

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

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



*The newly ordained Reverend Catherine Murkin blessed the clergy and people assembled at St. Paul's in support of her.*

## Blessed and Blessing

*Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee*

In spite of the gloomy, wet, evening, St. Paul's Church, South Porcupine, filled early with happy, laughing people to help celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of Catherine Murkin on September 13th. Such events are a reason for family, friends, and colleagues to gather and for the time before the formal liturgy the parish hall filled with people in noisy, seeming confusion as friendships were renewed.

Catherine's ordination preceded the annual gathering on the Moosonee Clericus, that important time set aside for diocesan clergy and lay readers to retreat together. Clergy from across our vast diocese were able to be present as Archbishop Colin Johnson and Assistant Bishop Tom Corston were joined by guest preacher Bishop David Edwards of Fredericton and Bishop Darren McCartney of the Arctic who was to be our clericus speaker.

Also present from Toronto was the Reverend David Giffen who acted as chaplain to the participants at clericus. Members of St. Peter's on-the-Rock Church, Kirkland Lake, where Catherine has been serving for over a year, all arrived on a school bus to support her.

The procession into St. Paul's Church was grand indeed as the choir, lay readers, and clergy - all vested in red - filled the isle. The organist for the occasion was Mr. Richard Kalio, parish organist of St. Peter's Church, Kirkland Lake. The Archbishop began the evening with a brief word of welcome, also indicating his pleasure that Bishop Corston was present celebrating his own 41st anniversary to the priesthood.

The formal worship was led by members of Catherine's parish in Kirkland Lake and Schumacher's 'The LivingRoom' ministry where she is leaders and St. Paul's choir was

joined by St. Peter's choir. Following her formal presentation to the Archbishop by friends and clergy, Catherine responded to the liturgical examination with a strong and enthusiastic voice.

It was a delight to have Bishop David Edwards, and his wife Janet, old friends of Catherine's from their days serving together in New Brunswick. Bishop David preached the sermon in which he gave examples of people in his career who were noted for their quiet, unassuming evangelism and service, reminding everyone that we are all called to be ministers and evangelists.

The Reverend Phelan Scanlon of Timmins sang the Litany prior to the clergy joining Archbishop Johnson in the "Laying-on-of-Hands" as Catherine was raised to the sacred priesthood in a moving moment of prayer. The symbols of her order were formally presented to Catherine and she was vested in the stole and chasuble before the Arch-

*See "Wonderful Ordination" page 2*

## Mission Possible

*Article by the Reverend Valerie Isaac, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, Ontario*



*Reverend Anne Stennabauer and Lay Reader Anne-Marie Carriere of St. Mark's, Kapuskasing were joined by parishioners in the Mission Weekend.*

St. Mark's Kapuskasing Mission Weekend: Seeking Jesus. What a wonderful weekend it was. The first weekend of fall, 2016 and the sun shone for the whole weekend. The Reverend Valerie Isaac organized lots of activities for all members of the family to be able to participate in.

Friday night was games night in the church with guests Andre and Connie Deblatte who carved wood into various shapes, including crosses, bowls, and buttons. The two of them shared that the wood they get is not cut for them but is taken from the forest floor, carved and painted with what the spirit moves them to do.

Included in the events - a show at the newly reopened Royal Theatre in Kapuskasing. Many thanks to owner Garrick Sissons for opening at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 24th for us. We had the chance to watch "God's Not Dead 2." While most of the people enjoyed the show, along with a bag of popcorn, Reverend Valerie ended up leaving early to get things set up in the park. (Don't let her know the ending, if you have seen it, she still hasn't had a chance to watch the end).

Free hot dogs and chips along with a few chewy candies were the menu of choice for the day. A couple of young

*See "Anglicans & Food" page 2*





*The Reverend Catherine Murkin was ably and joyfully supported at her ordination by Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishops Tom Corston, Darren McCartney and David Edwards and many of the Diocese's lay readers and clergy.*

## Catherine Murkin's Wonderful Ordination from p. 1.

bishop invited everyone's greeting of the new priest. The joy was contagious as people greeted her and each other when she declared the 'peace.' See 'Blessed Ordination' page 3

Catherine joined the Archbishop and Bishop Corston to co-celebrate the Eucharist. The joy of the celebration was also made so with the fine, charismatic hymns that were sung with so much gusto. Following communion, organist Richard Kalion played a beautiful arrangement which he had written just for Catherine.

