

NORTHILAND

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The Northern Rock Group, Reminiscing the Future, brought Christian rock music to St. Peter's on-the-Rock's new Rock Café on their opening night.

Rock On, St. Peter's

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

MOOON LIGHTS GLOW ON BLACK COVERED TABLES, chatter swirls around the room. The aroma of coffee and hot chocolate tempts the senses. Anticipation hangs in the air, mingled with the smell of freshly popped corn. Rock music was coming to St. Peter's.

Merely ten minutes to start time, chaos seemed to be winning. Last minute sound checks, tuning guitars, musicians huddled in conversation ... and prayer. Me, running around ... and around ... and around ... nervous. This night is different from any other music event held at St. Peter's on-the-Rock. Tonight we welcome the contemporary Christian band *Reminiscing the Future*; we also welcome a crowd of people most of whom we have never met before. *Reminiscing the Future* is composed of four young Christian



The Reverend Catherine Murkin made wonderful coffee for the people who attended the opening of St. Peter's Rock Café.

men, one of whom just happens to be the pastor of the BIC (formerly Brethern in Christ) Church in town, two of whom attend the Baptist

church, and one of whom is a committed believer who hasn't quite settled into a church home. I think that it is amazing that God has provided St. Peter's the opportunity to host this eclectic group. We rocked out, praised, listened to original music like *Back to You* and old favourites such as: *Blessed Be Your Name*, *Good Good Father*, *Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord* and many others. *Reminiscing the Future* gave us a taste of the next Rock Café by performing *Mary Did You Know*. The next Rock Café will be on December 16th.

Of course, the solid rocks of St. Peter's are here, setting tables, helping prepare, and cleaning up. They have been busy for days. Painting, painting and more painting - did I mention more painting? Our lower hall has been given a fresh look. And

See "Rocking the Café" page 2



The Reverend Phelan Scanlon helped Hugo Alexander to appreciate a lovely Christmas tree in St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Christmas in the Cathedral

Article by Nicky Alexander, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins, ON

THE ANNUAL POINSETTIA TEA AND BAKE SALE is a long-standing tradition at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins. The fund-raising event takes place each year on the Saturday before Advent. The ladies of the congregation take pride in the luncheon buffet and sale of home-baked goods. The hall is warmly decorated and tea is served in the church's best poinsettia china to ensure a festive afternoon of fun and fellowship; in recent years, funds generated have gone back into the upkeep and maintenance of the church building.

The Poinsettia Tea not only gathers together the congregation but also presents an opportunity to welcome

See "Christmas Spirit" page 3





Concerned parishioners gave serious thought to how their church building could be used in additional ways to help ensure its continuity and then put them down on paper.

Getting Down to Business

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

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL!

We all have the same challenges. When you meet someone from another church or denomina-

tion, they all finally get around to asking the same thing: "how many do you have in church on Sunday? Do you struggle to keep the doors open?" We all have the same

problem; what should we do? It's a small world.

St. Matthew's Cathedral began a process to look at alternative uses for the Cathedral to create a second income stream to help sustain our place in the community. We are the only Anglican church in Timmins. The primary use of the church building is, of course, worship but so much of the building is not used extensively during the rest of the week that other opportunities needed to be sought not only to help with the upkeep of the Cathedral itself but also to help those in the community around us who were seeking places to support their activities and have nowhere to go.

The Diocese of Moosonee hired the 'Culture of Small' consulting group to help the Cathedral explore the alternatives that already exist and to help us develop a plan to bring opportunities to fruition. To that end, the consultants began with a workshop hosted by the Cathedral involving a diverse group of people who represented: the Cathedral's congregation, the BIA, the

business, music and arts communities, congregants from St. Paul's, South Porcupine, and curious on-lookers from other denominations. The consulting group helped us to find new shared uses for the Cathedral and to develop a clear plan for the future. They helped us to define, engage, partner, and fund the future of St. Matthew's Cathedral.

