

## OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

# NORTHILAND

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • [www.moosoneeanglican.ca](http://www.moosoneeanglican.ca) • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • JUNE 2025



The bishop elect, the Rev. Rod BrantFrancis, asked Sheila Mark Stewart of Eastmain and her family to join him immediately after the announcement of his election was made. He pointed out that 4 generations of Sheila's family were in attendance at the electoral synod - a definite first for Moosonee.

## Our New Shepherd

*Bishop's Profile Provided by Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.*

**ON MARCH 26, 2025, CLERGY AND LAITY**

from every parish in our diocese gathered at Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane to elect a diocesan bishop. It was nine months to the day when the Diocesan Synod in June 2024 approved the resolution to take this step, this leap of faith. For the last ten years we have been a Mission Area of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario with the Metropolitan serving as our bishop. Through the ministries of Archbishop Colin Johnson and Archbishop Ann Germond we have been richly blessed and we will be forever grateful. At our Diocesan Synod in June, 2024, Archbishop Anne posed the question, "Is it time? Is it time to once again to have our own duly elected resident bishop? Is it time?" The Synod prayerfully considered the question in a couple of sessions and by resolution - adopted unanimously - said, "Yes, it is time!"



Archbishop Fred and Canon Grace Delaney shared a convivial moment at the synod.

An Episcopal Search Committee was appointed. Chaired by Ed Madill of Kapuskasing, this committee did great work in preparing a diocesan profile and a ministry profile for the

bishop. They invited nominations and we were blessed to have two faithful priests of our Church accept: The Reverend Canon Tom Stradwick, incumbent of St. Peter's-on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake and Priest in Charge of St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, and The Reverend Rod BrantFrancis, incumbent of the Anglican Parish of Tyendinaga in the Diocese of Ontario. We all got to know these nominees through their reflections in our profiles and through webinars and town hall meetings via Zoom.

Delegates gathered for the Electoral Synod with great joy and anticipation. We started with a celebration of Holy Communion. Archbishop Anne presided and Archbishop Fred preached. The readings were those appointed for The Annunciation of the Lord to The Blessed Virgin Mary. In his homily, Archbishop Fred quoted Sister Do-

See "Our Bishop" on page 2.



Alyn Harvey, St. Matthew's Cathedral, and Matthias were dressed warmly for the 'Coldest Night' in Timmins.

## The Coldest Night

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

**O**N FEBRUARY 22ND, 2025, members of St. Matthew's Cathedral braved the winter chill to participate in the 'Coldest Night of the Year 2025'. The fundraising walk is held in communities across Canada each February in support of local charities - raising awareness and funds for those experiencing homelessness, hunger, and other vulnerabilities.

The event was hosted by the Anti-Hunger Coalition Timmins (ACT), a local charity that works with community partners to provide programs that make fresh, healthy, affordable food more accessible for everyone in Timmins. This year marked the second consecutive year that St. Matthew's Cathedral participated in the annual event, with members of the congregation joined by friends and supported through generous sponsorships.

This year's walk was particularly special as it marked Dean Peter Wall's last weekend in Timmins. It was a fitting farewell, highlighting the community spirit and commitment to service that

See "Parishioners Participate" on page 2.





# Parishioners Participate

continued from page one.

he has fostered during his time in the city. While he may not be sorry to see the last of the snow, his presence on this cold evening underscored the importance of standing in solidarity with those facing daily struggles.

"Walking together as a faith community reminds us of our call to serve others, particularly those most vulnerable," said a St. Matthew's participant. "It's a small but meaningful way we can support organizations doing essential work in Timmins."

Despite the frigid temperatures, the warmth of fellowship and shared purpose was evident as walkers navigated the designated 2 km or 5 km route. As the sun dipped below the horizon, the practicalities of walking in sub-zero temperatures became all too real, serving as a stark reminder of the harsh conditions many Canadians experiencing homelessness endure daily. The bite of the cold prompted reflection on the struggles of those lacking shelter and the thousands facing food insecurity across the country.



Nicola Alexander and The Reverend Peter Wall helped lead many of the community volunteers on the actual walk in Timmins.

