

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

NORTHLAND

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • www.moosoneeanglican.ca • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • SEPTEMBER 2023



John Wesley and his grandson, Joseph Wesley, from Kashechewan enjoyed the parish lunch at St. Matthew's following the service of worship. John Wesley led the congregation in the prayers of the people.



Nicola Alexander picked up not only her personal order of 'Saintly Sausage' but also that of her many customers.

Kashechewan Evacuees

Article by Bishop Victoria Matthews, Episcopal Administrator, Diocese of Moosonee.

*"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."
(1Corinthians 12.12)*

IT WAS THE LAST SUNDAY IN APRIL and the service of Eucharist was proceeding much as one would expect. We were delighted to have attracted some newcomers and I had hopes of having some young servers before long. We had started the Great Thanksgiving when the front doors of the Cathedral opened and more people began to enter. I did not recognise them but I could tell they were used to being in church. Some had walkers and others walking sticks. I continued to lead the congregation in prayer while silently say-



Elsie Wynee was one of the persons who flew to Timmins when flooding threatened her home community of Kashechewan. The flooding didn't dampen her spirits.

ing, "Come in, come in" You are most welcome." Then it dawned on me that these were Anglicans from Kashechewan. Kashechewan is located on the western shore of James Bay, north of Moosonee. The Cree First Nation community of Kashechewan has approximately two thousand people and due to the rising waters and other challenges, almost five hundred deemed 'high risk' people were evacuated to Timmins.

Those who made it to church that first Sunday received Communion and after a heartfelt invitation to come to coffee-hour, that's exactly what happened. We were so very pleased to meet one another. Suddenly a St. Matthew elder had the brilliant idea of hosting a feast the next Sunday

See 'An Impromptu Family Reunion' on page 2

Say Yes! to Kids

Article by George Cribbs, Editor of the Northland & Michelle Hauser of the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

SAINTLY SAUSAGE SALES constituted an effort by the congregation of St. Matthew's Cathedral in fundraising. In former days, the making and selling of sausage was a combined effort of the former St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine and St. Matthew's Cathedral. At that time the focus was on generating income to pay for the maintenance of the rectory for the shared parish priest. The current effort, however, has a different emphasis. Money is now being raised to help people in need in the wider community. The Select Vestry of St. Matthew's directed that the money generated

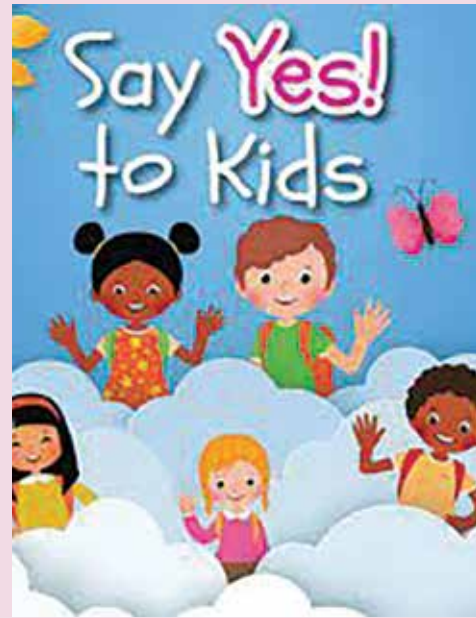
See 'Creative Outreach' on p.2.



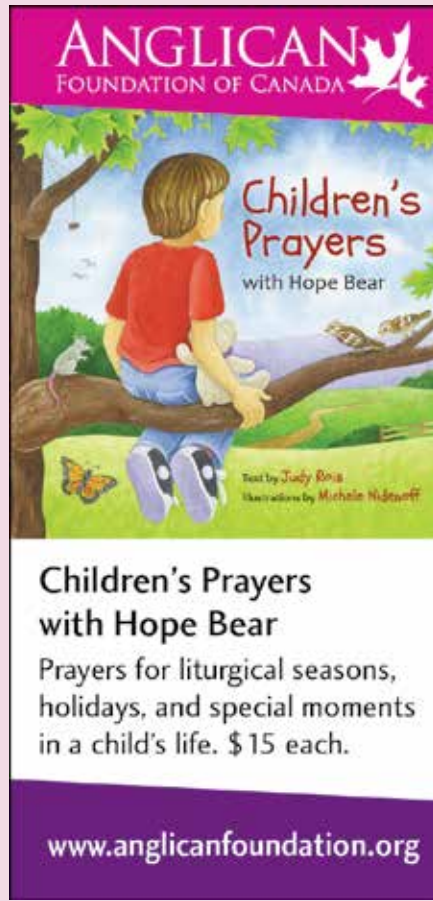
Moosonee Does Its Part continued from page one.



Maria McAdam, George & Catharine Cribbs, and Garfield McAdam were some of the volunteers who sold, organized, and delivered the Saintry Sausage to the community.



The Anglican Foundation of Canada's Say Yes! to Kids program is in its third year. It is a hugely successful campaign drawing support from every part of Canada - including the Diocese of Moosonee.



by this fundraising effort should be directed to a local food bank and to the Anglican Foundation's 'Say Yes to Kids' campaign.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada's (AFC) Say Yes! to Kids campaign is a nationwide effort to create a sustainable, abundant source of funding for youth-focused initiatives across the Anglican Church of Canada.

Since it was launched in 2021, the Say Yes to Kids campaign has provided over \$625,000 to more than 100 unique beneficiaries and fundraising partners in support of youth-focused ministry and outreach from coast to coast to coast. All Say Yes! to Kids projects are different but they share a common goal: to imagine more and to put that imagination into action to grow a brighter future

for young people today.

The Anglican Foundation invites all Canadian Anglicans to learn more about the work of our Say Yes! to Kids partners by visiting the Anglican Foundation of Canada's website at: www.anglicanfoundation.org/sytk. More and more people are choosing to be part of this exciting movement that is changing the conversation, energizing the church for new ministry, and transforming the way we work together to fund for impact in this important area of our common life.

