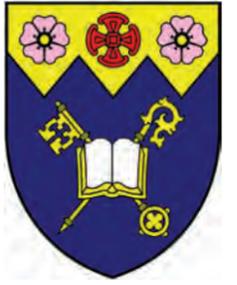


THE MESSENGER

MAY 2017

www.edmonton.anglican.org



“Our Common Ground” Gathering Explores Matters of the Heart

Pastor RICK CHAPMAN
Inner City Pastoral Ministry

“Our Common Ground - Prayer,” the first of four gatherings promoting reconciliation and healing, was held March 18, 2017.

This exciting and dynamic event engaged youth and young adults, 14-25 years, in matters of the heart. Together, they explored their common inner sense of “Prayer – What is My Heart Saying?” Of the more than 100 people who packed the gymnasium at Alex Taylor School in downtown Edmonton, many were 25-years+ witnesses who surrounded the youth in prayer and support.

The day unfolded around three expanding circles. In the first circle, indigenous youth offered snapshots and celebration of indigenous life through dance, song, drumming, story and poetry in the language of their people.

May the Creator bless us in our journey of faith, reconciliation and healing during this year of celebration. Our Common Ground – 2017

Encircling the sacred center were four sharing circles. Youth and young adult leadership learned about one another through dialogue; building relationship and mutual care as the day progressed. A good balance of indigenous and non-indigenous youth enhanced the make-up of the sharing circles.

Among the special guests of the gathering were members of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Youth Council, who were attending their own national event in Edmonton the same weekend.

The third circle included the witnesses, the over-25s, who listened to testimonials offered by indigenous and non-indigenous speakers. Many described the ways in which,

throughout their life journey, they have reclaimed and come to a fuller appreciation of the world view, ceremony, prayer and story of the First Nations and Metis people.

The gathering was led by Michelle Nieviadomy, Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM) Oskapewis (helper in Cree), and the Rev. Canon Travis Enright, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton Indigenous Ministries. Supporting their leadership were Elder Elise Paul and Elder Dean Brown, along with members of the United Church Edmonton Presbytery Moving Forward Group, and the University of Alberta St. Joseph’s College Outreach.

See more “Our Common Ground - 2017” photos by Paula Kirman on Facebook/

Our Common Ground – 2017 gatherings promote reconciliation and healing, intergenerational solidarity, young adult leadership, and ecumenical / interfaith partnering and engagement. They are presented with financial support from the Anglican Foundation of Canada and are held on, or near, the times of the solstices and equinoxes:

Wisdom Circle – June 17 commemorating National Aboriginal Day, this gathering will focus on the “Wisdom of the Elders” and the Capital Region spiritual and community leaders
Healing Circle – September 22 a multigenerational, family focused gathering, celebrating the strength of family life and emphasizing the need to care for elders and children
Thanksgiving Circle – December 21, this celebration summit will reunite participants of previous gatherings.



Buye Pilgrimage P.s 6-7



Ministry Adventure P. 10



Winter Camp P. 11

Interfaith-Habitat building affordable homes together

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

This year, perhaps more than ever, Habitat for Humanity Edmonton is in need of support from members of Edmonton's faith communities.

In honour of Canada's 150th anniversary, the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project and Habitat for Humanity will construct 75 new homes for Edmonton and area families as part of the largest ever Habitat build in Canada.

While an estimated 1,100 volunteers will be needed from July 9-13, when the Carters come to Edmonton, faith community members are always welcome and encouraged to provide labour and lunches at the Habitat work sites.

"For the past six years, this has been a really special opportunity for different faiths and cultures to come together," said the Rev. Armand Mercier, Director of Family Services for Habitat for Humanity Edmonton, speaking at the Habitat-Interfaith Works kick-off celebration in February.

When Armand is not leading Mass at St. Stephen the Martyr Anglo-Catholic Church, where he serves as parish rector, he leads a team of Habitat for Humanity staff members and volunteers situated in Edmonton, Cold Lake, Hinton and Grande Prairie. The team's mission is to select the families who will partner with Habitat to purchase new homes.

News of the Carter Project, which will construct 58 homes in southeast Edmonton, and 16 homes in Fort Saskatchewan, was especially good for Armand and

his team. Helping families become homeowners is a challenge he finds especially "meaningful and spiritually fulfilling."

"We're creating new hope and possibilities for families to break out of the cycle of poverty," he says. Before they are selected for the Habitat program, "the majority of our partner families are living paycheck-to-paycheck and spending 40 per cent of their take-home pay on rent." The Habitat model ensures that families do not spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing.

"Home ownership provides stability and there are big psychological benefits," says Armand. "The kids do better in school, they're excited to bring their friends over for a sleepover and in some instances, parents start to think about upgrading their education."

Armand acknowledges that he would not be able to do the work he does, if it were not for the "incredible support" of his wife Carol at home. The couple has two boys, ages 2 and 6, and their own home is conveniently located between Habitat headquarters and St. Stephen's Parish.

"The parish is also very supportive of my work with Habitat," says Armand. "They see it as an opportunity to give back for the blessings they have received in their own lives." In addition to three Sunday services and mid-week Mass, St. Stephen's hosts special services for the saints on feast days throughout the church year.

"Neighbours helping neighbours is what builds community and it's the reason the Habitat model is so successful," says Armand, noting that Habitat is dependent on support

from multiple levels of government, corporations and individuals who donate building materials and money and volunteer labour.

"Some of our volunteers have given 15,000 hours over 10 years. These are people who recognize value in being generous with their time and financial resources."

Since it was founded in the southern United States in 1976, the Habitat for Humanity organization has built more than one million homes in more than 100 countries. Habitat Edmonton has given a "hand up" to more than 400 hard working families across northern Alberta since 1991.

In order to qualify for a Habitat home, applicants must meet specific criteria, including a minimum and maximum level of income. Not unlike other homeowners, Habitat partners have a mortgage - though the average \$600-700/month payments are interest-free. Once accepted into the program, each family is required to invest 500 hours of sweat equity to help build a home - not necessarily the one they will be moving into. By helping with construction, families acquire DIY knowledge that will come in handy when caring for and maintaining their new home.

"We're providing a hand up, not a handout," says Armand. "As a result people really take care of these homes. There's pride of ownership."

As the director of family services, Armand has the privilege of meeting families and hearing



their stories. He told attendees at the Interfaith-Works lunch about two families Habitat will be partnering with this year: a family of seven from Ethiopia and a single, indigenous mother of three boys. The Ethiopian parents both have jobs, as a courier and healthcare aid, but they have not able to save for a downpayment on a house and still make their \$1,400/month rent payment. Likewise, the single mom has a good-paying job working for the City of Edmonton, but her income is not enough to provide for her children and save for a home.

It has been Armand's experience that "99 per cent of applicants hear about the program from a family member or friend." He and the Habitat team will continue to promote the program through visits to community leagues, church groups and schools.

