



THE MESSENGER

JUNE-JULY 2018

www.edmonton.anglican.org



Edmonton diocese hosts 49th provincial synod

See stories on pages 2, 8 and 9.

Pictured from left: Joanne Jones, Marianne Adair, Travis Enright, Zaretta Cardinal, Doreen Wabasca, Gord Descharmes, Neil Pascal. The St. Faith group offers prayer at the opening service of provincial synod.



SHELLY KING
Messenger Staff

Nearly 100 delegates and officials from across the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land (EPRL) descended on Edmonton, May 3, for the 49th Provincial Synod. EPRL is one of four provinces in the Anglican Church of Canada. It includes 10 dioceses and spans an enormous geographical area from the BC border in the west, to Ontario in the east; from the 49th parallel in the south, to the Arctic Circle in the north.

The synod took place Friday through Sunday at MacEwan University, with All Saints' Anglican Cathedral hosting an opening service and reception on Thursday evening showcasing the talent and diversity of Edmonton diocese.

Choristers and singers from throughout the diocese formed a special choir, led by the Cathedral's Director of Music Jeremy Spurgeon. At the start of the service, Archdeacon Travis Enright was joined by Indigenous representatives



Singing and drumming form part of an Indigenous welcome and prayer.

from St. Faith Anglican Church in Edmonton for a special opening prayer and welcome, including a song and drumming by Michelle Nieviadomy, Inner City Pastoral Ministry Oskapewis (helper in Cree). The \$1,000 offering was dedicated to helping St. John's

Anglican Church in Shamattawa First Nation in Manitoba, which recently lost their church building to fire.

The Most Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson, Archbishop of Calgary and Provincial Metropolitan gave the homily. Looking forward to three days of discussions among members of this diverse province, Archbishop Greg began by clarifying the meaning of the word "synod." A combination of two Greek words, synod means "together on the way." He reminded the group that "sometimes what we (in the church) are best at is getting off track, into our individual concerns and points of view, when the bigger struggle is to allow ourselves to

discern God's way for us together."

Referring to the Gospel reading, John 15:1-11, he built on the picture of Jesus as the Vine, and we (His followers) as the branches:

"When we fail to abide, we cut ourselves off from the Source of Life and from each other. And the reverse is true, as well: when we cut ourselves off from each other, we live as though we do not owe everything to the same Source. We are united in the Vine; in our Salvation; in His Spirit poured out in and through us."

After the service, talented cooks provided a smorgasbord of international foods further reflecting the diversity of Edmonton diocese:

foods from Sudan, Syria, the UK, the Philippines, Ukraine, Ghana and more. It was the beginning of what was to be a successful weekend. Edmonton diocese was praised for its warm welcome and hospitality.

In his final thank-you speech, the Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, Bishop of Saskatchewan, said this was the best synod he had ever attended. The Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of Athabasca, echoed his sentiments saying,

"Edmonton did a marvellous job of hosting. Bishop Alexander is also to be commended for her role in all of this."

Provincial Synod coverage continues inside.



Jeremy Spurgeon leads choir in practise before the opening service.



Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson



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Building Community p. 7



ICPM Standing Stones p. 10

Anglican disciples: called to be Jesus-shaped people

SHELLY KING
Messenger Staff

From the welcome bags, mugs and nametags given to each delegate, to three key talks given by the Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford in the United Kingdom, the message of the 49th Provincial Synod rang loud and clear.

“Living a Jesus Shaped Life” is a theme developed by the Anglican Consultative Council, to facilitate cooperation amongst churches throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion. The council, of which both Bishop Cottrell and Bishop Jane Alexander are members, seeks to develop common focus on a number of issues, including the world mission of the Church. So it is that “Living a Jesus Shaped Life” is a theme now spreading through Anglican churches everywhere.

With humour, some favourite poems and many



The Jesus Shaped Life logo includes a heart in five colours, symbolizing the Five Marks of Mission.

stories, Bishop Cottrell unpacked his message, focusing to a great extent on evangelism in the local church. “What is the Anglican theology of evangelism?” he joked. “It’s what other people do! Then they come to us a bit later on.”

More seriously, however, he suggested that when churches and church members are uncomfortable with evangelism, the trouble may be that they have forgotten that “God is the evangelist. We are the midwife, who may be present at a birth; who accompanies people on a journey. It’s not our job to convert people. That is the job of the Holy Spirit.”

“When we speak of mission,” he said, “we must remember it is the mission of God, not the mission of the church. It is the mission of God in which the church participates.”

Bishop Cottrell then unpacked the story of the Road to Emmaus from the gospel of Luke.

“The Road to Damascus may be the paradigm we’re used to in thinking of conversion (in which Paul meets Jesus suddenly and dramatically in a blinding flash of light), but in our context the Emmaus Road is a better metaphor.”

“Most people come to faith gradually over four or five years,” he said, describing a process that is mirrored in the 24th chapter of Luke.

First, the two who meet Jesus on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus don’t recognize Him. Bishop Cottrell suggested that God is at work in this lack of recognition: that He holds back from revealing Himself all at once as an act of love, in order that people can find their own way and make their own choices.

Next, Jesus simply listens to them. He meets the two where they are and walks with them, even while they’re going in the wrong direction (away from Jerusalem). He lets them tell the story as they know it. “They have all the information they

need,” Bishop Cottrell explained. “But it’s not good news to them, yet. We need an interpretation of how God is with us, in our context. Jesus takes them back inside their own tradition and reconstructs the story from Moses and the Prophets on.”

Jesus then waits to be invited in, prepared to move on if the invitation doesn’t come. But they do invite, “because it has been good to be with Him.”

“This is a very *Anglican* way of doing evangelism,” Bishop Cottrell said. “Pastoral; rooted in and serving the local community.”

“The work of evangelism is best understood as helping people make the journey; being that midwife; companion; a living sign-post.”

He then pointed out that while the two characters in this story recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, it comes to each person in a different way - this “moment of recognition when things click into place.”

The two in the story then throw caution to the wind and run back to Jerusalem to tell their friends, and at this point, Bishop Cottrell called for personal reflection, suggesting that “if I find it impossibly difficult and I am impossibly reluctant and unable to share my faith with anyone else, I may need to ask myself, ‘am I continuing to receive the good news in my life?’ I need the gospel to transform me every day.”

This, then, became Bishop Cottrell’s second major focus through the weekend: the importance



The Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell, Bishop of Chelmsford, UK.

of developing a Jesus shaped life through “catechesis” in the church; practical teaching that helps parishioners to know Jesus for themselves through the scriptures and to know how to pray, in order to be transformed.

“Church is not the place we come into, it’s the place we’re sent from; we are formed in order to be sent. Jesus’ disciples became apostles. The ones who follow and learn are the same ones who are sent out.”

“The tree does not bear fruit as an achievement,” Bishop Cottrell said. “It’s because it’s planted in the right soil. Jesus shows us what humanity is supposed to look like.”



Above and right: Athabasca delegates engage with Bishop Cottrell’s teaching on a Jesus Shaped Life.

Synod incorporates discussion regarding Canon XXI marriage amendment

In 2016, General Synod passed the first reading of an amendment to Canon XXI on Marriage, which would allow same sex couples to be married in Anglican churches in Canada. The amendment goes to General Synod again in 2019 for a second and deciding vote. In the meantime, General Synod has directed dioceses and ecclesiastical provinces to continue considering and discussing this question. Provincial Synod dedicated two sessions to discussing the marriage canon amendment.

One session was devoted to hearing the indigenous perspective, presented by Ananias Winter and Bishop Lydia Mamakwa of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of

Mishamikoweesh. Their stance is to remain with the definition of marriage as applying to the union of one man and one woman.

In the other session, table groups engaged with two questions:

1. What would you want to say to General Synod as we approach the second reading in 2019?

2. What do we need to do to best enable ourselves to sustain and nourish good relationships after General Synod makes its decision?

After about half an hour of quiet discussion, table groups sent their responses directly to an email account provided by General Synod.

Celebrating 10 years of service to Edmonton diocese



Members of Bishop Jane's family, including granddaughter Olivia shown assisting thurifer Mark Armstrong, participated in the service.

Messenger Staff

The Edmonton diocese and friends gathered at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander on the evening of May 18, 2018 (one week after the anniversary of her consecration as 10th Bishop of Edmonton on May 11, 2008).

Many members of the clergy, local community and the Alexander family, all who have been inspired by Bishop Jane's compassionate leadership, participated in the joyful service. The Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries, led the Prayers of the People. The Bishop's granddaughter, Olivia, served as "boat girl," carrying the incense for thurifer Dr. Mark Armstrong.

The homily message was shared by the Very Rev. Neil Gordon, Dean of Edmonton and rector of All Saints' Cathedral. He described Bishop Jane's energetic and inspirational leadership with a quote from humanitarian Jean Vanier.

"In order to be real shepherds who lead others, we have to learn first of all to be good followers," said the L'Arche community founder.

In the gospel of John 21:15-17, read by deacon the Rev. Joanne Neal, Jesus the Good Shepherd invites His flock of 12 disciples to share in His work of spreading God's love.

"Perhaps what have been Bishop Jane's greatest gifts to us are her manner and depth of following the Lord and His will," said Gordon. "She has sought out her place in His mission. She has let the Lord open her eyes and make her mindful of those about her. She has the willingness to learn, to use new resources, to develop her skills and to extend hospitality and help through her great sense of humour and warmth."

