

OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

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



New Deacon Larry Armstrong, National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald, Bishop Tom Corston, and New Deacon Norman Wesley all played vital roles in the Ordination Service at Moose Factory.

Summer Ordination at Moose Factory

Article by the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelin, St. Mark's, Eastmain, QC.

WE WELCOMED TWO new members into the family of ordained ministers, Norman Wesley and Larry Armstrong, who were ordained Deacons by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee. "Greetings, Let us all be family," was the Ojibway welcome by our National Indigenous Bishop, the Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, who was the ordination preacher. His ordination sermon discussed the meaning of being a 'Man in Black,' a person set apart by both their way of life and by their responsibilities to the people. Ministry is more difficult now than over thirty years ago when Bishop Mark was ordained Deacon. He offered this advice: Ministry is a call to go out among the people, to reach out to them, to share their pain and their sorrow, to comfort and spiritually uphold them as well as to share the good news of Jesus Christ. The theme of family continued throughout the service. When I remarked to Norman how good he looked in his collar, his response was, "I think of it the same way as my wedding ring." After the dismissal, Norm's wife, Jean, gifted him with a surplice

she had made herself and decorated with embroidered flowers that her mother had taught her how to sew. Larry Armstrong was gifted with a white stole decorated with animal motifs. Celebrating with us were people from other communities including: Waswanipi, Eastmain, Kashechewan, Kemptville, and four members from the Church of St. Matthew's-in-the-Glebe, Ottawa, who have a partnership relationship with Moose Factory.

The church family gathered following the ordination at grand feast that was hosted by the people of Moose Factory and gifts were presented to the candidates. The community presented Bishop MacDonald with two beautifully crafted tamarac geese and Bishop Corston received a gift of an old sanctuary chair that had been in use in St. Thomas' Church which he had admired for years.

On Sunday afternoon, we all participated in the Annual Memorial Service, which has been celebrated at St. Thomas Church, Moose Factory, since at least the 1940's. Bishop Mark preached a message of hope, that courage, and fellowship, and faith will give us strength to create a better future

for our children and for our families. Between hymns, blessings were made at gravesites including that of the late Bishop Neville Clark. The Memorial Service ended with a procession around the cemetery led by the new Deacons and Bishop Corston.

On the fourth and final dash across the river to Moosonee to catch the train, I reflected on a weekend celebrating family. At the various services on this sunny weekend in August, both bishops, Thomas and Mark, offered reflections on the connections between faith, love, strength, and families. Their message was clear. We have faced very challenging times in the past, just as we are facing a very challenging time in our present. In the past, our ancestors knew the love of God. With strong faith, determination, and courage, they overcame their challenges and walked into a better future. We need to do the same. With God's love and their example before us, we need to have strong faith, determination, and courage, so that we can walk in the footsteps of our ancestors and build a better future for our families, to overcome our challenges just as they overcame theirs.

From Ottawa with Love

Article by Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Delegate.

THE THEME OF THE FIRST Joint Assembly of Anglicans and Lutherans held in Ottawa from July 3-7th, 2013 was 'Together for the Love of the World.' Delegates were welcomed to the Algonquin territory by an elder and fire keeper. The opening and closing eucharists were a blend of new and traditional liturgies. A specially designed cross-like inukshuk greeted delegates for worship. At the opening eucharist, the inukshuk was disassembled and reconfigured to become the altar, lecturn, and the font stand and was reassembled as the final eucharist ended.

The keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Durasingh, reminded us that through our baptism, we are made the Body of Christ and the Body of Christ is blessed, broken, and shared at each eucharist. The church is not to be self centred, focussed on preservation of the status quo but to be engaged in the world in mission. He spoke of the five functions of the Church: service, worship, preaching, fellowship, and teaching and challenged us to see them as the fuel propelling us into the Mission of God. The theme, 'Together for the Love of the World' is not an invitation to grow bigger and better but rather it is "a major calling to nurture and nourish an alternative consciousness" as people of the way of Jesus.