We began by looking at what our favourite places are in Timmins; we considered what the Cathedral means to us and we thought about what other purposes the Cathedral could possibly fulfill. We also reflected upon how the Cathedral fits into the rest of the community.

The gathered group came up with many ideas that have begun to be explored through the report that 'Culture of Small' provided for us. Many challenging, exciting, and thought-provoking ideas for St. Matthew's upcoming AGM to discuss and ponder have been generated.

Stay tuned for more as we move forward in our 'small' world. After all, our small world is your small world.

Rocking the Café continued from page 1.

then there was scrubbing, and more scrubbing - especially those paint drops on the floor. Some of us made a splattered mess while we made the walls beautiful.

Thanks to a grant from the Diocese of Moosonee, St. Peter's is now the home of the Rock Café, soon to be a monthly event. We have purchased an espresso machine as well as a Keurig and Tassimo. *Reminiscing the Future* has agreed to be our house band. Our hope is to create a safe place where young adults (and old ones too) can hang out and listen to inspiring music and stories. We plan to make a portion of the evening an open mike and will encourage people to share their talent. It is exciting to wait and see what God unveils through this undertaking.

I was buying dog food at the local store and a young woman behind the cash registrar said, "that was a great night! We need this so much! My friends have been talking about the Rock Café. We can't wait for the next one." (In all fairness her husband is a band member, so she has to gush.) I was both delighted and shocked. I can't wait for the next one either.

I asked a few of the older crowd to give me their take on the evening. While a few grumbled, "It was too



Adam Barlow plays the drums to the glory of the Lord with 'Reminiscing the Future'.

loud," most had very positive comments. I will quote Vivien Clarke, "The Rock Café was a wonderful, uplifting concert. Kevin, who is the lead singer, gave testimonies and words of encouragement about our relationship with the Lord. Eager for the next concert!" Anita Assad said, "The Rock Café was a joyful evening of music, song, and friendship. True fellowship enjoyed by everyone, evangelical messages heard that touched the heart; coffee, hot choco-



Kevin James is the lead guitarist with the Christian rock group, 'Reminiscing the Future.'

late, and snacks that warmed our tummies."

And danged if the rector wasn't dancing and praising the Lord at the back of the hall. Shhh, I hope that no one noticed. Well, I guess it's okay if you did notice- after all, David danced before the ark with wild abandon and said, "Oh yes, I'll dance to God's glory - more recklessly than this. ... And as far as I'm concerned .. I'll gladly look like a fool." (2 Samuel 6: 21-22).



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Ashleigh Emmell and Lori McCord were two of the ladies who served others at the Christmas tea.



The Christmas tea and bazaar was soundly supported by the wider community in Timmins.

The Christmas Spirit continued from page 1.

visitors into the Anglican Community. On reflection, it seemed a pity that whereas the hall and basement are typically abuzz with activity, the church upstairs is left closed and quiet. One wondered if it were possible that just as we welcome visitors into the Cathedral, we could reach out into the community at the same time?

It was this question that led to the launch of the inaugural St. Matthew's Christmas Tree Decorating Contest & Silent Auction. Three seven foot pre-lit Christmas trees were purchased and erected in an open area of the church towards the back of the

nave. The trees were decorated with the help of three business sponsors and in this St. Matthew's gratefully acknowledges: Perfect Settings by Estelle Demers, Giant Tiger Porcupine, and Michaels Timmins. Thanks to their generous donations, time, and expertise the trees were transformed in keeping with Christmas tradition and in such a way as complemented the glowing colours and flowing lines of the surrounding stained-glass windows.

On the day of the Poinsettia Tea, visitors were invited into the church to view the trees and pick their fa-

avourite. Many lingered to listen to Christmas music performed by Sue Steele and musicians from St. Matthew's including Reverend Phelan on the piano. Others stopped to appreciate the sparkling decorations and some just took advantage of the quiet contemplative space to reflect and prepare themselves for Advent.