Having earned a BA Honours in Music degree from Newcastle University in the UK, Jane, along with her husband Tim and their three children

Mark, Sarah, and Rachel, came to Canada in 1990. They settled into life in Edmonton and, after giving birth to fourth child, Peter, Jane set her sights on a Master of Education degree (1993); followed by a PhD in Educational Psychology (1996), both from the University of Alberta.

She taught as a professor at the University of Alberta, but after acknowledging the call to ministry she had felt for some time, she became a deacon. In 2001, she earned a Master of Theology Degree from Newman Theological College and was later ordained into the priesthood. Having served five years at various parishes, she was appointed the Dean of All Saints' Cathedral. Being the Dean was as far as she thought she would go, but God had other plans.

Bishop Jane has and will continue to shepherd the Edmonton diocese as an advocate for human dignity and the rights of all people, especially those who are marginalized and vulnerable. She motivates people to change through compassion, positivity and resiliency. She is a champion for



Dean Neil Gordon says Bishop Jane's "manner and depth of following the Lord and His will" are "great gifts to us."

equality and human rights in our city and around the world. She became co-chair of the EndPoverty Edmonton Task Force, accepting without hesitation a challenge from Mayor Don Iveson to help the City end homelessness and eliminate poverty within a generation. She often states that this is a "bold" vision within our reach.

Continued on page 12.

Bishop Fraser honoured by college

SHELLY KING
Messenger Staff

The Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca, was honoured on May 4, 2018 by the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad in Saskatoon. During the 17th Joint Convocation of the Saskatoon Theological Union, the college bestowed upon Bishop Fraser an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. The convocation program described the Bishop's accomplishments:

His 25 years of service in the Diocese of Athabasca includes ministry in small towns and First Nations communities, a long commitment to the people of Fort McMurray, and leading the diocese as bishop since 2010. In all of those roles, and in the unique circumstances of the north, he has put his energies into building up the church through youth ministry, strengthening community within and between parishes,



Bishop Fraser and his wife Veronica take a selfie just before going into the convocation ceremony.

creating an openness to spiritual growth and renewal, and developing people's commitment to God's mission in northern Alberta. Beyond his own region, Bishop Fraser serves the wider church in leadership roles in the Council of the North and the Council of General Synod, and as episcopal visitor to Anglican Renewal Ministry. His partnership with the Bishop of Ibba (South Sudan) has borne fruit in a

number of exchange visits, adding a distinctive element to the growth in mutual understanding between Anglicans in Canada and in other parts of the world. He is a graduate of Emmanuel and St. Chad who demonstrates the College's founding conviction, that building up the church in our region will serve God's people everywhere.

The College of Emmanuel and St. Chad is recognized as the official accredited Theological College for the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land.

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Mission Action Plans: the self-awareness “red alert”



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

Through the last four articles, we have been looking at steps involved in developing a parish Mission Action Plan (MAP). We are now dealing with some “Red Flag Alerts.” What are

those issues that could derail the formation and implementation of a successful MAP? I mentioned these four problems:

1. Lack of a proper process;
2. Lack of self-awareness in those putting the MAP together;
3. Misunderstanding of what it means for a parish to be “the Body of Christ”;
4. Misunderstanding of what it means that God has given gifts to each member of the parish “for the common good,” as Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians.

I dealt with number 1 last time. This time I want to talk about self-awareness.

We are seeing afresh in the I.D. framework, now prototyped in four parishes, how important self-awareness is for our discipleship. As a tool for self-awareness, we have incorporated a day-long session on the Enneagram into I.D. because it helps us all see how our own ego can influence, for good and ill, the way we react and respond to what is going on around us. Unless we deal seriously with the need for self-awareness, it’s very possible that we could be making decisions that are actually sub-consciously driven by fear, or the need

for approval, or the need to maintain a sense of control. Indeed, without self-awareness, we may read Scriptures through the messages of our own ego. For example, my personality type is shaped by a deep ego-desire to help others. This might sound noble, but it has taken me a long time to learn that my desire to help was, at times, actually shaped by a fear of being unlovable. Without self-awareness, we are actually unaware of our own motives. The Enneagram was a great assistance to my progress in self-awareness.

So, imagine what a MAP process might be like if a group of people who are largely not self-aware

are trying to decide what things God is calling them to do? For some, keeping control of the process will be paramount. For others, doing things in a particular way is a must. Others will work to hold onto the status quo out of a fear of change. Understanding where each other is coming from would be nigh on impossible. Many will keep away from ever being part of a MAP group, due to the perceived stress! Thus the MAP group might miss vital insights that are always present in the whole body of Christ. This leads us nicely to number 3 in our list above, and that is where we will pick up next time.

*With every blessing,
Richard*

We don’t come *to* church - we go out *from* church



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

Recently, the Province of Rupert’s Land was challenged by the Bishop of Chelmsford, the

Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell, to immerse itself in scripture, in prayer and in a “Jesus-Shaped Life” as illustrated by the Beatitudes of Matthew’s Gospel. This was not exactly new to those of us in the Diocese of Athabasca. We have not exactly “heard it all before,” but we have heard bits and pieces of everything Bishop Cottrell touched on. It was nice to bring it all together in one package.

Of course, since this immersive therapy is not already visible in many of our parishes, there must be barriers.

1. We are somewhat vaccinated against the demands of scripture and the

motivation by prayer. After all, we’ve heard those same old stories of Jesus for most of our lives. We’ve been praying in Church for decades. We’re used to it all and there is a definite amount of taking it all for granted.

2. The Church hasn’t done well at educating believers about the centrality of God and His mission for the world.

3. We have lost the sense that love is radically sacrificial and so have become unwilling to take the risk of evangelizing.

One way to address these barriers is to change our understanding of the Church, its worship and its purpose.

The Church is not a social

service agency. The Church is not a fraternal organization dedicated to good works.

The Church is the incarnation of Christ’s life and gospel in the world. We are His Body—His hands, feet, voice and eyes.

This means that our Sunday worship is never to be understood as recuperation from the trials of the past week. We never come to Church to have someone else (even Christ) take care of us. Sunday worship is never for the newcomer or seeker or spiritual dabbler.

Sunday services serve as Christ’s School for Discipleship Training.

Sunday worship is

always missional—sending us out on Monday morning to embody Christ’s love in our lives. Sunday worship is never attractional. On Sundays we are not healed from the wounds of the past week so that we might recover. We are fed mission rations so that we might march forth in Christ’s name throughout the week to come. We never really go to Church—we are sent forth from and by the Church.

Yes, this isn’t really new. We’ve heard it before, at least somewhat. Now all we have to do is become so immersed in Christ’s sacrificing love that these realities become our first nature.

Bishop Jane teaches God is working in public sphere amongst and through everyday people

GEN ASHWELL
Cursillo Secretariat

Bishop Jane led Edmonton Cursillo members and friends on an awesome teaching morning, May 26, with a focus on Jesus-shaped People and a Jesus-shaped Church.

With interludes for energizing music led by Ian Bowden, as well as for table discussion and refreshments, the morning covered the spectrum of all the ways everyday people in everyday situations can live the life shaped by Jesus, as well as how this commitment to authentic faith can be practised in our churches.

Bishop Jane reminded us that Jesus-shaped people are everywhere – in the street and in the shops, in homes and offices, wherever they are planted by the Lord. She talked about the extraordinary will and dedication she witnessed in Burundi where, with financial help from our diocese, citizens made their own bricks of clay, fired them and carried them to the hospital on a hill where they built a maternity wing. That group effort fostered community building and transformed many lives in Burundi and also in Canada, where people were moved to help transform our world.

She challenged us to witness by faithful prayer and

love to our closest human contacts, our families. We are all to be Jesus-shaped people and churches, called back into the commission of loving and sharing God’s good news in Christ Jesus. Not just for one or two hours on Sunday, but at all times in all places.

We all need to know that we are loved by God, no matter how broken or unworthy we think we are. We are loved beyond measure. And love is what transforms the world. Our bishop spoke of the Royal Wedding sermon, “When love is the way,” preached by Archbishop Michael Currie, Primate of the Episcopal Church, from Chicago. When love is the way, anything is

possible.

Our bishop urged us to not shy away from the question of why Jesus is the one, why Jesus merits our faith and is praised above all. Such questions are not always easy, but we can say that we have experienced God’s love, and it transforms our lives. As Cursillo teaches us, it is important to make a friend and be a friend. Through relationship we will bring others to Jesus.

Are you willing to tell others where you have seen God at work? God is in the business of transformation and God is working in the public sphere. *The Globe and Mail* featured Diocese of Edmonton Indigenous Ministry

Archdeacon Travis Enright and the tremendous work of community building and reconciliation he and St. Faith, Edmonton parish are doing. We can all be witnesses. We can all be disciples who make disciples, sharing the blessing of God’s grace.

Bishop Jane concluded her message to us with the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada summed up in her own way: tell the gospel; teach (pray, read scripture, pray in small groups); tend (offering time, loving service); transform (foster changes in unjust structures) and treasure (safeguard the integrity of creation).

Lay readers welcome training at spring workshop

BETTY MACARTHUR
Lay Reader
Diocese of Athabasca



When the Ven. Terry Leer, Archdeacon for Mission Development in the Diocese of Athabasca, invited lay readers to attend a training workshop, he thought he might receive 20 applications. He was delighted when that number turned out to be 35.

