans to undertake new lay and ordained ministry. The national church's Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO) plays a central role in this. ACPO enables those studying for ordination and trained assessors to come together for weekend discernment sessions that provide the candidates, dioceses and bishops with guidance about these potential ordained ministries.

These ACPO sessions take place once a year in the rest of Canada, but our Provincial Synod provides \$12,000 of funding to enable these to take place twice a year in Ontario. This is our single largest program expense.

## 3 Sharing of Resources

There are seven dioceses in our Province and every day they deal with many of the same opportunities and problems. Our Provincial



“Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14

Synod helps them work together on many of these so that they are more effective in what they are doing and can lower the costs involved.

Over the last three years, we have:

- brought our bishops and senior diocesan staff together to talk about and plan this kind of cooperation;
- brought our diocesan human resources staff together to discuss how best to help each other in their work and to discuss this with lawyers who specialize in this

field. As a result, our smaller dioceses that cannot afford their own human resources staff can now consult with the fulltime experts working in our larger dioceses;

- brought the senior diocesan staff together twice a year to talk about new ideas that are working to strengthen and develop our ministries and solutions to the common problems they are facing.

The Ven. Dr. Harry Huskins is Executive Officer, The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

# COMMUNICATIONS better sharing of resources



Rev. Canon Andrew Chisholm

The Provincial Task Group on Communications was asked to consult with the individual dioceses, and then consider and make recommendations on matters such as:

- the future of our diocesan newspapers and the potential for developing shared regional newspapers;
- social media policy;
- public relations.

The task group has met three times. The members are:

Algoma: Kelly Baetz, Huron: Rob Towler, Moosonee: Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Niagara: Bill Mous, Ontario: Mark Hauser, Ottawa: Stephanie Boyd, Toronto: Stuart Mann, Chair: Andy Chisholm.

The complete report and other documents can be found on the Provincial Synod Website at <http://province-ontario.anglican.ca/communications.htm>.

### Anti-spam legislation

We discussed new federal anti-spam legislation and circulated in our interim report a document previously shared with the House of Bishops on this matter. Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) requires all organizations that send "commercial electronic messages (CEM)" to obtain either express or implied consent of the recipient. The legislation is not of significant concern as most messages our churches send do not fall into the CEM category, but advertising for an event or selling a product or service would normally fall within the definition of a CEM. Many free electronic newsletter services are available to help meet these requirements of the legislation, with MailChimp being among the most popular and used by many faith groups, like the Anglican Church of Canada and KAIROS for their monthly communications.

### Social media policy

We spent considerable time

on social media policy. We discussed best practices as well success stories in our dioceses. Some dioceses and bishops are active in social media (Algoma, Moosonee, Niagara, Ontario, Toronto), some dioceses and bishops make almost no use of social media (Huron, Ottawa). A summary is below. There are a number of social media policies for dioceses available online. We found the Toronto policy for Synod Office staff to be helpful as well as the Diocese of Bath and Wells guidelines for parishes and individuals. These are posted on Provincial Synod website communications page.

We also provided a summary of what each of the dioceses were doing in using social media.

The Rev. Canon Andrew Chisholm is Communications, Honorary Clerical Secretary, and Web Manager for Provincial Synod.

# HIGHLIGHTS DID YOU KNOW:

## Moosonee

Our last Provincial Synod session reorganized the Diocese of Moosonee. This has been very successful, bringing renewed vitality to its mission and ministry along with financial stability.

## Theological Education

Our seven theological colleges work together with our dioceses to provide some of the best lay and ordained education and training in the world, through our Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education (OPCOTE).

## Ordination Discernment

Some of the hardest decisions in our Christian life have to be made by those who feel called to the ordained ministry and the dioceses and bishops who have to decide who should be ordained and become members of our clergy. Our Provincial Synod makes its largest single funding grant to the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO), which plays a key role in this discernment.

## Human Rights

Our Provincial Synod has taken the lead for the Anglican, Roman Catholic and United churches in discussions with the Ontario Human Rights Commissions in its first re-writing of its Policy on Creed and the Accommodation of Religious Observances since the policy was put into place in 1996. The Anglican Church in Ontario was one of the key movers in pressing for the establishment of the Human Rights Commission in 1961.

