

# NORTHILAND



Marshall Thompson, Reverend Catherine Murkin, Diane Thompson and Agnes Flam kept the Lay Readers in harmony.

## Lay Readers in Tune

Article by Anne Dyas, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee.

**OUR LAY READERS' CONFERENCE** is an educational opportunity for anyone in the Diocese of Moosonee who is interested in expanding their faith journey. Were you there? If not, you missed a truly engaging experience from May 5th - 7th which kept everyone's attention to the end - this is not the usual reaction to a conference.

Our invited guests were the Reverend Canon Todd Townshead, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Huron College, and Reverend Margaret Tandy, a retired priest who lives at Port Hope. Some may remember Reverend Margaret as the wife of Reverend Ken Tandy who served the parishes in Hornepayne and Cochrane in the early 1980's. Their topics respectively were sermon preparation and prayer.

Both of our guest presenters began with the gift of personal information about their journeys of faith followed



The Reverend Valerie Issac kept in tune and in time with the musicians.

by an introduction to their respective topics. Although neither of the presenters had spoken to each other about their presentations they both began with a reference to a recent

lectionary reading: *The Road to Emmanus*.

Using the story of the *Road to Emmanus* as an illustration, Reverend Todd read and then retold the story in his own words; he invited us to make note of some points which we may have missed. For instance: the risen Jesus was invited as a guest to supper yet became the host with the distribution of the bread and wine; only after this act were the eyes of the two villagers opened - and Jesus vanishes. What was the reaction of these men? Joy! It was so joyful that they rushed back to Jerusalem to share this good news. Reverend Todd asked, "Do we too share that delight? The joy in knowing that Jesus has risen. This after all, is the Easter Season.

The Reverend Margaret spoke of a time when she experienced joy and See "*Lay Readers Learning*" page 2



The Reverend Catherine Murkin played 'mother' and poured tea for the guests at the LivingRoom.

## Two Teas, Please

Article by Valerie Gilson, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins, ON

**THE QUESTION TO BE ASKED:** 'Should you raise your pinkie while sipping tea?'

Churches are known for their 'tea parties' across the country and the Diocese of Moosonee is no exception. We celebrate special days and times of year with tea: Mothers' Day, spring, summer, Easter, and Christmas or without any excuse at all. This was the case with two special teas in May.

St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine celebrated Mothers' Day in fine style with their annual tea. The room was dressed in all the colours of the season: punch orange, flower pink, leaf green, and sky blue. The room filled quickly and ladies sat and sipped whilst enjoying a great opportunity for conversation and the partaking of the sweets and savories which were on offer.

Excited ladies waited patiently

See "*The Moosonee Tea Party*" page 3





*The participants at the Lay Readers' Conference held at St. Matthew's / St. Paul's, Hearst, sang with gusto at every opportunity!*



*The Reverend Margaret Tandy deepened everyone's awareness of prayer.*



*The Reverend Larry Armstrong and Daisy were perfect hosts for everyone.*

## Lay Readers Learning continued from page 1.

delight. The Ministerial Association of her community agreed to share Holy Week together. To that end, each of the churches hosted one of the traditional Holy Week services of worship with every faith community invited and every clergy regardless of denomination taking part wherever the worship was held - a truly ecumenical experience.

Throughout Saturday, each presentation was divided into three sessions with our presenters alternating their topic. While we began with sermon preparation, each guest stressed the importance of asking God for help in one's ministry, praying and urging quiet meditation in order to hear God's response.

The Reverend Todd began with guidelines to preparation. As noted above, read and reread the scripture passage on which your sermon is based. Consider the points which jump out at you and note them. Ask yourself what was happening in the world at the time that the passage was written, and what is happening in the world today which is similar. How can these events be connected in your mind and presented to others? What was God doing then? Consider what you have written and note - from scripture - what he is doing now or will do in the future. From this information choose your topic - all this before you write your sermon.

Once you know what you want to say then practice it aloud several times; remember that a sermon is offered to the Holy Spirit more than to the congregation. A sermon should be praise to God and the Holy Spirit for their grace to us and it should never be moralistic. Not everyone who preaches actually writes out their sermon; some just make notes



*Canon Todd Townshend provided an example of his topic as he spoke.*

for themselves on paper to which they refer from time to time as they narrate their sermon rather than reading it. Help for those preparing a sermon can be found at: [www.workingpreacher.com](http://www.workingpreacher.com), through purchased, published commentaries and through *The Word Today* by Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll as well as other places on line.