Prior to the conclusion of the service, Bishop Corston introduced Ann Westgate of Mistissini giving a brief biography of her life and min-



*Catherine Murkin had her cake at the reception and ate it too!*

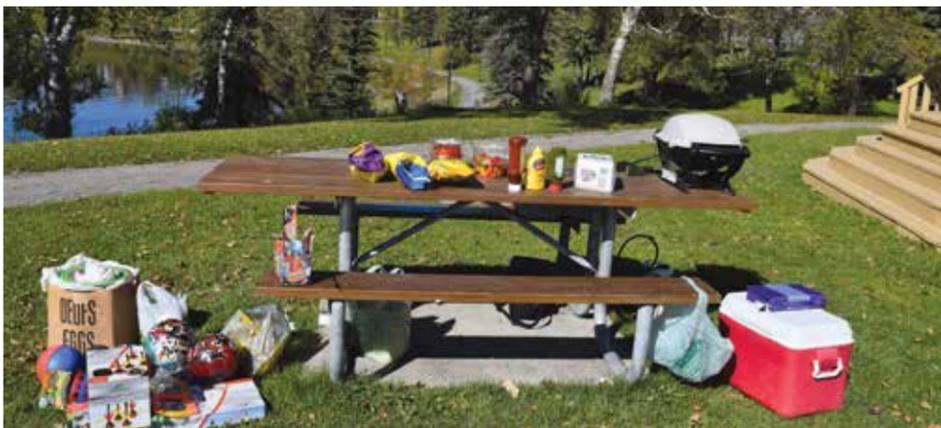
istry following which Canon Rod BrantFrancis presented her with the Archbishop's license to assist in Mistissini as "Parish Evangelist."

Then a poignant moment took place when the gathering presented Rod and Lisa BrantFrancis with a gift acknowledging their years of service in the diocese prior to their moving to the Diocese of Ontario.

The evening was capped with a reception in the parish hall complete with mountains of goodies provided by the people of the parish as well as members from St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake.

Catherine continues her ministry in Kirkland Lake and at Schumacher's "LivingRoom."

## Anglicans and Food Expand Together from p. 1.



lads bailed out of a van asking if free food were available! Reverend Valerie told them that it would be a couple of minutes, but, yes, the food

was free. With the assistance of the Reverend Phelan Scanlon and the newly minted priest, the Reverend Catherine Murkin, the afternoon

was busy. Catherine donned her lab coat and wacky wig and proceeded to entertain with various experiments. Father Phelan talked about baptism and Christening and the Reverend Valerie sat talking with various people who stopped by.

Being in the park gave a huge opportunity to our small parish to become more visible in the community. With many small churches closing it is important to let everyone know we are still here and viable. Coming up next is going to be the 100th anniversary of St. Mark's, Kapuskasing.



### *The Northland*

A publication of the Anglican Diocese of Moosonee

A Section of the *Anglican Journal*

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Published Quarterly.

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Box 735,  
113 Third Street,  
Cochrane, ON  
P0L 1C0  
705-272-4310

Printed by  
Webnews Printing, Inc.  
North York, ON  
www.facebook.com  
Anglican Diocese of Moosonee



