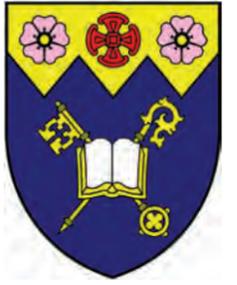


THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2017

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MADE NEW IN CHRIST

“Extraordinary Christian” to inspire 65th Synod of Edmonton diocese in living reconciled life

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Fr. Michael Lapsley SSM, director of the Institute for Healing of Memories in Cape Town, South Africa, will share his inspiring message of healing and forgiveness with members of the 65th Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton, gathering September 29 and 30, to explore together what it means to live a reconciled life in Christ.

“Made New in Christ,” the theme of this synod, is based on the scripture 2 Corinthians 5:17-21:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal

through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Born in New Zealand, Lapsley is an Anglican priest who has spent most of his life in South Africa. While serving as the National Chaplain of Anglican Students in 1976, he was exiled by the South African government for speaking out against apartheid and other social injustices. In 1990, after returning to Zimbabwe from a speaking engagement in Canada, he opened a letter bomb which was hidden inside two religious magazines. He lost both hands and the sight in one eye to the blast, suffered serious burns and permanent hearing loss.

“It is clear from what St. Paul tells us that reconciliation is part of our vocation as Christians,” says Lapsley. “It is not an optional extra. When people tell each other their stories in a safe space it is the commonality especially of their pain which will connect them. Pain is transcendent. When ‘the other’

is present and we listen to each other reverently respectfully and non-judgmentally, it may be a watershed moment on the long journeys of reconciliation.”

Bishop Jane Alexander calls Fr. Michael an “extraordinary Christian.” The two met at an international conference on peace and reconciliation in Korea. After hearing Lapsley’s courageous story, Bishop Jane invited him to Edmonton to present a workshop on “Reconciliation, Healing and Justice” in 2012.

Dr. Stephen Martin, Associate Professor of Theology at The King’s University, has described Lapsley as a “national treasure of South Africa - the living embodiment of that nation’s journey to forgiveness,



Fr. Michael Lapsley leads a Diocese of Edmonton workshop on “Reconciliation, Healing and Justice” at The King’s University in 2012. He returns to Edmonton as a guest of the 65th Synod, September 29 and 30, 2017.

reconciliation and a new beginning.” As chaplain of the Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture, Lapsley assisted with South Africa’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This led to the establishment of the Institute for Healing of Memories (www.healing-memories.org), an organization which enables many more South Africans to tell their stories in workshops where they work through their trauma. The organization now works with groups around the world including those affected by political violence; those affected and infected by HIV and AIDS; refugees and asylum seekers; prisoners and war veterans. Working alongside other victims of

terror, he helped to create the International Network for Peace to promote effective and nonviolent solutions to terrorism.

“When something terrible happens to us, it either causes us to diminish or to grow, but we are never the same,” says Lapsley, who will be welcomed by members of the 65th Synod later this month.

ID - 65th Synod offers unique invitation to be disciples

MICHAEL HARVEY
Unlocking the Growth, Founder

As we look at the next 10 years in the Diocese of Edmonton we see opportunities all around us to *Proclaim the Gospel, Make Disciples and Further the Kingdom of God.* Together as clergy and laity, we are invited by God to work



as His Body, the Church, in sharing His Love, Grace and Truth.

This task is not just for clergy. Laypeople have a distinct

and very real role in the spreading of the Gospel, which the Church desperately needs them to carry out with the authority, creativity and power that the Holy Spirit has given us in baptism. Therefore it is important to create a culture where the ministry of every member is recognized, honoured, utilized and nurtured As Paul’s letter to

the Ephesians says: we are God’s workmanship, (the Greek word for workmanship is poema). We are all, clergy and laity, God’s poem “created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God already had in mind.”

Continued on p. 2.
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Base Camp P. 8



Auggie’s Cafe P. 10



St. George Canada Day P. 16

56th Athabasca Synod looks to “Renewal in Mission”

PETER CLARKE
Athabasca Editor

The 56th Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca invites all members of the diocese (not only delegates) to the Catholic Conference Centre, located at 10307-99 Street in Peace River, Thursday, October 12 to Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Entitled “Renewal in Mission,” this synod builds on previous diocesan events such as the Unity in Mission gathering at Providence Renewal Centre in May. The theme is inspired by Ephesians 4: 7, 11-16, and our guest speaker will be the Rev. Gene Packwood from the Diocese of Calgary.

Bishop Wilson Kamani, who is visiting from our companion Diocese of Ibba in South Sudan, will bring news and details of what is happening in that part of Africa.

In addition, we will welcome two speakers from Nassau in the Bahamas to share the evangelistic message of the LEAD program in their Holy Cross Parish community.

Our own Archdeacon for Mission Development, Canon Terry Leer, will present a workshop on Everyday Evangelism, and the Rev. David Greenwood will hold a workshop on Healing Prayer.

In keeping with recent synods, this gathering will be part conference (including four workshops that all members of the Athabasca diocese are encouraged to attend), and part synod business. In order for people to experience more than one workshop, each workshop will be offered twice on Saturday October 14th. Participants can select their workshops when they arrive at the conference centre.

At times during this full and active synod, we will pause for joy

and relaxation. We will learn songs from different parts of the world, in celebration of the new dynamic created by clergy and parishioners from various countries. So bring your singing voice!

Parishes are encouraged to bring a form of entertainment to share during the program after our traditional banquet (who can forget Canon Leer as Noah and Moses at past events), and pictures of church community events, to be shared with everyone attending.

There are many fine hotels in Peace River and two have offered special rates to those attending this

Synod 2017
Diocese of Athabasca
Renewal in Mission
Ephesians 4: 7, 11 - 16.
Thu Oct. 12 - Sun Oct. 15.
Theme speaker: **The Rev. Gene Packwood**
Diocese of Calgary

Workshops: Bishop Kamani, Diocese of Ibba, South Sudan.
Everyday Evangelism - the Ven. Canon. Terry Leer.
Healing Prayer - the Rev. David Greenwood.
Speakers: Outreach in Nassau, Bahamas.

Catholic Conference Centre
10307 99 St. Peace River.
Special local Hotel rates. Registration form in your parish.

synod. Check with your parish for registration details and register early. Synod is sure to be an event to remember, learn from and be uplifted by.

ID discipleship invitation cont.

Continued from Front Page.

This fall, to equip us for these good works, the Edmonton diocese will pilot the ID initiative, recognizing our God given invitation to be disciples. ID will aim to help individual parishes identify the unique gifts and opportunities given to clergy and laity in order to live our diocesan mission. ID will also aim to increase the capacity of courage and equipping in God's people, empowering us to step out in faith and be formed in the context of a missional challenge. ID builds on the good work of many previous years, as God's people in the diocese have responded to the call of God, to make a difference in the communities they serve.

The fundamental task of the Church is discipleship; to form people in the likeness of Christ. As Bishop Jane Alexander says: “The church is about the business of knowing Christ and making Him known.” In order to do this, as part of ID we will be piloting some practical ways to help each other in our journey of faith.

In helping one another, we must have the faith to believe that God really is calling us. ID will include a gifts-based approach to developing disciples. We believe that each of us has been invited by God to our own specific vocation and mission and the program will help discern gifts.

A celebration of our mission to proclaim the gospel, make disciples

and further the kingdom of God is being developed and piloted as part of the ID ethos. Mentors will assist laity in discerning their gifts and talents given by God, as well as the opportunities to use those gifts and reflect upon their use. The desirability of mentoring relationships is widely recognized in the sporting and commercial worlds. Working with people, one on one, to aid development and performance, is now viewed in many aspects of life to be a good thing. No aspiring athlete, of any discipline, would dream of seeking success without the aid of a coach. The mentor/coach will listen carefully, ask pertinent questions and reflect back honestly.

As part of ID we want to tell stories of what God is doing in us and through us as we take the opportunities to use our and develop our gifts. We believe this will inspire others to develop in their faith journey, and one person taking a step of faith will cause a ripple effect, as others are impacted for Christ and the kingdom of God is expanded. As Paul says to the church in Corinth:

“For there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good” (1 Corinthians 12:1-3).

Edmonton diocese launches new website



SYNOD OFFICE STAFF
Diocese of Edmonton

On August 1, the Diocese of Edmonton launched a new website. We hope that you are more easily able to access information about people, parishes, events, mission and discipleship in the diocese.

We are excited about our new “Find-a-Church” and “Bible-in-a-Year” features. If you have visited the site, you know that our Events Calendar and weekly Synod Scene e-newsletter also have a new look.

We no longer host RSS feeds. Instead, Synod Scene subscribers have an option to be notified when there are new posts to the various sections, including indigenous news and events.

We have created “Parish Info” and “Clergy Info” toolboxes at the top of our Home Page to house and organize information and documents

specific to these areas.

Our intent was to create a user-friendly website that appeals to members of the diocese as well as any member of the general public seeking general information about the Anglican community and growing in faith.

We have redesigned our site with the assistance of Church OS (www.churchos.com) a BC-based company that works with Anglican churches and dioceses across Canada. They will provide ongoing technical support and hosting services.

Some time ago, we reached out to parishes and ministries for information about their communities and programs. We have also enlisted the help of Synod Office staff and ministry leaders to keep the website current and dynamic. Please visit us at edmonton.anglican.org and send your feedback to churched@edmonton.anglican.ca.

"Big Fall" widens Athabasca's gateway to mission



BISHOP FRASER LAWTON
Diocese of Athabasca

I think it would be appropriate to call these next few months "the Big Fall." We are trusting God the year ahead will be an exciting and powerful time. We held our annual Youth Daze conference at the start of September, with guest speaker Jane Jones. Later in

the month, we will welcome the Rt. Rev. Wilson Kamani from the Diocese of Ibba. Tickets are booked, and plans are underway for his time with us. I encourage you to take the opportunity to come and spend some time with him when he is in your community or nearby. He will share with us about life in South Sudan, life in the Diocese of Ibba and what God is doing among the people there. A small group of us from Athabasca are already preparing to go to South Sudan later this

year to celebrate as they open their new cathedral. Please keep these plans in your prayers!

