

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

# NORTHLAND

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This quilt, which is hanging in the former church, reflects Indigenous culture.



This quilt demonstrates the beauty and quality of the quilts being made.

## Quilts for Healing

Article by George Cribbs, Editor.

*"As Anglicans we have a particular responsibility for our share in the past even as we commit to working towards a different renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples including the emerging Indigenous Church."*  
Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

**T**HE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE has entered into an agreement with an Indigenous entity, "Quilts for Survivors" as part of its efforts to forge a new and improved relationship with the Indigenous community.

"Quilts for Survivors" endeavours to bring comfort to survivors of the residential school system. They have, to date, made almost 6,000 quilts and given them to first nations people who have need for comfort. The quilts are made with love and car-



**Venessa Genier, CEO and Founder of 'Quilts for Survivors' greeted people on the steps of the former St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine as they came for the official opening.**

ing and are a tangible proof of that caring.

When the diocese learned of the work being done to assist the survivors of the residential school system and that the Indigenous group who were doing the work needed space in which to carry on their endeavours, they acted! The former St. Paul's Church in South Porcupine was made available to "Quilts for Survivors" and a five year lease was signed. The building now has a new lease on life and has been transformed into a productive space where quilts are being made by the skilful volunteers.

At the official opening of "Quilters for Survivors", Archbishop Fred Hiltz quoted Venessa Genier, the CEO and Founder of "Quilts for Survivors" regarding the ongoing relationship between Indig-

See "Community Partnerships" on page 2.



**Lay Readers Suzanne Bernier and Marshall Thompson.**

## Our Lay Readers

Article by Anne Dyas, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee.

**T**HERE IS A SHORTAGE of ordained clergy in this diocese. Despite advertising and personal contact in Canada and abroad the farther north a parish is situated, the harder it is to interest qualified persons. Who is doing ministry when no ordained clergy is available? Most often, it is the lay volunteer since few parishes have Lay Readers and so ministry and regular liturgy may not be offered. So, why should anyone become a lay reader?

Scripture reminds us, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matthew 9: 37-38) Possibly, you are one of God's chosen workers but you have not yet answered his call or maybe not recognized it as a call but if your friends and congregation members turn to you for advice on church matters, an ordained clergy person asked you to lead worship or to help with the Eucharist

See "Your Invitation" on page 2.





# "Community Partnerships"

continued from page one.

enous people and other communities when he said, "the quilt manifests a most meaningful kind of hug, acknowledging and nurturing a sense of recognition of one's pain, and offering comfort."

The Diocese of Moosonee has a long history of involvement with secular community groups. At the former St. Paul's, for example, the diocese continues to help the Porcupine Horticultural Society by letting it have a series of raised garden beds which it distributes to seniors and others who wish to continue gardening. At St. Matthew's Cathedral, the diocese has been helpful in supporting the community lunch program wherein persons in need receive a good meal in a comfortable and safe environment.

Many parishes within the diocese have developed relationships with community groups. Holy Trinity in Cochrane recently reported in the Northland regarding its support for the New Ribbon Skirts program and



**These ladies were two of the drummers and quilters who welcomed people to the opening of 'Quilters for Survivors.'**

Cree Step dancing program. St. Mark's in Iroquois Falls also advised the Northland about its ongoing outreach work with local elementary schools in supplying them with children's mitts, socks etc. St. Matthew's Cathedral also tells of its hosting the Timmins Symphony, the Girl Guides and several other groups. Such relationships between the Church and commu-



**A view of a work area within the former church building in South Porcupine and some of the quilts.**

nity further the influence of the Church beyond its walls. Anglicans, therefore, extend their worship lives through supporting secular community groups which are seeking to better people's lives. The Diocese of Moosonee and its parishes seek to improve relations with not only First Nations' people but also with all the communities within its sphere.

# "Your Invitation"

continued from page one.

or Morning Prayer; if you ever wondered what it would feel like to be the one leading and/or helping with the liturgy - or perhaps you already assist with parish administration(schedules, minutes, finances, etc.) then you have been called. You are on the threshold of something wonderful, on the doorstep to actions which will fill you with great joy. God has sent his messengers to invite you to be a lay reader of your parish.

