

# NORTHILAND

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*The Reverend Edith Belair was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Colin and welcomed by the entire church.*

## Joyful, Joyful Ordination

*Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Diocese of Moosonee.*



*Archbishop Colin & Ellen Johnson were delighted with their welcome.*

**A**S I WALKED TO MY CAR at the end of a moving and enthusiastic evening at Cochrane's Holy Trinity Church, my thoughts went to the old song popular in my teen years, "Wasn't That a Party" by the Irish Rovers - although not necessarily the wording of the song being upmost, but indeed, it was a party!

Our special evening, the one that fostered such a memory was a gathering of the diocese to the ordination to the priesthood of the Reverend Edith Mae Belair. How good it was to see Edith supported by her husband and much of her family as well as many long-time friends at the event. Edith is a long-time resident of Cochrane and an active member of the parish as well as a leader in diocesan leadership. Since her ordination to the diaconate a couple of years ago, Edith assisted in the ministry of the parish both liturgically and pastorally.

Professionally, Edith began her career as a teacher but always felt a yearning to serve in the Church. In her early days, ordination was not available to women so she continued in her lay leadership and raised her family with her husband and tried to put that niggling at the back of her mind. She certainly didn't stop ministry and for a time she served as the Diocesan President of the Anglican Church Women. In recent years, as she saw the Church ordain more and more women she took courses online to further her understanding. In 2016, prompted by her rector who appreciated her help and commitment, Edith was ordained to the diaconate. It was a joyous moment on May 7th of this year when Archbishop Colin Johnson

*See "Wasn't That a Party?" page 4*



*Dean Gregory Gilson was the anchor for the group's scriptural message balloons.*

## Ballooning at St. Matthew's

*Article by Canon Phelan Scanlon, St. John's, Folyet, ON*

**O**N MAY 10TH, WE CELEBRATED Ascension Day with the kids at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins. We use the old blanket toss to illustrate how one can see better when one is 'up high' as opposed to being down on the ground. We can thank the Inuit people for that rather clever innovation in which scouts went for a toss to better see where the big game were. We used it to remind everyone that Jesus went 'up' so he could be everywhere at once. Then the time came to send up the balloons complete with a Scripture passage (John 16:7) in which Jesus tells us that his departure means that the Holy Spirit is coming to keep us company. Hugo Alexander

*See "Uplifting Service" page 2*





Canon Phelan Scanlon led a colourful service which was filled with balloons, youthful excitement, and obvious enjoyment for everyone present.

## Uplifting Service

continued from page 1.

almost went up with the balloons but fortunately he stayed earthbound while the balloons took an unusual southern bearing. They usually go Northeast (I guess that the Reverend Cliff Dee got sick of receiving them every May)!

Then it was time for the Eucharist.

We remembered that Jesus told us to eat the bread and drink the wine until his return. We surmised that Ascension Day was Christmas backwards. Whereas Jesus came down from Heaven at Christmas, he goes back up to Heaven at Ascension where he advo-



Mr. Frog went for a ride thanks to Dean Greg, Canon Phelan and several enthusiastic young people at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins.

cates for each of us at the Throne of the Father. Finally, after all had received communion, the kids let the balloons go up with the words, "God has gone up with a shout" (Psalm 47:5). They went up all right ... right at the peak of the chancel ceiling. That is where they will stay no doubt well into the next Sunday service or next year depending

upon the atmospheric.

Because Ascension is a Feast Day, it fell upon us to well, have a feast. Following our 'Toast to Ascension Day', we ate pizza and had ice cream for dessert. All in all, it was a fitting way to celebrate Jesus' Ascension and the presence of the Holy Spirit with and within all of us.



Emma Laiho tasted the smoked pork chops at her parish's spring barbeque.

## Smoke and Pork Chops

Article by Valerie Gilson, St. Paul's Anglican Church, South Porcupine, ON

**I**F THERE IS ONE THING that Anglicans are known for it's food! The south end of this diocese is no exception - especially at St. Paul's in South Porcupine. There, people enjoy: Mothers' Day and Christmas teas, beef and turkey dinners, spaghetti dinners, chili luncheons at Winter Carnival, 'souper Sunday lunches, fresh homemade buns with every meal, homemade 'Saintry Sausage' and meat pies, sandwiches, muffins, squares, and loaves galore, along with thousands

(yes, thousands) of dozens of cookies! Something which one doesn't see often at parish meals is a smoked pork chop but our smoked chop barbeque has been a hit for three years. We are not sure if it's because it has become the annual 'Kick-Off-the-Summer BBQ' or because of the enticing flavour and smell of smoked pork chops!

For those who have never had a smoked chop, it is a very thick cut pork chop which has been smoked like a ham so it's fully cured. Dean Greg and



The cooks: Ron Malette & Dean Greg.

Ron Malette put them on a hot barbeque to give them a delectable grilling before they were served up with lovely summer dishes like: potatoes, macaroni, coleslaw, and green salads, cooked deep-browned bake beans, and freshly baked rolls. It was finished off with the typical summer desert of thick whipped cream over fresh, red strawberries and vanilla cake! People wanted more. Something which we haven't tried at St. Paul's before is coming up in September (food, naturally) but it is a secret at the moment. Don't miss it - keep your eyes on our Facebook page - St. Paul's Anglican Church.



