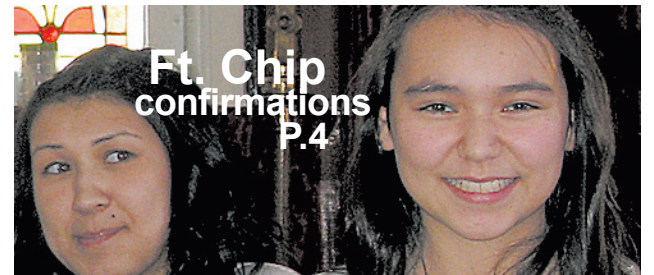




Reflections on Holy Week P.6



ACW meets in Athabasca P.7



Ft. Chip confirmations P.4

the Messenger

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL SERVING THE DIOCESES OF ATHABASCA AND EDMONTON

MAY 2009



Signs of Spring The blossoms are out in front of Christ Church in Edmonton. "For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away." Song of Solomon 2:11-13

Forging a partnership

Holy Trinity, Tofield and St. Thomas, Sherwood Park, agreed to enter a year-long partnership and to move towards becoming formal co-operating parishes.

The two parishes have been close neighbours over the years and St. Thomas, began with assistance from Holy Trinity. The partnership will involve providing a consistent clergy presence to Tofield and to hopefully grow the Holy Trinity parish. The pattern of linking larger urban parishes with a smaller rural neighbour has occurred within other denominations but is relatively new for Anglicans. During Holy Week members of Holy Trinity travelled to St. Thomas for the Maundy Thursday Roman First-century House Church Eucharist, and the following day people from St. Thomas travelled to Holy Trinity for the service of Meditation on the Seven Words of the Cross. The Rector of both parishes, the Rev. Neil Gordon, is very positive about the venture.

"Both congregations are positive, forward looking, and joyful groups of people to be with and they should work and play well together. With God's help and good graces some new and vital ministry can happen."

He also noted the solid support given by Bishop Jane Alexander for this project and commended especially Rob and Liz Hubbard from Tofield for their hard work.

Christ Church musicians produce children's CD

By MARGARET MARSCHALL

Children's ministry workers now have a new resource to add to their library of music. A children's Christian music CD, the brainchild of accomplished musician and Christ Church parishioner Hope Metzies, was produced right here in Edmonton.

Since last October, Hope, who was raised in England, and attended the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London, has spent many hours in a local recording studio playing the piano accompaniments for over 50 original children's songs. Working alongside Hope, providing all the vocals for the CD, was Christ Church organist and vocalist Shannon Brink.

Hope wrote all of the lyrics and music to each of the 54 songs found on the CD, Songs of Faith, Hope and Love. The songs, which depict the stories of

people and major events in the Bible, were originally published in two books, Five Minute Songs for Young People, and Songs of Faith, Hope and Love.

A children's choir director and music instructor for many years, Hope decided to write her own songs when she struggled to find meaningful music that would be easy for young worshippers to memorize.

"I wanted music that fitted the lesson of the day, and was having difficulty finding suitable and simple songs each week," she explains. "It was easier to write my own."

Hope is a founding member of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and no stranger to Mozart and Beethoven. But the melodies she has composed for use in Sunday Schools is aptly suited to amateur pianists. Sunday Schools



MUSICALLY INCLINED. Shannon Brink (left) and Hope Metzies collaborate on the project of more than 50 original children's songs.

across Canada, the UK, Germany, Australia and the US, have added the popular books to their curricula.

"I love the book," one children's music director wrote about Five Minute

Songs for Young People. "The words are so to the point. I have visions of doing some of the songs with my adult choir let alone the Sunday School."

>> SEE MUSICIANS on PAGE 6

Bishop's corner

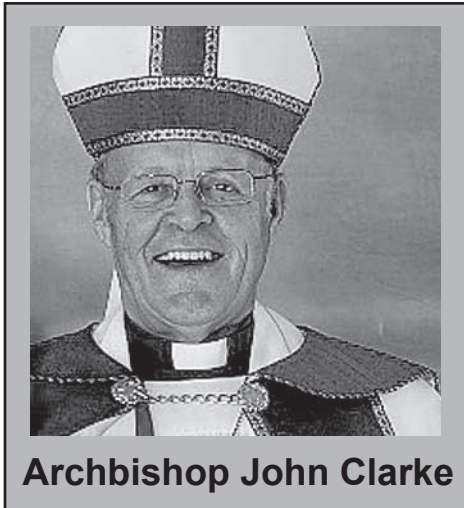
A pastoral letter to the people of Athabasca

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am writing to you today on a very important issue that directly affects the life of our Church community. I refer to the impact that the negative environmental publications are having on the life and welfare of the people that are directly involved in working in the Athabasca Oil Sands development.

Everything from politicians using the negative images of the oil sands development to enable their election to power, to the publication of the National Geographic that purposely highlights the devastating images of the mining process and the tailing ponds, complete with the unfortunate images of dead water fowl, is being used to drive the environmental agenda which is vilifying one of the most exciting and challenging projects in Canadian history.