Ideally, the first action upon being asked to become a lay reader is to take time to pray to God asking for His help in making your decision because it is very easy to make personal excuses and deny the call but if you are willing to accept that call please contact someone who can help with the steps required: your incumbent, Regional Dean, Canon Diane Hilpert-McIlroy - the Principal of the Bishop Tom Corston School of Ministry. All will be happy to advise you and guide your steps towards your goal.

Parishes offer many opportunities to a lay reader, some of



**Lay Reader, Marshall Thompson, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, Gayle Miedema, Holy Trinity, Cochrane, and Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers, Anne Dyas, shared a joyous moment at the commencement of the diocesan synod.**

which you may feel reluctant to do but you will not know your own strengths until you try each one. Training as a lay reader doesn't necessarily mean you must, in time, become ordained as deacon or priest. Many serve as lay readers for their remaining years but the training you receive will benefit your whole parish and enable you to offer your best possible leadership, learning on the job, like an apprentice. Col-

lege or university education are not essential but they are available at little cost in several institutions through distance learning - so you learn at home.

This training, whether hands-on, participating in weekly morning prayer and teaching with Canon Diane or choices from the many courses available online, is an expectation when you agree to serve your church as a lay reader.



## The Northland

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As a lay reader, you will make a covenant with your parish, priest, and bishop, promising to serve faithfully and to continue to learn on the job under their guidance. The ceremony of installation will take place annually on the first Sunday of Advent.





*Article by Canon Grayhame Bowcott, Program Director for the Licentiate in Theology, Huron University.*







Vanessa Genier, the founder of 'Quilts for Survivors', led a group of Indigenous drummers and quilters as they made the public welcome at their new location in South Porcupine - the former St. Paul's Anglican Church.



Gail Cooper and Cathy Millions are two new converts to "Qwirkle" - a game that has the people attending the games afternoons at St. Matthew's Cathedral quite enthralled.



Joanne Konopelky, Valerie Isaac, and Marshall Thompson took a break from the provincial synod which was held in Sault Ste. Marie in mid-June.



Don Montague, who has overseen the restoration work done both in the interior and on the exterior of St. Matthew's Cathedral, was pleased to have his birthday acknowledged by his grateful co-parishioners.



The Select Vestry of Holy Trinity Anglican Parish in Cochrane gives thanks to the Anglican Foundation for their financial support towards infrastructure upgrades to Archbishop Anderson Memorial Church as the parish moves forward to their 114th year of Anglican ministry.



Archbishop Anne Germond, Suzanne Bernier, St. Mark's Iroquois Falls, and The Canon Judy Paulsen - who formerly attended St. Matthew's Cathedral - were participants at a lay readers conference held in the Diocese of Algoma. There were more than 30 participants from various parts of Ontario who received instruction in how to write sermons; how to make pastoral visits; the nature of 'Anglican Rites'; and how to craft 'Prayers of the People' as well as being introduced to a new Lay Readers Manual.



# "Those Whom We Love But See No Longer"

Article by Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.

**T**HIS PAST SUMMER, I was honoured to participate in the annual Memorial Services in Moosonee and Moose Factory. Well over eighty people gathered in Moosonee and well over an hundred and fifty in Moose Factory. While most of the people were from the local communities, a good number had travelled very great distances to be there.

Some had been in the cemetery the day before to tidy up the graves of loved ones. Monuments of stone had been cleaned. Wooden crosses that mark many of the graves had been given a fresh coat of paint. Dates of birth and death or as some read 'sunrise' and 'sunset' had been retraced.

On the day of the service, many arrived with new floral arrangements and other tributes and placed them with tender care and abiding love. Stories were shared, evoking tears and laughter too. When the service began the people did not congregate. They stayed with 'those they love but see no longer' sitting or standing around their graves. Hymns were sung, the Word of God was read and prayers were offered. I had been asked to share a reflection. The word that had been on my mind



*These images not only show many of the people who had come to honour loved ones whose earthly lives had ceased but also they reveal them staying with "those they love but see no longer."*

and in my heart was 'precious'. How precious is all the Creator has given us - the land and the waters and the skies above. How precious is the bush where people go for refreshment and renewal. How precious are our loved ones, dear friends and wise teachers. How

precious is their voice and their renewal. How precious are their remains and how precious the earth in which we bury them. And how precious is the faith in which we commend them to God in the comfort and hope of rest and resurrection in Christ.



**Grace Park**  
Lay Reader: St. Matthew/St. Paul Anglican United Church, Hearst, St. Luke's, Hornepayne, and St. Stephen's Church, Constance Lake.