The Lay Readers' Conference took place April 13-15, 2018 at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake. The conference was led by Archdeacon Leer and the Very Rev. Jason

Haggstrom, Rector of St. James' Cathedral and Dean of the Diocese of Athabasca.

The most commonly used service by lay readers across the diocese is Morning Prayer from the *Book of Alternative Services*. Archdeacon Leer outlined a template for the Morning Prayer service and offered many helpful suggestions.

Dean Haggstrom then gave an overview of the Morning Prayer service from the *Book of Common Prayer*, which was followed by a Morning Prayer service from the BCP, led by four members of our group. This was good practice for lay

readers who, in general, do not use this service very often.

Archdeacon Leer spent some time outlining the concept for a way of living based on the principle that every man or woman should, from time to time, craft for themselves a "Rule of Life"

to keep us on course as we endeavor to reflect Jesus in in our actions.

This was the first Lay Reader's Conference held in the diocese for some time. Everyone attending completed an evaluation form to provide direction as to how often such workshops

should be scheduled.

This useful and enjoyable conference concluded with a eucharist at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake.



Archdeacon Terry Leer shares with Athabasca diocese lay readers ideas for shaping a Morning Prayer service.

ACW Annual Conference a time of fun, food and fellowship

CANDACE MAHAFFEY
Christ Church
Grande Prairie



Our Annual ACW Conference was hosted by Beaverlodge and Grande Prairie. The conference was held in Beaverlodge starting April 27 through to April 29. We started on Friday evening with registration

and some fun and games to get to know one another. There were 20 boxes filled with items we were meant to connect to a bible story or verse. A tree, for example, could be either the tree of life in the Garden of Eden or the one Zacchaeus climbed into). Of course, there were many options and we could compare notes or pick each

other's brain, which was fun. We were also given a word search to complete.

We then listened to our first talk from the Rev. Christopher Tapera, from St. Thomas' Church in Fort McMurray, who shared some of his personal story. It is difficult for most of us to comprehend his story when, in

general, Canadians live in a protected environment.

On Saturday, we received two more presentations, enabling us to see how different cultures can interact with each other. Don't we all wish we could get to know our neighbours a little better?

We had our annual business meeting and decided our Thank Offering would go to help the Mothers' Union with literacy projects in our sister Diocese of Ibba in South Sudan. We had a lovely photo opportunity, then free time, and came back to a wonderful catered supper - the very thing all women love - a meal cooked and no clean up! We continued on

with Evening Prayer, then some fun and entertaining skits and social time.

Sunday morning we had breakfast before attending church, where Rev. Christopher delivered a sermon about staying connected. It was a very positive message for us to take into the world. We wound up singing what we call our theme song, "Bind us Together," and then had lunch before heading off in many directions.

If you have never had the opportunity to go to the annual conference, I highly recommend it. It is fun to

run away for the weekend to be with with a room full of lovely women singing, eating and playing.



All enjoy a catered meal on Saturday evening, with no prep and no dishes!



Chris Tapera shares his story with ACW.

Athabasca news
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ATHABASCA DIOCESE CONNECTIONS

Diocesan website: www.dioath.ca
(includes sermons for lay readers for each Sunday)

The Anglican Centre (archives for the Diocese of Athabasca)

Phone: 780-624-2767

Fax: 780-624-2365

Email: dioath@telusplanet.net

Parish websites

- Peace River: www.stjamespr.org
- Fort McMurray, All Saints': www.allsaintsanglican.ca
- Fort McMurray, St. Thomas': www.sttom.ca
- Grande Prairie: www.christchurchanglicangp.org
- Boyle: www.parishnorthernlights.org



Pictured from left: Tammy McKeachnie, Veronica Lawton, Debbie Reynolds, Sarah Craigen and Orma Jean Shmyruk lead music.

PWRDF good news story: working for gender equality



DOROTHY MARSHALL
PWRDF Representative
Diocese of Edmonton

As I write this, I am up to my knees in babies - literally. I am referring to baby lambs. It is a very good thing that they arrive as such cute creatures, because they can be an awful lot of work, especially this year. I thought I could count on warm spring weather in

April, but this year's cold and wet conditions have resulted in many freezing night-checks of the ewes, trying to avoid little wooly "popsicles."

It is my own fault. I made a choice last fall about when to put the ram with the flock, just as I had some say in when the puppies would arrive, or the sow would farrow, or the chicks would hatch. I also had a choice as to when to have my own babies (well, theoretically, but that is another story).

Unfortunately, this is not the reality for women in many parts of the world. In countless cultures, mothers are not given a choice about who the father of their babies will be, or when to marry him. This is called "gender inequality."

As the relief and development agency of the Anglican Church of

Canada, the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund sees gender equality as an integral focus of all our projects. It is number 5 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: "to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."



Girls and boys at school in Tanzania.

How does PWRDF empower women? A few examples are:

- Provide micro-credit loans for women so they have the opportunity to become entrepreneurs and support their families;
- Support the education of girls so they are less likely to marry at a very young age;
- Run anti-violence programs;
- Train health care workers in family planning;
- Include fathers in infant nutrition and childcare classes;
- Educate women in sustainable farming techniques.

In fact, the guiding principles of our current project, the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Program, include the following: health equity, sexual and reproductive rights, health care connecting the whole community, elimination of

violence against women and children, participatory research, and innovation to connect with the most hard-to-reach.

Global Affairs Canada is behind this wonderful initiative which has projects in a number of central African countries. This support includes matching your donated dollars at a rate of 6:1.

We are fortunate to live in a place where we can take so many opportunities for granted. If you would like to learn more about projects in support of women and girls who don't have our same opportunities, please visit our website at

www.pwrdf.org. If you would like to be involved at your parish level, please speak with your rector or email me, your diocesan representative, at **camfarm@syban.net**.

Fort McMurray healing and rebuilding two years after the fire

The Rev. DR. DANE NEUFELD
All Saints' Church
Fort McMurray



It is difficult to believe we are now approaching the two-year mark since the Horse River wildfire. It seems a long way away now, and yet, the effects of the fire are always with us.

While some of our lives have more or less returned to normal, Fort McMurray residents are still rebuilding their houses, struggling with insurance companies or trying to settle in other places. Many more still struggle with the aftermath of trauma, the enormous stress of the evacuation and the ways in which the wildfire destabilized many people's lives emotionally, financially and, in some cases, in terms of employment and even health.

We are very grateful for the funds donated to PWRDF that have enabled our churches to have a meaningful and healing impact on our community. It has been rewarding to partner with agencies like the Center of Hope who care

for the homeless in our city; with Habitat for Humanity, who are assisting in rebuilding houses for those whose insurance coverage was inadequate; with Stepping Stones youth shelter and King's Kids Promotions who serve the youth in our city.

PWRDF funds have contributed to the construction and launching of a youth recording studio and music program through a local high school. This past fall the first youth event was held, inviting young people were to share their musical and other artistic gifts, many of which expressed thoughts and emotions related to the fire. It was a powerful and healing event for all involved and we were grateful to have played a part in its creation.

A large portion of the funds was used to assist underinsured or uninsured individuals. For some, this

problem has increased with time. Construction delays and other complications have left a number of people without any resolution to their claims and, as we approach the two year mark, the insurance policies for many people will begin to expire.

Over the last two summers we have partnered with On Eagle's Wings who have come to Fort McMurray to run kids camps in the summer time. The camps have been a great success. They have been especially important for kids in the community who have



PWRDF funds contribute to a recording studio and music program for teens.
Photo: Azaria Photography

importance of making a beautiful space in the downtown and creating the opportunity for people to come together to build something new and life-giving in the wake of the fire's destruction.

The garden committee has hosted numerous community events for families and children and garden workshops for gardeners. Many people use it as a place simply to sit and enjoy.

Habitat for Humanity donated two playhouses which are a huge hit with the neighborhood kids. The once beautiful and lush river valleys of Fort McMurray have been dramatically altered, so it has been a source of joy and renewal to engage in the planting and beautifying of our little corner in the city.



Community garden produce after six months.

Continued next page.

All Saints' teams up for Habitat-Interfaith Works Project

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

On a beautiful spring day, members of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral traded in their clerical collars and office attire for hard hats and work boots to participate in the 7th Annual Interfaith-Habitat Works project. They were welcomed by friendly, safety-conscious and virtuously patient Habitat for Humanity staff tasked with transforming the faith community team into confident and capable home builders.

"Our day at Habitat was fun, fulfilling, uplifting and tiring," said Canon Barbara Burrows after participating in her fourth Habitat build. "Each time I go, I come away with a renewed appreciation for home builders," she said.

Burrows worked alongside her daughter Lisa Blair, long-time Habitat volunteer Ted McClung and Betty Benson to install wire shelving units in the closets of three nearly complete units.

"Ted took us under his wing, and shepherded us through. There was a rather steep learning curve to begin with, particularly in using a power drill, but

we made steady progress. He was a great and patient teacher," she said.

First-time Habitat volunteers the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda and Mary-Lou Cleveland worked side-by-side to put the finishing touches on trim around interior windows and doors.

"As I painted, I tried to visualize a family moving into their new home in a matter of weeks and, hopefully, not noticing all the mistakes I made," said Strikwerda. "The house looks beautiful and comfortable."

