

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

NORTHLAND

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE • www.moosoneeanglican.ca • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • MARCH 2024



People from the community reacted with joy when the Advent lights came on just outside St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

Working Together

Article by George Cribbs, Editor

MANY PARISHES THROUGHOUT the Diocese of Moosonee have made full use of their assets in their parishioners and buildings to forge important working relationships with secular groups in their communities.

The Porcupine Horticultural Society recently made use of St. Paul's Anglican Church in South Porcupine to host an Advent Eve event. This event involved the lighting of a tree beside the church and then having more than 100 people from the community come into the church hall for a time of hot chocolate, home made cookies and the singing of Christmas carols.

In addition to the Advent Eve event the horticultural society looks after a series of raised garden beds on the church's property. These garden beds are given to people in the community who wish to grow their own herbs and vegetables. In return, the horticultural society has built and



Nicky Alexander, like other members of the Timmins Symphony, practices her music at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

maintains a flower bed in front of the church. This symbiotic relationship furthers the mandate of both the church and horticulturalists to promote the greening of the earth. Several members of the horticultural society are Christians and this strengthens the relationship with the church as well as providing those individuals with an opportunity to put their faith into action.

St. Matthew's Cathedral is host to the Timmins Symphony and the musicians practice their music in the church which has excellent acoustics. There are a host of community groups which meet in the cathedral; indeed, sometimes it is difficult to arrange an evening meeting because of the heavy use which community groups make of the church building. Nevertheless, the church makes itself very useful to its local community by making itself available for secular activities such as Girl Guides.

These arrangements between parishes and community groups further the influence of the church beyond its walls. Holy Trinity in Cochrane, for

See "Serving Society" on page 2



Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm Diocese of Huron

Article by Archdeacon Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm, Diocese of Huron.

Mission in Moosonee

MY NAME IS ROSALYN KANTLAHT'ANT ELM and I am the Archdeacon of Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries with the Anglican Diocese of Huron. I am excited to introduce myself to all of you ahead of coming to be with you sometime this year and certainly online with some bible study and some good old revival of the spirit.

In the fall of 2022, I had the amazing privilege to be in Waskaganish for the healing gathering. It was an amazing experience filled with tears, laughter, community, friends, family, food, and music. It was a revival of the spirit despite some of the tragedy that we have endured in our lives. In so many ways we were demonstrating for each other our healing paths that are spirit filled and worthy of cultivating and protecting for generations to come.

I am from a little place in Southwestern Ontario called Oneida of the Thames. Our community is one of three communities, one in Oneida, New York, and one in Oneida, Wisconsin. Together all three of us make up the Onyota'aka Nation of the Haidenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy. My name Kantlatana

See "Mission Possible" on page 2.



Serving Society *continued from page one.*



Members of the Porcupine Horticultural Society were happy to work with St. Paul's in South Porcupine to bring a wonderful celebration of Advent to the wider community. After lighting a tree near the church, they invited people to join them in the church basement for hot chocolate, homemade cookies and a time of singing Christmas music.

example, has assisted the New Ribbon Skirts program at the Ininew Friendship Centre as well as the Cree step-dancing class. St. Mark's, Iroquois

Falls has reported on their outreach programs in partnering with local elementary schools. Throughout the diocese, Anglicans continue their wor-

ship lives beyond their parish services through working with and supporting groups which seek to improve people's lives in their communities.

Mission Possible *continued from page one.*

means 'shakes the leaves' and my clan is bear. I have had the privilege of learning from elders who are knowledge keepers in our traditional ways and elders who are knowledge keepers in the Christian tradition.

I grew up in these ways and I am still growing. I am still receiving revelation of who I am as a spiritual person, giving thanks for the abundance of creation and following in the footsteps of that Indigenous spiritual leader that lived a world away in his territory full of hope for his people, full of knowledge that he was different from the prophets and kings and priests of his day.

I live in this realm of revival and revelation, and it is a path of healing and it is a way that sacred space has been held for me by my elders and by knowledge keepers. I do my best to carry that forward in the communities in which I serve. This is a journey of self-discovery; it is a journey of salvation in the world of chaos and uncertainty. In the process of making sense of who I am as an Indigenous person giving thanks to the Creator in my Indigenous ways, I have come to see Jesus as a Trickster, the spirit of disruption and revelation of a new path.

My ministry includes most of South-western Ontario including the traditional territories of ten Indigenous in the Diocese of Huron.