We are also continuing to refine our agenda and plans for our diocesan synod, October 12-15, in Peace River. Once again, the focus of our time together is going to be on building up our people and parishes. You may have seen Peter Clarke's article on page 2 of *The Messenger*, and we are looking forward to an exciting slate of speakers and workshops. All members of the diocese are welcomed and encouraged to attend. Congregations and parishes will see the greatest benefit by ensuring a "critical mass" of parishioners take part in the gathering. It will be full of practical suggestions and resources for people to take home and put to use.

This fall we also see a change in our personnel. We bid farewell to both the Revs. Clive and Deborah Scheepers, who have taken up new positions in The Territory of the People/APCI; and the Rev. Christine Boyce, who has moved with her husband out of the diocese to be with family. The Rev. David Greenwood is now priest-in-charge of Athabasca, and we were delighted to welcome the Very Rev. Jason Haggstrom to

be the rector of St. James' Cathedral and Dean of Athabasca. This may seem to be quite a list of disparate things, but they do all have something in common. Each of these events and each of the appointments are meant to serve the WHY of our being.

We are not simply doing these things because we are "supposed to," because "that is what we do," or even because "we have always done it this way." It is important for us to only continue in things that further the mission God has given to us. The things that we *do* do, we do in a way that serves the mission. When we became a part of the church, we became a part of what God is doing in the world, and gave ourselves to Him and to serve His purpose and agenda and ways. Each of our various committees and events will intentionally be examining its life and work in light of this so that we serve the *why* of our existence of living for Jesus and His kingdom.

The Lord be with you,
+Fraser

Ecumenical parish gathers books for Zimbabwean children



Janet Parks and Florence Shambare with some of the books they are sending to Zimbabwe.

JANET PARKS

St. Peter's Ecumenical Church, Slave Lake

When the Rev. Blessing Shambare, his wife Florence and their three children flew from their home in Zimbabwe to begin their ministry at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake, they packed all their belongings in five suitcases. There was not a lot of

room for books.

Recently, St. Peter's had a huge garage sale and Florence took advantage of the sale to replenish the children's books left behind in Zimbabwe. The next day in church, she remarked that the Shambare's church back in Zimbabwe would love all those books. There, it is up to the teachers to tell stories to engage the more than 120 children in the junior church Sunday school.

St. Peter's decided to gather books to send to Zimbabwe. We still had some very good gently used books from the garage sale and we purchased some new books for older children. Our biggest expenditure we knew would be the postage, which we paid for with contributions from the congregation and local donors who responded to our story.

Hearing that Zimbabwe schools were also short on supplies, we filled our box of 60 books with pens, pencils, erasers and pencil sharpeners. Our gifts are now enroute to Africa and may take several months to arrive. We pray all goes

well and the parcel arrives safely. Meanwhile, St. Peter's anticipates sending more books and supplies in the future.

Keep the conversation going

For decades, *The Messenger* and the *Anglican Journal* have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church.

Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, *The Messenger* and the *Anglican Journal* spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going!

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We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories (max 500 words), event notices, book reviews and photos.

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Margaret Glidden (Edmonton)
anglicanmessenger@gmail.com
or

Peter Clarke (Athabasca)
seens@telus.net

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THE MESSENGER TEAM

EDITORS

Margaret Glidden (Edmonton)
Peter Clarke (Athabasca)

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Margaret Glidden
Shelly King

PROOFREADING

Charis St. Pierre

REPORTING

Margaret Glidden
Shelly King

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2017 brings “bunch of blessings” for prison chaplain

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

For the newest Anglican chaplain at the Edmonton Institution (aka The Max), the opportunity to bring faith to men on the fringes of society and further serve individuals who find themselves marginalized due to life difficulties is a blessing.

Billy Isenor’s own faith journey began in B.C. Born and raised in Penticton, he relocated to Edmonton in 2005 as a Master of Theology student at Newman Theological College. After a chaplaincy placement at Alberta Hospital, where he completed a unit in clinical pastoral education, he began pursuing “ministry on the fringes.”

At Alberta Hospital, Isenor says he learned a lot about people with mental health issues. “I had a wonderful supervisor Barbara Meyers (a member of the Unitarian Church and fellow Newman alumni), who lit a fire in me,” he says.



The maximum security Edmonton institution northeast of Edmonton.

Eager to experience “interesting places,” he began volunteering in the inner city. Before accepting a contract with Bridges of Canada as a prison chaplain in May of 2017, Isenor served alongside Pastor Rick Chapman as a pastoral associate with Inner City Pastoral Ministries (ICPM). As part of the ICPM team, he helped lead Standing Stones services at the Gunn Centre (a men’s addiction treatment facility) in Onoway. There he met former Anglican prison chaplain the Rev. Barry Rose, who now serves parishes in Barrhead, Lac La Nonne and Sangudo.

Isenor says he “stumbled” upon prison ministry back in 2011 when, during his last year at Newman, he was asked to fill in for someone on leave from the Edmonton Institution for Women. A self-described “rebel,” his initial thought was: “Are you mad? Four walls, restrictive movement, this is totally not my personality.”

Before long, however, Isenor recognized that prison ministry fills a great need. “A chaplain’s leadership brings unity and is critical to the spiritual wellbeing and mental health of everybody - staff and inmates,” he says. “What we do goes back to Matthew’s Gospel. (Jesus asks): ‘When did

you visit me? You visited me when I was in prison, when I was sick, when I was poor.’”

At the maximum security Edmonton Institution, one of seven federal penitentiaries in Alberta, he works alongside a Roman Catholic priest to provide spiritual nourishment for all inmates.

“Many of these guys have a sense of spirituality. Whether they are Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, even Wiccan, and we help them connect to their faith,” Isenor says. “There is also a Muslim Imam who leads Muslim prayers, and Aboriginal Elders who offer smudging and teachings. Often inmates will practice a lot of different things and find a spiritual path while they’re in jail. Sometimes the teachings they’ve been brought up with don’t make a lot of sense to them and they discover a faith tradition that does.”

Isenor says fellowship and dialogue about life and faith are an integral part of the Anglican services he leads three times a week. “My services are loosely structured around the breaking of the bread. Institutional life is challenging for everyone. I set the table for people to be able to speak, to be open and to be vulnerable.”

“Prayer and a compassionate ear can go a long way. The men we work with don’t come with the best histories. They’re so entrenched in street culture and that’s all they know. We try to give them the courage and faith to walk in a different way - different ways to cope and express their frustrations



Billy Isenor

- even for five minutes. We try to show them that even though it looks like society has given up on you, God doesn’t give up on anyone. He doesn’t just disappear. He is present among all of us and He knows our heart,” he says.

In addition to beginning a new ministry the Edmonton Institution, Isenor is preparing for a new vocation as a transitional deacon. He, along with nine other members of the Edmonton diocese, will be ordained on September 14th at All Saints’ Cathedral. It is a journey he says has been made possible by a “fantastically supportive” family and church. He and his wife Dana and their two-year-old daughter Alison attend St. Stephen the Martyr parish, where Isenor serves as people’s warden. The family is expecting their second child in December.

“They recharge and rejuvenate me,” he says. “This year has been a bunch of blessings coming all at once.”

Boys’ school legacy benefits indigenous and Buye ministries

JOHN GEE
Treasurer, Diocese of Edmonton

In 1973, at the age of 12, I embarked on a remarkable adventure.

I was uprooted from the Edmonton public school system and sent to St. John’s School of Alberta, a boys’ boarding school located in what was then a remote rural area, about 20 miles south of Wabamun on the North Saskatchewan River. It was one of three schools (the others were in Manitoba and Ontario) operated by the Company of the Cross, an Anglican lay order. The curriculum was unusual. It included 1,000-mile canoe trips, 50-mile snowshoe hikes, daily chores, and much more challenging academic work than was offered by the public

schools at the time.

The school operated from 1967 until 2008. Its buildings included the original St. Faith’s Anglican Church which was moved there from Edmonton and renovated as the school chapel. Its alumni include a number of members of various churches in the diocese.

When it closed, the property was sold to Mother Earth’s Children’s Charter School, a day school with a curriculum based on Indigenous teachings.

The Company of the Cross decided to use the proceeds to establish the Saint John’s Legacy Foundation, whose purpose is to invest in individuals and groups who positively impact the world in their own community and beyond.

One of the groups the foundation has assisted is the Diocese of Edmonton. The Ezra Mission Committee is a partnership between the diocese and St. Paul’s Anglican Church which receives annual funding from the Legacy Foundation. In 2015, the diocese received \$5,000 for a planned youth trip to Buyé diocese which, unfortunately, had to be cancelled. Instead, the funds were directed to the summer youth camp in Buyé. In 2016, \$7,000 was contributed to support the bible college in Buyé and the construction of churches there. This year, more than \$8,000 was contributed to support the work of the Rev. Lori Calkins in indigenous ministry, including the Maskihkîy Âcimowin Medicine Stories project.

It has been an unexpected joy to participate in sharing the benefit of this legacy from the school I attended so many years ago.



John Gee, 13, at St. John’s School

Entering the priesthood, ordinands share stories of faith

On September 14, 2017, Bishop Jane Alexander, god willing, will ordain the Rev. Cheryl Boulet, the Rev. Donna Gauthier and the Rev. Rita Milne to the priesthood; and Sandra Arbeau, Christopher Cook, Rebecca Harris, Billy Isenor, Sheila Moorey, Ruth Sesink-Bott, and Andreas Sigrist to the diaconate. Rejoicing in this occasion, we share a selection of their faith stories. The series will continue in the October Messenger along with coverage of the ordination service. Stay tuned!

