

NORTHILAND

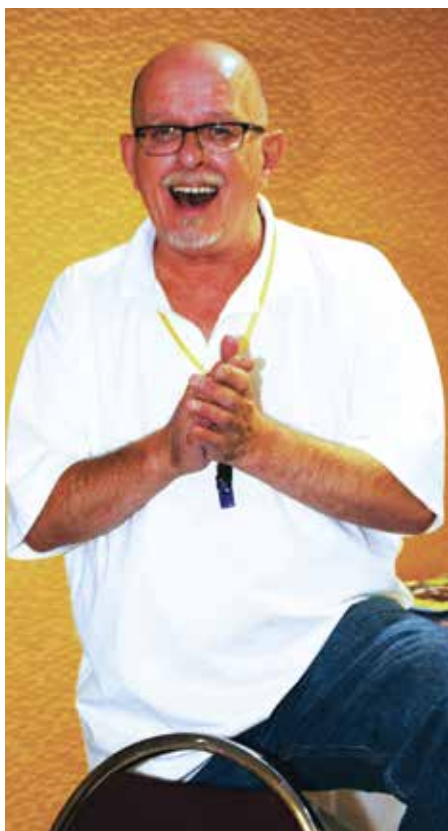
THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • www.moosoneeanglican.ca • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • DECEMBER 2018



The Reverends Catherine Murkin and Agnes Flam along with Kathryn Snow of the Mothers' Union, Diocese of Fredericton, evidently enjoyed themselves during the meetings of the diocesan clericus and parish leadership conference.

Leaders of Today & Tomorrow

Article by Archdeacon Larry Armstrong, Diocese of Moosonee.



Archdeacon Larry Armstrong enthusiastically applauded the musicians at the leadership conference.

THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CLERGY AND LAY LEADERSHIP RETREAT is often combined with a few extra events; this year's retreat included many important events.

As this was our last chance to meet with Archbishop Colin Johnson, who retires in October, the Bishop's Advisory, Finance and Property and Executive Councils were convened. Our opening Eucharist was no exception. At that Eucharist we ordained a deacon, seated three new canons and collated the new Executive Archdeacon.

The retreat itself, organized by Bishop Tom Corston, left little room to be idle. Session leaders this year were: Indigenous Bishop of Canada, Mark McDonald, Bishop Anne Germond, Diocese of Algoma, Archdeacon Dell Bownowsky, Diocese of Qu'Appelle,

and Kathleen Snow, Representative to the North for the Mothers' Union & Parenting Program.

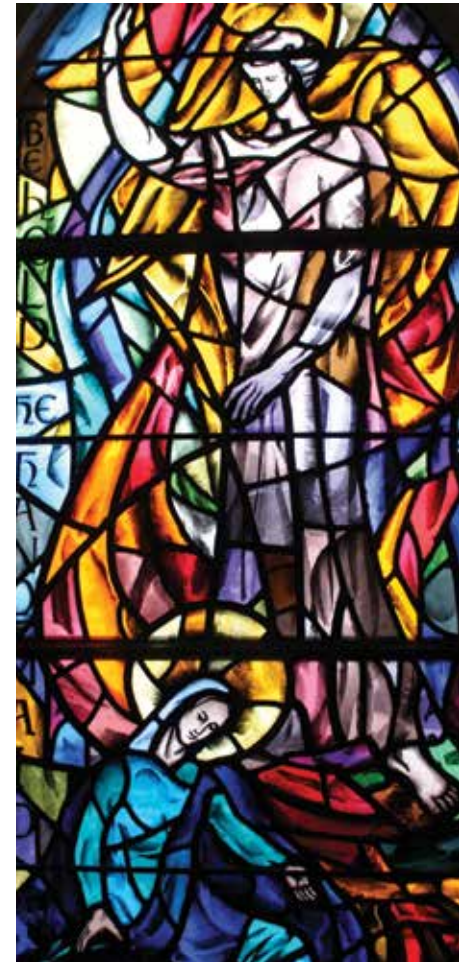
Two new features organized by Reverend Patricia Dorland were a wellness room and Sperling's Church Supply.

The wellness room not only provided print information but also included the presence of a variety of health professionals during the week who were available to all to answer questions and discuss health concerns.

Tom Sperling of Sperling's Church Supply from Waterloo set up shop outside our meeting room; he brought everything with him from Bibles to clerical gear. It was on site shopping at its best - all of us took advantage.

The presentations by Bishop Anne, Bishop Mark, and Archdeacon Dell were extraordinary.

See "Clericus 2018." page 2.



St. Matthew's Cathedral is blessed with a series of stained glass windows created by famed Canadian artist Yvonne Williams.

Open Doors to Arts & Culture

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

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13th, St. Matthew's was among several sites across Timmins to throw open their doors and welcoming visitors to explore their building free of charge. The annual event is coordinated through Ontario Heritage Trust, with assistance from the Timmins Museum: NEC. Doors Open Timmins is just one of many similar events that take place every year across Ontario in a province-wide celebration of culture and heritage.

This was the second time that St. Matthews had participated in the annual event. The public were invited to step inside and view the contemporary stained-glass windows which were commissioned in 1978 and un-

See "Wonderful Windows" page 2





The Reverends George Matoush and Agnes Flam provided mellifluous music for those attending the conference.