I serve with a team: Rev. Hana Scorrar is our missionary, Rev JP Markides is our associate priest, Elaine Burnside and Leah Arvidsson are our pastoral associates. Our team moves in and out of the communities. JP is a religious education



Archdeacon Kantlah'tant Elm & the Reverend Vincent Solomon at the Healing Gathering in Waskaganish.

teacher, Elaine is Activities Director at a long term care facility and Leah is a seminarian in her final year. In many ways we are tent makers who serve in so many capacities and in many communities.

I serve in many capacities in the diocese as archdeacon and I am very fortunate to have fellow archdeacons that are supportive and helpful in so many ways. My focus is on truth and reconciliation and Indigenous ministry which includes worship and prayer and building and supportive spiritual capacities whether Christian ways of knowing and being or Traditional Indigenous ways of knowing and being. I also love to explore the theological and spiritual overlap of who we are as Indigenous Christians.

In the parish and community ministry, being the hands and feet of Jesus is an incredible privilege. Continuing his min-

istry here on earth is to teach and heal. Healing as Jesus performed his miracles is one of the hallmarks of his ministry in Galilee. For myself and our team, we work as healing pathfinders; we hold sacred space for the spirit to walk with us.

Today, we are facing a period of revelation and revival in our communities; a new revelation of who Jesus is to our people; a revival of the message and ministry of Jesus and what his sacrifice means to us.

When I look at Jesus and when I look at some Indigenous rebels like: Nanabush, Glooscap, Inktomi, Kokopelli, Sedna, and Ista .. these tricksters always have a way of turning things back on to us or relieving us or opening our minds; they can also uncover and reveal. They can be seen as unorthodox and spontaneous and erratic but this often leads to a revelation and the trickster does this without violence. The trickster breaks us out of old stereotypes and opens the world to new opportunities and possibilities. In my Indigenous world Jesus is Trickster .. in our Christian world Jesus is disrupter and deconstructor; a trickster in a way that he uses parables and often turning us on end to show us the glory of a new place, a kingdom in which all will be set to right - a disrupter of empires and kingdoms.

In these images I am finding my way and I think for all of us on turtle island we can find our way back from this grief. Living the Gospel way of life for us is honouring our ways however that may look in our contexts, powwows, ceremonies, language and culture learnings and relearnings, being on the land and giving



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honour to creator and each other.

In our bible study we will discover who Jesus is was and will be forever and how Jesus intertwines with our culture and cultures in and around. It will be again revealed how Jesus said who he was in scriptures long ago. Let us be revived in that Good News.



SOME BRAVO JOY, ANYONE?

Article by The Reverend Judie Cooper, former Priest-in-Charge, St. Matthew's Cathedral.

“Let me hear joy and gladness”
(Psalm 51:8)

THE OLDER I GET, the more I seem to remember the early events and images that really transformed my life. This is a most enjoyable thing to do, although not all the events were happy ones and some images were troubling. All of them, however, are enjoyable because they either drove me to my knees in utter dependence upon God, or lifted me up to new heights of praising God. One of the things that changed me a lot was reading an article in the Toronto Star in either 1999 or 2000 during the height of the Taliban jihad in Afghanistan.

They reported on a talented Afghan artist and historian who took it upon himself to try to save the old master paintings hung in public spaces or wealthy homes. The Taliban was sending out teams to destroy all of the greatest paintings showing prosperity, wine, happy gatherings, festivals, and most importantly any art depicting women. This man would rise early and head out with his oils and meticulously paint over every Old Master he could find. Cover up a Rembrandt with pretty flowers or a waterfall or a sunset. And leave them hanging right where they were. The Taliban would leave them be. He knew that in time, when peace returned, artists with special skills could chemically peel off his paints revealing the old masterpieces so carefully camouflaged. He did it for good. He did it well. And in decades since then, some of the paintings have found ways, mostly out of the country, to complete restoration.

I realized anew that our God had a master plan, a master work of art for human beings. A painting showing how beautiful and joyful and pleasing human beings could be through following His commandments: becoming Light and Salt in their own families and a blessing for all nations. Jesus even echoed that master plan in coming to our earth. He says in John 15:11 *“I have come that the joy which is in Me would be in you, and that your joy will be full.”* In Matthew's Gospel



The Reverend Judie Cooper, Diocese of Algoma.