**M**Y NAME IS GRACE PARK. I have recently graduated from Wycliffe College and am experiencing Northern Ontario for the first time, as well as attending the synod for the first time.

A little bit about myself: I was born in Seoul, South Korea and when I was in grade six, I immigrated with my parents to Canada in Moncton, New Brunswick. While living in New Brunswick, I came to love hiking the trails, canoeing and other experiences that nature offers. Then I moved to Kingston, Ontario to pursue an undergraduate degree in Life Science at Queen's University. During these undergraduate years, I came to faith in Jesus Christ and grew in faith through a Korean Presbyterian church community. After finishing my degrees, I once again moved to Toronto to pursue a seminary education at Wycliffe College. During my time at Wycliffe College, I was first introduced to the *Book of Common Prayer* and the *Book of Alternative Services* and slowly became familiar with the morning and evening prayers. After a summer internship at an Anglican church in Iqaluit, NU, I began discerning a call to ordained ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada. While I further discern the call, I have arrived in Hearst, Ontario for the summer (+September) ministry and I am appreciating the chance to be surrounded by nature once again.

## Celebrating the Season of Creation

Article by Kim Skidmore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

**O**VER THE YEARS, Holy Trinity Parish and the community of Cochrane have consistently nurtured a tradition of supporting the work of PWRDF through education and fund raising. We have initiated such events as: youth bake sales of monster cookies, focused men's breakfasts, goat and farm sponsorship, annual harvest auctions, Christmas card sales and Advent blessing trees to name a few. The focus being that we all have times and talents that we can share for the benefit of lifting up and supporting those in our world in need.

Events have been planned tailored to our parish and community, inclusive of all age groups and with a focus on the opportunity they provide to educate people about the sup-



**Sarah Brown is the parish representative for PWRDF at Holy Trinity in Cochrane.**

port which PWRDF provides to individuals and groups around the world.

This year we celebrated the Season of Creation with a new quilted banner and themed Eucharist services. Sarah Brown, parish representative of PWRDF, led a special worship service based on a PWRDF resource

entitled 'Celebrating Food and Faith.'

This autumn we also held a silent auction and hosted community events including: a Gospel sing, Tuesday prayer times, Evening Song services and a benefit concert - a fundraiser for our stained glass window reinforcement campaign. Parishioners and visitors were encouraged to check out the donated items and pictures of items displayed in the ledges of our beautiful stained glass windows. All funds raised in this event were then donated to the PWRDF in support of refugees and internally displaced persons. Sixteen items with a harvest focus were donated by parishioners and community members. The items included baking, canning, cheese, paintings and local produce.





# Rekindling Hope

Article by Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.

**I** HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THAT WREATH of evergreen branches in which we nestle candles - blue ones for each of the Sundays in Advent, and one great white one for Christmas. The growing circle of sacred flame is a beautiful outward and visible sight of how St. John the Evangelist speaks of the coming of the Son of God:

***"The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. ... In him was the life and the life was the light of all people. The light shone in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."*** (John 1:4,5,9)

Our hope in that great truth is rekindled anew as we light these candles. Their light is lovely; it is steady; it is peaceful. It is the light of the world and the Church; it is light for our homes and lives.

The world of our time is so shadowed with the dark clouds of numerous wars. The war in Ukraine drags on and on. The war in Sudan grows worse. The situation in Haiti is horrible. The terrible war in the Middle East continues to widen. It is hard to even imagine an end in sight. And in the midst of all these conflicts thousands of innocent people have been maimed and scarred for life. Thousands have been killed. Thousands have died. Millions live with short notice military evacuation orders. They are constantly on the run, displaced forever from their homeland. In Advent, we hear once again how the prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming of the Messiah. He uses the image of light.