Even if you don't have a Say Yes! to Kids fundraising team in your parish or diocese, you can be part of the movement by giving generously and by praying for the growth and success of this movement for youth.

An Impromptu Family Reunion continued from page one.

after church. Offers of roast turkey and baked ham, salads, and deserts followed. It is a family reunion because of our baptism and the Diocese of Moosonee connection. We don't know each other because of the physical distance but we are family.

John Wesley, a Lay Reader from Kasechewan, lead the prayers and administered the chalice on the day of the feast. Then we trooped downstairs and 55 people partook of a truly delicious meal. People talked and talked, exchanging stories. When a bus arrived to take them back to their hotels, we all said it was too soon. We parted with promises of the next Sunday



Eileen Wynne from Kasechewan enjoyed the special lunch provided for the congregation of St. Matthew's Cathedral, people of the community, and our visitors from Kasechewan.

when we would worship together once again. This time we celebrated the baptism of Avery Anne Corston, granddaughter of Bishop Tom and Ruth Corston and shared soup, cheese, crackers, veggies, and beautiful fruit bread. The congregation at St. Matthew's were saddened to hear that our new 'cousins from Kash' were expecting to fly home that week on Wednesday or Friday. We had hoped we could partake of a barbecue together but unless the weather changes drastically, that won't happen. Nevertheless, we now have many members of our extended Anglican family whom we know and love, albeit at a distance.



The Northland

A publication of the Anglican Diocese of Moosonee

A Section of the Anglican Journal

Editor: George Cribbs

Publisher: Archbishop

Anne Germond

Proofreader: Catharine Cribbs

Published Quarterly in March, June,

September, and December.

Materials may be sent

electronically to:

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Timmins, ON

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705-264-0914

Articles and Photos should be submitted by one of the following dates in order that such material may be included in a subsequent issue of the paper:

January 15th

April 15th

July 15th

October 15th

All material submitted for inclusion in the Northland is subject to editing without exception.

Printed by

Webnews Printing, Inc.

North York, ON

www.facebook.com

Anglican Diocese of Moosonee.



Sacred Circle: Reflections Article by Canon Grace Delaney, Diocese of Moosonee.

A QUOTE FROM A FRIEND who follows the traditional road and walks beside the western culture of this church we call Anglican. She has stepped back in time to relearn of who she is and what she was meant to be when she was created. I quote her: "I only wish this life was installed in us when we were born as this was who we were. Now I am learning and reclaiming who I want to be." Lavina.

This eleventh Sacred Circle was a time to reconnect with the ancestors who for many years have spoken, written, and rewritten and passed to the next group of new members to rewrite or add their own dreams and visions to theirs for a people to finally be acceptable to fit into a model that has existed for a long time. Was the Covenant of Our Way of Life document trying to fit in, was this the goal here ... no, it wasn't. It was having the reality of our lives to function in a changing world and see where the Creator/Spirit truly wanted a nation to contribute in shaping his kingdom on earth now and into eternity. The number '11' kept staring at me. What was its significance? I know when I see 111, 1111 I stop, take a breath and refocus. Well, I looked and found this, "the Angel number 11 can also symbolize a 'spiritual awakening' - the name of this number is sometimes the 'illuminator' or 'teacher'. It is here to encourage positive thinking and the powers of manifestation, and to recognize and use



Canon Grace Delaney, St. Thomas, Moose Factory & Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, was watched by the Reverend Isabel Dube of Hornepayne as she signed the covenant at Sacred Circle. [Photo courtesy of Brian Bukowski, Manager Communications at the Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto.]

your unique skills to give something back to the world." I do believe the Spirit moved us to do just that in order to recognize the many years of work that our pioneers in Indigenous Ministries have done and it was time to claim it as our common responsibility to see it blossom into a reality. As I contemplated how I could write my report on the Eleventh Sacred Circle, the norm of doing reports didn't seem to be what needed to be shared. Much of that will be recorded of how our 2023 Sacred Circle membership unanimously agreed to ratify "The Covenant" and "Our Way of Life" document to begin work and implement this vision as our road map in ministries for the Indigenous people. Also, this will be

recorded that our Partners Aotearoa [New Zealand] and our guest from Amazonia signed the document to witness our commitment as we moved forward in an Indigenous self determining Church within the Anglican Church of Canada. The installation of our Second National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, Christopher Anthony Harper, and even the colours of our tribute shirt days made a significance in our decision to move in the direction the Holy Spirit was surely calling us. We can only be transformed when we make the commitment to be the channel our Creator/God can use to make imprints in our hearts and in the hearts of others. Let's walk this good road together with our Lord with love.

Celebration of Refreshed Ministry article by Suzanne Bernier, St. Mark's Church, Iroquois Falls.

A CELEBRATION OF NEW MINISTRY was held on a hot day, July 5th, 2023 at St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls. The service of induction was officiated by Bishop Victoria Matthews. Canon Tom Stradwick was officially assigned to Iroquois Falls. He officiates one Sunday per month and comes to town every Wednesday for a mid-week Eucharist and visits shut-ins. He has great plans for the fall, which include Bible studies.

We welcome Canon Tom and we hope that he enjoys his time



Gayle Miedema, The Reverend Edith Belair from Cochrane, Wardens Bill Smith and Nancy McDermott of St. Mark's, Bishop Victoria Matthews, The Reverend Norma Teigen of St. Mark's, Canon Tom Stradwick and Nancy Stradwick were all present for the Induction service at St. Mark's.

with us. The Reverend Edith Belair and Gayle Miedema came from Cochrane for the service.

Other New Ministry:

Information added by the editor

The Reverend Agnes Flam is moving to serve Foleyet and Chapleau with 50% of her time being dedicated to children and youth ministry.

