

NORTHILAND

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Bishop Andrew Asbil, Reverend Leo Friday, Canib Patricia Dorland, Reverend Anne-Marie Carrière, Bishop Tom Corston, Reverend Ann Westgate, and Chancellor Bryan Finlay were central figures at the ordination service.

“Wasn't That a Party?”

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee.

WHILE MOST CERTAINLY the lyrics of the Irish Rover's 1980 hit song don't fit the occasion at all, nevertheless, as I participated in the celebration at our Timmins Cathedral on October 30th, I was reminded of the song. Indeed, the event was a joyous one that one could not walk away from without thinking that it was, indeed, a party!

On Wednesday evening, October 30th, St. Matthew's Cathedral hosted a goodly number of family, friends and colleagues for the ordination of three of our number and the installation of two as canons of our diocese. The only unfortunate moment was in our Archbishop's absence due to her husband's health concerns necessitating her remaining by his side. Bishop Corston, our



The Reverends Anne Westgate and Leo Friday processed out from the service which made them Moosonee's newest priests.

former diocesan, took on the role of presider in the Archbishop's absence.

The ordination portion of the event saw one made a deacon

and two raised to the priesthood.

The new deacon is Anne-Marie Carrière of Kapuskasing, a graduate of the Moosonee School of Ministry. Anne-Marie was raised in a small, close-knit, French-Canadian rural area outside Kapuskasing. Although raised as a Roman Catholic, as an adult she became involved at St. Mark's Church through the guidance and friendship of clergy, Valerie Isaac and Anne Stenabaugh. Following graduation from our school, Anne-Marie was received into the Anglican Communion by Bishop Corston. In spite of her busy schedule in the secular world as a social worker, she continued to participate in the leadership of St. Mark's Church and became

See "Extraordinary Ordination" page 2.



Ron Isaac of St. Mark's, Kapuskasing, really supported the building of a garden box at St. Paul's in South Porcupine.

A Partnership Made in...

Article by Catharine Cribbs, Warden, St. Paul's, South Porcupine, ON.

EARLY ON A SUNNY DAY IN AUGUST, gardeners and parishioners met on the street in front of St. Paul's Church in South Porcupine. We had plans, both on paper and in our heads, to replace the wooden flower box beside the church access ramp. Everyone arrived with tools for carpentry and gardening. With a little bit of muscle work it was easy to destroy the old box. Fortunately, we had a very adept carpenter, Ron Rheault, to lead us in creating the new one. We worked, talked, and adjusted plans as the day became hotter. After lunch in the hall downstairs, we emerged to find that the tarmac where we were working was blisteringly hot, shimmering in the sun!

It took us till nearly 6:00 p.m.

See "Church & Community" page 2



Extraordinary Ordination *continued from page 1.*



A truly joyful moment was shared between Bishop Andrew, The Reverend Ann Westgate, Bishop Tom Corston, and The Reverend George Westgate.

a Lay Reader. She continued to learn and was mentored by Canon Phelan Scanlon in Hearst. For at least the next few years, Anne-Marie will serve as a vocational deacon in the Kapuskasing parish as well as in other parishes in the Watershed Deanery.

Bishop Corston, assisted by the clergy of the diocese, then ordained Leo Friday and Ann Westgate to the priesthood.

Leo Friday has a lengthy career in Aboriginal administration, serving a number of years as Deputy Chief of the Muskegowuk Cree Council and now into a second term as the Chief of the Cree Nation of Kashechewan on James Bay's west coast. He is also a busy husband to Peggy, a father and grandfather to a large family. Both Leo and Peggy are graduates of the Moosonee School of Ministry and becoming a priest is a life-long dream. Last February, Leo was ordained to the diaconate by our National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald. As a priest, Leo will return to Kashechewan as their newly appointed "Priest-in-Charge."