Much business was done during the five days both jointly and in our denominational synods. The Joint Assembly passed a declaration focussing on the issues of homelessness in Canada. By a two thirds majority in each order (laity, clergy, and bishops) a resolution was approved that the Council of General Synod prepare and present a motion to change the church's Canon 21 on marriage to "allow the marriage of same sex couples in the same way as opposite sex couples." The reso-

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lution will be brought before the 2016 General Synod for debate and voting. Changes to the structure of the national church - less reliance on standing committees and more grassroots involvement in task forces, support for electronic meetings, a review of the focus and frequency of House of Bishops Meetings, revised delegate numbers for General Synod were addressed. Our Executive Archdeacon the Venerable Dr. Harry Huskins was elected Prolocutor, or second executive officer of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

General Synod celebrated achievements such as the completion and publication of the Inuktitut Bible after 34 years of work. We were told that new liturgies will soon be available for baptism and the eucharist. In an historic move, General Synod gave unanimous support to the creation of an indigenous diocese in north western Ontario to be led by Bishop Lydia Mamakwa. The celebration of that moment was truly joy-filled!

It was a proud moment when our Primate sincerely commended our Bishop and our Diocese's transition work as one of his good news stories with the Canadian Church, saying: "the lights are not going out in Moosonee."

They are twinkling with renewed hope." Archbishop Fred Hiltz also spoke of the sacrificial character of ministry with the dioceses of the Council of the North. He also gave us a simple way to remember the Marks of Mission: "tell, teach, tend, transform, treasure." Borrowing words from the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, whose dismissal was said: "Get Up, Get Out, and Get Lost!", our Primate challenged us to get up from our pews; get out of our buildings and into the streets; and get lost in mission, in the joys, and sufferings of humanity; and to get on with being the church in and for the world.



The ACW Hope Bear was dressed as the Bishop of Moosonee - 2nd prize in Canada.

ACW ANNUAL MEETING

Article by Anne Dyas, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane

THE WEATHER was kind as delegates arrived in Wemindjii on May 31st. after a long drive, and were welcomed by Rev. Capt. Rod and Lisa BranFrancis and their parishioners with hugs, smiles and colourful gift bags.

The theme this year, 'Called to Serve' was addressed in several sessions by the keynote speaker, the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor. Those present were reminded to listen to God because he wants us to recognize that we each have a God given gift of ministry. Since these gifts belong to God and not to us personally, it is, therefore, a part of our ministry to pass on these gifts and help others to recognize their gifts.

ACW business was presented and the sad state of ACW finances discussed. The hope was expressed that all parishes of the diocese would be able to provide some financial support since all women who belong to the Anglican faith are, in fact, Anglican Church Women (ACW) and that it is not necessary to belong to a branch although by forming a

branch the work of the ACW may be better co-ordinated. A committee was appointed to check the ACW Constitution and Bylaws and to recommend, prior to the next Annual, any changes required due to the passing of time. Bishop Corston conducted elections and the new executive was installed at the Sunday morning service. President: Lisa BrantFrancis, Vice Presidents: Virginia Hester and Marion Maybee; Secretary: Anita Assad and Treasurer: Trudy Sailors. Edith Belair, having served as President for 5 years, was presented with a token of thanks. An invitation to host the ACW Annual 2014 in Moose Factory / Moosonee was gratefully accepted. The date and theme will be announced later. The Annual over, Sunday worship included the ordination to priesthood of the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelin. Reverend Marilyn is serving the diocese in the parish of Eastmain.

Southern delegates now have a greater appreciation of the distance and travelling conditions required where ever the Annual is held.

Bishop's Message

Article by the Right Reverend Thomas Corston, Bishop of Moosonee



Emma Laiho was one of the young people confirmed by Bishop Tom Corston at St. Matthews, Cathedral in Timmins.