Just as in God's creation, each Christmas tree was unique. Perfect Settings presented a modern take on the traditional Christmas Tree. Decorated in greens, blues, and turquoise, it sparkled in sequins and glittery foliage. Giant Tiger presented a classic tree full of red and gold balls, tinsel and a star to crown the top. The

playful Michael's Tree, decorated in red, white, and green was dotted in Christmas craft packs and won the popular vote.

In addition to voting for their favourite, visitors were also encouraged to bid on the trees in a silent auction. In total, \$175 was raised and it will be donated toward the new Living Space Warming Centre in Timmins. This is a small beginning but the vision is that we can build on the event each year so that eventually the church will be filled with trees symbolising hope and reminding us of the importance of community as we make our annual preparations for Christmas.



Lay Readers Kim Skidmore and James Lonergan-Freake braved the intense cold to offer hot cider and homemade cookies to the people of Cochrane.

Christmas in Cochrane

Article by the Reverend Richard Moore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane, ON

DECEMBER! **NOTHING BUT WORK** ... Where's Christmas? I've heard that complaint and you have too. I think that God would like us to change that attitude. He'd like us to remember that

we are called to work and it's a privilege and a joy, and, I say - even fun.

I think the kick-off event for the 'season of intense labour' was the presentation of *All That I Am*, a play about the unsung, often forgotten

women of the Bible and the church who were instrumental in the development and growth of Christianity.

Think of it: nine services - that's what our rector and her crew had to prepare and present. Work? Yes, but there is a palpable joy in sharing song with our United Church neighbours, and Eucharist with the residents of our seniors' complex, and in the pandemonium of a gaggle of youngsters presenting their Christmas pageant. Elation! There was an Advent Bible Study that had to be prepared, and attended, but the serenity of sharing prayer and deep inner feelings about God's purpose was a gift. The annual A.C.W. bazaar means hours of scrubbing the floor, setting tables, baking and more baking, making meat pies, and soup and sandwiches. And washing dishes! Where's the fun in that? It's there because almost all of it is done with friends, and there's a lot of chatter and catching-up, and laughter as the chores are done. That continued when Holy Trinity carollers went out to the community to bring Christmas cheer to the people.

And the community shares our

joy. Our Men's Breakfast welcomes 'men of goodwill' from everywhere. The steadfast deliverers of Christmas hot toddy and cookies outside of the building to passers-by, ... they don't ask, "Are you Anglican?" The people who take part in a heart-warming (and foot-freezing) presentation of the Nativity story, complete with real farm animals, come from almost every church in town. The Festival of Lights, at which our choir had to compete with Santa, is a music filled celebration of the season by the entire community. We shared a movie with all who wished something more 'spiritual' than what television brings. Our church spearheads women's issues by offering the annual Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women service. And then we went carolling.

And that was our December. Was it 'work'? A lot. Was of fun? Joy filled? Satisfying? You bet! And the bonus? Listen to St. Paul as he tells us, as he did his friends in Corinth: "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the work of Lord is not in vain." Happy New Year!



Be Radical ... Go to Church!

Article by the Reverend Doctor Kara Mandryk, Henry Budd College for Ministry, The Pas, Manitoba.

IN SOME CHRISTIAN CIRCLES, it is very current to talk about practicing 'radical faith'. Oftentimes, the underlying narrative of this label has something to do with pursuing justice, living in community, or addressing social ills and issues that are all too real in our communities. Of course, fighting poverty and homelessness and working for social justice are absolutely essential to our Christian identity. But also essential to our Christian identity is coming together for worship. I'd like to suggest that the act of gathering for worship, going to church, is equally necessary for practicing radical faith in our current cultural climate.

At first glance, the act of gathering together for worship might not seem to be all that radical. Some of us have done it for all of our lives and some of us question the need to keep gathering together, Sunday after Sunday, especially as that it seems that many people no longer seem to prioritise worshipping together. But I think that people coming together for worship is actually a radically subversive act. As we gather together for worship in our places of worship, we are engaging in an act that challenges the outer world, our inner world, and the spiritual world.