Ann Westgate's journey to the priesthood has been a life-long one of dedicated service to the Church and as a busy wife and mother. While a graduate of the Moosonee School of Ministry, Ann is also a graduate of the



Reverend Patricia Dorland and Bishop Andrew Asbil shared a light moment before the service.

Church Army. As a young officer she met and married George and together they have ministered in a number of northern and inner city ministries. Bishop Corston ordained Ann to the diaconate and appointed her to assist in her community of Mistissini. As a priest she will continue her ministry in Mistissini and in the James Bay deanery when needed.

The 'party' continued following the ordinations when Bishop Tom Corston, on behalf of the Archbishop, installed two of our leaders as canons. The Reverend Patricia Dorland serves diligently as Rector of Iroquois Falls and Pastor of St. John's Lutheran



Reverend Anne-Marie Carrière was honoured to help serve communion.

Church in South Porcupine. She also uses her accounting gifts as the Diocesan Fiance Officer keeping an ever clear eye on the books.

Also honoured was Bryan Finlay, our Diocesan Chancellor who has been serving in that capacity for almost ten years. Bryan is a busy Toronto lawyer but has been generous with his time and experience to the diocese. His legal advice to the bishop and the diocese is indeed valuable.

The Cathedral Dean, Valerie Isaac, escorted the new canons to their 'stalls' and blessed them and the congregation erupted into a lengthy applause when the bishop formally presented the new clergy and canons to the gathering.

Our guest preacher, Bishop Andrew Asbil of Toronto preached a powerful sermon, even starting it by singing a verse of the old spiritual "When the Saints Go Marching In" with the congregation immediately joining in with raucous singing. The bishop taught the basics of the song and used the first reading as the basis of his challenging and very evangelistic message. He used a personal story to illustrate that all of us experience difficult times in life when the ground shifts under our feet. When that happens, we need to remember that we are loved by a wonderful Saviour who will see us through our difficulties. He



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concluded his message by returning to the old song and assured us that we are all "saints on the grand march." Alleluia!

Following the formal celebration the party continued in the cathedral hall where everyone took their time enjoying the festivities. It was a great day for the whole diocese and a party of which the residue will last, hopefully, for years to come.

Laus Deo.

Church & Community *continued from page 1.*

to build, plant, and water the boxes. Though we were definitely wilted, the plants flourished and became a delightful riot of colour.

For many years now, St. Paul's and the Porcupine Horticultural Society have partnered on projects for our community. In just the past year, together we have started an

annual Advent tree lighting ceremony, made a chili lunch for winter carnival, and maintained seventeen raised gardens for seniors beside the church. The gardeners and the parishioners are very happy with what we can accomplish together!

[Photo Right]: The industrious gardeners and parishioners were pleased to work with one another.



A Celtic Pilgrimage

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

I AM RATHER A DINOSAUR at social media but in August, 2018 as I was scrolling through various posts my eye caught a promotion for a Celtic Saints' Pilgrimage scheduled for 2019. The background picture was a panoramic view of one of the Hebrides Islands off the west side of Scotland. I was due for a spiritual retreat and this tugged at my Celtic roots.

Hosting and organizing this pilgrimage was a Russian Orthodox priest originally from Romania. Space was very limited and to reserve a place meant that a down payment was required. I responded to the post through a private messaging asking for additional information and I immediately received instructions as to how I could send money. Believe me, I was filled with trepidation and fear that this might be a scam. But after doing a web search on the monastery and reading personal reviews I decided that it was legitimate. I connected back on Facebook with Father Seraphim and committed my husband and me to reserved spaces. The National Church has a continuing education program to financially support out of country qualifying retreats. I confirmed that this trip would qualify and was very grate-



The Reverend Patrica Dorland on her pilgrimage in the Hebrides.

ful for the assistance.

All too soon we were scheduled to leave and on July 22nd, 2019 we made our way to the Isle of Mull via Glasgow and Oban. We met up with the other Christian Orthodox pilgrims and made our acquaintance with Sister Helena. Our home for the next six days was a simple but modern house with a chapel on site. Our day started with a Eucharist service followed by breakfast. We were then off to explore various sacred spaces associated with Celtic saints, with the Isle of Iona and



Iona Abbey in the Scottish Hebrides is one of the oldest Christian centres in all of Western Europe and a focus for many pilgrims.