## Heritage Buildings

Our Provincial Synod is in discussions with the Ontario Heritage Trust about its policies and their effect on our buildings. The Christian churches are the second largest holder of heritage-designated properties in Ontario. We are working jointly with the Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and United churches in these discussions that seek to preserve our heritage buildings for generations to come, while at the same time enabling us to adapt them to better ministry uses such as Out of the Cold, youth ministry, elder support and other programs.

# STREET TALK: what does 'Reimagining the Church in the Public Square' look like to you?



"I envision a church engaged with the culture and context that it finds itself in. We need to join where God is already at work in the world. We serve the world God loves. We don't hide from it."

— The Rev. Jon Martin (Diocese of Ottawa) [Not a delegate to Provincial Synod]



"I see the church's community expanding to include whole neighbourhoods and the church's building as a foundation all people associate with acceptance and belonging."

— Erica Howes (Diocese of Ottawa) [Not a delegate to Provincial Synod]



"As Anglicans in a non-Anglican world, the language of church can sometimes be overwhelming for non-Anglicans and non-Christians. A revisiting process doesn't have to involve changing our parishes but rather how our identity and message are received by others. This will keep the church centered on ministry, clear and focussed liturgies, and prayerful communication."

— Meg Stewart (Diocese of Ottawa) [Not a delegate to Provincial Synod]



"Although it seems somewhat heretical coming from someone who has worked for the Anglican Church all of his life, I think that reimagining the church in our culture today requires us to come forward with what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ first and foremost - and only then a member of the Anglican Church"

— David Embury (Diocese of Huron), Lay Member



"I don't think there is one answer to the question. It is going to depend on the circumstances that present themselves. Each situation is unique and may /will change depending on the issues in each parish and diocese. We need to be open to the Holy Spirit to see what that looks like. Some may close and others may thrive. I fear that some may see it only their way and not be open to the changes required."

— Canon David Ricketts (Diocese of Niagara), Lay Member

# Triennial Provincial Synod

## What it does and how you can get involved

### Rev. Canon Andrew Chisholm

Provincial Synod does a lot of work on your behalf. One of the most important things we do is bring stakeholders together around the table.

The Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education (OPCOTE) meets twice a year. It brings leadership from the theological colleges and dioceses together to discuss mutual concerns. Provincial Synod provides significant grants to the theological colleges of our Province.

In the past three years, we have hosted meetings of executive officers, financial officers and communications people to share ideas and

resources and to develop recommended policies and procedures.

Provincial Synod Council meets twice a year and hears reports and makes recommendations on a number of matters affecting the Anglican Church in Ontario. This has included advocacy on issues of justice, government legislation and regulation on chaplaincy, cemeteries, heritage matters, and water usage.

Provincial Synod employs two executive officers who do much of the inter-governmental work between meetings of the Council and Synod. The Provincial Secretariat is an important group with representatives from each of the political

parties in the legislature. It works with the Provincial Synod's executive officers to ensure that matters of concern to the church are directed to the appropriate government officials.

In the last provincial election, Provincial Synod facilitated the "I'm Voting for a Poverty Free Ontario" campaign. This included lawn signs, press releases and social media postings.

*The Rev. Canon Andrew Chisholm is Communications, Honorary Clerical Secretary, and Web Manager for Provincial Synod.*

## How to Get Involved and Contact Information

You can get involved in the Provincial Synod by speaking to your delegate about what you think our priorities should be as we move forward. You are welcome to contact any of the officers of Synod about matters of concern to you. For inter-governmental affairs, we recommend contacting the Ven. Dr. Harry Huskins, who does the bulk of that work on our behalf.

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## MEETING INFORMATION

The Provincial Synod will meet for its 35th session in Toronto from Wednesday, Oct. 14 to Friday, Oct. 16. The session will be held at St. Paul's, Bloor Street in Toronto. Registration will take place from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The election of the Metropolitan (Archbishop) will take place on the Wednesday morning, with an installation service on the Thursday night.