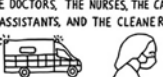
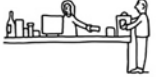




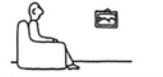



(chapter 5, verses 1:12) the words we know as the Beatitudes are not a prescription for how to live to please God, they are a description of what people who love God look like; a view of how they live, and what they do. And why they are ‘Blessed’. It is important to understand that word. It can mean ‘approved by God’ (the Hebrew word ‘dokimos’ or ‘particularly sacred’ - Barukh - but in Matthew the translated word is ‘hesed’ which means ‘supremely joyful in God’. Not just happy but happy like a stadium of people doing the wave, shouting out their great excitement and happiness. I call it ‘BRAVO JOY’. And Jesus is saying that people who follow the master plan will be full of that BRAVO JOY.

Our society, our culture, after years of staggering after God and running away when the cost is too high; after becoming fixated on our own self-sufficiency while putting God on the back burner, after making idols of toys, and wealth, and elitism ... in all these ways, our age has overpainted the real picture of BRAVO JOY living. We are in need of a great restoration to peel off all the layers of falsehood, racism, greed, and power.

Enter Jesus, the Master restoration expert, who strips away all the pretense about what pleases God. A portrait emerges of human life should be lived and understood. In society's canvas, the meek do not inherit the earth, they are easily dismissed. Those who show mercy find themselves

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO STAY INDOORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PROTECTED OTHERS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE UNEMPLOYED AND THE SELF-EMPLOYED</p>  <p>FOR THEIR NEED OF GOD IS GREAT</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CORNER SHOPKEEPERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE PURVEYORS OF SCARCE THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE THE BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL THINGS</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS, THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHECKOUT WORKERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE REFUSE COLLECTORS</p>  <p>FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD DESPITE THE MOUNTAINS OF WASTE</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE TEACHERS</p>  <p>FOR THEY REMAIN STEADFAST AND CONSTANT IN DISTURBING TIMES</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH WORKERS, THE DEACONS, PRIESTS AND BISHOPS</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING PRESENCE IN A HURTING WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE COPING ALONE WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES AND THERE IS NO RESPIRE</p>
<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ALONE.</p>  <p>FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND WITH HIM THEY WILL NEVER BE LONELY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THE BEREAVED.</p>  <p>FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS ALREADY HAPPENED THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR ABUSERS</p>  <p>FOR ONE DAY - WE PRAY - THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY</p>	<p>BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS: ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY</p>  <p>MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT. MAY YOU KNOW CALM. AND MAY THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN</p>	

TEXT: JAYNE HANFREDI CartoonChurch.com

ridiculed as weak or timid. Those who are humble are regarded as shallow and ineffective. Those who are pure in heart are thought to be naive, unsophisticated or puritanical. Jesus sweeps all that aside and leaves us with a breathtaking surprise. What we thought was powerful, isn't. What we thought pleases God, may not. What we despised and counted as nothing, matters greatly. What seemed to be small and meaningless is hugely important. And if people despise you for your right living, then God applauds you. When you are cut to the quick and persecuted and even martyred for your faith, you are dearly loved, and honoured and will be vindicated. Teaching on that hillside, I believe that Jesus is saying, *“Show me anyone who is abundantly joyful and I will show you someone who is meek, and tender-hearted, and knows about mourning, and longs for justice, and prays for enemies, and goes the second mile, and lifts up the lowly and lives not as king but as servant to others.”*

Of course BRAVO JOY is not the same as happiness. We are not happy creatures all of our days. Sometimes we are downright miserable. Sometimes we are not sunbeams, we are just plain ugly to one another. Sometimes illness, physical or mental or spiritual takes the stuffing right out of us. And on those days, our joy is found in hope that things will not always be the way they are in the moment; that God has a plan; that God made a promise that He will

in His time create perfect justice, mercy, healing, and resurrection life for all who trust in Him.

Jesus showed us so clearly when He suffered upon the cross that his BRAVO JOY hope withstood everything. Let's be very clear. He was not happy. Not in the garden, praying alone; not in the court being falsely accused; not while being flogged and spit upon, not even while forgiving His enemies ... no happiness at all that day. Even when the worst of the worst happened, and Jesus felt utterly abandoned by His Father; when he cried, *“Why?”* No joy there but that was not the end. His entire being dredged up hope, a BRAVO JOY not dependent on happy circumstance. He shouted out His faith in the promise, His faith in God's plan, His faith in His Father: *“Into your hands, O God, I commit my Spirit.”* Takes my breath away!