If you are interested in helping Habitat provide affordable homes for families, visit www.hfh.org. There are volunteer opportunities at several locations, including the Habitat pre-fab shop, the Fort Saskatchewan and Carter Place build sites and at the ReStores. And, the best part? No previous experience or skills required.

St. George's nourishes Fort Saskatchewan community one meal at a time

Volunteers and staff working on the Habitat for Humanity build in Fort Saskatchewan love Wednesdays. It is no coincidence that mid-week, every week a dedicated team from St. George's Anglican Church delivers lunch to the hungry crew building eight new duplexes (affordable homes for 16 families) in the growing community.

Climbing into the hospitality trailer after a productive morning, Habitat volunteers make a beeline for the buffet. "It's a real treat to have real food," they say. "And it's hot."

The meal is a pleasant departure from the regular fast food fare that

Habitat orders in when they don't have a volunteer to provide lunch, says site superintendent Matt Holzer.

"We are immensely appreciative of the love and care that goes into preparing these meals."

St. George's Habitat lunch ministry began when long-time parishioner Sandy Ruston spotted an ad for volunteers in the local newspaper.

"We're not the youngest congregation, but we wondered if there might be a way for us to help that wasn't so physical," says Sandy. "I like to cook and I like to talk, so this ministry is perfect," she says.

Since October, parishioners have prepared 21 meals - simple

and hearty main-course dishes like chili, cabbage rolls, pulled pork, jambalaya, mac and cheese, hamburger soup, spaghetti and meatballs, to name a few. Dessert is provided by parishioner Barbara Wilkins, who shares her love of baking by bringing cake, muffins and cupcakes.

"For the past few weeks we have been talking about the ways God calls us together to use our gifts," says the Rev. Canon Chelsy Bouwman, rector of St. George's. "It's helped us to realize that no matter how small or insignificant



we think our individual acts are, together we are making a difference."

St. George's parish intends to continue its Habitat hospitality after the build is complete. They will deliver a welcome home basket to each of the 16 families, letting them know they are in their prayers.

Edmonton parishes welcome PWRDF Youth Council

Members of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Youth Council from across Canada visited local Anglican congregations on Sunday, March 19, while in Edmonton for a national gathering at Providence Renewal Centre.

At Christ Church, high-school student Charlotte Lilley, from Cambridge, ON, and Leah Marshall, a first-year student at the University of Alberta, accompanied by justgeneration.ca facilitator Sheilagh McGlynn, described their national youth project, "Right to Water," aimed at helping indigenous Canadian communities gain access to safe, clean, healthy water.

The Youth Council directs energy and effort toward raising awareness for a current PWRDF project,

Marshall explained. As the Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development and justice, PWRDF currently oversees international relief and disaster response projects in 22 different countries.

Close to home, PWRDF collected more than \$200,000 in support of Fort McMurray evacuees after the May, 2016 wildfire (see Dorothy Marshall's article on page 12). And in northern Ontario, PWRDF is partnering with Habitat for Humanity Manitoba to provide the residents of Pikangikum, a remote, Ojibwe First Nations community with access to clean water. Many of the community's aging, overcrowded and decrepit homes are heated with wood-burning stoves and have no running water. For everyday activities like bathing

and washing clothes and dishes, community members must haul water in jugs and buckets from communal stations.

Since 2013, Anglican parishes and dioceses across the country have helped contribute more than \$550,000 to the PWRDF Pikangikum Water Project, which has retrofitted 20 homes with clean drinking water and waste water treatment systems.

"It's really interesting to see how much clean water can impact a community and the lives of the people who are living in that community," said Marshall. "We'd like to keep supporting this project."

"The youth of Canada are the future of social justice work here and we believe this work is extremely important," added Lilley. "We'd like to thank the Anglican Church across



Canada for their continued support of youth initiatives."

While in Edmonton, members of the Youth Council took part in the "Our Common Ground 2017" prayer gathering focused on indigenous youth leadership (see front page story). They also made presentations to congregations at St. Faith's, Holy Trinity, Old Strathcona and the Inner City Pastoral Ministry at the Bissell Centre.

Justgeneration.ca recruiting diocesan ambassadors

LEAH MARSHALL
PWRDF Youth Council

On the weekend of March 18th, nine young adults from across Canada traveled to Edmonton for the PWRDF's (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) semi-annual Youth Council meeting. The PWRDF Youth Council is comprised of a determined group of young adults, ages 18-30, who work together to engage youth from across the country in social justice issues and the work of PWRDF.

The Youth Council's first ever gathering in Edmonton brought together members from Vancouver Island to Halifax, Nova Scotia and points in between. A major point of discussion for us was how we can connect with Anglican youth across Canada via our website www.justgeneration.ca and social media. During our stay in Edmonton, members of the Youth

Council heard great presentations by Danielle Black, who is engaging indigenous youth across Canada through her filmmaking, and Cydney Proctor, a representative from the World Student Christian Movement. On Saturday, March 18th we took a break from our meetings at the Providence Renewal Center to participate in a truth and reconciliation event held at Alex Taylor School. The "Our Common Ground 2017" prayer gathering offered meaningful insight into healing relationships with indigenous youth.

The National Youth "Right to Water" Project has helped bring attention to the need for access to a safe water supply in many Canadian indigenous communities. Through ongoing efforts of PWRDF, the Youth Council and partners like Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, 20 households in the aboriginal community of Pikangikum in northern Ontario, now have access

to clean fresh water and waste water systems. The Pikangikum project has brought huge improvements to a community that suffered with high suicide rates and extreme health risks related to a lack of accessible fresh water. Two of our Youth Council members flew up to Pikangikum this winter to see for themselves how successful the project has been.

On our last day in Edmonton, some of us spoke about our work at four city churches: Christ Church, St. Faith, the Inner City Pastoral Ministry's worship community of Emmanuel at the Bissell Centre, and Holy Trinity in Old Strathcona. We were generously accepted into these parishes, and our members expressed a genuine appreciation for being welcomed into the Albertan Anglican community.

I live on a farm southeast of Camrose and attend the University of Alberta Augustana Campus. When I joined the Youth Council last year as the representative for the

Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, I was the first representative from Alberta in a long time.

One of the responsibilities of our Youth Council is to support and promote the work of PWRDF by developing the justgeneration.ca network of Anglican youth across Canada. At the meeting, we were each tasked with seeking out and mentoring into the program a diocesan ambassador from within our home diocese. Prospective ambassadors are young people between the ages of 16 and 30, who are interested in social justice issues like food security, fresh water rights, and equality; as well as engaging their parishes with the work of PWRDF on international issues. While there are many Justgen members in eastern Canada, the diocese of Edmonton is still looking for its first ambassador. To learn more about this opportunity, please email Leah Marshall at leahmarshall@live.com.