The business sessions will include an update on the success of the reorganization of the Diocese of Moosonee and debate over what the priorities should be for the Synod's work in the next three years.

Further information on registration, accommodation and the agenda can be found on the Provincial website: <http://province-ontario.anglican.ca>.

## HISTORY

The Ontario Provincial Synod was created in 1912 when the old Province of Canada was divided in two, becoming the present day ecclesiastical provinces of Ontario and Canada. The old Province had come into being in 1861 and included the dioceses of Toronto, Huron and Ontario, along with Montreal and Quebec. The dioceses of Fredericton and Nova Scotia joined a few years later. The dioceses of Niagara (1875), Ottawa (1896), and Algoma (1873) were added later when they were created. The Diocese of Moosonee was transferred from the Province of Rupert's Land to Ontario in 1935.

The focus of the old Province's work was its Domestic and Foreign Mission Society and its Woman's Auxiliary. With the establishment of the General Synod in 1893 and the transfer to it of this work, much of the reason for the old Province's existence was lost. The dioceses in the civil Province of Ontario wanted to re-focus their efforts on social reform work at the legislature in Toronto but, understandably, the dioceses in Quebec and the Maritimes were not very interested in this. This tension led to the division of the old Province in 1912. Bishop James Sweeny summed this up in his Charge to the 1914 Toronto Synod: "The formation of the Provincial Synod of Ontario has made it possible for us to deal more effectively as respecting the Church in this Province."

## ELECTION OF THE METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan is the senior bishop of the Province and carries the title of Archbishop. The Metropolitan is the president of the Provincial Synod, its Provincial Council, and of the Ontario House of Bishops, and presides at the election of other bishops. Canon II of the Province's constitution establishes a six-year term for the Office of Metropolitan, and only diocesan bishops are eligible for election.

Our present Metropolitan is Archbishop Colin Johnson. Canon II provides that a present Metropolitan may be nominated for re-election by any member of the Synod. The election is by a secret ballot in two orders with the bishops and clergy voting together in one order and the laity in the other. A majority in both orders is needed for an election.

## Social Media and Website

Twitter:

[@ontanglicans](https://twitter.com/ontanglicans)

Website:

<http://province-ontario.anglican.ca/>



Lay Readers Lauren Quist, Kerttu Ladoucer & Susan Janson assisted Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Tom Corston & Reverend Larry Armstrong in Hearst.



Bishop Tom Corston, Archbishop Colin Johnson and the Reverend Larry Armstrong helped to confirm two young men at St. Stephen's, Constance Lake First Nation.

## First Episcopal Visit

Article by Reverend Larry Armstrong, with four parishes in the Watershed Deanery.

Accompanied by Bishop Tom Corston, this was Archbishop Colin Johnson's first visit to the Western Watershed Parish of Geraldton, Hornepayne, Constance Lake First Nation, and Hearst. A few minutes before the first of our four services was to begin, Archbishop Colin leaned over and said to me, "By the way, Larry, first Episcopal visits are always a disaster." Even though playfully spoken, these were not the words a newly installed incumbent wants to hear. However, with everything carefully planned and prepared all I could do was hope for the best and pray that all would be well.

The first service was at St. Matthew's Anglican/St. Paul's United Church in

Hearst on May 9th for a 7:00 p.m. Saturday evening Eucharistic Service. Lay Readers Lauren Quist, Kerttu Ladoucer, and Susan Jansson participated in the service and Dustin Martin was our organist. The service was well attended by both Anglican and United Church members along with a few of our friends from the Roman Catholic Church. After the service, we had light refreshments and some lively chit chat with the bishops.