Reverend Tandy in speaking about the power of prayer when used before meetings and worship preparation noted that there are some persons who choose to arrive late so that they 'aren't wasting time in prayer.' "What is prayer?" Prayer is a conversation with God. As in any conversation, one listens to the other person. So, do not rush away after your words; take time to listen for an answer from God. She noted that some people find it difficult to pray but we should remember, when we are lost for words, that Jesus taught us how to pray by giving us the words of the Lord's Prayer. In addition, if we are worried we may forget someone or some concern then there

are suggestions in our Anglican BAS (p. 190). A journal may be helpful to some people. One may choose to 'Pray the Psalms' or an excerpt from scripture with others or alone. Alternatively, one could take a meditative walk in a labyrinth [a whorl similar to a snail shell with but one way in and the same way out]. It differs from a maze where people get lost; you can never be lost in a labyrinth.

The Reverend Valerie Isaac of St. Mark's, Kapuskasing showed an assortment of Anglican rosaries which she makes and she told us how this ministry of hers came to be. Prayers for use with an Anglican rosary may be found at: [www.anglicanrosary.org/resources](http://www.anglicanrosary.org/resources) and at: [www.trinityreno.org/Anglican](http://www.trinityreno.org/Anglican). There are many online sites to choose from.

The important point in prayer is regularity; regardless if it is the first thing upon rising or the last thing at night or some point in between. Having a particular, quiet place in which to pray will be helpful. Some people like to have a focus: a cross, a candle, a special piece of art, or simply quiet background music. All these items may help you in your prayer life but when your mind wanders, "gently bring yourself back to focus; don't give up." One reference suggested by Rev. Tandy is *Practical Prayer* by Ann Tanner. However, she finds herself in tune with the writings of Julian of Norwich.

The conference was supported by the prayers of the diocese and by morning, evening, and nightly worship. We were blessed to have talented musicians who provided sing-along accompaniment to enliven us during the long day.

On Sunday, we joined with our host,

the congregation of St. Matthew/St. Paul's Anglican-United Church, Hearst for Holy Eucharist led by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake which we shared with those Kashechewan residents not yet allowed home.



### The Northland

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Editor: George Cribbs  
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Materials may be sent electronically to:

[georgecribbs@yahoo.ca](mailto:georgecribbs@yahoo.ca)  
or mailed to:

Diocese of Moosonee  
c/o Administration Office,  
Box 735,

113 Third Street,  
Cochrane, ON

P0L 1C0

705-272-4310

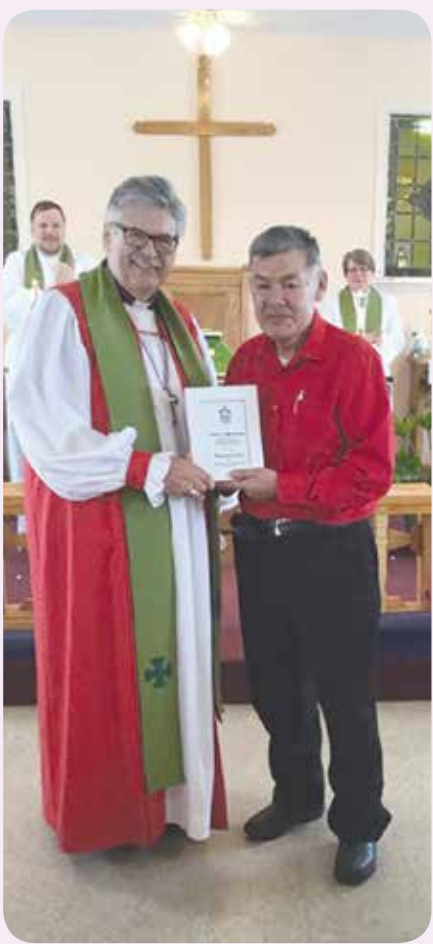
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# James Bay Meets

Article by Martha Westgate, St. John the Evangelist, Mistissini, QC.



## Order of Moosonee

Bishop Tom Corston bestowed the Order of Moosonee upon Thomas Coon at the James Bay Deanery Great Chapter meeting in Mistissini.

## GREETINGS - WACHIYA.

This was my first Great Chapter meeting and it was held in Mistissini - my home! When Canon Cliff Dee asked about when the bishop would arrive he was told that 'they were taking the scenic route on the Rue du nord' but they were actually following Reverend Larry Armstrong's GPS.

Canon Cliff Dee and Reverend George Westgate led a time of singing and the bus from Cochrane arrived at precisely the time that they had intended. It was exciting to hear, in a time when so many churches are closing, that in the James Bay Deanery the church is experiencing new life and new growth. The chief from Eastmain was present and he was supporting the Anglican Church in Eastmain.