The Rev. CHERYL BOULET

I am a cradle Anglican, although I have not always been a practicing one. My family members were not avid church-goers. I do remember going to Sunday school as a child, but I do not remember going to church, as a family, much after the age of five or six. I would have to say that my active faith journey started when I was in high school. We lived on a military base and a group of us teens attended a youth group offered by the Protestant chapel. It was great fun and I met some wonderful people! Very slowly, over a number of years, I permitted the Lord more and more into my life. I found myself depending on Him more and more, and now He is completely in my life!

I have been married to my husband for 35 years and we have two daughters and sons-in-laws, eight grandchildren (ranging in ages from 16 months to 22 years old), as



well as two great-grandchildren!

In August I finished serving as deacon of All Saints' Cathedral and began as deacon-in-charge at St. John the Divine in Onoway. My time at the Cathedral was a wonderful experience. I am looking forward to getting to know my new parish, and seeing what exciting things the Lord has planned for us!

The Rev. RITA MILNE

During my confirmation (in England), at age 14, I knew God was calling me in some way. Thus began my spiritual journey. I responded by serving in church ministries, often doubting my call. But God continued to guide my life, teaching me and moving me steadily forward.

I was blessed with a loving family: husband Jim (deceased 2014), daughters Shauna (deceased 2000), and Jody (Jord), son Jake (Rose), and son-in-law Rick (Shauna's husband). Grandchildren are: Jellisa, Darien, Daylene and Bryson (Jody's children), Chelsey (Jake's daughter) and Jode (Rick's son). Jim witnessed my ordination to the diaconate and my appointment as Deacon-in-Charge at St. Patrick, Whitecourt; both pleased him greatly.

As soon as I entered the church, I knew that God had called me here. What a privilege it is to minister in this place to such an amazing congregation! Together God is enabling us to spread His love by sharing the Good News as we reach out to others in need.



I have never doubted that, in every experience, whether joyful or sorrowful, God was and is with me; preparing and equipping me for the future when I would completely surrender my life to Him. God taught me that I can trust Him as I obey His will. This journey He has called me to is challenging but wonderful. Now, as I await my ordination to the priesthood, I thank God that He has called me to do what I love, in His name and for His glory.

The Rev. DONNA GAUTHIER

I did not grow up in a family that talked about God and rarely ever attended church. The only time I entered a church was to attend a wedding or funeral.

It was after a major tragedy in February 2005, that I attended St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Cold Lake. I selected the Anglican Church because I was told that my great-grandmother was Anglican. Whenever she had a chance, she would quietly teach me about God. She passed away when I was seven, but in that short time she taught me to love God.

In 2007, my eight-year-old son and I were baptized by Bishop Victoria Matthews. It was during my baptism that I received my call to ordained ministry. With a young family and a business to run, I did not have the time to attend school immediately.

I was ordained to the diaconate



by Bishop Jane Alexander on May 1, 2016, and serve as deacon-in-charge of St. John the Evangelist, Cold Lake. God has blessed me with many wonderful parishioner and priests, who have walked with me on my spiritual journey. I am excited to continue to share with them the plan that God has for our amazing

Global Justice Roundtable

On Saturday, July 8, representatives from St. David's, St. John the Evangelist, St. Margaret's and St. Paul's, Edmonton met at St. John's to pool their wisdom and do some 'synergizing' on issues of global justice.

The discussion was chaired by the Rev. John Gee, Diocese of Edmonton Treasurer. John began by asking us to outline what we thought global justice meant and to give a brief statement about how our parishes were involved in global justice issues. It seems each parish has a different view of what "global justice" entails and, not surprisingly, parishes have developed their own way of reacting to the issues God brings their way.

A few things stood out as a result of our discussions. Firstly, engaging in social justice issues is not a one-shot, quick fix. It requires a long-term approach and the intentional development of a relationship. It also requires that we put our western expert 'we know what you need to do' approach in the waste bin and learn to listen and ask questions and then respond as we are able.

It is also important to involve youth and Sunday school children in mission activities and fundraising. One of the parishes represented in the roundtable discussion had actually had youth go on a mission.

The consensus also seemed to be that it is most effective to allow individual parishes to respond as they are led to the issues that come their way, as opposed to having the diocese organize parish resources in support of one or two diocesan-wide undertakings. In other words, a bottom-up approach is preferred over initiatives driven from the top down.

Having said that, several representatives felt that it would be very useful for them to know what other parishes in the diocese are doing so that they could exchange ideas with other parishes and share experiences. Perhaps a section on the diocesan website or some form of diocesan Facebook page would provide a marketplace for visiting and sharing, or simply periodic get-togethers might do it, as well.

Submitted by Dudley Baker, St. John the Evangelist, Edmonton

Eclectic group extends compassion to family from Syria

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

When an exhausted family of four from Syria stepped off their plane at the Calgary International Airport in the wee hours of the morning last November, their faces lit up as they looked upon a beautiful woman, her heart full of hope and compassion, waiting to take them to their new home in Edmonton.

It has been 10 years since Catherine Scott moved from Edmonton to Huntington Beach, California, to begin a new life with her husband Mike. In 2015, after news broke of three-year-old Syrian boy Alan Kurdi found drowned in the Mediterranean Sea, Catherine and her American friends began wondering what they could do to help. Catherine knew just who to call.

"We're used to her coming up with all kinds of ideas," says Catherine's mother Marilyn Scott. "She called one day and said, 'I think we can do this.' My husband Neil and I had been talking about sponsorship ourselves. We invited friends and family to join our group. We thought we might know five people who would be willing to make a year-long commitment and wound up with a core group of 10. We couldn't have asked for a better group of people. They've been fabulous."

Thanks to Catherine's organizational skills, members' roles and responsibilities were clearly outlined, and she facilitated the first meetings of the Sadaqah group (Sadaqah is an Arabic word meaning giving to others with love and compassion) remotely via SKYPE.

An eclectic mix of people that is not affiliated with any particular church, the group heard about Gail Millard, refugee sponsorship

coordinator for the Diocese of Edmonton, and approached her for guidance.

"She was great, very responsive and supportive," says Catherine.

They found a co-sponsor in St. John the Evangelist, Gail's home church, and made connections with the Diocese of Edmonton, a Sponsorship Agreement Holder. Gail also told the group about Kamal and Nadia, their son Mahdi and daughter Helen. When their home city of Homs, Syria was destroyed by war, the young family fled to Beirut, Lebanon, which was where they were living when they received an email from Catherine.

"They were so surprised to hear from us," she says of their initial email exchange in May, 2016. "They didn't even know someone had agreed to sponsor them."

Catherine took a sabbatical from her job as an international development worker, taking on contract work instead, which gave her greater flexibility to assist the family, whether from her home in California or in Edmonton, where she has been spending more time.

The family stayed with Marilyn and Neil, whom they consider their Canadian mother and father, the first few nights they were in Edmonton. One night Kamal brought out a copy of the Quran and a copy of the Bible. "Both are good," he said. "Both together."

"They have a strong desire to learn about what is important to us," says Marilyn. "They are Muslim and often ask us 'for Christians, is this important?'" Nadia attended an Easter service at St. Augustine's of Canterbury Anglican Church.

"I want to go," she said. "It's very important for Christians here."

It turned out to be a



"It was wonderful to meet you and I pray you will have a happy and safe life here in Canada," said Bishop Jane Alexander during a visit with Kamal, Nadia, Helen and Mahdi at the Diocese of Edmonton Synod Office in July. Also pictured are Sadaqah Group members Catherine Scott (left), Neil Scott, Judy Bauer, Marilyn Scott (right).

welcoming and positive experience, with Nadia exclaiming to Marilyn afterward, "Now I am famous!"

One member of the Sadaqah Group is a real estate agent who helped the family rent a duplex close to their "Canadian parents" in Capilano. Extremely "driven and anxious to get settled," they did not want to move to the north end of the city, which already has a significant Arabic population.

"We offered to help them look there," says Catherine, "but they were concerned it would impact their ability to learn English. They are very adventurous. Within three months of being here they set off on their own to a festival at Faculty St. Jean where they went tobogganing."

Marilyn says that despite a language barrier and unfamiliar surroundings, the family has adjusted remarkably well. "In the beginning they often said 'everything different here. Everything different.'"

They have learned to use bank cards and Nadia keeps a household budget, mindful of the funds that have been donated. Kamal loves to poke around at Value Village. Nadia is not as convinced.

Since arriving in Canada, Kamal and Nadia have been taking English lessons; first with Marilyn and other group members, and then at Solomon and Norquest colleges. They have been amazed by their

children's progress. In November Mahdi and Helen knew almost no English, now they chatter away to each other and their new friends.

Another member of the group, a retired school principal, volunteered each week in the children's classrooms; helping them with their readings and relaying any parent/teacher concerns. This fall Mahdi will be entering grade six at Hardisty School. He won a bronze medal with his U12 team at the city soccer finals. Helen will be starting grade three. After attending a Concrete Theatre summer camp for Syrian children, she was glowing and said, "I'm very. Very happy. This is most wonderful camp!"

In Syria, Kamal worked as a construction engineer for 15 years, specializing in welding. "He would really like to get back into construction. I think that will be the final piece to helping this family feel settled," says Catherine.

Nadia volunteers once a week at the Dr. Gerald Zetter Care Centre. "One of the pastors has said she is doing a 'lovely job of connecting' with the residents she brings down for chapel," says Catherine. "She is a natural caregiver."

Catherine and Marilyn are helping the family to become financially independent by November.

"It's that dance of ensuring they're ready to go forward on their own, but also knowing that we're here for them should they ever

need us," says Catherine, who even when she is in California, keeps in constant contact with Nadia via cellphone communication and WhatsApp.

"On a personal level, this experience has taught me the limits of what you can and can't do for someone," says Catherine. "Both Kamal and Nadia have large extended families (15 siblings on one side and 11 on the other) back home in Syria and I know that's been difficult for them," she says.

Members of the Sadaqah Group have created an ever-widening circle of kindness and compassion. Through Action for Healthy Communities, Marilyn visits several Syrian families new to Edmonton and is often now accompanied by Nadia.

"Some of the women are quite lonely," says Marilyn. "Nadia talks to them in Arabic. They are really appreciative of that connection with her."