"Participating in the Habitat Build at Carter Place with the All Saints' Team was energizing and confirming," said Cleveland, who felt privileged to participate in a project that "lifts up others. It is possible to make meaningful change and we are all capable,"

she said. "Also, knowing this would be a residence for a special family challenged me to personal excellence."

Team All Saints' readily encourages others to become involved in this relationship-building opportunity that contributes to the wellbeing community at large.

"There were seven of us from ASAC and we weren't all working at the same jobs, but we did see each other at breaks and lunch time when we reveled in the sunshine," said Burrows. "The Cathedral also took the lunch for all the workers and Connie McClung came to set it out for us, which was greatly appreciated."

Church groups have helped provide lunch for volunteers and staff throughout Habitat for Humanity's history, said Alfred Nikolai, president



Above: Barbara Burrows, Betty Benson and Lisa Blair hard at work. Left: Mary-Lou Cleveland paints on the finishing touches.



and CEO of Habitat for Humanity Edmonton. "Lunchtime at a Habitat build is a very spiritual part of the day. It's a time to give thanks for what we have and to reflect on the needs of others," he said.

In Fort Saskatchewan, where Habitat is building 16 duplexes, St. George's Anglican Church takes lunch to volunteers once a week.

Habitat's concept of helping people achieve strength, stability and independence through safe, decent and affordable shelter, was developed in Georgia in the early '70s. Today the international organization continues to follow the faith-based, no-profit, no-interest model that founder Millard Fuller called the "economics of Jesus," said Nikolai.

Fuller believed in the

"Theology of the Hammer" - rolling up our sleeves and picking up a hammer to help our neighbour - ensuring everyone access to affordable housing.

"Neighbours helping neighbours is a wonderful testament," said Nikolai. "We are over the top grateful that local faith groups have chosen to support Habitat as one way of coming together."

Habitat for Humanity Edmonton has been providing a "hand up" to hardworking families across northern Alberta since 1991. At Carter Place in southeast Edmonton, nine families have settled in to their beautiful new Habitat for Humanity-built homes. When the project is complete, a total of 58 families will reside in the community.



The All Saints' team on a well-deserved lunch break.

Buyé children's ward under construction

The Rev. Dominique Ciza, Health and Christian Education Coordinator for Buyé Diocese in Burundi, sent photos this spring of the work that is going ahead on renovations to the pediatric ward of the Buyé health centre. Parishioners in Edmonton diocese responded generously to Bishop Jane's Christmas appeal for donations to support this work.

More than \$77,000 was forwarded to the Primate's World Development and Relief Fund (PWRDF), which has approved the project. The original pediatric ward was built in the 1940s. Overcrowding has resulted in children being infected by other patients and picking up illnesses other than those for which they were admitted. However, Rev. Dominique says the new extension will go a long way to solving these issues. Children will be admitted according to their sicknesses, and soon the ability to treat patients in separate rooms will significantly reduce the rate of reinfection.



Fort McMurray rebuilding two years after the fire, continued

Continued from previous page.

Both (Anglican) churches have seen a lot of change since the fire. Many people did not return to the city and many who

did return have since left for personal or employment reasons. Fort McMurray has always been transient, but the last few years have been especially difficult in this regard. But we are also for

very grateful for the many new people that have come through our doors and the opportunities they have created. Though the fire has been hard on the community, it has also created certain

bonds and common experiences that otherwise were more difficult to perceive. It has awakened in our parishes a greater desire to serve our city in the name of Christ.

PWRDF funds have been pivotal in enabling and inspiring us to help meet some of the physical and social and spiritual needs of our community, and for this we are very grateful.

Landmark decisions made for Indigenous ministries

SHELLY KING
The Messenger

A significant portion of the 49th Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land focused on the development of Indigenous mission and ministry and the slow, but continual, move toward greater self-determination for the Indigenous community within the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC).

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, presented an update on decisions made in September, 2017 at the National Consultation on Indigenous Anglican Self-Determination, which was called "The Road to Warm Springs." The nearly 70 participants of that conference grounded their work in the story of the road to Emmaus which, in an Indigenous version of the New Testament, is known as the road to Warm Springs.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants came out of that conference committed to fulfil a covenant made more than two decades previously. That 1994 covenant said, in part:

Because the National church's canons, structure and policies have not always responded to our needs, nor heard our voice, we now claim our place and responsibility as equal partners in a new shared journey of healing, moving towards wholeness and justice.

We acknowledge that God is calling us to a prayerful dialogue towards self-determination for us, the Indigenous People, within the Anglican Communion in Canada. Through this new relationship we can better respond to the challenges facing us in a relevant and meaningful way.

Bishop Mark described how he sees this work in progress in different ways throughout the Canadian church: many dioceses have organizations that try to express an Indigenous mindset, there are some in which the majority of people are Indigenous and others where they are a minority trying hard to find a voice. He noted his own role as National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, the Sacred Circle, and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People as three developing structures within the ACC; "all ways of articulating an



National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald and Bishop Lydia Mamakwa of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh lead singing of "How Great Thou Art" at the Friday night Gospel Jamboree. MacDonald says many traditional hymns and the soulful way they were sung "made Jesus Indigenous" for First Nations believers and were "vehicles for the gospel in a way that teaching and preaching never were."



Bishop Mark MacDonald presents resolutions alongside ISMM delegates. The group presentation reflects the Indigenous cultural value of creating consensus.

Indigenous way, striving to embody a nation-to-nation relationship."

"The goal," he said, "is not to make one group of people look like some other group of people, but to allow the gospel to come in in such a way that it challenges aspects of the culture that are counter to the gospel and affirm aspects of the culture that are in line with the gospel."

The Update on Warm Springs came on the Friday of Provincial Synod. The next day saw these principles put into practice when the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh (ISMM) presented three resolutions for the synod's vote. The ISMM is a primarily Indigenous diocese. It straddles much of the border between Manitoba and Ontario, stretching about two-thirds of the way south from the 60th parallel. The Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa is bishop. The ISMM's first two resolutions asked to create positions for one suffragan bishop for northern Ontario and another for northern Manitoba. Both areas are remote, with some communities accessible by ground transport only six weeks of the year. Ministry is challenging, with an inordinate level of addiction and suicide in many villages. In the words of Bishop Lydia, "The people are in dire need of healing. Communities are in crisis. We cannot leave them in that state. We have the resources and we have the heart and love for the people God has put in our care."

In an overwhelmingly favourable vote, synod

approved the first two resolutions. In a sense, however, the third was more revolutionary. The third resolution provided for the process of electing these two suffragan bishops to take place in a gathering of delegates of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh or their Sacred Gathering, or other model consistent with their spiritual traditions.

According to Bishop Mark, the freedom to use "culturally, contextually appropriate methods in accord with Indigenous spiritual

and cultural traditions" represented a huge step toward the self-determining model called for at Warm Springs.

It was an emotional moment for many.



ISMM delegates in prayer and tears following the passing of resolutions which will provide greater pastoral care and self-determination in their diocese.

Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator for the ACC, said it was, "the manifestation of a vision of the elders 30 years in the making" and it acknowledges that "the use of traditional practices for Indigenous ways of knowing and experiencing the movement of the Holy Spirit are just as valid as a way of electing leaders (as the practice of election used in the wider ACC)."

Continued next page.

Taskforce urges heartfelt reflection

While Indigenous Anglicans have worked toward a more self-determined future, the 2015 provincial synod commissioned a Task Force on Reconciliation that tried to answer the question, "what does 'the rest of the church' do?"

The Rev. Dr. Iain Luke presented the task force report, which found throughout its three years of research that "reconciliation is a moving target."

"A lot is happening around us," Luke said. "We don't want to take away from that and at the same time we don't want to be let off the hook. We can be inspired and encouraged by what others are doing, but still must find our own way to do it."

The task force report recommends a focus on *how* the church does things, not just *what* it wants to do.

"Don't be *colonial* when doing acts of reconciliation," Luke said. "A lot of what is done

with the best of intentions can turn out to be an imposition. Expect to make mistakes and seek out people who will tell you when you're making mistakes."

Luke also says it's very important for the *settler* church to do its own spiritual work, which might be a work of repentance.

"That shouldn't be a negative for the Christian church," he says, "because we know that repentance is always an opportunity for forgiveness and getting it right where we have gotten it wrong."

"We need to ask, 'where is my heart in this?' As churches we have a special call to be environments where people can acknowledge their hearts aren't maybe where they would like them to be, but to move them along. We can create spaces in our churches and communities to make the call to conversion of heart."

Provincial Synod a time for learning and connecting

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

Some of our Athabasca delegates were attending a provincial synod for the first time. Others were “old hands” at such gatherings.

The presentations made by Bishop Cottrell were clearly a highlight. While our diocese is familiar with much of the content he covered (we have been intentionally working on mission and discipleship development for some time), Bishop Cottrell’s words served as an affirmation and an encouragement.

The exposure to a broader range of experience,

opinions and positions was helpful. This was especially true in the cases of the resolutions on suffragan bishops and on some feedback with respect to the proposed amendments to Canon XXI.

Despite the reality that there was a wide variety of theological viewpoints and opinions on social justice issues, the potential divisions were held in check. We certainly appreciated the restraint shown by the members.

The experience of our delegates was largely positive in nature. I don’t think that anyone would object to attending the next provincial synod meeting.