The Reverends Richard Moore and George Westgate responded to the vibrant music and moving hymns which gave much life to the conference.

Clericus 2018 *continued from page 1.*

Even though they had not previously conferred with one another, it was as if every detail of their presentations had been carefully coordinated.

Bishop Mark talked to us about the history of the Sacred Circle and the movement towards an In-

digenous Ecclesiastical Province.

Kaythryn presented a program for the development of Parenting Support Groups in communities led by individuals from those communities.

Bishop Anne brought to us a well prepared and

profound teaching on the very practical and vital need for discipleship.

Archdeacon Dell, who was our chaplain, led us in Bible studies and discussion with a focus on forgiveness and reconciliation.

While our week at cleri-

cus was a great deal busier than previous years, it was in the words of many, one of the best. Our studies, meetings, worship, and fellowship were truly sweet. The benefit of in-house shopping from Sperling's was the icing on the cake.



Nicky Alexander, Judith Barkel, and Peter Colbert admired the stained glass windows in their parish church of St. Matthew's Cathedral

"Wonderous Windows" *continued from page 1.*

dertaken by Canadian artists Yvonne Williams and Rosemary Kilbourn. This year, St. Matthews teamed up with local artist Marie-Eve Proulx of Crooked Spruce Calligraphy who had prepared cards to describe each window. The calligraphic script complemented the dynamic shapes and rich colour of the glass.

The Geoffrey James Lee School of Music has been holding regular band practices on Saturday mornings in the hall. The joyful sounds of wind and brass wafted up into the sanctuary and added to the atmosphere in the nave. We welcomed a dozen or so visi-

tors along with members of the band who joined us upstairs for their coffee break.

Some visitors came from as far afield as Mississauga. They explained that this was their first visit to Timmins and that they had undertaken to explore the city on foot. They were excited to find a church that was open on a Saturday afternoon and to view the windows from the inside!

From its earliest beginnings in 1913, St. Matthew's has been an integral part of Timmins' cultural landscape and continues to serve as a place of worship and community gathering. It was



This rich stained glass has a second window of colour so that light is filtered through to the painted image.

in January of this year that the congregation undertook to explore ways in which the church can make space for arts and cultural initiatives in the city.

When the artist Rosemary Kilbourn first visited the church in 1982 she wrote to the Dean, as follows: "it is so good to see a whole church given to Yvonne Williams' work - then they (the windows) really begin to glow and sing properly!" Participation in Doors Open presents us with a unique opportunity to reach out and share our cultural treasures, make connections and establish partnerships in the community!

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Bishop Anne Germond, Diocese of Algoma, Bishop Tom Corston, Diocese of Moosonee, and Indigenous Bishop of Canada, Mark McDonald all added to 'the truly grand celebration at St. Matthew's Cathedral.'



The Rev. Patricia Dorland and Canon Grace Delaney shared a moment.

Ordinations Galore

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Diocese of Moosonee.

OUR DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE has been experiencing some days of exciting change and renewal throughout the last half of 2017. As a result, our future looks to be open to us with a renewed sense of optimism.

Among the changes has been the conclusion of the first ever Moosonee School of Ministry and the resultant ordinations of some of the graduates. In June, Bishop Corston presided at six ordination celebrations in Hornepayne, Moose Factory, and Kirkland Lake. Of the six made deacon at those services, five were graduates of the School of Ministry. The Reverends Isobel Dube and Ilene Jaremy now serve at Hornepayne and Constance Lake; The Reverends Grace Delaney and Marion Maybee serve at Moose Factory; and The Reverend Vivien Clarke serves at Kirkland Lake. The Reverend Agnes Flam, a graduate of the former Church Army, serves at Eastmain.

Following the summer in mid-September, the ordinations continued with two being made deacons at Mistissini and one other at Wemindji. Thus, The Reverend Ann Westgate serves at Mistissini and The Reverend George Matoush serves at Wemindji, Chisasibi, and Waskaganish and furthermore, The Rever-



Archbishop Colin Johnson and Dean Gilson happily presented The Reverend Deacon Karen Pitt to the congregation at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

end Dinah Asquabaneskum serves at Wemindji. What truly wonderful experiences these celebrations have been. As *The Northland* goes to print, we are looking forward to one further ordination when Leo Friday is to be made deacon in Kashechewan in November.

Added to these uplifting moments was the truly grand celebration at St. Matthew's Cathedral at the beginning of our annual Clergy and Parish Leadership Conference in early September. The cathedral parish outdid themselves in their hospital-

ity and music ministry. The diocesan clergy all looked so resplendent as they vested and processed into the cathedral. Archbishop Johnson presided for his final time as our tenth Diocesan when a new recruit to Moosonee, Karen Pitt, was made deacon to serve the diocesan street ministries in Timmins and the canons appointed last spring, Norm Wesley, Phelan Scanlon, and Larry Armstrong were installed 'into their stalls'. With the assistance of the dean and chancellor, Larry Armstrong was formally collated "Arch-

deacon of Moosonee" to serve as our new Diocesan Administrator.