First, as we gather together for worship, we are subverting the views of the culture around us that says that the Church is antiquated and obsolete, the oppressive version of the freer 'spirituality'. We are challenging the assumption that no rational



The Reverend Doctor Kara Mandryk was a singularly engaging instructor at the third term of the Moosonee School of Ministry held in Cochrane.

person in the 21st Century would engage in something as quaint and parochial as a worship service in a faith community. Instead, when we go to church, we are saying that faith communities have foundational place in our society, and the act of gathering together in our diverse communities has something to say to society. Worshipping with others who might not look like us, who might speak with a different accent, or who disagree with us politically, socially, or even theologically, can strengthen our society. By worshipping with those who differ from us, we affirm that diversity does not equal division and that faith in God can unite us despite our differences.

Secondly, as we gather together for worship, we are subverting our own self-centred tendencies that say

if something isn't exactly how we want it, it can be abandoned. Let's be honest, we don't always feel like going to church. Sometimes, it's tedious or exasperating and we often believe that we have better ways to spend our time. But every time we get out of our house, get out of ourselves, and get into church, we are challenging our self-centeredness. At times, we might not like the style of music, the preaching, or even the people! But we gather anyway, reminding ourselves that Church is not simply about our likes, our preferences, and our choices. By gathering together we are saying 'no' to our self-centered tendencies and we are allowing our self-interest to take a back seat to the interest of the community of believers.

Thirdly, and perhaps most mys-

teriously, as we gather together for worship, we are subverting the status quo in the spiritual realm. The act of gathering, this choice to get out of our homes and out of ourselves to worship together, sabotages the work of the enemy - the work of dividing, isolating, separating, and creating apathy. When we glorify the name of God together, when we come together to hear God's Word, and to be heard by God, when we sing and celebrate and eat and drink and baptise, and anoint in the name of Christ, when we are empowered and sent out by the Holy Spirit, the enemy of God is pushed back. As we are reminded in Scripture, the name of Jesus is powerful (Philippians 2:10) and threatens the enemy (Luke 10:17). Christ came to destroy the work of the enemy (1 John 3:8), and Christ is present when we gather together (Matthew 18:20). By gathering together and worshipping in the name of Jesus, we resist the isolating and divisive nature of the enemy of God.

As Christians, we must find ways to practice radical faith which involve pursuing justice, fighting poverty and homelessness, and addressing the needs in our society. But, that work needs to be rooted in the equally radical practice of gathering together for worship. As we gather together for worship, we challenge the belief that Church and Christian community is obsolete, we subvert our own tendencies of self-centeredness, and we sabotage the work of the enemy. And that sounds pretty radical to me!



Holy Trinity's Holy Sheep!

Every year during Advent, Holy Trinity Parish's flock of sheep are sent out into local businesses in Cochrane to tell the Nativity Story and to invite people to go to a church at

Christmas time. This is similar to a scavenger hunt; participants search for the names of the sheep in each business and put in an entry for a free draw of a small Nativity Set.

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The Reverend Phelan Scanlon engaged Adele Corris, a Walmart employee, in a wide ranging discussion during her break at McDonald's in the Timmins store.



This young man found a different way to shine light on St. Lucia.



Syerra Bougie made a lovely St. Lucia Crown in celebration of the saint.

Mission Possible!

Article by the Reverend Phelan Scanlon, St. John's Foley, ON

A PRIEST PLAYING HOOKY on Sunday morning - YES! It's something that I have tried to arrange for years and now I have the plan. After the 8:00 a.m. service at St. Matthew's in Timmins, I head right for the McDonald's located inside Timmins Walmart. What's my job? It is to buy people their breakfast - I have learned that few people will argue with a man who buys them breakfast. I quietly sit in the restaurant and (having given the diocesan purchased gift cards to the restaurant's staff) wait to see if anyone would like to speak to me. Almost everyone did when I first tried this friendly gesture. People came to say thank you, chat a bit about their families, the Church, and so on.