SOON, THE Diocese will become the Mission Area under the authority of the Archbishop. If we have done our work well, members of the local congregations across Moosonee will not notice much difference in their ministry. The future administration of the Diocese will be slightly different but the way that administration is carried out will be as it has been.

It is a restructuring plan that we have been working on since mid-2011 and I believe

it is a good plan that assures our future as the Anglican community in this Diocese. As a matter of fact, I believe other northern Dioceses will be looking to us as a leader in this effort as the Church across Canada grapples with the best way forward.

At this summer's meeting of General Synod, (reports of which you will read in this edition of the *Northland*) the Primate of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, presented his 'Presidential Address' striking a

strong note of hope. To underline his message he shared experiences he has witnessed across Canada of a Church that is changing and being effective in its witness for the Gospel. It was a delightful surprise to hear him speak about Moosonee's efforts:

Let me take you now to the Diocese of Moosonee. When Bishop Tom Corston retires at the end of the year, Moosonee will come under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. This is a story of coura-

geous episcopal leadership. It's a story of focussed conversations in Synod and a faithful assessment of its capacity to sustain ministry through the vast expanse of that huge diocese. It's a story of emerging partnerships

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'Quit Worrying'

Article by Reverend Jay Koyle,
Congregational Officer, Diocese
of Algoma.

DO YOU WANT TO make your church more attractive and increase the possibility of its long-term sustainability? Here's my advice: quit worrying about how you can make your church more attractive and, for goodness's sake, stop making your congregation's

chief objective to 'keep the doors open.'

I understand the impulse to focus on enhancing the appeal of our congregations. We figure, "unless we attract more people and money, this congregation will have to close." We know the trend of decline in numbers, human and financial, across the country. We are painfully aware, too, that there are few young people

populating our pews on a regular basis. As a result, a "survival instinct" kicks in. Before we know it, maintaining our buildings and bank accounts have become the 'mission' of our congregations. Yet, this actually accelerates the decline we seek to arrest.

I can say from personal experience that stagnation and decline are seldom inevitable. I have witnessed God trans-

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Reflective Moose





Bishop Tom Corston, accompanied by Diocesan Clergy and Lay Readers, inducted the Reverend Deborah Lonergan-Freake as Rector of Holy Trinity,

Watershed Deanery Meets

Article by Susan Montague, Warden of Lay Readers

ON JUNE 15TH, laity and clergy from across the Watershe Deanery met in Cochrane for their annual Great Chapter meeting. The majority of this day-long event was spent engaged in a series of small-group discussions, organized and led by the Very Reverend Greg Gilson. The purpose of these discussions was to begin the process of re-envisioning the way in which our deanery and diocese conducts ministry at the parish level. There was a series of six questions which focused our attention on such issues as the present health and signs of vitality of our parishes, as well as, how to address the needs of the community outside the church and our perceived impact upon the community. Also of concern were the financial constraints which limit the way in which priestly ministry is provided and who would be willing to do the providing. It was alternatives to our current models of delivery which we were seeking to explore as well as the lengths to which parishioners may go to receive this ministry (i.e. travel, join with other denominations,

etc.). Lastly, we brainstormed ways in which the ever increasing, constantly evolving technological options may be of some use to us. There were many moments of encouragement as positive stories and creative ideas were shared but change is daunting and imagining a different process for delivering parish ministry in our widespread diocese is proving to be challenging.

To help us in this task, the Rev. Patricia Dorland spoke to us about Living Stones which is a partnership of dioceses, Episcopalian and Anglican) that offers mentoring, support, and the sharing of experiences for any number of issues including cluster-parish ministry, 'raised-up' ministry, and financial concerns. Our diocese is currently investigating the possibility of becoming a member in this partnership which would involve attendance as an observer at the next Living Stones conference.

We also had the opportunity to give the Rev. Hal Graham and his wife our best wishes for the future as they embark upon the retirement stage of life's journey. They will be missed.