Upon completing the walk, participants gathered at the Anti-Hunger Coalition headquarters where they were welcomed with a well earned meal and hot chocolate. The shared warmth of good food and compan-



The Reverend Peter Wall wore his well earned toque from the 'Coldest Night' the following morning at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

ionship reinforced the night's message that collective action, even in small steps, can make a difference in addressing hunger and homelessness in the community.

reen, The Sisterhood of Saint John the Divine, who in her musings on Mary describes her as "a woman of the heart, of silences and prayers, a woman forever honoured for her 'fiat', her 'yes' to God." Doreen goes on to say, "I believe Mary's fiat was something she was challenged to repeat throughout her life, over and over again." Archbishop Fred then spoke of his own 'fiat', our own 'yes' to God and how we are challenged to repeat it time and time again throughout our lives. He acknowledged the many times Tom and Rod had said 'yes' to God in their ministries and have been found faithful in them all.

Following the service, the front of the church was made ready for the process of balloting. Archbishop Anne reminded us that our Canon on the Election of a Bishop states that "to be elected, a candidate must receive a majority of votes in each House (Clergy and Laity) of those members present and voting, and this double majority must be in the same round of voting." She called us to prayer and then announced the balloting could begin. As people came forward to vote there was just a lovely quietness throughout the church. The Election Committee counted the votes and reported the result to Archbishop Anne. After sharing the result with the nominees she reported to the Synod that on the first ballot, Reverend Rod Brant-Francis was duly elected.

In accepting election, Rod spoke of how humbled and honoured he was in being called to this office



Bishop elect, Rod Brant-Francis, paid tribute to the other candidate for bishop, Canon Tom Stradwick, immediately following the election.

and ministry. He spoke about the Church and how "we are all in this together" - bishop, clergy, and people, each one gifted for some ministry or another in building up the Church in its witness to the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Calling forward Sheila Mark-Stewart (Parish of St. Mark's, Eastmain) and her daughter and granddaughter and great granddaughter who all happened to be present, he spoke of how we are always called to be thinking of the Church to come. And then he asked for our prayers as he endeavours to prepare himself for this new ministry. So it is that day by day and week by week we are praying for 'Rod, our Bishop-elect'.

On my home from the Electoral Synod, I re-read Rod's reflections on the 'Profiles of the Diocese and of the Bishop.' I was encouraged by how he addressed the calls to be a

good shepherd, a spirited presider and teacher. I found myself encouraged by his quoting Ignatius, a first century martyr (115 AD). Ignatius wrote:

**Christianity is not a matter of persuading people of particular ideas but of inviting them to share in the greatness of Christ. So pray that I may never fall into the trap of impressing people with eloquent speech but instead I may learn to speak with humility, desiring only to impress people with the greatness of Christ.**

Rod observed in his reflections of the 'Profiles of the Diocese and the Bishop': "I, like Ignatius of old, do not seek to impress you with clever speech or particular ideas but to share at every opportunity and in every way possible the greatness of Jesus Christ ... what he has done in and through my life and what he is able to do in the lives of every person who is willing to listen to the voice of God and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit."

Rod and his wife Lisa, who is also a priest, return to Moosonee with a huge heart for the people having served in the Parishes of Kashechewan for a year and a half and Wemindji for ten years. He also served as Regional Dean of James Bay and on our Finance and Property Committee and Executive Council.

Rod also brings considerable knowledge and experience of our Church National. He is very familiar with the work of the Council of the North. Moreover, he has considerable knowledge and experience



## The Northland

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Anglican Diocese of Moosonee.

of the Anglican Council of Indig-  
enous Peoples and Sacred Circle -  
all of which will enable him to pro-  
vide good support and guidance  
in the work of our own Diocesan  
Council of Indigenous Peoples.  
More recently, he has served in  
the Primate's Commission charge  
with charting a path forward for  
See "Our Bishop" on page 8.





# A New Place - A New Diocese - A New Adventure

Article by The Reverend Peter Wall, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins.

**TRIED TO RETIRE OVER FIVE YEARS AGO** - I am still trying. I think that what has prevented me from being 'fully retired' (whatever that means) is a yearning for adventure. After some exciting interim parish assignments, I promised myself that I would accept challenges that involved an adventure - physical, or spiritual - or possibly a combination of all of the above.