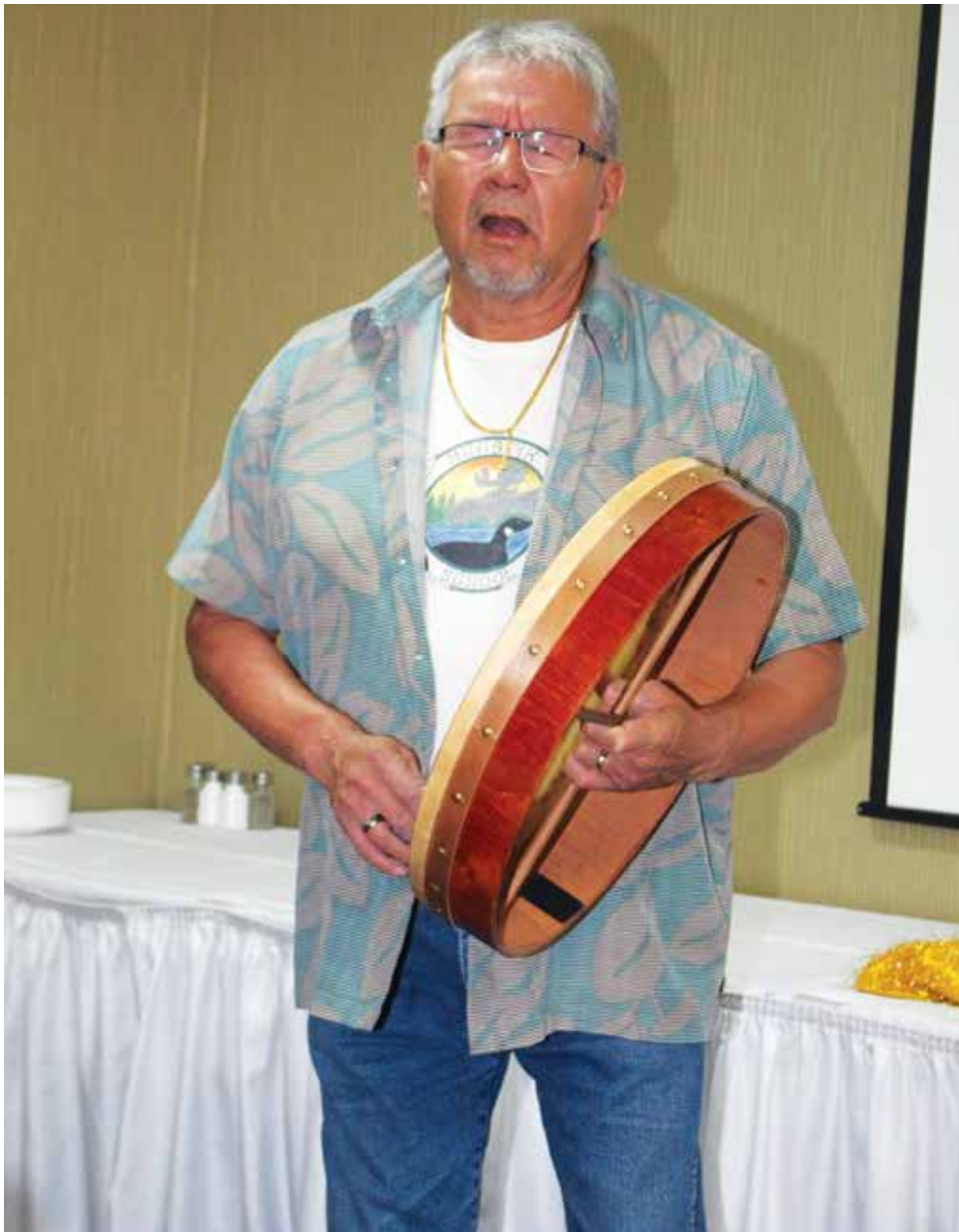
Our guest speaker for the conference, Algoma Bishop Anne Germond, was the preacher and spoke about ministry in an excellent message. In her sermon, the bishop said, in part, focussing on the candidates, "Ministry is a strange thing though, because even as we find ourselves being raised up, 'someone special', made a big fuss of and celebrated, and very much the centre of attention, the gospel constantly reminds us that we are 'nobodies' - lowly servants of the church, foot washers. Jesus himself set the example for us about foot washing as he knelt in front of his followers the night before he died and washed their feet. Looking up at them, he instructed them to go and do to others as he himself had done. In your ministry and calling you too are undertaking the role of a servant, so get ready for the ride ... roll up your sleeves and never be afraid to get yourself dirty in the muck and mud of life!"

Following the liturgy, the gathering moved to the parish hall for a very happy time of fellowship with one another before heading off for a short night of rest before the beginning of a very busy week at our annual clergy conference. The Diocese of Moosonee is an example to the whole Canadian Church of imaginative and forward-looking ministry. We look to our future with enthusiasm.



The Beating of the Drum

Article written by Canon Norm Wesley, St. Thomas, Moose Factory & Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, ON.



Canon Norm Wesley, St. Thomas, Moose Factory & Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, Ontario is a drummer who appreciates Cree culture.

