

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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



Bishop Tom Corston and the newly ordained Reverend Catherine Murkin posed for photos following the joyous service.

Joyous Ordination

Article by Lesley Curtis, Warden of St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake.

There has not been an ordination at St. Peter's, Kirkland Lake for many years, so our parish took great pleasure in preparing for the grand event on September 10th. Over the last few years we have had our share of difficulties and we have grown because of them. So when Archbishop Colin Johnson asked us what kind of leader we would like, we responded in detail, beginning with 'someone warm'. As a parish we prayed for God to send us His choice. Through Archbishop Colin, Archdeacon Deborah Lonergin-Freake, Shawn Branch, the National Director of Threshold Ministries, and Catherine's obedience our new shepherd arrived on a frosty winter night.

There was never any doubt in our minds that Catherine was and is the answer to our prayers. She was searching for a new way forward and had just become ready to move when the request from Kirkland Lake ar-

rived. It was quite a shock! Even though Ontario is Catherine's home province, KL is a long way from St. John, New Brunswick and at least a whole day's drive from any of her friends and family. However, we have all been blessed by our new relationship. As our Lord always does, He answered our prayers with exactly what we needed, and more, so much more. This is why we sang "More than We Can Ask or Imagine" as our anthem that night. Warm would probably be the first description you would choose when you first meet Catherine. She is not a tall person but she is big in her caring, love and joy.

Visitors came from New Brunswick, Southern and Northern Ontario, and Quebec to help us celebrate. Catherine's family, long time friends and colleagues, and clergy and lay leaders representing many Moosonee parishes attended. It was wonderful to see new and familiar faces of peo-

ple who live far away but were able to be with us in part because Clericus had just ended so there was an opportunity to visit St. Peter's on the way home. Bishop Tom Corston, now officially retired but still working hard as assistant Bishop of Moosonee, was delighted to ordain Catherine on almost the anniversary of his own ordination which had been celebrated in Kirkland Lake 40 years before. St.

Ordination continued on page 2.



Reverend Catherine beamed with joy.

Communities That Care

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

The excitement of the first day of school is usually helped along by having brand new notebooks, pencils, markers, binders, and back packs. For the students from the northern James Bay community of Kashechewan this would have been a challenge as some families were evacuated out to the City of Kapuskasing due to the poor air quality created by mold and dampness in their homes. As these families settled into temporary accommodations, yet again, the thoughts of the first day of school may have seemed like just one more thing to get over. Their situation, however, did not go unnoticed in Toronto, nor in South Porcupine, nor in Kapuskasing.

In an effort to help these families get ready for school, members of Agricola Lutheran Church in Toronto and St. John's Lutheran in South Porcupine gathered a large donation of school supplies and personal care supplies. The donations have travelled along from pastor to pastor to priest to priest and were finally delivered to Kapuskasing where they will be delivered to the school set up for the awaiting students. It is not quite Christmas come early, but the congregations involved are hoping that the students can make good use of the supplies.



Reverends Patricia Dorland, Anne Stenabaugh, & Valerie Issac with the supplies.



The Reverends Canon Rod BrantFrancis, Patricia Dorland, and the Dean of the Diocese, Greg Gilson, were in a joyous mood even prior to the Ordination Service.



The voices of St. Peter's on-the-Rock's choir reflected their great enthusiasm and love of the occasion. They were well supported by the congregation.

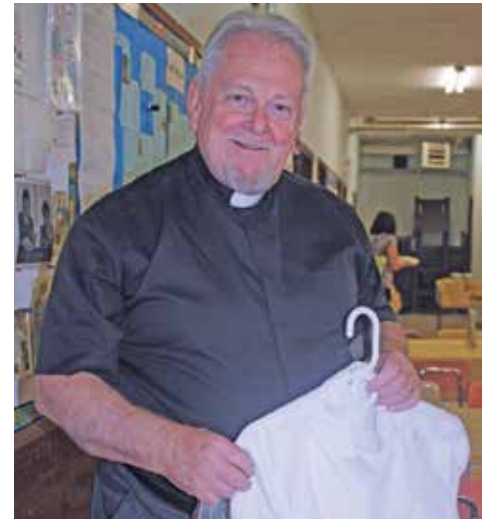
Ordination continued from page 1.
Pete's is blessed with a gifted organist who composed a postlude especially for Catherine and with enthusiastic singers, and that night with all the visitors' voices added in, it felt like our beautifully acoustic building lifted an inch or two from all the joyous sound. Then there was the lovely quiet contrast of a flute and guitar praising the joy of 'Simple Gifts'.

