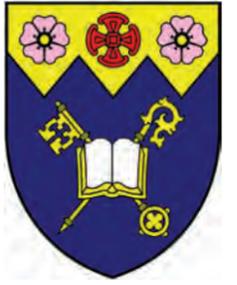


THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2017

www.edmonton.anglican.org



65th Synod: Being Made New in Christ

Diocese of
Edmonton disciples
encouraged and
equipped to seek a
Jesus-shaped life

Story on pages 6 and 7.



During the opening service of the 65th Synod, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, at All Saints' Cathedral, Dean Neil Gordon presents to Bishop Jane Alexander for collation the Rev. Canon Travis Enright (right) as Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministry in the stall of St. James; for installation the Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman (left) as Canon Theologian in Mission in the stall of St. Jean de Brebeuf. and Synod guest speaker Fr. Michael Lapsley (center) as Honourary Canon for Reconciliation and Healing in the stall of St. Christopher.

Jason Haggstrom installed as Dean of Athabasca

PETER CLARKE
Athabasca Editor

On the evening of Sunday, September 17, 2017, many people from across the Diocese of Athabasca celebrated the installation of the Rev. Jason Haggstrom as the new Dean of Athabasca and Rector of St. James' Cathedral in Peace River.

There was an air of joyful expectation as the choir, servers, clergy and Bishop Fraser Lawton entered to the processional hymn, "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord."

David Cambridge read the first lesson, Isaiah 6:1-8, which spoke of our calling by our Lord: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"

This new Dean was called by God to Peace River, when the parish of St. James Cathedral had been waiting for more than a year.

Continued on page 2.



Back row (l to r): Blessing Shambare, Janice Orr, Wayne Putman, Rose Howell. Mid row: Canon Hermann Dittrich, Archdeacon Terry Leer, Fariborz Khandani. Front row: Leon Cadsap, Bishop Fraser Lawton, newly installed Dean of Athabasca Jason Haggstrom, John Tyrrell.



Lay Ministry P.s 5 & 9



65th Synod P.s 6 & 7



CAPA Visit P.s 5 & 8

Edmonton Bishop Jane Alexander Ordains Seven Deacons and Three Priests for Mission on Holy Cross Day



Ten people were ordained for ministry by the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, 10th Bishop of Edmonton, before a Holy Cross Day congregation of 350 fellow disciples and colleagues, friends and family members.

Ordained to the priesthood at All Saints' Cathedral in Edmonton on September 14, 2017, were: the Rev. Cheryl Boulet, the Rev. Donna Gauthier and the Rev. Rita Milne. Boulet, Gauthier and Milne serve as priests-in-charge of St. John the Divine, Onoway; St. John the Evangelist, Cold Lake; and St. Patrick, Whitecourt respectively.

Ordained to the diaconate were Sandra

Arbeau, St. Faith, Edmonton; Ruth Sesink Bott, St. Faith and St. Mary, Edmonton; Christopher Cook, St. John the Baptist, St. Paul; Rebecca Harris, Holy Trinity Riverbend, Edmonton; Billy Isenor, St. Stephen the Martyr, Edmonton; Sheila Moorey, Christ Church, Edmonton; Andreas Sigrist, St. Luke, Edmonton.

In his homily, the Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship and Rector of St. Luke's Anglican Church, reminded the "gang" of ordinands of God's unconditional and everlasting love.

"Remember! You are precious to God not because of the ministry you do in His name. You



are precious to Him for you are His beloved! Beware of lapsing into thinking you have to prove to God He hasn't made a mistake in you being ordained," said King.

"He cannot love you any more than He does at this moment. He will never love you less. Let the Love God has for you overwhelm you, for from that His love will overflow from you to others." You can read the text of Archdeacon King's sermon online at www.edmonton.anglican.org

Jason Haggstrom installed as Athabasca Dean cont.

Continued from front page.

In reading Psalm 150, we were reminded of God's surpassing greatness; which was followed by Timothy 1: 1-7, which speaks of the power, love and self discipline that is given by God to those who follow Him. The Gradual Hymn was "Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpets."

The Gospel reading from Matthew 10:1-16 provided the names of the Apostles and the details of their Mission, concluding with the admonition of coming persecutions in verse 16: "See, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Proclaiming the gospel and living as God would have us do is not always an easy path, but we do know that God will be with us at all times, whatever the circumstances.

The Very Rev. John Tyrrell, retired priest most recently of the Diocese of Edmonton and former Dean of Cyprus and the Gulf, delivered the sermon. He spoke of his own call to ministry in diverse parts of God's world. In Nicosia, Cyprus he walked the places where Paul, Lazarus and Barnabas had trod, many centuries before.

He referenced the Diocese of Athabasca through Canon Smith, one of his mentors, and told a story about a simple silver bowl used as a patten holder by another Canon Williams during his mission work in this area.

He also spoke of his time with Dean Haggstrom when they were colleagues at Telegraph Creek in the Diocese of Yukon. Our sacred mission field to increase the number of people that come to know Jesus is vast. Many benefactors have laid the foundation; modelling active evangelism and sharing their joys and struggles along the way. Tyrrell likened the role of the clergy to that of a sheepdog nipping at the heels of its flocks to keep the sheep on track.

Haggstrom signed a Covenant of ministry with the Bishop before the Regional Dean of the Peace Deanery. He was then presented with symbols of his office by members of the parish and diocese. The Prayers of the People were led by Joshua Haggstrom. The exchanging of The Peace was an opportunity for members of the congregation from across the vast diocese to share God's love with one other.

The Celebration of the Eucharist was accompanied by the hymns "Here I am Lord" and "Be Still for the Presence of the Lord, the Holy One is Here." Music for the evening was provided by Elaine Leer on piano and the Ven. Terry Leer who on flute. The final hymn for the evening was "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones."

A great repast prepared by members of the parish was offered after the service. The celebration service concluded with time for fellowship. Thanks be to God.



From top (l to r): Joshua Haggstrom leads the Prayers of the People; church wardens Susan Bowling and Bill Gish, with Bishop Lawton, Leon Cadsap and Dean Jason Haggstrom.

Christians must connect with our reason for being



BISHOP FRASER LAWTON
Diocese of Athabasca

At our recent synod, we focused our energy and attention on our “why.” We did, of course, talk about things asked of us, giving time for further consideration and comment on the proposed changes to the General Synod

(those of you who were present at “Unity in Mission” will be very familiar with what this is all about), and will continue to have first place.

Our “why” is the mission Jesus bequeathed to us. We spent time at “Unity in Mission” engaging with what this is and how it is expressed in our congregations. We used the same scripture at synod as at the May conference to remind us of both the mission and of the commitment we have to it.

The Diocese of Athabasca, and therefore each and every one of its congregations, exists to carry out this mission: to introduce people to Jesus, to facilitate the opportunity to choose to live for Him and to walk with one another as His disciples.

The reality is that each congregation is made up of individual people. The identification of our “why” is not only a corporate question, but also one for each of us to consider. What is the “why” of my life? This is a significant question for us, as it shapes everything we do and say. It determines the decisions we make about our time, finances, relationships, job, etc. What does this evidence

say about my “why?” Just as the church (the body of believers) has to choose to obey the “why” Jesus gave, each of us individually has the same choice. A Christian has at the core of their living a relationship with Jesus and a resulting definition of their life to also live His mission.