As the second week of this mission work started, I was having some rather in-depth discussions about pastoral issues, the Church, and God. I admit that I felt a bit odd not being in Church on Sunday as a priest but, hey, I am doing what our diocese knows we need to do: get out with the people and be the Church in the world. Since Christians believe in generosity, and we believe that Jesus is the Bread of Life, we use charity and the offering of bread in order to have discussions (being there for people's questions) about the "Bread of Life" ... Jesus Christ. People need material food and spiritual food and we offer a gesture of the material and are then present for any

chats which may occur. There was a one year old boy there who will play defensive tackle for the Argonauts (sorry, Stampeder fans) whose parents were most intrigued by the Church's gesture. They said that the breakfast said more than any other outreach effort which they had encountered. In all, 47 people have come by to chat on the two Sundays that I was at McDonald's. We have a conversation group going on. When people ask who pays for it, I say the diocese, Colin Johnson, Tom Corston, Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Patricia Dorland, Greg Gilson - everyone. I'm just the front man. But it is only the beginning of many Christian centred conversations yet to come.

Another form of local mission sees me heading to the Archie Dillon Sports Complex in Timmins with good layman Rich Pyrc of St. Matthews. There we utilize the 'room above the pool' where people watch the aquatic activities below through the big windows. Rich and I quietly set up shop: a table or two, snacks, and crafts. At first mothers and kids drifted over furtively to make poppies for the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital.

After the people got over the shock of the Church simply being on site, they came over in greater numbers. We know this can be done every month. When doing off-site mission work one needs a theme, a craft, and so on but we also had a short liturgy in which

everyone was invited to join.

This is mission work. Fairly new, avant-garde, front-line but it is really just the People of God being present in the community. The Church will not merely stay within its four walls but it will be present in the outside world. People can either engage with us or ignore us - but we will be there.

Finally, there is the ongoing work of youth events whether they be at public schools or at the LivingRoom or at a church building. Saints days with crafts and sports are ways to introduce children of all ages to the Christian faith in ways which are non-threatening and safe - perhaps which are also fun for them. And - most of all - faithful to the Gospel which we have received and which we want to take out with us wherever we go.

This kind of work is interesting to say the least. If you had told me thirty years ago at my ordination to the diaconate that I would be sitting in a McDonald's on a Sunday morning twice a month, I would have balked. But here I am doing it. As incarnational Christians we know that wherever (and I do mean 'wherever') people gather to Christ, He is there.

Everyone in the diocese supports this ministry with: money, prayer, ideas, and coverage such as George gives us in this publication. Please pray for the labourers in the field and, better yet, to the Lord of the Harvest that God's word will never return unheard.



EMMA LAIHO

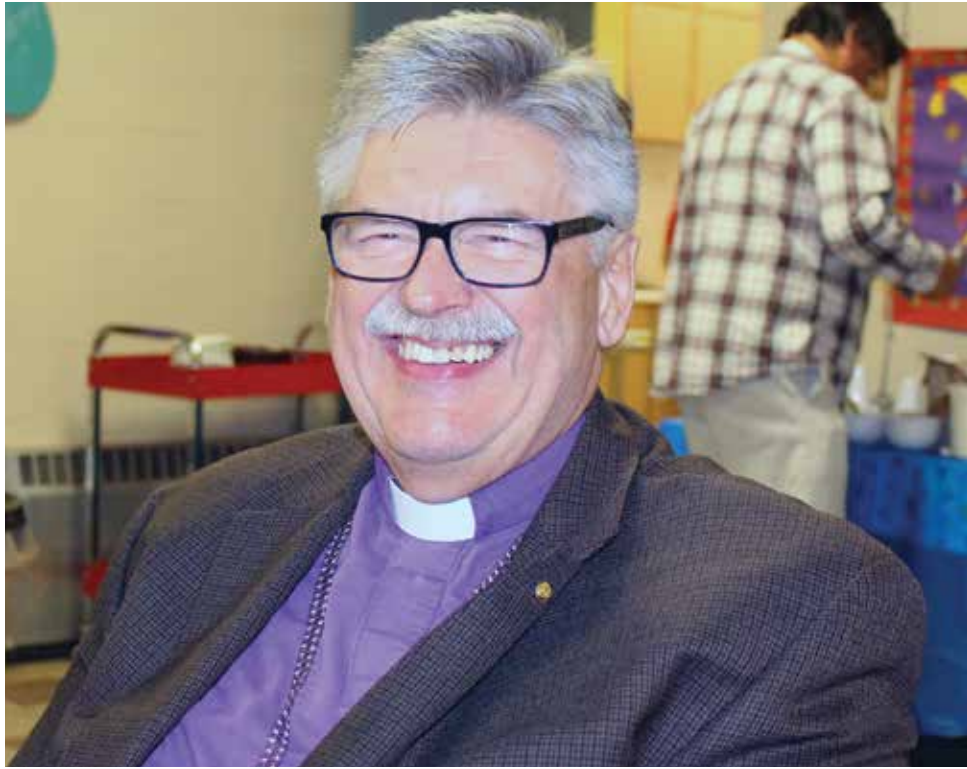
Article by Lorraine Laiho, Lay Reader, St. Paul's, South Porcupine, ON

