

NORTHLAND

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OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

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



Bishop Tom Corston and the Dean of the Diocese, the Reverend Greg Gilson, joined with the choir of St. Paul's, South Porcupine, to help produce the 40th annual service of Lessons & Carols to be held in that parish. The choir was augmented with singers from St. Matthew's Cathedral and from two local United Churches as well as St. John's Lutheran in South Porcupine.

Truth & Reconciliation Commission Comes to Moosonee

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

THE NATIONAL TRUTH and Reconciliation Commission, which has been hosting community hearings and national events across Canada in the past two years, is moving into areas of our Diocese of Moosonee this winter.

From the TRC website, it is stated that "Residential schools for Aboriginal people date back to the 1870s. Over 130 residential schools were located across the country, and the last school closed in 1996. During this era, more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were placed in these schools often against parents' wishes. Many were forbidden to speak their language and practice their own culture. The ongoing impact of residential schools has been felt throughout generations and has contributed so social problems that continue to exist."

The Commission, under the

guidance and supervision of Justice Murray Sinclair, continues to gather survivors of the Residential school era to tell their stories and share their pain to learn the truth about what happened in the schools and to inform all Canadians. In our Diocese of Moosonee, three Residential schools were operated: the Bishop Horden School at Moose Factory, St. John's School in Chapleau, and St. Philip's School in Fort George (Chisasibi). The school at Fort George was originally administered by the Diocese of the Arctic until the community was transferred to Moosonee in 1959. There was also a school located at Fort Albany, Ontario, in which, although administered by the Roman Catholic Church, some Anglican children were enrolled.

As this edition of the *Northland* is being put together, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is conducting a community hearing in Fort Albany. In early February, the Commission convened a hearing at Val d'Or, which Bishop Corston

and Canon Cliff Dee attended. In mid-March, the Commission moves to Chisasibi for a two day hearing. Again Bishop Corston will be present along with the Bishop of the Arctic, David Parsons. The Quebec national TRC hearing takes place in Montreal, April 21-24 at which Bishop Corston will be present along with Bishops Drainville (Quebec), Clarke (Montreal), and MacDonald (National Indigenous Bishop). The role of the Bishop and clergy who attend is simply to be a healing presence and to offer the Church's apology if called upon to do so (made by former Primate Michael Peers in 1986). Many of the experiences shared at these events are painful. It is the Church's responsibility to be present and to listen and offer support.

The ultimate hope of the Commission is "to guide and inspire First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and Canadians in a process of truth and healing leading toward reconciliation and renewed

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Messy in Moosonee

Article by The Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake

IT'S A FEW MINUTES before 5 pm on the second Wednesday of the month. The tables in Luke's Hall, Hornepayne are covered with newspaper and topped with brightly coloured craft supplies. The delicious aroma of shepherd's pie drifts from the kitchen, while the coffee pot announces that it too is ready. At the sound of the first footsteps, a veggie tray and juice appear on the snack table. It's Messy Church night at St. Luke's. Within a few minutes, the hall is alive with 28 people of all ages who have scattered around the waiting craft tables. On the third Monday of the month, the scene is repeated at St. Matthew / St. Paul's, Hearst where the delightful smell of Finnish pancakes fills the room.

Tonight's theme is light ... Jesus is the Light of the World. There are lanterns to be made and decorated with glitter, light themed mobiles with Jesus, the Light of the World, at their centre to be festooned with markers and yet more glitter. On another table, bright coloured crosses await decoration and for the youngest participants a game is set up. Parents, grandparents, and volunteers help excited children get a snack and pick a table as craft time begins. The room fills with laughter and the excited sounds of creativity. At the tables, we talk a little about Jesus, the Light of the World.

At about 6 o'clock, we take a break from our crafts for a story about Jesus. Each person has been given a battery operated tea light for their newly created lanterns. The tea lights are turned on and the hall lights off and together we sing: "This Little Light of Mine", making circles of light in the darkness. Then using a zipper prayer, all of us participate in the prayer time. Finally, the question is asked: "Who is the light of the world?" Like a cheer at a sporting

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Gretchen Armstrong, Brittany Stiller, and Elisha MacDonald all happily participated in Messy Church activities at St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

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event, even the youngest participants shout: "Jesus!"