HE WOULD SIT WITH HIS back propped up against a wall on the bed in our cabin. With eyes closed in the evening light, he would quietly hum a song. Then another. Chants actually - the ones he and his friends would sing in unison. And as I watch him in secret in the dimming light, I imagine the drum that is ever before him. It's April, Niska Pesim - The Canada Goose Month. Soon the geese would arrive and the hunt would start in earnest. But as each day passes, so does the week of the Pow Wow which falls at the height of the goose hunt - both tugging at his heart. Inevitably, the chopper will arrive and carry him home. Then, off with his friends he would go to the Pow Wow which he dearly loves.

This is my grandson. Every spring he would interrupt his hunt and I would say to him, tongue in cheek, "it's hunting season for us



Cree - harvest time!" He would only smile in return and leave to go to the Pow Wow. But as always, he would return refreshed.

This is my grandson, my hunting

partner, and singer with the "High Ridge Singers." He loves to Pow Wow. He loves to sing. He loves to drum. He started as a young boy and was nurtured by his friends - Caleb took a special interest and made it right for my grandson. My grandson's love for the drum and song has given him a clean life, a positive outlook and foundation. He sings to "the beating of the drums" and his heart soars!

This is my grandson and we are very proud of him.

Like him, many other young people travel to the Pow Wow circuit across Canada. This is a growing phenomenon - especially in the last couple of decades in this diocese. This summer, the Waskaganish Pow Wow - the first for that community - drew much attention across the land because of the opposition from the leadership of the community allegedly fueled by the 'churches' of the community. In one instance, I was appalled by a Facebook video commentary whereby drums were used to drown out the cries of babies being tossed into the mouths of the Canaaité god associated with child sacrifice - Moech - are cast as evil and demonic. This suggested that

associate this with the other. This, I gathered, is an expression of how deep the opposition runs to the event that was planned. The use of biblical scripture in this manner is a monstrous misinterpretation that needs to be called out as such. This, I also gathered, is surely done out of pure obliviousness to what happens at and the meaning of Pow Wows to some.

Attempts to silence "the beating of the drums" is a serious violation of the rights of freedom of religious expression guaranteed in the Charter of Human Rights in this country. It runs contrary to this country's efforts of reconciling the atrocities of colonization as expressed in the "94 Calls to Action" of the TRC. It runs counter to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the government of this country. And also, as Dan Isaac quoted in the September, 2018 issue of the *Nation* in his article "Dancing with Division," silencing the drums is contrary to "the Cree constitution [that] states in section 1.4 that the Cree Nation subscribes to the fundamental values of freedom .. and honour for Cree traditions." While some may argue that Pow Wows as they are celebrated today may not be the same as what was, the rhythm and significance remain unchanged.

To encourage "the beating of the drums" is to give licence to fill the void in the hearts of our youth; to let their hearts soar in song and dance.

The press release by our Diocesan Executive taking a stand in supporting and encouraging the Pow Wow prior to the event sets us apart from those in opposition. Taking such a stand is to be cast in the light of what Jesus taught, "By this all will know that you are my disciples. That you love one another." And it was in Christ's love that the message of support and encouragement was crafted.

The organizers of the Waskaganish Pow Wow, under the leadership of Susan Esau, are to be applauded. It was through their vision and courage that the "beating of the drums" returned and resounded to uplift the hearts of the likes of my grandson and our people.



A Gospel Horizon for Moosonee

Article written by Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop of Canada.



The Canon Grace Delaney, Moose Factory, and Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop shared a moment before the service of Ordination for Karen Pitt at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

IT WAS A GREAT JOY TO JOIN the leadership of the Diocese of Moosonee in September. Although the churches of the diocese

face a number of challenges: distances, resources, difficult social problems in the North, to name a few - I went away from the meeting with

both a sense of gratitude and a strong feeling of hope. Hope doesn't erase the challenges but it brings a light to the challenges that point us in a positive direction. With hope, we give the Spirit of God some room in our minds and hearts for the ideas and emotions that will carry us forward.

The resources of the church, especially the financial resources, have been stretched. We don't have the money for buildings and salaries that we once had. This has made it difficult for some communities and congregations to maintain their fellowship and ministries. The churches of the South that once supported our work are struggling themselves as attendance slips and buildings and personnel become increasingly expensive. When these factors are coupled with the intense social issues that exist in our northern communities, it makes it difficult. Just when our communities need the comfort and hope of the Gospel the most, we seem to have so many hindrances to providing the Good News with freedom and joy.

As mentioned, I have great hope - even in the face of our great challenges. I would even go so far as to say that the greatest days of our churches are ahead of us. What is the basis of this hope? First, the people whom we love and serve are spiritually oriented. They look to the spiritual life, that is our heart and theirs, as the foundation of life. Second, the churches and people of our communities are now free to become their

own expression of the faith of Jesus Christ. In the past, the Church sought to reproduce churches from other places. The customs, language, and world views of the people were unwelcome. Failure to conform to the standard from outside was condemned. But now, the churches of the North are free to become what God is calling them to be, celebrating the life that God has produced in the North and contributing to the larger life of our communities in a positive and supportive way. Third, we see the leadership of our network and family of faith, both locally and at the diocesan level, adapting and changing to meet the circumstances ahead. These three elements, taken together, promise good things.