## The Northland

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*The Reverend Canon Norm Wesley, Church of the Apostles, Moosonee and St. Thomas, Moose Factory wore his stole which is traditionally decorated.*



*Traditional floral designs for 'marvellous beaded moccasin tops.'*



# Their Faith - Our Creeness

*Article by The Reverend Canon Norm Wesley, Church of the Apostles, Moosonee and St. Thomas, Moose Factory, ON*

**L**IKE MY MOTHER, MY dearest mother-in-law, Lydia, was a devout believer. She was faithful in prayer and worship. I would ask Jean, 'I don't see the point of attending church three times on a Sunday where just once ought to be enough.' Back then, there was morning service at 11:00 a.m. then the 2:00 p.m. Cree Service, and evening service at 7:00 p.m. She would attend all three. Every Sunday!

Following my preordination retreat at The Society of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I told Bishop Tom and others that my mother-in-law would be very proud of me. We had church every day ... six times a day!

My mother-in-law was multi-talented. She was an artisan at heart. Crafting wonderful winter coats was her specialty - they were known as 'Kool-a-tucks.' Beading was natural - creating wonderful traditional floral designs on naturally tanned caribou and moose hide. These designs all expressed our closeness to nature which in turn is the true expression of our 'Creeness.'

One day, I asked her to show me her work. She unravelled this colourful cloth - laid out those marvellous beaded moccasin tops.

The aroma of the tanned hide ... ohhh, so heavenly ... each a masterpiece! Wonderful works of skilled hands passed on through the generations.

"I will buy some," I said. Her response was "What for?" Jean and I ran a bed and breakfast. These works of art would go on the TV room ...an expression of who we are as Cree People. So I explained. Her response was, "No, I will not sell them for that. That would be wasting them."

But with some pleading she relented and I purchased a nice handful; I fashioned them onto the wall of our B & B and these words were nicely framed and finished with a photo of her telling of our tradition and our link to God's wondrous creation:

*"Traditional garments worn by our people were made of tanned caribou and moose hide, trimmed with fur of fox, wolf, beaver, martin and muskrat. Coats, mitts, and moccasins were intricately designed depicting the wonder and beauty of nature. These floral designs are an expression of our people's love for the land.*

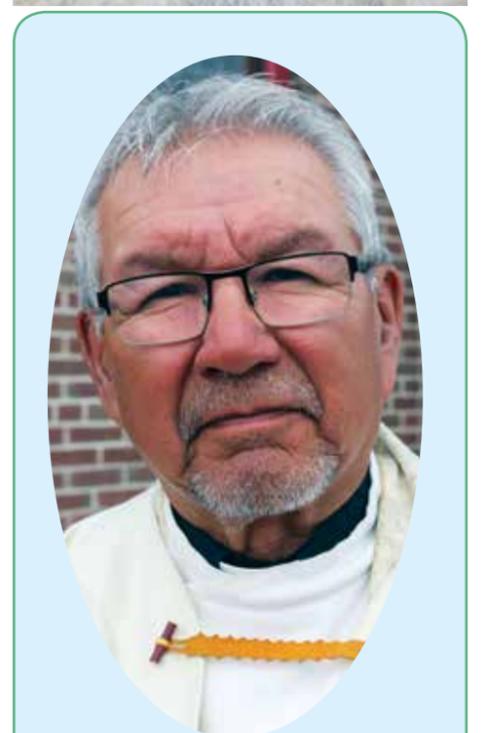
*The bead work depicted on this wall as crafted by Jean's mom, Lydia, who quietly passed away on February 1, 2007. To the end she held true to the traditional*

*Cree designs in her bead work maintaining a lifelong tradition she was taught as a young girl. The wall is an expression of our Creeness."*

To this day, I can't recall if she ever saw the wall. She has since passed on to her heavenly home taking rest in that room lovingly prepared for her. We no longer own the B&B. The wall with the beaded designs has long been taken down.

Today, some have found a new place. A place I never dreamed of - never mind what our dearest Mother would have ever dreamed of. No, not on moccasins as she had intended .. but on the stoles that I wear in formal worship ... on the cope that I don in sacred ceremony. They are all an expression of our "Creeness." They are a reminder of that great faith in God through Jesus Christ that she had .. and the believers of her generation.

To our dearest Lydia, we applaud your devoted belief. We see the path of your faithful prayer and worship. The giving of your work was not in vain. Your work has been resurrected. Your work has found its proper place in the ministry of God's holy word through the Christ you held so dear in your heart.



**CANON NORM WESLEY**

*Article by Jean Wesley, Church of the Apostles, Moosonee & St. Thomas Church, Moose Factory*

**Norm was born in a one-room house, a mere stone's throw from the historic St. Thomas Church in Moose Factory, Ontario. In his youth, he was an altar boy. Through the years, he would go on to serve as a member of the Select Vestry and be a lay reader for some thirty years.**

**He was ordained into the priesthood in May, 2014. He is the incumbent at the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee and at St. Thomas Church, Moose Factory. He and his wife, Jean, have three sons, a daughter, seven wonderful grandchildren, and one great grandchild.**





Archbishop Colin and Ellen Johnson were presented with a painting from a local artist and resident of Cochrane - Inukshuk, the polar bear!



Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake was the happy recipient of 2 goats and 45 chicks from PWRDF.



Archbishop Colin Johnson installed the Reverend Larry Armstrong as a Canon of the Diocese of Moosonee.

## Wasn't That a Party? continued from page 1.

and the clergy surrounded Edith as she was raised to the priesthood and it was a thrill to see her participate in a celebration of the Eucharist with our two bishops, Colin Johnson and Thomas Corston. Edith will continue to provide ministry as assistant to the Rector of Cochrane.