Our synod speakers and presenters brought us the opportunity to reflect on our life together as a diocese and to be encouraged and equipped to live “why.” Our parishes have the same joyous task for our people. Advent, our Christian New Year, is a wonderful opportunity to take stock of the place of Jesus’ “why” in our lives as individuals and as congregations, and to choose to make this the purpose and core of our very existence.

This Advent, our parishes and congregations recommit to orienting everything to serve “why.” May the Lord give each one of us revelation and the grace to choose this for our own life and to live it out.

The Lord be with you,
+Fraser

marriage canon (Canon XXI) that will help shape our consideration of the matter. Even this consideration had the same “why” backdrop.

As always, synod also had to address various business and administrative items. We wanted to hold them in the appropriate context: our “why.”

This has been at the forefront of our thinking, speaking, and decision-making since the spring

Bishop Jane receives alumni award



Bishop Jane receives alumni award from U of A President David Turpin, and a congratulatory bouquet of flowers from granddaughter Olivia.

On the evening of September 25th Edmonton Bishop Jane Alexander, one of 21 “every day heroes who refuse to look away from the challenges around them,” was honoured by the University of Alberta during the 2017 Alumni Awards, held at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium.

“The diverse group of change-makers we honour tonight have made tremendous contributions to their communities their professions and their families,” said David Turpin, 13th president and vice-chancellor of the U of A.

“Despite their differences in background and vocation they share the compassion and drive to

make things better, to help those who need it, to improve upon the world around them. A century after founder Henry Marshall Tory demanded that the university uplift the whole people, today’s award recipients put ideas into action and use their education for the public good.”

Turpin presented Bishop Jane (*93 MEd, *97 PhD) with an Alumni

Honour Award for her leadership as the 10th Bishop of Edmonton in the Anglican Church of Canada, her partnership with leaders in the Diocese of Buyé in Burundi, Africa; and as co-chair of the Mayor’s Task Force for the Elimination of Poverty (now EndPovertyEdmonton), working with community leaders to end poverty in the city within a generation. She was recognized for her diocese’s work to further reconciliation and healing through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission: Calls to Action; reflecting deeply upon the missing and murdered indigenous women.

Continued on page 11.

66th Annual Bishop’s Fund Dinner

November 15, 2017
Mayfair Golf Club, Edmonton

Guest Speaker
Dr. Kenneth Rockwood
“Medically Assisted Death; The Devil is in the Details”

For ticket information, please email Neil Gower:
Ingower@gmail.com
or call:
587 463 7576

<p>SUBMISSIONS DUE 1 MONTH PRIOR to PRINTING DATE</p> <p>DEADLINE for December, 2017 ISSUE: November 1</p> <p>Submissions: We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories (max 500 words), event notices, book reviews and photos.</p> <p>Send to: Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) anglicanmessenger@gmail.com or or</p>	<p>Peter Clarke (Athabasca) seens@telus.net</p> <p>Read Online: www.edmonton.anglican.org/blog/the-messenger</p> <p>Find Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/anglican.edmonton</p> <p>Subscribe: www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe</p>	<p>THE MESSENGER TEAM</p> <p>EDITORS Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) Peter Clarke (Athabasca)</p> <p>LAYOUT & DESIGN Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p> <p>PROOF READING Donna Cookson Martin</p> <p>REPORTING Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p>	<p>A \$15 annual donation is suggested. Please send donations to the Dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.</p> <p>The Messenger is published under the authority of the Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton. Opinions expressed in The Messenger are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.</p> <p>The Messenger is a section of the Anglican Journal, printed 10 times a year (no issues July and August) by Webnews Printing Inc. North York, ON.</p>
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Fresh Expressions of church: more than just a facelift



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

November marks a whole year of writing these articles: a good time to recap what we have been considering.

I have been writing about our mission

context: that we are not in Christendom anymore and therefore re-learning *The Forgotten Ways* (title of the book written by our clergy conference speaker, Alan Hirsch). In Christendom the majority of people came to Sunday services and believed in God. That is no longer the case.

Thus, being bearers of the message of the love of God that Jesus has called us to share, our missional context requires that we re-learn how we share that love. It is now imperative that we 'go.' In fact, our context reminds us of a vital truth that became blurred in Christendom. To share Jesus' grace, truth and love, being a 'sent' people who 'go,'

living Jesus-shaped lives, is the calling of us all.

Last month, I mentioned the Anglican *Mission Shaped Church Report* of 2004 which highlighted the (now not so) new phrase of 'Fresh Expressions of Church.' We looked briefly at what a Fresh Expression is and is not. Now to go deeper. What is a Fresh Expression of Church?

A Fresh Expression is any venture that works mainly with non-churchgoers and aims to become church for them. A Fresh Expression is a way of thinking afresh of connecting in new ways with those in our communities. An authentic Fresh Expression of church has the

following four qualities:

1. Missional – it is intentional in its focus on non-churchgoers.
 2. Contextual – it seeks to fit the context of the people with whom it engages.
 3. Formational – it aims to form disciples.
 4. Ecclesial – it intends to 'become' church.
- The key here is that it is not seen as a bridge back to 'real' church (i.e. getting people to attend Sunday morning services), but is church in its own right.

Fresh Expressions are brilliant in helping people who have been disillusioned or damaged by the Church, or want to belong to a good,

loving community where they can explore matters of God, Faith and Christian values without having to first walk over the threshold of a traditional church on a Sunday morning, with all its customs and rituals. There are many different types of Fresh Expressions: Messy Church, Older-people's Church, Cell (small groups) Church, Cafe-Church and many others. In fact, a recent survey of over 1000 Fresh Expressions, some of whom have been in existence for ten years, has fascinating results.

How do they work? That's where we will pick it up next time.

May God bless you richly,
Richard

Letter to the Editor re: "Re-thinking Church," *The Messenger*, October 2017

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your article.

According to Archdeacon Richard King, I can be described loosely as a Closed De-churched. I sometimes swing into the realm of Unchurched, and then into the Fringe.

As a Fringe person, I don't even make it into church, but I am overcome with sudden longing for the ritual, the organ, the choir and the lovely feeling that happens with community and choir music. I enjoy the community when I haven't been to church in ages and

I'm full of anticipation, hope and wonder of the holiness of church; the memories of being annoyed by whatever it was that annoyed me all those years ago all but forgotten.

When I am on the Fringe, I often think of attending church on Sunday morning, but by the time Sunday morning rolls around, I 'forget' about my pledge to attend, and opt instead of sleeping in or meeting friends for brunch; the idea of church simply vanishes and life continues.

When I am overcome

with the sudden longing for church, however, I often turn to the internet. It is lacking. There is all sorts of church presence, but not the essence of church.

In the Anglican world, the closest I have come to find anything satisfying online is on the BBC. They have been broadcasting the choral evensong for years, and it is quite lovely and stirring. There is also the *Forward Day by Day* publication I was introduced to years ago, that I continue to subscribe to regardless of where I fall on the spectrum

of groups described by Richard.

All this to say, yes, the church must re-think church. Our world is much different than it was. There is still nostalgia, beauty, and holiness in attending church in person. However, I'm sure there are others like me who find it difficult to find the time, or the inclination (if I'm honest) to be in church and sit on an uncomfortable wooden bench for two hours on a Sunday morning.