Emma Laiho of St. Paul's in South Porcupine recently received a very distinguished award; she received the Chief Commissioner's Gold Award from the Girl Guides of Canada.

Emma joined the Girl Guides at the age of 9 and, even though there was only a small group of girls attending at that time, she kept going right up to the Ranger level. Emma's leaders recognized her involvement in the church as part of her training in Girl Guides. The South Porcupine troops meet in the church hall every Tuesday. Emma took great pride in her involvement in the Girl Guides.

With a more difficult academic load, Emma had to sadly leave the Girl Guides. However, she is very honoured to have been recognized with this prestigious award. She also realizes that her church family helped her to both grow and earn this award.





Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee.

From the Bishop's Desk

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop of Moosonee

I AM WRITING THIS DURING the Epiphany. The church where Ruth and I worship is named after the Epiphany so this is a very special

time for our congregation. As we hear the words of Scripture telling of the incredible journey of the Magi and their visit to the infant Jesus, it brings to

mind just how the Creator God chose unimpressive albeit intriguing people to usher in the birth of our Saviour King.

The Prophet Isaiah says, "Rise up in splendour, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you." [Isaiah 60:1]

God chose an insignificant people, the Jews, and Jerusalem, and from among them God chose an equally insignificant young Jewish woman, Mary. What an amazing story unfolded that through them, God chose to reveal the mystery of God's plan for the salvation of the entire world.

But in the Feast of the Epiphany we celebrate the revealing of God's plan beyond the Jews to the world. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul exalts that the mystery of salvation treasured by the Jewish people as their exclusive possession is also intended by God for the salvation of the Gentiles, the world beyond the Jews, "It was not made known to people in other generations as it now has been revealed ... that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the

promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel." [Ephesians 3:5-6]

That means that you and I are coheirs of the promises of God!

God chose us! What an amazing thing this is to know that Jesus was born to be the Saviour of the world. ... our Saviour. All of us are saved by Jesus.

And so this Epiphany season and this new year prompt us to ask ourselves: 'How central to our lives is our personal relationship with Jesus Christ?' Do we take this gift for granted or do we grow each year, each day, in treasuring the gift of faith in Jesus Christ?

The prayer from Godspell - originally from St. Richard, Bishop of Chichester, 1245 - 1253 - seems especially fitting for Epiphany:

"Lord, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day."

Life on James Bay - Eeyou Istchee

Article by Agnes Flam, Evangelist for St. Mark's, Eastmain, QC.



Agnes Flam: artist, baker, & Evangelist.