As the worship time took place, sup-

per appeared on the food table. We roll our Grace Cube and say grace before everyone goes to pick up their supper and bring it back to the craft tables where they will share the meal together

amongst their drying crafts. There's a warm sense of family and fellowship in the room. It has been a wonderful evening. Busy hockey moms have had an opportunity to relax and play with their children rather than rushing home to prepare supper. The children have learned one important lesson about Jesus, memorably taught with a little candle in the darkness. Whole families have participated together in an evening for which they didn't have to plan or prepare. At the end of the evening, one young girl looks back at the hall and remarks: "It really is a mess!" For sure ... there's glitter everywhere! Another wants to know how many sleeps before she can come back. The fun and the fellowship of an evening spent at church will happen again next month with a new theme, different



A portion of the Messy Church banner made by Catharine Cribbs, St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

crafts, and another story about Jesus. That's Messy Church and it is an awesome experience for all ages.

Editorial Note: Messy Church is currently being used in the Diocese of Moosonee at St. Luke's, Hornepayne, St. Matthew /St. Paul's, Hearst, under the direction of the Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake and at St. Paul's, South Porcupine, supervised by Susan Villeneuve.

Bishop's Message

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM

a much needed retreat. Not many people today go on retreat, certainly of the kind of which I speak. Many retreat today to the warmer climates of the south to sit in hotel casinos, nightclubs, and on sandy beaches. I went on a spiritual retreat and was resident in the monastic community of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, MA. Some will remember when the Cowley Fathers had a Canadian monastery at Bracebridge, Ontario. The American community is the same order.

Going on retreat to be rekindled and renewed spiritually has always been a part of my ministry. It is a time I consciously turn off the noise of the world and enter into a time of silence, study and prayer. It is not easy. It takes me at least a day or more to slow down and allow myself to be absorbed into the moment. The monastery is a good

place for me. No radio, television, computers to distract. The place is steeped in prayer and holiness. On this retreat I entered into the worship cycle of the Chapel with the monks, read a couple of books, slept, went for walks (the monastery borders the campus of Harvard University), joined other retreatants every morning under the direction of one of the monks. When my time came to an end, all too soon, it was difficult to leave and 're-enter the world' - especially as it was -40° C. at home.

The most important aspect of a retreat, especially in a monastic community, is the silence that engulfs you. The monks tell guests that they offer the 'gift of silence.' For many of us, silence as a gift is not something coveted. In our world, so many people either know very little of silence or are frightened of it. Just look around, ... most of us spend part of every waking hour on cellphones, usually saying nothing important. If that isn't the case, a growing majority cannot leave home without plugging earphones in to their heads to listen to music to drown out the world around them. I admit to participating in some of that lifestyle myself as I struggle when I am

without my computer or my cell-phone is down.

Part of me, however, likes the silence and I feel comfortable when I can turn off the car radio in my long drives across this Diocese, and simply enjoy the scenery in silence. It always moves me to praise God for the rugged beauty of our area. Part of my present life requires me to spend a good deal of my time living alone and in silence. I can't read or pray unless I have silence. I like it.

When you read this, we will be again into the holy season of Lent. Today there is a decreasing population, even within the Church, who pay much attention to this season. Nevertheless, it is a holy season during which we are called to take time in our lives to focus on our Christian journey ... to study, pray, and spiritually enrich our lives. As the liturgy for Ash Wednesday tells us, we are called, "to observe a holy Lent ... to renew our life."

This Lent, I invite you ... nay, 'challenge' you to unplug ... turn off ... remove all those modern conveniences that fill your waking moments with noise, and take time to enter the silence. Take just an hour each day

to silently meditate, pray, read the scriptures. Make your Lenten experience a time of renewal so that Easter becomes the celebration it really is and not just another day as it has become to much of the world.

"Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces ... but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind, an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake, a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire, the sound of sheer silence ... and when Elijah heard it he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out." 1 Kings, 19: 11-12. Easter blessings.



Chancellor Moose

'I am from the South'

Article by Bryan Finlay, Q.C. Chancellor of the Diocese of Moosonee

AT THE LAST MEETING of the Executive Council, I was asked to write an article for the paper - "500 words, and a picture, are always appreciated." So here it is ..


At the request of the Bishop, I became Chancellor of the Diocese of Moosonee on November 4th, 2010. As most of you know, the Chancellor is the legal officer to the Bishop and

remains Chancellor only so long as the Bishop finds him or her of any use.

As required by the Canons, I am a practicing lawyer in Ontario. More specifically, I am a litigation lawyer in Toronto.