I can hear the Sunday-dedicated frowning at my

perceived laziness or lack of discipline. Don't worry, I think of this myself.

I long for an Anglican church presence online. In my longing, I see a calm place I can read, watch, listen, reflect and share community with other like-minded individuals (without pop-up windows, advertisements and things that flash).

From the fringe, and with respect and love,

Catherine Walsh
Edmonton, AB

Sunday worship as formation for our everyday evangelists

The Ven. TERRY LEER
Archdeacon for
Mission Development
Diocese of Athabasca

I've had to rethink Sunday worship.

For a long time now, I've been totally against making Sunday mornings "seeker-friendly, newcomer worship." Sunday mornings are not about making things palatable to newcomers. We don't "dumb things down" or "water things down" just on the off chance someone without exposure to liturgy shows up. Sunday mornings

are not for newcomers - they are for the community of the faithful, for those people who already know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. I've known that for a couple of decades.

But recently, I've had to make another shift. I used to think about Sunday mornings as regenerative and restorative: you know, a kind of respite for believers from the changes and chances of this modern world during which we can recharge our spiritual batteries. Sunday worship was a kind of spiritual "staycation."

During this pause, the main goal of everything was to pour spiritual content into the brains of the believers so that they would have the spiritual strength to carry on.

Not so. Sunday morning worship is still about believers, but Sunday morning is never about content. Sunday morning is not about INFORMATION. It is about spiritual FORMATION. Sunday morning is all about mission, incarnation and evangelism. Sunday morning is the training ground for our everyday evangelists.

On Sundays we

gather, not as a collection of individuals, but as the body of Christ and the family of God. We sing - a realignment of our spirits and attitudes. We are reformed by scripture. We pray to immerse ourselves in the will of God so that we might be transformed. We share in the hospitality of God and the community. We are sent out in ministry to God's world.

There is no passive reception of content on Sunday mornings. We are remolded in the image of Christ who is the incarnation of God. We are formed and

re-formed by the Spirit on Sundays so that we might serve God as Kingdom ambassadors.

May God forgive me for all those decades of focussing on content and may He redeem all that content. May He grant me the grace to focus on the training ground of our spiritual formation.

Let's say, "Amen!" to that.

Contact Archdeacon Terry Leer by email:
amdath@telus.net

African council witness to life-giving ministry in Edmonton

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The Edmonton diocese welcomed members of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) to Treaty Six land in mid-September.

Arriving on September 16th, CAPA delegates including the Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso, executive secretary, and Elizabeth Wanjiku Gicovi, communications and finance, were greeted by Bishop Jane Alexander and Executive Archdeacon Alan Perry, who showed them some of the creative, inclusive and loving ways the Edmonton diocese is living God's mission.

The three-day visit, which included the first snowfall of the season, introduced the delegation to the Edmonton parishes of All Saints' Cathedral, Holy Trinity, St. Faith's, St. John the Evangelist and St. Patrick's, as well as the intentional Christian communities of Ascension House and St. Aidan's, Bleeding Heart Art Studio on Alberta

Avenue, and the rural parishes of St. John the Divine in Onoway and St. Augustine's Parkland in Spruce Grove.

"St. Augustine's was pleased to welcome a visit from our Bishop Jane, Archdeacon Alan Perry and visitors from Africa: Elizabeth, Canon Grace and Isaac," said rector the Rev. Joanne Webster. "They joined us for lunch at the Auggie's Cafe ministry we offer on Tuesdays in Spruce Grove, a 30-minute drive west of Edmonton. Our visitors joined about 90 other guests and volunteers for a home-cooked meal. Canon Grace commented that if they were to offer such a ministry in their own context, they would attract a few thousand guests!"

Accompanying the CAPA delegation across Canada was the Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Kawuki Mukasa, Africa Relations Consultant for the Anglican Church of Canada. Archbishop Albert Chama, CAPA Chairman and Primate of the Anglican Province of Central Africa, was originally scheduled to join the delegation, but was unable to obtain



Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa delegates visit the Edmonton Synod Office in September, presenting Bishop Jane Alexander with a banner marking the diocese's commitment to partnering in mission with CAPA. Pictured from left: Diocese of Edmonton Archdeacon Alan Perry; Charlotte, wife of Isaac Kawuki Mukasa; Elizabeth Wanjiku Gichovi, CAPA Communications and Finance; Canon Grace Kaiso, CAPA General Secretary; Isaac Kuwuki Mukasa, ACC Africa Relations Consultant; Bishop Jane Alexander.

a travel VISA in time for the trip.

Edmonton and other dioceses including Athabasca, Saskatoon, Qu'Appelle, Rupert's Land, Ottawa, Montreal, Niagara and Toronto, have committed to covenant companionships with dioceses in

the 12 Provinces of the Anglican Communion in Africa and are actively involved in the Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue.

Continued on page 8.

Edmonton Bishop commissions more than 60 lay ministers to use God-given gifts for the common good



Canon Grace Kaiso, CAPA General Secretary, preaches the homily.

A beautiful service of Evening Prayer, in recognition of the discipleship of lay leaders from parishes throughout the Edmonton diocese, was held Sunday, September 17, 2017, at All Saints' Cathedral. The commissioning service marked the end of a joyous and celebratory week that also included the ordination of three priests and seven deacons on Holy Cross Day.

One-by-one, All Saints' vicar the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda called forth from the congregation more than 60 lay readers and hospital visitors. They were commissioned to share



their gifts for the common good by the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, Bishop of Edmonton. She said that it was her "absolute delight" to do so. Assisting Bishop Jane with the medallion and certificate presentations were the Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso, general secretary for the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA); the Rev. Alex Meek, coordinator of hospital visitors; and the Rev. Aaron Parsall-Myler, All Saints' deacon.

Canon Kaiso began his homily address with a message of friendship: "In Africa, in old days, people walked everywhere; no cars, no phones. If you needed to see your friend you had to walk for miles. Hence the saying that 'The feet are the hoe that ploughs the path of friendship,'" he said.

Canon Kaiso was visiting the Edmonton diocese (his home is in Nairobi, Kenya) as a member of the CAPA delegation which arrived in

the Niagara diocese in mid-September to visit several provinces across the Anglican Church of Canada.

"Perhaps, in our times, we could say that cars (and planes) and mobile phones are the hoes that plough the paths of friendship," he continued. "Three years ago, Bishop Jane reached out in love to CAPA (which coordinates mission for the Anglican Provinces of Africa).



Continued on page 9.

Bishop Jane shows her appreciation for Patsy Cantwell, a long-time volunteer at the Cross Cancer Institute.

Being Made New in Christ - Disciples Encouraged to Discover, Develop and Share God-given Gifts for Ministry



Disciples of God from the Edmonton diocese: 216 registered delegates and bishop's appointees, as well as guests, came together on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels for the 65th Synod - a celebration of the ways we are "Being Made New in Christ" (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Bishop Jane delivered her message to Synod in three-parts: the "Bishop's Report" in the *Convening Circular*, her homily Friday evening and her sending out from St. Matthias Anglican Church Saturday afternoon.