Sunday morning, May 10th, we left at 6:30 a.m. for the 300 km. drive to Geraldton for a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist at St. James Memorial. For the past year, St. James Anglican has been worshipping together with St. Andrew's Presbyterian

alternating between the two facilities. Even though the service had to be scheduled an hour earlier than usual, it was well attended with over 40 people some of whom came from Longlac. Lay Readers Bev Kolody and Michelle Ferring assisted. We enjoyed a substantial lunch at the church during which we had an informal meeting presided over by Archbishop Colin and Bishop Tom to discuss the relationship between St. James and St. Andrew's and the way forward. Afterwards, guided by Bishop Tom, we were treated to a tour of Longlac - Bishop Tom's former parish. The day was not over yet and we headed to Hornepayne (over 300 km. away) for a 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Service at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's hosted us for a chile supper before the evening service which was attended by several parishioners. At our service, Lay Readers Ilene Jeremy, Isabel Dube, and Don Harasymiw assisted and Justin Dube was crucifer. Members of the Pentacostal, United, and Roman Catholic Churches were also in attendance. Although Archbishop Colin and Bishop Tom alternated officiating at the various services, Colin was the preacher. His sermon focused on the relationship

of the Bishop to the Diocese and the Parish and his unique role as our Bishop along with Bishop Tom as the Assistant Bishop. From the Gospel reading of John 15: 9-17 he also spoke on how Christ abides in us, and we in him and how we abide with each other in love. Following the service, we headed back to Hearst arriving about 10:30 p.m.

On Monday, May 11th, we visited the local Artisanal Rheault Distillery where we sampled his products. Colin kindly gifted Tom and myself to a bottle of Marcel Rheault's newest product, Sinful Cherry Liquor. With the day off to a good start and the afternoon off for good behaviour, we went next to Constance Lake First Nation. Confirmation and Holy Communion Service at St. Stephen's was very well attended. Lay Readers Harvey Ferris, Jimmy Sutherland, and Standsinwater Sutherland participated. Two young men were confirmed and the service was followed by a time of food and fellowship at which we were treated to some traditional Native foods.

My first Episcopal Visitation went very well. In fact, in the Archbishop's own words, "Larry, it was fine."

## History Bytes: A Unique Shared Ministry



The shared church in Matagami, QC.

For most people who drive north past Matagami onto the Quebec Hydro highway north to James Bay, if they notice the local Church at all, see it merely the local Roman Catholic church and know nothing of its history. It was, in its day, a focal point in a unique venture in church co-operation and ecumenical ministry.

Article by Bishop Thomas A. Corston - the second in a series concerning the history of the Diocese of Moosonee.

Naturally, the majority of the population of the new town were French Canadian, but a goodly sized portion were English. The three main denominations resident in the community thought that it would be best to have one facility that would house space for all. This was an interesting and surprising move, especially in French speaking, predominantly Roman Catholic Quebec.

In an undated letter from Fr. Hugo Muller of Noranda to Moosonee Bishop James Watton, reporting on an Easter visit to Matagami, he shared his understanding that there was more support for a multi-denominational building. He writes, "Fr. Bernard (the local Roman Catholic priest) is roundly in favour of having one church for the community. Since

the Bishop of Amos appears to be favouring the liberal side of the ecumenical picture, there may well be a chance to organize something along this line." Eventually, plans were underway and Moosonee's Bishop, James Watton, entered into an agreement with the United Church of Canada and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Amos to build a church that would, "be owned and operated by the Roman Catholic Church ... but that a small part of the church be made available for the ... non-Roman Catholic worshippers". The final decision was that the new community church would be subdivided 70% Roman Catholic and 30% Protestant in design.

The building of the new church started in 1966 and by 1968 was completed and included a large Ro-

man Catholic sanctuary and a rectory with ample office space for the full-time resident priest. At the other end of the building the 'Protestant' portion included a sanctuary, small hall and an apartment for visiting clergy. The new church was officially opened in a grand ecumenical celebration that included leading dignitaries from all churches. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Amos, Msg. Gaston Haines and parish priest Paul Bernard and other diocesan clergy were joined by local representatives of the United Church of Canada, including the national Moderator, Dr. Robert McClure and the Anglican Church who were represented by Moosonee's Bishop, James Watton and Suffragan Bishop, Neville Clarke as well

History continued on p. 6.