As one person who has been involved in regular visitations to Fort McMurray over the past twenty five years, through the ministry of my Church both as Executive Archdeacon, Bishop and Metropolitan Archbishop allow me share my reflections. Twenty five years ago Fort McMurray was just beginning to move out of the boom town mentality. Gradually as people found new employment opportunities and a new sense of hope for their family's



Archbishop John Clarke

future. People from all over Canada and the world began to set down roots and a new sense of community was developed. New Schools, churches and hospitals were built and all of the amenities of a modern city began to emerge. This was largely due to the courage, commitment and hard work of the leadership and members of the community who were prepared to call Fort McMurray home.

Leaders such as Jim Carter, the recently retired president and CEO of Syncrude Canada one of the largest projects in the Oil Sands worked diligently to involve the indigenous community both as employees and participants in the project itself. I believe that the level of indigenous

employees stands at 13 percent of the total population which is higher than the per capita ratio. This was achieved through the support of many people and generally through the encouragement of a challenge to the indigenous community which they accepted. On this very point I have been asked to send letters of congratulations to the graduates of grade twelve in Fort Chipewyan which I perceive as a sign of real hope for the future.

There is no question that when you view the mining process it gives a very devastating picture, which is what we have all seen in the reporting of the National Geographic article. Nowhere did I see any reference to the reclamation area complete with lakes, fish, birds and buffalo. The Buffalo herd in this area is being managed by the Fort McKay band and I do believe there is hope to replace the diseased Buffalo in Wood Buffalo National Park with this herd. The important point is that there are honest, and very expensive, efforts to deal with returning the landscape to something like or better than before the mining process began. This point needs to be acknowledged in the present dismissal of the Oil Sands as an environmental failure.

There is no question that there needs

to be a fair assessment of the approach that is presently being taken. The former Premier of this Province, Peter Lougheed has made this very point. However I do believe that there needs to be some balance in that assessment and less judgment through the media. Under current atmosphere it is so easy to dismiss the commitment of those many, many people who have made Fort McMurray their home and have used their God given talents and work to benefit the whole of Canadian society. It is so easy to forget that the real resource of the north is not found in its minerals, forest, or water but in the calibre of its people. From what I have witnessed over the past twenty five years we are blessed in that category.

It is time for all us across the Diocese of Athabasca and the Canadian Church to support the good work of the people of the City of Fort McMurray and not allow the agenda to be driven by the sensationalism of the National Geographic approach. It is time for all of us to be proud of what people have accomplished and, by the grace of God will accomplish in the future of Fort McMurray.

**The Most Rev'd. John R. Clarke
Bishop of Athabasca**

"When you blew through your people, on the rush of a wind"



Bishop Jane Alexander

We are walking the road from the appearance of Jesus to the disciples in the locked room when he breathed his spirit upon them through to the giving of the Spirit at Pentecost. I think this is a time of year when the whole church says "what next?" When I reflected this year on John's gospel 20: 11-23 I thought - in the evening of a day when the disciples could have been asking 'what now, what more can happen today?' Jesus comes. Jesus comes into the midst of them into a locked room and breathes on them. To feel the breath of another human being across your face is to know that they are most definitely alive. Here in this diocese Jesus Christ is certainly living and active.

Something is happening through the

churches in this Diocese through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I come to the end of my first year as bishop of the diocese I have experienced first hand the many vibrant and active parishes of our family. I have seen people beginning to share visions of the future that are both challenging and exciting.



Christ has opened a door for us which all sense, all science, all tradition had said was closed for ever, no going back. In fact Christ did not only open the door from death to life he actually blew it off its hinges so that the door can never be closed and locked again. We talk about Jesus shattering the chains of death and hell and in many pictures of the resurrected Christ you will find those broken chains lying under his feet. You will quite often see also him standing with his hand extended to us, to pull us into life from whatever draws

us into the deaths of this life; the pettiness, the angers, the frustrations, and even pull us from the reality of our own physical death. It is the ultimate liberation. We are finally drawn into the fullness of life that was always God's plan for us.

Rowan Williams has said that it is "...when Christ's hand touches us that something new becomes possible and we are able to become human and to live fully in God's company" (p.28, *The Dwelling of the Light*). I love that phrase because it talks to me of the certain and intimate relationship we have with God. It speaks of the longing that God has for us that whatever we may do or not do, be or not be, nevertheless God extends that hand to us, that promise and that assurance of welcome.

So here we go as Christians in this the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, calling people to journey with us, to accept that promise of new life in Christ. Just think, if each of us reading this paper only told one person about the promise of life in Christ, then by this time next year hundreds of people would have heard the invitation. That's our task for the next year (well for the rest of our lives really, but let's take it a year at a time). This is exactly how the early church grew, person by individual person. We all have our part to play, just like Peter, just like Mary. So join with me in spreading the good news of Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Messenger

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Synod & beyond

“Listening” tour to develop Christian enviro perspective KAIROS delegates tour Alberta to gather information, opinions

By MARGARET MARSCHALL

Representatives from a national ecumenical social justice group opened their ears to members of the faith community in Edmonton recently, seeking to hear a Christian viewpoint on oil sands development in Northern Alberta.

The Rt. Rev. Tom Morgan, retired Bishop of Saskatoon, and Henriette Thompson, Director of Partnerships for the Anglican Church of Canada, led a supper-hour conversation - centered on ethics and oil - on March 31 at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral.