Unfortunately, government-sponsored families do not receive the same level of support as privately sponsored families. Social service agencies like Catholic Social Services, the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers and Action for Healthy Communities do what they can to fill the gap, but sometimes it is not enough.

To find out more about helping newcomer families, or to contact Marilyn Scott about construction industry employment possibilities for Kamal, please call 780-465-1854.

Annual chaplaincy dinner celebrates pursuit of truth

SHELLY KING
The Messenger Staff

Good food and great company, engaging speakers and multiple ways to spend money – what better recipe for a successful fundraiser? All these things came together on May 3rd for the annual dinner event in support of the Diocese of Edmonton Educational Chaplaincy.

Supporters bid on a variety of items generously donated for the silent auction, including two that were literally from

‘out of this world.’ Guest speaker, Dr. Chris Herd, has curatorial responsibility for the Alberta Meteorite Collection and was able to provide samples of meteor rock for two lucky bidders to take home.

Dr. Herd is a professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science at the University of Alberta. His impressive list of accomplishments in the world of science includes a position on a NASA advisory board, which will examine rock cores collected

by NASA’s 2020 Rover mission to Mars. He is also a regular attendee and valued parishioner at St. George’s by the U of A.

The theme for the evening was “Whatever is True,” the English version of the U of A’s latin motto: “Quaecumque Vera,” which is also a reference to chapter 4, verse 8 of St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians. In his speech, Herd explored connections between science

and faith, encouraging his listeners to “let science speak for itself. Implicit in this,” he said, “is the recognition that the universe is a source of truth, alongside scripture, personal experience, and learning from each other in faith-based community. Pursuing science is part of ‘whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy.’”



About a dozen students were able to attend the Educational Chaplaincy Dinner, thanks to patrons who purchased extra tickets for that purpose.

Host for the evening and Educational Chaplain, the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, described the ministries of the chaplaincy as being “all in the service of helping others in their pursuit of whatever is true.” Those ministries include the Worship Room student supper and eucharist each week, regular Pub Theology nights, Interfaith Dialogues, opportunities for community outreach, and times of prayer and bible study, or “simply just giving out free soup or pancakes or hot chocolate when things are stressful in the middle of term.”

Supporters raised approximately \$9,000 at the dinner, which is an increase

over last year and, according to Sharman, “will make a tremendously valuable contribution towards another year of campus ministry in 2017-18.”

Since this story was first published in May 2017, the Rev. Dr. Sharman has stepped down from the Educational Chaplaincy to take on the role of Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada. The Rev. Sarah Holmström, who served as chaplain at NAIT this past year, has been appointed Interim Educational Chaplain, based out of the U of A, as the 2017-18 school year begins.



Pictured left: Scott Sharman and Chris Herd organize meteorites on the silent auction table. Above: Bidders browse through a wide variety of items donated in generous support of the Educational Chaplaincy.

Flexible ‘Certificate in Anglican Studies’ now available

The Rev. Dr. SCOTT SHARMAN
Newman Theological College

This fall Anglican students in pursuit of a ministry career will have access to a flexible and local educational option. Beginning in September, 2017, Newman Theological College will offer a Certificate of Theology in Anglican Studies.

Newman Theological College is named for John Henry Newman, a complex figure in the context of Anglican and Roman Catholic relations. Newman was an early evangelical, then leader of the Anglo-Catholic Oxford Movement, and finally received into the Roman Communion and made a Cardinal later in life. While from one angle his story could be seen as divisive, I prefer to focus on a unique bond of unity which Anglicans and Roman Catholics share in this

saintly and brilliant theologian who was influential in shaping both churches.

Newman Theological College is a Roman Catholic institution which has a long relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. Over the years, it has welcomed many Anglican students, teaching faculty and members of the Board and Senate. Our own Bishop Jane Alexander is a distinguished alumna, and there is currently a cohort of at least 10 Anglican students actively taking courses at the College.

It is on the foundation of this positive history that a next chapter in the relationship between Newman College and the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton is now being written. The Certificate of Theology in Anglican Studies is comprised



Newman Theological College, Edmonton.

of 10 courses, six of which (Introduction to Sacred Scripture, The Synoptic Gospels, Church History, Introduction to Theology, Christology, and Introduction to Pastoral Theology) are offered in common with the wider student body and taught by the core faculty. The remaining four requirements (The Anglican Tradition, Ritual in the Anglican Tradition, Preaching in the Anglican Tradition, and Missional Ministry in the Anglican Tradition) can be met by Anglican specific electives taught by local Anglican professors and clergy. It can be taken for

personal interest, or as one part of a ministry training program for various lay and ordained ministries in the Diocese of Edmonton. Students can complete the certificate on a part-time basis over two or more years, and it can be done entirely online or through a combination of on campus and online courses.

Another advantage of this program is that it can be completed alongside of other work, family, and ministry commitments. It also enables the diocese to customize ministry training that meets the particular needs of students and the church in this place and time. The opportunity for Anglican students to study and grow together alongside of those preparing for ministry in other traditions lays the groundwork for an ecumenical approach to

ministry in the future. All of these things are tremendous blessings.

The motto of Newman Theological College comes from that great description of the study of theology that is variously attributed to both St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Anselm of Canterbury: “faith seeking understanding.” May God add blessing to this sacred endeavor for years to come, for our good and for the good of all his Church.

If you have questions about the Certificate, feel free to contact the Faculty Adviser for Anglican Studies, the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, at scott.sharman@newman.edu. You can also visit the website at www.newman.edu for more information. If you want to register, contact the Registrar at registrar@newman.edu.

Base Camp 2017: canoes, hoodoos, and ghost towns too!

DR. MARK ARMSTRONG
Base Camp Director

The clouds were ominous on July 9, as 10 staff and 17 campers headed south to spend the first night of Base Camp in Red Deer. But as our bright yellow bus cruised through rain, a beautiful double rainbow was an omen of good times ahead.



Pictured clockwise from top: 17 campers and 10 staff braved the southern Alberta badlands for "Bad Donkey Base Camp 2017;" campers haunt the 'ghost town' of Rowley, Alberta; three intrepid campers survey their surroundings in the hoodoos; off in the distance, campers Adam Walker and Jed Kwaw explore Horsethief Canyon; staff member Dan Helm navigates rapids in the Red Deer River with camper Claire London; canoers take a break to 'raft-up' and enjoy the view, with staff members Leah Marshall and Heather Liddell in the foreground; camper Ian Pretorius poses with a double rainbow that appeared in the sky as the bus left Edmonton on the first night of camp.



Monday morning we unloaded seven canoes at Content Bridge and 13 camper voyageurs were ready to paddle downstream. Four base campers went ahead by bus to Trenville Park, where they picked Saskatoon berries which were shared with everyone at breakfast the next day, with enough left over for Susan (camp cook) to make a compote!

Along the river, canoers spotted bald eagles, pelicans, ducks, geese, swallows and many other birds. We had lunch in the canoes, and later successfully navigated the Backbone Rapids. Some new rocks were found, but all successfully made it through, adrenaline coursing through our bodies. Onwards we went, and towards the end of the afternoon were happy to see Trenville Park come into sight.

Tuesday morning, several voyageurs opted for the bus as a means of travel for the next leg, while one took up the bad donkey challenge to canoe! Apart from the occasional herd of cows and few visible farms, we were paddling in the wilderness, much like First Nations, voyageurs, and coureurs de bois before us. The bus-travellers had time for a hike through the Dry Island Provincial Park, took in the Buffalo Jump and enjoyed a leisurely lunch.

At Tolman Campground, we soon settled into base camp routine: waking up early to the songs and cries of birds, morning worship, breakfast, activity sessions, lunch, group activities, dinner, games,



campfire and compline. Throughout the week our campfires were a highlight. There were old songs, new songs, skits and improv, stories, and 'mugups' with cookies, s'mores, muffins and other good things.

The blazing sun out of clear blue skies sapped our energy, and as the week went on we often sought out the shade of trees. When things got too hot, our life-guard Emily was there to supervise cooling off in the river. Despite the heat, there always seemed to be lots of energy for a hike and a little exploring, though several campers



With temperatures hovering around 30 degrees Celsius, the only way to cool off was in the trees or in the Red Deer River.



found, to their discomfort, that cacti are part of the Badlands flora.

Thursday night most campers spread their sleeping bags out on tarps and counted shooting stars. It was a beautiful clear night with billions of visible stars and a breeze



to keep the bugs away. The Milky Way and several familiar constellations were visible.

Friday afternoon we went to explore Rowley, a Badlands ghost town. From there, we spent the afternoon hiking in Horsethief Canyon, and

then on to the *Passion Play* in Drumheller, which was fantastic. We sat, shaded by the hoodoos in a beautiful natural amphitheatre and watched an epic performance spanning the history of the Bible from the Garden of Eden to the Resurrection. Afterwards, we headed back to our base to celebrate three birthdays (Happy Birthday Shelley! Nice of you to share the cake with Richard and Mark.)

Saturday was another scorcher of a day. There was lots of time to cool off in the river and we had a canoe game upstream from our site. Some persons may have been splashed in the process!

Sunday came too soon. We took down the tents and cleaned up the campsite. At the beginning of eucharist, Richard blessed a stole, decorated by campers and staff, for Heather to wear. After sharing bread and wine, we posed for our final group picture, then onwards to Stettler for a pizza lunch, camp awards and saying goodbye to people heading off in different directions. At 5:00 pm we were back at the Century Park LRT, where we were greeted by expectant parents, sorted out luggage and belongings and sent everyone safely home.

And so ended Bad Donkey Base Camp 2017! See you back next year!

Rediscover the meaning *and* practice of social justice

JIM GURNETT
Social Justice Committee
Diocese of Edmonton

The prophet Amos declared, “I want to see a mighty flood of justice.”

The Church and individual Christians have a good record taking action to address the hurts experienced by many. We understand the lesson of the Good Samaritan to help those who are suffering or wanting. We have a commendable history applying bandages to wounds, necessary and useful work.

