

NORTHLAND

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OUR NEW VISION STATEMENT

The Diocese of Moosonee – called by God to live and proclaim the Gospel



Bishop Tom Corston and the Dean of the Diocese, the Very Reverend Greg Gilson, worked with several parish priests, guest lecturers, and lay readers from around the diocese during the annual Lay Readers' Conference held this year in St. Paul's, South Porcupine.

Lay Readers Learn

Article by Susan Villeneuve, Warden of Lay Readers, Diocese of Moosonee

FOR THE THIRD YEAR in a row, we have had a hugely successful Lay Readers' Education Weekend. This one was held at St. Paul's, in South Porcupine, during the weekend of April 5th, 6th, and 7th. Although the event is labeled as a "Lay Readers" weekend, it is also attended by ordained ministers as well as anyone who is simply interested in the topics being presented.

This year, we were fortunate to have the pleasure of listening to three very knowledgeable presenters: Mr. Norm Wesley, Dr. Ian MacLennan, and the Reverend Dr. Jay Koyle.

Norm has a varied background of life experiences, all grounded in his passion for being an educator, and will soon become an ordained minister of the Anglican Church. His presentation led us through his personal journey of discovery of the "Greeness" of the Mushkegowuk Cree. Norm laid the foundation of his talk by first explaining the time known through legends. He then continued with an exploration of the interactions of the Cree with various missionaries. He outlined the challenges facing the Cree people today and painted a



Anne-Marie Law, of Holy Trinity, Cochrane, followed Dr. MacLennan's advice during the conference.

hopeful picture for the future - all the while linking this Cree reality with his vision for his ordained ministry.

Dr. Ian MacLennan - actor, director, theatre historian, and researcher - is currently and Associate Professor in the Theatre Arts program and Registrar of Thornleio University. It was a pleasure to have someone with such an extensive theatrical background share some of his knowledge with us. After enlightening us on the basics of public speaking, Ian loosened us up with some total body exercises then led us through a series of facial exercises that resulted in more laughter

than loose muscles. He topped off this workshop with messaged, hand holding, and whispering in each other's ears (otherwise known as partner warm-ups, "Pass the Pulse" and "The Telephone Game"). There's a strong connection between reading well and being able to engage and inspire the listeners with the word of God. To that end, Ian gave everyone the opportunity to practice then read aloud a passage from the Bible, followed by a constructive critique.

After many years as a parish pastor and a professor of Liturgics, The Reverend Dr. Jay Koyle now serves as the Congregational Development Officer for the Diocese of Algoma. Jay is also the President of The Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission, and Director of Table Song: Eighth Day Perspectives. It was a wonderfully inspiring experience to have Jay share with us his passion for vibrant engaging liturgy and his conviction that such transformative liturgy can be realized in small congregations. He began his talk by having us do some introspective questioning of our current liturgical practices and then outlined

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Our Bishop Retires

A letter from Bishop Tom Corston

FOLLOWING A RATHER lengthy period of prayer and reflection, I have decided that it is time for me to retire. I have informed Archbishop Colin Johnson that I will resign as Bishop of Moosonee on December 31st, 2013. At year's end I will be just short of my 65th birthday and 40 years of ordination.

I do not think I can continue to provide the leadership required much beyond this point in our Diocese's restructuring process as outlined in the Vision Quest program. It is a good plan and I believe we have done all we can to secure our future as the Anglican community in this Diocese. I am sure that much of the angst some people are feeling will settle once the Diocese is living in the new entity. At year's end a part-time Administrator will be appointed who will take over the administrative ministry of the Area. While it is a good plan, it is, hopefully, not forever and before too long the Diocese will feel comfortable in electing a new bishop to oversee new growth and vitality in this northern Church.

In my discussion with the Archbishop, we agreed that I would remain involved as the 'Episcopal Visitor' for the Mission Area as an assurance that Confirmations and Ordinations are cared for and all parishes are visited. I will also act as 'Consultant' to the Archbishop and the Administrator for matters that may present themselves. I will easily be able to undertake those ministries from my Sudbury home for the foreseeable future or until a successor to this Office is chosen.

I have enjoyed the brief time that I have been Bishop of this Diocese, in spite of the need for our having to restructure which is the cause of some sadness. I must say, however, that in my almost 40 years of ordained ministry, the Lord has led me down roads I would never have gone otherwise.

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It has been truly a remarkable experience. The last few years as your Bishop have been a tremendously fulfilling opportunity to provide leadership in a changing and challenging time for the Church in the North. I am so very thankful to the people of Moosonee for your support and I praise God for you all.