# History Byte: 'Ye happy Kingdom'

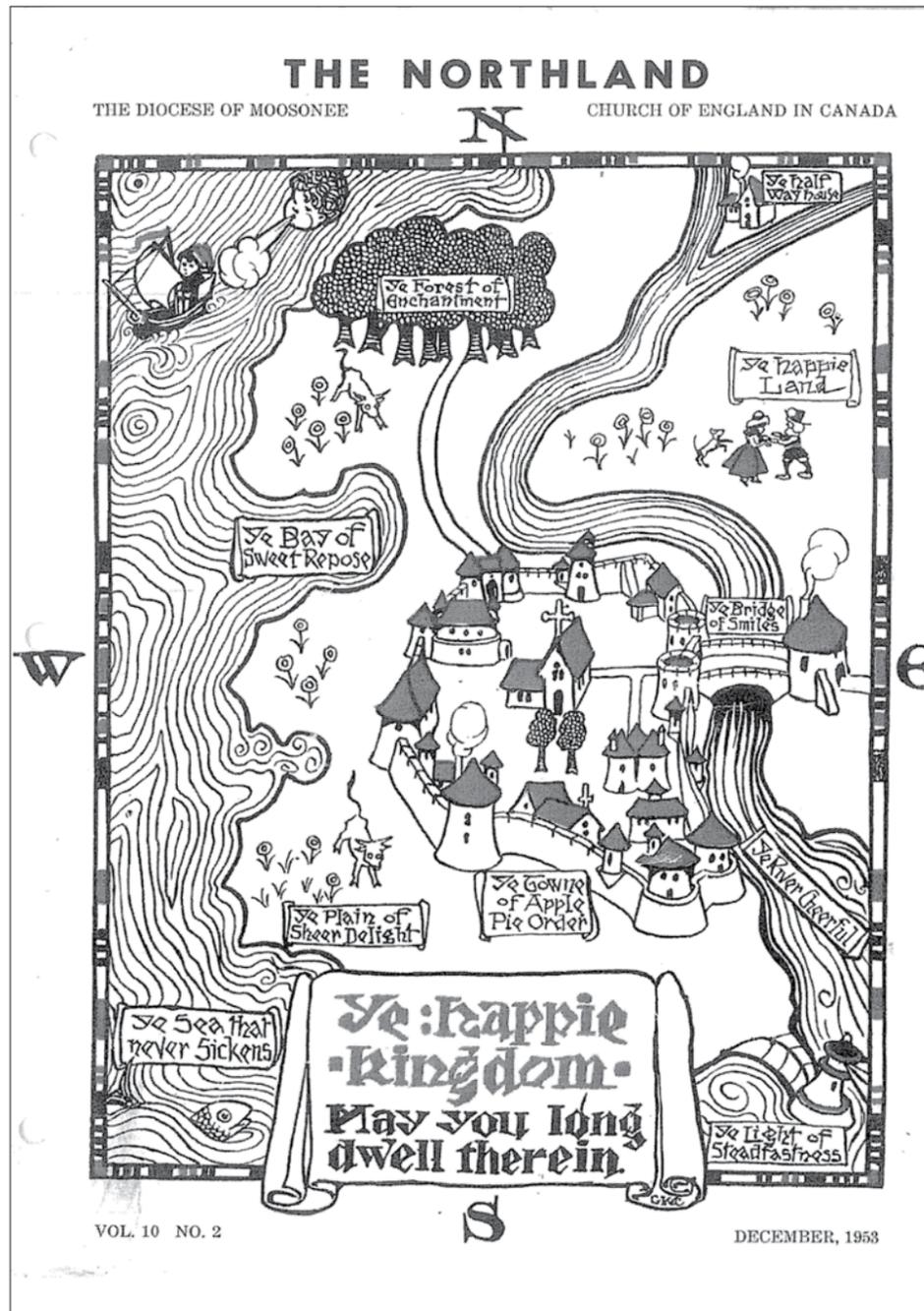
Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee

There are still a few of our readers of *"The Northland"* who will remember the day when every Christmas edition of our publication featured a cover entitled, "Ye Happy Kingdom." The cover was started as a regular Christmas feature in 1948 and continued each year until the 1980's.

The cover depicted a medieval village at its centre called, "Ye Towne of Apple Pie Order" and was surrounded by features such as "Ye Happy Land", "Ye River Cheerful", and "Ye Forest of Enchantment." On one side of the village was the "Sea that Never Sickness" and on the other side flowed the "River of Cheerfulness" across which there was a bridge into the village called, "Ye Bridge of Smiles." It was a cheerful Christmas greeting to all of our *Northland* readers every year.

The frontispiece was found by Moosonee's fifth bishop, Bishop Robert Renison, in an old book shop he visited on a trip to England as a young missionary at the beginning of the twentieth century. Of that visit, Bishop Renison wrote that "after seven years on Hudson Bay" England seemed "like a fairy country."

Of the day he found the treasure, Bishop Renison wrote, "One day while wandering in an old bookshop in Amen Corner, I found a book for children, three hundred years old. The frontispiece was a map of "Ye Happie Kingdom."



dom." It had originally been a Christmas card.

Archbishop Renison loved the Diocese of Moosonee and throughout his life he shared that enthusiastic love everywhere he travelled. He and his wife started *"The Northland"* as a means for them to share that love with the 'outside world'. With the purchase of the frontispiece, he compared the "Happie Kingdom" to the diocese. He wrote, *"The Forest of Enchantment, the Halfway House, and the Light of Steadfastness are in the pack of every pioneer."* Further, he stated, *"all missionaries need the warm spirit of Sheer Delight and the wooden rectory with its coal oil lamp is often the Halfway House of Heaven."*

Finally, Bishop Renison shared both his love of the diocese and the reality of northern life when he introduced the Christmas cover in 1948. *"Nowhere in the world does home mean so much as in the cold North, where in the wintertime the Chandelier of stars swings low over the Black Spruce and the paths are paved with Crystal Snow."*

To be sure much of Moosonee has changed since those days but in many respects, at least for those of us who love this diocese and the north, there remains in our hearts the belief that this is still "Ye Happy Kingdom." As we celebrate Christmas in this northern land, we share the words found on the old frontispiece, "May you long dwell therein."

## Anglicans Welcome Newcomers

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

Representatives from St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Anglican Churches recently participated in the 'Welcome to Timmins Night' for a second consecutive year. The 'Welcome to Timmins Night' is an annual event hosted by the Timmins and District Multicultural Centre. On September 7th, between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. the MacIntyre Curling Club was full to overflowing while various organizations from cultural to recreational, health to education, and municipal organizations were all represented.