Saturday began with an excellent breakfast and it was followed with a time of worship lead by the Reverend Norm Wesley. We had excellent food for the body and the soul. There was a warm welcome to everyone visiting Mistissini by our Chief, Richard Shecapio. He shared how much the

Anglican Church meant to him and to the community of Mistissini and how much the Reverend George Westgate has done for our community. After the welcome and introductions, we settled down to business. We conducted elections to the Executive Committee for the Diocese of Moosonee. Rev. George Westgate was elected Regional Dean, Rev. Gladys Matoush became the clergy representative and Mr. Charlie Loon was elected as a lay delegate. The Archdeacon talked about 'making disciples' and there was a discussion about the Marriage Canon and what the National Synod vote means for us in the James Bay Deanery.

On Sunday, Bishop Tom Corston celebrated the Eucharist and the Reverend George Westgate was installed as Regional Dean. During the communion, the children came upstairs for a blessing armed with slingshots; instead of stones they were armed with marshmallows to 'knock out giants.' They were learning about David and Goliath. Next year we meet in Wemindji!

## Announcement



Vivien Clarke ([kenogamiviv@hotmail.com](mailto:kenogamiviv@hotmail.com)), of the Watershed Deanery and Martha Westgate ([jadefire\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:jadefire_2000@hotmail.com)), of the James Bay Deanery have been appointed as representatives for the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer. Excellent and inexpensive prayer resources are available from the AFP through your diocesan representatives. They will also be in contact with parishes in their deaneries to update the list of parish AFP representatives and connect with people interested in this ministry.



Kate Cribbs may not have been born with a silver spoon in her mouth, as shown here, but she was thrilled to win a door prize at St. Paul's Spring Tea.

## The Moosonee Tea Party

continued from page 1.

for the door prizes to be drawn which included the potted plants which were on every table and some special, colourful gift baskets. Particularly surprised this year was a very young lady who became the recipient of a gift basket which included, among other items, large handmade bath bombs. She wanted to bathe immediately!

A mid-month Spring Tea was served at the LivingRoom in Schumacher on a brisk but beautiful, sunny day which made everyone hope that spring was truly here. On a weekly basis, a wide variety of people come through the doors of the LivingRoom: moms with toddlers, seniors dropping in for tea and a chat, crafting or games as well as those who just felt the need for companionship or a quick prayer. As school ends for the day, the space fills up with children looking for a safe place to 'hang out.'

On this particular day, new visitors and regulars came for tea to celebrate spring; what started as a quiet small group soon blossomed to fill the room. A variety of drinks - including tea brewed and poured

by the Reverend Catherine - and sweets were laid out for one and all to sample.

"It's a beautiful day in this neighbourhood, a beautiful day for a neighbour. Would you be mine? Could you be mine? Please, won't you be my neighbour?" The LivingRoom is all about neighbourhoods and as Reverend Catherine said in an earlier edition of this paper: "We want to live out Mr. Rogers' mandate. More importantly, we want to live out Christ's mandate - to love your neighbour as yourself." What better way to love your neighbour than to serve them tea as a welcome.

Back to that question of raising your pinky whilst sipping. Bruce Richardson, an historian who specializes in proper British tea (*and as George Cribbs would say "what other kind of tea is there?"*) says, "keep those pinkies down!" In the tea room, if you don't know how to take tea, you will stand out trying to keep your pinkies extended while sipping from your teacup. "It makes you look pretentious," he says - with a laugh.



Valerie Gilson did enjoy her tea at the LivingRoom and also at St. Paul's. Valerie takes her research quite seriously and has been rewarded with excellent tea - in the British style!





Assistant Bishop Tom Corston and Ruth Corston were attentive learners at the Moosonee School of Ministry and Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake took the opportunity to read the latest issue of the Northland!

## Come and Learn with Us!

**T**HE SCHOOL OF MINISTRY started with the celebration of the Eucharist and a message from Archbishop Colin Johnson. The Archbishop congratulated all who were returning and invited them to take their time to reflect on their calling to ministry and to consider what God has in store for them. After the Eucharist, Bishop Tom Corston welcomed the students back. The first term began with more students than expected. Ten students had been expected but there were thirty-three who attended. Nineteen people returned for the second term; however, as Bishop Tom said, a number of people had legitimate reasons for missing the second semester.