What kind of a picture are we holding up to our children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbours - and even enemies? Is it the fake picture of life where counterfeit possessions and powers look like happiness? Or is it God's master plan painting of the Beatitudes? That's the question that arose in my heart when I read that article 25 years ago. It transformed my thinking and my acting and gave me a whole lot of BRAVO JOY in and through all manner of things. Of course, I stumble along but I always know where and how joy is to be found. Such is my prayer for you.





MOOSONEE MOMENTS



After the prayers for Advent, people from the community gathered in the church hall of St. Paul's, South Porcupine, for a time of singing Christmas music and enjoying hot chocolate and homemade cookies.



Choristers from St. Paul's and St. Matthew's Cathedral led a community sing-a-long of Christmas music as part of the Advent Eve celebration held in the church hall of St. Paul's.



St. Mark's Anglican Church, Iroquois Falls, delivered a variety of hats, mitts, socks and underwear to a public school in Matheson as part of their outreach program. Every year such items are collected in the month of November and then distributed to a school in the area. The presentation was made by the Reverend Norma Teigen and accepted by Erin VanClief, the school's principal, and a number of her students.



Naomi Okoronkwo and her brother Nathaniel took delight in lighting the Advent candles at St. Matthew's Cathedral.



Bishop Victoria Matthews was well supported by volunteers from the community who came together to help to ensure that everyone who came to St. Matthew's Cathedral to receive sustenance had an enjoyable meal on Christmas Day.



A disgruntled elf, curiously resembling the Reverend Anne Marie Carrière, appeared in St. Mark's Kapuskasing shortly after a service there!



Board But Not Boaring Article by The Reverend Valerie Isaac, St. Mark's Kapuskasing.

MANY OF YOU ARE AWARE of the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and the amazing work that has been and continues to be done in Canada and around the world but many do not know what the Board of Directors looks after. Yes, we have various committees and guidelines and as members of the board, we are usually on two or even three committees. For example, there is the Executive Committee composed of the Chair of the Board, the Executive Director, the Vice-Chair, the Treasurer, the Chair of Finance and Investment, and the Chair of Governance. As I am Chair of Finance and Investment, I sit on the Executive Committee and we deal with some of the details of our work as a whole which we then bring to the attention of the board. Governance deals with all of the terms of reference for each committee and reviews them on a rotating basis. Governance also deals with the policies and procedures for each committee and the board itself and makes recommendations for changes as each committee has proposed them in turn. As a whole, we too, are updated on the projected that we are helping to finance in various parts of the world and this year we were

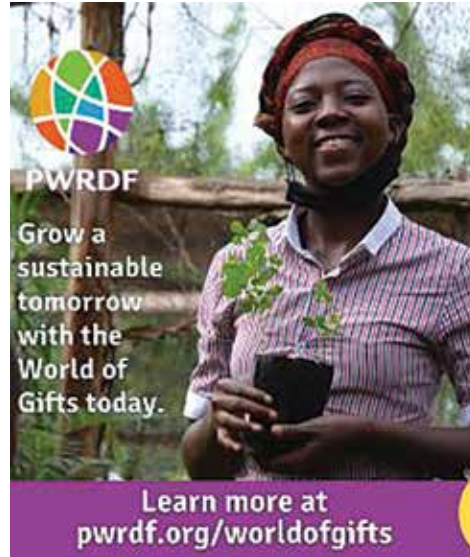


Board of Directors: The Reverend Valerie Isaac, Elsa Tesfay, and Shailene Capras.

updated on the radio project in the Amazon region that is attempting to preserve and conserve as much of the fragile ecosystem as possible with links throughout the region.

Our guest speaker, this year, came to us from Columbia and showed us how the money is used. Another guest this fall came to us from the Mennonite Council of Canada in Winnipeg and is helping us to understand our roles and responsibilities when it comes to being a safe place to live and work free of sexual assault and exploitation. These are among the issues that we, as a board live and work with. It also enables us to meet, either in person or electronically, with other members of the board and diocesan representatives as we gather annually.

Following our annual meeting,



new members will be joining the board and this year is no different. Each of the returning members is given new members to mentor through their first year and any questions or concerns that they may have. This time, I was grateful to meet my new person in person at the recent meeting in Toronto; his name is Chandra Madroomtoo from Montreal. It was wonderful to meet Chandra and learn about his journey to Canada and as an Anglican in Montreal. Meals together with the diocesan representatives gave all of us an opportunity to renew friendships and welcome new members. At our final banquet together this year, we were saying goodbye to some long-time staffers. Thank you to those of you who continue to support the work of PWRDF and its projects near and far.