The 'Welcome to Timmins' initiative is now in its twenty-third year and offers newcomers the opportunity to find out more of what Timmins has to offer and to engage directly with community members all under one roof. The event is also popular with locals



Richard Pryce, Nicky & Hugo Alexander formed a smiling part of the Anglican welcome team which greeted both newcomers and residents of Timmins at the 'Welcome to Timmins Night.'

who wish to find out more about what is going on in the city.

As a newcomer to Canada myself,

I appreciate the benefits that such an event offers. It is easy to feel overwhelmed when arriving in a new city,

adjusting to the colder climate and negotiating cultural differences ... and all the time trying to stay on the right side of the road!

The church can provide much in terms of social and emotional support as well as helping to provide newcomers with a sense of belonging. Indeed, it is hugely encouraging to find a small and welcoming Anglican community here in Timmins - similar to the one that was left behind.

However, too often, by remaining cloistered within our walls, we as the church community make it harder for potential members to find us. It is only by stepping out and participating in events like 'Welcome to Timmins' that we can start to reach out beyond our immediate circle and engage in the greater community and the City of Timmins as a whole.



# “Losing Jesus on the Way to Christmas”

Article by Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop of Moosonee

**I**t was Christmas Eve and the parish I served in suburban Toronto was packed for the Family Eucharist. Our church custom was to ‘populate’ the crèche set up in front of the altar at the beginning of the Eucharist. The lights were dimmed, the first familiar carol began, the congregation rose, and the procession moved down the aisle with various children carrying the small plaster figures to place in the manger.

I had invited a five year old, my son’s best buddy, to have the honour of carrying up the Baby Jesus. I should have known better! The sheep and the goats, even a kangaroo and a teddy bear arrived and found space in the straw. The shepherds, Mary and Joseph found their proper places. The hymn ended. No Baby Jesus. Devon had lost him somewhere coming down the aisle. Frantic searches under pews in low light ensued. Devon was unperturbed; his parents were mortified; I was anxious. Everyone else just laughed.

In retrospect, I missed a great sermon opportunity: “losing Jesus on the way to Christmas.” It would have worked much better than whatever I preached that night.

Jesus wasn’t lost, of course. He was in the midst of his people, underfoot, invisible, waiting to be ‘found’ all along. And we did. The celebrations continued joyously. All was well.

I am not overly worried that we will



Archbishop Colin spent much of his time spiritually sustaining the clergy and lay readers of the diocese during clericus. Archbishop Colin and the Reverend Larry Armstrong talked with one another between the formal sessions at clericus.

lose Jesus in the midst of all the hype and busyness of the season. The main attraction may seem to have gone missing. And yet, the generosity of spirit, the genuine affection, the compassionate reaching out to others, even the carol singing by people who show up at no other time of the year tell a somewhat different story if we will hear it. This behaviour speaks to me of people responding in love to some prompting of the God of love already present.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, once said that wherever you experience joy, you should know that Jesus is somewhere in the neighbourhood.

Where I do get concerned about ‘losing Jesus’ is not at the festivities of Christmas but in some of our everyday debates and fights in the Church. When we take a small issue and blow it out of proportion and focus on what divides us. When we make a single is-

sue, no matter how important, the test of another’s faithfulness to the Gospel and miss that each of us bears the image of God in our soul and each of us is named and equally beloved child of God through our baptism in Jesus. When we lose sight of the focus of our worship and our service - Jesus - distracted by our attention on something less worthy. When we inflict injury, treat one another with disdain, or by our behaviour create an atmosphere not of joy but hostility.

Unfortunately, we all do this - everyone of us, individually and as communities - from time to time.

The good news is that Jesus does not lose us. Jesus seeks us out and finds us. Jesus does not stay hidden in our midst but reveals himself. Jesus heals us from the petty wraths and sorrows of our hearts, and forgives us our sins. Jesus carries us on his shoulders when we ‘drop him going down the isle.’

It’s an amazing reversal. It is what Christmas and Epiphany, what Holy Week and Easter, what Pentecost and the ordinary days and weeks of Christian life are all about.

When we come to the crèche and the altar at Christmas, there is room in the straw to kneel and adore even for you and me. And find Him again who is ever busy finding us.

Blessings for a holy Christmas and New Year of grace.

## The Blessing of the Waters

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

**A**s a priest, I am asked to do all kinds of blessings. One of the more unusual requests from the Indigenous Parish of St. Stephen’s, Constance Lake First Nation is a ‘Blessing of the Waters.’ It was one of the first things the Select Vestry asked me to fit into the liturgical calendar. It is one of my favourite services of the year. Considering the significance of water for our two essential sacraments of Church, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, it is an essential part of the liturgical life of our parish.