But there is a fourth reason that I am hopeful. That is the power of goodness, mercy, and love of our living God. God has not brought us here to die; we are being empowered to move ahead in hope. In the Early Church, people were faced with the greatest of obstacles and a complete lack of resources. Everything was stacked against them: government, the culture and attitudes of the surrounding world, and their own poverty. They were, nevertheless, in the power of the Spirit, able to bounce their lack into the strength of God. It was a need they responded to; it was a call that was theirs. When I visited the leadership of Moosonee, I saw those same elements waiting for the blessing and anointing of God and I believe that it is coming.



Dean Greg Gilson, St. Paul's South Porcupine & St. Matthew's Cathedral, Timmins, ON.

We Miss You!

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

WE HAVE THE PLEASURE as Christians to walk with people who help us along that journey of faith and they inspire and encourage us and they make us laugh when we want to cry. Dean Gregory Gilson is one of those people.

I came to the Diocese of Moosonee five years ago and met some strange people who shared three things in common: love for the Gospel, love for family, and love for the North. One of those people was Dean Gregory Gilson; I would say that he was the strangest of the whole bunch.

Greg is a man who thinks outside the box; he has a real flare for it with those Friday night Jazz Vespers,

the Wednesday mid-day discussion sermons, the Monday Manna Service, and then turning the Cathedral into a musical teaching and concert centre. He meets people in Tim Horton's and on the street and talks with them. He helps people who are struggling mentally and spiritually and takes them out to lunch. If someone needs groceries, he takes them shopping and they share coffee and a donut.

Greg came to the Diocese of Moosonee over seven years ago and he has mentored clergy and lay people alike. He shares his love for: Jesus Christ, the Gospel, the Church, the Diocese, and the mission of the Church. He studied at Huron College; I told him that I did not

hold that against him. We both share a love for Monty Python and that crazy sense of humour really carries you through so much. That Monty Python Life of Brian humour helped him to always look on the brighter side of life. I connected with Greg on another level because he is a person who is simply 'bananas' for Jesus.

Greg did not do this all alone. He had a lovely partner, Valerie, who gave a balance to his zany character. She really has her hands full with this one. Anyone who is married to a priest can relate to that. After I said to people in Timmins that they would be sad to see Greg leave they replied that they would 'miss Valerie more!'





Archbishop Anne Germond was supported by the Primate, Fred Hiltz, Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Tom Corston and a bevy of bishops at the time of her election to the post of Metropolitan.

A New Metropolitan, and the winner is ...

Article by Archdeacon Larry Armstrong, Diocese of Moosonee.



Bishop Tom Corston and Archbishop Anne Germond bring a balance of experienced and fresh leadership to the people of Moosonee.

EVERY THREE YEARS, PROVINCIAL SYNOD is convened. This 36th session of the triennial meeting was hosted by the Diocese of Ottawa. Next time- (spoiler alert) it will be held in Algoma.

The biggest item on the agenda was the election of a new Metropolitan to replace the outgoing Archbishop Colin Johnson, who announced his plans to retire in 2017. The election of a Metropolitan has dual significance for the candidates which was emphasized

by Colin Johnson in his opening address: "Keep in mind that whoever is elected is automatically the Bishop of Moosonee." There were no sounds of moaning, groaning, or gnashing of teeth for the 'great experiment' is now recognized as a success. In fact, this new way of existing, surviving, and succeeding was mentioned at different times as a way forward for others. This Synod's theme was "A Hopeful Church in Changing Times." We, as a diocese, are no strangers to these changing times and what we have hoped for we have received ... we have survived and we exist!

Anne Germond, Bishop of Algoma, was elected Metropolitan Archbishop on the first ballot and subsequently, the second such Bishop of Moosonee. What was so new and frightening for us only five years ago is now business as usual. While there were the usual discussions about who would or would not allow their name to stand, there was no hesitancy because of the Diocese of Moosonee being part of the package. Another fact about the success of this relationship was that in Archbishop Colin Johnson's remarks at synod and several other gatherings over the years, "being Bishop of Moosonee has invigorated his ministry."

Many saw the election of Anne Germond on the first ballot as a

positive sign of God's guidance. Anne has only been the Bishop of Algoma for two years. Yes, she says she feels overwhelmed, unprepared, and undeserving. Yet, for those of us who were blessed by her presence at our clericus this past September and those of us who were delegates at this Synod, we are confident of good things to come.

Not everything is changing though; Bishop Tom Corston carries on for at least another year as Assisting Bishop. While he continues to groan about wanting to retire five years after his retirement as our bishop, he will continue to be a familiar presence and guiding hand in our diocese.



TWO MINUTE TALK:
MARTHA WESTGATE
 PARISH: ST. JOHN THE
 EVANGELIST, MISTISSINI, QC.