"The commitment to a ministry of reconciliation in all areas of our mission is a call found throughout Holy Scripture and, especially, in Paul's second letter to the Corinthians," said Bishop Jane.

It is my belief that, as a diocese, we are growing more and more comfortable with our call to be ambassadors for Christ and agents of reconciliation in our communities. But when I say comfortable, I do not mean like an old pair of slippers, but I mean the comfort, security and certainty that come from knowing just who we are. As a church, and as individuals, we are called to become ever more Christ-like. When a person is in Christ they are a living, breathing extension of the Kingdom of God here on earth. When a person is in Christ they are entrusted with God's message of reconciliation.

In the midst of all the factions and frictions of that which was the church in Corinth, in the midst of all the factions and frictions of our world today, Paul says, be a new people who have reconciled to God and therefore are reconciled with one another through the death and resurrection of Jesus. In all our words and in all our doings, in our worship, service

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Quaker Isaac Penington, 1667

and partnerships locally and all around the world, we are to further the Kingdom of God by being communities where Jesus' own ministry of healing, reconciliation and new life is lived out...

We're called to a standard of behaviour and, quite frankly, that is an unbelievable freedom. In Christ we give over our desires so that we may receive forgiveness, reconciliation, hope and love. In the strength of the presence of God we can ask ourselves: when have I been kind or unkind? When have I been loving or hating? When have I been forgiving or condemning? Because, you see, everything has become new. We have to live into this newness.

We are called to a life of discipleship. To perform our ministry with love and integrity we must know who we are in Christ and we must understand our interconnectedness... I encourage you to keep going beyond the doors of the church, and to lean into the collective knowledge and experience around the diocese. Remember, Paul didn't know he was writing the Bible. He was writing a letter to a new church in Corinth that was having a bit of trouble. He was telling them how to live better. We are encouraged to live better. Each of us has been born so that God's work can be accomplished in us. It is small wonder then that the hallmark of our Being Made New in Christ is rooted in love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Cycles of violence and hurt are writ large in our human history and in our communities. In the Cathedral tonight we're surrounded by red dresses, tangible reminders of murdered and missing indigenous women. There's a chilling cycle to those economies of hurt. The

world suffers things that seem uncontrollable or unfathomable and human relationships appear, too often,

to be the stage on which much of this is played out and passed on; unredeemed and handed on carelessly or thoughtlessly and sometimes quite sadistically. It's an uncomfortable piece of how people have lived, but the church of God is called to put those behaviours away and to be new in Christ. I hope that will be the hallmark of the work of this diocese in the coming years; in our ministry with long-time Christians and with new seekers, in our ministry with those who have been hurt by the church or the systems of society that have broken them down. And, of course, it is a cornerstone of our ministry with our First Nations' brothers and sisters and in our work on poverty and housing. But, I hope, it is a cornerstone of your life in Christ. Living a ministry of reconciliation, being ambassadors for God in Christ Jesus, becoming righteous - this love, action and promise are all hallmarks of the Jesus-shaped life to which we aspire. God wants us to always look forward, to press on and to live fully in this Jesus-shaped life. We've been given a mission and ministry by Christ Himself. The message has been sent, and now it is for us to act.

During the Holy Eucharist for the opening of Synod, held September 29, 2017, at All Saints' Cathedral, Bishop Jane recognized three leaders who are shaping the Anglican community with their gifts locally, nationally and globally. The Rev. Canon Travis Enright, rector of St. Faith's, Edmonton, was collated as Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministry in the stall of St. James. The Rev. Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Anglican Church of Canada, was installed as Canon Theologian in Mission in the stall of St. Jean de Brebeuf. Fr. Michael Lapsley, SSM, Director of the Healing of Memories Institute in Cape Town, South Africa, and guest speaker of Synod, was installed as Honourary Canon for Reconciliation and Healing in the stall of St. Christopher.

Continued on next page.

Continued from page 6.

Bishop Jane said she has been in "awe" of Canon Michael Lapsley since meeting him in 2009 at an international reconciliation and healing conference in Korea. Prior to the start of Synod, she invited Lapsley and his assistant Wilondja Rasidi Williams to run a Healing of Memories workshop for members of the Edmonton diocese, who were joined by Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator for the Anglican Church of Canada. "I've always believed that reconciliation begins with one's self," Delva told Synod. "We must ask ourselves, 'what needs healing within me?'"

Lapsley revealed to Synod his own extraordinary way of living a reconciled life in Christ by showing two videos of his personal journey from freedom fighter to healer. The videos, which are available on YouTube, were followed by question-and-answer sessions facilitated by Margaret Glidden, director of communications for the Edmonton diocese, and Archdeacon Travis Enright. Lapsley's presentations were very well received and copies of his memoir, *Redeeming the Past: My Journey from Freedom Fighter to Healer*, sold out at Synod.

As a young Anglican priest, Lapsley moved from New Zealand to South Africa in the mid-1970s at the height of apartheid. It was there, as a chaplain to both white students and students of colour, he gained a unique perspective on life for people on the receiving end of racial oppression. He said it was his first test of faith in the face of injustice.

"From early childhood, I had an understanding that all human beings were created equally in God's image," he said. "Yet here was a society in which all value was derived from the colour of a person's skin, not from the commonness of their humanity."

Increasingly, Lapsley became active in the anti-apartheid movement and was expelled from South Africa in 1976. He became chaplain to the African National Congress and in 1990, three months after the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, he was sent a letter bomb by the apartheid regime. Hidden in a parcel of religious magazines, the bomb destroyed both of his arms, damaged his sight and hearing and left him with

serious burns.

"I believe in restorative justice," he said. "When something traumatic happens to us, it either causes us to diminish or to grow. It is clear from what Saint Paul tells us that reconciliation is part of our vocation as Christians. It is not an optional extra."

Lapsley returned to South Africa in 1992 and became chaplain of the Trauma Centre for Survivors of Violence and Torture in Cape Town. The centre assisted with South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and it was through that process that he became aware of the tremendous healing power of sharing one another's stories.

In post-apartheid South Africa, Lapsley saw a whole nation in need of healing. He discovered a new vocation: drawing on his own experience of trauma to promote the healing of others, in South Africa, and ultimately throughout the world. Lapsley founded the Healing of Memories Institute in 1988, to enable all South Africans to tell their stories of pain and trauma in a safe, supportive environment.

"Pain is transcendent. All of us had been damaged by our experience of apartheid, no matter what side we were on, the oppressor or the oppressed, and all of carried the consequences of the journey our nation had travelled," he said. "The entire human family is burdened with trauma of one kind or another because of what we've done, what was done to us and what we've failed to do. When the other is present and we listen to each other reverently, respectfully and non-judgmentally it can be a watershed moment on the long journey of reconciliation."

It is hoped the workshops developed by the Institute of Healing of Memories, designed to help groups around the world, including people affected by political violence, people affected and infected by HIV/AIDS, refugees and asylum workers, prisoners and war veterans, can provide a model for reconciliation and healing in the Edmonton diocese, which is home to many First Nations on Treaty Six and Treaty Eight lands.

Another model - this one for developing Christian disciples - was introduced to Synod by the Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission

There is something that is much more scarce, something rarer than ability. It is the ability to recognize ability. Robert Half

and Discipleship. In his presentation at St. Matthias Anglican Church on September 30, King told members of Synod that at the core of our learning to be Christ's ambassadors is our ID - our individual thumbprint. He described a framework for enabling us to live confidently as God's beloved people.