**Sylvia Martin
St. Matthew's Cathedral,
Timmins.**

I grew up in a small cotton mill town in northern England. There were 13 mills - all with tall chimneys belching black smoke. After my high school years, I went to a Domestic Science College in London which prepared me to teach all levels.

I have strong connections with woven fibres and was introduced to all the natural yarns. After teaching for 5 years, I was eligible to do a teacher exchange programme and I ended up in Canada and went to Upper Canada Village near Morrisburg. I started my slow introduction to domestic textiles. I learned to spin merino fleece on a spinning wheel; it was magical. Then came a weaving workshop and an introduction to the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Guild. I introduced weaving to my school students and some of them were enthralled and came to my room every lunchtime and wove a large wall hanging for the school. Eventually, I came to Timmins and instead of teaching 'Home Ec' as it was called - I applied and got the job of textile teacher at Northern College. By this time, we had three sons and two adopted daughters. They helped me with projects.

As time went by, it became apparent that many people were so used to cell phones and automation that they were losing traditional skills. So, last year I gave a short class of weaving to 8-12 year olds at the South Porcupine Library and another class of loom weaving at the Timmins Museum and it was extended. Each week we had homework. We had a display of their work in one of the galleries; they loved it. This was very worthwhile and it gave me a bit of hope for the future.

'Upstairs, Downstairs' Article by Ruth Corston, Diocesan Representative, PWRDF.

THIS PAST YEAR, we experienced forest fires, droughts and floods. Yes, many lost their homes and wildlife lost their habitats. There are also mental stress, fear of the changing weather and financial losses. We see relief responses that once were for far away places are now in our own communities. Our federal, provincial, and community leaders are speaking of the need for emergency plans for individuals as well as communities.

At the Annual General Meeting for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), we discussed how our communities and dioceses were responding to our baptismal covenant to strive and safeguard the integrity of God's creation and to respect,



Ruth Corston and Canon Donald Butler, Diocese of Toronto at the Annual PWRDF General Meeting in Toronto.

sustain, and renew the life of the Earth. We were reminded of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby's initiative 'The Communion Forest', which our Metropolitan, Archbishop Anne,

has brought to our diocese. 'The Communion Forest' is a global initiative comprising local activities of forest protection, tree growing and eco-system restoration undertaken by provinces, dioceses and individual churches across the Anglican Communion to safeguard creation. The Annual General Meeting was a three day 'information overload'. I have shared only day one with you. In my evaluation of the meeting, I commented "if only I could bottle up their energy and passion of the staff of PWRDF!"

I ask you to check the PWRDF website and to support one of their many causes. The World of Gift Catalogue has many excellent gifts for any occasion through out the year.



For Heaven's Sake

Article by Bishop Victoria Matthews, Episcopal Administrator, Diocese of Moosonee.

THE DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE with the blessing of both Archbishop Anne and the Executive Council of the diocese, has committed to hosting an evangelistic mission in 2024. But let's be honest, those can be confusing words. The word evangelistic can be defined as "inviting people to become Christians, often by travelling around and telling people about the Good News of Jesus Christ." As Anglicans, we believe all sharing of the Good News must begin with ourselves and so the Mission is designed, first of all, to help each of us to recall and return to our first love, that is our love for Jesus who first loved us. So, in this Mission or if you prefer, pilgrimage of faith. In one family, there can be a devout Christian, a lukewarm believer and an agnostic or atheist. The Gospel as something important to say to each of those people so let's be careful that we don't say to others, "You need to attend the mission." Let's try this approach: "I look forward to the Evangelistic Mission and I hope there will be many others who attend with me.

But let's get back to definitions: Mission is a word that is now used by many businesses and enterprises. Fast food chains have a Mission Statement, as do the banks and car manufacturers. The meaning is universal: the Mission is the core purpose of an organization, or even any important task or duty. I recall wandering into a clothing store and being asked by the sales help, "Are you looking around or are you on a mission?" Christian mission focuses on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Hence we say every parish and every Anglican has a mission.