BEING A PERSON WHO loves to travel and experience new culture, the position posted through Threshold Ministries for "Evangelist for the community of Eastmain, to lead worship services and have a relational ministry in the community", caught my heart. My first thought was, "it's like this was written for me" followed quickly by "no way! I'm not moving." On May 17th, I arrived in Eastmain and had my first kitchen party at the rectory with Sheila, Marjorie (vestry) and Emily (band liason). Over tea, snacks, and sharing, we started our journey together.

I have to say, I love ministering at St. Mark's and getting to know the language, food, and customs of the Eeyou Istchee - *The People of the Land*. So far, I have eaten at many

feasts and tasted new to me foods such as: goose, beaver, snow bird, and bear, as well as, foods which are familiar like: moose, rabbit, and fresh fish.

My 'hands down' favourite three are: bear, moose, and smoked fish. What makes eating these foods more enjoyable is sitting beside different

persons and families as we share meals in the Sabtuan (a community longhouse made of two teepees and connected by a straight middle with a canvas roof).


Two of my passions have become ministry: art and baking. Families of the newly baptized receive fresh homemade bread symbolizing New Life in Christ and a baptism card with individually painted watercolours and a hand written Scriptural note. There are so many baptisms here I have since created digital cards! Family recipes in hand, I handed out my first Christmas Tea Ring with little gift bags for the Elders in the Maritime tradition (King

Cole Tea, hard candy, and All Sorts). Vestry received banana bread and shortbread cookies. So begins a new tradition. I was given lovely gifts here for Christmas. Added to boxes from sisters down east and out west, I enjoyed my Christmas day. Friday afternoons I meet with Elder Florrie Mark-Stewart to learn Cree Language and culture. We laugh and share together - her wisdom and my baking. This has become one of my favourite things.

I continued my study of art which began at Emily Carr University in Vancouver. For a time, I worked at a beautiful animation studio-farmhouse in Nova Scotia. I worked as a 'clean up artist' on a year long production of "Kulipari: Army of Frogs" - a series on Netflix Kids. Waiting to use my gift and art profession here in Eastmain, I connected with our local Art Hive. In November, I taught linocut printmaking. I am excited to continue teaching and volunteering at the Art Hive, ministering through liturgy and home communion and meeting people in the community. I am looking forward to what God will create in us and among us here in Eeyou Istchee.



Baptismal Card made by Agnes Flam



TWO MINUTE TALK:
ANNE-MARIE CARRIÈRE

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH: *nature - I never run out of places to explore*

WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH: *the bugs*

YOUR BIRTHPLACE: *Val Rita, Ontario*

YOUR BEST HIDDEN TALENT: *Playing an acoustic guitar*

YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY: *scrapbooking*

YOUR FAVOURITE TEAM: *the Ottawa Senators*

YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR MOVIE: *Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium*

YOUR FAVOURITE JOB: *Counseling/social work/interventions*

YOUR FAVOURITE CHURCH ROLE: *interacting with kids at the LivingRoom*

THE FARTHEST YOU HAVE BEEN FROM HOME: *Normandy*

YOUR BIGGEST FEAR: *War*

YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL OR DESERT: *fettuccino Alfredo (and wine)*



School's Out!

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop of Moosonee.

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, twenty-four people from across the vast Diocese of Moosonee graduated as students of the Moosonee School of Ministry. For the past year, beginning in January 2017, congregational lay leaders participated in the school's four terms as part of a personal decision to prepare for possible ordination.

It started as a 'grand experiment' beginning with preliminary discussion over the need for ordained leadership in Moosonee and the difficulty attracting seminary trained clergy to venture north. The idea to create a new learning process to train local leadership was presented to the Diocesan Theological Education Task Force who worked for over a year to put the program together and by the end of 2016 the school of ministry was ready to receive applications.

Term one saw thirty-two people attend - a number far surpassing the task force's expectations. As each of the four terms convened the numbers hardly moved at all, so that by graduation a healthy twenty-four were presented with a graduation certificate by Bishop Tom Corston who oversaw the program as its director.