Shawn Branch was the guest speaker. He made us smile. He knows Catherine well so it was not surprising that he told us what a

great gift she is. He reminded us of the joy she brings and her infectious enthusiasm that draws people in. He also said to expect to get dirty. Well, that hasn't happened yet, but we are definitely not discounting the possibility.

St. Paul said, "Let us not grow weary in doing good." When times are difficult we do sometimes feel worn. I asked a priest once what to do about that and he answered, "We be faithful." What comfort that answer brought and what an encouragement to see and hear someone

promise to be faithful to a life of service. We know here at St. Peter's that God is faithful. Once again He has brought us an energetic, faithful leader. We are so thankful as we go forward with Catherine to share in bringing the love of Jesus to those around us. Congratulations, Reverend Catherine Ann Murkin, now Deacon of St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake and leader of the Living Room Ministry in Schumacher. We praise our gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for all his most wonderful gifts.



The Reverend Richard Moore added his voice and prayers to the Ordination.



The Reverend Patricia Dorland, Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, and Archbishop Colin Johnson represented the Diocese of Moosonee at the Council of the North.

The Council of the North met in early October, 2015 and welcomed into the nine diocese gathering, representatives from the New England Company. Approximate-

ly every two years, two members from the Company visit Canada to connect with dioceses that have received grants, to encourage new applications and to obtain an 'on the ground' view of the

As We Walk Together

Article by the Reverend Patricia Dorland.

challenges and opportunities which exist for the Council of the North members in their vast geographic area. The New England Company is a charitable organization which was founded in 1649 with its purpose being to propagate the Gospel of Jesus Christ in America amongst the Indigenous Peoples.

The Diocese of Moosonee has been the recipient of grants for many years and in the last number of years the funds have been used to support *Mahmow Kiskinohamashotaw* ('let us learn together'). This theological program is offered specifically to both lay and ordained people residing on both sides of the James Bay area but is open to the whole diocese generally. Canon Clifford
As We Walk continued on page 3.

Moosonee at the Provincial Synod

Article by Bishop Thomas A. Corston.

See Moosonee on p.3.



The Diocese of Moosonee was ably represented by a team of clergy & laity.

While it took some last minute scrambling to find willing persons to attend October's Provincial Synod to replace those elected who could not attend, Moosonee Diocese was well represented at the Ontario Provincial Synod in Toronto on October, 14-16th. Canon Cliff Dee, Reverends Lisa BrantFrancis, Norm Wesley and Gladys Matoush comprised the clergy and Ilene Jaremy (Hornepayne), Jean Wesley (Moose

Factory), Jan Maloney (South Porcupine), and Edith Belair (Cochrane) were the laity part of the team. Also attending as resource persons were Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake and Bishop Corston.

The theme of the Synod was "Reimagining the Church in the Public Square" - a theme that was both timely and informative. Moosonee's presentation was first on the Synod agenda and was well received. It opened the

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St. John's Lutheran's 80th Anniversary Celebration



*Back Row: Pastor Jari Lahtinen, Peigi Kunkel, Seppo Haapamaki
Front Row: Pastor Glenda Morrissette, Pastor Patricia Dorland, Pastor Nancy Ringham & Bishop Tom Corston.*

The first weekend in October saw a joyful celebration of the 80th Anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church in South Porcupine. At the invitation of St. John's, St. Paul's Anglican Church (South Porcupine) joined them at their Saturday evening banquet and Sunday worship.

Though Anglicans and Lutherans have been in full communion since the Waterloo Declaration was passed in 2001, St. John's and St. Paul's have had

80 years of 'community communion.' In the beginning of their ministry, St. John's had worshiped in the 'English Church' so it was only fitting that the tradition continued with the joining in worship together at this milestone event.