We gathered together on Sunday afternoon in September on the banks of the Kibinakagami River near the bridge on Highway 11 just before the Constance Lake Road. The weather was perfect -big fluffy clouds and sunshine, and a nice breeze to



Lay Reader Standsin Water Sutherland assisted parishioners with the Blessing of the Waters.

keep the bugs at bay, and a potluck picnic to boot.

Our service began with the smudging ceremony and the blessing of the four directions and ended with an offering of tobacco to the river. I am always deeply moved by the smudging ceremony. This action of cleansing before we begin, each person performing the ritual in silence, giving us a sense of expectation, preparation, and peace. It is this of silence that speaks the loudest before we begin to speak the words

to ask the Creator to bless the waters.

Towards the end of the service, I dipped my crucifix into the river three times calling upon the Holy Spirit to sanctify the waters. Then each person came down the bank to the river’s edge and scattered tobacco upon the waters - an offering prayer in silence.

The Liturgy for the Blessing of the Waters is wordy. The prayers are long, the readings long, there are so many words to say. Even though the words needed to be said, it was the silence that spoke the best.

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# Godspeed to Rod & Lisa BrantFrancis

Article by various diocesan clergy.

**R**od and Lisa BrantFrancis came to serve in the Diocese of Moosonee as lay Church Army Captains. Together this dynamic couple have enthusiastically preached the Gospel and have been committed and generous leaders and disciples in the Diocese of Moosonee. They arrived in the diocese on February 1st, 2005 and moved to Kashechewan, Ontario where they served as lay incumbents of St. Paul's Church. In August, 2006 they accepted a move to the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Wemindji, Quebec.

With much joy, both Rod and Lisa were ordained by Archbishop Caleb Lawrence in September, 2006. The ordination was celebrated in Tyendinaga, Ontario. Archbishop Lawrence ordained Rodney to the priesthood at the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee in August, 2007 and Lisa accepted ordination to the priesthood on November 3, 2010.

It is difficult to sum up the evangelical ministry of this couple in a few words for this article. Rod and Lisa are woven into the fabric of



*The Reverends Rod & Lisa BrantFrancis received a lovely parting gift from their friends and admirers in the diocese at the Ordination Service held at St. Paul's.*

this diocese. It would be hard to find active members of the Church in this diocese who do not know and love them. They have provided faithful ministry to the people they have served in times of joy, in times of sorrow, and every season in between. They approach ministry with hearts for the Gospel and

a tremendous love for God and for God's people.

First elected as Regional Dean of James Bay in 2008, Rod has served in that capacity until the present time. In that role, he has ably provided support for other clergy serving in the James Bay Deanery, has organized and facilitated Great

Chapter meetings and retreats. Lisa has been at Rod's side throughout and has assisted him in all of his endeavours as Regional Dean. In June, 2011, Rod was appointed an Honourary Canon of the Cathedral of St. Matthew by Bishop Tom Corston. Lisa has served as President of the Diocesan ACW and since 2015, as Diocesan Children's and Youth Ministry Co-ordinator, well supported in her ministries by Rod. Both have served on Diocesan Executive Council and Synod and as delegates from this diocese to provincial and national synods. Both have been welcome ambassadors of the Diocese of Moosonee when they have spoken in churches in other parts of Canada.

There is so much more which could be said about these two evangelists, priests, and friends - and they still have many years of faithful ministry ahead. They will remain our family and friends even though God has now called them to new ministries in the Diocese of Ontario where they will serve in the Parish of Tyendinaga.



*Young people in Schumacher flock to the LivingRoom whenever they have the opportunity.*

## Hitting the Ground Running

Article by the Reverend Catherine Murkin, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, and the LivingRoom, Schumacher.

**T**he LivingRoom is a drop-in centre in Schumacher, open once a week and it is a ministry of our diocese which welcomes all ages. At the LivingRoom we experience the opportunity to practice Christianity 101, "Love your neighbour as yourself."

Every week we find ourselves blessed with young people. As soon as the school day ends, children make their way to the LivingRoom, often 20 plus in number. However, we are in desperate need of volun-

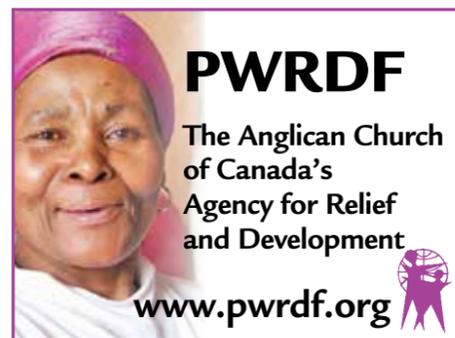
teers to support these children. We are inviting you to share in this youthful exuberance. At the LivingRoom you will find young lives eager to be engaged by caring adults. Unfortunately, there are not enough of us for the ideal ratio, so with our invitation to you, we are hoping to fan into flame that spark of desire to volunteer that some of you reading this will have.