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT
 THE NORTH:** *Culture & Tradition*

YOUR BIRTHPLACE: *St.
 Anthony, Newfoundland*

YOUR BEST HIDDEN TALENT:
I have many talents - too long to list

YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY: *I
 have many hobbies; I like to learn
 new things.*

**YOUR FAVOURITE CHURCH
 ROLE:** *The Church life is all that
 I know; my goal is to explore new
 ways to bring different generations
 together. I enjoy all aspects of the
 church.*

**YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR
 MOVIE:** *No real favourite book
 - I love to read; I like the show
 Vampire Knight.
 Psalm 23:3 He restores my soul. He
 leads me in paths of righteousness
 for his name's sake.*



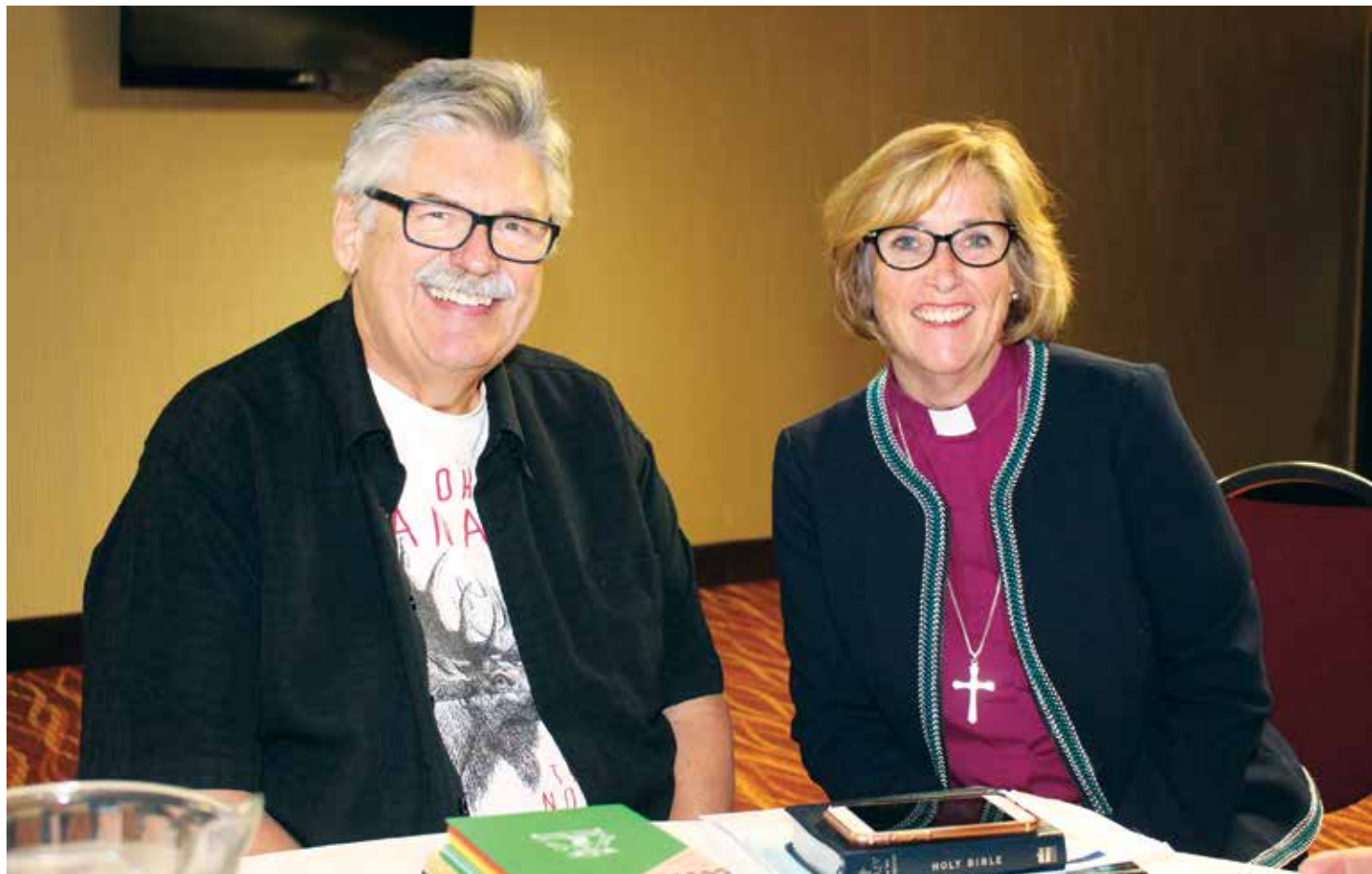
Bishop's Message

Article by Archbishop Anne Germond, Diocese of Moosonee.

"Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded." Matthew 28: 16-20

IT WAS A REAL JOY TO ME to be with the clergy and lay leaders of Moosonee in Timmins this September at their annual clericus gathering. It was a time of celebration as a new deacon in Christ's Church was ordained, and as three new Canons were installed in your Cathedral. It was a time of fellowship and learning, of feasting on God's Word and on each other's company as we formed community and unpacked some of what Jesus meant when he gave his disciples the Great Commission to, "Go and make disciples of all nations." When I was asked to write an article for the *Northland*, I had no idea that when I finally sat down at my computer to pen these words I would soon be your diocesan bishop! In my election as the Metropolitan for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, a whole new chapter has opened up in my life and yours. I look forward to everything that God has in store for us as we walk alongside each other in faith, hope, and love. I give thanks for the tremendous leadership offered so generously by Archbishop Colin Johnson, our former Metropolitan, by Bishop Tom Corston, the Assistant Bishop, and by Archdeacon Larry Armstrong, the Diocesan Administrator. How blessed we are to have such faithful and committed leaders who are doing everything they can for the greater good of the church.