SUBMISSIONS DUE MONTH
PRIOR to PRINTING DATE

DEADLINE for June/July, 2017
ISSUE: **May 1**

Submissions:

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

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party at St. Luke's



St. Luke, Edmonton hosted its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party on February 28. The church family looks forward to this event every year, serving up sausages and pancakes with all the fixin's. Below: Rector Richard King's daughter Em and her fiancé Tom Bushnell, visiting from the UK, took a turn at the griddle for a Canadian cultural experience.



Kitchen supervisors: St. Luke's Honourary Vocational Deacon Joanne Neal, with Noreen Soneff and wardens Karen MacDonald and Sally Neal.



Big-screen Minecraft at Good Shep

Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Edmonton is pleased to announce that their first Youth Night get-together, "If We Build it, They Will Come," went smashingly! Good Shepherd welcomed 12 youth from within the diocese, including a few first-timers. The youth gorged on pizza, slammed back sodas, and infectiously laughed together while challenging one another playing Minecraft on the big screen. At the time of publication, the second Youth Night was being planned for April 1st, with the theme "What's the Matter Doc?" and a forewarning that there may be a few April Fool's shenanigans. Youth events are open to all young people, ages 12-17. Please RSVP to Danielle at parishadmin@goodshepanglican.org

Confirmation of Five in Edson an Example of Anglican-Lutheran Communion

Pastor ANN SALMON
St. Catherine's/Grace
Edson

On February 19th, five Lutheran and Anglican young people, from Grace and St. Catherine in Edson, were confirmed at Grace Lutheran Church. Twenty weeks of confirmation instruction and a confirmation retreat day preceded the celebration service. During this time of instruction (deemed to be way too long by Anglican

standards, and way too short by Lutheran standards!), the candidates for confirmation learned about God's plan of salvation for God's people in the Bible, what it means to be Lutheran, what it means to be Anglican, and what ELCIC Lutherans and Anglicans in Canada are doing in response to the "Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) Calls to Action" and the "United Nations Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples."

The confirmation celebration, in keeping with confirmation guidelines established by the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission, allowed for the laying on of hands by Bishop Jane Alexander and by Pastor Ann Salmon.



Pictured from left: Pastor Ann Salmon, Ireland Cork, Robert Preville, Erika Heise, Jarren Fron, Russell Butts and Bishop Jane Alexander. Photo: Carl Rausch



Pictured above on either side of Bishop Jane Alexander are: John Wells, Kaleb Apedaile, Yaqub Dickens and Christian Chavez. The parish of St. David's, Edmonton was excited and blessed on February 12, 2017 when these four young men renewed their commitment to Christ in a service of confirmation. Photo submitted by the Ven. Kathy Bowman, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. David's

UNITY IN MISSION

CLERGY: May 16-19, 2017
LAY LEADERS: May 19-21, 2017

COMING SOON TO THE DIOCESE OF ATHABASCA,
A CLERGY EVENT AND LAY LEADER EVENT
LIKE NO OTHER!

The Diocese of Athabasca is hosting a special time of encouragement, building up and laying foundations for the future. Come play a part in what God has in store for us!

All diocesan clergy will gather in Edmonton at the Providence Renewal Centre on May 16-19th.

All diocesan lay leaders are invited to attend from Friday evening, May 19th, to the afternoon of May 21st. The costs for accommodation and meals for lay leaders will be covered by the diocese through the support of the Council of the North.



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*Go and make disciples
of all nations.
Matthew 28:19*

Warm welcome: opening wide the Church's front door



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

Last month we ended with an exercise. So, how did it go considering what it would be like if you were attending your own church for the first time? Seeing our church and all it does with 'fresh' eyes is a crucial skill to cultivate.

In 2005, Archdeacon Bob Jackson wrote *Go for Growth*. In that book Bob refined the whole concept of 'welcome.' We usually think of welcome in terms of having a friendly person at the door. Bob expanded our understanding. He explained that our welcome needs to have an 'open front door' and a 'closed back door.' So what does he mean when he asks, "Is our 'front door' open?"

Let us imagine that someone is considering attending your church service. Where is the first place that most people now go for information? Yes - the internet. When they google the name of your church, what comes up? Does your website give them all the information they might

need? What does your website say about you as a church family? Are you using social media? Being welcoming with 'an open front door' starts right here.

You may feel it is unnecessary to use social media. You may not like the internet. 'What has that got to do with the gospel?' you may be wondering. In one sense, nothing at all. The gospel is unchanging. But the context in which the Church is called to witness to His Love is always changing. Our current context is that we live in a world where social media is prevalent. If we want to speak the language of the young people and families we say we want to be part of our churches, and to be taken serious by them, then

it is 'welcoming' to share who we are and what we do in ways that are meaningful to them. So, 'welcome' starts before people even arrive.

Then, having arrived at our Sunday services, does the 'welcome' extend beyond the door? For example, is it clear how to follow your service liturgy? Are page numbers announced, or do we expect or assume that new people will know what to do? They won't! 'Welcome' includes making our services as easy to follow as possible. Finally, are they invited to coffee after the service and will someone make a point of speaking with them? If we see someone standing on their own, whose face we do not recognize, let's

go and say 'hi.' This role, of making visitors feel welcome, is not 'someone else's job.' It is the job of us all. Some church families use name badges. This can be a great tool for welcome, as long as everyone has one. Finally, are there events to which we can invite newcomers, so they can get to know us better? Building relationships is 'the glue' that helps people want to stick around.

Next time: we look at ensuring the 'back door is locked.'

Until then, may God bless you richly in your missional discipleship.

With every blessing,

Richard

Solar and water conferences provide challenges and options

SARAH FICKO
Environment Chaplain
Diocese of Edmonton

Environment Chaplain Sarah Ficko and Executive Archdeacon Alan Perry attended a solar power energy workshop put on by the City of Edmonton and the Solar Energy Society of Alberta on March 19. The instructor covered various topics including: types of systems, how to calculate expected output from an array of solar panels, current legislation and the economics of solar panels. Examples of solar energy in practice were provided by individuals and businesses that have realized significant gains, having combined solar panels with energy efficiency upgrades several years ago. Our diocese is now more hopeful than ever that converting to clean and renewable solar energy is becoming a viable and affordable option for individuals and parishes that endeavor to be responsible stewards of God's creation.

You can find out about free, public workshops on the Solar Alberta website: www.solaralberta.ca. The



Environment Chaplain Sarah Ficko represented the Edmonton Diocese at the Trinity Institute Conference on Water Justice.

next workshop is on "First Nations Solar," Thursday, May 11, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at MacEwan University. Many Alberta First Nations communities are installing solar systems, often utilizing community-based labour to do the job. This will be an opportunity to hear from a panel of indigenous innovators who are leading the way in solar energy.

Travelling to New York City for the Trinity Institute Conference on Water Justice, from March 22-24, 2017, Sarah and Alan shifted their focus from renewable energy projects to our need to preserve and, in some cases, ensure access to a reliable source of clean water.