The lecturers for this term included Dr. Daniel Driver from the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia, who taught a course in the Old Testament. The Reverend Canon Cliff Dee, incumbent from Waswanipi, dealt with Church history. Assistant Bishop Tom Corston concentrated upon Anglican liturgics. The Reverend Norm Wesley, incumbent from Moose Factory and Moosonee was to have given a course in Native spirituality but ill health intervened and he was unable to participate for this semester. Bishop Tom Corston asked the Reverend Phelan Scanlon, Diocesan Missional Priest, to lead the students through



Helen and Jim Iserhoff of St. John the Evangelist, Mistissini, QC were two of the excellent students who came a great distance to learn about their church.

sacramental theology. Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake led the students into a deeper understanding of the nature of pastoral care. The instructional staff were joined by the Reverend Larry Armstrong, Regional Dean of the Watershed Deanery who functioned as this term's chaplain.

Dr. Daniel Driver asked the students: 'Who is Abraham? Who is Moses? Who is David? and Who is Jonah?' He introduced the Old Testament through these four important figures of the Old Testament. Abraham, the father of many nations, and the one God make a

covenant with "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." Moses received the law, the Ten Commandments, from God on Mount Sinai. David, the second King of Israel was another figure. Jonah, the reluctant prophet, who ran from God, and who preached repentance was the fourth figure.

Canon Cliff Dee led the students through the 'Dark Ages' and the

Article by the Reverend George Westgate, St. John the Evangelist, Mistissini, QC.

'Middle Ages'. He brought to light the many controversies within the church which caused many splits and divisions within the church. There were many controversies outside the church which still continue to hurt us and reflect badly upon the church.

The Reverend Phelan Scanlon reviewed the difficult words and terms which surround the Eucharist: 'Transubstantiation', 'Consubstantiation', 'Real Presence', 'Memorial', and 'Receptionism'. He concentrated upon the service which is variously called: 'Holy Eucharist', 'Agape Meal', or 'Love Feast' and served on an altar or a table.

Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake showed the heart of our ministry - the Eucharist - in action. "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." The Reverend Larry Armstrong functioned as the chaplain for this session of the Moosonee School of Ministry and together with Bishop Tom kept everyone on track.

The second term concluded with the celebration of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The celebrant and preacher was Bishop Tom Corston. "I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me."



# Northland News

Article by George Cribbs, Editor of the Northland, Diocese of Moosonee.

**T**HE ANGLICAN EDITORS' ASSOCIATION holds a conference every year as a means of helping editors to develop themselves professionally. Currently, 23 dioceses of the 30 in Canada publish a diocesan newspaper in conjunction with the *Anglican Journal*. Most of the editors managed to attend this year's conference which was held in Gravenhurst, Ontario between May 31st and June 4th.

The professional development, which was at the core of the conference, consisted of presentations and workshops regarding: photography, graphic design, computer software, journalism, and effective writing. The *Anglican Journal* itself provided some of the leadership for the workshops. The Art Director of the *Anglican Journal*, Saskia Rowley, - a lady who has recently won several international awards for her work - led workshops on design layout and preparing photographs for inclusion in newspapers.

Newspapers - both secular and ecclesiastical - are under increasing pressure as they strive to meet the needs of their readers. As the number of people attending church across the country decreases, the costs of pro-

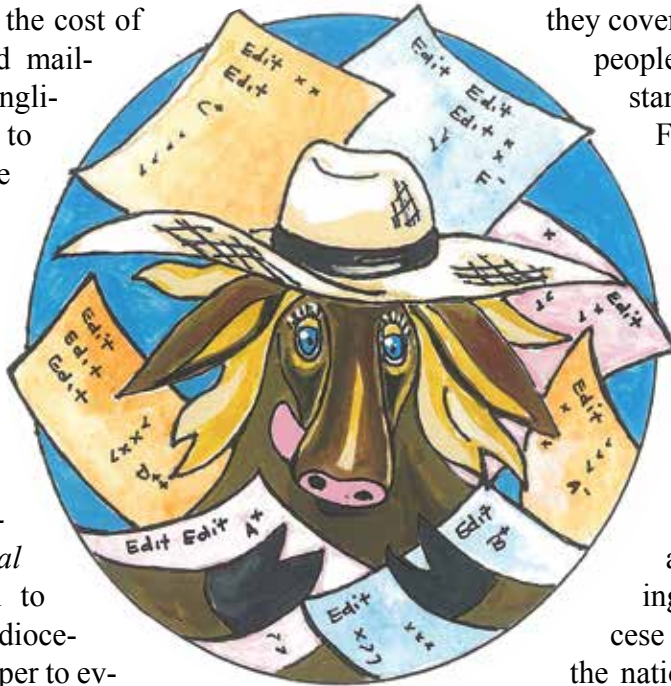
viding services are borne by fewer people. This means that, amongst other things, newspaper production expenses have to be as low as possible. A recent study undertaken by the *Anglican Journal* demonstrated that the cost of making and mailing the *Anglican Journal* to your home was insignificant - a mere 48 cents to produce and mail one copy of the *Anglican Journal* in addition to mailing a diocesan newspaper to every Anglican home in the country! Much of the mailing cost is absorbed by a grant from Heritage Canada. It would cost you \$1.15 to buy a single first class stamp to mail a letter within Canada. The dedicated staff at the *Anglican Journal* do a superb job for the church and their efforts have resulted in a number of

prestigious international awards being bestowed upon them.