# In Communion: One Body in Christ



*The Reverend Patricia Dorland with parishioners Peigi Kunkel, and Viola Seppa posed in St. John's Lutheran Church with baptismal water which Reverend Patricia had just brought back from Israel.*

New beginnings often start with a conversation. In my case, it was a telephone conversation. Would you consider filling an interim position as Pastor of a Lutheran congregation? Truthfully, never in my discernment process to the vocation of ordained ministry did I imagine the possibility of ministry in a Lutheran context. I did know that Lutherans are in communion with Anglicans and I have read many shared

messages given by our Primate Fred Hiltz and the Reverend Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada but that was pretty much the extent of my knowledge of Lutherans. I say 'was' because after I hung up the telephone, I immediately went web surfing on an investigation mission researching the who, what and why of Lutheranism.

I accepted the invitation and as of April 1st, I have been Pastor of St.

*Article by the Reverend Patricia Dorland, St. John's Lutheran, South Porcupine.*

John's Lutheran Church, South Porcupine, for going on six months. It has been a wonderful, exciting, and joy filled experience for me. Many of the members of the congregation are from a Finnish background and so that adds an additional flavour to who they are as a worshipping family. As we have gotten to know each other, they have shared their ancestral stories of early pioneer days in northern Ontario as their families emigrated from Finland to work in the mining and logging camps. They have described their ministry in the community in which they settled doing work for the local hospital, as part of community volunteer service groups and with the seniors' living facility in Kulta Koti. We have explored together their traditional worship practices and I am sure my Anglican background has been evident on occasion as we move together in rhythm with the liturgical year. When we gather to share a meal, their cultural influence results in deliciously cooked meals with generous portions. Their pulla (braided cardamom bread), open faced herring and smoked salmon sandwiches, and homemade soups are all wonderfully

made and greatly appreciated.

I have discovered that there are many similarities and slight nuances, with what I am so familiar with as an Anglican compared to my new Lutheran parish family. They are facing very similar challenges that many other parishes and congregations are facing: declining attendance, largely elderly membership, and minimal new-comer and youth members. However, similar to many other parishes and congregations, those who still come are seeking to be faithful followers of Christ and are willing to join in God's mission already at work around them. Luther's seal which graces the entrance to St. John's Lutheran Church, is a true mission and vision statement that the members are faithful to living out.



## The Ontario Provincial Synod Convenes

are engaged in theological education.

- The provincial secretariat. Unlike other ecclesiastical provinces, our seven dioceses reside primarily in the civil province of Ontario. This allows us the opportunity to focus on the needs of the province, and work directly with members of legislature to help shape the policies and services our government supports.

Provincial Synod is also the time to enter into conversations about the next three years, and begin to formulate what areas of mission and ministry we would like to focus on in 2015-2018.

This body meets every three years, and its membership includes representatives from: Algoma, Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Ontario, Ottawa, and Toronto.

Representing the Diocese of Moosonee will be: Chancellor Bryan Finlay, the Reverends: Gladys Matoush, Norman Wesley, Lisa Brant-Francis, Canon Cliff Dee, and Marion Maybee, Philip Sutherland, Matthew Happyjack, and Ilene Jaremy.

The Provincial Synod of the Province of Ontario will meet October 14 -16, 2015, in Toronto. We gather with the theme 'Re-imagining the Church in the Public Square'.

Provincial Synod is a time when we review the work of the past three years. Some of our ongoing work includes:

- Overseeing ACPO (Advisory Committee of Postulants for Ordination) as part of the discernment process for those feeling called to ordained ministry.
- Supporting and promoting the work of OPCOTE (the Ontario Provincial Commission of Theological Education), which gathers representatives from around the province who

**History continued from page 5.**

as the Primate, Archbishop Howard Clarke. The large congregation filled the building to capacity. It was a most impressive day marking a new start in church relations.

The Anglican and United Churches served the parish with visiting clergy and by appointing student ministers every summer. During the spring and summer of 1974, I became the student in charge of the Protestant congregation. It was a busy place to be that year as the Quebec government's project to build massive dams on the James Bay lands was in full swing. A large number of Indigenous people from mainly the Waswanipi area lived on the edge of the town by that time. During that summer I was ordained to the Diaconate and managed to work full time in one of the mines as well as provide pastoral care to both the native and non-native people who were members of the church.