We have kids hungry for two things: attention and food. We are asking for two hours a month of your

time. We need weekly volunteers for the 3:00-5:00 p.m. time period and two times a month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. If engaging directly with this group of energetic youth seems to be an overwhelming job to commit to, we have need for someone to host the food station. Assisting in this way will enable someone else to spend valuable time interacting with the young people. We are looking for people to play board games, to make crafts, and to engage in conversation.

If time is not something you are able to donate, but finances are, then we ask you to prayerfully consider making a donation to the LivingRoom through the diocese. The amount of food and drink consumed by this hungry after school crowd is staggering.

We are looking for people who desire to be a positive influence on young lives. Could this be you?



## GREAT CHAPTER MEETINGS: Mark the Dates

■ The James Bay Deanery Great Chapter meeting will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church, Mistissini, Quebec beginning on the evening of Friday, February 24th and ending with lunch on Sunday, February 26th, 2017.

■ The Watershed Deanery's Great Chapter will begin on Friday, March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 4th, 2017 at the Cathedral Church of St. Matthew, Timmins, Ontario.

■ Great Chapters should be attended by: clergy, lay readers, wardens, vestry clerks, treasurers, and 2 delegates elected at each parish's Annual Meeting. As 2017 is the year in which each deanery elects a regional dean as well as clergy (1) and lay representatives (6) to serve on Executive Council / Synod, it is important that parish officers and delegates attend.



# Finding Jesus under the Sea

Article by Ann Westgate, Evangelist at St. John the Evangelist, Mississini, Quebec

The children of Mississini know about 'Finding Nemo.' Then 'Finding Dory' came on the screen. Then Martha and I received a poster about 'Finding Jesus under the Sea.' So, here is a question for you ... yes, you can find Nemo under the sea but how can you find Jesus under the sea? Remember that God created the heavens and the earth. When we look at creation we can see God and if we can see God the Father and Creator well, we should also find ... Jesus the Son. So what do the creatures of the beautiful briny sea tell us about Jesus? Got your bathing suits on, your flippers on, and your diving mask on okay? Let's go for a swim.

Hey, look over there; do you see those dolphins swimming together? Listen carefully; they are talking to each other. It can be a series of clicks, a flip of their fin or a splash of their tail. The dolphin is a wonderful creature that loves to communicate. Jesus told his disciples, "Go you into the world, baptize yes but also preach and teach others about the kingdom of God." Jesus wants to tell others about Him; we are his witnesses. Just like Philip who ran alongside the Ethiopian and told him about Jesus.

Look down there on the ocean floor. What is that hard crusty thing? Yes, you're right, that is a crab. They have a hard shell and ouch! those claws are



The children of Mississini are blessed to have a vibrant, engaging Sunday School at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church.

sharp. They have a reputation for being, well crabby. Did you know that God can turn the deepest frown upside down? He did it with Jonah. Jonah was a real sour puss and he ran from God and hopped on to a sailing ship. A storm came by and the sailors tossed Jonah overboard. A fish came by and Jonah spent three dark and dreary days inside a whale.

Hey, watch it! What is that thing? It is bobbing along and flip flopping all over

the place. Wait a minute, that's a jelly-fish. They have no bones; they just kind of go with the flow. God does not want us to be flipping and flopping all over the place. Jesus wants us to stand up for him. Just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they stood up to a king. They refused to bend and they refused to bow down. The king had them thrown into the fiery furnace and God protected them and they did not burn.

There is a lot more to learn but hold on to this it's a seashell. It reminds us that a creature once lived there. Just like the empty tomb reminds us that Jesus Christ died on the cross to take away our sins. He was laid to rest in the tomb. The tomb is empty because Jesus Christ has done it; life conquered death. Jesus Christ has won it. We have the victory. That is how you can find Jesus under the sea.

# Young and Old Joined with Interlink

Article by Lind Greig, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, Ontario.

We have a programme in Kirkland Lake that pairs seniors and children in a group that practices singing songs for eight months. A good number of parishioners from St. Peter's volunteer each week to participate in this programme. We enthusiastically gather at the church to learn the songs every Tuesday afternoon and that morning our director, David Gillett, and our co-ordinator, Marshall Thompson wend their way to Central Public School to teach the Grade 5 children the same melodies. At the beginning of October, each senior is assigned a student. Every so often we get together for a joint practice and sometimes we have lunch in the church hall. Throughout our time together, we exchange pen pal letters and cards.