The KAIROS delegates were on a “listening” tour that took them first to Calgary to meet with environmentalists from the University of Calgary, researchers from the Pembina Institute and petroleum industry executives. KAIROS - a partnership of eleven Canadian church-based organizations dedicated to social and ecological justice issues - is planning its own visit to the oil sands in May.

Archbishop Morgan said he hoped the “listening” tour would help KAIROS delegates identify the key issues, “we as representatives should be attuned to.” He acknowledged that he and other KAIROS delegates lack expertise in the area of oil sands development, but added that the Christians community has a responsibility to examine its values in relation to protecting the environment.

Local KAIROS board member, Dr. Jane Samson, agreed that a Christian perspective on oil sands development should be heard.

She alluded to a pastoral letter by Catholic Bishop Luc Bouchard to the Diocese of St. Paul. In the letter, Bouchard is careful not to criticize the livelihoods of oil patch workers in

his diocese, yet he chastises today's society for, “our wasteful consumerist lifestyle.” Bouchard describes some of the possible environmental ramifications of a proposed \$150 billion oil sands development project in the Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and ultimately cites a need for an “action plan to safeguard creation.”

Referring to a 2008 KAIROS report entitled, “Christian Faith and the Canadian Tar Sands,” Henriette Thompson identified four key areas of utmost ethical concern:

1. **Justice:** Do the oil sands promote a fair distribution of wealth and energy between rich and poor?

2. **Peace:** Do the oil sands promote peace or violence?

3. **Sustainability and the Integrity of Creation:** Do humans have a right to drastically alter the environment, impacting all of creation?

4. **Participation:** Who is making decisions about oil sands development?

In the 30 years since Canadian churches first jumped into the ring to debate energy and ethics, global warming has become a major environmental issue. KAIROS - whose energy justice mandate is to “analyze the values implicit in...energy development, articulate the motivations and traditions of our Judaeo-Christian faith and apply them to the available options, and encourage all citizens to cooperate in seeking solutions” - considers climate change “the greatest (environmental) challenge of our era.” Thompson spoke briefly about her own work internationally on the continents of Africa and South America, where she witnessed firsthand the effects of climate change on the lives of

impoverished nations.

The discussion group concurred that a close examination of the environmental impact of the oil sands is warranted. Greenhouse gas emissions, the toxic waste in tailings ponds, and contamination of the Athabasca River, were some of the environmental issues raised.

However, those attending the meeting also acknowledged the importance of oil sands development to Alberta's economy, and the people employed in the petroleum industry. In Alberta, an estimated 147,000 people work in the energy sector. Can actions to curb oil sands development be morally justified, for example, if the result is a loss of jobs?

Business and ethics do not always go hand in hand, and it was suggested at the meeting, that faith-based institutions should focus on encouraging the Alberta government and the energy sector to continue to develop innovative and alternative solutions for oil extraction and environmental protection.

Following a brief stop in Edmonton, Morgan and Thompson headed north to Fort McMurray to meet with oil patch workers and hear their perspective on oil sands development.

The KAIROS visit to the oil sands will kick off May 21 with an evening of round table discussions at the King's University College, 9125-50 Street, Edmonton. Billed, “Energy Justice: A Faith-based Discussion of Alberta's Oil Sands Development,” the event will run from 7:00-9:30 p.m. and will feature a presentation by King's Political Studies Professor Dr. John Hiemstra, called “Christian Faith and the Oil Sands: Removing Barriers to Genuine Dialogue.”

Where will YOUR property go?

If you do not have a will, you give up the right to choose how your property will be distributed when you die. Instead, the court will decide for you in accordance with provincial law and the court will also decide who administers your estate. While it is possible you would be satisfied with the court's choice of administrator and the division of your property by law, more likely you would not be. For example:

- *You may have wanted* your children to receive your property only after your spouse's death, not get part of it now as provincial law dictates.

- *You may have preferred* to give some children a larger share because of special needs, not equal shares as provincial law requires.

- *You may have chosen* to leave legacies to some special friends rather than the distant relatives stipulated by the province's rules for next-of-kin succession.

- *You may have intended* to leave a bequest to your church or a charity that played an important role in your life, but the laws of intestacy make no allowance for churches or charities. In fact if you have no surviving relatives, the province becomes your heir.

By preparing a will you exercise your fundamental right to choose what to do with the accumulations of a lifetime. Nevertheless, if your will is not part of a general estate plan, your wishes could still be frustrated—even to the extent of disinheriting those you most want to help.

For example, an asset you intended to divide equally among all your children could be passed entirely to one of them because it was placed in joint tenancy with that child and is therefore beyond the scope of your will. Or, if your will specified particular securities which have since been sold, a charitable bequest you

intended to make could go unfulfilled.

Good intentions are not enough! To ensure property goes to the ones you wish, make sure your estate plan integrates property governed by your will, property in trust, and property that passes to a beneficiary under joint tenancy. Revise your will when you acquire or dispose of major assets, or when you have major life events such as marriage or the birth of a child. And be sure to select someone who is trustworthy, competent, and who understands your wishes and your values, as your executor.