A gathering of members of both parishes and guests attended a delicious banquet dinner on Saturday evening at Northern College. The Reverend Patricia Dorland, who is

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

currently serving as Interim Pastor at St. John's, welcomed everyone to the evening's festivities and thanked them for joining in the celebration weekend. Tuula Bernard provided emcee duties for the evening and welcomed Walter Wawrzaszek who brought greetings and congratulations from the City of Timmins. Following dinner, a variety of musical entertainment was provided and everyone joined in singing a number of favourite songs. Kristiina Freschette played the violin and then sang for the gathering. Viola Seppa provided a summary of the history of St. John's - what a testament to the faith of St. John's congregation (she has been a member from the beginning).

Joining St. John's for this celebration were many other community members, former members, and guests from across the miles. Pastor Glenda Morrissette, former pastor at St. John's, visited for the weekend from her new parish in Sudbury. Pastors Jari Lahtinen and Nancy Ringham of Hilldale Lutheran Church in Thunder Bay travelled to South Porcupine with other members of their parish bands to provide entertainment, support, and to bring greetings and prayers. Pastor Martti Hyhko visited from Toronto. Seppo Haapamaki of Sudbury provided entertainment with St. John's own

Peigi Kunkel (St. John's shares Peigi with St. Paul's twice a month so we have the benefit of her organist prowess and beautiful vocals).

Diocese of Moosonee's Assistant Bishop, Tom Corston, was guest preacher to a full congregation at Sunday morning worship. Bishop Tom did lead everyone on for a few minutes as he told us that he and his wife, Ruth - who was also in attendance - had recently become homeowners in South Porcupine. Unfortunately, for us all he was only joking; his son has recently become a resident of the town as he is now working with the MNR in town. Hopefully, Bishop Tom and Ruth will be frequent visitors.

Following worship, lunch fellowship, and more reminiscing were shared before goodbyes had to be said. Many friendships were renewed, new ones begun, and much fellowship was enjoyed at this gala weekend. It was sad to see such a joy filled weekend come to an end. However, it brought further joy to the hearts of the people of this warm and welcoming church family. Faith is still alive and active at St. John's Lutheran Church.

This writer did hear, more than once, "we should do more things together, more often." History continues dear readers - to 80 years more and beyond!

As We Walk continued from page 3.

Dee, who is fluent in speaking the Cree language, is the co-ordinator of the program while also serving part time in the Anglican parish in Waswanipi, Quebec. The remoteness of the northern area means that Canon Dee travels out to the various communities meeting the people in the communities where they live. This provides an opportunity for the participants to engage in ministry training and education where they are and in their own language.

This is just one ministry of the diocese that focuses in a very real way upon its mission statement: "Called to Live and Proclaim the Gospel."



St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, Ontario received tender loving care from its people.

Face Lift

Article by Suzanne Bernier, St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

St. Mark's Iroquois Falls has received a bit of a face lift this summer. Our front doors have been stripped and re-painted a beautiful reddish oak, the outside window frames have also been redone thanks to the hard work of Bill Smith. He also fixed our bell tower.

Mary Hopkins, Alan and Diane Burling, on the other hand, cleaned out cupboards and closets on the inside. Our little church is looking immaculate thanks to some very hard working individuals - thanks be to God.

agenda to a report on the diocese's restructured life by Archbishop Johnson and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake.

A highlight of the Synod was the election of the Metropolitan. It was encouraging, especially for Moosonee, that Archbishop Colin Johnson was elected for a second term on the first ballot - meaning that he remains Archbishop of Moosonee and Toronto. The Archbishop, along with a new Procu-

lator and Chancellor were installed in a beautiful liturgical celebration at Toronto's St. Simon's Church on the final evening of the Synod.

The Synod hosted three highly regarded speakers: The Hon. Kathryn Wynn, Premier of Ontario, Senator Hugh Segal and our own Primate Fred Hiltz. Senator Segal challenged the Synod to remain vigilant in face of the seeming indifferent and sometimes hostile secular world in which we live.

Our Primate updated the Synod on the work of the 'Church National', including the work being done on the Marriage Canon that will be presented to General Synod next year. The Synod's main Theological speaker was noted Roman Catholic Theologian, William Cavanaugh. He suggested that the church is uniquely positioned to minister to individuals in a way that removes barriers and actually Christ's radical but very human compassion.