The *Northland* is about you; it is about your parish; and it is about your diocese. Articles are written by both clergy and laity and they cover events and people from Constance Lake First Nation to Kirkland Lake, Timmins to Eastmain. Our stories are worth telling and reading. Our diocese is leading the national church in training people for ministry. The Moosonee School of Ministry is the first of its kind in Canada but it will not be the last; this was a subject of a 'Canada Wide Brief' sent out to all diocesan and editorial offices in the country. Our diocese established a much-needed drop in centre in Schumacher, the

LivingRoom, after all the churches in that town had closed. The work of the Reverend Catherine Murkin at the LivingRoom was also the subject of another 'Canada Wide Brief.' Our *Northland* shows the vigor and inventiveness of our population through its articles. For example, it showed that one parish, in conjunction with a local horticultural society and lions club, built raised gardens on its property and allowed people in the community to use them for free.

Another parish pioneered ministry with truckers passing through its community on the Trans-Canada Highway. We learn of such events through the newspaper and we can be inspired by them and motivated to emulate them. In addition, some articles are insightful messages from our bishop, or from our administrator, and others are in-depth essays such as "Native Spirituality" written by Canon Andrew Wesley. The *Anglican Journal* performs the same role as the *Northland* but on a much larger canvas - the Church in all of Canada! The *Anglican Journal* and the *Northland* are a winning combination. They serve to remind us that all Anglicans are on a journey of faith together.



Reverend Phelan Scanlon led a group of young and not so young worshippers to release balloons to the heavens above.

## Heavens Above

Article by Reverend Phelan Scanlon, St. John's, Foleyet, Ontario.

**W**HAT DOES A PRIEST do when he has been unable to do youth services to celebrate Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity? What does he do when he has had other commitments on said Holy Days? Simple: he waits until June

16th and does all three occasions at once! The kids went outside on St. Matthew's Cathedral steps and used chalk to prepare a lily pad for the use of our St. Matthew's mascot, 'The Frog' (first name 'The', last name 'Frog?'). On a fine, sunny day, The

Frog took his place on the lily pad but he was feeling warm. The kids sent bubbles all over him. The Frog was still too warm so they each cooled him with their own hand held fans. Then I soaked him with a bottle of water. The point of it? The Holy Spirit cools,



The children tenderly cooled Mr. Frog, refreshes, and invigorates. The Spirit also takes us where she will as illustrated by the three balloons we sent to the stratosphere. We then had communion inside and launched balloons indoors to Psalm 47: "God has gone up with a shout." Boy, you should have heard those kids and adults shout! Then ....wooshhhh! up the balloons went (where they remained ten days later). Finally, we celebrated the Trinity, Spirit, and Ascension with pizza and ice cream. This is my favourite part, of course, since I don't have to go home and face my kitchen. The Holy Spirit revives, cools, moves us, compels us, and lifts us up. So did this service - for me at least.





Archbishop Colin Johnson always finds time to visit his parishes and parishioners. He had tea with Helen Mills at St. Paul's in South Porcupine.

## 'Archbishop Colin Johnson Speaking'

Article by Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop of Moosonee.

**D**ID YOU KNOW THAT A GIRAFFE'S TONGUE is about a foot and a half long, is black, and like a human hand can curl around and pick something up? What an odd sensation it is to have a giraffe take one small pellet of food from your hand. That happened to me when I was in Nairobi, Kenya. It sounds exotic!

Ellen and I were in Nairobi for the eighth Anglican Bishops in Dialogue consultation which brought together 22 bishops plus a chaplain, a small working team and some dedicated staff from North America, England, and Africa. With a Ugandan-born priest, who is on our General Synod staff, I founded this group to continue informal conversations that had begun at the Lambeth Conference in 2008. As you likely know, the Lambeth Conference brings together Anglican bishops from across the world at the invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury for prayer, discussion, and decisions once every ten years.