The conference began with evensong Wednesday night, followed by a keynote address by a former California Senator. Over the next two days participants were challenged, both as individuals and as people of God, to address the issue of water inequity and injustice. With our own abundant supply of clean water, it is sometimes difficult for us to see the immediacy of this issue.

The conference was thought-provoking, overwhelming, scary, and inspiring on a variety of different levels. Guest speakers from around the world shared personal stories of how contamination and

lack of access to water is affecting individuals and their families, to how climate change will raise sea levels and impact many coastal cities, to how water inequity and injustices could lead to a future world war if steps to address these issues aren't taken soon, to how the United Nations has acknowledged that access to 20 litres of clean water per day and sanitation is a human right. All of our sessions were video-recorded, enabling attendees to participate from virtually anywhere in the world. On Friday, Cape Town Archbishop Thabo Makgoba said that humans have been operating under the assumption that what is good for individuals is good for the planet. However, we must learn to take a different approach and begin thinking about what is good for the planet, which, in turn, is good for us.

To continue this vitally important

conversation at the local level, the Edmonton diocese will host a water justice workshop in the spring. (Watch the *Synod Scene* newsletter for details!) Information from the conference, including some of the sessions, will be presented with insight from local speakers. In small groups we will discuss how, as people of faith, we can change our personal behaviours to promote water justice and protect this finite resource given to us by God.

For general questions about environmental stewardship, or to sign up for the Diocese of Edmonton "Green Team," email Sarah at envirochaplain@edmonton.anglican.ca or visit the diocesan website.



Environment Chaplain Sarah Ficko and Executive Archdeacon Alan Perry with Canadian political activist and former UN Senior Advisor on Water, Maude Barlow.

A Pilgrimage of Faith, Hope and Love - Edmonton

A mahoro! In March Tim and I were able to pay a quick visit to our sister diocese of Buyé in Burundi. During that visit I was impacted by the incredible ministry of our brothers and sisters and how, even in the middle of difficult times, they demonstrate an unshakeable trust in God and hope for the future. During our visit, we were able to connect with friends old and new and bring greetings from partner parishes. We met postulants and catechists, celebrated International Women's Day, visited the newly renovated and expanded maternity unit at the hospital and saw first-hand the impact of drought in parts of the diocese. Let me take you on a journey with me, a journey that became a pilgrimage where we certainly saw the face of Christ in the ministry of our brothers and sisters in Buyé.

We begin on Buyé hill where we will visit the hospital, the Bible College, the Batwa community and Buyé town. As we come into the precincts of the cathedral, our hearts soar and we feel as though we have come home. We look around at our friends: *'Iminsi myinshi! Nari ndagukumbuye.* It's been so long, I have missed you.'



Six doctors and one ambulance serve 220,000 people in the area surrounding Buyé hospital. The medical staff sees 1,000 patients a month and half of these are children under the age of five years old. There are 120 beds and 8 departments. Funds from our diocesan REACH program and PWRDF have resulted in significant expansion of the maternity unit at the hospital. Women from 17 different community health centres are referred to the hospital for deliveries, especially when complications are expected. Doctors perform about 30 Caesarean section deliveries every month. There are now separate rooms for women who are prenatal and postnatal, and also a recovery room with two beds for the period immediately following surgery. There is a separate room for patients who have had complications from delivery.

A new ward block provides an isolation space for highly infectious patients and more room for family members staying to help mothers after difficult births or C-sections. We are told that the new facility has resulted in a much reduced rate of complications and cross infections. One woman who had had a baby in both the old and new units shares with us how completely different each of those experiences was for her.

There are two operating theatres in the maternity unit, but these rooms serve the whole hospital. Only one room is functional, as the other needs an operating table, anaesthetic equipment and a lamp. It is not possible to keep either room sterile at the current time. There is an area for normal deliveries with two delivery beds separated by curtains. They have a working ultrasound machine which is used a lot. There is radiology at the hospital, but it is not currently working. The unit now has a room where a nurse can sleep over night.

All food is brought to the patients by relatives and, clearly those who have travelled long distances stay at or just outside the hospital. The construction of the unit brought local jobs with men and women working side-by-side on the building. Even the beds were crafted by local people. The HIV testing and counselling clinic built by the Diocese of Edmonton and PWRDF in 2012, is working well and is in extremely good repair, despite being in constant use.



I have never met a more dynamic team of doctors, nurses, administrators and pastors as those working at Buyé hospital. They have my utmost respect and admiration. We prayed on every unit, and at a meeting with staff, pastors and a



representative of the department of health we sang songs of praise.

Our next stop is the Buyé Bible College. We meet a great group of pastors in the first and second year of their training. They are dedicated students, passionate about their ministry. It is wonderful to see the college alive and thriving once again. Although the Bible College was founded in the 1930s, it has only been recently, with support from our diocese, that it has been able to take new students. There are now 17 students being trained for ordained ministry and more than 200 catechists learning to be evangelists in the diocese. Next year there will be ordinations and a huge celebration.



Bishop visits friends old and new in Buye Diocese



It's been a busy morning and we've stopped to rest and enjoy lunch at Bishop Sixbert's house. Now let us continue our walk through church lands, past the school where Clotilde teaches, through the town and on to the Batwa village.

Here is Domatille, she lives in the 'Twa village and is a member of All Saints' Cathedral. She prayed and sang and gave testimony as we walked through the village. Life is hard for these people, and when famine and drought hit they are often the first and most severely affected. However, there is nothing that can keep down Domatille's infectious faith and trust in God. We are blessed.

Today we travel on to Kirundo province – like a county for us here in Alberta. We visit Kibonde parish to see how people are dealing with famine caused by drought. This is the most difficult day of our visit. We hear



dropped and there is no water there to be had. People walk an hour down to the lake for water and an hour back with jerry cans full of water. As I am sure you can imagine, this water is not potable, it is full

of parasites. We see the effects of contaminated water in the many children whose tummies were not only swollen because of protein deficiency, but also because of parasites. Local clinics provide free medication for children under five years, but there is a cost for everyone five years and older. Also, when you have to drink the very same water the next day, it is questionable just when you get the treatment.

We walk through the land around the village. Across Buyé, everyone farms. That is

how you provide food for your own family. The crops we see here are literally sitting in sand. They should be much farther on. If

about people who have left the village, and others who stayed, but had to sell the metal sheets from the roof of their house to buy food. We also hear about the people who have died for lack of food. We know that some people walked to Tanzania and Rwanda and are living in refugee camps, some walking to join family members in other communes.

Even in the village of Kibinde, which has a well, the water table has

Let us take a break for prayer:
For those who will have nothing to eat today, tomorrow, or the day after, who are suffering from the effects of severe malnutrition, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. For those who have left their homes in search of better conditions, who are walking for days in the hope of finding food; for those who arrive at refugee camps only to find them full, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. For the sick and malnourished who desperately need medical attention; for those who will not live past today; those who can only stand and watch as loved ones die, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer. God, surround our suffering brothers and sisters with Your presence. Strengthen and encourage them, and all those who are working to help them.

