

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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



Evangelist Catherine Murkin makes the LivingRoom a friendly place for one and all.

The LivingRoom in Schumacher

Article by Catherine Murkin, Evangelist-in-Charge, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, ON.

Just what is The LivingRoom? It is a place of refuge, of safety, a place of warmth in the winter, and respite from the heat in summer; it is a place for conversation and companionship.

The LivingRoom officially opened on December 13th, 2014. The Dean, Greg Gilson, was among those who joined us for a Service of Blessing led by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freak.

If anyone needs somewhere safe to sit for a few hours, come and join us in The LivingRoom. We desire to be a sanctuary for all ages. A secure spot where you can find a listening ear, a cup of something warm (or cold) to soothe your thirst, a place to relax. If there are concerns and cares you would like to pray about or discuss we are here. There are card games and board games available. We will feature a craft each week for those who un-

wind through creativity. It is our hope that we will be a comfortable living room for young moms to come and connect with each other and for older folks to meet and enjoy companionship. The younger crowd will find a great place to 'hang', and we have a play area for young children. We are here for everyone.

The streets of Schumacher were empty on that particular day and I wondered if many would find their way to our building. Proffering candy canes, I approached a trio of young adults and invited them to come and join us for hot coffee and cake. Hesitantly they approached our unit, uncertain as to whether they should enter or not. I was following and saw them peering into our area. As I came behind and ushered them into The LivingRoom, they quickly relaxed and found it a welcoming and fun place to be. Thanks to texting, it was not long

before a few more young people arrived. All stayed for several hours, creating and conversing, and expressing a desire to come back. It turned out to be a well attended event with many people dropping in and expressing an interest in The LivingRoom.

We are open weekly on Wednesdays from 10:00 am until 4:00 p.m.



Denise Boudreault & Corena Dumoulin helped to set up The LivingRoom.

PWRDF

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



Parish representative, Sarah Brown, received funds from an auction at Holy Trinity Church in Cochrane for the PWRDF.

As one of the newest members of the PWRDF team, I was overwhelmed to say the least when it came to attending the annual conference of representatives in Peterborough last fall. I had been asked to be part of the committee in late September and said yes, then spent the next month scrambling to get myself organized to go. I must say that the welcoming of the people at St. John's Church was wonderful. The church is going to be celebrating its 200th anniversary in about 20 years.

Throughout the weekend we were assured that the work we do in each of our dioceses is important and that the projects we are involved in are likewise important. We learned that as the program is called the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund there are programs and places within Canada that are being funded. I was pleased to hear that some funds had gone to Attawapiskat and other First Nation needs across the country.

During the weekend we were joined by a few guest speakers.

PWRDF continued on page 2.





Lay Reader Richard Moore, Janet Moore & Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake discussed the improving state of the diocese at the opening of the LivingRoom.

Diocesan Report

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake

How are things going in the Diocese? It's a common question, especially from people outside the Diocese of Moosonee. It has been a year since Bishop Corston retired, triggering the transition from a diocese to a mission area within the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. For most people, little if any change will have been noticed with the exception of the Diocesan Office address. In April, a celebration was held marking Archbishop Colin Johnson's formal installation as the 10th Bishop of Moosonee. Together with Bishop

Corston, now Assistant Bishop, Archbishop Johnson ensured an episcopal visit to every parish in the diocese. Diocesan financial matters are entrusted to the Reverend Patricia Dorland and other day to day affairs of the diocese are handled by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake. Both work part time on diocesan business. Most of our processes have been streamlined to save money and time. Regular meetings between Archbishop Johnson and Archdeacon Lonergan-Freake ensure that the diocese operates smoothly.

With our affairs in order, the focus is on living into our Diocesan Vision Statement: *The Diocese of Moosonee - called by God to live and proclaim the Gospel.* The Vision Quest Team is working on a Mission Action Plan as a resource for all parishes. All parishes are encouraged to use the *Mission Possible* study available on the diocesan website. Pastoral and sacramental ministry are being provided to all parishes; the work of the Youth Ministry Co-ordinator continues; a new outreach ministry has opened in the community of Schumacher and opportunities for training and education within the diocese are a priority. It's not business as usual in the Diocese of Moosonee. We are no longer focussed on maintaining ourselves. As God's people, we are focussed on ministry, mission, and outreach beyond the doors of our Church buildings, reaching out to the people in the communities where we serve. Keep an eye on the diocesan website (www.moosonee-anglican.ca) for resources and news and please pray for the diocesan and parish leaders as we strive to live and proclaim the Gospel.