This is the Gospel call to social service often called “charity.” Without the faithful commitment of the Church in this area, life would be much more miserable for many.

But if such social service preoccupies us, we never address the question of *why* the acts of charity are needed.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly

beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar... It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.”

Good works may enable injustice, or keep us so busy we fail to see underlying issues of discrimination and greed and hate that lead to the need for social services. Good works can be paternalistic or undertaken with an unnoticed condescension, the feeling those who are more able will “look after” those who are weaker, and so reinforce power imbalances. The focus becomes individual: this refugee or that woman experiencing domestic violence. We miss recognizing broad social and systemic wrongs that are at the root of people being hurt.

We need renewed energy to explore the biblical call to change the things that cause the problems. This is the Gospel call to social justice. Justice believes there is a correct and true way for things to be, God’s good Creation, and that when that is lost there is a need to restore it.

Social justice can be uncomfortable or difficult. It may involve resisting or calling to account people and institutions and structures we have been taught to respect or obey. It may involve publicly standing with those others

are ignoring or condemning. It may involve recognizing how much we ourselves have been drawn into the values and perspectives of a fallen Creation and have lost the vision of God’s word. It may be lonely. It may lead to derision or attack. And it is hard work. It calls for time to research and educate and organize.

The Bible tells us social service is needed. But often this is linked to admonitions about social justice as an equally critical concern. Early in his ministry, Jesus quoted Isaiah that he was sent to set free the oppressed. We must not only attend to the injuries, but demand a safer, fairer world, where injuries are not disproportionately experienced by some.

Dom Helder Camara captured the tension of charity and justice when he noted, “When I give food to the poor, they call me a saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist.”

In the Diocese of Edmonton, the Social Justice Committee invites all to rediscover the meaning and practice of social justice. The Church sometimes slides gently in the direction of social service. But the biblical message offers the healthy reminder the story is only complete when we work for justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in his speech, “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break the Silence,” at Riverside



Jim Gurnett is an organizer of the annual outdoor way of the cross, a Good Friday walk raising awareness for society’s most vulnerable citizens.

Church in New York City in 1967, named the “giant triplets” of racism, militarism and materialism that continue to plague our world today. “On the one hand we are called to play the Good Samaritan on life’s roadside; but that will be only an initial act,” says King. “One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be consistently beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life’s highway. Trust compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar. It is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which provides beggars needs restructuring.”

“The Church sometimes slides gently in the direction of social service.”

Foundation rejoices in six decades of “wonderful deeds”

MICHELLE HAUSER
It has been a year to rejoice in six decades of “wonderful deeds.” These are words embedded in “I Will Give Thanks to the Lord,” the choral anthem composed in honour of the Anglican Foundation of Canada’s 60th anniversary.

The anthem is one of many commemorative projects developed in honour of this milestone in the foundation’s history. Established in 1957 to ensure a generous flow of funding for infrastructure and ministry projects, the foundation’s growing legacy of grants and bursaries have proved transformational in the lives of thousands of individuals, parishes and faith communities.

Some of these stories

have been brought together in the book *Imagine That: Dreams, Hopes, and Realities—Celebrating 60 Years of the Anglican Foundation of Canada*.

“If you want to know how Canadian Anglicans have overcome challenges in pursuit of their dreams,” says Canon Judy Rois, Executive Director of the foundation since 2011, “This book is filled with true stories of hope, imagination, and innovation.”

Indeed innovation, particularly the need for artistic exploration and the sharing of new perspectives, was the driving force behind “(in)finite: spiritual conversations in cloth,” the free exhibition at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver, featuring a number of indigenous and

other textile artists and their explorations into the realm of the sacred.

The special exhibition coincided with the foundation’s official 60th anniversary launch on May 25 and drew more than 3,000 visitors. It also reinforced the present-day reality that the foundation is about much more than “steeple and roofs” and is “branching out in support of really interesting things.”

Also part of this 60th anniversary year has been the publication of *Children’s Prayers with Hope Bear*, an illustrated book featuring prayers for seminal moments in a child’s life, everything from starting school to dealing with grief and loss. Canon Rois says, “Helping children find words for their prayers” is an important

next step in the Hope Bear ministry, which has gained in popularity as part of the Foundation’s “Kids Helping Kids” initiative. And there’s more! Click on Anniversary on the website and you’ll find a short video that highlights the diversity of ministries the foundation supports across the country. There’s also now a beautiful neck tie and silk scarf available through the AFC store.

Canon Rois wants parishes and individuals to see the foundation as a “powerful resource pool” that grows and deepens alongside a sense of collective responsibility for ministry. “The best way to make a big difference from coast to coast to coast is for every parish to give something to the foundation

every year.”

What’s next for the foundation? Continuing to inspire generosity and creativity within healthy, vibrant faith communities, from coast to coast to coast and generation after generation, by actively engaging Canadian Anglicans.

It’s safe to say that helping bring more ministry dreams to life will be top priority for the foundation for the foreseeable future - for the next 60 years at least.

For more information or to order copies of any of the foundation’s 60th anniversary resources, please visit

www.anglicanfoundation.org/60th or call 416-924-9199 ext. 244.

Keiskamma Trust partnership improving South African lives



DOROTHY MARSHALL
Diocesan Representative
PWRDF

Do you ever have the feeling the world is “going to hell in a hand-basket?” These days, I’m afraid I have stopped my breakfast ritual of reading the online news. All the negative reports tend to be disheartening, and not a great way to start my day.

As part of my mission to focus on “good news,” I would like to share a positive success story, I stumbled upon when someone asked why we were ending our funding of the Keiskamma Trust project in South Africa. I was familiar with this wonderful project, which PWRDF has been involved with since 2007, to help improve the lives

of people living with HIV/AIDS.

According to Zaida Bastros, who is in charge of the PWRDF Development Partnership Program, PWRDF began to work with Keiskamma Trust during the height of the HIV crisis in South Africa. At the time the South African government was in full denial about HIV. Since then, however, a lot has changed. The government has set up social programs to provide monthly government grants to people living with AIDS and HIV/AIDS orphans. Patients have access to free antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) and social support. PWRDF is very happy with the level of government engagement, and we believe that we contributed to these happy outcomes through our support of Keiskamma Trust, advocacy work and funding of other South African organizations.

PWRDF submitted a five-year, two-million-dollar Keiskamma Trust proposal to Global Affairs Canada and was approved in 2011. PWRDF funded approximately 30% of the total budget. The project ended in June, 2017. In

addition to funding project activities, PWRDF also provided funds for two vehicles to allow Keiskamma Trust to transport patients living in remote villages. Overall, it was a very large project and throughout the years Keiskamma Trust received substantial support from PWRDF, far more than any other HIV/AIDS project that PWRDF funded in South Africa. In 2011, Keiskamma Trust also informed PWRDF that this funding would allow the project to become sustainable by June, 2017, as they would be in a position to transfer all health-related activities to the government. The project included initiatives such as youth resources and education, music and arts programs and hand-sewn fabric products which are available for purchase online.

After 10 years of support, the objectives set at the beginning of the Keiskamma Trust project have all been met. While we know that the needs are still there, we also believe that



PWRDF support of the Keiskamma Trust has helped improve the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

Keiskamma Trust is now stronger. There are a number of donors that continue to support their work and they are also receiving funding support from the South African government.

Partnerships are discontinued only after careful assessment by PWRDF. Several factors are considered, including: project goals and objectives, country’s economic situation, government response to the needs of its citizens, length of PWRDF presence with partner/country, and the partner’s ability to source funding. According to Zaida, South Africa is a middle income country with a reasonable social safety net when compared with most countries in Africa where the needs are far greater.

Providing support for people to improve their own lives and communities sounds like a “good news” story to me, and I am happy to be able to share this successful project with you. If you would like to learn more about the work of PWRDF and read more uplifting stories about how projects have changed lives, please check out our website at www.pwrdf.org. You can also donate to support this worthwhile work on our site, or through your church envelope. If you are interested in sharing information about this work in your parish community, please consider becoming a PWRDF parish representative. For more information, contact your rector or Dorothy Marshall at camfarm@syban.net.

Everyone Welcome at Auggie’s Cafe in Spruce Grove

On July 4, nearly 140 community guests dined on barbecued hamburgers and hotdogs at Auggie’s Café in Spruce Grove.

Members of St. Augustine’s Parkland Anglican Church started Auggie’s Café six years ago and have been providing free lunch every Tuesday (with few exceptions) ever since.

“This is Christianity in action,” says Auggie’s Café Coordinator Dianne Brown. “This is the purest form of serving our community.” Auggie’s Café began as an outreach of the parish and is now run by a network of 17 ecumenical and community relationships that fund and support the ministry, including 160 volunteers, 60

of whom are core members.

Belinda Watling (second from left), a member of the Spruce Grove Alliance Church, has been serving regularly at Auggie’s since praying that God would show her opportunities to “do something bigger than myself.” Not long after leaving her job, she spotted an article about Auggie’s Café in the local paper.

Some guests come to Auggie’s for their only meal of the day, while others come to socialize, and all are treated with dignity and respect. “Everyone is welcome here,” says Dianne.



Bob Coates

When the Rev. Joanne Webster became rector of St. Augustine’s Parkland parish three-and-a-half years ago, Auggie’s was welcoming an average of 60 guests each week. Now, the church prays it has enough space to accommodate everyone.

“Auggie’s is a diaconal ministry connecting church to the world and the world to church,” says Joanne, who in addition to providing pastoral support to adults, is always looking to invite young participants to an upcoming camp or Vacation Bible School. “We welcomed several kids from Auggie’s to our Easter Camp,”



she says.

Oil distribution company Chris Page and Associates Ltd. has been an Auggie’s Café supporter for five years. Three members of the company were flipping and serving burgers at the barbecue. Eighteen-year-old Teri Kennedy-Flynn was having an “absolutely amazing time” busking tables and serving refreshments. “I met Dianne at the Rotary Club year-end event and she mentioned she had a volunteer opportunity

I might be interested in,” said Teri, who is president of her high school interact club. “This is a very positive and friendly environment and I can’t wait to come back.”