My connection to the Anglican Church is long and deep. My father, who emigrated to Canada from England when he was 16 years old, was asked by the Bishop of Huron if he

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Father Christmas came to visit the children of St. Mark's, Eastmain, QC

Notes from Eastmain

Article by the Reverend, Dr. Marilyn van Duffelen

THE WIND IS blowing the snow around and one of my doors is frozen shut. I am not sure yet what to do about it. My little poodle has adjusted to the cold. She still hates the clothes but allows the mukluks and sweaters in order to take a run with the huskies. It is more challenging for the two of us to take a walk through the community, which was our habit during the warmer months, but when we do it generates the same smiles from the trucks as they drive slowly by and the same greetings from the children as they pause from sliding down the plow-generated slopes. The dogs come to greet Sadie and join our travels until distracted by more interesting prospects. I now carry some kibble in my pocket and the dogs have learned to sit quietly to ask for a piece. I always reward good manners and good social behaviour. Sunday School has started up again. As many as 14 children come, shed their coats and boots and mittens on the couch and stay to love one another, laugh and play, and learn the Lord's Prayer in Cree. The ladies have been very busy, fingers flying as they sew mittens and moccasins and mukluks, moose hide and sealskin, sinew and embroidery thread combining in their hands into works

of art as well as supremely functional articles of clothing. I am perhaps overly proud of my mittens, gifted to me for Christmas by the Traditional Sewing Group.

For me, one of the most fun events this Christmas was the Carolling Night. We had a comfortable crowd and the pot luck offerings were awesome. Good food and good song. Splitting into 12 groups, we sang the "12 Days of Christmas" with laughter and a renewed appreciation for the theological associations. We may not have sung quite like the angels, but we tried.

As I continue to learn about the people in the community and they continue to learn about me, we are starting to make plans. We want bible studies. We want music events and choirs. We want a confirmation class which inspires. We want ministry training so that the community serves itself. We want an ACW which meets the needs of a membership encompassing both the elders and the young. We want opportunities to talk about our faith, to sing together and to pray together. We see the light of Christ shining in each other and into our darkness. We want to open our hearts to that light that it may cleanse us and heal us. Too much? Just watch us grow.



The Reverend Valerie Isaac, Bishop Tom Corston, and Deacon Anne Stenabaugh at St. Mark's, Kapuskasing.

Ordination

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

VALERIE ISAAC IS known throughout Kapuskasing as the voice of the news on the local radio station and on November 7th, last year she stepped out from behind the microphone to become ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada. Valerie's journey is a long one that began as a reader at St. Mark's almost 30 years ago. From there, Valerie became involved as a Lay Reader along with Anne Stenabaugh and others. Anne and Valerie continued their journeys together. Anne and Valerie were raised from within their congregations to become locally raised ministers. This took the form of support from their congregation and from their families. During the last synod at the cathedral in Timmins the two were ordained as deacons. The past year has been a busy one for the two of them as they began their theological studies and worked

on their priest's exams. Following the conclusions of their exams, Anne and Valerie were chosen to take their new paths with Anne being affirmed as a Vocational Deacon in the church and Valerie as priest.

Valerie was ordained with family, friends, members of the community, and a representative of her home parish in England present. The ordination service was held at St. Mark's in Kapuskasing. Bishop Tom Corston was the celebrant for the evening's ceremonies and the Reverend Karen Rooms from St. Ann's with Emmanuel in Nottingham, England sang the litany.

Anne Stenabaugh was also part of the ceremony as she was affirmed as a Vocational Deacon and led the peace.

Valerie was asked to co-celebrate during the Eucharist along with the bishop.

TRC continued from page 1 relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. There is a desire to put the events of the past behind us so that we can work towards a stronger and healthier future."

CORRECTION

The *Northland* apologizes to Ruth Cluely for using the incorrect wording in the December edition. The sentence 'Ruth Cluely decided not to attempt the newly created position as Executive Secretary' should have read that she decided not to accept the position. We apologize to her for giving our readers the wrong impression.

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wished to be ordained. He attended Huron College and then a small mission church in London, Ontario; and later served as the Rector of St. Bartholomew in New York City for over 20 years.

My brother also went into the church and became Archbishop Terry Finlay, the Metropolitan of Ontario (recently retired).

My wife, who after a few years of being married to me, decided it was the church for her, also became an ordained priest. Her main ministry today

is "Book Clubs for Inmates" that she established and which through volunteers now operates book clubs in all the federal institutions across Ontario.

While I have successfully avoided ordained ministry, I have inhabited the fringes of churchland by serving on the Boards of both Wycliffe College and the Church Army. And now Chancellor to the Bishop of Moosonee.

Perhaps what would be of most interest to the readers of the *Northland* are my initial impressions of this Diocese, limited as they are, because I have seen

the Diocese only through the work of the Executive Council.