Inch Kenneth being major sites.

As previously noted, this was a pilgrimage organized by a Russian Orthodox priest, therefore the context was from his theological understanding and adherence to his Orthodox Christian beliefs. As an Anglican, I was not invited to share in Holy Communion but in every other way I was warmly received. We had some very thoughtful and instructive conversations. I was able to appreciate where our early Christian traditions and roots derived. In worship, I recognized similar prayers

and liturgical structure. Prayers at every sacred Celtic place we visited were beautiful and often written by our Early Church Fathers.

In parting words from Father Seraphim, he stated he was unsure about accepting my retreat registration as he noted that I was an Anglican priest, but he said, "God moves in ways we seldom understand. I hope you have been blessed by your experience with us."

I wholeheartedly agreed. God does move in mysterious ways and I certainly was blessed.

Continuing Education for Lay Readers and Lay People

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

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SELL something when you don't understand how the item you are selling will make a difference. Case in point: the role of the Lay Reader.

Our Diocese of Moosonee Lay Reader Manual explains that: "*Lay Readers do some of the same activities as other Anglicans, such as reading lessons or leading the Prayers of the People; and Lay Readers also do some of the same activities as clergy, such as preaching or planning / conducting worship services but Lay Readers are different. Lay Readers primarily function as worship leaders under the direction of a priest. It is the regularity of their service which distinguishes Lay Readers from clergy.*"

The Diocese of Moosonee has a shortage of licenced Lay Readers due to those past Lay Readers who attended the Diocesan School of Ministry and discerned the call to become ordained.



Grace Delaney [now Canon Grace Delaney], Vivien Clarke [now The Reverend Vivien Clarke] and Anne Dyas, Warden of Lay Readers all studied together at the Moosonee School of Ministry.

Since all clergy and Lay Readers offering ministry in their church are expected to continue their education, the conference entitled, "Mystery Takes Form" offered by the diocese for December 6th - 8th at Holy Trinity Parish, Cochrane provides the perfect opportunity to discover the 'why, what, and how

of vital worship.' Presented by The Reverend Dr. Jay Koyle, Algoma's Congregational Development Officer, it promises to be an inspiring, informative, insightful, and confidence building event. In addition to which it provides an opportunity to gather with like-minded persons and to ask questions of our presenter.

All lay persons involved in their church's ministry as: readers, leading the Prayers of the People, communion assistants, pastoral care visitors, and even choir members. In short: each Anglican occupying a pew is invited to participate and benefit from this gift of free [to us] further education from our diocese.



Make a world of difference with a gift to PWRDF
pwrdf.org/donate



Diocese of Moosonee Activities

Nicky and James Alexander are two of St. Matthew's greater's; they see that everyone is welcome and comfortable in their church.



Susann Mavor and Judith Colbert-Barkel pleased with their origami creations which were part of St. Matthew's involvement with Tmmins' Culture Days.



Warden Catharine Cribbs and the President of the Porcupine Horticultural Society, Billy Rheault, passed the bucket but not the 'buck' when the time came to rebuild the raised gardens for seniors which St. Paul's and the Porcupine Horticultural Society offer free of charge to the wider community in South Porcupine.



Corky Hall and The Reverend Brynn Carson, Porcupine United Church minister, were two of the volunteers who worked at the sausage event held at St. Paul's. This event is the combined effort of St. Matthew's Cathedral and St. Paul's, South Porcupine.



Jim Nicholls and Shep Cooper were 'on the ball' taking the Stand Up exercise program being offered at St. Paul's by the Porcupine Health Unit.



Reverend Brynn Carson joined Dean Valerie Isaac and Ron Isaac at the 'Blessing of Animals' held in a public park in South Porcupine.