Bishop Tom Corston, the Reverend Marilyn van Duffelen as well as Diocesan clergy and lay readers, all took part in the ordination service in Wemindji.

Ordination

Article by the Reverend Canon David Brinton OGS, Vicar of St. James Cathedral, Toronto

DR. MARILYN van Duffelen first came to St. James Cathedral in Toronto about 5 years ago after a career as a research Biophysicist. She expressed to me her sense of a call to ordained ministry. This sense of call is always a deeply significant part of any person's Christian journey and takes different forms in different lives, often in surprising ways. In Marilyn's case, the surprising part was her sense that her vocation might be to minister in a First Nations setting. She soon enrolled at Trinity College in Toronto and successfully competed the Master of Divinity degree in 3 years. I admired her determination and drive and her willingness to make considerable personal sacrifices to achieve her goal.

Eventually, Bishop Corston ordained her deacon for ministry in Moosonee. I first met some of the Cree people she had begun to minister among, in Eastmain, when they made the long journey by bus to Toronto to celebrate with her. When I landed at Eastmain, Marilyn showed me the village and St. Mark's Church. The Eastmain church has a special connection to St. James Cathedral.

Our Dean Emeritus, the Very Reverend Duncan Abraham, led a group of men to Eastmain where they helped rebuild the church which had been destroyed by a devastating fire. What a lovely spot it is, recently improved by some furnishings Marilyn had acquired from St. Peter's Minesing in the Diocese of Toronto.

I, of course, thought Wemindji was just 'up the road' from Eastmain! Four hours later we arrived in time to sample some beaver and moose among other delicacies at the closing supper of the Diocesan Anglican Church Women's meeting. Canon Ginny Doctor, Coordinator of Indigenous Ministries for the national church, preached about the Eucharist and the priesthood. The hospitality of the Cree community was abundant and it was heartening to see them welcome their newest priest.

My visit to the Cree communities on James Bay was made possible by the generosity of the Dean of St. James Cathedral and the cathedral's York Group which has taken a special interest in Marilyn's work in Eastmain. May God's people there continue to grow in Christ, nourished by his Word and Sacraments.

Quit Worrying cont. from p. 2

form many hopeless situations into settings of vitality and growth. Even some circumstances where a congregation's ministry could not go on have proven life-giving rather than tragic.

Here is what I have discovered over twenty-six years serving as a parish priest, seminary professor, international consultant, and diocesan congregational development officer. Vibrant and faithful congregations are not motivated by fear for their survival. They do not

treat their parishioners as religious consumers that need to be pleased in order to 'keep things up.' They do not obsess about how they can be more likeable to the populace at large. Rather, they are inspired and guided by the presence and promise of a God they trust to be loving and generous, even when it seems risky or foolish to do so. Indeed, they set bold and generous goals to reflect and respond to the extravagant love of this God.

The governing motivation of

healthy congregations is not to grow or serve the church, but rather *be* the church. They recognize that their vocation is to make visible what life is like according to the coming and 'at hand' Kingdom of God. Such congregations tend to experience meaningful growth because decisions are not determined by complaints or convenience, 'success' or survival. Instead, renewal comes because they deliberately seek to shape their lives according to God's promises.

In the resurrection of Jesus, God has initiated the New Creation. God's promised future has already begun. God has gathered the church - us - to live as a testimony to the resurrection of Christ and a foretaste of the promised yet 'at hand' Kingdom of God. We experience vitality and joy when we do just that, even when it does not seem practical or safe.

I know what I am suggesting may sound naive or impractical. Still, my experience, and

that of generations of others, persuades me it is true.

Now, more than ever, we must ditch our concern for survival and seek nothing but serving the gospel alone. Jesus said, 'those who seek to save their life will lose it. Those who lose their life for my sake and the sake of the gospel will find it.'

Are you willing to trust that is true? The vitality of your congregation may depend on it.

For resources to follow up on this article, contact Jay at djk@tablesong.com.