***"The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined."*** (Isaiah 9:2)

Embracing that glorious hope for all people, we pray for peace within nations, between and among nations. We pray for that day when all will know the righteousness and tranquility with which God's kingdom comes upon earth. And we pray in the name of Him of whom the prophet writes:

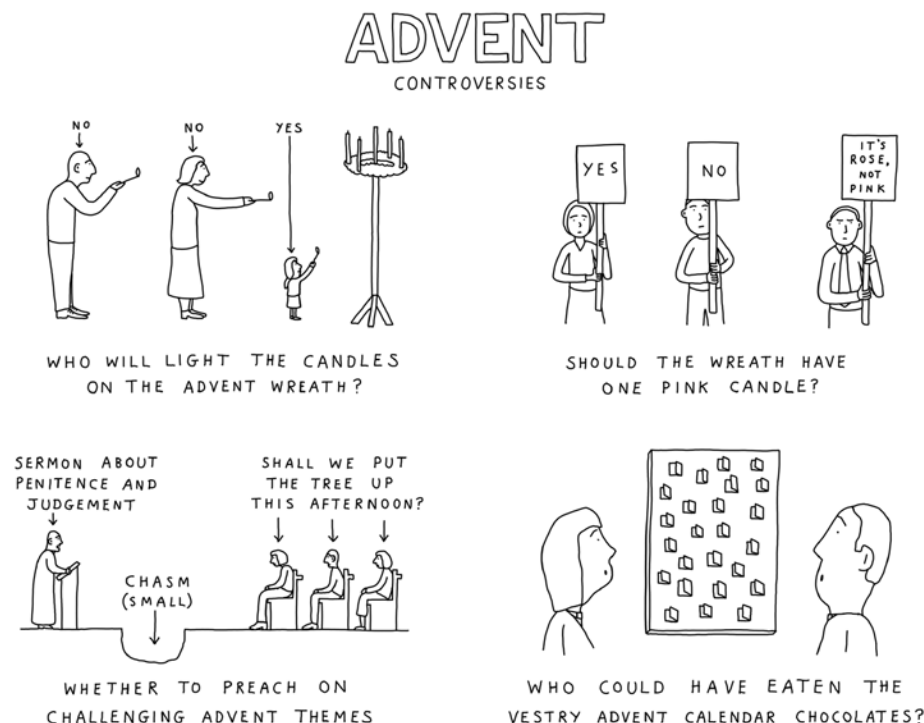
***"To us a child is born, a son***



A traditional Advent Wreath

***is given; authority rests on his shoulders; and he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*** (Isaiah 9:6)

The Church of our time is frequently overwhelmed with concern over the decline in membership, attendance at weekly worship, and active engagement in the work of the church. Diminishing financial resources impact the extent to which ministry can be provided. As a Council of the North diocese, we are keenly aware of this concern. While many wonder what the future holds, Advent is for many others a season of rekindling our trust in the great truth, as St. Paul teaches, that Christ is the author of our salvation, the pioneer of our faith. He is the head of the Church which is his body, and we are members one of another in that body. We are all given gifts for the common good, for building up the Church in unity, faith and service. Knowing this we seek to be renewed in our first calling as followers of Jesus. In our diocese, signs of such renewal can be seen in the number of people enrolled in courses through the Bishop Tom Corston School of Ministry, in several people who are feeling a call to be trained as lay readers and several desirous of learning the nature and practise of pastoral care. We are entering into a season of robust conversation about vocations, and training, and formation for ordained ministries in our Northern context. And we are looking forward to once again having our own duly elected, resident, full time bishop. The election will take place on Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 at St. Mat-



thew's Cathedral in Timmins. It is a season of eager anticipation for all that lies ahead. We are glad to be singing:

***Christ be our light,  
Shine in our hearts, shine  
through the darkness;  
Christ be our light, shine in  
your Church gathered today.  
Christ be our light ... light for  
the world to see."***

(Bernadette Farrell)

And what of Advent and Christmas at home? Many I know will prepare and Advent Wreath and light the candles week by week. Around the sacred flame they read the Scriptures appointed for each day. Some will reflect on the Gospel Reading by considering three questions:

***"What word, sentence, image stands out for you? What is Jesus saying to you? What is Jesus calling you to do?"***

(from *Indigenous Gospel Based Discipleship*).

Some will take time to pray for the world, their community, their families.

As Advent turns toward Christmas, a wreath is hung on the front door and candles are placed in the windows. Furniture is re-arranged to accommodate the Christmas tree. And a special place is designated for the Crèche. In my study at home, I set up the crèche just after the Third Sunday of Advent. I fill it with hay, and place the animals. I wait until Christmas Eve to place Mary and Joseph. The Holy Child and an angel hovering with song from heaven

above. I place the Shepherds on Christmas Day. I light the Christ Candle throughout the Twelve Days of Christmas. As you arrange your crèche at home, I encourage you to gather round and read the story of our Saviour's birth. Sing a carol, perhaps, "Away in a Manger", "Silent Night", "O Come All Ye Faithful", or "Joy to the World". It is especially important that we do this with our children and grandchildren so that in turn they can do it for their own.