On July 25th, we shall be re-opening St. Paul's Church in South Porcupine for Anglican worship. On August 1st, another congregation starts sharing the use of the building.



Christine Bronson, Parishioner, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins.

Originally from Peterborough, I moved to Timmins with my husband and young daughter in 1983. We had intended to stay for four years; this June marks forty years. Part of the reason we stayed (besides the accessibility to wonderful nature trails and the opportunity for excellent music instruction for our four children) was that we felt so at home in this City with a Heart of Gold.

The sense of community has always been important to me. For the past seven years, I have been involved with various organizations that reach out, nourish, and befriend the homeless and marginalized. Volunteering at Project Love which distributes about 200 meals a week and the First Baptist Church which handles take out meals twice a week has been so fulfilling and I was delighted when, a year ago, St. Matthew's started providing a Friday noon lunch. It's so lovely that we can offer a sit down meal where anyone who walks through the door is welcomed, acknowledged, listened to, and fed. I feel privileged to be part of the St. Matthew's family.



Bishop Victoria, Nicky Alexander, and Catharine Cribbs are parish volunteers who help with the Friday lunches.



The Cost of Freedom

Article by Canon Phelan Scanlon, St. Thomas Church, Bracebridge, Diocese of Algoma.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)

MY BROTHER, BRENNAN, has done a great deal of research on our father's military service during World War II. He has looked through the military archives in Ottawa; read every book on 'Operation Veritable' in which our father participated and studied maps of Holland in order to find a specific place: the village in which our father was wounded and his best army buddy killed.

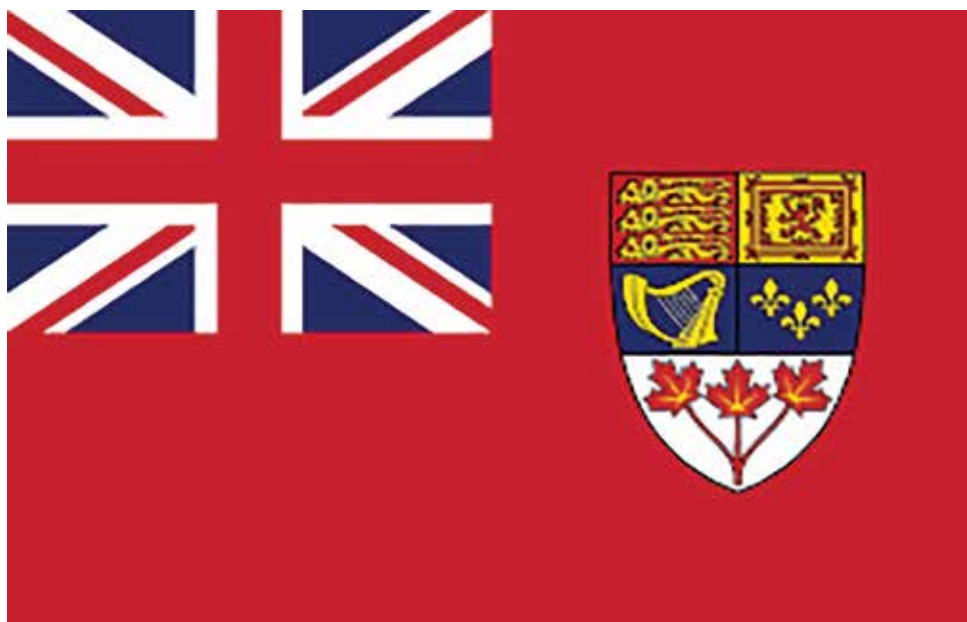
The story, which I have heard off and on since I was four years old, goes like this. A platoon of my father's regiment, the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Winnipeg, attacked a German position in a farmhouse during the early morning hour of March 30th, 1945. My father, Frank, was usually the 'point man' in such operations. That is, he went first into the house or barn to spearhead the attack. However, on March 30th, 1945, my father's friend, Harry Bozak of Winnipeg, was on point (Harry was the 'old man' of the group at age twenty-one, two years my father's senior). While running into the farmhouse, Harry was shot and killed a few feet in front of my father. Out of respect for Harry's blood, and because of the danger of slipping, my father jumped over Harry. At that moment, the bullet that was meant for my father's head hit him in the left arm instead. Frank lost consciousness and awoke in a hospital in Nijmegen in the Netherlands.

My father would occasionally mention Bozak when we were children. My brother and I became fascinated at the chain of events and the sacrifice Harry made, knowing full well that it could have been my father lying dead on that farmhouse floor in 1945.

Over the years, we learned a great deal about Harry. He left a well paying job in Winnipeg to



Canon Phelan Scanlon, St. Thomas Church, Bracebridge, Diocese of Algoma.



The Red Ensign - Canada's flag from 1867 until 1965. This is the flag that Canadians fought under during the Boer War, WWI, WWII, and Korea.

sign up for duty in 1943. He was a member of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. He had two sisters. He wanted to be in the artillery but he struggled as a soldier in training and was placed in the infantry. His records say he was a bit of a 'bellyacher', which would make him a kindred spirit of my father.

Frank never knew the exact location of his wounding and Harry's death. He used to say, "If you want to know what's going on in a war, don't ask a soldier. We had no idea." All he and his comrades knew was that they were somewhere near Nijmegen, around Zutphen in Holland or Xanten in Germany. After years of study, my brother found the fatal location: the village of Netterden in Holland. Although I had been to that part of Holland before, I never knew the exact location of the battle in question.