The Three Amigos!: Ron Isaac, Marshall Thompson, and Rev. George Westgate relaxed together after the ordination service held at St. Matthew's Cathedral.



Bishop Andrew Asbil of Toronto and Bishop Tom Corston of Moosonee enjoyed a lighter moment after the service of ordination was concluded.



Diane Nicholls and Shep Cooper both like to play 'Chicken Foot', a popular dominoe game, as part of the 'games afternoons' held at St. Paul's.



The newest arrival within the Diocese of Moosonee: St. Paul's, Kashechewan which was consecrated by Bishop Tom Corston on September 23rd.



The Reverends Cliff Dee, Leo Friday & Bishop Tom Corston

A New Church for Kashechewan

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Assistant Bishop, Diocese of Moosonee.

ON MONDAY EVENING, September 23rd, more than 120 members of the Cree Nation of Kashechewan gathered in their new church building to celebrate its grand opening. Bishop Tom Corston was on hand to officially 'consecrate' the church and set it apart from all "profane and common uses." It was a truly grand celebration.

In the 1970's, the old unused armed forces base chapel that was situated in Moosonee was dismantled and moved over the winter ice road and eventually was reconstructed next to the Kashechewan Band Council office. It replaced the old frame church and rectory that sat on the shore of the river that had been placed in the community when Kashechewan was established following the community's move from the old Fort Albany site in the late 1950's. This second, all steel building was renovated so that one half became the church and the other half became the rectory. Over the years since the 1970's, it became the home of diocesan clergy, namely Cliff Dee, Rod and Lisa BrantFrancis, and Chris and Davis. As time passed and the river rose every spring, the church became infested with a toxic mold that necessitated it having to be abandoned. Eventually, the Kashechewan Band Council had the building dismantled and removed.

The decision, as necessary as it was, left the Anglican community without a church building in which to worship. Under the direction of the Band Council Chief, Jonathon Solomon, the community's small youth centre,



The clergy of St. Paul's, Kashechewan and Bishop Tom Corston.

consisting of two "GP huts" (general purpose sheds) bolted end-to-end was donated to the Anglicans to use as their church. The little building was imaginatively renovated and always cared for and for the past 10 - 15 years used regularly for weekly worship. It was not the best space for worship with huge pillars situated throughout and a cold, uninsulated floor but it served the Anglican community well.

Every since the decision to dismantle their church, the Elders called for the building of a large new church. It was a dream that some of our Elders were never able to see come to reality but eventually the Cree Nation of Kashechewan made the decision that there were the funds and resources required to start a new building project. A site for a possible new church was established on high ground, immediately across the road for the community cemetery on the edge of town. Any building project in communities on the west coast of James Bay is always fraught with diffi-

culties not known in many other areas. Building materials all have to be transported north either on the winter ice road or by barge up the James Bay coast and sometimes by air freight. The building of the new church started and while it took three years, with various delays, in late spring of this year the contractor deemed the building complete and ready for use. The new church is huge, (possibly the largest church building in the Diocese of Moosonee) just as the Elders requested and it has a seating capacity of approximately 300. The 2.5 million dollar building consists of a bright, well-lit nave and chancel, large meeting room and kitchen, and at least four other rooms for Sunday School and various group gatherings.

The grand opening and consecration was a celebration like none other! The congregation filled the nave and the service began with the church wardens cutting a large purple ribbon and the bishop marking the floor with his crozier in the sign of the cross and declaring the church open and set apart for the glory of God. Canon Cliff Dee, visiting priest, and The Reverend Leo Friday, parish deacon and Kashechewan Band Chief, assisted the bishop as each of the church furnishings was blessed then the bishop celebrated the Holy Communion. At the end of the service, Bishop Corston presented to the wardens the "Statement of Consecration" marking the church as "sacred space" and designating it as "St. Paul's Anglican Church."