It's a great programme for seniors as we meet new folks and form a bond. Singing definitely brings a healing effect to the soul. David is a wonderful conductor and produces many opportunities for laughter. The children



Kirkland Lake is blessed to have so many singers both young and mature making a joyful noise under the guidance of leaders from St. Peter's on-the-Rock.

benefit from being in Interlink as they learn a little bit about reading music. Since music is no longer part of the curriculum in schools, they learn songs that they don't hear in the media. It is amazing that each year the children have a favourite song. Last year's class loved "Anthem" from "Jonathan Livingston Seagull." It lifts your

soul to see the joy on their faces.

Our relationship with the children is precious. They are happy to see us and sad if their special person isn't there to give them a letter or a hug. They are sometimes able to talk with their pen pal about things they don't tell too many other people. One year, I 'adopted' one little girl when her pen

pal was forced to leave Interlink due to illness. At our final practice, she confided that she had a health issue and her teacher later told me that no one in the class knew that. I felt quite blessed to have this child in my life.

This year our Interlink group has lost its financial backing. The director, pianist, and the co-ordinator are paid a small stipend to do their jobs. They work hard for our group finding songs, teaching parts to the adults, learning to play difficult passages of music. We're a fighting group and this year may be difficult, but we will carry on and present our annual concert.

When you have come to the edge of all the light you have

And step into the darkness of the unknown

Believe that one of the two will happen to you

Either you'll find something solid to stand on

Or you'll be taught to fly.

(from "Jonathan Livingston Seagull")

And fly we will!



# What Happens at Clericus?

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



Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishops Tom Corston and Darren McCartney and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake joined with the clergy, lay readers and other laity in a time of spiritual renewal at the diocesan clericus held in Cochrane.



Bishop Tom and Ruth Corston sang hymns joyfully at clericus.

“Come to clericus ... a time to get away from the busy schedule of parish schedules and duties ... a time to relax and be refreshed.” What? Whoever said this has never been to clericus to is this a cleverly deceptive ploy to get clergy to attend clericus? Dieters stay at home because they are doomed to fail. Most would agree that you need another week to recover from clericus.

Clericus was extra special this year because my wife was my travel companion. We arrived having travelled from Mistissini to Schumacher. It was a great opportunity for some of us who prayed for Catherine and the Living-Room ministry to see it and be inside the ministry facility. I could imagine Catherine sitting on a chair or on the floor and sharing the Christmas story with families hearing it for the first time.

After a wonderful welcome, came the time to check in and reconnect with other priests in the diocese. Later we travelled to Saint Paul's Church in South Porcupine for the ordination of the Reverend Catherine Murkin to the priesthood. At the end of the service, Mrs. Ann Westgate was licensed as Parish Evangelist for the parish of Saint John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Mistissini, Quebec. Presentations were also made to Canon Rod BrantFrancis and Lisa BrantFrancis. Rod and Lisa were leaving the Parish of Wemindji in the James Bay Deanery and the Diocese of Moosonee after 10 years of ministry. We wish them God's best in their new ministry in the Diocese of Ontario.

After the service of ordination and the reception, we travelled again from

South Porcupine to Cochrane where we would be spending the next few days eating both physical and spiritual food. We had the pleasure of being served spiritual food by the Reverend David Griffin from the Church of the Transfiguration in the Diocese of Toronto and the Right Reverend Darren McCarney, Suffragan Bishop from the Diocese of the Arctic.



The Reverends David Giffen and George Westgate discussed spiritual matters together.

David led us in Bible studies and worship and he introduced us to another side of ministry through the eyes of St. Peter. Peter did not always listen to Jesus. Peter often spoke first and asked questions later. Peter often did not get it right the first time. So, guess what - do not feel badly if you don't succeed the first time - you're in good company. Peter did not quit. The slogan for Peter was 'when the going gets tough, the tough get going.' There is a lot we can learn from Peter. Peter followed Jesus because Peter knew that he was unworthy and Jesus would lift him up. Peter trusted Jesus because Peter knew what his life was like when he said and did his own thing. Peter listened to Jesus because

Peter knew that there was no other way except by following and trusting Jesus. We make mistakes because we are not perfect. We will put our feet in our mouths because we react as human beings. We will not succeed at everything we do if we are doing, saying, and planning things on our own and leave Jesus behind. Remember to watch with Jesus, to pray with Jesus, and to follow him.

Bishop Darren led us to the Promised Land through the Old Testament specifically through the lens of the prophet Elijah. Remember your calling. What called you to ministry? Where have you come from? Where are you now? Where is God directing you? When Elijah ran from Jezebel and Ahab, he ran and took rest under a tree where he cried out to God because he wanted to die. God's grace sustains us and God's love and mercy provide for us. We need to trust God and take risks. We need to explore new ways to do ministry. Like Elijah, we need to listen to the still small voice. How we communicate the Gospel can be just as destructive as it can be constructive. Words can be hurtful, cause pain, and put up barriers. Words can also bring healing, restore confidence, and tear down walls and barriers. We are the seed; we need to plant it; we need to water it; and we need to harvest it. We must tend the seeds in the heart, the soul, the mind, and in the bodies of his children. Sometimes it means being vulnerable and taking risks ourselves. Proclaim, teach, love, and seek - these are the marks of mission. Stop doing all the work yourself and permit God to work through you.