In January of 2023, my brother called to say that his daughter, Katherine, had purchased a trip to Holland for my brother. She

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eventually looked at us. They were husband and wife. They came to Groesbeek Cemetery every week to pay their respects to the fallen Canadians. We explained our business there. The Dutch couple had tears in their eyes. The man said, "All these young men from far away ... lying here ... died so we could be free." It really hit home. We got the same reaction in the village of Netterden where the locals spoke with us at length (we made the Netterden newspaper too). Here we were, in a free and democratic Holland, because of the sacrifice of people like Private Harry Bozak of Winnipeg. The cost of freedom is beyond comprehension.

The war was horrific. All wars are. My father used to say, "The best battle is the one you don't have to fight." As he aged, my father's hatred of armed conflict only intensified while his sense of peace with his former enemies increased. Once, in the mid 1980's, my father struck a friendship in my home town of Cobourg, Ontario with a former German soldier. One day, that one-time enemy soldier was walking on King Street with his granddaughter. He ran into my father. Then he turned to his granddaughter and said, "This is Frank. When we were young, we tried to kill each other."

Few people have expressed the madness and horror of warfare so well. We long for the day when warfare shall be no more, when lives are no longer mowed down by the instruments of violence and when reconciliation becomes a way of life.



There Was Joy: Assembly, 2023

Article by Canon Patricia Dorland, Diocese of Moosonee.

THERE WAS JOY; there was prayer; there was song; there was celebration; there was curiosity; there was sadness; and there was laughter. Assembly 2023 met in Calgary as a joint conference with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada [ELCIC] and the Anglican Church of Canada. The week was intense but there were many times when it felt good to be Anglican and it felt good to be in full communion with the ELCIC. Separate sessions were held to deal with specific denominational issues and then we joined together for presentations and discussions on partnership committee work that had taken place over the last four years. It was very evident how much the Lutheran and Anglican leadership had accomplished on our behalf and I am very appreciative of what they accomplished.

The Primate's opening address was articulate and well spoken as she shared about her national and global ministry. Her ministry is relational and bridge building as she provides leadership with wisdom, compassion, and grace. Archbishop Linda has a great love of God and for all of God's people.

Various resolutions were presented, discussed, and voted upon. The Five Transformational Aspirations will provide a strategic plan for the National Church to support, guide, and equip dioceses in important ministry focuses. The Anti-Racism resolution affirms the Church's position on and commitment to working towards justice and equity for the BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, & People of Colour] communities in consultation with ACIP [Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples], full communion partners and other similarly focused groups. A resolution from the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee provides for the use of new worship resources. There was great joy in hearing a presentation on "Churches Beyond Borders". The four national church leaders from Canada and the United States and from the Lutheran and Anglican denominations shared their story of journeying together as they brought to fruition their full com-



Bishop Riscylla Shaw, Suffragan Bishop, Diocese of Toronto, Canons Grace Delaney, and Patricia Dorland of the Diocese of Moosonee at the Assembly.



Bishop Lydia, Canon Grace Delaney, Canon Patricia Dorland and Charles Bobbish were delegates at the Assembly.



The leaders of the churches: Lutheran Bishop Susan Johnson, Episcopal Bishop William Franklin, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Primate Linda Nicholls exchanged chalices to symbolize their full communion.

munion partnership. A resolution was presented for full communion with the Moravian Church in Canada. The panel presentation on a draft resolution addressing justice and peace for all of Israel and Palestine initiated a meaningful table conversation as we sought to understand, in a deeper way, a very complex situation. This work will continue to unfold as partner churches work together. Assembly 2023 had a climate change theme, "Let there be greening" and it was picked up in Bible studies and as a few resolutions highlighted the immediate calls to action around water availability, a net zero carbon goal and addressing the climate emergency. The Jubilee Commission resolution affirmed the continuing work of examining historic and current documents and sources of funds made available for Indigenous ministry

at various levels of the Church's structure, assessing current funds designed to Indigenous programming and assessing broader property questions.

The Saturday evening session was closed out with a Sacred Circle presentation given by a number of people who had attended the Sacred Circle in May of this year. They shared their stories, reflections, hopes, and dreams. It was very informative and provided us with a window into how they celebrated their two formational documents, *The Covenant* and *Our Way of Life*. Archbishop Chris Harper then got us on our feet and led us in a round dance. There was lots of laughter and fun as the 250 of us joined hands and danced sideways around the large hall. It was well earned exercise after sitting for most of the day. Our Indigenous siblings have

so very much to teach us.

Throughout the week there was beautiful and intentional worship as we raised our hearts to God in prayer and praise. The Lutherans' musical skills are wonderful to experience. We participated with the Moravian Church for a Morning Prayer Love-feast as they provided us with some historical and current information about the Moravian Church. We gathered with the ELCIC delegates for a closing Sunday Holy Eucharist, witnessing our reality of being members of the One Body of Christ. To God be the glory! It was not an easy week as we discerned carefully as each resolution was presented. Not all resolutions passed and some were sent back to committees for further work. But we were the Church and I believe that the Holy Spirit was moving amongst us. Thanks be to God.





DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE ACTIVITIES



Bishop Victoria was pleased to instruct Ryder Dion and Atalia Dion in their new duties as servers and crucifer at St. Matthew's Cathedral.



Preston Wesley and his son Preston were amongst those who came and partook in the special lunch at the Cathedral. Everyone enjoyed the lunch following the Sunday service; it consisted of healthy proportions of turkey, ham, vegetables, and desert!



Christine Bronson, Catharine Cribbs, Katie Cribbs, and Maria McAdam were three of the volunteers who worked to make lunch for people of the wider community who choose to come to St. Matthew's Cathedral for a meal on Friday afternoons. These ladies had quite a production line going and producing delicious sandwiches. The parish has recently acquired a barbecue and weather permitting a barbecue lunch provides a change in the food which can be offered.



Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Reverend Valerie Isaac, and Astrid Melatunan, a Presbyterian summer student all took an active role in the confirmation service for Quinn Furlong & Kyza Carr at St. James/St. Andrew's Combined Church in Geraldton.