The party continued following the ordination when the bishops shared in licensing three of our diocesan clergy as new canons. The Reverend Phelan Scanlon of Timmins, The Reverend Norman Wesley of Moose Factory, and The Reverend Larry Armstrong of the central Watershed Parish at Hearst were all recognized

for their service and honoured for their ongoing commitment to ministry in Moosonee. The new canons will be installed onto their 'stalls' at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Timmins when the clergy gather in September.

In a poignant moment during the celebration, the gathering recognized the upcoming retirement of Archbishop Colin Johnson when he steps down at Provincial Synod in October. Under Moosonee's restructured entity the Archbishop agreed to adding Moosonee to his Episcopal ministry in 2014. When he steps down as Metropolitan of Ontario later this year a new Metropolitan will

be elected and automatically succeed him as Bishop of Moosonee. To recognize the gracious and caring leadership of both he and his wife, Ellen, Bishop Corston presented them with a beautiful, framed painting that was the creation of Inukshuk, one of the polar bears resident at Cochrane's Polar Bear Habitat. Everyone agreed that Inukshuk is a talented artist! The painting will certainly be a conversation piece in the Johnson home.

Following the service in the church, the party continued across the street at Cochrane's Royal Canadian Legion hall. Before people started to leave for the night, Bishop Corston took the opportunity to express the thanks of the diocese

for the leadership of Archdeacon Deborah and Jim Lonergan-Freake. Recently, they announced that they plan to retire this summer and move to Nova Scotia. It will be a hard hole to fill when they leave. Knowing the Archdeacon's support for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, she and Jim were presented with the acknowledgment that two goats and forty-five chicks were purchased in their honour from the Primate's Fund. It was a "perfect" gift according to Deborah but for us in Moosonee a very small token of our immense thanks for her long years of life and ministry in the diocese. We wish them many happy years in retirement.



The Reverend Catherine Murkin attended the Engage Freedom conference about human trafficking.

**A**T ONE POINT ON MY WAY to the Engage Freedom conference in Toronto, I was walking near Union Station by piles of blankets and clothing - beds of the homeless, and clusters of people huddled together and talking. As

an older woman, I felt at risk. Imagine being a young runaway!

I am one human, one woman, one priest in the Anglican Diocese of Moosonee participating in the Engage Freedom conference on human trafficking. Aside from the obvious discussion around protecting potential victims by arming ourselves with an awareness of red flag behaviours of potential abusers, the question repeatedly raised was how do we change the attitude of the consumer? When do women stop becoming chattel and become human? How will the perception that people are objects to be used and discarded be changed? When do children and young people have a voice that is heard? When will missing Indigenous people be treated as a priority? How do we make certain newcomers to Canada, as well as domestic and migrant workers are treated with

## Be Aware of Human Trafficking

Article by The Reverend Catherine Murkin, St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake & The LivingRoom, Schumacher, ON.

respect, treated as human beings made in God's image and thus deserving dignity? This issue must be addressed at all levels - national, diocesan, and the local parish. During the conference, we heard first hand accounts from people rescued from sexual exploitation, and domestic worker exploitation. We heard very scary statistics such as girls as young as 11 being groomed to be sex workers. It was stated that within 48 hours 'cargo' went from being 'girlfriend' or 'boyfriend' to being pimped and constantly moved from place to place usually having no idea of what city they were in. It is happening here, in Timmins, in Kirkland Lake, in Rouyn, in your town. Those feeling unloved and unaccepted and those who have experienced a major upheaval in life such as divorce or death of a parent were among the most vulnerable.

It makes me recognize the incredible necessary ministry being done by The LivingRoom. From the Engage Freedom conference, I realized the difference a loving, respectful adult could make in a child or youth's life. The LivingRoom gives us the opportunity to be that person. We offer a safe place to youth coming from diverse situations and dysfunctional homes. We offer listening ears - a chance to voice unsettling events as well as celebrate joyous ones. Yet, once again The LivingRoom is making an impassioned plea for volunteers. Please pray about donating your time and energy. Our young people are worth it! We need you from 3 - 5 p.m. every Wednesday or 6:30 - 8:00 twice a month. Contact Reverend Catherine at: 705-962-0174. The Human Trafficking Helpline: 1 833 999 9211 TTY: 1 888 340 1001





Marshall Thompson and Agnes Flam provided joyful music at one of the worship services at the Lay Readers' conference held at Holy Trinity, Cochrane.



Ruth Corston and Kim Skidmore read, studied, and participated in the Lay Readers' conference held at Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

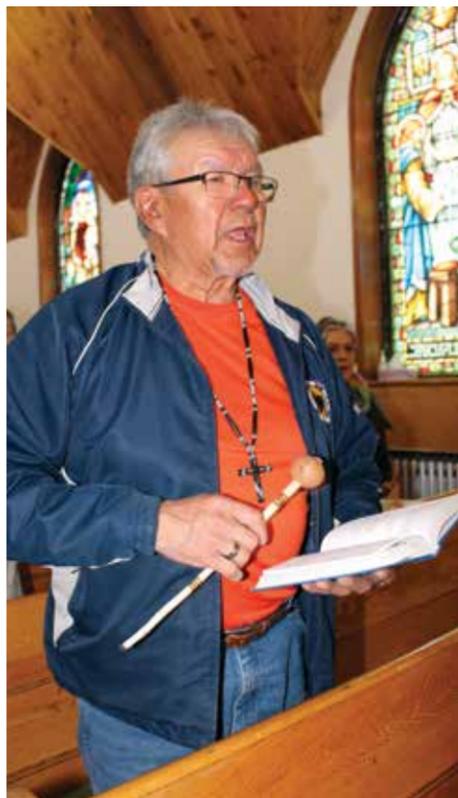
# Faith in Action

Article by Anne Dyas, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee.