If you have questions or want to learn more about this, or any other, type of planned gift, please contact me, in confidence and without obligation, at the following:

David Connell, Planned Giving Officer
The Diocese of Edmonton, Toll Free: 1-877-494-8890 Email: pgofficer@edmonton.anglican.ca

Canada news

MOVIE DEAL

The diocese of Ontario has negotiated with Criterion Pictures and Audio Cine Films to cover the cost of annual video licenses for all parishes in the diocese and Camp Hyanto (in the Kingston, Ont. area). The two companies cover virtually every film studio that provides video entertainment.

“We learned that some parishes were purchasing licenses on their own, and at a significant cost,” said Wayne Varley, diocesan executive officer. Parishes often use movies to enhance ministry.

“The annual licenses mean a relatively small diocesan investment but a big savings to individual parishes, which will no longer need to spend several hundred dollars to show a single film.

Dialogue

DANCING WITH THE PRIESTS

This spring, the diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador will showcase its own unique twist on the popular television program Dancing with the Stars. On Friday, May 8, 11 Anglican priests and their professional dance partners will kick up their heels in a fundraiser dubbed Dancing with the Priests.

The Anglican priests and their dance partners will compete and hope to raise \$100,000 for Vibrant Communities, a non-profit organization aiming to assist 1,500 households out of poverty by 2012.

Anglican Life

OTTAWA YOUTH HELP REBUILD NEW ORLEANS

Young people from six churches in the Anglican diocese of Ottawa and one Lutheran church spent a week in February helping the residents of New Orleans rebuild and repair damage done when Hurricane Katrina hit the city three years ago.

“When we were told that we were going to ‘wade in the water’ of New Orleans with the Jeremiah Project, I envisioned ruin, poverty and hardship. What I did not expect was the incredible grace and resilience of New Orleans and her residents,” wrote participant Melinda Platte.

The group learned how to hang drywall, tape seams, mud, and nail corner beading. “Along the way, we also learned a lot about the social issues surrounding the rebuilding effort post-Katrina, and met some incredible people who have shaped our faith in ways we are only now beginning to understand,” Ms. Platte said.

Crosstalk

Anglican community

Farewell to a great leader

With the announcement of **Archbishop John Clarke's** pending retirement, many people within the Diocese of Athabasca wished to have the opportunity of sharing one last event with him in their parishes while he was still the diocesan bishop.

Donna Meeres follows **Bishop Clarke's** last tour.

St. Paul the Apostle, Ft. Chipewyan, dedicated as Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese of Athabasca.

The call had come from the Rev. Marjorie Glanfield: could the archbishop please come and confirm five youth before his retirement?

Due to its remote location Ft. Chip can only be entered by air, or during the winter, by winter road. Well, we certainly have had winter in the north this year, and so the opportunity to drive north was very appealing to the bishop.

This appeal was two fold, firstly this remote northern community reminds Bishop Clarke very much of where he was raised and began his ministry in the diocese of Moosonee, and secondly because of his sense of the need to remember our stories there was something he has wanted to do in Ft. Chip for the past two years but never had to opportunity.

It has long been the wish of Bishop Clarke to provide a reminder to the diocese of our beginnings remembering that it is at Ft. Chip that the first bishop for what is now the Diocese of Athabasca, had his cathedral church. In those days the diocese was known as the Diocese of McKenzie, and included the present day Diocese of the Arctic, as well as the Diocese of Athabasca.

In what is the oldest church still in continuous use in Alberta, Archbishop Clarke, Executive Archdeacon Kerr, regional dean the Rev. Canon Fraser Lawton, the Rev. Leslie Hand of On Eagles' Wings Ecumenical Fly in



Archbishop John Clarke (right) dedicates the church of St. Paul the Apostle in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta as pro-cathedral of the Diocese of Athabasca. Established in 1788, Ft. Chip is Alberta's oldest Euro-Canadian community, and St. Paul is one of the oldest buildings still standing and in use in the province of Alberta. The church houses a beautiful Episcopal chair and was the seat of the bishop for a short time, 1912-1926.

Ministry, the Rev. Glanfield and many guest and visitors gathered to celebrate the choice by five young people to embrace the promise of their baptism through confirmation, and to share in a moving dedication service naming St. Paul the Apostle as pro cathedral for the Diocese of Athabasca.

This formal recognition of St. Paul the Apostle's place in our history is a step in telling and maintaining our history as a diocese, of connection our historic roots with our present day reality, and of remembering that through out history the church has provided a continuity necessary for society to maintain its focus through good times and bad, by focusing on the Gospel message of hope and salvation that is available to all people.

A Celebration of New Ministry

A Celebration of New Ministry was held March 29 for Lesley Wheeler-Dame in the Parish of Northern Lights. The celebration started with a pot luck supper that was overflowing with food but not enough room for the many visitors. Extra tables and chairs were added to the parish hall but in the end there were at least 20 people with plates on their laps eating on the stairs leading to the hall. The service started early when it was also determined that not one more chair could be added to the seating in Saint Pauls Church, Boyle. Besides the people in the parish there were also people from

Peace River, Athabasca, Lac La Biche and Fort McMurray to wish Lesley the very best in her ministry. Lesley is the newest clergy in the diocese arriving in February from Watson Lake in the Yukon where she looked after a two point parish. Lesley's new parish consists of five points so it is a wonderful thing she is young and appears to have lots of energy to carry out ministry in a growing parish. One of the churches Lesley is in charge of is a Lutheran Church so the Reverend Phil Hink, assistant to the bishop attended on behalf of the ELCIC Synod of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Lesley is joined in Boyle by her supportive husband Eric and their cheerful daughter Lydia.