Bishop Victoria Matthews baptised Avery Anne Corston the granddaughter of Bishop Tom and Ruth Corston and presented her to the congregation.



Caroline Chum, Sacred Circle Co-chair, signed the covenant at the Sacred Circle. [Photo courtesy of Brian Bukowski, Manager, Communications at the Anglican Church of Canada, Toronto.]



Three of the delegates to Sacred Circle from the Diocese of Moosonee are shown here: Caroline Chum, Sacred Circle Co-chair, Canon Grace Delaney of Moose Factory, and Reverend Isabel Dube from Constance Lake. [Photo courtesy of Archbishop Anne Germond, Diocese of Moosonee.]



People of the Books

Article by Cheryl Shaw, Community Worker, Diocese of Moosonee.

"Of making many books there is no end." Ecclesiastes 21:11

THEY CAN BE FOUND IN neighbourhoods, school yards, and parks. They are conduits for the sharing of ideas and knowledge and for the exercise of community and freedom. And they do so at no cost to anyone. They are Little Free Libraries.

The first Little Free Library is credited to Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin. He came up with the idea in 2009 as a loving tribute to his late mother who had served as a teacher and was someone who adored books. Since then, Little Free Libraries have enriched communities across the world. In 2022, Canada had about 2,000 boxes ... that is until this year, when we gained another.

St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins now has its own little book box, a Little Free Library which is both a work of heart and a work of art. It was gifted to the Cathedral after it was purchased from Stuckey's Woodworking of Vauxhall, Alberta. St. Matthew's



This beautiful book box stands outside of St. Matthew's Cathedral and is in service to the community.



Bert Trudel used his building skills to erect St. Matthew's book box on the grounds of St. Matthew's Cathedral. It was strategically placed to attract readers from the community and has done so beyond expectation.

is blessed to have a number of talented artists within its congregation and so it came to be that Catharine Cribbs and Nicky Alexander were asked to paint the library. The book box was painted in the colours of the sea and decorated with the most beautiful variety of fish. Bert Trudel gave his time and effort and installed the Little Free Library by the Tamarack Street

entrance to the Cathedral where it now proudly greets people.

Our Little Free Library stands as a one of a kind but accessible work of art near the downtown. It is a way for St. Matthew's Cathedral to share with its neighbours and people in the city even when the church is closed. All manner of books have found their way into the little library, including Bi-

bles. Since its installation, it has been popular enough so that it is sometimes challenging to refill. A Little Free Library is entirely appropriate for St. Matthew's to have - after all, we are a people inspired by a collection of books. It is our hope that our Little Free Library blesses and enriches the neighbourhood for years to come.

People of the Garden

Article by George Cribbs, Editor of the Northland.

"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce." (Jeremiah 29:5)

ON A PLOT OF LAND OWNED by the Diocese of Moosonee and situated between Saint Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine and the rectory for St. Matthew's Cathedral, one can see a series of eight raised gardens. These raised gardens were originally built by the members of the South Porcupine Lions Club and managed by the Porcupine Horticultural Society.

Under the direction of Catharine Cribbs, the President of the Porcupine Horticultural Society and a parishioner at St. Matthew's Cathedral, the gardens were given to seniors and other persons who wished to continue gardening. The gardens were built to a height of one meter so that most adults would not need to kneel whilst gardening. Due to the size of the raised gardens,



Cathy Millions of St. Matthew's Cathedral is one of the people who loves to garden at the Diocesan Gardens in South Porcupine.

they were divided into two and thus sixteen people are able to continue their love of gardening every year and eat what they produce.

At the request of Bishop Victoria Matthews, Warden Don Montague and Bert Trudel used their carpentry skills to restore three of the raised gardens which were badly in need of their efforts. The necessary materials were acquired and the work progressed rapidly and completed in time for the eager gardeners to plant their vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

The Diocese of Moosonee has become an active participant in this effort to promote the greening of the earth and to help seniors to exercise more and eat healthily. Establishing community gardens on church lands and reaching out to community groups are ways in which our church can and does support the wider community.



Love and PRIDE in Timmins

Article by Cheryl Shaw, Community Worker, Diocese of Moosonee.

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.”(Matthew 19:19)

A THERAPIST FRIEND OF MINE likes to say a crisis is really an “opportunity driven by dangerous winds.” As we journey through life, we often find ourselves in worldly storms of all sorts. Very fortunately, as Christians, for our map and North Star we have the gospels, the example of Christ, and the hope he inspires.

On June 10th of this year, three members of St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Timmins attended Timmins Pride Fierite. It was our first such attendance; of note, St. Matthew’s Cathedral was the only religious group to participate in the festivities. Despite the bitter weather, the day was joyful and our table was approached by many people. We were thanked for our presence and our simple message of love: “God loves you.” Less happily, we were also asked on at least one occasion, very sincerely, if we thought God would accept people from the queer community.

It’s not hard to understand the sense of alienation among LGBTQ2S+ people, including LGBTQ2S+ Christians. As a community long stigmatized, the history is a grim read. In the context of Pride, the very first Pride celebration was an actual riot. In brief, in 1969 in Greenwich Village, members of the queer community spontaneously began protesting police brutality and the riot became



Cheryl Shaw and Sharon Malherbe represented St. Matthew’s Cathedral at this year’s Timmins Pride Fierite. As the sign suggests, they brought the message of God’s love to that activity and the people of the community.

known as ‘The Stonewall Riots,’ widely held to be the beginning of the gay rights movement. But as always, progress is never linear. Homosexuality was decriminalized in Canada in 1969, although the RCMP continued to surveil queer civil servants up until the 1980’s. And while the queer community does have basic rights and freedoms here in Canada, social acceptance often seems to be a chimera, vulnerable to economic and social stresses. This was actually a difficult year for the queer

community: here at home, some cities refused the Pride flag; there were instances of Pride flags being burned, stolen or damaged. The American Civil Liberties Union has noted that our neighbours to the south have put forward over 400 bills in state legislatures this year alone that will impact upon the LGBTQ2S+ community. Consider that in 62 countries homosexuality remains a criminal offence; in at least 10 countries, it is punishable by death. These laws represent abuses of human rights:

the freedom of expression, the right to develop one’s own personality and especially, the right to life.