The grand experiment ended all too quickly in 1978 and the Protestant part of the facility was taken over by the Roman Catholic Church. It ended not because of disagreements but by the simple reality that

those English, non-Roman Catholic residents began to move on to other jobs and into retirement. Eventually, there were not enough English speaking people to carry on and the First Nations people eventually moved back to their homes.

Earlier this year, I was treated to a tour of the church, following 41 years away. The former protestant portion now consists of a small meeting room (where the apartment once was) and the former sanctuary is now the parish hall. Sacred Heart Church sits atop the hill overlooking Matagami's downtown, still ministering faithfully to today's modern community, a silent witness to a day when all the people worshipped and worked together. A monument erected in the park across the street observing the fiftieth anniversary of the town in 2013 bears witness to the day.



*Bishop Tom circa, 1974, in Matagami*



# Mission Accomplished

Article written by Dean Greg Gilson, St. Matthew's, Timmins & St. Paul's.



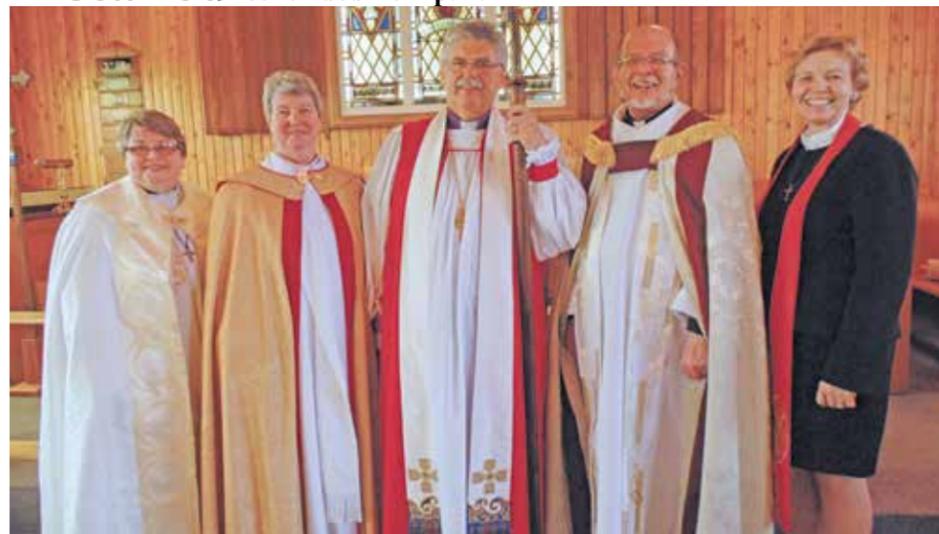
The jazz pianist and composer, Steve Kessler, made the service truly special.

On May 31st, the two congregations of St. Matthew's Cathedral and St. Paul's, South Porcupine, saw another of their mission action plans come to realization. The two congregations gathered for their first joint pot-luck supper and a Jazz Vespers service at St. Paul's. One of the actions the two congregations took on from their Mission Action Plan Consultation in February was a shared evening service on the fifth Sunday of the month. This shared service was advertised and open to the broader community. We had several visitors join us from other churches as well as a few folks who have no church affiliation at all but saw the advertisements and decided to join us. With at least 68 persons in attendance, the evening began with what has to be the best of Anglican Church traditions - a pot-luck supper! The fellowship was noisy and joyful and the food was wonderful as it usually is. There was more food than we needed so no one went home hungry or disappointed. The meal was capped off with a shared birthday cake as both Mr. Andy Fairies, a pa-

rishioner of St. Paul's, and the Dean celebrated their birthdays on the 31st.

What a birthday celebration it was! The Jazz Vespers service was delightful. Mr. Steve Kessler, a talented jazz pianist and composer, made the service both exciting and at other times contemplative. Being an improvisational jazz musician, Steve made such old standbys as "Amazing Grace" and "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" inspirational. He was aided in this by vocalist, Peter Colbert. The service was a combination of evensong prayers, scripture readings, and a homily with musical interludes for reflection and personal prayer. The congregational response to the service was best captured by one of the congregation's comments as she was leaving, "it wasn't what I was expecting, but it was wonderful!" As those who were not affiliated with any Church left the service, several said that they truly appreciated the service; it wasn't what they thought a Church service would be like and they would most assuredly be back. Mission and outreach can take on many forms and surely this service was one.