The Evangelistic Mission for the Diocese of Moosonee, "Who Do You Say I Am?" has three parts initially. Beginning in Lent 2024 (that is right now) we are invited and encouraged to attend the bible studies on Zoom led by various Anglicans. The first bible study is on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. and will be led by the Venerable Rosalyn Elm, our missionary. Please register for the bible study in order to receive



Bishop Victoria Matthews shared the cake given her to celebrate a year of ministry at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

the Zoom link, and attend each week. In some of the Indigenous communities, it may prove helpful to gather at the Band Offices and attend the bible study as a community. Each bible study will be 90 minutes in length but if you are watching as a group, there may well be a desire to continue the conversation locally for another half hour.

The second part of the Mission, which will happen during Eastertide and Pentecost, will involve visits to every parish in the Diocese of Moosonee. A small team including the Venerable Rosalyn and two or three others will come to your parish to share the Gospel, worship and fellowship. The visit will be two or three days in length and it is essential that the receiving parish also have a team that has organised hospitality and accommodation for the Mission team. Also crucial is a second small team in each parish responsible for carrying on the work of the Mission. The Mission is not an event but the beginning of a renewed journey of faith in and with Jesus our Saviour.

The third part of the Mission happens at the Diocesan Synod held at Northern College in South Porcupine from June 25-27th. We will be graced with the presence of several guests including the Venerable Rosalyn Elm, Archbishop Christopher Harper and an Indigenous elder. The Venerable Rosalyn will be one of the keynote speakers at the June Diocesan Synod.

The Companions Program

September 2024 – June 2025

The **Residential Companions** program is an immersive opportunity to experience a contemporary monastic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. It is open to women aged 21 and up regardless of Christian denomination. Companions live, work, and pray alongside the sisters, learning from them but also sharing each companion's own gifts with the sisters and their ministries. They will:

- Learn to cultivate peaceful and creative ways of living in a diverse intentional community
- Appreciate silence and solitude as well as community and service for a healthy life
- Put down deep roots of spiritual intimacy with God and each other
- Develop a personal path to ongoing spiritual growth
- Discern individual gifts and vocations.

Application start & end (both programs):
January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024

Open to women of all Christian expressions, **Companions Online is an opportunity to become "monastics in the world," living a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, work, study, and recreation. Online Companions learn to develop practices that support and nurture their spiritual life from the comfort of their homes.**

They meet regularly for classes and discussion groups, and commit to times of personal prayer at home. They share in book studies, participate in online worship and screen films relevant to spiritual growth and self-understanding. Online Companions also develop spiritual disciplines that follow the liturgical year.

Cost:
Residential Companions: \$100.00/month.
Companions Online: \$50.00/month.
If cost is a hindrance, assistance is available.

To learn more about either program, or to apply, email Sharron Epp, Program Coordinator, at companions@sjad.ca, or phone St. John's Convent: 416-226-2201, ext. 342

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

But the Mission does not end with the Synod or the last visit by Rosalyn and her team. The three parts of the Mission (bible study, parish visits, and the Synod) are only the beginning. The theme of both the Synod and the Mission is, "Who do You Say I Am?" This is the question asked by Jesus of Peter. Matthew 16. 13-20 gives the context of the question which receives this answer from Simon Peter: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." The Mission is intended to become part of the life of the Diocese of Moosonee as we, each and all of us, continue to deepen our faith and commitment; engage in good works to assist the least, the lost, and the last; and to give voice to the vibrant faith we share in Jesus Christ. My favourite quotation from the Church Father, St. Augustine of Hippo, from the fourth century, is: "Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not." At baptism, we are called into a partnership with the living God to celebrate the Kingdom and make God's presence known on earth as it is in heaven. The crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the presence of the Holy Spirit on that first Easter Day, when Jesus, in John 20, said to his disciples (that includes you and me), "Receive the Holy Spirit" and "As the Father sent me, even so I send you" tells us that God's deep love invites us to be partners in the mission of God. Who could ask for more than that?

Ephesians 3. 14-21 turns this promise and invitation into a prayer:

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.'

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.



The Great Advent Sheep Escape

Article by Kim Skidmore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

THIS YEAR AT HOLY TRINITY COCHRANE we shook things up a bit with the Advent Sheep Trail concept. We invited the community to assist the shepherds of our nativity in tracking down their wayward sheep and win a prize of a tin of two dozen homemade Christmas cookies. We distributed a wide variety of unique stuffed sheep to over 15 stores in our town of Cochrane. Each sheep had a name. The task was to find the sheep and note the name on the ballot provided. Ballots were available at the library, bowling alley, an Artisan Craft store and our Facebook page.