And give us, who have enough to eat, a profound hunger for justice that motivates us to deep generosity, so that the suffering might end. We pray in the name of Jesus, who came to bring abundant life to all.

Amen.

— Christine Longhurst



this harvest fails, it will be the third failed harvest in a row. There are no resources left. The crops that would come from this season's planting would be harvested in June or July. They would have to last until December. You are getting a sense of the problem. Cassava plants, a staple of their diet, need at least a year to grow. Beans, the main source of protein, need rain now.

Entering the church in Kibonde parish, we pray with the people for rain, for courage and for strength. It means a lot for people to know that we here in Edmonton pray for them, especially the congregation of St. John's church in their partner parish of Cold Lake.

Next month, Bishop Jane and Tim will take Messenger readers to St. Paul Parish, Gashikanwa, where a vicarage is being built. Here, down in the valley, they see bricks being made, are given a lesson in growing cassava and encounter rain for the first time on their trip.



Ending Poverty Together Boot Camp: *together* is key

SHELLY KING
Messenger Staff

What is the best way to help people who are experiencing poverty? Anyone who has grappled with this question knows there is no simple answer. That's why St. John the Evangelist, Edmonton hosted an "Ending Poverty Together Boot Camp" on March 18. An eight-member team from St. John's traveled to Haiti with Food

for the Hungry on April 26th and Boot Camp was a pre-requisite.

Team leader, Susan Cockle says, "Boot camp makes you think about how your intended helping actions can actually hurt or humiliate a person or community, which can lead to people becoming further disempowered and disenfranchised."

Facilitator Paula Cornell agrees. "We come from a worldview in North America that prioritizes

productivity over relationships. In travelling to developing communities, we need to take off that hat and prepare ourselves to sit and listen and get to know the community we are visiting, rather than jumping in too enthusiastically with incorrect assumptions about our role."

Cornell has led about a dozen Boot Camps on behalf of Food for the Hungry since 2013. It's a day of thought-provoking presentation, reflection, discussion and activities designed to help participants think critically and challenge assumptions about poverty.

"The biggest light bulb moments come," Cornell observes, "when people begin to realize that poverty is about more than just a lack of material goods. When people start to connect the idea of poverty with broken relationships, they realize it's much more complicated than just donating items."

One 'light-bulb' moment came during



Each string represents a circumstance or attitude that can contribute to poverty, which all together become paralyzing.



sustaining.

The church expects it to be a journey toward mutual community transformation.

"This is not about the 'haves' versus the 'have-nots' or what we can bring to or do for our Haitian neighbours," says team leader, Susan. "This partnering shows us that all of us in the world experience poverty; whether it be spiritual poverty, physical

poverty, emotional poverty or material poverty and by partnering with a community and walking

together we can all be positively impacted in areas of growth and change to become self-sustaining and richer in resources."

Watch future editions of *The Messenger* for more on the St. John's team and their Haitian partners.



The 20 Boot Camp participants included parishioners from St. John's, interested individuals from the diocese, and a group from Northgate Baptist Church.



Paula Cornell understands the global and local impact of poverty, working with Food for the Hungry, and also with The Neighbour Centre / Mustard Seed in Edmonton.

The biggest challenge for westerners can be holding back resources, which we have in abundance, and instead thinking of ways to mutually engage in relationship. It can be a lot easier to give stuff, than to give of our selves!

St. John's is in the early days of an 8-10-year commitment to walk alongside the communities of Cachiman and Mateguasse in the Belladare region of Haiti, maintaining a partnership with them until these communities 'graduate' and become self-

Athabasca offers training in 'easy (but not cheap) evangelism'

The Ven. TERRY LEER
Archdeacon for Mission
Athabasca Diocese

Disciples in St. Anne's Parish, Valleyview had begun agitating for effective education in easy evangelism from the Ven. Terry Leer, Archdeacon for Mission Development for the Diocese of Athabasca. Emails, phone calls and pronouncements by the vestry paved the way to hosting a module of the Athabasca Discipleship Training School at the end of March, 2017.

The Athabasca Discipleship Training School, inspired by a former parishioner of Christ Church, Grande Prairie, opened in 2014 and offers modular-based education on a variety of topics including evangelism, the Bible, prayer, discipleship and stewardship. To date, Archdeacon Leer has been the sole content provider, but the modular system welcomes the inclusion of other curriculum developers.

Participants in "Easy (But Not Cheap)

Evangelism" were exposed to a personal experience of God's reconciling love as a basis for the relationships that can support evangelism. Evangelism is defined as the intentional presentation of the good news of salvation in ways that it can be perceived as good, and in ways that invite response to God's invitation to love. Such evangelism is one outcome of being reconciled to God through the sacrificing love of Christ. This reality marks evangelism as a nearly

inevitable expression of our discipleship in Christ.

But this reality also marks evangelism as a process and part of relationships amongst disciples and inquirers. Evangelism does not focus on conversion, which is God's responsibility and activity. Rather, both evangelism and faith are journeys: the first, the journey of a disciple with an inquirer; the second, the journey of the believer with God.

The disciples in St.

Anne's Parish quickly learned that an effective tool for achieving their desired goal of education in evangelism was the telephone. All that was required was a single telephone call to set up the event.

Agitators in St. Anne's have begun to recommend the use of the telephone to other parishes and have begun to circulate the contact information of the Archdeacon for Mission Development (the Ven. Terry Leer, 780-624-2767).



Edmonton Commuters Offered Ashes to Go

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

On a chilly Ash Wednesday morning more than 400 Edmonton commuters received warm greetings from members of Anglican, Lutheran and United churches at train stations and university campuses throughout the city. For people en route to work or school, this offering was an opportunity to take pause amidst the forces of daily life. For those who were Christian, it was also a chance to connect with their faith.

Ecumenical teams of clergy and laity took church to the people on March 1, the start of Lent, offering a time of reflection and repentance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. They imposed ashes – signing a cross, a symbol of God’s grace and forgiveness, on the foreheads of people who accepted Ashes to Go.

“I work long hours and would not be able to make it home in time for my own Catholic parish’s five o’clock service,” said one woman, who asked not to be identified. “I’m very happy to receive ashes from an Anglican priest.”

In general, “people have been very receptive to us being out here as a visible and welcoming presence,” said Archdeacon Christopher Pappas, who every year embraces this extra early start to his workday. By 6:00 am Pappas was offering blessings at Churchill Station in the center of downtown Edmonton’s City Hall and arts district.

“At the very least, they’ll go home and tell their families about the weird priest they saw at the train station this morning,” said Pappas. He brought the international Ashes to Go movement to Edmonton several years ago, after seeing it in practice in the Episcopal church in Chicago.