"Government programs are a lesser good than direct personal care of people for one another. ... "Addressing our social problems begins with getting our story right: our ultimate goal is not to be independent of one another, but neither is it for an impersonal bureaucracy to take care of people for us. Our goal is to be members of one another, to suffer and rejoice together. Government aid is a safety net - it is not the kingdom of God."



Clericus for the Clerics & Laity of the Diocese.



Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Tom Corston and many of the diocesan priests, deacons, and lay readers gathered at Camp Bickle for a time of spiritual renewal.

Article by the Reverend Richard Moore, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane.

The annual gathering of the clergy of the Diocese of Moosonee took place, once more, at Camp Bickle - a splendid facility near Barber's Bay. Bickle is a summer camp for young people, so 'splendid' does not mean glamorous or posh. Camper beds with plastic mattresses and no heat convey the sense of roughing it, a little, but the beauty of the location, and the care that 'Camper Joe' Campbell and his wife and staff lavish on their guests make the three days quite special. A bit of normal September morning rain could not overpower the effects of a calming northern lake and the beginnings of autumn colours, awash in the afternoon sun.

Over three days and two nights, all but one (who, unfortunately, had to attend to her other teaching job!) of the ordained leaders of the Diocese, about two dozen, listened, and learned, shared and prayed, and even had a little time to relax and renew acquaintances.

On Wednesday, clergy were joined by a number of lay readers from Iroquois Falls, Timmins, and Cochrane. And for those contemplating the quiet pleasures of retirement, there was a tiny warning. One of the active lay readers who attended is well into her nineties! Even the presence of two very friendly small dogs added to the feelings of camaraderie and relaxed study.

Study? Of course! In spite of years and years of experience, and an accumulation of academic degrees, there is always room in the minds of those charged with your spiritual welfare for more, and possibly more current knowledge. Led by Archbishop Colin Johnson, and his assistant, Bishop Tom Corston, and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, the group delved into the intricacies of Christian leadership and stewardship, and a novel approach to sermon presentation. It was good to be face to face with our Diocesan leaders, who, too often, have to be simply the voice on the telephone. Deborah was congratu-



The Reverend Norman Wesley, Moosonee, Marion Maybe, and Grace Delaney both of Moose Factory were quite involved in the lectures given at Camp Bickle.

lated on the high level of organization of this event.

Lynn Uzans was one of the two invited guests and a featured speaker. Currently retired from parish work and from her position as Archdeacon of the Annapolis Valley in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Lynn still lives in the Valley but she is definitely not retired! She is an accomplished and enthralling storyteller, who is actively teaching skills through the use of story. Her presentations to clericus and to a group of keen listeners in Cochrane on the evening before held her students spellbound as she guided them into the art of narrative. Her tips and advice are bound to have preachers trying or renewing their own skills as biblical narrators. She also continues to serve her diocese in an official capacity as Ordained Ministry Vocations Co-ordinator and is active in church development and renewal.

Lynn's creative use of the *Healthy Churches Handbook* aids churches in

their self-assessment and outreach, and she shared that tool with our group on Wednesday.

Lynn's presentations were nestled into a three day ongoing journey that Shawn Branch undertook with the group. Shawn is the National Director of Threshold Ministries, a new title for the well known and revered Church Army. Modernized and now adapted to spreading the Gospel in the twenty-first century, Threshold has been the training ground for at least four of the clergy now working in the Diocese of Moosonee.

Shawn himself is an effective and riveting Evangelist with a passion for spreading the Good News and teaching all how to talk about Jesus in their daily circumstances. Having him come to Northern Ontario to be our teacher, lecturer, mentor, and chaplain for clericus seemed almost a natural thing, in spite of his having come from New Brunswick! But then, one could argue that we as Christians have world wide ties that are ongoing and



Nothing could keep these intrepid ladies - Reverends Anne Stenabaugh & Valerie Isaac of St. Mark's, Kapuskasing - from attending Clericus.



Lynn Uzans, story-teller and retired Archdeacon led many of the sessions at Clericus, 2015.



long term ties between the Maritime Provinces and a number of our church leaders. There seems to be some kind of cultural connection between the fishers and tree-harvesters of both regions.

Shawn's East coast twinkle and self deprecating, humorous manner kept his listeners intrigued, as did his more than serious outline of what it meant to be a leader in the church. Basing all his points on scripture, he examined Jesus' leadership and argued that it was and must be the role and model that we, as church leaders today, must follow.