Thank you so much for your prayers and friendship that have upheld me as your Bishop. Moosonee was my first home in the Church after ordination and because of you it continues to hold tightly to my heart. For me, it has been and continues to be, in the words of Robert Renison, our fifth Bishop, "Ye Happie Kingdom." May God bless you as you serve our Lord Jesus Christ in the years ahead.

Northland Letter

Letter from Mrs. Ellen Johnson

THE JAMES BAY Deanery Greater Chapter meeting took place during the month of February in Moose Factory and Moosonee. For the first time in a number of years, representatives participated from every community, travelling by plane, train, and

ice road. About 100 people shared in the meeting under the chairmanship of the Regional Dean, Canon Rod BrantFrancis. Archbishop Colin Johnson and his wife Ellen were the guests at this year's gathering. For Ellen it was a new experience, some of which she shares in this letter:

Three weeks before your James Bay deanery met in Moose Factory, my friend, Ruth Corston, asked, "Is Ellen coming?" That set the wheels in motion for me to accompany my husband on a fascinating adventure.

I am a retired primary school teacher and every Christmas I read "The Polar Bear Express" to my students. The story and illustrations are enchanting and, for many years, I have wanted to experience it for myself. I never thought that I would but now I have. It was wonderful.

I knew immediately that it would prove to be different from our southern Ontario transit system. Seat designation didn't really matter. I could sit wherever I wanted to. I saw people lugging pillows and bins onto the train. A five hour trip actually took six because the train stopped more than once to pick up army personnel on winter training. Arrival time is approximate.

The scenery was stunning. Trees covered with hoar frost, brilliant snow



Canon Edna Murdy, Bishop Tom Corston & Archbishop Colin Johnson confirmed young people during their visit to Moosonee.

marked with animal tracks, and twisting frozen rivers. I couldn't get enough of it. I loved it all.

We arrived in Moosonee, piled into waiting vans and onto my next adventure - the ice road! Really? When two cars were on that road we jokingly called it 'rush hour'! Not like Toronto!

From our window in the lovely Eco Lodge, we could see the frozen Moose River with its ice road, and watch the

subtly changing colours of dusk and dawn.

Two very brave gentlemen lent us a snowmobile so we could have a ride. Colin drove. I thought we did well but we were told that most people drive them VERY fast. Some vehicles, we were told, can be found on the bottom of the river but only when people venture out too late in break-up season. That was somewhat reassuring.

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Bishop Tom Corston posed with a photograph of his father, Henry Corston.

Our Bishop Received Jubilee Medal

Article by George Cribbs, Editor

BISHOP Corston was surprised to have been informed earlier this year that he was to be presented with the Queen's Jubilee medal. The medal was given to him by the Ontario Command of the Royal Canadian Legion for his service to them.

The Bishop has served as Branch Chaplain to the Royal Canadian Legion in many of the parishes where he served during his ministry. In 2011, he was in-

stalled as the Ontario Provincial Chaplain at their annual meeting in Aurora, Ontario by the Provincial President, Mr. Andre Paquette of Chapleau - the Bishop's hometown.

The Queen's medal was presented to the Bishop on Saturday, April 13th. The Bishop stated that in receiving this honour, he "honoured those veterans who fought for our freedom and who continue to serve on our behalf; among them the



Bishop Moose

Bishop's father, Henry Corston, Signal Corps, Royal Winnipeg Rifles, who saw action from D-Day, June 1944 until being wounded at Caen, France a month later."



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'Our Journey of Life'

Article by Reverend David Bould, United Church of Canada - written shortly before his death in December, 2012

MY EARLY religious teaching was the Apostles' Creed. Every Sunday in Sunday School the words of this Creed were projected on a screen and we stood to repeat it: "I believe in God the Father Almighty..." I cannot recall that the phrases

were ever explained to us, yet the words are etched in memory. Like many, I stopped going to Sunday School at age 12.

When I was 17, I was invited to teach a Sunday School class of Junior Boys. So, I was back in Sunday School, very serious about being a good teacher. It seems to me, reflecting back, that the lessons I taught were Bible stories and how these stories inspired us to be up-

right people with a caring attitude toward others. After a few months of teaching, I thought that it would be a good thing to attend the church worship services as well. So I did. Influenced by the earnest theology students that supplied the pulpit most Sundays, I began to think of ministry within the church as a good way to spend my life. Now in retirement, I

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Reflective Moose





Bishop Tom Corston announced, in Moosonee, that the Reverend Edna Murdy was a Canon of the Diocese of Moosonee.

Bishop Names a New Canon

Article by Bishop Tom Corston

On Sunday, February 24th at the Church of the Apostles, Moosonee, during the gathering of the James Bay Deanery, Bishop Corston announced that he was naming, The Reverend Edna Murdy as a Canon of the Diocese. In doing so, the Bishop stated that Edna had served the Church in Moosonee faithfully in a number of capacities.