St. Augustine’s Parkland member Betty Squance (above right) has been a familiar face at Auggie’s since the first planning meeting. “You always go home feeling better than you did when you walked in the door,” she says.

Partners against poverty: sane approach to fighting insanity

MATT CHAFFEE

St. John the Evangelist
Diocese of Edmonton

The May edition of *The Messenger* included an article on an 'End Poverty Boot Camp' presented by Food for the Hungry Canada and hosted at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Edmonton. As that article was going to print, a team from St. John's was making its way to Haiti to visit the villages of Cachiman and Mategouasse, with whom the church family has partnered through Food for the Hungry. Following is a description of that visit, written by Matt Chaffee, a

member of the St. John team.

See the full version of Matt's article on the FH Canada blog (posted July 4, 2017): <http://blog.fhcanada.org/2017/07/a-sane-approach-to-fighting-insanity.html>

The rain in Haiti is intense. As we make our transition through the armed checkpoints that divide the Dominican Republic and Haiti, our first picture of Haiti is a land in deluge. We pass broken gutters rushing with garbage, and naked children bathing in the runoff. The rain is a regular presence

for us on our trip, and a difficult symbol to interpret, simultaneously watering crops and bathing children while it aggravates ground water contamination in a community without latrines.

We're met at the border by the Food for the Hungry team coordinator, Jean-Marie. His sincerity and passion for his mission are immediately apparent, as is his excitement to receive visitors. He tells us that his region only sees about three team visits in a year, and the days when the teams arrive are his favourite.

Our preconceived notions – or at least my pre-conceived notions – of international relief work are shattered as we meet the rest of the Belladere team. Every member is a Haitian national, and well trained in their respective fields. All are able to passionately explain how their specialties affect change in this, their home country. It's a powerful testimony to the model of relational change from within.

Despite their close



The Food for the Hungry team in Haiti provides local expertise.

proximity to Belladere, the region's urban centre, the tiny villages of Cachiman and Mategouasse are distinct, with individual ways of responding to the needs of their residents. It's in the recognition of these distinctions that we see the strength of the local FH team. Blanket solutions are eschewed in favour of collaboration and discernment. Rather than throwing more money at problems, we see an organizational leadership culture that insists that community members demonstrate ethical resource management with the small things before the large: chickens before goats, goats before cows. It's hard not to see the close parallel to

Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked (NIV)."

The fruits of this approach are readily apparent. We witness community gardens overflowing with seedlings under the stewardship of local agricultural leaders taught by the FH specialists. Our team is impressed by this work, but also troubled by the handful of communities that still struggle with the implementation steps. Jean-Marie tells us, "Growing things is easy. The hard part is changing people's minds."

Continued on page 12.



The St. John's team poses with locals and FH team members around a key-hole garden, a project that has met with success in helping villages become self-sustaining.

Barrhead nurse spends a month with medical team in Uganda

CAROL TYRRELL

St. Mary Abbots
Diocese of Edmonton

The May edition of *The Messenger* reported that at the end of March, deacon Carol Tyrrell RN, from St. Mary Abbots, Barrhead, would join a team from Medical Teams International (MTI) to work in a refugee camp health facility in Uganda for a month. MTI is a Christian-based, non governmental organization that works in areas of the world with sub-optimal healthcare due to disasters; be they natural or man-made.

Uganda is a land-locked country, 1/3 the size of Alberta with a population of 37 million. There are 584,000 refugees living there, more displaced persons than the whole of Europe has taken in. Uganda views the presence of refugees as an opportunity,

rather than a burden. Each family is given a plot of land to grow food. They are also allowed to start businesses, get employment and have the same access to services as native Ugandans.

This does not mean that there have not been problems; some farmers complain that the refugees drive the amount they receive for their produce down, the educational system is becoming even more crowded and healthcare is over stretched.

Medical Teams International has been given the task of providing healthcare, in particular, to newly arriving refugees. Malaria is rampant, particularly among small children, and can cause dehydration and death. The deadly

killers of children today; pneumonia, malaria and diarrheal diseases, are responsible for more than 50% of all under-five deaths annually in Africa. One study showed 37% of all children diagnosed with malaria also had pneumonia, which makes recovery that much harder.

For the month of April, I worked as a nurse in a refugee settlement in the southwest of Uganda (50 km from the Democratic



Up to 100 outpatients are seen each day at the Nakivale Refugee Camp.

Republic of Congo). I spent the first few days with the traditional midwives; lovely girls who have been trained to give pregnancy care, delivery and after pregnancy care to both the mother and their newborn. The care was excellent, but the facilities were less than optimal: the new maternity wing only had room for about 20 beds, the lighting was poor and the mothers had to bring their own sheets and food. I was able to donate enough money to get the lighting fixed up but when I left it still had not worked its way through the bureaucracy.

Until recently, the infant mortality rate was 162 deaths per 1,000 births, and Ugandan mothers used to have six babies on

average. The mortality rate has decreased to 61 deaths per 1,000 births. In contrast, the infant mortality rate in Canada is 4.5 per 1,000 births. With an improved probability of their babies surviving infancy and living past five years old, Ugandan mothers are now more likely to use birth control.

During our last two-plus weeks in Uganda, we worked with clinical officers in the Nakivale Settlement and saw up to 100 patients a day! We sometimes dealt with conditions I had only read about. We also treated ills more common to us, such as arthritis, colds and chicken pox. There was a common misconception that because we are from the developed world we can cure everything with the right pill or an injection. I had to disappoint them.

Continued on page 12.

Partners against poverty: sane approach to fighting insanity cont.

Continued from page 11.

We see how peoples' minds are changing in the community savings group that we visit. Over 30 members, almost all women, meet to pool their resources and lend to one another. We hear testimony of successful business start-ups and educations funded through these micro-lending groups. It was apparent that these incredible women were doing it, making their world better themselves. It was apparent until we asked how we might pray for them. The staggering response of "we have Jesus; he will take care of rest," reminded us that these women were not doing it alone at all.

Our team spends much of the trip visiting the children and communities that our church family sponsors. We're met in front of houses smaller than most Canadian garden sheds by children dressed in their finest to meet their "god parents."

The children are shy at first, that is, until we start kicking soccer balls around with them. We then recognize that these children are just like our own: they come alive in play. They scream with delight as they easily outmaneuver their visitors, and we laugh at the absurdity as we fall flat in the mud trying to defend against our fleet-footed attackers.

Despite our busy schedule in Haiti, our team is left with time to reflect. Mornings of prayer are book-ended by evening sessions sitting on the terrace



Above: Matt Chaffee shares pictures of his home and family with his sponsored child. Right: Football is an effective international icebreaker.

of the house in Belladere, where we run through the various encounters from the day and prepare for our eventual return to Canada.

We leave Haiti feeling thankful and uplifted. We see needs being met, and we're thankful to have borne witness. At the same time, we're humbled by Jean-Marie's interpretation of our visit, "These people are so thankful that you have travelled so far just to be with them, to talk with them, to play with them. It helps them to feel



human." It seems ludicrous to us that people could be so affected by our visit. It seems insane, but this is an insane world in which this half of a tiny island (so close to unimaginable wealth) struggles to meet the most basic of needs. It was amazing to see a group of people working to meet these needs as they walk out Deuteronomy 15:7, "If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tight-

fisted toward them (NIV)."

We are awed by such a sane approach to fighting insanity.

Matt Chaffee lives in Sherwood Park, Alberta where he works as a firefighter and paramedic. He is a father to four boys: Judah, Caleb,

Gabriel, and Seth; and has been married to the love of his life, Melissa, for 15 years. The Chaffee family attends St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Edmonton. The Chaffees have been sponsoring a child in Haiti for the past three years, and have begun sponsoring a second child since the trip in April. Judah and Caleb, the two oldest boys, are proud to be the primary correspondents.

St. John the Evangelist plans to fulfill its commitment to walk with the communities of Cacheman and Mateguasse until 'graduation' when they become fully self-sufficient. This will mean regular, hopefully yearly trips, sponsoring children, meeting and praying together monthly in the St. John's 'Friends of Haiti' group and giving through the Food for the Hungry Gift Guide. For more information or to attend a meeting or fundraiser please contact St. John's at (780) 434-8955.

Barrhead nurse spends a month with medical team in Uganda cont.

Continued from page 11.

The Ugandan way of life is healthy for many reasons: smoking cigarettes is practically nonexistent and a diet of homegrown vegetables and fruits, as well as walking everywhere, means few Ugandans experience high blood pressure and obesity.

Each person had a unique story to tell. I will share some of them which may give you an idea of life in a war zone. I spoke to a 12-year-old boy who tested positive for malaria. He told me he had been living in Congo with his parents and younger siblings when, one night, a gang of either rebels or government soldiers came to his village, called all the men out, and took them away, probably to shoot them. His mother objected and the men shot her. The boy then ran as fast as he could into the jungle where he hid until things

were quiet. When he went back, the only people left in his village were dead, so he walked for four or five days through the jungle to the Uganda border. This was three years ago and the boy was only nine at the time. He has no idea where any of his relatives are and has been living with "an old lady," helping her out as she has no one either.

Another young man came to me because his hands were shaking. I tested his neurological signs and asked him a few questions. Myself and the clinical officer felt that he was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. His English was very good so he told me the story of how he got to the refugee settlement. He was at his village, working in the fields, when a gang of rebels arrived and herded all the men into a line. They shot every second man and, when



Carol Tyrrell with clinical officer from Medical Teams International.

they reached the next one in line, asked "which hand?" When a man answered "left," the rebel leader would chop off his left hand with a machete.

My patient, who would have rather been shot trying to escape, than waiting to be mutilated, ran into the jungle and kept running until he could not hear anyone coming after him. Eventually he made it to the Uganda border and to the Nakivale settlement, but his hands started to shake once he was safe. We referred him

to a PTSD group that met at the settlement.