His 'nutshell' summary will not be forgotten. As Christians and also as leaders, we are the beloved of God, called by Him to serve and to model

the Christian way. We live with the knowledge that there might be a price to pay - betrayal. Deeply moving, and indelibly etched in our minds, that message resonated with all who heard it.

With a little updating on the current state of affairs in the Church from the Archbishop, and a little time to do some Deanery planning, the work of the event was complete. That left just a little time for participants to relax and renew acquaintances, a process aided by the Dean's most welcomed hospitality and snacks. The thought of leaving friends whom one might not see again for a year or more was difficult but it was tempered by the reminder that each of us was always in the others' prayers.



Reverend Valerie Isaacs, Dean Greg Gilson, Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, Reverend Larry Armstrong, and Ilene Jeremy all received hope bears at Clericus.



The Reverend Norman Wesley in the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, with a beautiful new piano.

Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound, these are the words penned by John Newton who wrote the hymn known world over when he turned his life over to Christ. God spoke to him and

How Sweet the Sound

Article by the Reverend Norman Wesley, Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, Ontario.

through that amazing grace Newton changed his life forever. And so it is for many through the ages and in turn we make sweet music of it all.

The Church of the Apostles has made wonderful music over some 66 years and lately the church's piano has reached its latter years. With attempts to resurrect the notes to clarity to no avail, the Church Vestry decided it was time for replacement.

The plan - replace the piano with a modern day keyboard complete with a new sound system with speakers, a lectern microphone, a

wireless handled microphone stand and speaker, and a mixer. The costs were more than we could handle. And with hopes high and payer uplifted, up steps a benefactor and like the other mantra we hear "paid in full."

On Sunday, September 27th, with the visit of Bishop Tom Corston, the Assistant Bishop of Moosonee, there was a service of baptism, and Holy Eucharist. Also there was the dedication of the new piano and sound system. And we sang with clear notes at the Church of the Apostles - *Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound.*

St. Thomas and the Church of the Apostles Liturgy Seminar

Article by the Reverend Norman Wesley, Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, Ontario.



Bishop Tom Corston ably led church leaders in Moosonee in a seminar on liturgy.

On Saturday, September 26th, the dozen people or so that gathered at St. Thomas Church in Moose Factory from both St. Thomas and the Church of the

space. Bishop Tom Corston led an informative seminar offering insights into the where and why and how we worship. The interest in the group was evident in the many questions that followed. A delightful way to start the Saturday which ended with

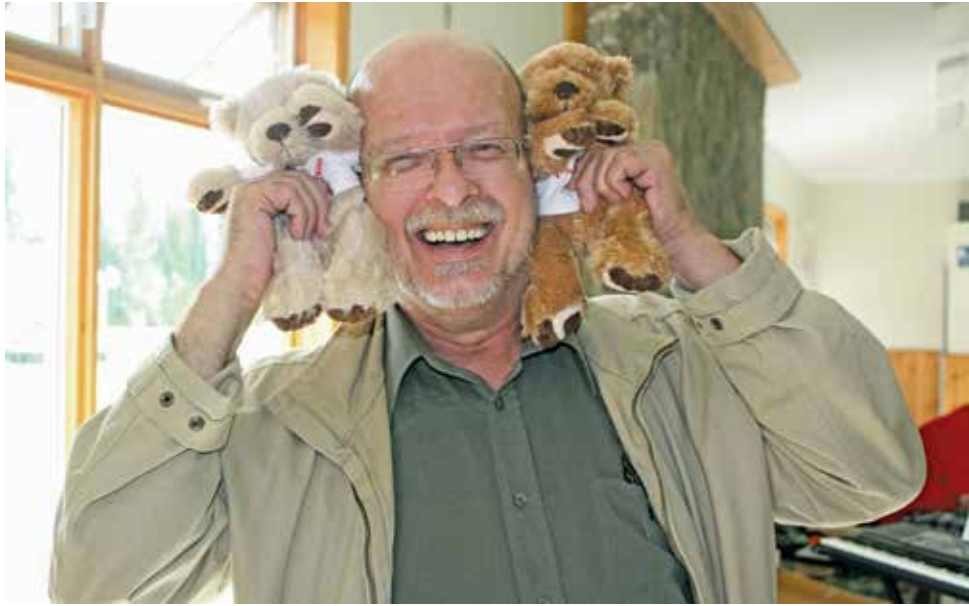
a wonderful luncheon and with fellowship.