Our informal, unofficial consultation began with 12 bishops from Canada and Africa meeting in London, England to listen to one another respectfully and prayerfully to learn how the other was engaged in the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. We knew about how we were different. We knew that we disagreed on significant matters. We knew that those disagreements could lead to division. We knew that a number of bishops and churches had broken off relationships with one another. But we also hunched that we had some things in common, that we shared a common vocation and mission, that we were all Anglican Christians. We



Archbishop Colin Johnson brought the good news of the Gospels to the people of St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

thought we should find out something about each other, face to face, and hear directly about the other's experience of the faith, their priorities, and how they lived out their daily ministry. Boy, were we surprised!

We did know about each other - but as stereotypes. In some ways, it is so much easier talking about someone else rather than talking with them because your own fanciful projections onto them are not confronted with complicated reality. We learned that we held so much more in common than what separated us. We discovered each other as passionate believers in Jesus, who, both personally and together with our dioceses, were attempting to live and make alive the good news of the Gospel in the specific contexts in which we are called to minister. The propaganda, the stereotypes, the misinformation

were challenged. In the conversations, we did not convert each other to one way of thinking, but we were all being converted more fully into the life of Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

Friends with both differences and similarities, with a variety of gifts and challenges, were not enemies but brothers and sisters in Christ, called to a common witness and mission.

Every year since 2010, we have gathered for ever-deepening conversation. The group changes: some leave because of other commitments, retirement, or death; some join. So far 49 Primates, Archbishops, and Bishops have been involved. We have no official mandate. We do not make decisions. We do not represent any organization. But we have discovered that we do make a difference.

What difference? In a world of either/or divisions, of extreme positions and polarities, of declarations of exclusion and hostility, we are a sign of the value of keeping conversations going across difference, of finding truth through dialogue, finding the image of Christ shining in the face of the most unexpected stranger. We witness that the Church of Jesus Christ is rich, diverse, challenging, and dynamic. We are one because God calls us into relationship with Himself through our baptism into Jesus' death and resurrection. We do not choose each other; God chooses us. We discover that in no place is the Church perfect. We discover that all of us have something we need to learn and something to teach. We are learning to be proud of our Church and humble about our own accomplishments.

In Nairobi, we heard about the Swahili concept of *haraambe*, "pulling together." It was popularised by the first post-colonial leader of Kenya. He had to build a new national identity by bridging deep tribal divisions and hostility that the colonialists had used to control the people. He had to find ways of unifying a new country that did not have a functional economic, social, or political structure. *Haraambe* encouraged local people to contribute whatever they could locally, voluntarily, generously toward the common good. It built community. It created a new common identity. It was not perfect but it worked and continues to be a work-in-progress.

The question we were given to wrestle with was: 'Can *haraambe* be a model for the Anglican Communion to 'pull together' to do its work? Indeed, it can!

We wrote this as a testimony:

"We testify to what we have seen and heard and experienced during our time together, of the power of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - to transform lives, to draw us into a life-giving relationship with him and with one another. We commit ourselves again to Christ and to 'pull together' for his sake and for his Church through which his mission to reconcile the world to himself is lived out. We commit ourselves to working together as members of the Anglican Communion freely offering the gifts we have been given to share for the common good, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour so that all may believe and have life in him."

Feeding giraffes sounds exotic but in our five days in Nairobi that morning was one of the few times we even left our hotel. The truly exotic experience was eating, meeting, listening, and living with other Anglicans from different parts of the world, with different backgrounds and contexts for ministry, and discovering Jesus in our midst.

And if you listen attentively and open the eyes of your heart, you don't have to go to Africa to experience that. Just take an intentional look and listen to the 'strangers' in your own community. You might be surprised by who is there.



**TWO MINUTE TALK:**  
**RON MALETTE**

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH:** *the people*  
**WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH:** *the climate*  
**YOUR BIRTHPLACE:** *Timmins*  
**YOUR BEST HIDDEN TALENT:** *convincing people to help*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY:** *golf*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE TEAM:** *the Blue Jays*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR MOVIE:** *Home Alone*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE JOB:** *teaching children about school bus safety*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE CHURCH ROLE:** *Sidesperson - greeting people.*



*St. Stephen's Lay Reader Standsinwater Sutherland included visitors and friends from St. James, Stratford in a smudging ceremony held in the bush near Constance Lake First Nation.*

## Match Made in Heaven

*Article by the Reverend Larry Armstrong, St. Luke's Hornpayne, St. Stephen's, Constance Lake First Nation, and St. Matthew's / St. Paul's, Hearst, Ontario.*

**I**N THE LAST EDITION OF THE NORTHLAND, I wrote about the plans for a visit from our sister parish, St. James, Stratford to St. Stephen's, Constance Lake First Nation. They have partnered with St. Stephen's for over 9 years and wanted to be involved in a more meaningful way. We needed to get to know each other a little better; the only way to do that was to get together - like going out on a date.