**T**HE TITLE OF THIS YEAR'S Lay Readers' conference was 'Faith in Action.' This diocesan opportunity was attended by 17 persons interested in furthering their education - not all of whom were Lay Readers. The guest presenters were: Mrs. Ruth Corston, The Reverends Catherine Murkin and Norm Wesley, and Anne Dyas.

Mrs. Corston, spoke of 'The Journey', prayer as a life-long journey of discovery. She took us down roads which some of us had not previously travelled, noting that prayer can lead to unexpected opportunities. She stressed that regular daily prayer, for which one sets aside a special place and time, leads to an increase in faith. A short meditation on the Lord's Prayer took place accompanied with a handout comparing different translations of this prayer. In addition, information was provided about the work of the Canadian Mother's Union in which Ruth holds the position of Link Coordinator. A power point presentation about a training program, 'Parents Support Parents', was shown and discussed since this program may be introduced into our diocese.

The Reverend Catherine guided us through the conference title, 'Faith in Action' and encouraged us to take that extra step out of our comfort zone as today's modern disciples. Everyone who was present was challenged to go out and spread the message of God's love for everyone. Armed with a \$5 Tim's card as a gift together with an invitation to attend Sunday worship and/or Monday's ordination service we



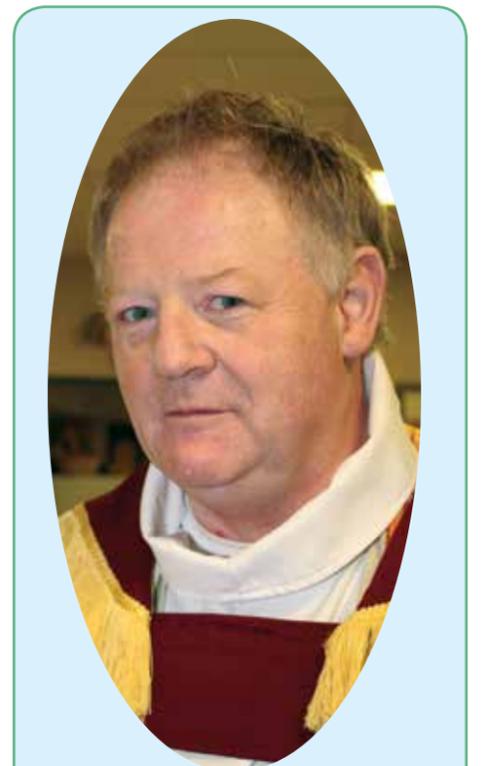
The Reverend Norm Wesley sang with vigour during the conference.

went in pairs to speak with someone we did not know; offer them a card and explain that we were passing on God's love. It was difficult for everyone - especially for those who were initially rebuffed and had to try again. Upon reflection, however, we realized that once begun there was no turning back and that although it was a very different experience for most of us it was comparatively stress free. We were reminded of words attributed to Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours, yours are the eyes with which he looks" and we were asked, "as a Christian, what are you doing?"

The third presenter was the Warden of Lay Readers, Anne Dyas,

who spoke on leading Bible studies. This was a bare outline of the many ways and subjects through which Scripture may be studied. We acknowledged that Bible studies are led not taught and while theological education may be helpful, surrounding each study session with prayer and an opportunity for everyone to participate will ensure that the study becomes both an understanding and learning experience for everyone. When we all have a voice we learn from each other. The Bible is indeed a rich source of study possibilities.

Storytelling is both an art and a gift. Storytelling can be used to entertain and to explain. Our northern brothers and sisters are great storytellers; this is their chosen means of communication. To complete the conference, The Reverend Norm Wesley and his wife, Jean, gave us the gift of a story through which an explanation of the hurt and heartfelt loss of our Indigenous peoples since the arrival of Europeans in this country may be better understood: the Blanket Exercise. In this exercise, participants stood on blankets which represented the land of the First People. As the actions of the Europeans were related some participants had to leave their land and crowd in with other tribes; others died of many new diseases; their land shrank; some disappeared through appropriation by the Europeans; babies were taken away; the number of First Nations peoples diminished. As the story ended with the simulation as it is today, everyone was silent. It was a fitting ending to the conference.



**CANON PHELAN SCANLON**

Article by Dean Gregory Gilson, Diocese of Moosonee.

Canon Phelan Scanlon has served faithfully in the Diocese of Moosonee since 2010. Presently, he is the Diocesan Missionary in Timmins. Phelan has established an Anglican presence in the post Church era. His successful outreach program in the Walmart McDonalds has a growing congregation; there he offers spiritual direction and breakfast on a Sunday morning. On Sunday afternoons, he is in the Archie Dillon Centre with more than twenty attending his youth program. While in Moosonee, Phelan has served in several parishes; he is also the associate Dean and works in the LivingRoom, the diocesan mission in Schumacher.



# The Final Word!

Article by Archdeacon Deborah Lonergan-Freake, Diocese of Moosonee.