"People Being Made New in Christ means discovering the love of God and living in its light," said King. "Through God, Jesus gives different gifts to each one of us to serve the common good."

With the assistance of Bishop Jane and Michael Harvey, founder of Back to Church Sunday (creating a culture of invitation) and author of *Unlocking the Growth*, King used this knowledge to develop a prototype for mission for the Edmonton diocese. The ID initiative is a process of engaging, nurturing, encountering and growing modelled on Jesus' example of discipleship found in the Gospel of Luke, chapters 7-9. It will be tested in several parishes over the next few months and rolled out across the diocese by Pentecost, 2018. ID is about recognizing our God-given invitation to be disciples. The initiative aims to help parishes identify the unique gifts and opportunities given to clergy and laity in order to live our diocesan mission.

ID is also meant 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. Somewhere along the way, King explained, Christians managed to reverse the belief that right action leads to right thinking. "Do not listen to the voice that says you cannot do because you do not know. Jesus knows we learn best by doing," he said. "The living God dwells within you and you are uniquely gifted. Your church needs you. Go and live who you are."

Watch the Synod Scene, diocesan website www.edmonton.anglican.org, and the December Messenger for more news of the 65th Synod, including ministry stories and a Q&A session with Canon Michael Lapsley.

African council a witness to life-giving ministry cont.

Continued from page 5.

CAPA House is located in Nairobi, Kenya, where the recent Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue was held in June, 2017. Bishop Jane Alexander was one of 30 bishops who attended the consultation of Canadian, US, and African bishops seeking to build common understanding and respect among parts of the Anglican Communion that have been in conflict. The consultation began at the 2008 Lambeth Conference, when the Anglican Communion was split over issues of same-sex unions and larger questions of scriptural interpretation.

“From our perspective, relations have improved considerably since Lambeth in 2008, said Kawuki Mukasa, who has been an Africa relations consultant for the General Synod since 2013. “There is less preoccupation with issues of sexuality and more talk about mission and the ways we can support one another. We want to enjoy each other’s fellowship and talk about Jesus.”

“People are now able to speak openly about their differences of opinion regarding the complexity of the main divisive issue of sexuality and empathize with one other,” said Canon Kaiso.” It is important that we understand one another’s context before we respond.”

While some issues, such as human sexuality, will always illicit a strong response based on individual interpretations of the scriptures about what it means to be faithful to the Christian tradition, many Anglican primates and leaders feel there are areas, such as mission, where we can and should work together, said Kawuki Mukasa.

One of the first stops on the CAPA delegation’s tour itinerary was Holy Trinity Anglican Church (HTAC) in Old Strathcona, where Archdeacon Christopher Pappas and Assistant Curate the Rev. Heather Liddell lead their parish in reaching out to the local arts and LGBTQ+ communities through ministries like the Equally Anglican eucharist and the Edmonton International Fringe Festival. Nestled in the trendy Whyte Avenue district, the church is home to several resident artists and two community theatre groups. In August HTAC hosted 18 live theatre productions during the Fringe festival, and the parish continues to welcome artists and patrons year-round for the ArtSpirit Festival,

Concert Series, Script Salon, Open Stage, Trinity Players’ productions and much more.

There is a common misconception among the Anglican Provinces of Africa that the “Church in the West is dying,” said Elizabeth Wanjiku Gicovi. “But from what we’ve seen here, that is simply not true. It was amazing to see such active participation, especially by the young people, during our visit to St. John the Evangelist on Sunday morning.” She also noted that the space given to women to participate in church life at all levels is “exemplary.”

In Onoway, 70 kilometres northwest of the city, the delegation enjoyed coffee, tea and cake while listening to parish historian Carol Gonnet play the church’s original pump organ.

“As Elizabeth is from Kenya, they were interested in hearing about our parish’s support, over the past several years, of an orphanage in Kenya,” said St. John the Divine priest-in-charge the Rev. Cheryl Boulet.

“The perception in Africa is that churches in the west are unable to respond to unprecedented heights of secularization; that churches are dying and closing or turning into mosques,” added Canon Kaiso. “However, that has not been our experience of Canadian churches. The Edmonton diocese has shown us many exciting and creative ways of reaching out to community. We have seen vibrant expressions of the gospel and a deep commitment from leadership to innovatively and intentionally engage in mission; thus making church reverent and relevant to children, young people and broader society.”

At St. Faith’s in innercity Edmonton the delegation was offered a smudge by Archdeacon Travis Enright (innovator of the Standing Stones service which weaves Cree and Christian traditions into one liturgy). Participants were invited into a circle of trust to hear Indian Residential School survivors tell their stories.

Indigenous Ministries’ team member the Rev. Lori Calkins, assistant priest at St. Paul’s, Edmonton, described how she has helped create two public art installations to foster reconciliation and healing on Alberta Avenue.

“People shared their stories with great courage and vulnerability,” said Calkins. “They are a profound and powerful gift that can be catalysts

for tangible experiences of reconciliation and healing for all who hear them.”

“In the Edmonton diocese, the role of church as a voice for the powerless in society has developed into creative relationships between church and government; improving the quality of life in communities by addressing issues such as poverty, affordable housing and refugee sponsorship,” said Canon Kaiso.

On a tour of Edmonton City Hall, where the delegation was greeted by Bin Lau, executive assistant to Mayor Don Iveson, Bishop Jane described her role as co-chair of EndPovertyEdmonton, its commitment to ending poverty in Edmonton in a generation, and the need for faith communities to work together with government, business, educators, social agencies and people living in poverty, to implement the strategy. At the start of the year, the Edmonton diocese, with funding from the Anglican Foundation and in cooperation with the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, published the End Poverty Action Guide to share some of the ways Edmonton’s religious and spiritual communities are responding to need. The guide was designed as a catalyst for grassroots change, inspiring individuals and congregations into action.

In the culturally diverse neighbourhood of Mill Woods in southeast Edmonton, rector Kevin Kraglund shared with the delegation about St. Patrick’s partnership with the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to help immigrants and seniors overcome isolation by providing access to English and computer literacy classes.

Canon Kaiso also reflected on the Edmonton diocese’s commitment to connecting with other churches in the worldwide fellowship of the Anglican Communion. “Several



Bishop Jane Alexander and CAPA delegates Canon Grace Kaiso, general secretary; and Elizabeth Wanjiku Gichovi, communications and finance; are welcomed at the Alberta Avenue parish of St. Faith, Edmonton; and the rural parish of St. John the Divine, Onoway.

parishes are engaged in partnerships in mission and there is a strong sense of global mission and shared concern for one another and reaching in love and practical ways,” he said.

In 2009, Edmonton and Buyé (Anglican Church of Burundi) dioceses pledged to walk together in faith. Members of the Edmonton diocese and Anglican Church Women have initiated several projects to help the Mothers’ Union improve health and wellbeing in Buyé diocese. Money for 10,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets was donated to help prevent the spread of malaria. With the assistance of Food for the Hungry, a shipping container of medical supplies was sent to Buyé. The Edmonton diocese also partnered with PWRDF to build an HIV/AIDS clinic and expand the Buyé Hospital maternity ward, outfitting new beds with bedding; and worked to expand educational opportunities for members of Buyé diocese by providing Dignity Kits to help 2,000 young woman stay in school, equipping clergy with bicycles and enabling the Buyé Bible College to open its doors to new students. There is now a full complement of theological students at the bible college and more than 30 of the catechists are women.