During my time in Moosonee, I shared some reflections on what it means for us to *Be Disciples* today, as I consider this to be foundational to our lives as followers of Jesus. The Great Commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel has long been considered among Jesus' most significant instructions to his Apostles for carrying the message of the Gospel into the world. "All authority in



The Diocese of Moosonee is singularly fortunate in having Assistant Bishop Tom Corston and Archbishop Anne Germond as its leaders.

heaven and earth has been given to me," says Jesus, "Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded." (Matthew 28: 16-20)

The disciples' job was to do for the rest of their lives what Jesus had done in his. It was an every day commission given to every believer for every moment of their lives. It is great, because it has to do with the Gospel.

Within two years after the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, Jerusalem was filled with Jesus's teaching. (Acts 5.28); within 4.5 years they had planted churches and equipped disciples (Acts 9.1) within 18 years they had turned the world upside down (Acts 17.6) and within 28 years the Gospel was bearing fruit and growing throughout the world.

And now it is our turn to carry the good news of God's love to all the world, baptizing, teaching, and for a time to faithfully live out Jesus's instruction.

Remember that Jesus's last words to his followers were not, "Go and find a comfortable church and have pot luck dinners." His last words were not, "Go and sing the songs you like in worship. Jesus didn't say, "Try to some good every once in a while." What Jesus said was, "Go and make disciples!"

This is called the "Great Commission," not the "Great Suggestion." Unfortunately, many churches don't



Bishop Anne enjoyed Clericus.

even see it as a suggestion. Instead, it has become the "Great Omission" and we have become a people who 'go to church' but leave behind what we hear inside. The church is the only institution in the world that exists for those outside of it and in my time with the clergy and leaders in Moosonee we thought about ways that we can GO and MAKE DISCIPLES.

I commend the book, *Being Disciples* by Archbishop Rowan Williams to you. In it the Archbishop says that, "Discipleship is a state of 'being' - about the way we live - not just about the decisions we make, the things we believe. but a way of being in Christ." (page 1)

What makes you a disciple of Jesus is not just turning up in church from time to time, but more like being a student in the ancient world. It is to hang on to your teacher's ev-

ery word, to follow in his/her steps, to sleep outside their door in order not to miss any pearls of wisdom; to watch how they conduct themselves, to commit yourself to living in the same atmosphere, breathing the same air. There is nothing intermittent about being a true disciple at all. If we are truly his disciples, we will want to follow him to the ends of the earth to do his work and to echo his love to it. It is also to remain close to Jesus, to remain near his heart. One of my favourite images of the disciple John is of him resting on Jesus's bosom - his eyes fixed on Jesus.

The story is told about a Coast Guard unit stationed at Cape May, New Jersey. One night a hurricane blew in from the Atlantic Ocean and a ship was breaking up just off the coast. The commander of the unit woke the men under his command and told them to prepare to go to sea. One of the young recruits shot back incredulously, "But Captain! If we go out there we might never come back." The captain answered, "Son, you don't have to come back! You have to go out." Being a Christian requires getting out there and betting your life on the truth of the Gospel and committing your life with all the risks involved.

In that well loved hymn, Jesus asks, "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and in me?" So? Will you?