Our church has many opportunities of a dangerous sort to preach the true gospel and to bring the love and hope of Christ to the queer community. It is a profoundly Christian act. Jesus was often on the margins with the people of his day who were rejected and despised. We lived what we believe on June 10th in a small way but it was a start. We stood up and were counted; we offered the simple truth: ‘God Loves You.’

School for Editors

Article by George Cribbs, Editor of the Northland.

THE ANGLICAN EDITORS’ ASSOCIATION held a conference in Fredericton in June for editors of the various diocesan newspapers and other publications of the Anglican Church of Canada. I had the good fortune of attending this conference largely due to the generosity of that organization; I requested and received a \$1,000 travel grant which did indeed pay for the travel costs associated with the conference.

Many of the dioceses across the country make diocesan news-



Northland Editor George Cribbs attended an Anglican Editors’ Conference in Fredericton; editors came from all regions in Canada. Archbishop David Edwards, kneeling in front, was one of the speakers who addressed the editors.

papers and publish them in conjunction with our national paper, *The Anglican Journal*. In some areas - Saskatchewan and Newfoundland for example some papers are published by three dioceses working together; some dioceses only make a digital paper and some like Algoma have ceased to publish altogether.

The conference in Fredericton allowed editors to meet and support one another; making a paper can be a lonely experience with only a computer for company. As in pre-covid-19 times the conference of-

ferred various ways in which editors could increase their knowledge and skills about editing a newspaper. Professional development is something which the Anglican Editors’ Association can offer to those who are able to attend the conferences. These are challenging times for all newspapers.

As with other church organizations, there is a strong emphasis upon worship when the editors get together. We had a special service at a St. Mark’s Chapel in King’s Landing Historical Settlement as well as at Christ Church Cathedral.



The Playdoh School of Theology

Article by The Reverend Judie Cooper, former Priest-in-Charge, St. Matthew's Cathedral.

ASK YOU KINDLY to visualize me standing in a classroom or pulpit with six cans of playdoh. Pretend that this is a rather intense children's story and enjoy the colours and the way I'm going to use that playdoh to help you see or maybe share a truth in a simple way.

A solid foundation for our life as disciples can be described as a pyramid of truth. On the bottom row, picture three cans ... one represents truth from Genesis which tells us in so many ways that God made us and everything in creation. The second represents truth from the Exodus which assures us that God cares about his people and intervenes in time and space to deliver those who trust him. And the third can describes the relationship between God and Moses established over a burning bush, and reminds us that we live in personal relationship with our Creator who not only told Moses his name, "I AM" to leave for us but who also knows us by our names. So, we have three foundational truths: God made us; God cares for us; God has a name which he told us. The colour for every can about God is precious gold.

Imagine us now moving to the second row of the pyramid and like any pyramid it will have



The Reverend Judie Cooper, photo taken at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins.

fewer cans ... exactly two. Can #4 is about love ... not the mushy, sentimental love kind but the kind of love which honours God and blesses neighbours. Love as described in *Romans 12:9* "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour." The colour for Can #4 is Marian blue. Can #5 is about compassion - love in action. Compassion means we are to bless, to contribute, to be hospitable, to be humble. Paul explained it to the Colossians this way (3:12): "Therefore, as

God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." The colour for Can #5 is purple. Finally, we go to the top can ... Can #6 and there we find Jesus. Peter learned something about that. When he was given the truth from above that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, the Messiah, and spoke it out loud, he did believe that Jesus was at the top of the pyramid. But then Jesus told all the disciples that he was going to suffer, to die by execution on a cross and to be raised up on the third day. Peter, hearing these words, just blurts out, "Never, No Lord ... this must never happen to you."

Do you see that Peter is arguing with the One whom he had just acknowledged as the Son of the Almighty? Jesus was no longer alone at the top of the pyramid. Peter tried to wedge in another can called pride. In effect, Peter is saying, "Yes, you are the Christ but how about doing things my way." And Jesus puts all that to an end saying, "Get thee behind me Satan". And Peter's pyramid comes crashing down. You can't have four cans at the top of a three can pyramid. I constantly have to check myself to see what cans I'm trying to put on top with Jesus. The

colour of Can #6 is red - for the blood of Christ.

So, what did the playdoh kindergarten version of Christian life teach us? That God created us; God cares for us; God knows us by name; we are to love others; we are to show compassion; and we are to place Jesus first. Pretty simple. Any student can get it. Living it though, will take prayer, and courage, and faith, and every single gift that the Holy Spirit provides. We will flounder around and make big mistakes and commit sins but do not despair! Remember that Jesus didn't say, "That's your last chance, Peter". Jesus later said, "Peter, feed my sheep." And it was Peter who preached that first sermon on the day of Pentecost which added 3,000 sheep to the fledgling church. There is no end to God's promise of mercy. If your pyramid crumbles, cry out to God who is "I AM". He will come and save you and set your feet back upon the rock. Always.

It's fall Bible studies are starting up again ... join one ... or lead one ... they will help to renew your mind and make you stronger in genuine love and active compassion. They will ensure you see Jesus at the top of the pyramid. Have joy on the journey.

PWRDF Meets in Winnipeg.

Article by The Reverend Valerie Isaac.



Treasurer Shaliene Capras of Vancouver and The Reverend Valerie Isaac of Kapuskasing were two of the PWRDF's Board of Directors who met in Winnipeg.