The new St. Paul's Church is already the pride of the community. Before the Corstons left the next



TWO MINUTE TALK:
REVEREND GEORGE WESTGATE
PARISH: ST. JOHN THE EVAGELIST, MISTISSINI

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH: *The people & the traditional food.*
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH: *the flies & mosquitoes*
YOUR BIRTHPLACE: *Glencoe, Ontario*
WHAT'S THE FURTHEST YOU HAVE BEEN FROM HOME: *Aklavik, North West Territories*
YOUR BEST HIDDEN TALENT: *I love Singing (planning to make a CD of Gospel Music)*
YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY: *Reading*
YOUR FAVOURITE CHURCH ROLE: *Priest - incumbent of parish*
YOUR BIGGEST FEAR: *Dying for the Gospel*
YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR MOVIE: *Sound of Music (book & movie)*
YOUR FAVOURITE TEAM: *Boston Bruins*

day, the ladies of the church put a box in the local store asking people to donate cleaning supplies for the new church. Within a half hour, the box was overflowing. The church sits on high ground and it now is the first building one sees as one comes into the community. By the time that the readers of the Northland see this story, Chief Leo Friday will have been ordained to the priesthood and will be licensed as the first incumbent of the new St. Paul's church. It is all a new beginning for our people on the west coast of James Bay. Praise God!



November: A Month for Remembering

Article by Archbishop Anne Germond, Bishop of Moosonee.

FOLLOWING THE DEATH of his son in a climbing accident, Nicholas Wolterstorff wrote these poignant words describing the darkness of that time: "I buried myself that warm June day. It was me those gardeners lowered on squeaking straps into that hot dry hole, curious neighbourhood children looking down at me, everyone stilled, wind rustling the oaks. It was me over whom we slid that heavy slab, more than I can lift. It was me on whom they shoveled dirt. It was me we left behind, after reading psalms." (Lament for a Son pg.42).

The *Book of Wisdom* challenges us to look beyond what we see at the grave - death, despair and dust, to the hope that lies beyond it. "But the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God." and "In the eyes of the foolish they seem to have died ... but they are at peace." (3.1,3) The author is asking us to peer behind appearances to the truth and the purpose of God, in life and in death. What we see at a grave can lead us to making foolish conclusions, that everything is over. However, the author of *Wisdom* draws a different conclusion - that while pain and loss can be devastating, that they can also become occasions for the deepening of faith and the broadening of human relationships. They can be opportunities for us to grow in hope. "For though in the sight of others they were punished their hope is full of immortality." (3:4)

In times of death, Christians find great comfort in the funeral liturgy as the community gathers with family to remember before God the life that has ended; to listen to words of comfort and hope in the Scriptures, to surround those



Archbishop Anne Germond

who mourn with love and care and to commend that person to God's safekeeping.

The funeral service ends with this magnificent prayer of commendation claiming life beyond the grave and the sound of Alleluia on our lips. "Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints, where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing but life everlasting." "You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all; and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we return. For so did you ordain when you created me saying, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." All of us go down to the dust, yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia." (BAS. pg. 586)

Priest and writer, Henri Nouwen, who wrote extensively on death and dying, says that when people we love die, "a part of us has to die too. That is what grief is about: It is that slow and painful departure of someone who has become an intimate part of us ... but

as we let go of them they become part of our 'members' and as we 're-member' them, they become our guides on our spiritual journey." (Henri Nouwen: *Remembering the Dead*).

During the month of November, the church gives us occasions to remember those who have gone before us in two Feast Days set apart for this purpose - All Saints Day on November 1st and All Soul's Day on November 2nd. This year around this time clergy and lay from around the Diocese of Moosonee will be together for the Executive Council meeting in Timmins. The meetings will begin with a celebration of the Eucharist, the ordination of two new presbyters and a deacon in God's church, and we will be using the lections for All Saints Day. It had its origins in the Fourth Century when churches in the East began to celebrate, 'the feast of the martyrs of the whole world' on the Sunday after Pentecost. Western churches adopted this festival but changed the date to November 1st and extended the feast to include all the saints (For All the Saints).