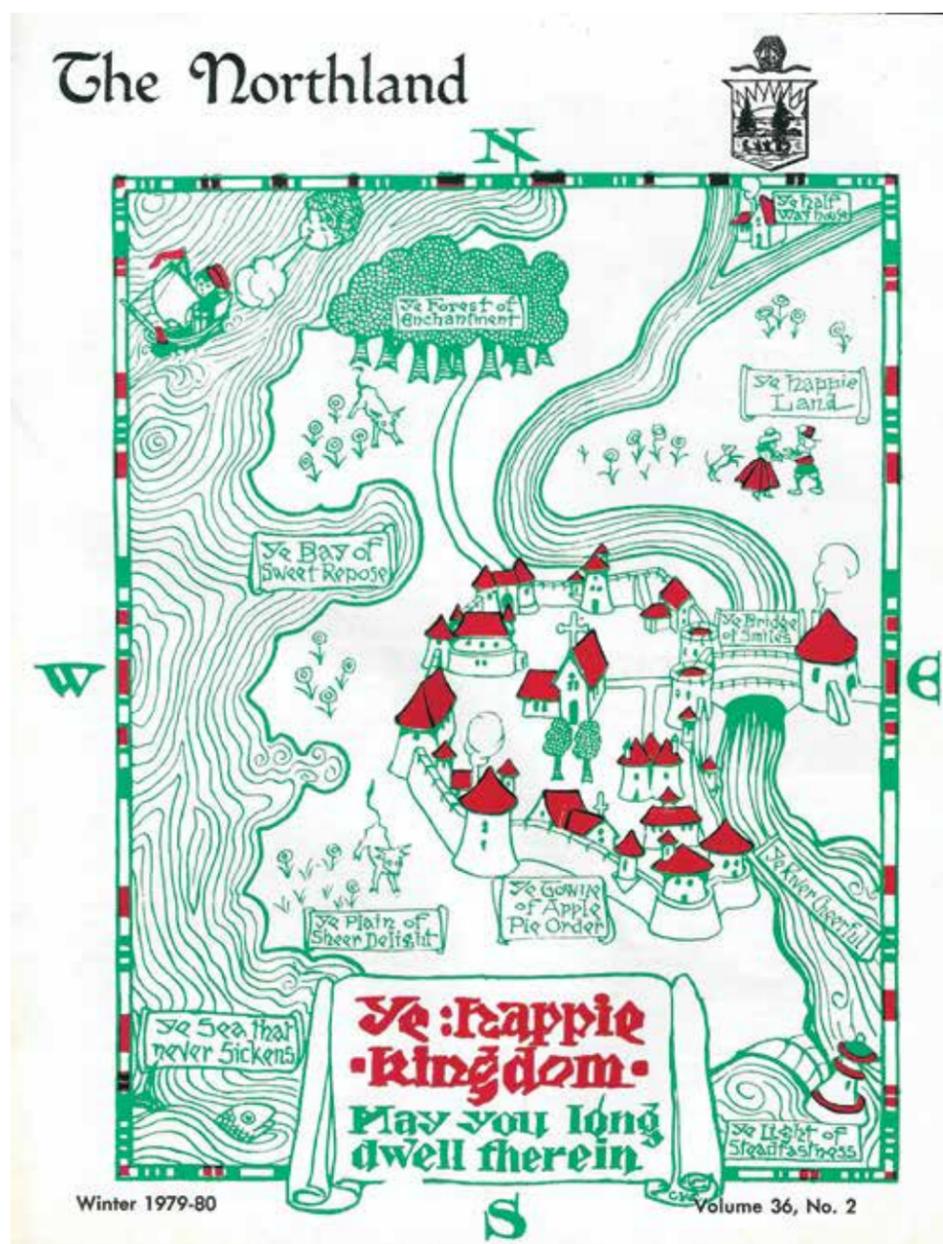
**USUALLY IT'S EASY FOR ME** to write an article for the Northland but this time it has been much more difficult as I have reflected on memories of people, places, and events in this God's "Happie Kingdom". It has been nearly 39 years since I wrote for the winter issue of 1979-80 at the request of Archbishop James Watton.

I am not sure that 'request' is exactly the right term. As I recall, the conversation went something like, "Deborah, do you write English?" An odd question, when I hesitantly said yes, Archbishop Watton happily replied, "Good, you're writing an article for the Northland on your trip from Nova Scotia." That was a quick glimpse into how things worked in our newly adopted Diocese of Moosonee. Everyone has to do their part and it is still very much that way now. To me, Moosonee has always been huge yet small. Huge in geography and yet small enough in its population that people know each other, feel connected and try to support and pray for each other. It is the family of God working in God's vineyard together.

As I ponder what our diocese looked like 39 years ago and where we are now, one thing which certainly stood out was the number of congregations there were back then and the much larger number of clergy serving those parishes. I thought of people - clergy who served here and lay members of congregations - saints of the Church in this land of Moosonee.

Although change is inevitable, as I read through the winter issue of the 1979-80 *Northland*, I noticed that much is also the same. We are still going about the work of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The young priest/editor of the *Northland*, The Reverend T. A. Corston, in his editorial spoke of the issues of the day and said, "we have struggled with making the Gospel message relevant to the world, changed worship patterns, seen renewal in the church in ways that many have been unable to explain and it has sent them scurrying to look at it seriously." So, actually, much is still the same today. And Moosonee is blessed that Bishop Corston is still serving in his retirement as our Assisting Bishop.