# Installed continued from p. 1.



Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Dean Valerie Issac, Bishop Tom Corston, Reverend Larry Armstrong, and the Reverend Lillian Roberts, the United Church of Canada, all happily played their parts in the Installation Service in Hearst.

St. Mark's, Kapuskasing before following God's call to the priesthood. Valerie was raised up from amongst the congregation to become a priest. She serves St. Mark's together with her colleague, The Reverend Deacon Anne Stenabaugh, also locally raised up by the people amongst whom they serve.

As the notes of the opening hymn began, a long procession of vested lay readers and diocesan clergy joined Valerie, Larry, and Bishop Tom moving up the sidewalk and into the small church. Music for this celebration was provided by organist Dustin Mathieu. Lay Readers from four congregations served by the Reverend Larry Armstrong, assisted by some from the other parishes, took part in the service which began with the Installation of the Regional Dean by Bishop Corston, with Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake assisting.

Regional Dean Valerie Issac's first duty as Regional Dean of Watershed was to install the Reverend Larry Armstrong as Incumbent of

the Parishes of Western Watershed, consisting of: St. James', Geraldton, St. Luke's, Hornpayne, St. Stephen's, Constance Lake First Nation, and St. Matthew/St. Paul's, Hearst. Members of all four congregations were present and presented Larry with symbols of his ministry in the parishes. Since St. Matthew/St. Paul's is an amalgamated Anglican and United congregation, the Reverend Lillian Roberts of Manitou Conference of the United Church of Canada, was present to install Larry as minister of the congregation in Hearst. Larry has been serving in this ministry for some time and his skills as a pastor and evangelist as well as his hope-filled humour have been well received by the people of all his congregations.

The beautiful gold cope worn by the Reverend Valerie Issac during the service was given to her by the Reverend Larry Armstrong. Valerie also received a lovely gift of a beaded necklace from Canon Grace Delaney to remind her of whom she serves - everyone!

# Reflections from Mistissini

Article by the Reverend George Westgate, St. John the Evangelist, Mistissini, QC



The Reverend George Westgate baptized a new arrival in Mistissini.

Faith is going forward because God is able. It was faith that brought my wife, Ann, and young adult children, Martha and Benjamin, to Mistissini. It was also Bishop Corston too. I had no idea where we were going or what we were getting into. Trying to Google Mistissini was challenging as well. We eventually found our way here. This was due to my wife and her observation recording of directions.

This past year has been full of surprises, joys, and sorrow. All of these things have shaped the ministry in this community. God is full of surprises. God is a surprise; all you have to do is open up your eyes and see. For me and my family the biggest surprise was how quickly we were made to feel welcome and a part of

the community and not just by the parish community but in the whole community of Mistissini.

Mistissini is beautiful and words do not do it justice. My daughter says it is one of the seven natural wonders of Canada. My son says it is a magical place like Camelot, Brigadoon, or Narnia. No matter how you describe Mistissini, beautiful is close to the top.

Joy for me is found in sharing my love for Jesus Christ. I love to share my love for Jesus. It could be a devotion over the radio station. Talking with others as I travel to Chibougamau. Seeing the joy in the eyes of the Elders as they receive the sacrament of bread and wine. The real joy is when you see how Jesus transforms someone's life as they

surrender their heart and soul to the Lord. There is more joy in heaven over the one sinner who repents than over the ninety-nine who are saved.

There is also the sorrow. The heartbreak when families hear the news that their sons, husbands, fathers, and friends are no more. A young man grieves because grandma is no longer here to guide his footsteps on the path. A young girl holds on to a keepsake box because her brother is not coming home. The sorrow reminds us that we are alive and we feel the pain. It is like the storms on the lake; they do no last and the sun is always shining above the clouds. Whether we experience surprises, joy, or sorrow, we are not alone because God is always with us.



# Murder Mystery in Cochrane

Article written by Edith Belair, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane, ON.