Athabasca delegates pictured from left: Dane Neufeld, Fariborz Khandani, Terry Leer, Bishop Fraser Lawton, Joshua Haggstrom, Judy Flax. Delegate Aldous Walters not pictured.

Youth delegates treated to episcopal pizza



Pictured back row, from left: Dominic Beardy, Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson; Bishop Stephen Cottrell, Joshua Haggstrom; middle row: Brittany Perkins, Hanna Jordan, Breanna Beeler, Nick Takkiruq, Alexa Wallace; front row: Rosa Huestis.

Youth delegates were treated to a pizza lunch on Saturday with Archbishop Greg, the guest speaker Bishop Stephen Cottrell and Bishop Michael Hawkins of Saskatchewan diocese.

Alexis Wallace of Saskatoon Diocese said, “The pizza wasn’t exceptional, but the conversation was!”

Youth delegate an ‘old hand’ at synods

SHELLY KING
The Messenger

At 21 years of age, Joshua Haggstrom (pictured above and with other youth delegates), is a veteran of three synods: General Synod in Ottawa in 2013, the Synod of the Province of BC and the Yukon in 2015, and now the Synod of the Province of Rupert’s Land in Edmonton, 2018.

To be honest, Joshua says, the best part of the BC synod was meeting hockey commentators Don Cherry and Ron McLean in the airport on the way home! Beyond that, though, what Joshua has found most gratifying is that he was present for the General Synod vote in 2013 that led to the creation of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh within the Province of Rupert’s Land, and then present again in Edmonton five years later to see the growth of ISMM with the resolution to add two suffragan bishops.

Another highlight was simply connecting with people from other dioceses, hearing their views and sharing his own. Joshua felt the delegates listened to him and to each other and were very respectful.

Joshua lives in Peace River where his father, the Very Rev. Jason Haggstrom, has been the Dean and Rector of St. James Cathedral since August 2017.

Provincial synod a joy for Edmonton delegation

Provincial synod was a time of learning for delegates from Edmonton diocese: learning through the group work and discussion, the teaching, and the workings of the large and diverse province to which Edmonton belongs.

In Bishop Jane’s words:

It is always a joy when we are able to come together with our brothers and sisters in Christ from other churches, other contexts. This was certainly the case at Provincial Synod. There was an air of joy and celebration as we worshipped together and studied God’s word. Bishop Stephen Cottrell’s presentations enthused all of us in the Edmonton delegation. There were comments floating on the air of “I could do this” and “I’ve never thought of sharing faith like this before.” Our group left synod not only feeling encouraged, but also ready to share our own “Jesus Shaped Life.” Alleluia!



Clockwise from front: Jane Samson, Breanna Beeler, Cathy Armstrong, Rick Chapman, Chelsy Bouwman, Chris Pappas and Bishop Jane.

Landmark decisions made for Indigenous ministries continued

Continued from previous page.

Approval of these motions does not mean there have not been questions and concerns. Introducing structural changes within the ACC is unsettling to some. There have been questions as to whether archdeacons or priests might serve as well as suffragan bishops to meet the need for pastoral care in the ISMM. Also, the provision of suffragan bishops is an example of change which will require a long-term financial commitment. However, funds have been raised toward the establishment of the positions and a number of people who spoke to the resolutions said they felt the ISMM had “done its

homework.”

The next steps for the Anglican Indigenous community comes this summer, at a meeting of the Sacred Circle (described on the Anglican Church of Canada website as “national gatherings of Indigenous Anglicans for prayer, worship, discernment and decision-making”).

Participants at the August gathering will hear more about what a re-shaping of Indigenous



Melanie Delva, Reconciliation Animator for the Anglican Church of Canada, made a presentation to synod on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP), which enshrines the rights that “constitute the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of the indigenous peoples of the world.” (United Nations website) Provincial synod later voted in favour of endorsing UNDRIP and commits to adopting the values of the declaration as a standard and guide for practice in all its work.

mission and ministry might look like and will consider proposals for amendments to Canon XXII, which would allow Sacred Circle to make changes to its own governance and structure without requiring a General Synod vote.

Standing Stones building community in inner city Edmonton

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Pastor Rick Chapman and Oskapewis (Cree for helper) Michelle Nieviadomy, of Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM), led a Standing Stones service for the Emmanuel worship community on April 8.

Created by the Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries in Edmonton diocese, Standing Stones blends traditional Indigenous spiritual practices with traditional Anglican liturgies. Part of the regular worship schedule at the Bissell Centre (approximately 46% of the inner city population is of Indigenous heritage), Standing Stones is offered on the second Sunday of each month. It is also offered regularly by other Christian worship communities such as the Anglican parishes of All Saints' Cathedral and St. Faith, Edmonton, as well as by special request, as at the parish of Immanuel in Wetaskiwin on April 27.

The service on April 8th began with a smudge offered by ICPM Indigenous Helper Gordon Holub, a practicum student (and now graduate), of the NorQuest College Community Support Worker program. Songs were sung from the *Community of Emmanuel Book of Worship*, accompanied by Farley Magee on guitar. Elder Dorothy Delorme read the gospel of John 20: 24-29 – the story of Jesus and Thomas.

"As human beings we have doubt and, at times, I have carried doubt," said Nieviadomy in her homily. "But, we are blessed because we believe in God." She spoke about attending the funeral of her

dear friend Kokum Donna Enright (mother of Archdeacon Travis Enright). "We heard stories of a woman who endured the pain of residential school and, in spite of all she had gone through, had incredible faith. She made sure that the songs sung at her funeral honoured her maker," she said. "In those moments that doubt seems to overcome our faith, our elders would say, 'pray a little harder, dig a little deeper, we are blessed people.'"

As sunbeams streamed down from the rafters, the Rev. Rick Chapman lit a candle and asked the community to pray for the Humboldt SJHL hockey team, which was involved in a tragic bus accident two days before the service on April 6; and "those who are no longer with us, especially our friends from the street."

A large network of churches and service groups support the Emmanuel worship community by providing food and volunteers for the Sunday lunch meal. On April 8, volunteers from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church of Sherwood Park and a local chapter of the Knights of Columbus participated in the service by collecting sacred stones (symbolic of our hurts and doubts), from members of the congregation and leaving them at the altar. They also helped distribute bread and berries during communion before serving sandwiches for lunch.

This year, ICPM is celebrating its 40th anniversary as an ecumenical Christian ministry of presence serving the people of the inner city of Edmonton. The ministry was founded in 1978 and today is jointly sponsored by four denominations: Anglican, Lutheran, United and



From top: ICPM Pastor Rick Chapman breaks bread; community support worker Gord Holub offers a smudge to volunteers from OLPH Sherwood Park; Elder Dorothy Delorme reads the Gospel as Oskapewis Michelle Nieviadomy prepares to give the homily and musician Farley Magee listens.



Roman Catholic. In 2017, ICPM helped organize four successful community education and celebration events in response to the TRC's Calls to Action. The Our Common Ground gatherings focused on prayer, wisdom, healing and thanksgiving. The events were co-hosted with the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, United Church Edmonton Presbytery and the Moving Forward with Reconciliation group of the United Church.



Immanuel experience of Standing Stones inviting and meaningful

FIONA BROWNLEE
Aboriginal and
Rural Communities Liaison

Bannock, cranberries, wine, walking the four directions around the altar, Indigenous story and Gospel, children asking questions, smudging and learning. All of this and more made up worship at Immanuel, Wetaskiwin on Sunday, April 22. Archdeacon Travis Enright led the congregation through the Standing Stones ceremony which has been developed for use in the Diocese of Edmonton.

Standing Stones is meant to gather both Indigenous and settler

peoples to worship Jesus in a way that is infused with Cree symbolism and meaning. A smudge happens at the beginning of the service to clear our hearts, minds and spirits. Praying for healing and being blessed by water are central to the worship. An Indigenous story is chosen that highlights the message for the day and hopefully echoes the story from the Gospel. The eucharist is celebrated with bannock, cranberries and wine.

Archdeacon Travis' relaxed style of teaching was inviting to the members of Immanuel parish. People were encouraged to fully participate

and fully experience the whole of the worship. All of the senses were engaged by the Standing Stones service.

After the service parishioners had an opportunity to speak with Archdeacon Travis and ask him any questions that they had. The plan is to have him come back to Immanuel this summer and to deepen the experience with another Standing Stones worship experience.



Chaplaincy fundraiser focuses on grace and respect

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Two friends with a different take on how our world came to be, graciously debated some of life's big questions at the annual fundraising dinner for Anglican Student Ministries on April 6.

Andrew Murtagh and Adam Lee believe differently about spirituality. Andrew, a biomedical engineer from Indianapolis and currently working in the medtech industry, is a Christian. Adam, a software engineer from New York, is an atheist. Yet, they have developed great respect for one another by focusing not on their differences but, instead, on their commonalities: a quest for knowledge and the common good.

Andrew and Adam even wrote a book together and, as the authors and activists tour the US and Canada (Edmonton was their first destination across the border), to promote *Meta: On God, the Big Questions, and the Just City (an Uncommon Exchange)*, they are also raising awareness for the global epidemic of human trafficking and Polaris, a nonprofit organization working to end modern day slavery.