That issue of the *Northland* covered the then upcoming retirement of Archbishop James Watton and



Archbishop Renison and his wife started "The Northland" and used this map of "Ye Happpie Kingdom" as its frontpiece for its Christmas editions starting in 1948 and this continued until the 1980's.

the election of Bishop - elect Caleb Lawrence who was consecrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, 1980. Thirty years later, at his final service as Bishop of Moosonee, it was my privilege to be ordained deacon by Archbishop Lawrence. Now in 2018, we are mindful of the retirement of Archbishop Colin Johnson and the anticipation of a new Bishop of Moosonee who will lead this diocese into the future.

As with this issue of the *Northland*, there was a story about an ordination - one man who 'came from away' was ordained. In May, 2018, one woman was ordained to the priesthood, in June another six people were ordained to the diaconate, with another four to be ordained in September; most of these people are graduates of our own Moosonee School for Ministry. As the decade of the 1970's drew to a close, the Church was still getting accustomed to the ordination of women. Now nine of those ordained in 2018 are women, seven are Indigenous persons and all but two have been

locally raised. I rejoice in the signs of hope and joy that we celebrate with these people who have heard and followed God's call.

Even back in 1979, Gwyneth Shirley of Holy Trinity, Cochrane wrote about vanishing volunteers; ACW elections were like musical chairs and church choir numbers were shrinking. I don't know that Mrs. Shirley really approved of all the changes that she reported but she did say, "We must change with the times." And as a diocese, we have certainly discerned God's call to change and a focus on missional ministry.

As I reflect on today's Diocese of Moosonee, I see that we have made many changes, some sacrificial and courageous, and many of them exciting and meant to prepare us for the future. And make no mistake, I believe that this huge and small diocese has a bright, God-filled and God led future.

In his Christmas letter in 1979, Archbishop James Watton spoke of his 'angel' file which was filled



## TWO MINUTE TALK: VIVIEN CLARKE

*St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake, ON.*

**WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH:** *Clean air without pollution*

**WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT THE NORTH:** *the snow!*  
**YOUR BIRTHPLACE:** *County Durham, England*

**YOUR BEST HIDDEN TALENT:** *Making cards*

**YOUR FAVOURITE HOBBY:** *Card making*

**WHICH SECULAR JOB HAS BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE:**

*Raising my four children*  
**YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK OR MOVIE:** *Still Alice*

**YOUR FAVOURITE CHURCH ROLE:** *I enjoy singing in the choir*  
**THE FARTHEST YOU HAVE BEEN FROM HOME:** *Australia, Hong Kong, England*

**YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL OR DESERT:** *Desert - anything made with chocolate.*

with correspondence from people who had helped and supported the work of this diocese. Angels still abound in God's "Happie Kingdom" of Moosonee. I quote Archbishop Watton as I close my final article for the *Northland*, "Oh, it's an enchanted world and I will it to you".

God still calls the clergy and people of Moosonee to faithful service, to be open to God's guidance in a changing world and to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send workers to his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

Pax et Bonum





Postulants and the Diocesan Assessors gathered from across the diocese to discern the Lord's will for those offering themselves for ordination.

## The Anglican Foundation Was There

Article by The Reverend Patricia Dorland, St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, ON.

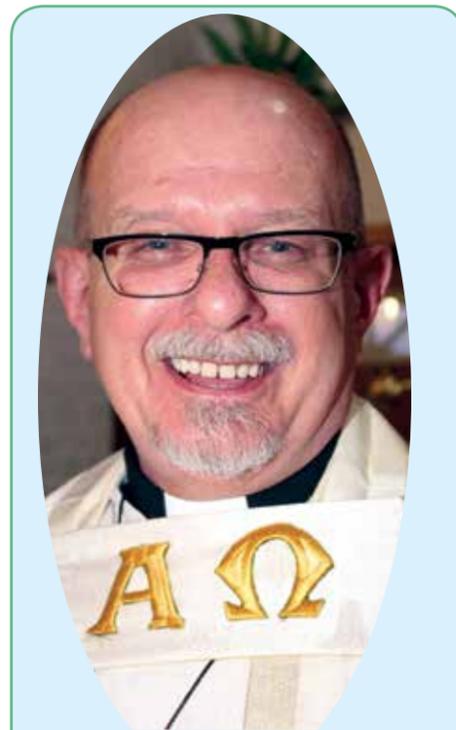
**T**HIS PAST SPRING, OUR diocese received funding of \$8,425 from the Anglican Foundation to assist in covering expenses for the diocesan discernment weekend. This event was necessary because of the success of our Diocesan School of Ministry.

In late 2016, the School of Ministry commenced with students gathering for study, worship, and prayer. It was anticipated that perhaps a dozen people would en-

roll in this program of theological study but approximately three times that number signed up. Once the final session was complete in January of this year, the students were asked to consider if a call to the diaconate was being discerned by them. This then led to ten people presenting themselves for this possible further stage in their ministry and the discernment weekend was organized. Thanks to the Anglican Foundation and the Council of the North, the cost of this addi-

tional weekend was managed and at the time of writing this article, we now have had five ordinations.