We treated another teenager with a big keloid scar on his back. He had been in his hut when it was set ablaze and he was unable to get out before the roof caved in. We referred him to a dermatologist in a bigger centre.

We saw people with infected cuts and gunshot wounds, lots of skin conditions like scabies, and very sick people who we admitted to the small hospital for IV rehydration or antibiotics. I saw four people with active TB, three patients with HIV/AIDS, patients with syphilis, parasites of all kinds and many cases of malaria.

When the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) runs short on money, food rations are cut. Mothers go hungry in order to feed their children. The shortage is

usually caused by nations promising funds and then not writing the cheque. This happens quite a lot.

Uganda has taken in 1.3 million refugees. About 3,000 come each day mostly from South Sudan due to famine and war, and from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where the fighting is the fiercest.

Uganda views the refugees as a resource. For the most part, these people are resourceful, hardworking, tough, very motivated and very thankful to be safe.

Each refugee is given food, a mosquito net, a machete, a jerry can, clothes, a small plot of land for growing food, health care, and the opportunity to build a shelter and go to school for primary education.

This trip was an amazing experience. I am very thankful to go and be of some help to people.

Our Context: why people aren't coming Sunday mornings



The Ven. RICHARD KING
Archdeacon for Mission and
Discipleship
Diocese of Edmonton

So here we are! Back at it after the summer break. I hope it was a good summer for you.

We have spent the last few articles looking at our missional context. We saw the importance of being welcoming and having a wide open 'front door' in our churches, while ensuring

we close the 'back door,' too. But what about the vast majority of the population who will not come through our doors at all? How can we connect with them?

To help aid us with this conundrum, a piece of research came out in the *Mission-shaped Church Report* (2004). This report swept across the Anglican Communion and, although somewhat dated now, it still contains good information.

The research sought to identify those who no longer come to church. It described the situation using four headings.

The Fringe: These are the people who come along to church occasionally; Christmas, Easter and perhaps several other times during the year, but no more!

The Open De-Churched: These are the ones who used to come but have stopped. Perhaps this is due to a change of circumstance such as their work schedule, or they've had a new baby, that makes getting to Sunday morning worship too much of a challenge. Perhaps they have moved to a new neighbourhood and simply haven't found a new church home. These are open to return given the right event at the right time or on the right day that works for them.

The Closed De-Churched: These people have stopped coming to church and for very serious reasons. Perhaps a crisis of faith, disillusionment with church, an argument with a church member or the priest; something has resulted in

hurt, pain and withdrawal. Going back to the place where the *hurt* was caused is unlikely without at the very least a great deal of love, care and reconciliation.

The Un-Churched: This is exactly as described. It's not that they choose not to come to our services. The idea simply does not occur to them. As each day goes by in our post-Christendom world, so the percentage of the Unchurched grows. I can perhaps illustrate this most simply by describing how I met someone last year who came along to a Christmas pageant. It was her first time in a church. It was the first time she had ever sung Christmas carols. She was 27 years old!

So when we think about arranging our church services and events in the

hope that people will come, who exactly are we hoping will arrive at the door? The Unchurched won't – why would they? The Closed De-Churched won't, for they are hurt. The Open De-Churched won't if our services are the usual Sunday mornings. This leaves just The Fringe.

So as we can see, the old ways will not work anymore with the vast majority of people. This is why we must move toward ensuring that our discipleship is truly a fully missional discipleship in which each of us is living our faith and engaged with our family, friends and community. It is essential, along with exploring more inventive ways of being Church. We'll pick this up next month.

May God bless you richly,
Richard

Alan Hirsch "Brilliant Utterly Brilliant"

The clergy of the Edmonton diocese gathered in May for their annual conference at Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert. The conference was led by mission-strategist Alan Hirsch, author of *5Q: Reactivating the Original Intelligence and Capacity of the Body of Christ*. The Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship, shares his perspective on the gathering:

How do I describe the Clergy Conference? Three words come to mind: brilliant! Utterly brilliant! We were most blessed as a group to have Alan Hirsch as our keynote speaker. It is not an exaggeration to say that Alan is one of, if not the, foremost thinkers about what it means to be Church now that we are no longer in Christendom in the west. By that we mean that Christianity is no longer the dominant world-view in our culture, as it was for centuries.

Alan has been researching and sharing

his research for well over 10 years; as he said to us more than once: "I don't have an unpublished thought." Such is the global scope of Alan's ministry (from Edmonton he made his way to Israel) that I was frankly astonished when I heard we had arranged for him to come. So it was truly a gift to have Alan with us.

Alan shared about the challenge we face and how we often try to address the problem of a post-Christendom culture, still using Christendom methods. In order to recalibrate the Church to be a truly discipling Church in these rapidly changing times, we need to go back to Jesus and allow who He is and what He calls us to do to inform our mission and thus shape the way we are as Church. It was a feast of wisdom and practical suggestions of a kind that will take us some time to digest and apply.

You can catch an intro to Alan's thoughts in the YouTube clip "Alan Hirsch:



Alan Hirsch

Jesus is Lord," or start thinking through these crucial issues for yourself by reading his foundation book *The Forgotten Ways* (2nd ed.).

Since the conference in May, more than a dozen clergy have expressed interest in meeting together to follow up on the ideas Hirsch presented, in order to begin to 'digest and apply' them.

Please contact the Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship, if you are interested in knowing more.

Reluctant Evangelists soldier on in Valleyview Parish, Diocese of Athabasca

In follow-up to the Discipleship Training Session on Evangelism provided by Archdeacon of Mission Development Terry Leer, St. Anne's Anglican Church in Valleyview had its first meeting of the Reluctant Evangelists on May 10. Clockwise from the left they are Lin Cole, George Howell, the Rev. Rose Howell, Lewis Watson, Jean Carter, Sherry Watson and Liz Gordon.



Two new evangelists have already joined the group and were given a verbal summary and the highlights of Archdeacon Leer's course by other members.

The group plans to meet monthly, sharing the opportunities for evangelism that God provides, as well as the challenges and successes they experience. They will also study a section of the Gospel. "We agree that to be a source of overflowing love and for evangelism to come naturally, disciples must have a clear understanding of Jesus' teachings. The transformation from Reluctant Evangelist to Enthusiastic Evangelist happens by being in a strong relationship with God by reading scripture regularly and by loving one another."

Story and photo submitted by Anke Jadatz

A reflection on 40 years of the ordination of women

Throughout 2017, in honour of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church of Canada, we will highlight the lives and ministry of women who have been ordained as priests in the Diocese of Edmonton. This month features a reflection by the Rev. Alex Meek.

I arrived in the Anglican Church as the result of a search for a church where my gifts would be welcomed and I might have opportunity to serve as a pastor.

I was raised in a different Christian tradition, a tradition that opened me to faith and a tradition for which I am very thankful. It was, however, also a tradition that believed women should not serve in pastoral leadership. Not being aware of all the politics that can, and do, exist in the church, I began my study of theology relatively unaware and unconcerned about the restrictions that would be placed on my role should it be discerned that I was called to ministry in the church. I was 19 and at first, I wasn't even sure that I wanted to work in the church anyway, so I wasn't really worried.

I studied and served the church in a variety of roles as a student, and as I did I began to be affirmed by teachers and pastors in a call to ministry. At one point, a mentor took me aside and said to me that he had no idea what it would cost me to be part of the church, and that he was sorry for the pain he thought would follow my path, but that he believed I needed to be in pastoral ministry despite the restrictions in front of me. I took this, and other affirmations, very seriously because they came from those who should not, by their own understanding of scripture and tradition, have seen in me the calling that they did. As I continued my studies, I continued to work through a discernment process within this community and what became very clear was that my heart was to work within the church but that I would not be able to stay within my own tradition in any positive way if this was actually what I needed. And so I began to look for a new church community that I could



The Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman and the Rev. Alex Meek with their sons Felix and Elliot.

call home.

Newly married, Scott and I began attending an Anglican Church that had a female priest as the associate. It was incredible for me, not that she was serving behind the altar, but that there wasn't an explanation consistently made for why it was okay for her to serve. She just did. She preached. She celebrated communion. She visited us in our home as new members of the community. Just like that. As if it was nothing. Living out her call did not make her a problem, or even a hero. From what I could see she was called and simply affirmed in that call. For someone who had had to debate (and I am no good at debate), and argue (also not a strong skill of mine), and study and pray and study, and question whether or not women could be called to ordained ministry, this was amazing for me. It was pure gift.

It took me time to learn the language and the tradition, but I had found a new home in the Anglican church, where, if I was called to be ordained, being a woman wouldn't be the deciding vote. And I was so glad. On my ordination retreat I prayed that God would help me be certain that this was okay. Because still there was a fear in my heart that my desire to

Female Priests of the Diocese of Edmonton
Ordination Dates:

2004: Stephanie London, Emma Vickery, Sheila Hagan-Bloxham, Ann Marie Nicklin
2005: Madeleine Urion
2006: Susan Oliver, Elizabeth Metcalfe
2007: Lori Calkins, Colleen Sanderson, Joanne Neal (vocational deacon)
2008: Joanne Webster
2009: Chelsy Bouwman, Robyn King, Alexandra Meek, Donna Willer



Watch upcoming issues of *The Messenger* for reflections from women ordained after the year 2009.

serve the church in this capacity might not be right, and what I heard from God so clearly on that day was that I had questioned, and been afraid, and studied, but that I had never simply thanked God for this call on my life. And so today I am thankful. I am thankful for those who were courageous enough to break the tradition, and to see and affirm the vocation of women.

I am thankful for those who affirmed my own gifts when it would have been easier to remain quiet. I am so very thankful for the other women in this diocese, and in the broader church who have served as mentors and colleagues in ministry and I am thankful for the gift to serve in the church.

I am the fourth consecutive female rector of St. George's. I am not sure if this is a record but my guess is that it must be close. Forty years of ordaining women has not made everything right in the church, and I am well aware now of the politics that still surround this decision. But I give thanks today for my community, and for this church, that sees that there is work to be done and who trust me to do the work.