AFTER COVID-19 PUTTING ON HOLD our trip to Winnipeg for the past three years, the Board of Directors of PWRDF were finally able to have our meeting there. We went ahead with our Board Meeting as scheduled - three years ago!

An effort was made to bring differing cultures to our board that began with the food. We enjoyed Syrian food at an Anglican church and had supper at an Indigenous restaurant. We also enjoyed meals of Mexican, and East Indian origin.

Throughout our meetings, which were a combination of in-person and on-line meetings, we discussed various topics including: our investments, financial situation, rules and regulations and how we receive information from our various diocese as well as from individuals. One of the comments made is that we do not get the information quickly enough and rarely get information regarding donors so that board members can send out individual thank you notes to the various donors. I have noted, as I am chair of finance and investment, that our own diocese's donations are behind last year's contributions but it may be that funds have been collected but not yet sent.

It has been my honour to serve as Diocesan Representative for

Moosonee for nine years before being elected to the board of directors four years ago. I have had the opportunity to meet and greet people from around the world where PWRDF has been able to make an impact. I have also met people from Canada who have been recipients of assistance from PWRDF as well. I have also participated in the Mapping the Ground We Walk On exercise a few times. When it was first rolled out, we had paper rolled out onto the floor of the church hall in downtown Toronto and since then it has grown into a wonderful exercise of knowledge of our Indigenous brother and sisters' heritage, where they came from and where we moved into. If you have the opportunity to participate in this program, I highly recommend it. If you have any questions about PWRDF please contact me.

Life Interrupted

Article by Bishop Victoria Matthews, Episcopal Administrator, Diocese of Moosonee.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” (Matthew 6:24)

LIFE IS FULL OF INTERRUPTIONS. Just when we think we have our life organized and we know what it is we want and plan to do, there are interruptions and surprises from every possible direction. This past summer is the perfect example with wildfires across Canada in unprecedented numbers. The fires have caused enormous damage as has the smoke. Vulnerable persons were evacuated out of Quebec communities because of the smoke, while other communities experienced road closures. Earlier in the spring, the community of Kashechewan in Ontario had their annual evacuation of over 500 people due to floods and as I write, I know of people who cannot get home to the Maritimes due to floods.

Such interruptions often cause great frustration and in some instances actual trauma. Our plans are disrupted and we, or our loved ones, are threatened with a sudden change of circumstance. Sometimes it is our worry and fear for friends and family at a distance that bothers us most.

So, what if anything, is the good news about such interruptions? Well, they do remind us that we are not in control. We never were in control mind you but we are very good at convincing ourselves that we have it all sorted. What a joke that is. Perhaps you have heard the line, *“If you want to hear God laugh, tell God your well-thought-out plans.”*

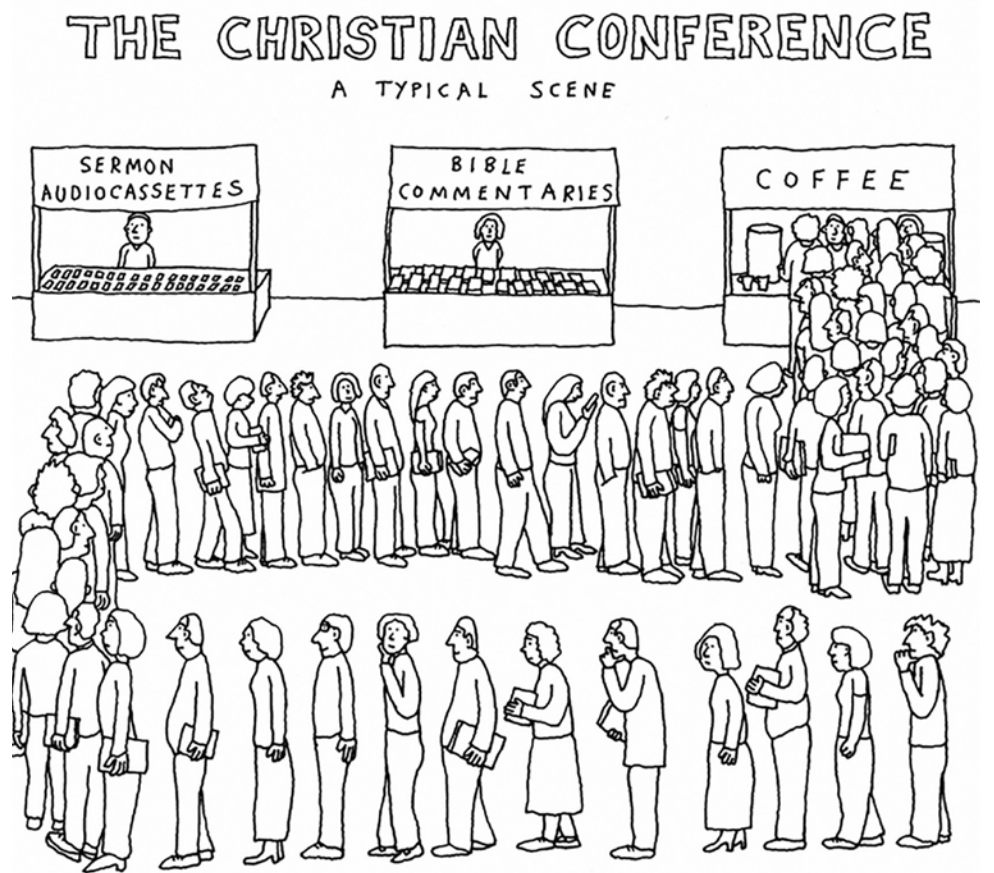
Interruptions can also bring unexpected blessings. When in the middle of one Sunday morning Eucharist at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, when the doors opened and a large group of people entered, I was surprised at first. This was the first group of evacuees from ‘Kash’ to attend the Cathedral this year and they brought many blessings with them. At coffee hour we first became acquainted and then friends. I popped out to the hotels where they were staying each week and John Wesley, a lay reader in the group, assisted in reading the Scriptures and then



Bishop Victoria Matthews led by example in welcoming guests from ‘Kash’ and the local community.

administering the chalice. I discovered some new parishioners at the Cathedral were related to John and more connections were made. Thanks to a generous parishioner at the Cathedral, the next week we had a feast after church and enjoyed turkey and ham, salads and a multitude of desserts. We called the occasion our ‘Family Reunion’ as we are one family both by our baptism and our membership in the Diocese of Moosonee. Many more blessings have followed on the heels of that interruption. That interruption was Spirit-filled.