“We’d like to express our deep appreciation for the support the Edmonton diocese has given CAPA and for our shared commitment to mission. We’re all in this together,” said Canon Kaiso.

Elizabeth Metcalfe, where were you born and what does the word “home” mean to you? I was born in Brandon Manitoba and moved to Calgary in my early teens. Since then I have lived in a number of places including Vancouver. For me, “home” means a place I am accepted for who I am and loved, regardless, in other words, the Church.

What is your favourite season? I love everything about fall: the colours, the smell of falling leaves and the sound of them crunching underfoot. I love the cool evenings and the chilly mornings that offer a bittersweet reminder of what is to come. I especially love that the mosquitoes have found a place to go to.

What is your favourite passage from the Bible? Paul’s incredible outpouring of faith found in Romans 8, 38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

What is your greatest desire? To see God’s people come together in love and harmony to give witness to the power of God’s love to transform and heal the world.

Where in the world are you most at peace? In my kayak. When I am on the water, I am able to totally disconnect from everything and reconnect with creation. I find it incredibly healing.

What/who inspires you? I am inspired by the people I minister with and to; by their faithfulness, their dedication, commitment and perseverance, and their willingness to step out in faith.

What are you afraid of? I have faced a number of challenges throughout my life and have found the presence of God to be a never-ending source of strength and comfort. I can honestly say that I have confronted some of my greatest fears and have become relatively fearless because of my relationship with God (see Romans 8; 38-39 above). On the other hand, I tend to avoid snakes.

What might people be surprised to know about you? I am a closet artist.

What is the best book you’ve ever read? Other than the Bible, I really can’t say. I am a voracious reader and tend to fall in love with whatever I have just read. I recently finished *The Underpainter*, by Jane Urquhart, and find it



The Rev.
Elizabeth
Metcalfe

AROUND THE DIOCESE

St. Saviour's
Vermilion

continues to haunt me. I love everything from Victorian novels, to Shakespeare, to a good mystery.

What is your favourite meal? My daughter’s vegan offerings. I also can’t resist a steaming bowl of mashed potatoes.

Edmonton diocese commissions lay ministers continued

Continued from page 5.

“As you are aware, Africa has a fair share of problems and challenges, so the Church has a responsibility to give refuge and shelter to those displaced by conflicts of war,” he said describing the Church’s role in supporting peace-building efforts and giving hope to those who live with questions that seem not to have answers.

“The support of Edmonton in the area of capacity-building has been invaluable,” he said. “We express our deep appreciation for this opportunity to explore how we can continue to partner in mission.”

“Your sense of mission and commitment to equipping men and women for mission and ministry is also reflected in this service - a real sign of a growing diocese equipping itself to respond to the diverse needs around it... We are living in times where there is growing skepticism about God. What He does or can do, and what we ‘Christians’ who follow Him are all about. This skepticism exists not only among the ‘unchurched,’ but also among those within the Church often living with unanswered questions that push us to disillusionment and despair.”

He explained that the passages read during the service (Peter 2:4-10) spoke very clearly into our current situation. “Peter, in his first letter, was writing to the Gentiles and Jews

who had become exiled Christians. Cut off from Jerusalem, the City of God, the early Christians were in a state of displacement, estrangement and disillusionment. They were in a crisis of faith. Peter seeks to address the critical questions of: Who are we now? What are we called to do? Where are we going? What does the future hold for us?”

“If the Church today is to overcome its state of disillusionment and estrangement; and regain its relevancy to society to become a transformed community empowered to transform; it needs to be clear about what it is and what it is called to do in Christ,” said Canon Kaiso.

“This starts with men and women who embrace Christ as the cornerstone; men and women who have experienced the forgiveness of God and His life-giving spirit.” Critical to the mission of the Church are the belief that Jesus and His sacrifice are precious and a burning desire to share Christ with others, he said.

“The missionaries that brought the Gospel to Africa illustrate this very clearly and powerfully. Consumed by the love of God in Christ, they willingly left the comfort of their homes and the security of their jobs to come to Africa; undeterred by the limitations of language and culture; nor the stories of wild animals, savage tribes and tropical diseases; nor the politics of

Why is it that 21st-century Christians appear disillusioned, as if we have nothing to offer to the complex problems facing the human family?

Canon Grace Kaiso

mission agencies.”

“Why is it that our participation in God’s mission is usually regarded a task that does not flow naturally out of our indebtedness to God’s love, shown to us every day, and the hope He sets for us in the resurrection of Christ?!”

“Unless we open our lives to Christ and begin to live our lives and serve out of gratitude, then the Church will continue to appear like an army whose supply chain has been cut while in enemy territory.”

Canon Kaiso said he was honoured to bring the homily and to be involved in the commissioning service.



Sylvia Jayakaran, St. Margaret’s, Edmonton, is licensed as a lay reader; Betty Tyszkiewicz, St. Michael and All Angels, Edmonton, is licensed as a lay reader and a hospital visitor.

More than Remembrance: service is a healing space

STEPHEN GALLARD, CD
Holy Trinity Old Strathcona,
Edmonton
with files from Shelly King

Holy Trinity Anglican Church in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church, the Edmonton Interfaith Centre and the University of Alberta's Interfaith Chaplains' Association is offering a service of Healing and Remembrance on Friday, November 10, at 7:00 pm. Hosted this year by Trinity Lutheran Church at 10014-81 Avenue, Edmonton, this service is for anyone impacted by the effects of war and conflict.

Since the early 1900s, Holy Trinity in Old Strathcona has been the regimental church for the South Alberta Light Horse unit in Edmonton. When reserve units were first established in local villages or towns, they adopted a local church, the center of the community, as their regimental home. The SALH colours are displayed prominently in the church. A handmade case displaying war-time memorabilia, was gifted to the church by the regiment.

Rectors served as regimental chaplains until the 1980s. This historic

connection had waned, though, until about six years ago, when Holy Trinity started to renew the relationship and increase its ministry to the men and women of SALH. Often that has been done through relatively simple gestures, like visits to the Officers' Mess at Jefferson Armoury, free tickets for service personnel and their families to theatre and arts events at HTAC, or inviting the troops to a barbeque.

A key element in this renewal has been the joint Old Strathcona Remembrance Day service. The addition of a Service of Healing and Reconciliation just prior to Remembrance Day, has given even more people affected by war an opportunity to share their stories. This includes the reservists with SALH who have served in war-torn regions and areas that have suffered natural disaster. Stories of the experience of war can be difficult to share, but they are powerful and telling them is healing. To aid in that healing, Holy Trinity has invited art therapists and counselors to take part in the service.