Alex Meek serves as rector of St. George's by the U of A and as coordinator of hospital visitors for the Diocese of Edmonton.

St. Saviour, Vermilion celebrates 50th anniversary of ordination

The Rev. ELIZABETH METCALFE
Rector, St. Saviour's, Vermilion

Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2017, dawned bright and sunny as the parish of St. Saviour's, Vermilion, gathered for a double celebration. Along with the celebration of the Trinity, we were also marking the 50th anniversary of our much-loved honorary assistant, the Rev. Aubrey Bell.

Aubrey was born in Vermilion Alberta, where his father was the town dentist. He was the oldest of four brothers and, when he was eight-years-old, moved with his family to Calgary. With a strong family history of military service, Aubrey became involved with the Cadet movement, an interest he continues to have today. It is not uncommon to be met on a Sunday morning by a snappy salute when greeting him.

After graduating from the University of



The Rev. Aubrey Bell celebrates communion at St. Saviour.

completion of the rectory, and spent his summers as chaplain at the Cadet Camp in Vernon. A move cross-country was in store for Aubrey as he relocated to Ontario to continue his ministry

in Alberta, Aubrey continued with military life in Victoria. He completed his theological training at the University of British Columbia and was posted to his first parish in Squamish. He lived in the hospital while awaiting

in the Diocese of Huron (Bedford, Leamington, and Bayfield). Around this time, while serving as chaplain at Camp Borden in Alberta, Aubrey met and married his wife Hilda.

Together they purchased a home on the Isle of Skye in Scotland, in 1983, intending it to be their retirement home. Aubrey officially "retired" in 1993. Three years later, Hilda was invited to take part in a mission to Belize and Aubrey joined her there. Never one to sit back, within a short time, Aubrey was ministering in the town of Placencia. He really enjoyed his time there, especially working with the children. He recalls how it could be challenging to try to compete with the sound of the cicadas while preaching. Aubrey describes this time as a perfect balance as they spent the winter months in Belize and summer months on the Isle of Skye, thus enjoying summer year-round.

Continued on next page.

Special Events

Four teens confirmed; challenged to be a force for change

GEN ASHWELL
St. Timothy's Anglican Church
Diocese of Edmonton

Bishop Jane Alexander officiated at the confirmation service for four teenage members of St. Timothy's Anglican Church in Edmonton on June 11, 2017.

She asked those of us in the congregation if we were about to see something incredible this morning. "Yes," she answered for us, "we are." She asked Sarah Joy Ketchum Walker, Christopher Stephen Moore, Jedidiah Kwaw and Emanuel Kwaw if they wished to be confirmed, and they also replied, "yes" to following Jesus.



St. Timothy's four teenage confirmands, from left: Sarah Joy Ketchum Walker, Christopher Moore, Jedidiah Kwaw and Emmanuel Kwaw.
Photos: Lloyd Ropchan



Bishop Jane delivered a sermon expressing God's love in creation, citing Psalm 8, and singing part of *It's a Wonderful World*: "I see the trees of green, skies of blue, I see them bloom for me

and for you, and I say to myself (the congregation joined in) – What a Wonderful World."

"Have you ever recommended a book to someone, or a restaurant or a bottle of wine?" she asked us. "So do we, as Christians, recommend Jesus to others. You can't be confirmed unless someone or a community has helped you. So, congregation, pat yourselves on the back. Now these young people are taking on their adult status. You're not just confirmed and let loose. You are now challenged to be a force for change. What differences do you see needed in the church? The congregation isn't going to say, 'We've tried that 60 years ago, long before you born, and it didn't work.' No, they're going to say, 'Let's see. Maybe that will work. Let's talk about that.'"

"This is a time for recharging our batteries. We've made our promises, let's practice what we're going to say this week: 'I saw something amazing this week!' and then we'll tell our story."

The promises were made by the confirmed and their sponsors and the church membership. The Bishop performed the laying on of hands and gave diocesan gift bags to the confirmed, and the choir sang the anthem *Here I am, Lord* (with support from a very junior member). The confirmed each

gave a letter to Bishop Jane.

The Rev. Anthony Kwaw, father of two of the confirmands, noted the joy on the faces of the young people, who are involved and responsive to their new lives in Christ.

Bishop Jane and husband Tim Alexander attended the potluck lunch following the service to celebrate this special, significant event.

St. Saviour celebrates 50th anniversary of ordination, continued

Continued from previous page.

While in Belize, Hilda and Aubrey introduced the Cursillo movement to the community which is a lasting legacy of their time there.

In 2000, Aubrey reentered "retirement" and the couple moved to Argyll, on the lake, on the Isle of Skye. The island was remote and required a boat trip to Rosay Island, to access the mainland. Soon Aubrey returned to ministry on the island serving the parish of St. Columba's, Isle. One Christmas morning, the service ran late and Aubrey and Hilda missed the boat to



The Rev. Aubrey Bell serves as Honourary Assistant at St. Saviour. Photos: Leslie Bruce.

return home, so spent a very chilly Christmas Day and night in the only accommodation available, the Youth Hostel. The hostel had been closed for the winter so they lacked many of the basic comforts, including blankets!

In 2009, they returned to the west coast of Canada, first settling in Victoria.

During a trip back to Alberta Aubrey felt a strong call to home and he returned with Hilda to Vermilion in 2011. In spite of a badly broken arm, the result of a fall, Aubrey continues to minister, serving as honorary assistant at St. Saviour's, where he provides ministry leadership and regularly celebrates communion at the Vermilion Lodge, Mannville Lodge. The military continues to be an important part of his life and he is chaplain at the Vermilion Legion.

Aubrey and Hilda have been a wonderful gift to the parish, and was a great joy to celebrate this milestone anniversary with him. We wish him many more years of "productive retirement" as he continues to serve our Lord.

St. George, Fort Saskatchewan celebrates Canada 150!

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The Anglican parish of St. George's sported its red and white colours, July 1, to welcome the community of Fort Saskatchewan to an all-day-Canada Day party. Hundreds of spectators lined the sidewalk in front of the church, conveniently located on the parade route, and draped with a gigantic Canada flag. Children had the opportunity to have their faces painted and make tissue paper pompoms to wave during the parade. On this hot, summer day, people were very appreciative of the free lemonade being served by St. George's at their corner stand. Families enjoyed burgers and hotdogs at picnic tables set up in the churchyard, before heading into the hall for a slice of homemade pie. The sanctuary was home to an array of colourful and creative quilts. For the



"People's Choice" challenge, members of St. George's quilting club sewed together pieces of red and white fabric and the results were spectacular. Motivational speaker Chris Robertson, a member of St. George's, was on hand to autograph copies of his best-selling book *To The Top Canada*. Chris is the only person in history to travel from the bottom of mainland Canada 6,520 kilometers to the top under his own power. He has since spoken to more than five million Canadians about unity and his inspiring story is also featured in *Chicken*



Clockwise from top left: Jen, Brooke and Carter Driscoll, along with St. George's rector Chelsy Bouwman, offer free lemonade to parade spectators; Sue Wilson and Sharon Taylor make pompoms; spectators chat on the parade route in front of St. George's; children love having their faces painted by Legion Padre Audrey Daley; the Canada theme wins the People's Choice Award in the Quilt Show.

Soup for the Canadian Soul.

"Our goal during these events is to be light and salt in the community and to share the gospel in simple ways that, we hope, will leave a lasting impression on peoples' hearts," says the Rev. Chelsy Bouwman, rector of St. George's. "They

will remember us for our love of Jesus and Jesus' love of them!"



Dragonfly Festival an occasion for celebration at St. Saviour's

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Every June the community of Wabamun anticipates the hatching of thousands of dragonflies on Wabamun Lake to keep the summer bugs at bay. And every June folks anticipate members of St. Saviour's Mission (AKA the blue-shirt-clad Team Jesus), serving pancakes with joyful enthusiasm, bottles of water during the parade and Country music and poetry during Cowboy Church at the Dragonfly Festival.

On June 25th the Rev. Coleen Lynch, accompanied by

her husband the Rev. Mike Lynch and a posse of musicians, strummed her guitar, tapped her red boots and partied with friends in celebration of God's goodness at Jubilee Hall.

"The most important thing that the Lord says to us today is do not be afraid. Do not fear," said Coleen, referring to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 10, verses 24-39. "Jesus always gives us what we need to live in the day we're in with the life we have... We are the only faith tradition in the universe that has a God who became one of us."

She suggested three

things we can practice in our daily lives to help us get out of bed in the morning:

1. Pray – "When Jesus went about his work of healing, he always went to pray after. When we have a chat with the Lord we tell Him what's going on in our life. It is the very ordinary things (an upcoming doctor's appointment, transitioning from a home or job, concerns about our children, parents and siblings) that we bring to God in prayer."

2. Persevere – "Friends, we have to face the life we have. It's a good life. It's a great life. But it's a challenging life. In the face

of reality, we always have hope and joy and love from the Lord." We are given the gift of the spirit of the Lord that we can face what we have to face with joy and...

3. Party! – "No matter what is going on in our life, we have an occasion to party," said Coleen who turned 65 on June 20. "Jesus went to parties and ate and had a good time. Friends, we have hope by sharing our lives with others. What better way to do that, than at a barbecue or over a cup of coffee and a muffin?"

"Will you pray for yourself or someone else? Will you persevere through

struggles knowing that God loves you dearly? And will you throw yourself or someone else a party in celebration of the gift of the life you have? Friends, when we do those three things that Jesus did, life is better. Give it a try and see."

Much to Coleen's surprise, at the service the congregation was ready to put her third suggestion into action. Team Jesus and friends had planned for her a milestone birthday celebration!

The 4th Annual Cowboy Church service concluded with birthday cake, coffee and lots of visiting.



Cowgirl braids, shiny red boots and 'Team-Jesus' t-shirts always come out for Cowboy Church; and this year - a 65th birthday cake for the Rev. Coleen Lynch.