## The Moosonee Foundation

The purpose of the recently formed Moosonee Foundation is to receive donations and maintain a fund so as to provide grants from the income of the fund to support the charitable activities of the Bishop of Moosonee.

Annual Membership in the Moosonee Foundation is \$5.00 per person and provides the member with a vote at the Annual Meeting. To become a member, complete and forward the following form with payment of the annual fee, payable to the Moosonee Foundation.

The Moosonee Foundation  
Box 735, Cochrane, ON  
P0L 1C0  
2017 Membership: \$5.00

Please Print:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# Moosonee's New School of Ministry

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee



*Parish and diocesan leaders - the nucleus of the School of Ministry - took communion together during their gathering at clericus and strengthened their bonds of fellowship.*

Not long after you read this article, Moosonee's new "School of Ministry" will open with their first sessions. It is an exciting and optimistic venture that we are hopeful will attract parish leaders to consider a ministry for themselves.

The idea for the new venture has been worked on for more than a year by the Dio-

cese of Moosonee's Theological Education Task Force under the chairmanship of Bishop Tom Corston. The Task Force is made up of: Susan Montague (now Mrs. Jay Koyle), the Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis, the Reverend Phelan Scanlon, the Reverend Norm Wesley, Canon Cliff Dee, and including Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake. It

began out of a concern that the Diocese is facing increasing vacancies in our parish leadership, particularly among our ordained clergy. While it is vital that the diocese continues to search for seminary trained clergy to come north, we concluded that there were leaders in our parishes who could assume those roles with some 'in-house' training.

The School of Ministry is a year-long programme that will include four long weekends throughout the year. Each weekend will primarily include lectures in pertinent programmes led by our own diocesan clergy who have received seminary training. Courses will include: sacred theology, scripture, church history, prayer, liturgy, preaching, evangelism, and pastoral care. The programme will also include sessions on Indigenous teachings and priorities as well as a presentation on the Church's programmes and policies.

Invitations have gone out to every congregation to seek persons who might like to consider parish ministry and possibly ordination. Participants must have the agreement of their congregation in registering and commit to participating in each scheduled weekend for the year. Between weekend sessions the participants will be required to work on a field placement project with

the guidance of their local minister. They will also be required to serve actively in their own parish's ministry for evaluative purposes at the end of the programme.

At the end of the year's formation, participants will be offered ordination. If they express their wish to be ordained they will undergo examination to evaluate their suitability for ordination and eventually be presented to the Archbishop who will ordain them for a ministry in the diocese.

The first weekend on the new training school is scheduled for January 26-29, 2017, with other weekends scheduled for May and October and January, 2018 in Cochrane. Financing for the school, including travel and accommodation costs, is covered by the diocese from various financial sources.

We are hopeful that this new venture will ultimately be a blessing for the future ministry of our Church in the Diocese of Moosonee.

## Church Attendance Increasing - by Animals!

This article is a compilation of writing by Lay Reader James Lonergan-Freake, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane and the Reverend Valerie Isaac, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing.

The annual 'Blessing of the Animals' was held in Cochrane in late September on a lovely evening. It was fitting that the sun shone brightly as we gathered with our 4 footed family members to give thanks for them. What a joy filled time! Dogs and one brave cat gathered with their human families on the steps of the church. It was such a lovely evening that the service took place outside where passers-by could wave and greet us. In all, 11 fur babies received individual blessings and certificates to mark the occasion. We were grateful that Mary Ann Parsley of our parish, who is a wonderful photographer, came to take pictures of individual animals and their people, as well as several group pictures. As always, a special prayer was offered for deceased pets who remain in



*Ava and Christina Miller brought their pet to be blessed at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins.*

our hearts.

At St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, the annual 'Blessing of the Animals' was an early evening celebration dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, patron of animals. This year's service

was dedicated to Lise Boul-liane who was the driving force behind Animal Rescue of Kapuskasing or ARK as it's known locally. Lise recently lost her battle with cancer and now the group is battling to



*People and pets were blessed at St. Peter's on-the-Rock in Kirkland Lake.*

save the institution that she started years ago. There were a couple of puppies present, several pictures of beloved pets that couldn't make the service and the ashes of one beloved pet who died earlier this sum-

mer. All were blessed by the Reverend Valerie Isaac as were their owners who shared their lives with the creatures that God brought into their lives. It was a joyous celebration of God's gift to us all.