On All Souls Day, we remember those who have touched our lives in a special way including the men and women in our parishes whose lives in Christ were an example to us all. We pray for them that the good work that God has begun in them may come to perfection on the day when Jesus returns in glory.

These are important days as we stand side by side with others who have also known the pain of losing loved ones. What a source of comfort this is, knowing that we are not alone - that there are others around us who have also gone through significant losses. There is also comfort in knowing that those whom we loved are at peace

and at rest in the great communion of the saints - the great 'cloud of witnesses' the author of the *Book of Hebrews* writes about.

The Canadian preacher, John Gladstone, tells the story of a young English clergyman who served a small congregation. Communion wasn't a common or an everyday practice in those days but this priest decided to offer the Lord's supper to anyone who stayed behind after the evening prayer service. One night, so few people stayed for communion that the priest wondered whether he should proceed with it, but decided to go ahead anyway. He started to read the words of the Great Thanksgiving, the Eucharistic prayer, and got to the part that reads: "Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your name." And then the young priest stopped and prayed: "O God forgive me, I did not realize that I was in such company."

This is the company we find ourselves in on All Saints Day. Belonging to the communion of the saints means being connected with all those whose lives have been transformed by the Spirit of Jesus. The connection is deep and never ending.

Ultimately, the saints were people who were empowered by an uncompromising 'trust in God' that prompted them not to put their trust in anyone, or anything less. What would it mean for us to make these words from the *Wisdom of Solomon* our personal or corporate mission statement: "Those who trust God will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love." (*Wisdom 3.9*)

With blessings in Christ as you remember loved ones now resting with the communion of the saints.

PWRDF & Moosonee

Article by Dean Valerie Isaac, Diocese of Moosonee.

IT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING few months in the life of PWRDF with donation requests being sent out for relief funds following Hurricane Dorian's impact in the Bahamas and the Southeast United States. The PWRDF has also sent out a memo regarding prayers for "those who did not come home" beginning September 27th to the 30th. This is in support of missing and murdered indigenous women