After three weekend visits to the cathedral in Timmins (being invited to do so by the irrepressible Commissary - Archbishop Fred Hiltz), I found myself half volunteering and half being convinced to come to St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins for the months of January and February.

Now, it has to be acknowledged that more than a couple of my family and friends in the 'deep' South (that would be Hamilton, Ontario) wondered if my interest in adventure had overtaken my common sense - to come north for those two warm and sunny months of January and February!

As I write these words, I am coming to the end of my St. Matthew's, Timmins adventure. As you read these words, a new bishop has been elected; a whole new future has been put in place for this amazing diocese and the adventure continues. This continuing adventure will include new ideas, new challenges, and all those things which characterize our church - a church which follows Jesus, looks excitedly at the world around us, finds and celebrates new and diverse ways of being Christ's body on earth, reaches out in love and respect to those who walk with us and to those who look to us in hope.

My adventure was one of discovery - new friends, new places. It was a time of real winter - snow (lots of it) and cold weather. It was a voyage that included: monthly trips in wonderfully wintry weather and great beauty to Chapleau and Foleyet, Friday community lunches at St. Matthew's that restored one's hope in the crucial importance of the Church reaching out in generosity with food, welcome, and conversation, a gathered Sunday morning community that was faithful, prayerful, and ... fun! This adventure reminded me of just why I felt a call to ordained ministry so many years ago - a sense of call which centred, for me,

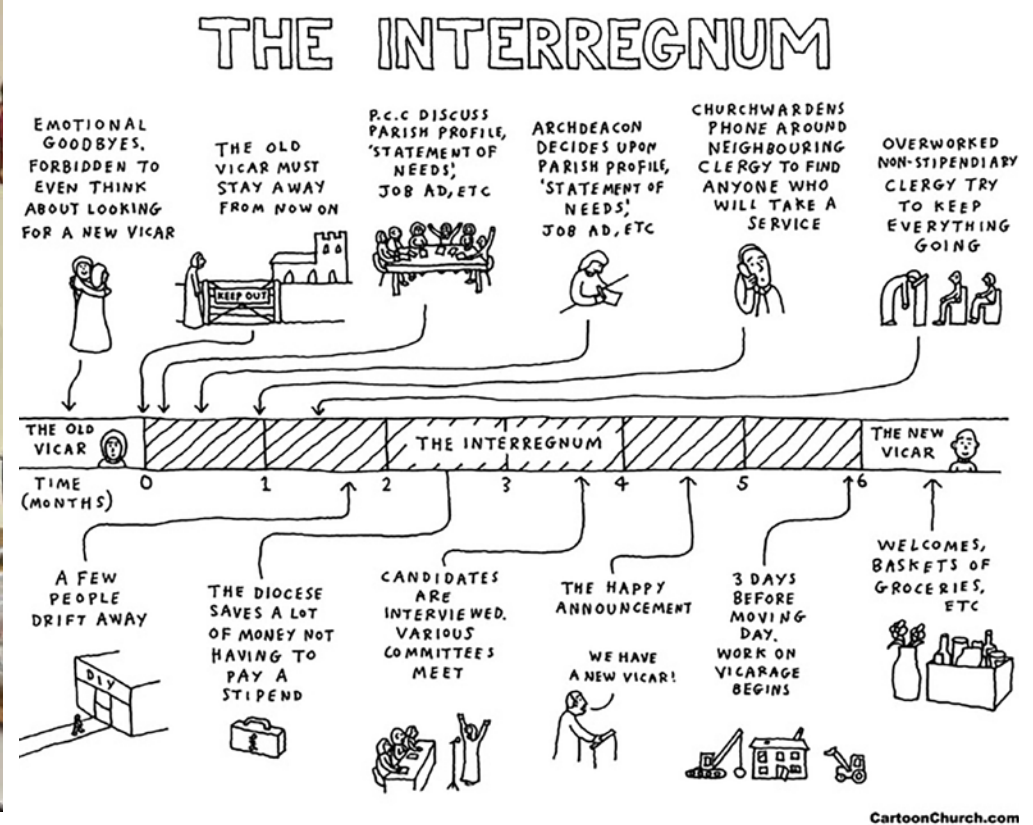


The Reverend Peter Wall worked at the parish's community lunches - he did the dishes too!

around the notion (let's face it - a little old fashioned and perhaps too romantic) of people gathering in a sacred space set aside for public worship, week by week - gathering not because they had easy answers but because they had deep questions. Gathering not because they all had it figured out but precisely because they did not have it all together but indeed relied on each other as friends, fellow travelers, and fellow learners.