PWRDF continued from page 1.

One of them was a woman from Indonesia who spoke about a project that the PWRDF is continuing to fund and the concerns and problems that they continue to work through. It was wonderful to hear her story and very hard to get my head around the fact that their projects are in jeopardy from businessmen who own their land and could just take over and destroy all they have worked for. She brought along some spices that they produce and the size of the jar compared to what we can get in our grocery stores is twice as large at half the price. Yes, I bought some of her spices and they do smell more aromatic. At the moment the only place in Canada that is selling them is in British Columbia but they are hoping to be able to get into other markets across the country.

The second guest was the Primate himself. Fred was warm and welcoming and he talked about the program and his passion for it. 'Fred Says' is the slogan for the work that is done. 'Rice is Nice' is the first of four new impacts that he is working on. We'll be getting more on each of them as the year goes on.

The Archbishop's Message Article by Archbishop Colin Johnson



Archbishop Moose

I am amazed at the life of this Diocese of Moosonee, the dedication of its clergy and the faithfulness of its people. It gives me such hope! Over the last couple of years, we have made decisions and begun to implement plans to reshape our diocese. Some saw this as diminishing and weakening us, an act of fear. I view it as an act of courage and a choice to embrace the life God has given us together faithfully and creatively. We have chosen a path that will make us both sustainable and

missional.

What do I mean?

Sustainability is the capacity to continue and support our work (with some assistance from the General Synod through its Council of the North grants) with a responsible complement of clergy and lay staff and volunteers within the financial resources we have available. We are now doing that.

But sustainability is more than just keeping everything going as it always has been or gradually cutting out more and more as we shrink. That's

where 'missional' comes in. Mission describes a church that is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a way that is attractive and inviting so that others choose to be followers of Jesus. Being missional is about being creative, figuring out the context of our ministry - where we are located, what are the needs of the people in this location, what are the opportunities to connect with the community, where and how can we contribute to bringing life and hope, joy and healing.

This is not about big, ex-

pensive, and fancy projects or programmes. Like Jesus' parable of the loaves **Message, continued on p.3.**



The Northland

A publication of the Anglican Diocese of Moosonee

A Section of the Anglican Journal

Editor: George Cribbs

Published Quarterly

Materials may be sent electronically to:

cribbsgr@yahoo.ca or moosoneeanglican.ca

or mailed to:

Diocese of Moosonee
c/o Administration Office,
Box 735, 113 Third Street,
Cochrane, ON
P0L 1C0

705-272-4310

Published by Webnews Printing, Inc. North York, ON

Renew Yourself this Lent



Reflective Moose

I fear increasingly that Lent seems to be a season to which many, even good 'Church People', pay scant attention these days. It used to be a season we were once taught and conditioned to observe, even if it meant a childhood giving up of a sweet. Today, much of it seems to have gone by the wayside. It is, however, a

short time in our busy lives whose spiritual discipline and challenge we would do well to revisit. I urge, nay I challenge, our readers to make this Lenten season a time of renewed intention and do something to make it real in your personal journey - perhaps read a good, Christian, book, get involved in or even host a Bible study

Article by Bishop Tom Corston

group, help at the local food bank, maybe even get yourself back to attending Sunday service. Make Lent real again!

I believe that every one of us is gifted to carry out a ministry, whether it be to spend time in special prayer on behalf of others, or be it one who brings a comforting presence to ill and

See Renew on p. 3





People's Warden, Jean Morin, and Lay Reader, James Lonergan-Freake, shepherded Holy Trinity's flock in Cochrane.

Article by Archdeacon, Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane

Cochrane's Nativity Sheep Trail

Advent and Christmas were amazing at Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane with opportunities for outreach, spiritual nourishment, fun and fellowship. As well as the ubiquitous bazaars and teas which were a great source of enjoyment for all who attended, including St. Nicholas himself, Holy Trinity sponsored a showing of the movie, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, at the local theatre complete with a pot-luck lunch. The parish held its annual Memorial Service; hosted an ecumenical Service of Peace marking the National Day of Action on Gender Violence; carolled at the Polar Bear Habitat and at the ecumenical carol sing for shut-ins and seniors. We also participated in the Blue Christmas Service; provided Christmas cheer to passers-by and offered a really interesting Advent study based on Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. There were: Christmas lunches, home and hospital visits, men's breakfast, messy church, a Sunday School pageant, deliveries of homemade cookies to the Men's Shelter and OPP station, three services of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve and Day, as well as, a Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols on Christmas. Together,

members of Holy Trinity provided a welcoming and joy-filled presence in our community.