Ballots were to be dropped off at our Annual Community Cheer Celebration on December 20th.



This event is a wonderful outreach opportunity as we offer free hot apple cider and cookies to the community outside our church and there is Christmas music too.

It is a wonderful way to share the Christmas Story!

Beautifying St. Matthew's Cathedral

Article by Cheryl Shaw, Community Worker, Diocese of Moosonee.

THE NARTHEX OF ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL recently received an upgrade thanks to the efforts of a handful of people. The resident artists of the cathedral contributed to the discussions around colour - in consultation with Bishop Victoria Matthews.

Once a colour had been chosen, Peter Colbert provided the scaffolding and the cathedral's caretaker, Alyn Harvey, who is himself an artist, carefully painted the space. Now the narthex is a deep, majestic blue and it is both welcoming and bold. As it begins its one hundredth and twelfth year, St. Matthew's moves forward with a fresh look.



Alyn Harvey, crucifer at St. Matthew's Cathedral, worked diligently to beautify the narthex in St. Matthew's Cathedral.

PWRDF Blessing Ball Tree

Article by Kim Skidmore, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

JEAN MORIN, DEPUTY PEOPLE'S WARDEN at Holy Trinity, Cochrane stands in front of our PWRDF Blessing Ball Tree. She is holding one of the wise men she made as part of a group contribution to our beautiful hand knitted nativity.

Each year we ask parishioners to consider making a \$5 donation and to place a ball on the tree to acknowledge the blessings they have in their lives. All the proceeds from this activity are donated to the PWRDF's goat fundraiser.



Jean Morin, Deputy People's Warden at Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Article by Suzanne Bernier, St. Mark's Church, Iroquois Falls.

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH, 2024 St. Mark's Church in Iroquois Falls celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ordination of The Reverend Norma Teigen. She was ordained on January 6, 1999 at St. John's, Matheson on an extremely cold evening. The church was filled with family and friends. So, today, we celebrate that special anniversary.

Thank you for touching so many people with your ministry! God bless you for your service.



The Reverend Norma Teigen, St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls.

Holy Trinity Supported by Anglican Foundation

Article by Canon Patricia Dorland, Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

CHRISTMAS CAME EARLY for the people of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Cochrane when the news that the church's \$30,000 Category C grant application had been approved. The funds will be used to do much needed work on the church's foundation and basement so that the church can once again 'think big' in terms of community outreach and ministry.

"For many years, there has been a water issue in the basement" says Canon Patricia Dorland. "In the spring and fall when the ground is freezing or thawing the water has no place to go so it's creeping up from the foundation." The impact was that the church stopped using the basement and was no longer able to provide the variety of community programs it once did. "When the water came in, the ministry dried up."

In early 2023, prompted by an inquiry to use the church basement to

provide space for Cree step-dancing class, the parish seized on the opportunity to begin to address the facility's challenges. "I knew that this was going to be a significant capital project," said Dorland, "but I also knew that we needed to find a way to make our church safe, friendly, and welcoming again."

With funding now in place, Dorland says she has some anxieties about the project because of its scope and size and readily admits that repairs and maintenance are outside her comfort zone but she says that maintaining focus is key. "I have my eye on the big picture and remind myself that this will all work out: We will get people who know what they're supposed to do and what I need to do is encourage the people of the parish whenever we have an obstacle to overcome. And there will be obstacles."

Dorland's hope is that when the



project is completed, "we will have a beautiful building to share with the community. She is grateful to the Anglican Foundation of Canada for establishing the new Category C grant which allows dioceses to rally around a single infrastructure project each year and apply for up to \$50,000 in funding.

"That Category C grant has allowed us to have a bigger vision. The fact that we couldn't use the basement was making people's vision of ministry diminish. We were thinking too small and that's not really who we are. We're a parish that's always been part of the community, that has always invited the community into our space, and that is known

for generous hospitality." The AFC grant and generous funding from the Eagleton Foundation has enabled the church to 'think big' again.

To those who might question the balance of investing in people versus infrastructure, Dorland is quick to remind people that the people and the building work in tandem. "People come to the church because it's a sacred space. They come to the church because it's a safe environment. They come to the church because they know that the people who are there doing the ministry that God is calling them to do. A building is a material structure but it's also where the people of God gather and do the ministry that God is calling them to do."