Anglican community

Archbishop John Clarke retires after 45 years of ministry



Archbishop John Clarke reflects on the upcoming change of pace in his daily regime.

“There’s a lot of stuff I’m going to miss: I love going to congregations, whether it’s confirmation or just a parish visit. The people in the congregations need bishops far more than we sometimes recognize. And they give you so much courage and strength it’s sort of a life-sustaining experience.”

With 45 years of ministry under his belt - and 17 of those years as a bishop in the Anglican Church - the outspoken leader plans to retire this spring. His many years as bishop and metropolitan have been equally challenging and rewarding. In his call to the North, Bishop Clarke has witnessed a place where “the church has real meaning, and faith is a real issue.”

But the home is where the heart is, and Bishop Clarke won’t be too far from his flock in the coming years. His retirement home with wife, Nadia, is in Peace River and he plans to spend his days with his family and his hobbies.



MUSICIANS

continued from COVER PAGE

While the books have proved useful to teachers who are music literate, the CD is an excellent alternative for instructors who can't read notes.

"I think the CD is great," says Shannon, a gifted musician in her own right, who has a Bachelor of Music in voice from The King's University College, Edmonton. "Hope's songs are quick and easy for the kids to learn, but still get the message."

Collaborating on a CD has been labour-intensive, but the musicians agree the experience has been worthwhile.

"I've had a wonderful time doing this," Hope says. "It's been a huge labour. But after many years, I'm still not tired of it. I love music, and I love the children."

At 78, Hope carries her enthusiasm for music into the Sunday School classroom, where she is often livelier than her young pupils. The children at Christ Church anxiously await her arrival each week, shuffling their bright blue and red chairs into a horseshoe around the piano.

"Do you sometimes feel frightened or alone?" she asks the children, entering the room, walking cane in one hand, music book in the other.

She listens carefully to their responses, and then in her proper Yorkshire accent continues, "Let's learn a new song then, shall we?"



Christ Church organist Shannon Brink

"We don't have to be alone when we are troubled," she sings, grinning from ear to ear. "We don't have to run or find a place to hide. And when things don't go as planned, we just have to understand, Jesus cares and he is walking by our side."

These are the straightforward lyrics to "Jesus Cares," one of songs on the new CD. In less than five minutes the children know the tune by heart. They are likely to remember the song, and Hope, for many years to come.

The CD, **Songs of Faith, Hope and Love**, is now available. To reserve your copy, please call Hope Metszies, (780) 455-6956; or the church office at Christ Church, (780) 488-1118, for more information.



Details, Details:

A Reflection on Holy Week and Easter by a Newly Ordained Priest

By Rev. Tom Dean

Profoundly spiritual, humbling, but strenuous are three words that immediately come to mind when I reflect on my experience during Holy Week and Easter as a newly ordained priest in a church.

Nothing I have accomplished this far had prepared me for what I experienced during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. This includes a life-long association with the Anglican Church in several lay roles, three years of seminary, and 25 years in various management positions for a large corporation.

As I was preparing for each of the services of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Great Easter Vigil, I suddenly realized I was unsure about some of the details. For example, how I would go about setting up for the washing of the feet? Would have the water in the basin beforehand or should I pour the water from a jug over the people's feet? While I have attended several of these special Holy Week services over the years, I realized that I had not paid a lot of attention to the actual way in which some of the liturgical ritual and manual actions were completed. Now I had to lead these services!

Some of my colleagues received a telephone call from me asking them for their advice and seeking answers to my questions about these unique and special services. My colleagues were very helpful and supportive and I thank them for their advice and direction.

As I led each of these services I encountered a sense of peace and a deep awareness of God's presence. It was very humbling at times and the details that I had worried about did not seem to matter any longer. Easter Sunday was such a joyous experience, but after my afternoon service at the Gunn Centre I must admit I was tired and longed for a nap.

As I See It



By Rev. Martin Hattersley

Wednesday, December 3rd 2008 was the day of Canada's Constitutional Crisis, when three opposition parties made a credible threat to bring down Canada's minority government, and Prime Minister Harper spent considerable time closeted with the Governor General, to determine whether the latter would allow him to prorogue Parliament in order to avoid defeat on a vote of confidence.

By a curious coincidence, my Bible reading for that morning contained the following verse from the prophet Isaiah (9.16):

"For those who led this people led them astray, and those who were led by them were left in confusion."

I can hardly think of a more appropriate comment on the situation!

But the occurrence also left me appreciating the strength of the Canadian constitution - as distinct from the questionable position in the United States at that same time, when important and contentious matters of policy were being advanced in the dying days of George Bush's "lame duck" Presidency, at a time when his successor with very different views had already been selected.