Reverend Valerie Isaac & Janice Biehn, Communications Coordinator PWRDF

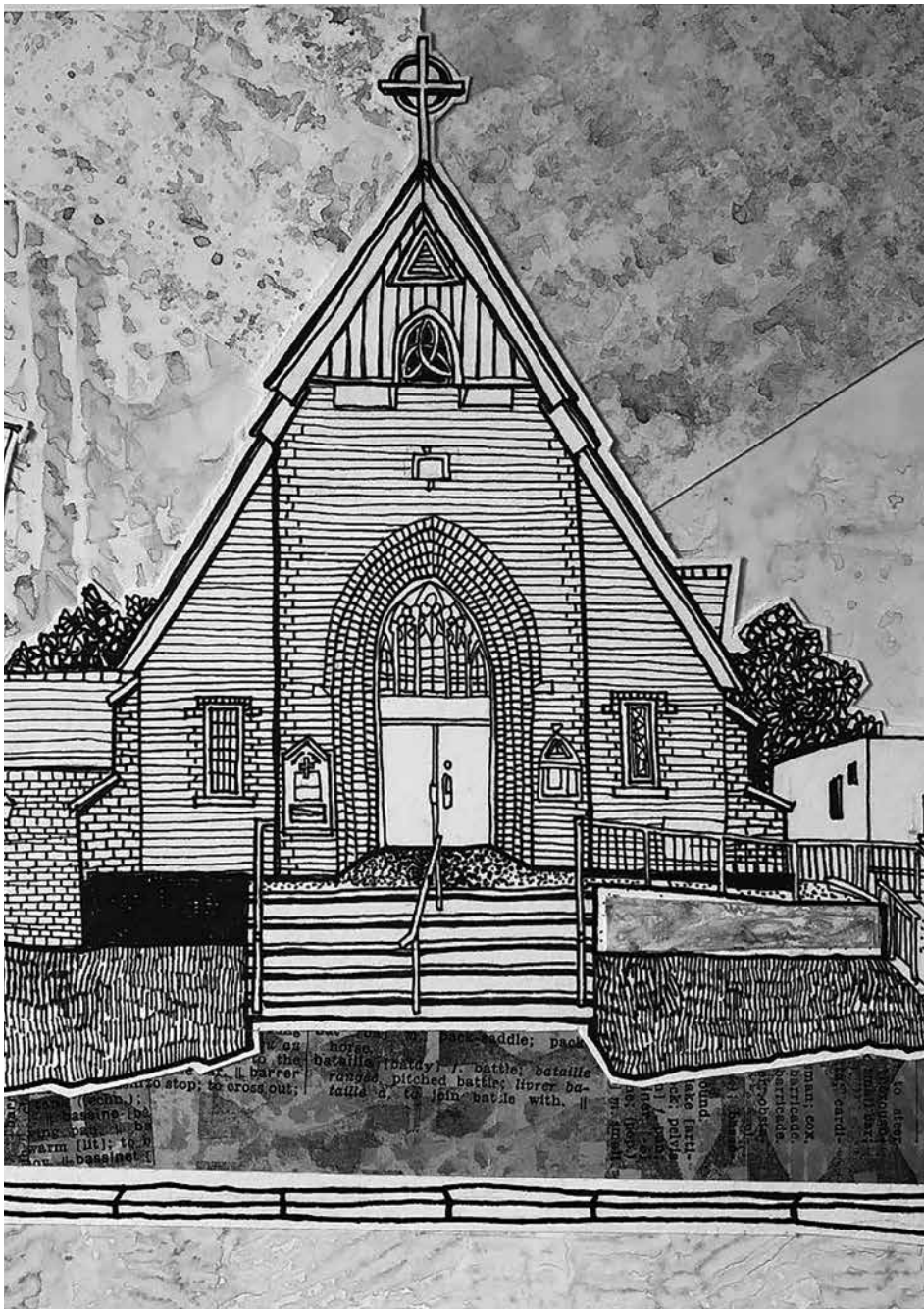
and children.

I have been the Diocesan Representative for our diocese for the past six years and I have enjoyed being part of this wonderful organization within the Anglican Church of Canada. I have seen how the funds that you raise are put to good use. Not all of the funds go overseas but I have seen the impact of those donations and heard some moving stories because of our help. Canadians are also the recipients of the funding. The victims of the Fort McMurray fire and the freshwater

project for Pikangikum are examples of Canadian recipients.

I was elected to the Board of Directors of PWRDF in September, leaving a vacancy as diocesan representative. Hopefully, one of our parish representatives will answer the call and we are still waiting for the response. My new role will have me involved in a deeper way. I have already been appointed to a couple of committees. I look forward to helping to make a difference and increasing the profile of this wonderful part of our church.





DIOCESAN CHURCHES: *This pen and ink sketch of Holy Trinity Church, Cochrane, ON was created by the artist and architect, Nicky Alexander.*



Gail Cooper, Don & Sally Gillespie engaged in a stretching exercise as part of the Porcupine Health Unit's 'Stand Up' program run at St. Paul's Anglican Church.

'Stand Up, Stand Up, for ...'

Article by George Cribbs, Editor of the Northland.

THE 'STAND UP' PROGRAM offered by the Porcupine Health Unit is comprised of 24 sessions designed to help seniors maintain their vigor and independence. It emphasizes balance and how to avoid falls. Through activities and lessons it teaches participants to "Stay Active, Stay Independent and Stay On Your Feet." The program was run at St. Paul's, South Porcupine and had a full compliment of 15 seniors involved. This form of outreach involved both parishioners and people from the wider community.