While visiting, Bishop Tom took a side visit to the Elders' Centre for an afternoon 'Tea and Bannock' and an evening visit at Weeneebayko General Hospital.



The Reverend Norman Wesley was a prominent participant in Clericus, 2015.





The Reverend Larry Armstrong gained at least two good friends at Clericus. These teddy bears bring hope and Larry promised to take them back to his parishes.

One of the many perks of being the priest for a four point parish is getting to see some of the places in between the points. Recently, I was invited for an overnight stay in a place called Pagwa.

Pagwa is named for the Pagwachuan River - a Cree word meaning shallow river. Originally, it was part of the Canadian National Railway where the line crossed the Pagwachuan River. An abandoned airfield, created by the Department of National Defence in the mid 1950's lies on the north of the rail line. The airfield became, in the late 1950's, part of a string of emergency landing sites for Trans Canada Air Lines (today, Air Canada) to support

their transcontinental flight operations. From 1952 to 1966 the airfield was USAF Pagwa Air Station and then RCAF Station Pagwa and part of the continental defence system. Pagwa is part of the James Bay drainage basin which flows via the Pagwachuan River, Kenogami River and the Albany River to James Bay.

Constance Lake First Nation, an Ojii-Cree First Nation, is home to close to 1,500 members of Ojibway and Cree ancestry, who lived in Pagwa prior to being relocated to their current location in Constance Lake First Nation. The Constance Lake First Nation are historically linked to the English River band, classified as a branch

PAGWA

Article by the Reverend Larry Armstrong, St. James, Geraldton, St. Luke's, Hornepayne, St. Stephen's, Constance Lake, and St. Matthew's / St. Paul's, Hearst, Ontario.

of the Albany band, by the Treaty 9 Canadian Federal Officials in 1905. Between 1925-1940, many families from English River, Fort Albany, and Moose Factory re-located to Pagwa to pursue employment opportunities.

As one of the largest rivers in Northern Ontario, the Pegwachuan River was valued by First nations and the North West fur traders as an access, along with the Albany river, to James Bay and Hudson Bay. Being a major junction of the railway and the Pagwachuan River, Pagwa also had a fur trading post. Packet steamers ran between Pagwa and James Bay to serve the Revillion Freres trading post and community early in the 1900's. In 1943, the Department of Indian Affairs created a new band, Constance

Lake First Nation for those living at Pagwa which included members of Albany and Moose Factory, and Atawapiskat Bands who also resided at Pagwa.

This much loved ancestral ground continues to be maintained by individuals as well as by the CFLN Band Council; all of whom are involved with significant efforts to preserve this historic site. Band members from all over make regular trips to Pagwa throughout the year and not just for hunting, trapping, and fishing but also for sacred purposes as well. Having been there on three occasions providing support as their priest, I have found that Pagwa is indeed a very special place and there I have found my own connection to the land.



The very beautiful Pagwachuan River, Pagwa, Ontario.

Welcome to Timmins Night.



Darlene Davidson, Nicky Alexander, Brenda Margit and John Cramer from St. Matthew's Cathedral and St. Paul's, South Porcupine, worked as a joint team.

The congregations of St. Matthew's Anglican Cathedral and St. Paul's Anglican Church joined 120 other community organizations at the 'Welcome to Timmins Night.' The event is hosted annually by the Timmins and District Multicultural Centre to welcome newcomers to our city. From 6:00 -

8:30 pm on Wednesday, September 9th, the McIntyre Curling Club was abuzz with welcoming chatter and over 500 attendees!

Visitors and locals alike stopped by to join in the fun and find out what the City of Timmins has to offer by way of municipal services, social clubs, sports and recreation, culture,

Article by Nicky Alexander, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins, Ontario.

and volunteer organizations. Entrance is free but visitors are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or washed stuffed animal as their entrance fee. Food and toys were collected at the front door and donated to the local food banks and the Cochrane District EMS.

Representatives from the two churches greeted attendees, handed out flyers, and readily answered questions. The evening also presented a good opportunity to invite people to the Second Jazz Vespers which took place at St. Matthew's Cathedral the following weekend and is co-hosted with St. Paul's Anglican Church. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped to make the evening a success.