Before welcoming Andrew and Adam to the stage at St. Matthias Anglican Church, Interim Anglican Educational Chaplain, the Rev. Sarah Holmström, shared some of the highlights of Anglican Student Ministries (ASM). She gave thanks for a flourishing partnership with the Lutheran Student Movement and its pastor the Rev. Richard Reimer. With the help of the Rev. Alex Meek, they continue to offer the Worship Room (a Sunday evening supper and service) at St. George's Anglican Church. Students also gather regularly at a Whyte Avenue brewhouse for Pub Theology with the Rev. Heather Liddell, who was appointed Educational Chaplain as of May 1.

The intentional Christian communities of St. Aidan's House at St. George's by the U of A and Martin Luther House also went on three student retreats together, made possible by a Lutheran/Catholic ministry grant. This spring, the communities will plant a garden at St. Aidan's to grow fresh produce for the Edmonton Food Bank and the PrayerWorks Hall community meal program at St. Faith's, where students help serve a meal every other month.

The Interfaith Chaplains



Students and Interim Chaplain Sarah Holmström (centre) hoist incoming Educational Chaplain, Heather Liddell for a photo. Pictured far left is Richard Reimer, Chaplain of the Lutheran Student Movement.

Association at the U of A began the school year by hosting a Transitions Lunch and handing out free cookies during the Week of Welcome in September. Through a partnership with the International Students Association, members took part in an International Week event called "Singing Justice – Inspiration for the Journey." In the face of cold, wind and snow, they served pancakes on campus on Shrove Tuesday, and offered ashes and blessings as part of the Ashes to Go movement on Ash Wednesday.

To learn more about Anglican Student Ministries and how you can become a supporter, visit www.anglicanstudentministry.ca/ or email the Rev. Heather Liddell at Anglicanstudentministry@edmonton.anglican.ca.

Acting as moderator for the Chaplaincy Dinner debate, Sarah invited questions for Andrew and Adam, via text and index cards, from members of the audience.

"Some would argue that 'where we come from' is a spiritual matter, and that people derive meaning from an understanding of where they come from," said Sarah. A good example is the popularity of internet sites like Ancestry.ca and the DNA testing service 23 and Me. "Andrew, what meaning does having a God-created view of the universe bring to your life?" she asked.

"I would say that theism in general is deeply meaningful for the intrinsic work of humanity," responded Andrew. "It ties us all together. Not only does it give us the starting push, it is the sustaining source of all existence and love. This is not only meaningful to me, but it's meaningful to my neighbour. That's where abstract metaphysics, to me,

becomes emotionally moving and religious."

Adam responded to the same question by reflecting on the work



Murtagh and Lee respond to questions from the audience.

of astronomer Carl Sagan, whose belief is that the Big Bang created the elements of hydrogen and helium which then formed gas clouds that collapsed into stars. "And stars are nuclear furnaces. They fuse atoms together into heavier elements and release energy. When very old giant stars die they explode and spew atoms back into the universe. All the heavier elements on this planet,

in your body – the carbon in your bones, the oxygen you breath, the gold in the rings you wear - are made up of atoms forged billions of years ago, millions of light years away, in the hearts of massive stars. They were dispersed into the cosmos when those stars died to take part in a new cycle of creation. I find that a very humbling and uplifting view because it shows, in a deep and fundamental way, that we are not just connected to the rest of the universe, but we are part of the universe. We are part of its substance and we will return to it one day just the way we came," he said.

In response to Sarah's wonder over how the two men have been able to respect one another's differences and be friends, Adam said: "We have both observed that our beliefs start from very different premises but end up at fairly similar conclusions. I think that's really the thing that matters. That you can justify your beliefs in a different way, but you can still agree on what is right or wrong for the most part. And, hopefully end up in a place where you can recognize that, despite your philosophical or metaphysical differences, you share similarities that are more real and, perhaps, more significant. For the most part, I think the things that humans agree on are much more important than the things we disagree on. It's just that the things we disagree on tend to loom larger, because we so easily fall into the trap of tribalism. I think when you can encounter other human beings, even one who is superficially very different from you, but yet, still recognize that we are more the same than we are different, I think that's the foundation of respect."

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International society 'amazed' at Edmonton ministries

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The international Compass Rose Society held its spring meeting in Edmonton from April 16-19. Bishop Jane Alexander was "delighted" to welcome her friend and president of the Society Bishop C. Andrew Doyle of Texas and members of the Board of Directors to All Saints' Cathedral for a eucharist on Wednesday evening. Earlier this year, Bishop Jane had been welcomed by Bishop Doyle as guest preacher at the Episcopal Diocese of Texas Diocesan Council. The Edmonton diocese became a member of the Compass Rose Society in 2007.

Following the service, the Very Rev. Neil Gordon, Dean of

Edmonton, conducted a tour of All Saints' Cathedral, noting the history of the parish, founded on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River by Canon William Newton in 1875. The cornerstone of today's All Saints' Anglican Cathedral was laid in November, 1955 and the church opened for worship the following year.

Members of the Society were particularly interested in the Cathedral Chapel - a sacred space honouring the first peoples of Treaty 6 Territory. Earlier in the day, Archdeacon Travis Enright and Bishop Jane Alexander had been invited to share with Society members about the Edmonton diocese's commitment to walking with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Enright described the

work and mission of Indigenous Ministries and the diocese's commitment to meeting the spiritual needs of First Nations' communities. Safe spaces like the Standing Stones worship service, which blends Cree tradition and Anglican liturgies, create opportunities for dialogue and healing. "This is an amazing piece of the Anglican Mission of reconciliation," said Bishop Andrew.

At a wine and cheese reception welcoming Society members to the Cathedral, Bishop Andrew explained that the Compass Rose Society was formed to support the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion and, specifically, "projects that the Archbishop of Canterbury wishes to undertake."



Bishop Andrew and Bishop Jane address Compass Rose Society following the evening service and cathedral tour.

Since its inception in 1994, the Society has given \$10.6 million (USD) to support the Communion. In 2017, the Society donated nearly \$8 million to the Anglican Consultative Council, in addition to more than \$685,000 to dioceses of the Anglican Communion for specific purposes, such as reconciliation education, health care programs and emergency relief. Those attending the gathering were given a wooden holding cross provided by a member of the Board of Directors from Hong Kong.

For more information, or to become a member of the Compass Rose Society, visit: www.compassrosesociety.org.



Dean Neil Gordon leads service of Evening Prayer and a tour of the Cathedral.



Celebrating 10 years of service in Edmonton diocese continued

Continued from page 3.

When the debate around a proposed amendment to the marriage canon allowing the blessing of same-sex marriages became contentious, Bishop Jane reminded members of General Synod 2016 to respect the dignity of one another by gently and genuinely expressing her concern for members of the LGBTQ2+ community whom she told: "you are not an abomination; you are a beloved child of God in the same way every single one of us in this room is a beloved child of God." Her far-reaching comments were seen by more than 15,000 people on social media, prompting a compassionate response from Anglicans on both sides of the debate.

In an effort to build bridges of understanding with the Indigenous communities of Treaty 6, Bishop Jane installed the Ven. Travis Enright as Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries to lead the Anglican community in its response to the TRC Calls to Action; providing educational opportunities and ministry programs.

The REACH campaign, initiated by Bishop Jane, has been the most

successful diocesan fundraising campaign to date raising more than \$4,800,000 in pledges, benefitting parish, diocesan and National Church ministry. REACH contributions have supported Indigenous and Rural Ministry initiatives, as well as hospital and university chaplaincies, Filipino and South Sudanese immigrant congregations, the Bleeding Heart Art ministry, PrayerWorks Common community meal program and the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa.

This campaign was conducted in partnership with parishes, resulting in creative, community-building projects such as computer training and adult literacy courses for seniors and newcomers to Canada, community gardens contributing fresh produce to local food banks, rural ministry internships, outreach through parish communications, neighbourhood workshops, support for school breakfast programs, and so much more. The REACH campaign has proved to be crucial in bringing the community and the church together, and in fostering loving and supportive relationships.

Beyond our diocese, Bishop Jane

continues to support disciples across the world, serving on various committees, teaching at different institutions, spreading the word of God. She has fostered a close relationship with the Diocese of Buyé and arranged for REACH funds to be used to build a much needed maternity ward at the hospital in Buyé, Burundi. This support continues today as the same hospital is in the process of building a pediatric ward for newborns and children.

Bishop Jane's encouragement and insistence that parishes live the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion through their Mission Action Plans (MAPS) has, said Gordon, required an "enormous amount of energy (on her part) to resource our work, to make mission exciting and to help us see what God is calling us to do here; reminding us all that we are not just the faithful, but the faithful engaged in mission."

It is nearly impossible to write a list of all she has done for parishioners, clergy, the Diocese of Edmonton, the City of Edmonton and other communities, for the Anglican Church of Canada and the



Clergy of the Edmonton diocese show appreciation for Bishop Jane and her leadership.

Worldwide Anglican Communion. We are so very proud of all she has accomplished in these 10 years as Bishop and cannot wait to see what she has in store next!

"We have been blessed by your example for 10 years," said Gordon thanking Bishop Jane for her ministry. "You are one with a holy life; one who seeks to do the Lord's will, be part of His mission and have others join in His mission and to know themselves in His work."

"I'm so blessed and I can't think of any better place to serve God than right here in this diocese," said Bishop Jane following an exuberant round of applause and standing ovation from the congregation. "Thank you so much for the privilege of serving you."