The successful candidates will be serving in their own community in a non-stipendiary position. They come from various communities and most are located around the James Bay coast. The Reverend Ilene Jeramy and The Reverend Isabel Dube were ordained on June 20th in Hornepayne and The Reverend Marion Maybee and The Reverend Canon Grace Delaney from Moose Factory were ordained on June 23rd by Bishop Thomas Corston at the Cree Village Ecolodge. The Reverend Vivien Clarke was ordained at St. Peter's Church, Kirkland Lake on June 27th. They were all surrounded by many family members and friends and this is evidence of the many years of commitment to their parish and in their community as they lived out their baptismal ministry. As deacons, they will have additional responsibilities which will be specific to their own situations. We congratulate all the newly ordained deacons who will now be serving in our diocese. Well done good and faithful servants!



CANON LARRY ARMSTRONG

Article by The Reverend Patricia Dorland, St. Mark's, Iroquois Falls, ON.

**The Reverend Canon Larry Armstrong was ordained to the diaconate in 2013 in Moose Factory and to the priesthood in 2014. He is from the Maritimes where he began his theological training but he has had a variety of careers. Some of you have been the happy recipients of his culinary skills or his sewing abilities. When he is off duty he enjoys the company of his wonderful dog and traveling companion, Miss Daisy. Most of all, he is very happy with a good cup of coffee first thing in the morning. He will become the Diocesan Administrator on September 1st.**

## Fare Thee Well: The Lonergan-Freakes Retire

Article by Bishop Tom Corston, Diocese of Moosonee.

**F**IRST MET DEBORAH EONS ago when we were both very young. I was a 'green' young priest in my early ministry and she was the new bride of a Nova Scotia priest, Fr. Richard Mowry who had been appointed to St. Philip's Church, Fort George. They arrived in our northern-most community and were immediately included in a time of upheaval and transition from the Island Community to the newly formed Chisasibi brought about by the disruption of the way of life of many of our James Bay people by the Quebec Hydro Development project of that decade. Theirs was a busy ministry and Deborah was licensed as a Lay Reader and served the diocese in that capacity for many years; she also taught at the secondary school in Fort George/Chisasibi.

Eventually, the Mowry's went to St. Stephen's, Constance Lake and then on to Timmins. At that time, Fr. Mowry's health started to deteriorate

and eventually he was no longer able to work. Deborah decided to pursue a 25 year career as a law clerk, was awarded a degree in law and became manager of a legal firm.

On her own in Timmins Deborah combined her work with training as a spiritual companion and retreat director from the Jesuit community of Guelph - a ministry which she continues to this day.

Deborah had been pursuing university courses in theology for several years and was experiencing a deepening sense of call to ordained ministry. In 2009, Archbishop Caleb Lawrence, after several attempts convinced Deborah and James to return to the Diocese of Moosonee. Deborah was appointed to the three-point parish of Hearst, Hornepayne, and Constance Lake for a three year period. At his last service as Bishop of Moosonee, Bishop Lawrence ordained her as a deacon at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

When I returned to the diocese as the new bishop, I was delighted to raise Deborah, along with Lisa BrantFrancis to the priesthood. Deborah and James enjoyed their life and ministry in their parish, enthusiastically encouraging new members and new programs and making many friends along the way.

When the Diocese of Moosonee decided to restructure and become a mission area, the new entity needed an administrator to assist in the heavy responsibility of helping oversee our continued witness in the north. Three names were presented to the Archbishop who was to be our new bishop following my retirement. On a drive between Hearst and Hornepayne, I informed Deborah that "the lot had fallen to her." It was a difficult decision and took much discernment as their agreed three year term was almost complete. We were pleased that she and James decided to extend their life in Moosonee and take on

the new role in Cochrane where the diocesan office was located.

Under the restructured diocese, Deborah has been a positive leader in assuring that Moosonee continues its focus and numerous ministries. It has not been easy and there have been some trying days as she has guided us on the sometimes rocky path ahead. In that, her husband, James, has been a notable strength. Added to the diocesan responsibilities, Deborah and James have ministered to the congregation of Cochrane's Holy Trinity parish where her innovative and imaginative leadership have made it a vibrant and leading congregation.

Deborah and James have decided that now is the right time to move home to Nova Scotia and into a more relaxed time in retirement. We in Moosonee will miss them and yet we are thankful for their friendship and their leadership. We pray that they will enjoy many pleasant years in retirement.