The Rev. Deacon Tom Patterson and 10 parishioners from St. James, Stratford drove over 1100 kms. and they arrived in Hearst mid-afternoon on Thursday, July 20th, 2017. They were billeted by the Parish of St. Matthew's/St. Paul's, in Hearst.

We started by visiting an open house hosted by Hearst Health Centre which featured a display of traditional Indigenous medicines. As Hearst and Constance Lake are fairly close together, there is a great deal of interaction between the two parishes and communities. Also it is a good idea not to go alone on a first date.

Friday's activity at St. Stephen's Constance Lake First Nation included a 45 minute drive out in the bush on logging roads to the Ferris family camp at Brave Lake. One of the essential characteristics of Indigenous Peoples is their connection to the land. A first hand experience - bugs included - is absolutely necessary.

People's Warden Stanley Stevens along with Lay Readers Standsinwater Sutherland and Harvey Ferris answered questions and provided some sense of what the land means to them. Standsinwater shared some of the experiences and history of Constance Lake First Nation both the bad and the good. Our time out in the bush was concluded with a smudging ceremony and the blessing of waters. Out of all the activities over the weekend, this not only set the pace but also established the context for our relationship.

Back on the "Rez", Standsinwater provided a tour of the village. One of the highlights was the local school built in 2006 where Standsinwater is employed part time as an Ogi-Cree language teacher. The school building features many culturally relevant features. We also visited our beautiful elders' retirement home, Sunrise Lodge. Of special note is the new water treatment plant opened in June, 2016. Constance Lake is now able to provide 98% pure tap water - the purest in the country. We went to St. Stephen's Church for a potluck feast and the much anticipated and well attended music and worship workshop in preparation for a sung Eucharist on Saturday evening in Constance Lake and Sunday morning in Hearst.

After lunch at the rectory on Saturday, we headed to Eagles Earth Convention Centre and Pow Wow Grounds owned and operated by Constance Lake First Nation. Standsinwater led a question and answer session at the Pow Wow Grounds on everything people wanted to know about pow wows but were afraid to ask. There is a lot more to it than

drumming and dancing.

On Saturday evening, we had another pot luck feast at St. Stephen's preceded by a session on how to make a ceremonial tobacco pouch and this was followed by the sung Eucharist. At St. James in Stratford music is a large part of their ministry. So they were asked to teach us how to do a sung Eucharist - something that we have never done before. Now that we have successfully done a sung Eucharist both parishes are excited and encouraged about doing this again for ourselves; this is a gift from St. James that keeps on giving.

Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake along with her husband James and their pet pooch Midnight were also a big part of our weekend; they were chaperones so to speak. Even though they were officially on vacation, they made Hearst and Constance Lake their first stops on the way through. Moreover, I was in need of some serious moral support officiating at my first ever sung Eucharist.

Speaking of nervousness, the anticipation of hosting the historic parish of St. James, Stratford, our suitor so to speak, had all of us up here in the North a little anxious. Some carefully organized plans fell apart at the last minute, but we persisted. (It would not be the first time that I chickened out on a date.) In spite of everything that seemed to be going wrong, we discerned that this was a Divine appointment and it had to happen and so it did. This first date for all of us has turned out to be so much more than we imagined. In fact, it was a "Match Made in Heaven." Next year, we will visit St. James in Stratford.

## The Archbishop 'Rocked On'

*Article by the Reverend Catherine Murkin, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, ON.*

**S**T. PETER'S ON-THE-ROCK ROCKS ON! On April 30th, the choir of St. Peter's had the honour of attending and participating in the 100th anniversary of St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls. At the same time, a crew spruced up St. Peter's for a much anticipated visit by Archbishop Colin and Ellen Johnson that very same day! You can imagine the hustle and bustle as we scooted from the wonderful 100th anniversary service in Iroquois Falls to receive Archbishop Colin and Ellen. It may have looked rather smooth as we raced from one event to the next - but it wasn't. We robed and processed as if this were a typical

Sunday morning. However, it was 7:30 p.m. and on our pews sat most of the congregation - including many who travel for more than an hour for services - everyone was eager to hear encouraging words from Archbishop Colin. We were not disappointed! The Archbishop recounted the various circumstances in which Jesus revealed himself to specific individuals after the resurrection, reminding us that our God willingly engages with us in unique and personal ways.