But amidst the usual Advent and Christmas activities, the people of Holy Trinity gathered, sewed, knitted, and crocheted small sheep in October and November. By November 23rd, Holy Trinity's flock of sheep was ready to be blessed. For the first time ever, the parish participated in the Nativity Sheep Trail. Our sheep, each one with its own name on its badge, had a mission and work to do in Cochrane. In the final week of November, most of our sheep wandered out into the town to 18 local businesses where they were welcomed to spend Advent. Many of them wandered around those businesses and weren't to be found in the same isle twice! People were invited to take a Sheep Trail leaflet, which provided them with a simple account of the Christmas story, and go on a treasure hunt of sorts, looking for the names of all 18 wandering sheep. When all the names were found, participants deposited their completed leaflets in a receptacle in front of the Church before the sheep found their way back to Holy Trinity, inviting people to fol-

low them back to the Church for Christmas services. On December 23rd, with the whole sheep fold looking on, a draw was made for a small Nativity figurine - won by a young boy who'd followed the trail and recorded all the names himself. Their work done, the sheep stayed at the Church to participate in Christmas and Epiphany services before taking a rest until next year.

They'd gone out into the community to invite people to Church;

support our neighbours; remind everyone of the true meaning of Christmas and bring joy and welcome. They were interviewed and photographed by the local paper and the businesses which hosted our well behaved sheep enjoyed having them and are looking forward to seeing them next year. In all, Holy Trinity's Nativity Sheep Trail was a success and these cute and cuddly ambassadors of welcome and mission will be back next Advent.

Message, continued from page 2.

and fishes, it involves cooperation and a trust in the abundance, not the scarcity, of the resources in our midst. We bring what gifts we have available, even if they seem insignificant or insufficient and Jesus' job (not ours) is to multiply them, not so his miraculous power is displayed but because he is concerned about meeting the needs of the people who are around him.

God has already given us what we need to carry out his work.

For us today, being missional can be as simple as gathering some people together to pray for the community. Or it could be offering a healing circle, or gathering people (more than just the parishioners) for a monthly fellowship meal, or creating a space where young parents and their children can find a safe place to talk, to play and get some support. It could be finding out what the elders in a local home need (friendship, perhaps? Someone to tell their stories to? An opportunity to share their wisdom? Someone to take them on an outing or to worship?) and then finding a way to meet that need. It could be as radical as a decision to close too-large a church in the winter and meet for worship in someone's home to save heating costs; or on the other hand, to open a locked-up church building to provide space for a community drop-in or a homework club. Missional is about listening attentively

to God's call and to people's needs and discover where they intersect. It is about looking around alert to new possibilities to be of service. It is about looking with the eyes of faith to see where God is already active in the world (not just the church) and joining in.

As you are reading this, we are in the midst of Lent, preparing for the new life that God promises us in the Easter resurrection of Jesus. The Prayer Book invites us to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reading and meditating on the holy word of God. These traditional practices of Lent are the very ones that the Church has found over the centuries most useful in discerning more clearly what God is doing in our midst, in training our imaginations to figure out how best to respond with what we have at hand, and in empowering us to put that into practical action to build up the Church of Christ.

Sustainable and missional. We are attempting to be just that in the parishes throughout this diocese - and I think we are succeeding. We are choosing life not death. Thank God!

"May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will."

Renew continued from page 1.

lonely friends, or one who involves themselves in the social actions of feeding and clothing the poor in our midst. Our ministries, even if we don't see our care and service to others as such, are vital. The right and proper use of the Lenten season as a time for personal refreshment and renewal as we spend our day following Christ would be a positive force to us and, in turn, to the lives we touch.

Every one of us, in our life, takes on some 'errand' of goodness. By doing so we help to make the world work and we add something to life. Without it there would be a great loss. We don't all end up in charge of what the world calls important things - like: banks, industries, governments, schools. But we are all in charge of at least one very important thing. Each of us is given a life to live, and in that

life errands will appear, errands that bring some good thing to be.