Edna came to the Diocese of Moosonee from the Diocese of Algoma and was appointed Rector of Kirkland Lake and Virginiatown. After a few years she became the Regional Dean of Cochrane Deanery and then was given the added responsibility for convening ministry to Val d'Or. When Bishop Caleb Lawrence retired, he appointed Edna as Diocesan Administrator to oversee the administration of the Diocese until a new Bishop could be installed. After Bishop Corston came on the scene - as Edna's husband had decided to retire - Edna felt it was time for her to step aside and retire from active ministry as well. She and Art re-

turned to their home in Kearney, Ontario.

Retirement provided time for Edna to receive some much needed rest but after a year she asked to return to ministry. The Bishop was delighted to appoint her to the part-time position of Rector of Cochrane and Kapuskasing. He also added the position of Diocesan Examining Chaplain to her responsibility, a role that has seen increased service as the Diocese raises up local leadership for ordination.

After just over a year in Cochrane, Edna agreed to become the part-time 'Priest-in-Charge' of Moose Factory and Moosonee during the leave-of-absence of their Rector, Canon Nirmal Mendis. She continues her added responsibility as examining Chaplain for the Bishop.

The Bishop was assisted in installing Edna as a Canon by: Archdeacon Harry Huskins, Regional Dean Canon Rod BrantFrancis, and Dean Greg Gilson.

Congratulations, Canon Murdy!



Bishop Tom Corston, the Reverend Patricia Dorland, as well as Diocesan clergy and lay readers, all took part in the ordination service at Holy Trinity, Cochrane.

Ordination

Article by the Very Reverend Dr. Greg Gilson, St. Matthew's Cathedral, & St. Paul's

ON FEBRUARY 10th, the clergy and people of the Watershed Deanery gathered in Holy Trinity, Cochrane, with many of their ecumenical partners to celebrate with the Bishop and Patricia Dorland her ordination to the diaconate. Although the weather was a bit sketchy and the intended preacher was not able to get out of Toronto, due to the storm that the South was treated to, the last minute stand in did a wonderful job. The bishop was the last minute preacher and he was able to speak to Patricia based on the work which they had done together over the last few years.

The service was ably assisted by the gift of music lead by an ecumenical

choir and with the sound of violin and organ. A special offertory, was played by Patricia's husband, "You can't be a beacon if your light don't shine." There were more than a few who on first looking at the song, thought it was entitled "You can't be a 'Deacon' if your light don't shine."

The celebration continued, after the service, in the parish hall with a taste of the East. The meal followed a Chinese theme as it was also the Chinese New Year and was served by the ladies of the United Church, so that the ladies of Holy Trinity could celebrate with Patricia. The evening was filled with hopeful expectation and joyous celebration; it truly was a delight to have been there.

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five key influences on today's worship. We learned the important roles and aspects of transformative liturgy and how to foster this vital worship within our faith communities. Jay's engaging and informative presentation was punctuated by relevant humorous anecdotes and poignant stories of faith.

Being surrounded by inspiring, strongly faithful people left me re-energized despite the full schedule. I enjoy the sense of being part of something much greater than just my own parish and hope that these weekends continue to be an integral part of Lay Reader development in our diocese.

Journey of Life cont. from p. 2

have become more thoughtful about my theology. What is it that I believe about God and about the nature of world in which we live? The Bible has a place in our faith's history but is misused if it is regarded as an answer book for all matters. Biblical criticism - the art of studying the Bible as a human manuscript reflecting on the human situation and its eternal significance helps one to accept modern scholarship also as revelation of the Sacred

Mystery in which "we live and move and have our being." Now I am part of the restlessness in the church portrayed by scholars such as Bishop John Spong, professors Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Since their arrival on the scene there have been many more, making for a great cloud of witnesses to update our world view in which the Holy still has a meaningful place. Quantum physics has spawned quantum theology that looks at the macrocosm of the world

with a theological mindset.

Our journey of life is now lived in a star studded universe of galaxies and many solar systems. Yet our language of faith is still grounded in an ancient world view that we have outgrown. A three tiered world of Heaven, Earth and Hell has no credibility. In my own worship I need to have a new context for words and also traditions that are still trying to convey eternal realities to twenty-first century people. Spiritually, that which has ultimate mean-

ing for me, is relationship and the energy that is apparent in any relationship. It is a relationship with God, whom I now refer to as Divine Mystery and as Cosmic Consciousness. It is also a relationship with creatures, primarily human beings, but all of creation. Still, it is faithful to remember that the old language once had meaning for me, and the sense of being upheld by or in tune with the love and compassion that is active in my life and your life. Whether I name it

Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, Heavenly Father, or call it Divine Mystery, it is a relationship to my ultimate reality that brings meaningful connection for daily living.