This was also my first time in the great Diocese of Moosonee. I am so delighted to have spent time in 'the North'; I deeply appreciate the leadership of Archbishops Anne and Fred in the care that they have taken during these last several years, and the ways in which they invited me to be a part of interesting and important conversations about the diocese and its place in the Canadian Church. My long experience in General Synod matters gives me a particular perspective on the length and breadth of our church and it was a real gift to be able to work in and gain a new appreciation both for the challenges and the distinct opportunities and gifts of ministry in this place. New diocesan leadership will provide new ways of seeing and understanding what can lie ahead.

Our church - like many other denominational churches - faces, in this century, a huge number of challenges which can appear to be overwhelming. And yet, I believe that the church has never been better equipped to meet new challenges and to identify ways



to serve communities, be authentic, and to thrive. While my adventures of the last few years have brought that home to me again and again. My adventure here, in Timmins, reinforced that with great strength and vigour. Your cathedral sits in the midst of a vibrant community, where the very idea of 'community' is so strong and vital. In the midst of that community sits a cathedral church which is beautifully and lovingly maintained over the last 110 years which serves its community very well indeed. From the various musical groups who use the cathedral and its spaces for rehearsals and concerts to a growing number of 12 step groups, so critical to their adherents, to the Friday lunch program which so generously welcomes all with true warmth and hospitality. It is a busy and energized place. While our tried and true ways of measuring our impact and our effectiveness have often fallen on our 'average Sunday attendance' figures. We all know that the true fruitfulness of our ministries is much better reflected in the number of people with whom we interact - the number of lives we 'touch' in a week. So what may well be relative modest number of folks in church on a given Sunday - and we all know that there are lots of perfectly rational and comprehensible reasons why that it - can be translated into a much more exciting and life-giving statistic of persons and situations encountered by the church. If we are here to make a difference, then we make that difference in a myriad of ways over a host of opportunities. I think of faithful volunteers who are not worshippers but much

respected and valued members of the community. I think of ways in which St. Matthew's (and many others in the diocese and throughout the church) take a leadership role in community events and activities, not because the events are particularly religious, but because they are significant on the local scene - food security groups, multi faith councils, advocacy for the unhoused, not-for-profit fund-raising events - gosh, maybe those are religious pursuits after all. If not strictly religious, then certainly faith-filled. In my, albeit limited, adventures around our church, I am tremendously heartened and buoyed up by the diversity and depth of the many ministries, formal and informal, in which we involve ourselves. This is a healthy church making healthy decisions and plans.

So, a new adventure with renewed leadership, sharp challenges, and abundant opportunities calls us to think wisely and sometimes, shrewdly. Finely honed challenges call us to be our best. Resources which we all too easily see as critically reduced or insufficient are there, in so many ways, if we look carefully and think strategically. We still have the greatest gift which becomes our most effective tool - the hope and promise of the Gospel. Always refreshed, never ending, supremely nourishing.

I am so grateful for the many adventures which God has put in front of me. My latest - amongst you all in Moosonee - has been meaningful beyond words and so enjoyable. I spend my summers in Algoma - a short drive away. I look forward to following the adventures of Moosonee!







Chuck Mills, a Gospel Singer from Cochrane, played his musical part in the Electoral Synod.



Mary Auger, Lay Reader, Church of the Apostle, Moosonee, Shirely Vezina, and Danielle Peters, St. John's, Foleyet, shared a humorous moment together whilst awaiting the results of the first ballot of voting at the Electoral Synod.



The Reverend Valerie Isaac, St. Mark's Anglican Church, Kapuskasing carried on an old English tradition of serving 'sweets' to all those who attended the Electoral Synod.



The Reverend Vivien Clarke, St. Peters-on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, was an enthusiastic delegate at the Electoral Synod.