As a veteran and a member of HTAC, I was appointed as a liaison to the unit and invited to develop

and tailor strategies for drawing troops closer into the parish family from a soldier's perspective. Many members of my unit had served in Afghanistan and those who returned home were intact, but never the same. Anyone who has served in the military can apply for assistance through Veterans Affairs Canada. However, soldiers do not always have the time it takes to fill out the required paperwork and, when they do, there is always a chance their claim may be denied. Many part-time soldiers lose or quit their jobs when deployed overseas, and many are left with little or no coverage to get the help they so desperately need to keep it together.

In 2016, our parish's on-going ministry to the regiment, and to all in the community who suffer the lasting effects of war, received funding from the Anglican Foundation of Canada, which we matched with funds from our own Reach Campaign. The concept was simple. Our church would pool ministries and resources in support of troop members past and present with mental health issues, as well as their families who are often left out but are also impacted.

Healing & Remembrance Service

Friday, November 10, 7:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church,
10014 81 Avenue, Edmonton AB

Hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church and Holy Trinity Anglican Church in partnership with the Edmonton Interfaith Centre and the U of A Interfaith Chaplains' Association

Geared to helping troop members interact in a safe, trusting environment, this ministry is tailored to each individual's needs, whether social, financial, psychological or spiritual. Support varies from chatting with a priest and tickets to theatre and music productions, and even art therapy at HTAC, to access to professional counseling. A section of the plan also enables me and Fr. Chris Pappas, rector of Holy Trinity, to make monthly visits to the unit, to bond with troop members and gauge how they are doing. HTAC also hosts barbeques for unit members to meet and mingle.

Since November, 2016, a number of people have benefitted from the mental health program. PTSD is insidious and can be triggered any time after the initial trauma, sometimes

many years after it has occurred. Often it is families or loved ones who see the warning signs and do not know where to turn for help. Now there is another avenue of help and hope, one which is practical and shows God's love and care in action.

As someone who suffers from PTSD, I know the greatest gift this project provides to me and others is non-judgmental care. Regardless of where, or by whom, victor or vanquished, everyone is welcomed to the Healing and Remembrance Service on November 10. It is an opportunity to remember, be acknowledged and feel acceptance. For more information, email **Stephen Gallard: mcpl4life@shaw.ca** or call Holy Trinity Anglican Church: 780-433-5530.

Remembrance Day Prayer Service and Prayer Walk for Peace

On November 11th, people from various faith communities will gather at two special events to remember, reflect, and pray for peace in our world.

There will be an interdenominational prayer service at McDougall United Church, 10025 101 Street, Edmonton, at 6:00 pm. This is a Christian service but all people who long for peace are welcome to attend. The theme will be "Practicing Non-Violence" and will feature a short interview with two or three followers of Jesus, regarding their own practice of His nonviolent

way.

At 7:00 pm, participants will gather at City Hall in downtown Edmonton for the 8th Annual Interfaith Prayer Walk for Peace. There will be four stops on the walk. The time of remembrance, reflection, and prayer will be led by members of four different faith communities. The focus will simply be on "People of Faith Coming Together to Pray for Peace."

After the walk everyone is welcome to return to McDougall Church for coffee and host chocolate and a time of fellowship.

The prayer service and prayer walk are

sponsored by the Edmonton Ecumenical Peace Network and the Mennonite Central Committee - Alberta. We are grateful for the continued hospitality and support of McDougall Church.

There has never been a time in recent years when prayer and action for peace is more urgent. All who share this desire are welcome to attend the prayer service and Prayer Walk for Peace. For more information, please contact Scott Key at (780) 435-1628 or **scott.key@kingsu.ca**.

GriefShare is a weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we are here to offer help, tools, and encouragement as you cope with the death of a loved one.



Wednesdays 10 a.m. - noon

Weeks 1-7: Nov. 8 - Dec. 20, 2017
Weeks 8-13: Jan. 10 - Feb. 14, 2018

Start any time! Childcare will be arranged on request.
Cost is \$20 for the workbook. Financial aid available.



Please let us know you're coming:
St. Thomas Anglican Church
4A Raven Drive, Sherwood Park
780-467-5730
sttomsherwoodpark@gmail.com

PWRDF hopes to promote generous, thoughtful giving



DOROTHY MARSHALL
Diocesan Representative
PWRDF

When you read this, Halloween will be over and Christmas decorations will be ubiquitous in our stores. Some of you are already planning Christmas lists, and some Sunday school teachers will be organizing the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts.

This used to be a tradition in our parish; kids could connect with it and the concept of giving was nurtured. If this is something

your parish is considering, I would like to share some information I have found helpful in reassessing my own opinion and looking at alternatives for our kids.

If you are not familiar with the concept, the idea is to fill a Shoebox with small gifts for a child, include a donation to cover shipping, and deliver the box to a depot where they are gathered for distribution to needy children around the world. This is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit organization led by CEO Franklin Graham. Sounds good so far, and it feels good to give, but there needs to be a conversation about the bigger impact of this project.

According to the Samaritan's Purse website, the intended result of distribution is to proselytize:

"The Amazing Journey of a Shoebox Gift Begins with You and Results in Evangelism, Discipleship, and

Multiplication." "After receiving shoebox gifts, boys and girls are invited by local pastors to enroll in a 12-lesson discipleship program. Entire communities are being evangelized as shoebox gifts are delivered."

I had no idea that all this was part of the plan – what if I do not support the interpretation of the Gospel according to Franklin Graham? (You can check this out online as well). I believe that an annual campaign of generosity is a wonderful thing, but does receiving a gift box that may not be culturally appropriate fill a need?

I recognize that giving is important and we want to nurture in our children the joy and importance of giving to those who don't have the abundance we do. However I, personally, feel a more respectful way to do this is to promote the long-term goals of the receiving

communities; addressing the needs they have identified themselves and the support they have requested.

This is something that we have done successfully in our parish. Kids take delight in choosing and contributing to something from the "World of Gifts" guide. This is a "gift that keeps on giving," as the impact is long-lasting and life-changing. Also important is that no one is discriminated against because of their religion or gender.

A great gift that kids love to pick is animals, which provide families with food and future income; a gift of \$40 will buy a flock of chicks, or \$30 will turn a family into goat farmers. You can also use this idea for that hard-to-buy-for-person on your list. Thirty dollars also buys seeds for a new farmer and would be great for the gardener on your

list, or how about for that new mother? Forty dollars buys 40 "new baby kits" for mothers in Burundi.

Let your imagination go. The ideas are endless!

This gift guide will be included in the Anglican Journal this fall, or is available online.

I hope that as we approach this season of great celebration, you will pray and consider how your generosity can bring joy to people in need, while changing lives for the long term. To read stories about our projects, please check out www.pwrdf.org.



Youth Have Deep Concern for Social Injustice

CLARK HARDY
Social Justice Committee
Diocese of Edmonton

Over the past year, the Diocese of Edmonton Social Justice Committee facilitated several roundtable discussions bringing together socially-conscious individuals and congregations. During a discussion focussed on issues related to youth, it was apparent that today's youth care deeply about social injustices pertaining to sexual and gender minorities, food security around the globe, racial tensions, interfaith relations, and many additional aspects.

There is incredible opportunity for parishes to tap into this passion and empower youth to address the issues they care about. It is important that youth are supported as they transition towards being independent individuals and develop their own understanding of social

justice issues throughout the world. Youth need to see the relevance of faith in relationship to these complex realities.