The Timmins and District Ministerial Association and several other church and worship organizations were also represented. It remains to be seen whether our efforts will bring more people into the churches but taking our message outside our doors and establishing a presence within the community of Timmins may be regarded as an important first step.

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The Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, Eastmain, QC. posed with her two particular friends Ruben and Sadie.

Ottawa hosted the final Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) meeting between May 31st and June 3rd, 2015. As a priest of the Cree Nation of Eastmain in the Diocese of Moosonee, I attended with ten community members. It was my second TRC meeting. I had also attended the Montreal meeting

a couple of years earlier. Additionally, in August of 2014, our community of Eastmain held a Healing Gathering modeled on the sharing circle. This Healing Gathering was primarily sponsored by the Anglican Church. The meeting was attended by delegates from several communities from around the Diocese of

Truth and Reconciliation

Article by the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, St. Mark's, Eastmain, QC.

Moosonee. The sharing circle topics included: *Forgiveness, Parenting Issues, Broken Family Relationships, Healing our Communities, Residential School Healing, and Christian and Indigenous Spirituality Walking Together*. While the sharing circle topics varied, most delegates were seeking healing for their residential school experience. Attendance was high and the meeting was very well supported by the host community. At our 2015 Great Chapter meeting we voted to support another Diocesan Healing Gathering in another community in 2016. In addition, non-Diocesan Healing Gatherings are being offered in the James Bay Region whose focus is Residential School Healing. This demonstrated a definite need for intentionally focused healing opportunities in our communities.

There were two strong messages given at the TRC meeting in Ottawa. The commission has finished its mandate and published its report but the real work of the healing and reconciliation effort has just begun. It will take many more sharing circles and many more testimonials before the hard work of the healing journeys can be started by many survivors. Most of the survivors from my com-

munity are not yet in a place where they can begin their healing journeys and we are not alone. We should be encouraged by the Healing Gatherings being held in our communities now and in the future.

The second message which we took from the Ottawa TRC meeting was "Whacotowin," offered by Chief White Bear from Manitoba. Whacotowin means "everything is related." Healing from the Residential School experience is now understood to encompass whole communities and cultures over generations. Looking towards the future, whacotowin tells us the gospel truth of our relatedness to each other and creation. Whacotowin helps us understand the gospel truth that health in mind, body, and spirit requires healing involving everyone across generations and across cultures.

From our perspective, here in the James Bay Region of Quebec, the TRC meetings have helped to bring a voice to those who were without one. It has helped some of us to share the Residential School experience itself and its aftermath. As our hearts are opened to each other, Christ's healing can come in and help us on this tremendous journey towards him.

Life in Eastmain, Quebec.

It seemed that this summer was spent mostly waiting. Waiting for the warm weather to arrive, waiting for the geese to fly overhead, waiting for the rains to stop, waiting for the winds to calm, waiting for the new hotel to open. Yes, in addition to the new casino which opened last year, this year we will be opening a new hotel. It commands a spectacular view of the river and James Bay. We hope that it will draw more visitors to our little northern community.

This year in Eastmain we are also exploring a new entrepreneurial endeavour. We are investigating the possibility of sustainable mushroom harvesting as an addition to our local economy. In the spring, classes were offered to teach locals about the species of edible mushrooms which might be found near Eastmain. However, few mushrooms were found. I learned that mushrooms are available from June to September, different varieties at different times and each mushroom variety may prefer a different environment. In September, I was able to join the group. We spent

two wonderful days walking through the old Jack Pine forests within 50 kilometers of town looking for mushrooms. It was the end of September, so most of the mushrooms were finished for the season and had begun to rot, but we still managed to find two full boxes of three different edible varieties. We washed them and placed them in paper bags

for distribution. They were available for everyone to try. The cook at the local restaurant prepared them in a delicious soup and a chicken and rice dish. We are making plans for more extensive mushroom harvesting beginning next year. The mushrooms can be dried for long term storage or sold fresh. Perhaps you will soon have access to Eastmain wild mush-



Article by the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen, St. Mark's, Eastmain, QC.

rooms for purchase.