Honoured in Ottawa

Congratulations to Archdeacon Harry Huskins who was elected on July 4th as Prolocutor of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. He brings considerable experience of the Church at both the diocesan, provincial, and national levels. The Prolocutor is, next to the Primate, the Senior Officer of the General Synod and works closely with the General Secretary and the Council of General Synod.



Archdeacon Harry Huskins, Executive Archdeacon of Moosonee, is serving the church in new ways since the Joint Assembly.



The Annual Memorial Service, which was held at St. Thomas Church, Moose Factory, was attended by Bishops Mark MacDonald and Thomas Corston and many members of the Diocese's clergy.



Bishop Tom Corston greeted Terry Murray and other parishioners after the Good Friday service in St. Matthews Cathedral.



Bishop Tom Corston received purple slippers at the Annual ACW meeting in preparation for his impending retirement.

Philemon Paul Wesley

Article by the Reverend Cliff Dee, St. Barnabas Church, Waswanipi, QC

ON MARCH 21ST, Philemon Paul Wesley of Kashechewan collapsed and died of a heart attack just after playing an oldtimers' hockey game in Attawapiskat. He was 56 years old.

Philemon became a layreader at St. Paul's Church, Kashechewan while a teenager and served in that capacity for almost 40 years. Over the course of the last few years when there was no resident clergy person in the community, which has been much of the time, he was the one who looked after the services of the church. As well as leading Sunday services he officiated at funerals, took communion to shut ins and the Fort Albany hospital, and was keeper of the parish registers and local church records.

Over the course of his service as a lay reader, he was always present at Lay Reader conferences, Deanery Great Chapter meetings, the Mahmow School of Ministry, and sometimes he was also a synod delegate.

He was raised by his parents, James Silas and Esther Wesley, and had six sisters, two brothers, and four step-brothers (two of his sisters and all four step-brothers, as well as his parents predeceased him).

With his wife, Annie Solomon Wesley, he had eleven children and twenty one grandchildren. Five of his grandchildren died before birth or in their early years, and he either assisted at or officiated at each of the funerals.

In the summer of 1973, Philemon and his cousin, Leo Friday, visited Archbishop Watton while the Archbishop was visiting Kashechewan. At the time, there was no resident clergy in the community. Following the meeting, they began together to lead English language services in the church. At the end of that summer, Philemon and Leo travelled south to begin high school in Espanola.



Philemon Paul Wesley of Kashechewan, 1957-2013

The second year of high school Philemon and Leo studied in Kirkland Lake. However, before completing high school, first Philemon, and then a month later Leo and another Kashechewan friend, returned home; they found the challenge of studying so far away too great.

He enjoyed hunting, and trapping, and hockey, and he also worked as a carpenter whenever there was such work available to him.

A devoted family man, his children often accompanied him to church, and in the last couple of years, his young grandson, who lived with him, always came too.

He was not one who had much in the way of material wealth, indeed, losing all his own and his family's material possessions at one point when his home burned to the ground. Yet, he was, nevertheless, a person who by his quiet and humble service provided invaluable help to his family, St. Paul's parish, and the whole Kashechewan community.

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that will provide for all, the administrative, pastoral, and episcopal needs of the Church there. The lights are not going out in Moosonee. They are twinkling with renewed hope.

I believe that the Primate has caught the vision of what we have been wanting to accomplish and I applaud him for his understanding and his support.

I recognize that some of our congregations are struggling and the need to make changes in the method of our ministry does cause some concern for some who wish that we could do ministry as we always have. But, at the end of the day, our

call and our focus is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in whatever configuration we find ourselves in this changing Church, it is that faith that gives us hope.

I again quote the Primate with these words: *As Anglicans across Canada and around the world, we do well it seems to me to remember that whatever we are we are but pieces of clay, in the hands of the potter, the Holy One, whose design is to make of this church a vessel of grace and blessing in and for the world.*

I pray you might feel something of that hope as we continue to minister in Moosonee. Blessings.