Certain aspects of our Canadian government - such as Parliament, the Courts, the Armed Forces, the Civil Service and Criminal Justice system - are conducted not in the name of politicians, but of the Crown, whose representative in Canada is the Governor General. Technically, our Government is carried on, not by those politicians directly, but by the Queen on their advice. And the Queen, or her representative, ultimately does not have to take such advice, and can indeed give advice herself, even though it would be indeed dangerous for her to resist the will of her people's representatives in Parliament on any major issue. Canada, whose history is based on loyalty to the Crown and the

rule of law, in this way differs from the United States. So in Canada we have this last resort of a consecrated human being above the political process, rarely called on for anything other than ceremonial duties, but yet of supreme importance when a call is made to resolve a political impasse.

All of this takes me back in my memory to a rainy day in the beginning of June 1953, when as a student in my first year of University I listened on the BBC to the Coronation of the young Queen Elizabeth II. It was a religious ceremony of considerable symbolism and significance. Couched within the structure of our familiar Communion service are solemn promises sworn on the Bible before the Archbishop of Canterbury, to "govern the peoples ... of your possessions and territories ... according to their respective laws and customs" and "to your power, cause Law and Justice, in Mercy, to be executed in all your judgments". Added to these are commitments to "maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the Gospel", the Protestant Reformed Religion, the Church of England and the rights and privileges of its clergy. It is only after that that the Queen is anointed and crowned, and

presented with the Orb and Sceptre and the Sword of State.

Her promises then having been made, this is followed by a long drawn out procession of the nobility, each order personally pledging allegiance to the new Monarch. After which the communion service proceeds to its conclusion.

Although the Gospel at the service recalls the obligation to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's", the whole tenor of this service is the concept that good government is in fact a divine obligation, and, as is made very clear in Magna Carta, the allegiance of subjects is contingent upon the monarch being faithful to the promises she has made when crowned as Queen.

Power has a way of corrupting, and the "voice of the people" is not always the "voice of God". Let us be thankful, therefore, for a Queen who has conscientiously carried out her promises over so long a period of time, and for this reminder that, ultimately, good Government is something that transcends partisan politics, and the machinery does exist to make this so.

Isaiah would surely approve.

Our parish life

Parish news & events

Church Bazaar Good Shepherd Anglican Church Bazaar (**May 9**) will be on from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 15395 Castle Downs Road in Edmonton. Everyone is invited to drop in!

Prayer Book Society The national Annual General Meeting of the Prayer Book Society of Canada will be held in Edmonton (**May 9**) at St. Timothy's. It will involve the national executive and branch presidents from across the country and any member of the Society is welcome to attend. We are depending on local attendance to ensure the necessary quorum for the meeting. This year the rector of St. Timothy's, Rev. Joe Walker, is the featured speaker. His talk is entitled "Choosing Sarah Joy in an age of options" and is a follow up to his Sep 2006 article about his daughter Sarah Joy who was born with Downs syndrome.

Community Carnival Terwilligar Community Church and Holy Trinity Riverbend Neighbourhood Church will be jointly hosting a community carnival in the park at Terwilligar Towne (**May 9**).

St. Augustine's Parkland Spring Tea Join us from 1:00 -3:00 p.m., St. Augustine's Parkland, 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove, at our spring tea, bake and plant sale (**May 9**). Homemade pie and a beverage will be available for \$5. Children 4 and under are free.

Messy Church Join the Messy Church regional coordinator, and some local Messy Church practitioners for a fun-filled Messy Church information session (**May 9**) at George's Anglican Church, 10029-99th Avenue, Fort Saskatchewan from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Lunch is provided. Please RSVP to barnabas@edmonton.anglican.ca. Feel free to send any questions to the Rev. Thomas Brauer at the same email address.

St. Stephen's ACW Spring Tea The ACW of St. Stephen the Martyr, Edmonton, will hold its annual Spring Tea and Bake Sale (**May 23**) from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Delicious shortcake heaped with fresh strawberries and rich whipped cream will be served with coffee or tea for only \$5. Come to St. Stephen's, 10909 - 96th Street, for shortcake, and bring a friend!

Oil Sands Development Discussion To kick off their visit to the oil sands this spring, a KAIROS delegation of national church leaders, international partners, and representatives from indigenous communities in Canada will gather for a faith-based discussion (**May 21**) from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. at The King's University College Atrium, 9125-50th Street, Edmonton. The evening will include a presentation, "Christian Faith and the Oil Sands: Removing Barriers to Genuine Dialogue," by Dr. John Hiemstra, Professor of Political Studies at King's. Suggested topics for round table discussions are: "What does our faith have to say about our use of fossil fuels?" and "What does it mean to live faithfully as individuals and as the church?" For more information, call (780) 461-2237.

Spring Bazaar Mark your calendars for the St. George's Anglican Church Spring bazaar (**May 23**) at 11733-87 Avenue in Edmonton (West of the University of Alberta Butterdome). Featuring books, baking, bargains, plants, treasures, hot dogs, children's corner, coffee and treats, and much more! 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Welsh Choir St. Timothy's Anglican Church presents the St. David's Male Welsh Choir (**May 31**). The concert begins at 2:00 p.m. and tickets are \$15 at the door. You can find St. Timothy's at 8420-145 Street in Edmonton.