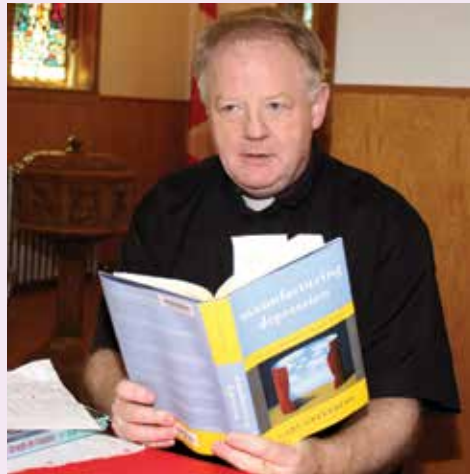


Diane Nicholls was tested by the 'Stand Up' program and found to be fit!

Our Youth at Play & Prayer

Article by Canon Pheland Scanlon, St. Stephen's, Constance Lake First Nation, St. Matthew's/St. Paul's, Hearst, & St. Luke's Church, Hornepayne ON.

IBELIEVE THAT THE MOST urgent ministry we have is youth ministry. There is no more important task than the conveyance of the Gospel to kids, who - given our secularist society and lack of church attendance - will not hear it unless we find a way to proclaim it. That is why the Watershed parishes (St. Matthew/St. Paul, Hearst, St. Stephen, Constance Lake, St. Luke, Hornepayne) are trying to get more involved in their communities.



Canon Pheland Scanlon

In Hearst, we have engaged the local public school with floor hockey games. The process is somewhat bureaucratic but the staff at the school board and the local school have been cooperative and supportive. I book time for school use online; write a 'take home to parents letter about the game; give copied letters to the school secretary; and wait for approval. Once I get the green light, there is nothing to do but show up at the school at the designated time and hope that someone shows up. In April, we had two kids, in September there were five (and the school principal), and our next game will

be November 19th. It is important to point out that we do not use such occasions to proselytize. That would be untenable in a public school event at which the participants are school students. However, we have fun, the kids meet the church, and I always offer a prayer of thanks and a benediction while we are drinking our juice after the game. The Pentecostal pastor, Mr. Robillard, is also there to help me run these games. The other reason he is there is to give me encouragement: he's the only person I can beat one-on-one! Hopefully,

these games will allow the parish to make connections which can further widen our ministry down the road. If the Church fails to engage the community outside its four walls, it will decline and perish.

At St. Stephen's, Constance Lake, we have a confirmation class with three kids and an elder who helps out. We meet Wednesdays from 4 to 4:30 at the church building. Our goal is to offer catechesis for much of the school year in a manner resembling traditional teaching methods and 'messy church.' To illustrate the approach we use, I will harken back to our first lesson. I gave each student some play dough and asked them to create an animal. Mine was horrible (and it defied classification - sort of a rabbit with a chicken's head) but the kids did a fine job of making a blowfish, a horse, and a stegosaurus (the elder fashioned a beaver. Why would I do such nonsense? To point out the gift of creativity which humans alone among all creatures, possess. I believe this is the essence of Genesis 1:26 in which God intones that we are all made in his image. Unlike all other creatures, people have the gift of creativity - which is evidence of God within us. After the lesson, I

handed out a simple quiz which can divine whether the kids have slept or paid attention.

In Hornepayne, because of the efforts of clergy and local people there is a reservoir of children in that township who have a connection with the parish. I have built on this by putting together special Eucharists for the kids on Holy Days. To celebrate St. Luke's Day, we had 10 kids and 7 adults present to observe our patronal feast. We had a pumpkin carve and mask-decorating. After the pumpkins were carved and the masks decorated we went upstairs for a short Eucharist. I explained that St. Luke was a follower of Jesus, a saint who 'let the light of Jesus shine out from himself'. I explained that, like a pumpkin with no light, people are rather dark without the Light of Christ.

Events such as these are challenging in three widely dispersed parishes but worth doing. With the help of the parishes we can strive to teach the Good News of Jesus Christ to our kids. I would love to see the kids and their families in Sunday worship now and then but, until that happens, these gatherings are our best hope of proclaiming the Good News.