First - when I came on board and at the very first meeting I attended, it was clear to everybody that the Diocese needed to be restructured in order to continue its Ministry. What was exciting was that I saw that the Diocese was actually going to be in the forefront of the remodelling of the ministry of the Anglican Church across Canada. The financial conditions of the various Dioceses either in the short or the long term make this remodelling absolutely essential.

Second - the people I have met around the Executive Council table (I have seen them at work in their seeking to ascertain God's will) are to me the Church's true leaders. I deem it a great privilege to be able to work with them.

Finally, the main challenge for me is the names of the parishes of the north - how can I ever learn to pronounce them! I will never forget Elizabeth Sipos' bemused and tolerant expression as I struggled to pronounce 'Mistissini. Please be patient and understanding with me. I am from the South.





Moose Gallery



Congratulations to Canon Nirmal and Anusha Mendis on the safe birth of their baby daughter, Namali, on January 19th, weighing in at 7 lbs, 9 oz. - a sister for Nimna. The Mendis family are presently on leave and living in Bobcaygeon prior to returning home to Sri Lanka when Namali and Anusha can travel.



George Cribbs, of St. Paul's, & Don Gillespie, of Covenant United Church, were part of the base section at the Lessons & Carols service at St. Paul's.



Bishop Tom Corston bestowed a licence upon Norma Teigen at St. Mark's Church, Iroquois Falls.



The Monastic Community of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A. where Bishop Tom went for a retreat.

40 Years Long

Article by Hazel Maki, St. Paul's, South Porcupine

EVERYONE ENJOYS A good carol service and the Choir of St. Paul's Anglican Church, South Porcupine is no exception. Why else would they labour so diligently to produce one annually for forty years? Every year, the fall sees the choir hard at work, learning new carols and anthems and polishing up old favourites.

The first Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was held in December of 1972 under the direction of Arva Cawley. There are still three members of that choir singing with us today. Since then there have been three more choir directors, each bringing her own strengths and enthusiasm to the task. It is a labour of love, both for the choir and the director.

Choir carols and anthems are chosen to reflect the lessons as are the congregational hymns and carols, although occasionally we'll sing a piece just because we like it. The highlight of the evening is the candlelight singing of 'Silent Night' which has been a tradition since the first Carol Service.

As we draw nearer to the day of the Carol Service, we all get a little nervous, especially the choir director who bears the ultimate responsi-

bility if anything should go wrong. At the dress rehearsal we give it all a final run through and assure ourselves that we are ready for the service.

On the night, we process into the choir stalls singing the hymn, 'Once in Royal David's City.' As the descant floats over the final verse, the choir organist, Peigi Kunkel and director forget their nerves and concentrate on making a 'joyful noise' with the harmonies working and the message of Advent and Christmas delivered through words and music.

For the past few years, we have invited friends from other churches to join us in the endeavour. The 40th Carol Service saw guests from the United Church and St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins swelling the ranks and giving more depth and body to each section of the choir. We were also joined by members of the Porcupine Winds, a group of young people who played together when they were in public school and who, now in grade 9 and attending different schools, are keeping their music alive under the direction of Alison Baker Jamieson. We all enjoyed the collaboration and are hoping it will be an annual event.

Out of Retirement...Slightly!

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee

THE FIRST SUNDAY of Advent, December 4th, 2012, the beginning of the church's new year, was a good day to recognize the ministry of the Reverend Norma Teigen.

That day, Bishop Corston was celebrant at the morning Eucharist at St. Mark's Church, Iroquois Falls. Responding to the request of the Rector, Fr. Phelan Scanlon and the Wardens, he presented the Reverend Norma Teigen with her Licence to provide assistance to the parish.

Norma was ordained to the Vocational Diaconate a few years ago for ministry in her home parish of St. John's Matheson. A few years before the decision was made to close the Matheson parish in 2011, Norma had been retired, although providing some ministry when called upon to do so. Since the closure, she joined the few who travel from Matheson to worship at Iroquois Falls. With

their restructuring partnering them with the Parish of Kirkland Lake, the congregation receives pastoral ministry from Fr. Scanlon only one day each week and Eucharist one Sunday each month. As Norma has become an active member of the parish, the congregation has been pleased to have her provide leadership.

With their request to ask Norma to provide a more active ministry at St. Mark's, Norma agreed to come out of retirement (slightly) and the Bishop was pleased to authorize her to provide the much needed assistance.

One of the ministries Norma has been licensed to provide is a second celebration of the Eucharist each month from the Reserved Sacrament. This is a tremendous source of happiness to the congregation.

It is good to have Norma back in active ministry.