The Rev. Eileen Conway created a series of workshops under the theme of "Coping in Troubled Times" for the Anglican Church Women of the Athabasca diocese.

Encountering a mediaeval English mystic in Athabasca

One of the marks of being Anglican is the reflex by which, confronted with a new challenge or dilemma, we turn to our roots in Scripture, the ancient Christian writers, the giants of the English Reformation, and the liturgical practices of our youth. The impulse to seek solutions to the new among the resources of the old expresses itself variously in everything from the annual Rummage Sale in many parishes to the doctrine of the Communion of Saints!

At the Annual Conference of the ACW of the diocese of Athabasca in Peace River May 1-3, the Rev. Eileen Conway led the participants in an encounter with the mediaeval English mystic, Julian of Norwich. The theme of the Conference was "Coping in Troubled Times": and although we know astonishingly little about Julian's personal life, her times are well documented as among the most troubled in Western European history – war, famine, civil unrest, and epidemic disease were commonplace.

And yet this was the context for one of the most famous and frequently-quoted Anglican "slogans of reassurance" – "All will be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well." How did Julian manage it? In a series of sessions on specific passages in her Revelations of Divine Love, her strategies in prayer, reflection and responsiveness were unpacked and offered to women coping with the troubles of our times.

Palms to lilies in Hinton

BY REV. LINDA WHITTLE

God is full of surprises! That was proved once again on Palm/Passion Sunday at St. Francis of Assisi Anglican Church in Hinton, Alberta. With Bishop Jane Alexander presiding, two members of St. Francis, Chase McLeod and his dad Kevin McLeod, were baptized into new life in Christ. In the context of one service, we went from shouts of "hosanna" and waving of palms to the dramatic remembrance of the Passion and death of our Lord. Then, in the Sacrament of Baptism, we anticipated the events of Easter Day. Through the splashing of water and the giving of the paschal light, we affirmed that the newly baptized had been born to new life in the risen Christ. This could not have happened on the first Palm Sunday, but it was possible for us, because we know how the story ends!

Following the Eucharistic meal, we shared lunch and fellowship with the newly baptized and enjoyed having our bishop among us. Bishop Jane answered many questions and described her hopes and dreams for the diocese. Her excitement was contagious, and a project in support of the Nets for Buye is well underway at St. Francis.

Parishioners conducted the Bishop and her husband on a whirlwind tour around Hinton and the Blue Lake Lodge facilities nearby. Thank you for your time with us, and hurry back!

Upcoming inductions The Rev. Tom Dean will be inducted as Rector of the Parish of St. John, Onoway, at 5:00 p.m. on **Sunday, May 24**. Clergy are asked to robe. The liturgical colour will be white. The Rev. Donna Willer will be inducted as Rector of the Parish of St. Mary Abbots Barrhead, at 5:00 p.m. on **Sunday, May 31**. Clergy are asked to robe. The liturgical colour will be red. The Rev. Joanne Webster will be inducted as Rector of the Parish of St. Paul, Leduc, at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 4**. Clergy are asked to robe. The liturgical colour will be green.

Royal Visit HRH Sophie Countess of Wessex will review the South Alberta Light Horse Regiment in Edmonton and will then attend Mattins at Holy Trinity, reading the first lesson (**Jun 7**). 10037-84 Avenue, Edmonton.

Ordination Bishop Jane is delighted to announce that God-willing, the Rev. Christian Gordon and the Rev. Myron Penner will be ordained to the priesthood, and Jonathan Connell ordained to the diaconate, at 7:00 p.m. on Trinity Sunday (**Jun 7**) at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral. Clergy are invited to vest. The colour is white. Please keep Christian, Myron and Jonathan in your prayers.

Histories of Anglicanism Conference There is still time to register early for the "Images of Incarnation: Histories of Anglicanism in Canada" conference to be held in Kelowna, BC, (**Jun 24-28**). Register by May 8 for this 4-day history conference, hosted by the Diocese of Kootenay, and pay only \$125. For more information visit www.imagesofincarnation.ca, or contact: Bill Harrison at (250) 275-2783; or imagesofincarnation1@shaw.ca.

The last word

Church Plant in Holy Trinity Riverbend

BY ARTHUR DYCK

Beginning in March, Holy Trinity Riverbend Neighbourhood Church began holding services as a new English church plant. First built in 1998 in what was then the open fields of the southwest corner of Edmonton and in what is now Terwilligar Towne, the church was meant to house a Chinese congregation which had been meeting at All Saints' Cathedral. It was also planned that an English congregation would occupy the building, but the English congregation never materialized. For the past seven years the building has been shared with Terwilligar Community Church, a Baptist congregation.

Now 11 years later, the Chinese congregation has dwindled and the Diocese has decided that a new English church would be planted at HTR. The Bishop assembled a team in the beginning of March consisting of: Rector of Holy Trinity

Riverbend, Archdeacon Michael Sung; semi-retired Anglican priest Rev. Sheila Hagan-Bloxham; her husband John; Jonathan Connell, who will be appointed full-time curate; and Arthur Dyck, a former Mennonite Brethren pastor, seconded from the Barnabas Initiative. The goal was to begin holding placeholder services as soon as possible and begin planning for the church plant.