In recent years, Pappas and others have witnessed this once

novel way of being church in community, become the accepted norm for many people who would otherwise not go to a traditional liturgy.

“My 100th recipient was an elderly lady who said, ‘I just came for the ashes,’” said the Rev. Robin Walker of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Old Strathcona. “I did the imposition, said a short prayer, and then she turned and walked back down the pedway. She wasn’t going anywhere on the train but, rather, we were her destination. I was very touched by her devotion, and the fact of our availability to touch people in this special way.” Stationed at Century Park, the southernmost point of the Edmonton LRT line, Walker, along with the Rev. Heather Liddell of Holy Trinity, and Pastor Barbara Groote of Ascension Lutheran Church, imposed ashes on more than 300 people.

After greeting commuters for three hours in the unheated walkway between the LRT station and Southgate Shopping Centre, the Rev. Jonathan Crane, from St. Augustine’s of Canterbury, the Rev. Miranda Sutherland, from St. Mary’s, Edmonton, and Dr. Jane Samson, associate ecumenical and interfaith officer for the Edmonton diocese, were ready for a coffee.

“We were just sitting there and a Catholic lady came right over and asked for ashes,” said Crane.

The trio also reported several meaningful interfaith encounters, such as their conversation with a man of Muslim faith who was curious to know more about what they were doing.

“We had a discussion about Christian and Muslim times of fasting and repentance, comparing Lent with Ramadan. When we finished the discussion, I placed my right hand over my heart in the traditional Muslim greeting. He responded by telling us we had his ‘deep respects,’” said Samson.

Maskihkîy âcimowin/ Medicine Stories Public Art Installation Set to Open May 27

In response to the “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action,” the Diocese of Edmonton’s Indigenous Ministries Initiative and Bleeding Heart Art Space are collaborating on a new public art installation, made possible by a grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada (www.anglicanfoundation.org).

Maskihkîy âcimowin/Medicine Stories will feature a large, colourful tree sculpture, inspired by the traditional Métis story, *The Giving Tree*. The installation will be erected in an open field in the Arts District (92 Street and 118th Avenue, Edmonton) on Saturday, May 27th. The tree will be a gathering place for

story, ceremony and song, and will create a sacred space to further the work of reconciliation and healing.

From Saturday, May 27th until National Aboriginal Day, June 21st, visitors to the site will have the opportunity to download an app and listen to the voices of diverse indigenous and non-indigenous peoples sharing stories of healing, reconciliation, land and home. They will also discover opportunities to share their own stories and thoughts.

For more info, visit bleedingheartart.space/MedicineStories.

Here are a few thoughts that have already been shared by those working on the project:

Cara Roemmich: I am an historian interested in finding out about the land I call home and honouring the stories of the people who have lived here. The project is a chance to learn personally about what it is to live in reconciliation with people who are around me.

Joanne Guthrie: I am an artist and welder. I read the book *The Giving Tree*, by Leah Dorion, and I really connected with the story. I really like the values of the Metis people represented in that tree.

Mckenzie Oliver: I am a Metis woman. My family is from Red River. My family covered up our heritage and so the community which I have not always been able to be part of is very important to me. This project is a chance for me to share what I am able to give with this community and also to learn about it.

Fernie Marty: Chief Papachase was my great-great grandfather. I became interested in healing years ago and anything to do with healing I really enjoy. Reconciliation, healing our differences, changing the views of society today - that’s what I’m here for, that’s what I believe in.

Jennifer Saker: I am the great-great-granddaughter to Paskwâw Moostoos, one of Papachase’s brothers. I have a passion for the people, in particular the women. We had roles before the colonials came where the women were in

charge and I’ve become involved in the project to help that come to light and to honour the men in a very sacred way and to part of healing for all people.

Lori Calkins: I am a Metis woman. My family is from Red River. I believe art, story and ceremony can bring people together and help us to see in one another that we have gifts to offer and receive. Together we can find a way to live in a good way on this land--in a way that is different from how we’ve lived in the past. My hope is this project will help us to imagine ourselves in the shoes of others, to see worlds we haven’t stepped into yet, and help us step into a new kind of future, not just for ourselves but for the generations to come.

Chris vander Hoek: I am an architect. It’s an opportunity for me to learn more about a culture I don’t know very much about, but I’m excited to learn more and also excited to do something active around reconciliation.

Marina Hulzenga: I’m a spatial designer and researcher and I am fascinated and interested in space and land and the stories that they hold. I think when you bring people and land together, there’s a lot of wonderful things, a lot of healing that can happen in telling those stories. I hope that through this project that process continues.

Maureen Crerar reflects on priestly ministry adventure

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

“Priesthood is an adventure. Never forget this,” Bishop Henry Hill shared these words with Alan Naylor and me at our ordination retreat at “The Priory,” the Edmonton home of the Sisters of St. John the Divine, in 1999. It was a blessing to be in the presence of a holy teacher. Later, in 2006, upon hearing of Bishop Hill’s death, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams remembered him as “a very great man of God.”

As if anticipating our priestly adventure to be an enjoyable and unusual experience, even risky at times, Bishop Hill reminded us of the tools and attitudes for the journey, especially when faced with the unexpected. I am deeply grateful for his invitation to be true to ourselves, to honour who we are and whom God created us to be.

‘We are ourselves and we are priests,’ he said. This advice has kept me centered when the winds of change have risen and the waves have threatened to overturn the boat.

When challenges come, he said, ‘Come before God in the silence of the heart, to meditate, to deepen your life of prayer with few words. Abide in Christ and remain in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.’ One such challenge reared early in my ministry, when I discovered I could be personally impacted by the wide spectrum of views on the ordination of women among Anglicans. Although women had been ordained priests in the ACC for 23 years, some people could/would not accept a woman presiding at the eucharist. Initially, it was painful to know that a beloved parish where I had served as

a student deacon, needed to hold a special parish meeting to decide if, and when, I could preside at the eucharist. Bless the rector for his loving support and mentorship as I continued to serve with him as a newly ordained priest for another year. I remembered that part of the adventure is to hold our differences, and to boldly tell a powerful love story of God for all of humanity. Even through division.

In as much as it was extraordinary to be standing before the Bishop Victoria Matthews, bathed in God’s amazing love, at All Saints’ Cathedral, Edmonton, on the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, I was aware that many people had played a part in preparing me for this priestly adventure. Someone presented the road map, others pointed the way, and many walked alongside as companions on a journey. These were the family and friends, my children and grandsons, teachers and mentors who came from across the country and around the world to be present that day. I learned early in ministry that, even though we may feel alone, we are a community in which we are friends to others, walking alongside one another on an adventure in Christ.