By the time of graduation, every student had been taught the basics of such subjects as: Old & New Testaments, Church History, Sacramental Theology, Liturgies, Evangelism, Anglicanism, Leadership, and Diocesan Canons and policies.

At graduation, each student also received a blue tippet (scarf) as a symbol of their ministry as a parish Lay Reader. The blue tippet will now be worn by all Diocesan Lay Readers as the old medallions are no longer available.

Some of our graduates have indicated that they wish to move forward towards possible ordination; that process begins with a discernment weekend when they will meet with an assessment team. Once our students' work and commitment are confirmed arrangements will begin for their ordination.

It all began as a 'good experiment' that has concluded in a reality that is truly positive. These new graduates of Moosonee's first School of Ministry promise to see our Christian witness continue across their beloved diocese well into the future.



Bishop Tom Corston and Registrar Ruth Corston posed with the graduating class of the School of Ministry with many of the diocese's clergy in attendance.



Musicians, choristers and graduates from the James Bay Region provided beautiful music at the Sunday worship service and graduation at Holy Trinity.



Marylea Harasymiw received her tippet from Archdeacon Deborah.



The Reverend George Westgate proudly stood with two of the graduates - his wife, Anne Westgate (left) and daughter Martha Westgate (right).



Charles Bobish received his tippet from Archdeacon Deborah.



Goats and Cookies!

article by Lay Reader Kim Skidmore & Sarah Brown, Holy Trinity, Cochrane

IT MAY BE 12,500 KM. from Cochrane to Tanzania but thanks to the grace of God, PWRDF, the Canadian Government, and the ministry of a handful of parishioners that was no stumbling block in getting 14 goats to villagers and their families.

The youth of our parish baked mini pies and monster cookies, selling them at our ACW Christmas Bazaar and they raised enough for four goats. The men of our parish and community meet monthly for breakfasts and fellowship. This past year over baked beans and fried bologna they generously donated funds to purchase ten additional goats.

These goats are just one example of our 2017 PWRDF ministry at Holy Trinity Anglican Parish in Cochrane. Guided by the leadership of our parish representative, Sarah Brown, we continue our commitment to learning about and support for the work of this vibrant ministry.

In the spring of 2017, Sarah lead a special PWRDF service focused on refugees, called "Welcoming the Stranger". By focusing on the individual stories of refugees, we were able to connect with the often overwhelming vastness of this situation and focus our prayers accordingly.

Each September, we host a PWRDF service and harvest auction. Sarah helped lead the service in 2017 which focused on World Food Day. She gave a presentation on a

new PWRDF program initiative, "Maternal and Child Health Campaign." The church was decorated with produce, plants, flowers, and baking. All decorations were then auctioned off during lunch. Brothers have been known to have a bidding war over a loaf of homemade bread; only then to turn around and donate it to a special needs parishioner.

During Advent, parishioners have two opportunities to support PWRDF. Sarah takes orders and sells the beautiful Christmas cards offered by PWRDF. We also have a special "Blessings Tree", a simple bare branched tree placed to the side of the altar. Parishioners have the opportunity to purchase a Christmas ball to place on the tree representing a blessing that they have in their lives. In this way, a simple twig becomes a visual representation of how our blessings can be shared with those in need. In December 2017, nearly forty balls were placed throughout the Advent Season.

Meaningful ministry is based upon a partnership of knowledge, faith, and resources. Knowledge & Awareness = Support & Change. With the support of PWRDF website and local representative in our diocese parishes can create their own PWRDF initiatives. These can be tailored to particular parish interests and styles of engagement. No goal is too small; we look forward to hearing what initiatives you come up with!



Youth of Holy Trinity parish baked 'monster cookies' to buy goats for PWRDF.



George & The Reverend Gladys Matoush were one of several couples who graduated together from the Moosonee School of Ministry. They had the benefit of instruction from teachers from across Canada and within Moosonee.



The Reverend Catherine Murkin could not contain her joy at the successful graduation of her friend, The Reverend Edith Belair, and 23 other persons from the Moosonee School of Ministry.