St. Peter's presented the Archbishop and Ellen with a hand crafted sculpture created by Bert Young using local aggregate and gems. This was followed by an opportu-



*Archbishop Colin Johnson 'rocked on' with the choir at St. Peter's-on-the-Rock*

nity to chat with Archbishop Colin and Ellen in the lower hall while we feasted on tasty delights prepared by members of the congregation. What a blessing this visit has been to us. There was only one hitch - the rector, who shall remain anonymous,

[*editor's note: it was the Reverend Catherine Murkin*] printed off faulty driving instructions to Iroquois Falls causing some to travel far beyond their destination. Nevertheless, St. Peter's managed to ROCK ON!





*The Reverend Catherine Murkin brought flames to St. Peter's to symbolize the reality of Pentecost.*



*The Reverend Catherine Murkin, together with brave children, brought new insight about Pentecost to the people of St. Peter's.*

## Pentecost Flames Forth

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

**A**NTICIPATION IS IN THE AIR. It is Pentecost Sunday and most people are dressed in the colour of flame. It is an exciting morning as we reflect on that first Pentecost where the disciples gathered, afraid, in the upper room. It is a Sunday morning worthy of a little 'pizazz.' Pizazz there will be at St. Peter's on-the-Rock. The rector has a few explosion and fire theme ideas waiting to be revealed.

What was it like to gather in prayer daily, at Christ's request, waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit? Was their excitement keen initially and then

waned as the days passed by? Did they sometimes doubt, questioning if any of the preceding fifty days had actually happened as they remembered? What did Jesus mean when he said they would receive power from on high?

The rector called the children to the front and had them put on aprons, goggles, and gloves - preparing them outwardly for the experiments that were about to take place - contrast this to the disciples preparing themselves inwardly to receive the Holy Spirit. A small vial was placed in one hand and a test tube containing clear liquid in another

and a third hand held a test tube which had chunks of a mysterious white substance in it.

A wave of anticipation held us captive as we waited to see what would happen next. The bravest person, shaking just a little, held the vial. This vial represents us. Into this vial the clear liquid, representing the cleansing we receive when we enter into a relationship with Christ, is poured by a tremulous little hand. And finally, the white substance, the catalyst, is placed into the container. The lid is quickly secured. This container - tightly gripped by small fingers - is held at arms length.

Silence in the room, nothing appears to be happening. We look at each other,

the vial is still held at arms length. Suddenly a deep 'pop' breaks the silence. The congregation breaks into applause. The lid has catapulted far across the room! We quickly jam the lid back on and it continues to burst off a few more times.

Was that what it was like for the disciples when a mighty wind blew through the room and what appeared as tongues of fire landed on their heads? The catalyst of the Holy Spirit caused such a transformation that these once frightened disciples found themselves speaking in languages they had not learned and proclaiming the good news of Christ. It is my prayer that we receive a similar transformation.



*An 'over the top' Messy Church was just one of the creative efforts made by Holy Trinity parish to engage the wider community throughout the year.*

## 'O Canada'

Article by James Lonergan-Freake, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

**P**LANNING FOR CANADA 150 started last year when our Parish Activity Committee met to do some long range planning. We wanted to make a positive impact on our town. For some years the town's flower bed at the junction of Highway 11 south and west was unused. The town was approached. Holy Trinity offered to provide 150 tulip bulbs and

labour to do the planting. The town responded by contributing even more bulbs and this June a brilliant red and white tulip Canadian flag appeared.

Since our Church doors had already been painted red, we added white maple leaves to our red Church doors. A bulletin board in our parish hall shows a growing number of red maple leaves



*'Cookies for Seniors' is yet another way for the parish to reach out to the wider community.*

continuing to appear as our members do random acts of kindness throughout Cochrane and note them on a leaf. Another large bulletin board (4x8 feet) has a huge basket on it and is being filled with notations of blessings and thanksgivings.

There are two larger projects: one is a vegetable garden being grown on the front lawn of the Church

from which we hope to harvest vegetables to give to the Food Bank in the fall. A member of Select Vestry suggested the second; we ought to have a flag pole since we are on the main business street in our town and Holy Trinity will be flying the Canadian and Anglican Church of Canada flags in a short while.

Throughout the year we have celebrated special services, not only for the Church calendar but also for special days including: National Aboriginal Day, Multicultural Day, amongst many others. We enjoyed a creative time making little hats in our Fascinator Fun Time. We are hosting: a 'Sip and Paint' event, special movies, breakfasts and dinners, an over the top outdoor Messy Church, and we will have our doors open for an historic church tour in August which will highlight our stained glass windows. In the fall, we are planning to present a play and a murder mystery. In all, Holy Trinity is offering something every month of this celebratory year. Hopefully, people will see our Church as a valuable, caring, and welcoming part of their community.