Liz Christie led parishioners at Holy Trinity, Cochrane into the mysterious world of Sherlock Holmes.

On May 22nd, 2015, Holy Trinity Parish hall in Cochrane was filled with very excited people as they anticipated who had committed the murder of 'Rockin Roley', one of the graduating students.

Now take yourself back to 1959 at the 'Ice Cream Parlour' in any town where the graduation class congregated to discuss how 'Rockin Roley' had been murdered. The hall had been transformed into an ice cream parlour with balloons and coloured streamers.

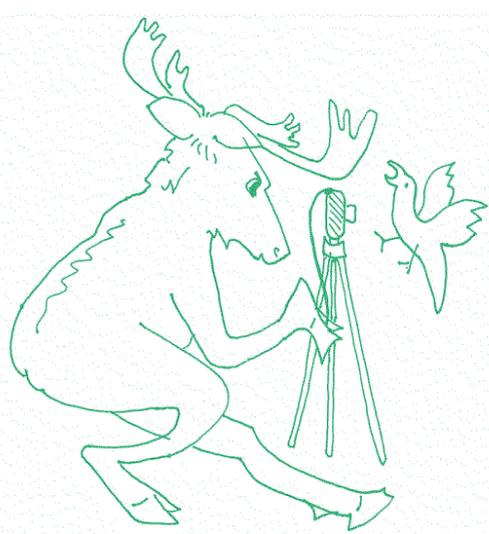
During the four course meal con-

sisting of a roast beef dinner, the eight suspects gave clues as to who had murdered 'Rockin Roley'. During the final course of ice cream sundaes the suspects summarized who had committed the murder and the audience was left to come to a conclusion.

At the final outcome there were three suspects who could have committed this murder. To find out more: contact Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake to see if you can borrow the 'Murder Mystery' and you can have a great night at your parish.



Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake and Catherine Murkin spend a great deal of their time working with seniors and other people at the LivingRoom.



Photographer Moose



Dean Gilson and Reverend Bill Jones cranked out sermons and sausages together at St. Paul's & St. Matthew's sausage event.



Lorraine Laiho, Charmaine Gagnon, Jan Maloney, and Susan Montague attended the Lay Readers' workshop.

# Life in the LivingRoom

Article written by Catherine Murkin, Evangelist-in-Charge, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, ON.

Six were hunched around a card table playing the board game 'I've Never.' I was sitting across the room helping one of our youths, a 10 year old boy, paint a wooden birdhouse - a present from his teacher. Though we were intent on our craft activity, my attention was drawn when I overheard mention of the LivingRoom. I moved a little closer and listened a lot more intently. In the game being played, a role of the die lands you on a space that offers a challenge. The space landed on called for the player, a youth, to imitate his best friend. This player's best friend had knocked on his door earlier in the evening. So, mimicking his friend, he asked, "Hey, man, you wanna go to the LivingRoom?" I have also heard us described by slightly younger youth as "that new club, the LivingRoom." A rush of joy filled my heart; we were becoming part of the community.

The LivingRoom is a great place for people to hang out. Whether for an hour, for four hours, or the full day, people have been coming and finding companionship. Recently, we held a Seniors' Tea. Our craft ori-

entated workspace was transformed by green gingham tablecloths, doilies, and handcrafted paper hydrangeas lovingly made by our crafters. Tea, coffee, muffins, and fresh fruit graced the tables. We had created tiny paper purses and wallets, filled each with mints, a prayer of blessing, and the LivingRoom's business card. New faces appeared and several have since become regulars. The LivingRoom can be a place of respite from family stress. Here people are able to relax, participate in an activity if they desire, and have friendly chitchat. Of course, we are always available to discuss deeper issues.

It always amazes me when our lives interconnect with others, with people we have never met before. Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake had just such an experience at our Seniors' Tea. She sat across from the table from a couple, and over tea and muffins discovered that they had each lived in the same house. Deborah had purchased the childhood home of this senior. Small world! At the LivingRoom, we are doing our part to make the world seem smaller.



The people of the LivingRoom, in Schumacher, enjoy fellowship and flowers.