Harvey urges 'sheep' to follow the Good Shepherd

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

In 2011, a volcano erupted in Grímsvötn, Iceland, creating a giant ash cloud and disrupting air travel across western and northern Europe. Yet, somehow, Michael Harvey was aboard the last flight out of the UK bound for his first visit to the Edmonton diocese. God had a plan.



Michael Harvey preaches at All Saint's Cathedral on Good Shepherd Sunday.

Over the past seven years, Harvey has been shepherding us toward becoming not only a welcoming church, but an intentionally inviting church. This continued with another visit for six days in May, as Harvey once again offered encouragement to parishes to trust that, by God's help, we may realize the benefits of being a proactive and invitational church.

Perhaps what the church today needs to hear, Harvey told the Choral Eucharist congregation at All Saints' Cathedral on Good Shepherd Sunday, is that we don't need more leaders. We need more followers of the Shepherd; people willing to take a step of faith and let God be in charge; more connection with the God who wants to direct us.

"The Shepherd says 'follow me.

We'll get through this together.' Our Shepherd is with us. He enters into our pain to restore us. Our Shepherd is not waiting for us on the other side of darkness. He makes a way in the darkness," said Harvey, preaching on the gospel Psalm 23.

"The Shepherd gives us sound mind where there is confusion, wisdom where there is foolishness, bringing order where there is disorder, hope where there is despair, joy where there's sorrow. God restores our will so that we may say 'yes' to the right things and 'no' to the wrong things. In essence, God gives us our lives back. God repairs and renews the things that were broken and lost. In essence, our Shepherd recreates us. We're not just human beings, we are human becomings."

But how does that work in life?

Harvey recalled a Monday morning when he was just nine years old.

"It should've been a great day," he said. His five-year-old sister was beginning school. "In the playground, I was surrounded by my classmates who said to me 'why are you black and your sister white?'" At the time, he was unaware that he and his sister do not share the same father. His father, he found out later, is Jamaican.

"That was the start. At nine years of age and throughout the whole of my school years, I learned all the names a black child could be called. They tormented me. They excluded me. Rejection was the lens through which I viewed life and abandonment lurked on the surface of everything."

"Until one Sunday in this diocese about three years ago," part of God's plan, even through tears, was clearly revealed to Harvey as

he was preparing to give the homily at St. John the Evangelist Church. Five minutes before the processional hymn he realized, in a panic, that the gospel reading was not the one he had prepared for. Instead, he listened to the gospel for the day and heard these words: 'I will not leave you orphaned. I am coming for you.'

"It was a good job I was on the front row because the tears started to flow. I was there thinking I was going to be ministering to God's people that morning, but God wanted to restore me. He wanted to revive me. To tell me that, though my earthly parents had abandoned me, God had not. He had led me thousands of miles to hear the message. That's why, for the last 14 years, I've been trying to invite people into relationship with the Shepherd. He makes me. He leads

me, he restores me. He guides me. He protects me. He provides for me. He anoints me. He follows me. Why would we not want God to be our Shepherd?"

Because of his background of abandonment and struggling with rejection the rest of his life, Harvey says that "to suddenly find God directly speaking through the gospel that morning was just such a comforting thought; that God is always there and that He came for me and is continuing to work to help me become who I am in Christ."

Harvey's mission now is to continue to help the members of our diocese realize and release their God-given gifts through the ongoing development of the I.D. initiative, along with Bishop Jane and the Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship.

Harvey's premise appeals to Cursillo community

DAVID HOLEHOUSE

Edmonton Cursillo Lay Director

Michael Harvey's logic, that if we simply invite a person to sample our faith God will do the rest, was met with enthusiastic support at April's Cursillo Ultreya in Edmonton.

The Cursillo Community encourages Christians to 'make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.' It can be a daunting challenge, but Harvey's toolkit provides some practical methods to smooth the way.

Harvey's opening point was that "it takes a brave person to walk into a church for the first time." We probably all know a neighbour or friend we'd love to invite to church but, too often, fear holds us

back. In fact, while 70 per cent of church-goers admit to Harvey they know the name of someone they should invite, 80-90 per cent have no immediate intention of inviting anyone.

Our fear of hearing 'No' can get in the way of a spirit of invitation. "Is there someone God is inviting you to have a God conversation with?" Harvey asked. "Don't let fear of a possible future outcome get in the way. Success is not hearing 'Yes.' Success is extending the invitation and leaving the rest to God."

It is not about merely boosting numbers in the pews. It is about inviting our brothers and sisters to the hope and peace of the Christian life.

Chaplaincy fundraiser focuses on grace and respect cont.

Continued from page 11.

For Andrew this uncommon friendship and partnership grew out of an admiration for "someone who is willing to seek truth and to celebrate something really important together. You have that person in your workplace, and you have that at school and you have that wherever you go. Not everyone's going to be Anglican or Lutheran or Catholic. To add to Adam's point, there are a lot of commonalities in just being human that we can rally around. As for Adam, he's a friend of mine, our families hang out together and we're

doing something really important together. As I say in the book, 'let's change the world together, and we'll debate on metaphysics on the ride over.'"

Andrew and Adam are donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their books to Polaris (www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking), a nonprofit organization working to end human trafficking by raising awareness and advocating for legislative change. Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world. Polaris has operated a

national support hotline in the US for more than 10 years, and recently launched the "Vision 2020 Project" to build a data network (partnering with major uses airlines and hotels) to rescue victims and track the patterns and behaviours of pimps. In addition, Polaris works to rehabilitate victims, providing them with psychological counselling (it is estimated that 9 out of 10 sex trafficking victims return to their pimp or trade), and helping them out of addiction and into secure jobs.



Guest speakers Andrew Murtagh and Adam Walker sign copies of their book, *Meta*.

Joy of Cold Lake confirmation reaches around the world

SHELLY KING
The Messenger

On Sunday, April 15, Bishop Jane joined the congregation at St. John the Evangelist, Cold Lake for a special Service of Confirmation.

Bishop Jane had the pleasure to confirm Dorcas Alalade-Ayinla, who moved to Cold Lake earlier this year to be with her husband, Ayo. Ayo had previously moved to Canada from Nigeria, living in St. Paul for a short time before relocating to Cold Lake. Both are regular attendees at St. John's, where Ayo is also the parish treasurer.

Ayo passed on a message from his father, the Very Rev. Akin Ayo Alalade-Ayinla, who is Provost of the Cathedral (similar to a Dean) in Ibadan South Diocese, Nigeria.



Pictured from left: Donna Gauthier, Ayo and Dorcas Alalade-Ayinla, and Bishop Jane.

"My dad was so excited when I told him the Bishop came all the way from Edmonton because of Dorcas's confirmation. He's really grateful and sends his regards."

Priest-in-Charge at Cold Lake, the Rev. Donna Gauthier says, "It was a real blessing to have Bishop Jane to celebrate with us. People were just thrilled to see Dorcas's commitment of faith. She and Ayo have become part of our close-knit church family. It's a wonderful celebration for our church and so refreshing to see their dedication to the Lord."

The youth of Cold Lake played a big role in the confirmation.

Sydney Jorgensen, who was confirmed the previous year, acted as Bishop Jane's assistant, while the Sunday School

children presented the Bishop with a special gift. They gave her cards and potted flowers, having planted the seeds and watched them grow to new life, representing the resurrection of Jesus at Easter.



Ezri, Annica and Cailyn present Bishop Jane with potted flowers they planted in Sunday School.

St. Paul Leduc celebrates confirmation and baptism

Messenger Staff

On Sunday, April 22, Bishop Jane had the joy of presiding at the confirmation of six young people, and the renewal of baptismal vows of one adult in the parish of St. Paul in Leduc.

The Rev. Susan Ormsbee, rector at St. Paul, describes the process of learning and discovery that led up to the event, and the day itself:

In October, six teens decided to explore their faith and consider the next phase of their relationship with God. They met approximately every second week to discuss such topics as traditions, Anglicanism, prayer and faith in action.

During Lent and Holy Week, the group attended many of the special services, a new experience for themselves and their parents!

During an Anglicanism course in Lent one adult (Margaretha) decided that she would like to reaffirm her baptismal vows at this point in her faith journey; she too would be a part of the celebration.

Finally, the day came – excitement filled the church. The service was a celebration of the community's commitment to support each other to live in God's way.

Bishop Jane presented each with a backpack for the journey filled with useful items.

The parish gave each a prayer shawl crafted by a circle of members to remind the newly confirmed that the community supports them in their faith journey. The celebration concluded with a potluck lunch and celebratory cake.

It was a wonderful day at St. Paul, Leduc.



Pictured left and right of the group: Bishop Jane and Susan Ormsbee respectively; left to right back row: Benson and Conner; middle row: Bernania, Brooklyn and Margaretha; front row: Jessica and Kaitlyn.

Bishop commissions Pastoral Visiting Team at St. Luke's

SHELLY KING
St. Luke, Edmonton

On Sunday, April 8, Bishop Jane visited St. Luke's Anglican Church in Edmonton to commission eight parishioners in a newly developed team for pastoral visiting.

The Ven. Richard King, rector of St. Luke's, is fond of reminding parishioners that each one is uniquely gifted by God; that those gifts are needed for the church to grow to maturity (1 Corinthians 12:4-7); and that individual Christians need to exercise their gifts in order to grow as well.