In rekindling Candles of Hope for the world, the Church and our lives I pray your Advent be holy and your Christmas joyous!

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# Coming Home

Article by Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL BRIGHT SUNNY DAY in Mistissinni, Quebec. It was September 20th, National Truth and Reconciliation Day, commonly known as Orange Shirt Day. It was the day of Juliette Rabitskin's homecoming.

Affectionately known as 'Jee-wah', Juliette was born in Mistissinni on November 9th, 1957. As a little child she was taken from her family and carried off to an Anglican run 'Indian' Residential School in LaTuque, Quebec. Her story is told in a book *E mukw Miyeyimuwin*, meaning 'going forward to a good place of peace.' Published in 2022, it is a collection of Residential School Recovery Stories of the James Bay Cree - told by them and written by Ruth DyckFederau. Here are a few quotes from Juliette's story: *"We have to be together her cousin and soul mate Emile explained. I speak to her, she signs and I tell you what she says, that's how it works." Classmates recall her as 'adorable ... everybody's favourite person. She was doing kindnesses, like helping someone make their bed, or do their chores, or getting between them and their bullies.' And things she made. They were beautiful. She worked the brightest colours into the most unusual designs. Her stitching was perfectly spaced. It was like looking at the handiwork of a grandmother who had been sewing all her life."*

In April, 1966 there was an outbreak of a virus like pneumonia that swept through the school. Juliette died on April 17th - just 8 years old. Her funeral was 'five minutes long' and she was buried in a far off corner of the Anglican cemetery in LaTuque, near the scrub.

For many years, Juliette's family had longed to bring her home. In recent years there was much deliberation with Indigenous Affairs, the Province of Quebec, Bishop Bruce Myers, Diocese of Quebec, and The



Members of the diocesan synod joined Indigenous Archbishop Chris Harper, Archbishop Anne Germond, and Archbishop Fred Hiltz in praying for reconciliation between Indigenous communities and the rest of Canadian society.



This is the image on the T-Shirts designed for Juliette's homecoming.

Reverend George Westgate, former incumbent of St. John the Evangelist Church in Mistissinni.

Her remains were exhumed on September 20th, 2024; brought home and buried on September 30th. About 300 people attended her funeral, including many children from the local schools. In an opening prayer, Bishop Meyers said, *"Today's funeral will not be short or rushed. We will take as long as we need to welcome her home and commend her to the loving mercy of the One who created her in love."* After a very moving tribute

from Juliette Loon, named after Juliette, Bishop Meyers offered a heartfelt apology to the Rabitskin family, all who attended Residential School in LaTuque and all the people of Mistissinni, Eyou istsche and the Cree Nation. The family had chosen as a Scripture reading the story of Jesus welcoming, lifting, and blessing the little children. It was read in English and then in Cree by The Reverend Canon Cliff Dee. I offered a reflection concluding with how precious are the memories of little Jeewah, and how precious are her remains to this very day. *"In singing her home, we will lay big, bright flowers and in the precious name of Jesus we will pray for her eternal happiness in heaven."*

Carried from the Complex, her remains were tenderly laid to rest with prayers and hymn singing. When the grave was filled in someone planted a large wooden cross which he had made and over it someone hung a heart bearing Juliette's name. Big bright flowers were laid and then the grave was lined on every side with stones that members of the family and children of the community had painted - some orange, some purple as that was Jeewah's favourite colour. Some had hearts on them; some had little flowers; and some had little birds.

This was a very emotional day, a day of tears and long silences, a day of abidingly tender love for precious Juliette. For many it evoked memories of their own experiences in Residential Schools all across Quebec and Ontario. This day evoked memories of classmates who had died while in school - many of them buried in unmarked graves.

What happened in Mistissinni on September 30th, 2024 was sacred. It was a time of 'E'natamukw Miyeyimuwin', of 'going forward to a place of peace.' From a broader perspective what happened was in keeping with the Call to Action 74 from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *"We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to the families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested."* We pray for the Church's honesty and contrition, humility, and diligence in responding to this call. In all ways may our response honour the great and beautiful truth that flows from the very heart of the Creator. *"Every Child Matters."* Rest in peace sweet Juliette.