This year, our little St. Mark's church has seen a number of baptisms and an especially enthusiastic confirmation class. The Bishop visits us in June, the same week as graduation, so it is a very busy time in our community. After the rehearsal, we all gather for a meal prepared by the parents. This year, for the first time, we were able to take advantage of the facilities at the new Complex. All the family members shared food, laughter, and conversation with Bishop Tom Corston and Ruth Corston. At the ceremony, with all the children dressed in their best, the procession began to the tune of *I saw the Light* sung with great enthusiasm by family and friends. As the children threaded their way to the front pews, the cruxifix leading the way up the centre aisle, the loudest voices came from the children with the distinctive country and western twang so enjoyed by our singers. At the close, with all the prayers said, with all the bibles and crosses distributed, with all the certificates handed out, we sang *Amazing Grace*. Amen.



Keeping Christmas

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane.

Perhaps it's just me, but I believe that holiday advertisements started in September this year. In the first week of October, I overheard a couple of people in my town already flustered about all the shopping and baking to be done. We're told that the holiday season is stressful and too much of a frenzy for many. But that's the commercial holiday season not a true celebration of Christmas.

The Christmas story tells us about an ordinary couple trying to do their best in pretty bleak circumstances. It's the story of a man and a woman required to go to a distant town for a census. The man was doing his best for his pregnant fiancé. An inn keeper tried to do his best for the couple when all other accommodation in

town was taken. And, in this very human drama, there's the birth of a baby.

But Christmas is more than simply the celebration of the birth of a baby. The story takes us beyond the glitter and lights, the baking and buying, to something much deeper. We are invited to look beyond the baby in the Christmas creche, beyond what we see or even beyond what we personally feel, to catch a glimpse of God whose gifts are hope, peace, goodwill, beauty, and love.

God became one of us to tell us that He loves us. Christmas is a time for looking beyond all that is wrong in the world, in our country, or in our lives; to see goodness and beauty in those around us; to look at tragedy and see the stories of kindness and compassion that carry with them the hope

of life beyond the darkness; to look at the violence and see the efforts made to change it and see signs of hope for a safer world; to look at our environment and see its beauty and to hear the call of God to return.

When we accept God's loving invitation to look beyond the surface, we allow ourselves to be open to signs of hope for ourselves, our families, and our world. This is part of God's gift that is celebrated at Christmas. God invites us to look beyond and to keep Christmas in our hearts that we might be kept in hope and love all year 'round. As Charles Dickens wrote in *A Christmas Carol*, "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." God invites us all to do so. May you be blessed this Christmas and always.



This headstone is a memorial to the seven boys of Bishop Horden School who lost their young lives in the summer of 1919.

Remember Former Things Long Past: Lest We Forget

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

It was the summer of 1919 when tragedy struck Bishop Horden School, Moose Factory, Ontario. The day was possibly a sunny, cloud wispy day, as twelve boys ages 8 to 18 set out by canoe onto the Moose River heading towards Hazy Island to spend a day picking berries. A day that should have been filled with promise and adventure became a day of deep sorrow and heart breaking loss.

The boat proved unworthy and the water unforgiving. The boat capsized and seven boys were drowned. A young boy of 8 was supported until assistance arrived, saved through the

heroic efforts of John Carpenter, a boy of 14 years. This incident should not have happened.

It is now the summer of 2015, and all were gathered in the cemetery adjacent to St. Thomas Anglican Church, Moose Factory. The day is sunny and warm with more than wispy clouds in the sky. The community has gathered together, young and old, relatives and friends, and residents and visitors. As we walk around the grave sites and headstones, memories come to mind, stories are retold and family members are claimed. We are here to honour those saints who have gone before us

and on this specific day to dedicate a stone which tells the story from almost 100 years ago.

For over 70 years, this community of Moose Factory has organized a Memorial Service and on this day the Reverend Norman Wesley leads us in worship. He references Isaiah 46:9, the same verse etched on the memorial stone and recounts a brief history and tradition of the Anglican community. As all come together in prayer and song, remembering those who are with us no longer, a steady rain begins to fall. This may symbolize tears of sorrow and loss but also a watering of new hope and growth.



the Diocese of Moosonee were able to join Bishop Tom Corston and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake and take part in the Ordination Service for the Reverend Catherine Murkin held at St. Peter's on-the-Rock, in Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