St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, hosted the World Day of Prayer on Friday, April 4th, 2025. Originally scheduled for the first Friday of March, it was postponed due to bad weather. The bilingual service was well attended and enjoyed by all. Participants were from the Roman Catholic Church, the United Church, and from Anglican Church parishes in Kirkland Lake and Iroquois Falls.



Canon Patricia Dorland, Holy Trinity, Cochrane, and Archbishop Anne Germond both worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Electoral Synod held in Cochrane.



# Bivocational Ministry

Article by Canon Grayhame Bowcott, Diocese of Huron.

**WHAT DO A PSYCHIATRIST, a mathematician, and a teacher have in common?** No, it's the beginning of a bad joke (at least this time). What links these vocations together is the fact that in recent months, individuals holding these professions have been ordained into leadership roles in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Within the last two years, there has been an explosion of bivocational individuals discerning a call to serve our Church. In previous generations, these same individuals might not have stepped forward because there was a misconception that ministry leadership was the sole responsibility of full-time, seminary trained clergy. Whether or not the concept of a full time priest in every parish was a sustainable or healthy ministry model, this previous misconception suggested that it should be normative wherever the resources could be found to support it.

In using the word 'misconception', I recognize that some readers could take offense. Allow me to note that I am certainly not against full-time, single-cleric ministry and in many places within our diocese and across Canada this model has served the Church well. However, what we are experiencing in this current moment in the leadership of the Church is a discernment of the wider gifts of the membership of our Church to raise up ordained leaders who desire to work together, in ministry teams, in a division of pastoral, administrative, and liturgical roles that unlock the capacity of congregations to reach out in relationship to more people than the single-priest, single-parish model was ever capable of.

A psychiatrist, a mathematician, and a teacher will each relate to people in different ways. In my years serving in ministry, I have recognized that my own personality and gifts do not necessarily relate to all people in the same way. Where one per-

## NON-STIPENDIARY MINISTERS

THESE ARE MINISTERS WHO DO NOT RECEIVE A STIPEND  
BUT ARE PAID BY OTHER MEANS:



INVITATIONS TO LUNCH  
AT THE VICARAGE



HUGS



THEIR NAME IN PRINT  
IN THE NOTICE SHEET



QUITE OFTEN THE JOB  
IS ITS OWN REWARD

CartoonChurch.com

son might connect with my personal ministry style, another person might not be so inspired. Yet, when I am able to work in partnership with additional ministry leaders, the diversity of their gifts and personalities help to unlock relationships with people that I might not have been able to reach on my own.

Some people believe that bivocational ministry is a blessing because the ordination of non-stipendiary clergy lessens the financial burden of congregations facing financial and numeric membership decline. And, yes, the truth is that without many of our non-stipendiary clergy, there are congregations that would not be able to afford the cost of keeping their doors open for regular worship services. However, it is my experience that where bivocational ministry has its most impact is where these leaders are not utilized as a desperate last line of ministry but rather as an augmentation of ministries that would like to explore growing in their capacity of diversifying their ministry outreach and in the possibility of seeking new relationships.

There was a time when the theological education was restricted in a way that only someone who could afford the time and cost of committing years of study in a residential seminary model who would be able to access the skills

needed to become a deacon or a priest in the Church. Thankfully, with the teaching innovations that have evolved since the pandemic, more flexible theological study options are available than in any other time of history in our Canadian Church.

And so, now a psychiatrist, a mathematician, and a teacher might also be able to share a virtual classroom, within an accessible schedule, that for the first time could allow for them to test out their own vocational call. I find it remarkable that this scenario is no longer just theoretical but that this is becoming the new reality of ministry in the Anglican Church. If you are reading this article and are wondering: "might he be talking about me?", perhaps now is the time for you to explore the possibilities of taking the next step in your own discernment to ministry leadership! If so, give me a call; I'd love to hear where it might take you.

*The Reverend Canon Dr. Grayhame Bowcott is passionate about fostering congregational relationships and sharing our Anglican vocation with others. He serves as Rector of St. George's, The Parish of The Blue Mountains, and as Program Director for the Licentiate in Theology program at Huron University. Please consider visiting our website: <https://huronu.ca/programs/theology/life-long-learning>*



Ron Isaac, Parishioner at  
St. Mark's Anglican Church,  
Kapuskasing, ON

**CAME TO KAPUSKASING** from southern Ontario - Barrie - to pursue a career in forestry in 1975.

A year later, I married my high school sweetheart [Valerie], again from southern Ontario - Angus - and moved her far from family and friends to the wilds of northern Ontario. We had to turn the Ontario road map over to find where Kapuskasing was!