There are many ways church communities can empower youth to engage in what is important to them, starting with a "force multiplier" strategy to strengthen youth groups by bringing them together to meet collectively rather than separately. Intentional collaboration between all involved parties needs to be encouraged as does regular communication between youth leaders across the diocese to share ideas, support and foster collaboration (this could include further roundtable type events). We need to provide more opportunities for youth across the diocese to connect with each other; recognizing that social media is a great tool to engage youth in issues of interest.

Youth with strong adult



Clark Hardy at diocesan synod.

connections in their faith community are more likely to stay connected to faith communities as they enter adulthood. Adults can build relationships with youth in their parish by asking them about their interests regarding church life and finding ways to help them get involved and take on leadership roles, such as becoming lay readers.

Youth want to feel like they are needed – that their involvement in church is important. Helping youth engage meaningfully during Sunday services and beyond is key.

Helping youth identify their areas of passion and providing opportunities to grow, ignite further awareness of and motivation to address social justice.

In terms of obstacles to engaging youth in church, the group addressed the disconnect between church leaders and youth; the difficulties families face in balancing competing commitments; and the need for effective communication. Youth voices and events should be highlighted in diocesan publications: the *Synod Scene* and *The Messenger*, and on diocesan social media accounts.

The roundtable discussion yielded many great ideas, including areas of strength and areas for growth, regarding youth and social justice. It was encouraging to hear the great work already being done, and to begin planning creatively to build on it.

Bishop Jane alumni award continued

Continued from page 3.

Bishop Jane is an advocate for the rights of the LGBTQ+ community and encouraged the Edmonton diocese to support the blessing of same sex unions. Together, in partnership with Buyé Bishop Sixbert Macumi, Bishop Jane has sought ways for the Edmonton diocese to provide education and medical support to communities in Burundi, Africa, such as assisting with the construction of an HIV clinic and maternity ward expansion for Buyé hospital.

Prior to her ordination in 1998, Alexander was a music special education teacher in northern England. Upon moving with her husband Tim and their young family to Canada, she enrolled in the Department of Educational Psychology at the U of A, leading to a PhD thesis on cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease in persons with Down syndrome.

Youth Daze 2017 a hit!

DANIELLE MCKENZIE
JOANNA MUZYKA
Diocese of Athabasca

“Knowing Your Heading” was the theme for Youth Daze 2017. Our guest speaker Jane Jones gave us great insight into God’s wisdom and plan for us. Using the scripture passage, 1 John 3:1-3 (and others), and using prophetic language, Jane spoke of God’s enduring love for us, His children.

For the first time in the eight years of Youth Daze, the event was held at a camp called Teen Time Ranch, near Dapp, Alberta. Along with our usual (and favourite) outdoor games, this new venue provided opportunities like canoeing and campfire time. Another benefit of the camp was the increased amount of indoor and outdoor space available to us.

This year we were also pleased to welcome the new youth pastor from All Saints’ and St. Thomas, Fort McMurray, Willi Whiston and his wife Genevieve. Willi and Genevieve led the worship music, interacted with the youth and took some amazing photos



Pictured from left: Hannah Seaton, Bryce Semashkewich, Jayde Semashkewich and Lizzie Muzyka get ready for canoeing.



Pictured from left, back: Jared Reed, Alyssa Crocker, Pamela Wellman; front: Bryan Reed, Elizabeth Muxlow.

of our weekend together. Other youth leaders from around the diocese were involved in the planning, organizing and overall support of the event. Our bishop Fraser Lawton and his wife Veronica also led some worship times and Bishop Fraser celebrated on the Sunday morning with an instructive eucharist.

Of course, at gatherings such as these, meal times are very important. Breakfast and snacks were provided by members of the YD17 planning team, lunches were provided by the camp staff and Dan and Deanna Lemke spoiled us on Saturday evening with an amazing BBQ supper.

There is always such joy in seeing the youth come together from around the diocese to engage in fellowship and worship and to just be and have fun. Some return year after year and have established relationships across the diocese while others join in for the first time, quickly becoming part of this special group. In a diocese as vast geographically as ours, it truly is wonderful to see the youth come together to form supportive, lasting relationships.

Youth Daze has never been labelled an annual event as we always want to check in with the youth to see if they want it to happen again. We have been given an overwhelming “yes!” from those who attended this year and so, God willing; there will be a Youth Daze 2018. Stay tuned for updates on YD18 planning.

Team Jesus Serves the Wabamun Community



The Mission of St. Saviour in Wabamun completed their annual highway clean-up on September 10, 2017. Nine members of Team Jesus had lunch together after church before heading out on clean-up duty. Keeping our bags from blowing away in the wind was a challenge on this blustery day. However, we succeeded in cleaning our section of the highway. If you are travelling west of Wabamun, you can spot our sign at the foot of the on-ramp meeting the highway. Submitted by Sue Burgess, Rector’s Warden



Walk honours the children



FIONA BROWNLEE
Aboriginal and Rural
Communities Liaison
Diocese of Edmonton

For the past several years people have begun to wear orange shirts on September 30th to remember the children who went to Indian Residential Schools and especially to honour those who did not return to their families.

Why an orange shirt? There was a little girl named Phyllis whose grandmother saved up her money and bought Phyllis an orange shirt, which she wore to her first day of residential school. It was taken away from her and never returned. A residential school survivor group in Williams Lake, BC heard Phyllis tell this story and came up with the idea of ‘Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters’ for the end of September; because every child matters, every one of them.

Last year the Reconciliation Team at Immanuel, Wetaskiwin sponsored its first-ever Orange Shirt Day walk through downtown Wetaskiwin. They were grateful that about 25 people joined in.

This year the Wetaskiwin and District Heritage Museum offered to partner with Immanuel’s Reconciliation Team to make the walk the kick-off event for their Alberta Culture Days events in

honour of our First Communities. The team gladly accepted this offer in the hopes that the partnership would lead to greater neighbourly reconciliation.

On the bright Friday afternoon of September 29th people wearing orange shirts gathered outside the museum to walk to the Peace Cairn that marks the Treaty of Peace between the Blackfoot and Cree peoples of this land. What an amazing turnout!! Led by Bear Nation, a young drum group from Smallboy camp, more than 60 people walked through downtown Wetaskiwin.

Each person walked to honour the children who went to residential schools and to remember those who did not return home. They walked to show every child in Canada matters. All Canadian children deserve the best possible care and education.

At the Peace Cairn an elder led a prayer and smudge and both local and provincial politicians (who had walked with everyone from the museum) delivered greetings. The drum group provided more songs and there was a mini round dance to end the evening. All were pleased with the turnout and inclusivity of the event. It was neighbourly reconciliation in action; because every child matters.

Bishop Receives Warm Welcome



Shirley Lof, a member of St. Helen’s Anglican Church, Fairview, proudly displays the quilt she made on behalf of her parish for the Bishop of Ibbra, South Sudan. The quilt has a Canada theme, depicting the wildlife of northern Alberta, especially within the borders of the Athabasca diocese. Bishop Wilson Kamani of Ibbra, attended the Athabasca Synod from October 13-15. He visited many parishes in the diocese, including St. Helen’s. It is with much love that the Diocese of Athabasca welcomed Bishop Kamani. Submitted by Betty MacArthur, Diocese of Athabasca