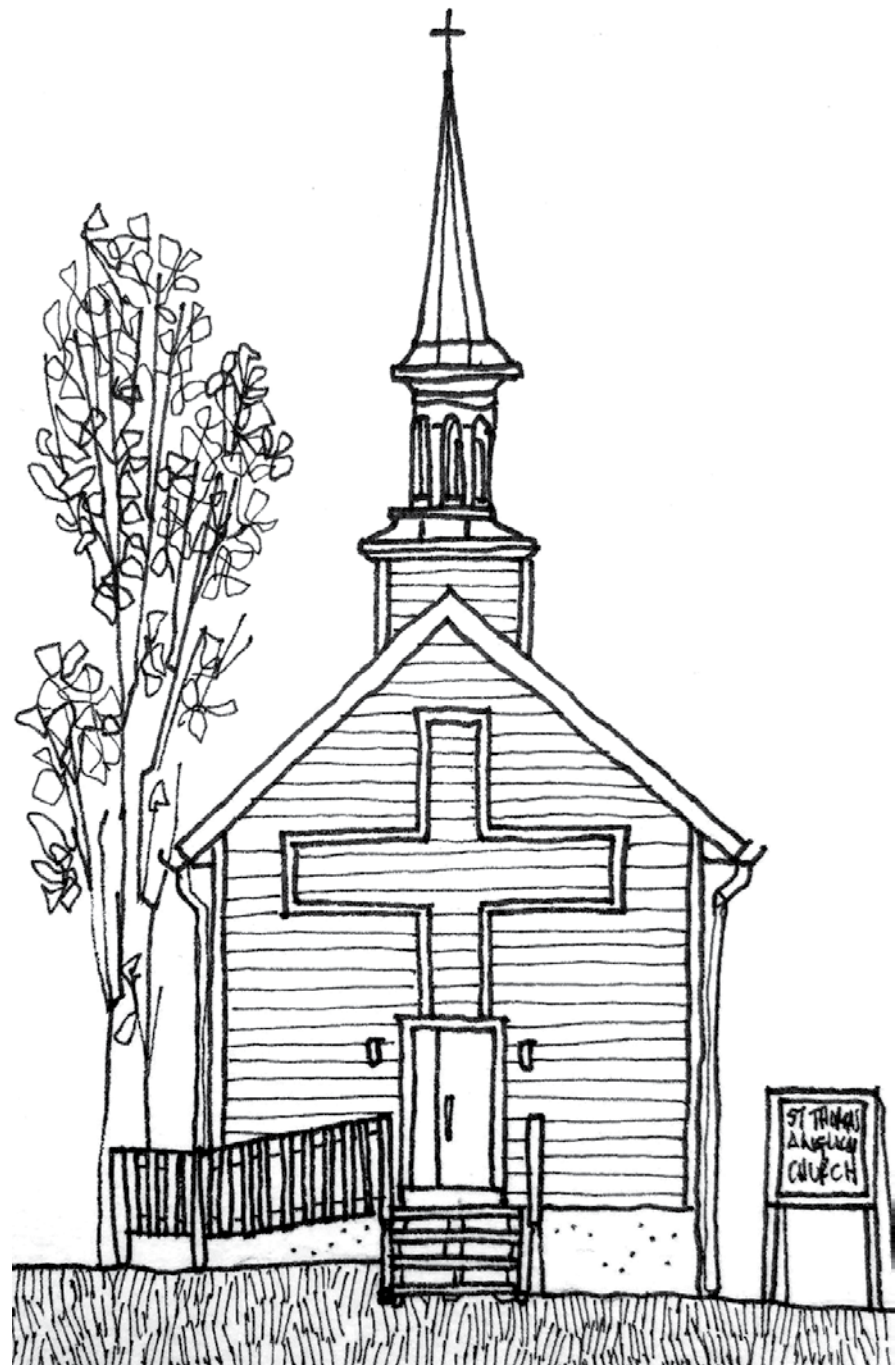
New & Improved Logo

Article by The Reverend Valerie Issac, St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, ON

THERE'S SOMETHING NEW at PWRDF and if you take a look at the website you'll see what I mean. After listening to people's concerns and suggestions, a new website and logo were unveiled at the Annual Gathering in Toronto in September. The new look logo represents the world and our outreach while making it visibly stunning. The new website is very user friendly and secure - should you wish to make donations or purchase gifts. Each of the diocesan representatives was presented with a pair of socks with the new logo on it as a promotion. Coming soon to diocese across the county - banners! Yes, there will be a series of three banners going to

each diocese; they will be complete with the diocesan logo and sent to the PWRDF representative. The banners will be available soon and they can be borrowed from the diocesan representative for any function which is promoting PWRDF.

At this year's conference, we dealt with a myriad of items from a survivor of the war in El Salvador who was able to bring his story to us. Cesar is a survivor and he took it upon himself to learn English to speak with us for one of the sessions that he led. He made us look long and hard at what was important to us as children and the lessons that we were able to learn. He talked about the lack of schooling and how he was finally able to



This pen and ink sketch of St. Thomas' Church, Moose Factory, ON was created by the artist and architect, Nicky Alexander.

graduate from high school and now he helps other young people in his community.

There was so much that we were exposed to. We said goodbye to our Primate, Fred, who led us in our

final Eucharist and Maureen Lawrence, who stepped down as 'the queen of governance.' We will miss their leadership but we know that there will be others to step in and make new inroads to our group.

Who Is Our Neighbour?

Article by The Reverend Patricia Dorland, St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, ON.



The Reverend Patricia Dorland & Lesley Curtis looked forward to a service of ordination.

SERVE AS AN ANGLICAN priest to the congregation of St. John's Lutheran, in South Porcupine. As their pastor, I am considered a rostered clergy and am given the opportunity to attend their biannual synod. This year it was held in Toronto and delegates from as far away as Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, as far south as Leamington, Ontario, and as far west as Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario were all in attendance. The theme focused on "Who is our neighbour?" and all the presentations answered this question with truth and integrity. The topics of: First Nations, reconciliation, racism, LGBTQ2S+, homeless people, and safe shelter injection sites all resulted in challenging but educational conversations. There is no doubt that these

topics can be tough to deal with but in light of how Jesus Christ calls us to be his disciples, these are topics which need to be addressed and then acted upon. The Eastern Synod Bishop, Michael Pryse, began by giving an opening report which was passionate and articulate as he set out the synod's vision and the call to action he was encouraging those in attendance to take up. Bishop Pryse recognized that these are difficult times for the church as it struggles with the need to move forward into the community and into the world in different ways than in the past.

The synod gathering also had its joyful sessions as Debbie Lou Ludolph led the assembly in inspiring and energy filled music as we were introduced to the new song

book, *Inshallah*. This is a song book which witnesses to the global expression of who Lutherans are today. The music which comes from a variety of cultures is uplifting, hopeful, and enjoyable to sing.

Throughout the three and a half days of the conference, there was Bible study and prayer and much fellowship, laughter, and song. In the days together, we all embraced the reality that although we do not always get to choose our neighbour, we are to love our neighbour as ourselves whether they be refugees, people of diverse cultures or nationalities, people of different sexual orientations, people who are homeless or people who were on this land many centuries before we, as settlers, arrived. We are liberated by God's grace to be neighbours!