In the middle of June, Cheryl Shaw, the Diocese of Moosonee community worker for the Cathedral in Timmins texted me with the news that ‘The Lord’s Kitchen’, a soup kitchen at a nearby Roman Catholic parish, had suddenly closed for four or five weeks and could we open our doors to the marginalised population that afternoon to provide them with an evening meal. We had less than an hour’s notice. Of course we said ‘yes’ to that sudden opportunity and immediately started making peanut butter sandwiches as well as tea and coffee. Others brought ‘cup of soup’ and some pastries and almost a hundred sat down to dinner. We normally would have had more food on hand but the freezer had died earlier in the week and we were awaiting the arrival of the new one, having had to dispose



of a lot of thawed and spoiled food. The next week we were ready with lasagna and fresh veggies, ice cream and cookies. This interruption introduced us to the fabulous volunteers from Project Love at Mountjoy United Church who have taught us a great deal and offered their support at every turn. It also allowed us to try our wings as we already offer lunch to the marginalised each Friday but the closure at ‘The Lord’s Kitchen’ meant that we learned to feed up to 120 instead of 25-30. That rather sudden interruption showered us with the blessing of an opportunity to grow in confidence and competence. It also required us to invite more people to volunteer and learn the joy of serving others. Alleluia.

I do not know if you have ever noticed but in the life and ministry of Jesus, there were many interruptions. Even Mary’s pregnancy and Jesus’s birth were major disruptions in the lives of Mary and Joseph. The same can be said for the birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth. Jesus was often on his way somewhere when his day was interrupted by a sick person or their family member who sought healing. In other places in the Gospel, Jesus was pounced upon by a Pharisee in order to challenge Jesus’ teaching and preaching. In every instance, there was a harvest of blessing in spite of the inconvenience to Jesus and the disciples.

When I ministered in the Diocese of Christchurch, in New Zealand, one evening in early September, 2010, we gathered at the Cathedral for the Synod Service and opening session of Synod and then went home planning to return in the morning to resume meeting. However, at 4:30 the next morning, the first earthquake struck and it was months later before we could return to the agenda of the Synod. In truth by then a great deal had changed and some items deemed important before the earthquakes, never saw the light of day again. Although later earthquakes would kill almost 200 people in the Diocese, and we lost over twenty churches as well as other buildings, we did recognise God’s presence and love in even the very worst of times.

Please understand that I am not saying we should all simply sit back and be spectators of life. God does call us to follow Jesus and to be disciples and that requires huge commitment and yes, lots of planning. But when things go off the rails, do not despair. God’s love is stronger than any earthquake, fire or flood and Jesus is with us no matter what interruptions are upsetting our life.

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” (Ecclesiastes 3.1) Next time you want to shake your fist at an interruption, pause and ask what God might have in mind for you. ...



Reaching Out

Article by Kim Skidmore, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Cochrane.

WHAT DO BOWLING, soccer, ribbon skirts, and playgrounds have in common? They are all great opportunities for 'relational outreach'.

Last winter, our rector, The Reverend Canon Patricia Dorland requested that our parish to tithe 10% of our 2022 operating surplus to support outreach ministry in our community of Cochrane. She challenged us to consider 'relational outreach'. In this ministry, we could be engaged in the activities or causes that we would be financially supporting. This form of ministry would allow us to grow as Christians outside of our building by giving us opportunities to share our faith based upon relationships built over time.

So, we accepted the challenge and set out to discover new outreach ministries that would match ... little did we know how much fun we would have and how enriched we would be by interacting with diverse groups in our community.

Our first venture into relational outreach involved supporting a bowling and pizza event for an SOS [Save Our Serenity]group. This group is supervised by Dorothy Smith, a member of our parish. It provides opportunities for social gatherings twice a week in a safe environment to a wide range of community members.

Parish members joined the group and sponsored an event at the local bowling alley and shared in much laughter, fellowship and of course Dorothy's delicious homemade pizza.

Other projects that we have sponsored this spring and early summer include:

- Nutritional snacks for participants in a Ribbon Skirt Making Workshop at the Ininew Native Friendship Centre.
- Cheering and Snack support for Youth Soccer Mini Tournament.
- Financial donation and participation in a local initiative to provide

Younger Playground Equipment (Providing Monster Cookies for their table at Live at Lakeside Community Event.

There are certain things that we have learned to share with other parishes regarding 'relational outreach'.

- It is an excellent way to support youth in the community with a shorter time commitment and volunteer base.
- It may not work out as planned but that doesn't mean that seeds were not planted.
- It may be a foreign concept to have churches support organized sports activities so be prepared to patiently explain your offer - often several times.
- Timing is important: i.e. groups need enough time to bring the offer of help to their boards and then fit it into their schedules.
- Churches need to be flexible to adapt their initial offer to the group's identified needs.



Workshop participants, leaders, and parish members proudly modeling New Ribbon Skirts at the Ininew Native Friendship Centre.



Making a Ribbon Skirt at the Ininew Native Friendship Centre.



The Save Our Serenity community group which offers opportunities for social interaction in a safe, supportive, and supervised environment -provided bowling as an activity for both community and parish members in Cochrane.