We've since had three children who in turn have given us eight grandchildren and yes, they all live and work in Kapuskasing.

As we all know, any new arrivals in a church get instantly volunteered. We were no different; we helped with church suppers, and bazaars, maintenance work, Sunday school, choir (not me), altar guild (again not me), and reading the lessons.

Our roles grew and changed over time. As with all churches, we experienced seeing a declining number of parishioners. My wife, Valerie Isaac, after years of deliberation finally became an ordained minister. And I became better known as the Reverend's chauffeur. It was a two for one deal.

When not doing church things, I enjoy: fishing, wood-working, walking our dog, and watching the Toronto Maple Leaf's trying to win another Stanley Cup. I also watch Manchester United working to win again the Premier League in England.





# A Once and Coming Spirit

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee

**S**OON, DEAR FRIENDS, we will be celebrating the 50th Day of Easter. It will be The Day of Pentecost, the Day the Risen Lord fulfilled his promise in the Sending of the Holy Spirit upon his disciples. I have always liked the way New Testament scholar Raymond Brown speaks of a "Once and Coming Holy Spirit". It shapes the way we celebrate the wonders of this sacred day - recalling, giving thanks, and praying.

First, we recall what happened long ago in that house in Jerusalem, how the Holy Spirit came with great might, like wind and fire, as St. Luke puts it. We recall how the disciples were empowered to go out into the streets proclaiming the Gospel of Christ Crucified and Risen, how they went from place to place, city to city, nation to nation preaching the reign of God coming on earth as in heaven. We recall the growth of the early Church, the steadfastness with which the people devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers. We recall the great courage with which so many people lived and died for Christ.

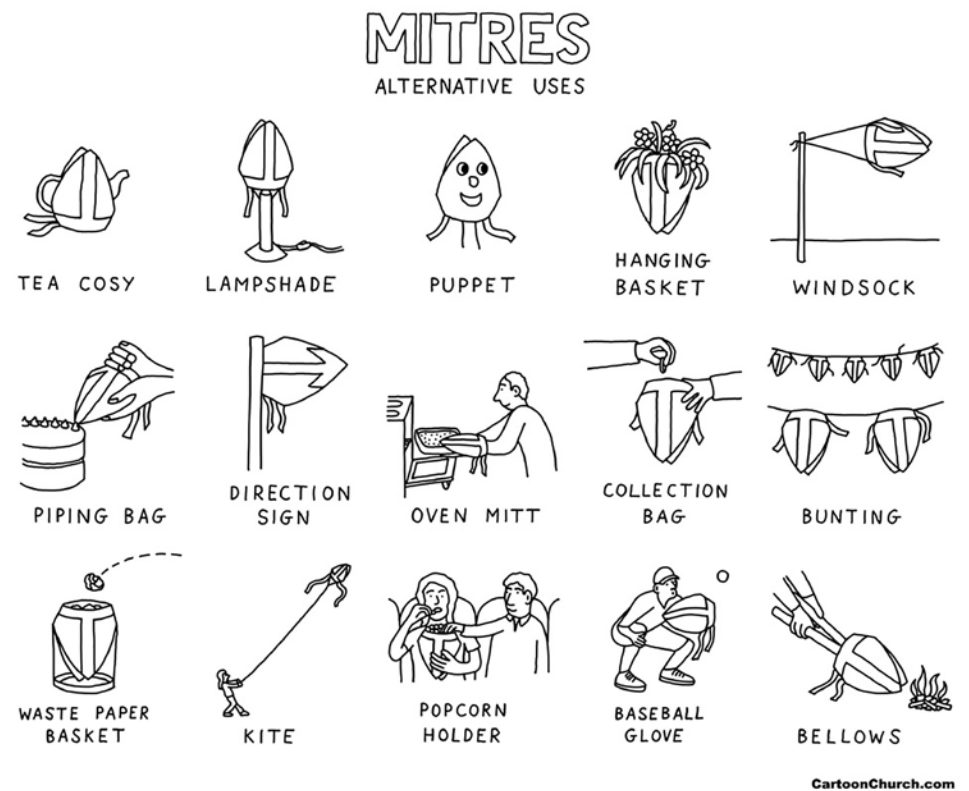
Second, we give thanks for what happened throughout history, how the Holy Spirit has renewed the Church time and time again. We think of the Reformation, and of evangelical movements, charismatic movements, scholarly movements, liturgical movements, and every member ministry movements. We think of those that have called the Church to the works of mercy and advocacy for justice and peace for all peoples. We think of movements



Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Diocese of Moosonee.

for healing and reconciliation, and for the care of creation. We think of the ecumenical movement, of the birth and flourishing of the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches, and councils within our won communities. All these movements, inspired by the Holy Spirit have in their several ways impacted the witness of the Church in its service of God's mission in the world.

Third, we pray for fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit in our own time. As we turn a page in the story of our diocese, we pray for a special outpouring upon Rod BrantFrancis as he begins his ministry as our bishop. We pray for a great spiritual enlivening in every parish in our diocese. We pray that we may steadfastly take as our mantra for ministry the very mantra Jesus took for



his own:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has anointed me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."** (Isaiah 61: 1-2)

We pray for those whom the Holy Spirit may be calling to ordained ministry or to some other particular lay ministry. In praying for spiritual renewal across our own diocese, let us be faithful too in praying for fresh outpourings of the Holy Spirit throughout our entire Anglican Church of Canada and especially for the General Synod meeting in London June 23-29th. Let us hold all the delegates in our prayers as they tend to the work of the

Synod, including the election of a new Primate on June 26th.

Anticipating the celebration of the Coming of the Holy Spirit this year, I commend for everyone's personal use of this beautiful prayer written by Archbishop Anne Germond:

*"O Great Spirit of God, as we remember your glorious descent upon the apostles gathered in a house in Jerusalem expecting your coming, make us eager for your coming among us. Kindle in us a glad proclaiming of the Gospel of Jesus in word and in deed. Clothe us for every good work to which you call us. Blow through the windows of our hearts your refreshing grace. Breathe in us a holy desire to love and serve you all of our days. Inspire our song to you, Holy Spirit, who with the Father and the Son are blessed forever more. Amen. Alleluia! Amen."*

## The Synod: A Personal Perspective

Article by Anne Dyas, Holy Trinity, Cochrane and Warden of Lay Readers.

**M**ARCH 26, 2025. THIS IS THE DAY! in Cochrane, Ontario the day dawned sunny and almost spring-like. God was smiling. Across the Anglican Communion prayers to God ascended.

Following ten years as a Mission Diocese under the authority of the Metropolitan (Archbishop Colin Johnson then Archbishop Anne Germond) decisive gatherings affirmed our prayerful determination to remain a family. The synod held in June, 2024 resolved to call an electoral synod as early as practicable.

Months of preparation by several committees ensured this synod followed all canon law and



Anne Dyas, Holy Trinity, Cochrane and the Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers.

word was spread that Moosonee was praying for candidates to heed God's call to shepherd his flock in this large diocese. Two candidates heard that call: Canon Tom Stradwick and The Reverend Rodney BrantFrancis.

The day of hope began joyfully as friends and family met together. With registration completed, Holy Communion was held followed by the announcement from the Metropolitan, Archbishop Anne Germond, that a quorum was present and the election could proceed. Together with the Chair of the Episcopal Search Committee, Ed Madill, the procedure was explained especially noting that everyone who was registered must vote; the distribution

of the ballots to the registered clergy and delegates took place. Quietly and prayerfully, voting began and was over in a surprisingly short time with an election confirmed.

The candidates, their chaplains, Archbishops Anne and Fred together with Chancellors Brian Findlay and Martin McLachlan, left the room for private consultation. Upon their return, the results were announced. Both candidates received applause; there were speeches and we had a Bishop-Elect, The Reverend Rodney BrantFrancis.

This name was submitted to the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario for their approval - which has now been granted and so we have a new Bishop of Moosonee.