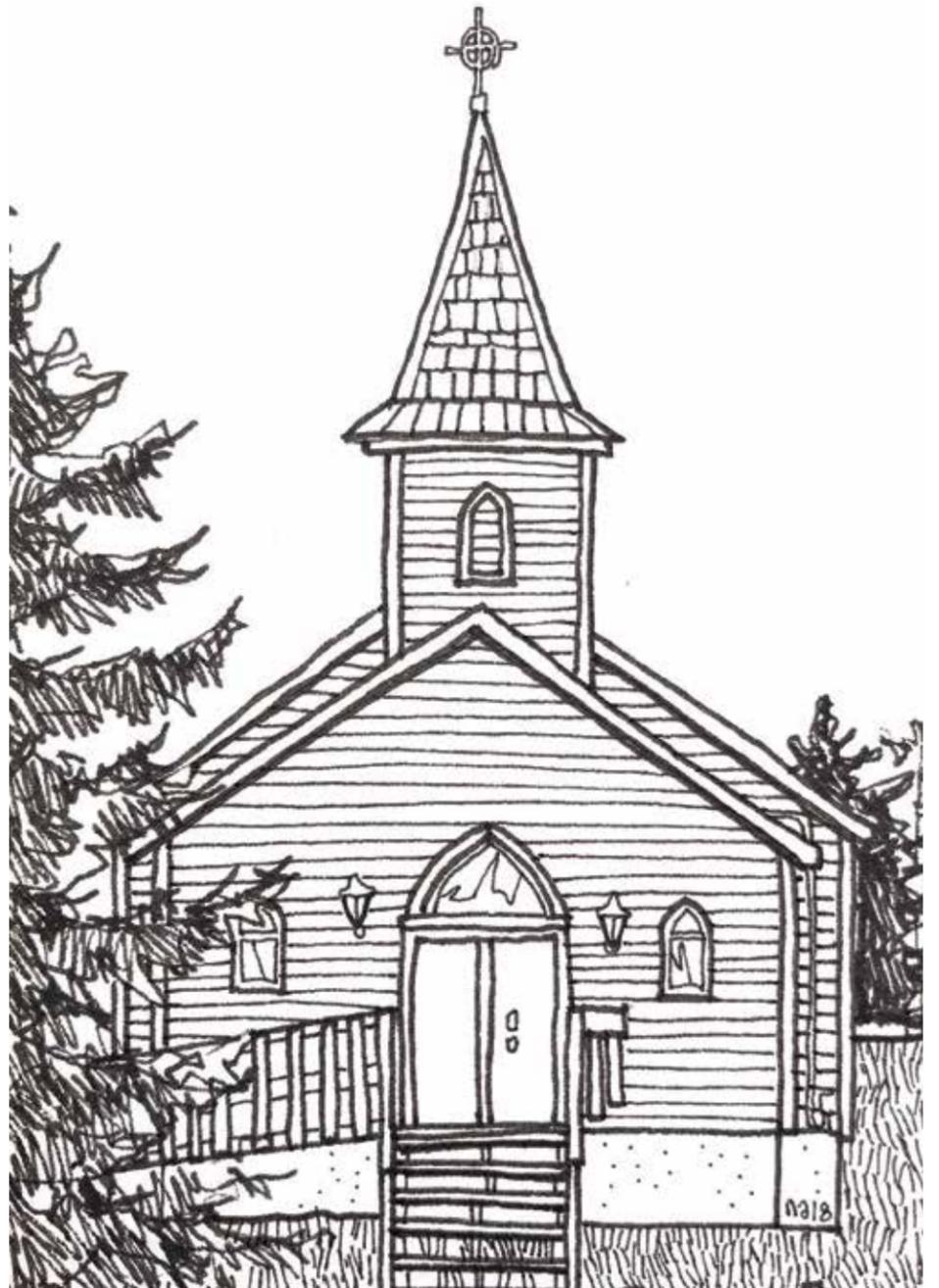




*Bishop Tom Corston and many of the diocesan clergy came to support the newly ordained deacons, Agnes Flam and Vivien Clarke, at the ordination service at St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake.*



*The Reverends Isable Dube and Ilene Jeramy were ordained at St. Luke's Church, Hornepayne by Bishop Tom Corston.*



*This pen and ink sketch of the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee was created by the artist and architect, Nicky Alexander.*

## The Labourers Are Few

*Article by Canon Larry Armstrong, Diocese of Moosonee.*

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

### THE SEED WAS SOWN

BY Bishop Thomas Corston which came from a conversation between Archbishop Colin Johnson on the long drive back from visits to the eastern parishes of the James Bay Deanery. At the 2016 Watershed Great Chapter in Kapuskasing, he said: "We have a ministry crisis! Within five years most of our priests will have retired. The effort to recruit from outside our diocese has failed." Bishop Corston then revealed the idea of starting our own school of ministry to train and ordain locally raised clergy. The first session of the Moosonee School of Ministry convened in Cochrane in January, 2017.

We anticipated that we might get twelve students to answer the call and that possibly two or three

would consider ordination and that would be a success! Thirty-two candidates enrolled, twenty-two graduated, ten went on to discernment, nine to be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon. Agnes Flam, who was already the incumbent evangelist at Eastmain was also ordained and that makes ten! "Beyond our wildest expectations," declared Bishop Corston.

The decision to protect our diocese from bankruptcy and dissolution brought us under the protection of the Ecclesiastical Province at the retirement of Bishop Corston in December of 2013. However, this did not mean reducing our operational budget but rather the cost of a resident bishop's office was used to provide and maintain ministry to our parishes.

In October of this year, a new metropolitan will be elected and later installed as our bishop. He or she will inherit a diocese that has survived death. While we are still



*The Reverend Canon Grace Delaney and The Reverend Marion Maybee were ordained by Bishop Tom Corston at St. Thomas Church, Moose Factory, ON.*

on shaky ground we are well on the road to recovery. In fact, our desire to live has forced us to be the church in new ways. We have done this by being brave enough to do what is necessary, what is possible, and now it seems that we are doing the impossible. To date, we have ordained six new deacons and by the end of the year, God willing, another four.

To date, Bishop Corston has officiated at the ordinations of: Ilene Jaremy and Isabel Dube at St. Luke's Hornepayne on June 20th,

Grace Delaney and Marion Maybee at St. Thomas, Moose Factory on June 23rd, Vivien Clarke and Agnes Flam (of St. Mark's Eastmain) at St. Peter's on-the-Rock, Kirkland Lake on June 27th. We welcome, with grateful hearts, our newest clerics - all of whom are locally raised and locally trained.

What began almost ten years ago under the guidance of Bishop Corston was often referred to as "the great experiment." Many are now saying that we have done is the future.