When I began following the road to my ordination on June 29, 1999, I’m not sure I had even seen priesthood on the map. Bishop Kenneth Genge had ordained me to the diaconate in 1995 and, for three years, I had served at All Saints’ as a vocational deacon, while continuing to teach at Grant MacEwan and for the Edmonton Public School Board. I was deeply blessed in this servant ministry to ‘weep with those who weep,’ to speak words of hope and God’s love at the Women’s



Maureen Crerar is surrounded by friends and family on her ordination day, June 9, 1999. From left: Canon Melvin Langille, Hugh and Jim Fowler, Maureen, Kelly and Oliver Fowler, Nathan Gow. Above: Maureen with Sr. Susanne and Sr. Elizabeth from the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto.

Emergency Accommodation Centre (WEAC), and be a bridge between the church and community on issues of justice in the heart of the city. I loved this ministry, but the worshipping community at All Saints’ Cathedral, along with others, called me into this priestly adventure.

One Sunday, while I was serving at St. Faith’s, I heard a gentle but repetitive knock on the church door. Most of us at St. Faith’s had heard these soft knocks, which came as there was a quiet space in the Sunday service. Eventually, a sidesperson opened the door to find a little girl, barely old enough to be in school, standing on the other side. She said to the man before her, ‘I want to come in and sit with Jesus today.’ This is my story as a priest. I’ve knocked on the door of many parishes with a yearning to sit with others in the presence of Jesus. The joy is that people welcomed me

Female
Priests of the
Diocese of
Edmonton
Ordination

Dates:

1999: Maureen
Crerar

2001: Jane
Alexander (Bishop),
Regula Brandle

2002: Penny Bruce, Nancy Rutter,
Doreen Scott

2003: Wendy Ainsworth, Elisabeth
Thompson, Linda Whittle

Watch upcoming issues of *The Messenger* for reflections from women ordained after the year 2003.



to join in their journeys in Christ already in progress. And so, the great adventure continues in sacred spaces: sharing holy meals, witnessing the joy of new birth in baptism, listening to heartfelt stories, seeing the eyes of Christ in the face of poverty and the disabled, holding one another as we sit in vigil as a loved one passes from this life to the arms of God. As my adventure in Christ continues, I pray for the grace and courage to ask difficult questions and risk unknown paths, even as we pray and weep and dance with joy in the councils of the church. Thanks be to God.

The Rev. Canon Maureen Crerar has a daughter Kelly, married to Jim Fowler, and a son Nathan Gow. She is grandmother to Oliver and Hugh Fowler.

In the Edmonton diocese, Maureen has served at All Saints’ Cathedral, Christ Church, Good Shepherd, Holy Trinity Riverbend and St. Faith, Edmonton. She has also served at St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. As a member of the interim ministry team, she has assisted at Christ Church, St. John the Evangelist and St. Timothy’s in Edmonton.

She is an Examining Chaplain and a Spiritual Director. Nationally, she has served on the Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee of General Synod.

Beach labyrinth creator buries burdens in the sand

DEB STEVENS

Labyrinth Facilitator/Spiritual
Director
St. Mary’s, Ponoka

I recently returned from a wonderful holiday in warm weather by the ocean. I love the ocean. A highlight of my trip was planting a labyrinth on the beach in my bare feet, by the light of the full moon.

I invited a dear friend to walk it with me, and then we witnessed the labyrinth being gently consumed by the ocean waves. A powerful metaphor for our walk with God: co-creating sacred space by imprinting our labyrinth design into the sand, walking the labyrinth in prayer and gratitude with a friend, then witnessing the labyrinth with all of our prayers, gently being pulled out

into the ocean.

How many times do we lay down our burdens to God, only to snatch them back and try to deal with them ourselves? God didn’t give us the chance to take them back that night. Instead, He lovingly and graciously received them all, leaving no trace of our footprints of burdens shared and sins confessed. We were forgiven, the slate had been wiped clean and

the sand on the beach was left silky smooth - ready for the next pilgrim.



Junior High campers enjoy a winter adventure weekend

DR. MARK ARMSTRONG
Camp Director
Diocese of Edmonton

Full Moon Adventure Camp welcomed 15 youth from the Edmonton area to David and Susan Daniel's farm near Onoway, from March 10-12. And what a weekend we had! Friday night we held campfire and then went on a midnight trek in -15 C weather. The full moon shone through the clouds as we wound our way through the woods to a freshwater spring, returning along the river.

In small groups we explored Paul's letters to the Corinthians on Saturday morning. Afterwards, we made lanterns and explored the surrounding area – this time in daylight and on snowshoes. In

the afternoon Dusten worked on a quinzee, while Shelley and Amy cleared off the skating rink that David had constructed on the river. They took turns on skates, while others found hills for tobogganing.

In the evening we played hide and seek in the snow, before returning indoors to sing songs. Adam, Jed and Jory led us in compline.

Sunday morning arrived all too quickly and already it was time to pack up. We had breakfast before feeding the horses, checking out the toboggan hills again, hunting for the first pussy willows of spring and learning to knit. Too soon it was time for lunch. After celebrating eucharist with the Rev. Heather Liddell among the pines, we were off

to the TriLeisure Centre in nearby Spruce Grove for a swim. Here we were met by the campers' parents for our journey back to the city.

Thank you to the Daniels for hosting the weekend and, with the help of Liz Taylor, cooking us wonderful meals. Other helpers included Amy and Dan, who returned for another winter camp, and Dusten from Christ Church, who was new to our team. It was nice to



Horse rides on Sunday morning and snowshoeing were some of the favourite activities at Winter Camp 2017.

welcome back nine base-campers, and welcome an additional six brave persons, including Mohamed, a Syrian refugee, who came camping for the first time with us.



Winter campers each brought an empty tin can which, after some strategic drawing and hammering in the workshop, became decorative lighting for their supper table.

Calling all Junior High Adventure Seekers:
Registration is open for
BASE CAMP 2017
July 10-16 at Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park
Visit www.edmonton.anglican.org for details.

Bringing up the next generation of believers *On Eagle's Wings*

The Rev. MELISSA MAY
Diaconal Minister for the Northwest
Territories and Nunavut

“Can we use your bible camp materials for our Sunday School?” Rachel, a pianist at Church of the Ascension in Inuvik, emailed to ask me.

Without hesitation I responded ‘yes.’ To my surprise, I soon discovered that the curriculum would be taught by a student I had met at a previous On Eagle's Wings Bible Camp. Under the supervision of her mom Jonene, Jasmine, a grade 8 student, was prepared to lead our “A Promise Kept” bible school during the season of Lent.

Jasmine had been attending On Eagle's Wings's camps for many years, and I have personally known her for three years. She always loved to help with the younger children, and when the former Sunday School teacher moved away from town, Jasmine stepped into that void with warm and cheerful purpose.

At ‘On Eagle's Wings, we work with many denominations to provide and equip lay leaders to offer Christian education in northern

Canada, particularly in remote and isolated areas of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. With our executive director the Rev. Lesley Hand and the help of volunteer teachers and pilots, we travel to remote areas to teach bible camp and uplift congregational leaders. Through creative and simple activities, such as games, crafts, songs, snacks and bible stories, we spend time with these children, youth, and adults in team-building, bonding and sharing.