On the other hand, some of us do end up in charge of what the world calls important things - like: banks, industries, governments, schools. And if we do, it is important to remember just how much the life of the world depends on ordinary people taking on their small errands of goodness. The ordinary life, lived well, is every

bit as important as the 'important' lives that some few of you may live.

This Lent, perhaps you can take some time to reflect on the 'errand' you undertake and in so doing to recommit or perhaps, for the first time, commit your life to following the way of Jesus Christ. Take the risk to live well for thereby you commit yourselves to the difficult triumph of hope.





Warden Catharine Cribbs, Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Lay Reader James Lonergan-Freake, Reverend Patricia Dorland, Dean Greg Gilson, and Evangelist Catherine Murkin all supported *The LivingRoom* at its inauguration.



Five young adults from Schumacher were among the first people to benefit from the warm welcome at *The LivingRoom*.



Maureen Ormerod, Connie Grosvenor, Gertie Anderson, Audrey Chilton, and Lynn Alexandre worked behind the scenes to make the annual Christmas Tea a success at St. Paul's in South Porcupine.



Twelve Lay Readers from St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake and Holy Trinity in Cochrane attended a Liturgical Workshop given by Bishop Tom Corston in Kirkland Lake in January about the origins of our Anglican traditions.

A Blue Christmas in Geraldton

Article by the Reverend Larry Armstrong, St. James Church, Geraldton.

One of the benefits of being the Priest for four parishes is the experience and participation in diverse and unique Christmas traditions. On my monthly visit to St. James Memorial Church in Geraldton last October I was asked by the Parish Wardens if we would be doing a Blue Christmas Service this year. Immediately, visions of an Elvis impersonation event filled my head along with the song *It'll be a Blue Christmas Without You*. As it turns out, the Blue Christmas has nothing to do with Elvis and everything to do with the Church reaching out to those who are lonely and missing loved ones especially during the Christmas season.

Though this service was once a familiar tradition in many of our parishes it is no longer observed by all. However, at St. James in Geraldton, the Blue Christmas Service is still an important part of their annual Christmas observances.

The ladies prepared a table draped in blue, at the front of the church set with votive candles. During the liturgy congregants were invited to light a candle in memory of loved ones and to say their names for all to hear. The Paschal Candle was beside the table from which they lit the votive candles. Refreshments were served following the service as well as an opportunity to visit and share

the remembrances. Another custom is the lighting of ice candles at the cemetery following the service at the church or on Christmas Eve.

The church building was beautifully decorated, featuring a very large, bushy, and live, wild cut 15 ft. Christmas tree. The woody smell of the tree filled the building and, I think, provided for a better ambience than that of the more convenient and sanitary artificial tree. The extra effort on the part of the folk of St. James is greatly appreciated by this Christmas tree aficionado. My mother, who spared no effort in decorating the house for Christmas, would have approved. As I lit a candle, I did not remember the sadness of her death but rather the joy she had in all things Christmas.

Memorials and remembrances for the dead are not something we commonly think of at Christmas time. Yet there are many for whom Christmas is not a time of joy but a time of deep and abiding sadness. Church Wardens, Michelle Ferring and Bev Kolody both emphasized their desire for our congregation to be present for those who grieve or are simply alone at Christmas. For those who were in attendance though, the reason may have been somber but at the same time there was also a sense of comfort. "Comfort ye my people."

Deacons Confer in Halifax

Stenabaugh, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing

Friday began with a Service of the Word and centered on the Holy Day of St. Mary the Virgin followed by a meditation led by the Primate on Mary and the Magnificat where we were challenged to answer this question about our individual ministries as Deacons: "What consumes us, the church as a building or our mission to go out into the world?" The workshops that I attended were 'Experiencing the Labyrinth' and 'Art and Soul'. The surf and turf banquet was hosted by All Saints Cathedral followed by a 'Kitchen Party' or 'Ceilidh' where we got to kick up our heels and dance and laugh and talk with each other.

Saturday morning began with BCP Morning Prayer based on 'Holy Women of the Old Testament.' A session was led by Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully who talked about the formation for leadership and what guidelines are needed for the discernment of deacons and what resources are needed for developing the formation

and competency of a deacon. The Primate led the other session which was based on the statement that the diaconate is essential to the fullness of the church. We were challenged to read the Service of Ordination of a Deacon and the Ordination of a Bishop and see the similarities.



The Reverend Valerie Isaac & the Rev. Deacon Anne Stenabaugh form a real team at St. Mark's, Kapuskasing.