Worshipping in church is a time to touch base with what is meaningful, be it God, Christ, Creative Energy, or the harmony of like minded people. But I need times of silence amid the flow of words, to absorb what I have heard, to appreciate what I am experiencing. May that come to pass.



Moose Gallery



Susan Villeneuve & Valerie Gilson were the life of the party during the Valentine's Soiree.



An Ecumenical Lenten Hymn Sing was held at St. Paul's, South Porcupine, by choristers from: St. John's Lutheran, Covenant & Porcupine United Churches, MacKay Presbyterian, Salvation Army, South Porcupine Pentacostal, and St. Paul's Anglican Church.



The Reverend Valerie Issac & Jan Maloney had a relaxing moment during the intensive Lay Readers' Weekend.



Lay Readers: Richard Moore, Edith Belair and James Lonergan-Freake joined the Reverend Deborah Lonergan Freake in distributing Easter eggs and joy to the people of Cochrane - as well as an invitation to join them at Holy Trinity!

Valentine's Day Soiree

Article by Susan Villeneuve, St. Paul's, South Porcupine

THIS PAST VALENTINE'S Day saw the basement of St. Paul's Church in South Porcupine transformed into a festive venue covered in hearts and cupids. The scene was set for a Valentine's Day Soiree! The happy party-goers who filled the hall were treated to the jazzy sounds of Dan Chabot's saxophone and Steve Kessler's keyboard. Both men are extremely talented musicians and the crowd was highly appreciative of all their musical numbers.

A large selection of hot and cold finger foods, along with a delicious assortment of desserts (all 'strictly non-fattening' - right, Greg?) were available to hungry guests. The festive atmosphere was completed with some red and white wine and a little some-

thing to spice up the coffee.

Sheila Cotnam, much to her embarrassment, won both the door prize and the \$50 gift certificate for Casey's. Congratulations, Sheila!

This soiree was a wonderful time of fellowship - different from our usual get-togethers and fundraisers. I enjoyed planning this event and am very thankful for the generous food donations of the parishioners (which helped to make the event a successful fundraiser). Thank you very much to Cathy Millions and Dorothy Rogers who jumped into the kitchen and got all of the hot food out to the guests. Thanks to everyone who supported this event - it was a great evening. We may just have to do this again next year!

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The best part was yet to come - meeting the clergy and laity of the deanery. That's what I like most about travelling with Colin. We have a unique privilege of meeting people who are making a difference in their community. It is not something that most tourists experience.

I was most impressed with the introduction to the gathering. Time was set aside to honour loved ones who had died in the past year. My beloved aunt died in October. Wearing a sweater that she knit for me and in the context of the gathering circle, I honoured her. I am so grateful for that tradition because it was another notch in healing my own grief.

I am a bit nosy. I like to hear people's stories and ask too many questions. I heard stories that tore me apart and others that made me smile. There were surprises; I heard positive things about the residential schools system, along with the negative. I wasn't expecting that. I heard pride in parents' stories about the fine accomplishments of their adult children and heart wrenching sad stories about substance abuse among young people. The same can be said about families in my own neighbourhood in Toronto.

I love to work with my hands and couldn't wait to see, and perhaps purchase, some crafts. It took a couple of days before the jewellery and leatherwork was displayed but there it was, exactly as I had hoped. The bead work is so beauti-

ful and now I want to learn how to do it. The necklaces and earrings are so pretty that I bought some and enjoy showing them off. A new pair of slippers keep my feet cozy.

The meals lovingly prepared were delicious and an adventure for these two southerners. Colin tried the bannock and beaver. I tried bannock!

It was sad to visit the old cathedral in Moose Factory, now closed but still housing beautiful artifacts. It tugs at the heart of your bishop, I know. We climbed a tall snow bank to see the grave site of your first bishop - a remarkable man.

Hearing Cree and English interwoven was very moving. And you do love music - something we share. The more the better! Get a guitar out and off you go.

My husband sometimes has to travel two hours to get to parishes in his diocese. How amazed we were to hear about people travelling so many hours to get to this gathering, by plane or train or even driving four hours on a rutted ice road at night.

Thank you for welcoming us so generously and giving us a glimpse of the North. Thank you for the splendid mittens and for sharing your stories and your faith. Thank you for making us feel so much at home. Thank you for making a difference in the church and in your communities.



Lay Readers took on a new view of things during their annual training weekend.