Food for Thought

Article by Michelle Hauser, Anglican Foundation of Canada and Reverend Karen Coxon, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins.

THE ANGLICAN FOUNDATION GRANT packs a punch in providing financial support for the St. Matthew's Friday lunches in Timmins, Ontario.

This past October, the City of Timmins, Ontario identified 390 individuals experiencing homelessness in a one day point of contact survey. That does not come as a surprise to the parishioners of St. Matthew's Cathedral located in the downtown core of the city. In 2022 during the covid lock downs, the community of faith gathered outdoors for worship according to the health protocols of the day. While enjoying their time of fellowship that followed worship, a few people noticed curious onlookers gathering around the margins. It was then that the tea and biscuits began to be shared with the street people, our neighbours. In that moment, the compelling words of the Coventry Prayer became a call to action: "Father forgive us for our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned and the home-

less. We know we are to be kind and tender-hearted toward our neighbours."

What began as an outdoor offering on a Friday noon outdoor service evolved into Friday lunches. Currently, upwards of 8 - 10 volunteers serve 40 - 60 hot meals to individuals facing poverty, homelessness, addiction, and social isolation. The church provides nourishment, warmth, and a sense of community. Those who volunteer to keep the program operational have had the opportunity to chat with folks, build rapport, and develop reciprocity making this a truly humbling experience.

A grant was awarded through the Anglican Foundation of Canada Community Ministries Fund which supports projects that serve vulnerable people in ways that reflect the Church's deep commitment to justice, dignity, and compassion.

For the Anglican Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Scott Brubacher, the grant to St. Matthew's demonstrates how even small investments can make a



A group of volunteers and friends at the Friday lunch program relaxed from their duties - momentarily.

lasting difference. "This initiative is an example of how modest strategic grants can have a high impact when they're rooted in a parish's long-standing commitment to its neighbourhood," says Scott Brubacher.

Through our Community Ministries Fund, the Anglican Foundation is deepening its support for churches that respond in faith and with courage to some of the most urgent social challenges in their communities: food insecurity, mental health, addiction, and poverty. Whether it's a \$5,000 grant or a larger investment, what matters

is the impact and in Timmins that impact is clear. St. Matthew's is being the church in the world.

As time goes on, St. Matthew's ministry will most certainly need to strengthen its partnerships with local service providers. We pray that the program will continue to be a place of comfort and safety for those who need a good, hearty meal.

We give thanks to God for the generous donation arising from the Anglican Foundation, for the generosity of the volunteers, and for the affection and care they provide to our guests.

Our Bishop

continued from page two.

transformation of General Synod structures and resources for the Proclaiming of the Gospel in the 21st century. In the wider circles of our beloved Church, Rod will take his place as our bishop in the Provincial Synod and the House of Bishops, the General Synod and the National House of Bishops as well as the Lambeth Conference - a gathering of bishops from all over the world convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury every ten years or so.

Bishop-elect Rod will be consecrated and seated as the 12th Bishop of Moosonee on Wednesday, May 28th at 11 a.m. in St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins. Once again, with much anticipation, clergy and laity will gather from across the diocese. We will be joined by the bishops of all the diocese in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and quite likely a few others as well including, we hope, Indigenous Archbishop Chris Harper.

As with eager hearts we anticipate this historic and holy day, as with attentive hearts we shall hear Rod makes his vows as a bishop of God. With glad hearts we shall see

him seated as 'our bishop' and with ready hearts may we make our vows "to uphold him in this ministry."

**"Come Holy Spirit, Come ... As you moved and hovered gently in calling Rod to be a bishop in the Church, may you come now and rest mightily upon him in his consecration for this ministry. In all the cares and responsibilities entrusted to him, may you be grace and guide, strength and cheer, day by day.**



Archbishop Anne Germond, Bishop of Moosonee, presided at the Electoral Synod.

Synod Images



The Reverends Karen Coxon, Dina Asquabansneskum, Marion Maybee, and Canon Grace Delaney chattered aimably whilst awaiting the results of the first ballot cast at the Electoral Synod.



Mary Auger, Lay Reader, Church of the Apostle, Moosonee and The Reverend Lisa BrantFrancis.



The Reverend George Matoush, Church of St. John the Baptist, Wemindji.