I met Jasmine again in Inuvik this February, during two big road trips with my ministry colleague Deanna Monks, Diocese of the Arctic Youth Coordinator, to 10 different communities in the Northwest Territories. We summoned our courage and climbed into an SUV to travel on permanent and winter roads through the southern, central, and northern parts of the Northwest Territories, culminating with a trek through the western Arctic.

We were privileged to talk with teens and children about their growing faith and how they can serve in their community and congregation. Our trip's theme of “Shine” helped us have conversations with youth about

how they are letting Jesus' light shine through them by showing love in the world (see Matthew 5).

It is a joy to help teach these children - the next generation of believers - in many different places and from different cultural backgrounds. It is amazing to have already seen one of our bible camp students become a teacher of the next generation herself. I will keep praying for Jasmine, her family, her congregation and her students as she begins this new venture in her faith and leadership development. Thanks be to God!

On Eagle's Wings is always looking for new Bible Camp teachers to volunteer with us, typically in the summer. Without God working through the efforts, support, and prayers of our volunteers, we could not travel to these isolated places to share God's word with these wonderful children, youth and their families. For more information on the ministry of On Eagle's Wings, check out our website at www.oneagleswingsnorth.org or call 780-440-6594/1-866-441-6594.



Deanna Monks, Youth Coordinator for the Diocese of the Arctic (left), with Jasmine, the new Bible School teacher at Church of the Ascension, Inuvik.

One year later: PWRDF funds at work in Fort McMurray



DOROTHY MARSHALL
Diocesan Representative
PWRDF

Memory is a strange thing and our minds can often be prompted to travel back in time by certain smells, sights, or dates. Every time I walk by the east side of my house, I remember the book I was listening to while I painted those boards several years ago. Many of us, of a certain age, can remember exactly where we were and what we were

doing on November 22, 1965 when US President John F. Kennedy was fatally shot in Dallas. I can still picture my grade school teacher sobbing as she walked into class after her lunch break that day. I didn't understand what had happened, but I knew it was something sad. In the early morning of September 11, 2001 another terribly sad thing happened, and most of us can say exactly what we were doing as we heard the news reports of the attack on the World Trade Centre.

As we begin this month of May many, especially in Alberta, will be remembering May 3, 2016, when we all had our ears glued to news reports of the wildfire threatening Fort McMurray, and of the massive evacuation of 88,000 people from their homes. We heard of harrowing escapes through



Albertans found ways to support victims of the Fort McMurray wildfire, May 2016.

the flames and gave thanks that no one lost their lives to the fire. We also knew that the lives of those streaming out of that city would never be the same. Canadians opened their homes, their wallets, and their arms to embrace those who lost so much. In the following months, \$200,000 was donated to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) in support of residents affected by the fire.

Lately, several people have asked how that money was spent. This one-year

anniversary seems like an appropriate time to share those details. PWRDF is a registered charity and follows stringent guidelines about how donated dollars can be spent. So, I spoke to Tara Munn, the PWRDF Rep for the Diocese of Athabasca. Tara

acted as the secretary for the Fort McMurray Relief Steering Committee, which worked with community stakeholders and the PWRDF team to develop priorities and ascertain needs. The goal was to fill the gaps and fund projects not covered by Red Cross dollars. Following is a list supplied by Tara of just some of the projects to date:

- Replacement of classroom items lost by teachers in the remediation of two downtown schools (everything had to be thrown out).
- Assist underinsured/uninsured residents with living expenses while they wait for their homes to be re-built or repaired
- Assist Habitat for Humanity with their rebuild and repair program for the uninsured/underinsured
- Assist Meals on Wheels in providing meals to elderly and shut-in clients
- Host community events, such as summer Bible Camps for returning children, and a conference to help people cope with the

effects of the fire on their lives

- Provide workshops dealing with "compassion fatigue" for social service/helping professionals and clergy who have also experienced trauma and where burnout is a very real concern.

Even as the flames still burned, many families and parishes in our Edmonton diocese opened their doors and were actively supporting their neighbours. Bishop Jane Alexander led the initiative, working hand-in-hand with Bishop Fraser Lawton of the Athabasca diocese to meet the needs of clergy, as well as community members.

Many people who were not able to physically assist, were very generous with their financial donations. It is through this support that the PWRDF has been able to support these worthwhile initiatives.

This is how the PWRDF works: a neighbour's financial support enables others to improve their lives in a time of disaster or great need. Working together, we are all God's hands.

If you would like more information about the work of PWRDF please check out our website at www.pwrdf.org. If you are interested in becoming a parish representative for PWRDF, please talk to your rector or email Dorothy Marshall at camfarm@syban.net.

Cursillo Edmonton: May-June Update

GEN ASHWELL
Cursillo Secretariat
Diocese of Edmonton

Because the Anglican Church had a busy Easter season with several services, an April Ultreya was not held. However, a group of us assisted with a Habitat for Humanity build. The team was a bit tired after a day of construction tasks, but uplifted and refreshed in spirit and community.

On May 19, we will meet at St. Timothy's Anglican Church, 8420-145 Street, Edmonton, at 7:00 pm. Val Wilbur and Terry Gushuliak will speak about sponsoring candidates for the autumn Cursillo Weekend, November 10-12, 2017, which will be held at The Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert.

On June 10, the wind-up meeting of the year



will take place at St. Matthias Church, 6210-188 Street. Bishop Jane Alexander will gift us with a teaching day from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The theme will be "Here I am, Lord." The Cursillo Secretariat will provide lunch. As always, everyone is welcome. Please find us online at www.edmontoncursillo.ca. We would love to connect with you.

Dinner out in Maskwacis: a simple act of neighbourly reconciliation

FIONA BROWNLEE
Aboriginal and Rural
Communities Liaison

We gathered. We ate. We laughed. Thirteen parishioners of Immanuel, Wetaskiwin enjoyed a meal together at the Nipsis Café & Collective in Maskwacis on March 3rd.

We were drawn together by an invitation from the Indigenous Ministry Reconciliation Team of the parish. We shared a wonderful prime rib dinner

at a local indigenous business. It was a good space to experience being a reconciling community together.

The main purpose of the Nipsis Café is to train young people from Maskwacis in the service industry, in particular the restaurant business. The Nipsis staff provided impeccable service and the general consensus about the food was that it was delicious.

Perusing the craft area while enjoying one another's company was a

delightful way to conclude our evening. We would recommend that the reconciliation team look at doing an event like this again in the near future. The team is hoping to provide other opportunities for neighbourly reconciliation that include supporting the businesses of Maskwacis.

So, anyone want to go to Maskwacis for lunch? If so, email Fiona Brownlee at f.brownlee@edmonton.anglican.ca. She will be happy to join you.



Nipsis Café is located in the Samson Cree Nation Band Office, at the intersection of Highways 2A and 611 East.