It must be noted that the Chinese congregation has been instrumental in its support of the new church plant. When they learned that an English church would be planted at HTR, they quickly embraced the mission, and many have decided that they would become involved with the English congregation as well as the Chinese congregation. They gave up their 11:00 a.m. worship time for the church plant and moved their worship time to 12:15 p.m.

Although planning is still in progress, the team has come to a consensus quite quickly on the type of church they would like to see planted. First of all, the church will be missional in its mindset and incarnational in its actions. It is believed that the days of "opening the doors and the Anglicans will come" are over. So HTR is taking the approach of going into the community to minister and serve as opposed to just asking people to come. It is through the relationships built through this ministry and service that the church will be built.

Secondly, HTR sees itself as being neighbourhood-based. While many parishes draw its members from different parts of the city, HTR sees itself as being focused on the Riverbend area in terms of its ministry. While HTR welcomes anyone to become part of the parish, the focus is on attracting people who live in the community and are willing to invest their time and effort in their community. Again, the focus is on relationships that exist in the community and the ministry that happens through those relationships.

Thirdly, the church planting team would like to see the church focusing on attracting those who have little or no church experience. That demographic is growing rapidly. While the plans for reaching that sector of our society are continuing to evolve, the church has begun by making the services as simple as possible. While the Eucharist is still celebrated each Sunday, each part of the service is "translated" for those who would not be familiar with an Anglican order of service. Homilies tend to be interactive with a focus on making passages understandable and opportunities are given for people to ask questions.

For the future, the church planting team continues to look at different ways of ministering to people. Programs like Messy Church and examples of Fresh Expressions may be utilized. A small group program will be in place for parish members by the fall with a focus on fostering community and spiritual growth.

The new church plant is already facing some challenges. While Terwilligar Community Church has been instrumental in contributing towards some of the building overhead, they are now drawing approximately 160 people for their 9:15 service. They then utilize the basement for another hour as brunch is served to their attendees. While there is no spirit of competition for members between the two churches, there is a growing realization that having two churches meeting in the same building at the same time presents some challenges in terms of space utilization. Already HTR is facing some challenges in finding appropriate space for their Christian Education programs. The community contains a high percentage of young couples with young children and those are the people who are attending the two churches. The challenge that both churches face is how to best utilize the space for a children's ministry.

In spite of some space competition, there is a spirit of cooperation and mission. TCC and HTR will be jointly hosting a community carnival in the park at Terwilligar Towne on May 9th. Other events are being planned such as the possibility of jointly doing vacation Bible school this summer.

In spite of the challenges that face any new church plant, the team is very optimistic about the future of Holy Trinity Riverbend. As the Rector frequently points out, this is God's work and it's in his hands. HTR recognizes that they are fighting some trends that have resulted in diminished attendance within some parishes in the Diocese. However, they believe the success of the new church will depend on how well it embraces the Christian mandates of being missional and incarnational.



Christ Church celebrates 100 years and three locations around Edmonton: 12947-123 Street, 13428-127 Street and present day at 15495 Castle Downs Road.

Good Shepherd 100th Anniversary Walk-a-thon

BY HAROLD LAKE

Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Edmonton is holding a 100th Anniversary Walk-a-thon on Saturday June 20, 2009. The Walk-a-thon is 10 km in length and we will be walking past the Churches and the school we worshiped in during the last 99 years. The walk is open to anyone who wants to walk Good Shepherd's history. We encourage you to pick up a pledge sheet and request pledges for the amount you walk. All monies will be going to the 100th Anniversary Celebration costs with a portion going to St. Faith's Meal program.

Start time is 10:00 a.m. and we will be walking from the site of our first church located at 123 Street & 130 Avenue. We will continue south to 127 Avenue then over to 127 Street from there we head north on 127 St. past our second church located at 13428 127

Street. There will be a rest station located in front and some pictures for walkers to look at as we met at this church. Walking north to 153 Avenue and then east as far as Beaumaris Road where we owned the northwest corner lots for a time, where we were going to build a new church. Then north along Beaumaris Road we will continue past Bishop Savoron School where we held services from 1985 to 1991. Another rest station will be located here. From that location the walk will finish approximately 2 km later at our current Church at 15495 Castle Downs Road. There will be a bar-b-que held at the end of the walk.

For further information please check out our website at www.goodshepanglican.org or Harold Lake at (780) 456-1181 To check out our parish history go www.goodshepanglican.org/history.htm.



Don't forget... register for camp!

Summer is just around the corner, and the diocese is once again offering fun-filled camps in July and August!

Camp Explore: "Survivor Gib Island", is a two-day paddle down the North Saskatchewan (July 4-5) open to youth in Grades 7-12. **Base Camp** – an outdoor adventure camp for teens in Grade 7-9, will be held at Pine Bay in William Switzer Park near Hinton (July 20-26). **Camp Come Alive**, for youth in Grades 3-6, is celebrating its 26th summer and will be held at Camp Oselia on Lake Wabamun (August 16-22). More information, including registration and scholarship applications, can be found at www.edmonton.anglican.org/youth/Camps/camps.htm. **Be there!!**