With all that in mind during a meeting of St. Luke's Ministry Leadership Team, King asked whether anyone had an idea to do something that would allow them to use their gifts. One person said immediately that she would like to be part of a team visiting home-bound members of the congregation who could no longer attend services. That idea resonated strongly with a number of other parishioners and quickly transformed into a full-fledged Pastoral Visiting

Team. One team member said she had been wondering what kind of service she might get involved in, and as soon as she saw the notice about the team, she knew it was for her.



Bishop Jane commissions St. Luke's Pastoral Visiting Team.

The development of gifts-based mission and ministry is a key aspect of the 'I.D. framework for discipleship' that Archdeacon Richard is involved in bringing to the diocese. It focuses on the fivefold ministries of Christ listed in Ephesians 4: apostle, prophet, evangelist, shepherd and teacher. He says he looks forward to seeing many more parishioners grow and flourish through the exercise of their gifts.

Appreciation for Service

VICKIE McKEACHNIE
St. Helen's Anglican Church
Fairview



As part of the Fairview and District Ministerial Association, St. Helen's Anglican Church, Fairview has for many years led a service at Homesteader Lodge in Hines Creek, located 30 kilometres to the north. Our rotation comes up approximately every six weeks.

In April parish members attended a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon at



Pictured from left: Betty MacArthur, Inez Austin, Shirley Lof, Harvey and Vickie McKeachnie.

the Homesteader Lodge. A Hawaiian themed lunch and music made for a wonderful afternoon!

Easter blessing at All Saints'

MARY GISLASON
All Saints' Anglican Church
Athabasca



This 2018 interim year, the Rev. David Greenwood has added blessings of worship at All Saints' Church in Athabasca. He began worship study at 9:00 am on Sundays, leading the All Saints' Academy through the Gospel of Matthew for an hour before the eucharist service. After Lent and Easter, he led a study on the book *Experiencing God*, by Henry Blackaby.

Palm Sunday was extraordinary, with the congregation gathering at the church entrance for prayers and handing out palm crosses. Before being seated, all marched in a parade around the church perimeter holding

up the crosses.

Rev. Greenwood then led three days of worship before Easter Sunday. Thursday was a planned special meal followed by a service and feet washing. Friday and Saturday added prayers, worship, and readings about the crucifixion. All was done to relive Jesus' last days before his death. It was very special to relive what Jesus did and that He has promised to forgive our daily sins. We are continuously reminded that the Bible is our guide to stay on the "Trail."

We learned that prayers and laughter are enemies of hardships. In times of pain, sorrow, and losses God is our greatest comfort. We find God's blessings are everywhere. All young and elderly people need prayers and a little bit of encouraging time.

It certainly was a delight to see Sunday School and Rev. Greenwood conversing with the children about the Easter story and Jesus' resurrection. The 'Cross in My Pocket' card grasped their attention at the Children's Focus time. The children proudly handed out the cards to all parishioners.

Sunday: what jubilation! "Jesus Christ has risen!" Easter to a Christian is special. No other holiday rivals it. Wherever you turn, you



From Palm Sunday to Easter morning, Holy Week at All Saints' is full of blessings.

Choir has 'a reason to sing'

MARY GISLASON
All Saints' Anglican Church
Athabasca



What a pleasure it was to witness the marvellous performance by Mary Olson's Golden Memories Choir on April 15, 2018, presenting their gospel concert: "A Reason to Sing." In this busy world there are so many programs, but the choir this year joyfully praised God and what He has done with hymns, song, and attitude.

It's always wondrous to hear about Jesus, God's grace, and faithfulness in our lives. The Golden Memories Choir showed they can be God's Choir and each member has a spot to sing in praise of God's work. God loves to receive His people's praise and to hear the voices of the

young, mature, and elderly.

The concert was quite an accomplishment for Choir Leader Mary Olson who, besides the exceptional training she gave to the choir members, also had photos appear on two overhead screens to match the hymns and songs. It was a well-planned program, practised over many months each Thursday afternoon since September, 2017. At the concert, Mary gave a short historical introduction of each hymn and song.

Among the 26 items in the approximately two-hour program were "My Forever Friend" (opening and ending), "Family Bible," "Excuses," "Emmanuel, I Have a Dream," etc.

Thanks be to God.



Mary Olson directs the Golden Memories Choir on April 15 at All Saints' Athabasca.

come face to face with a thought, perhaps a memory of a stone rolled away? It's a wondrous hope through the risen Lord. It's an "Alleluia" of the heart. May we all praise the Lord for life eternal that the resurrection of Jesus brought to the world. All year long may we praise God for Jesus' birth, his teachings, death and resurrection.

Congratulations to the Sunday School teachers: the Rev. Lines, Mrs. Cosland, Mrs. Golonka, and Mrs. Newberry for all the lessons, stories, Easter egg and pew decorations that made Easter joyous for all. Congratulations also

to Mrs. Martynek for transporting so many youngsters most Sundays. Be proud, ladies, for giving the young so many experiences with faith, God, and Jesus.





YOUTH DAZE
2018
AUG 31-SEPT 2
ATHABASCA SYNOD
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TRANSFORMED
ROMANS 12: 1-2
The Rev. Gene Packwood

Andrew Hopkins, where were you born and what does the word “home” mean to you?

I was born in Edmonton and, even though I have been blessed to travel literally all over the world, I still call this wonderful city my home; a place where family and friends connect or reconnect, at any time, with no pretense or worry, just joy, love and laughs!

What is your favourite season?

I just love the long summer evenings when being outside is such a joy. Although our summers are short, they can be intense (disruptive thunderstorms and hail), yet, the beauty of everything so green, lush and full of life. It is amazing after a long winter season.

What is your favourite passage from the Bible?

Matthew 11:28 “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest.” A simple, but oh so powerful, message of one’s faith journey.

What is your greatest desire?

I wish to live long enough to see us reverse the incredible damage we are doing to the environment of our delicate planet and home. It will involve the cessation of our incredible thirst for obscene consumption by the western world, but it has to be done.

Where in the world are you most at peace?

We have a memorial bench to my brother at our cabin on the Pembina River, an hour’s drive from Edmonton. It overlooks a beautiful valley with absolutely no “human pollution.” It is one of those “thin” places that Dean Neil

Gordon speaks of where you are very close to God and to heaven. I love to sit there during a summer sunset and have nothing going through my mind but peace and tranquility.

Who/what inspires you?

I am currently captivated by a biography on Leonardo da Vinci. His vision with an inquisitive and brilliant mind, and his love of everything in creation, are quite awe-inspiring. He lived to the age of 90, which in the 1500s was absolutely extraordinary; perhaps an example of divine intervention!

What are you afraid of?

I can’t think of anything major, really. I do avoid the Queen Elizabeth II Highway in mid-winter snow storms, however. I did too many of those drives to go skiing when I was young and it scared the willies out of me!

What might people be surprised to know about you?

When I was a university student I got a summer job as a private investigator for a company called Pinkerton’s. I was then hired by companies to survey their “business Issues” by being observant and diligent in reporting things that were against company policy. It was so cool, as I got to travel the province and work undercover in various places, often for a couple of weeks. Fortunately, nothing of any significant skull doggerly was uncovered!



ANDREW HOPKINS

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL EDMONTON

What is the best book you have ever read?

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. A tale of a young boy’s belief that he is an instrument of God’s after he accidentally kills his mother with a foul ball from his baseball bat. A loving, humorous and telling story of growing up in the 1950s and ’60s.

Where was your most memorable meal?

It was at a seafood restaurant called La Pêche at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Acapulco. It was largely outdoors and overlooked the world famous Acapulco Bay. It served freshly caught fish in an amazing environment.

A joint Service of Light, and balloons on Easter morning

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The parishes of St. David, St. Augustine of Canterbury and St. Patrick gathered at St. Mary’s in the Highlands neighbourhood of Edmonton on Saturday evening, March 31, for a joint Easter Vigil Service. The congregation gathered around a fire for The Service of Light and sacred Indigenous drumming. The paschal candle (symbolizing the Light of Christ in the world - “a light no darkness can extinguish”), was lit by the Rev. Ruth Bott, curate at St. Mary’s, who led the procession into the church.

In her homily, the Rev. Dr. Renée Desjardins, rector of St. David’s, described the “blessed excitement and urgency” of Mark’s gospel and its cliffhanger ending: “They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”

“By leaving the story unfinished,” she said, “Mark pulls us into the story. He puts the ball in our court. We must decide how the story shall



Above: Ruth Bott leads parishioners in with the Paschal candle. Inside, Jonathan Crane, Kevin Kraglund and Renée Desjardins share the light with the congregation.

end. The risen Christ goes ahead of us, just as He went ahead of the disciples, beckoning us to meet Him. Our task is to be on the lookout and follow Him, for the Gospel story is our story. Let’s go out together and see the risen Christ and then let’s tell everyone what we have seen.”



As a trumpeter heralded Jesus’ resurrection on Easter Sunday morning at Christ Church Edmonton, children followed an alleluia trail to the empty tomb. The stone was rolled away and an angel appeared with a bouquet of balloons, leading one excited child to exclaim: “We are all risen!” Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

During the eucharist service, which featured two hymns sung by St. Patrick’s Filipino members, the congregation renewed its baptismal vows together, receiving a blessing from the Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector of St. Patrick’s, and the Rev. Jonathan Crane, rector of St. Augustine’s of Canterbury.