

THE MESSENGER

APRIL 2017

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EPE vision counts on faith community action

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Leaders from faith communities and three levels of government gathered with local social service providers at All Saints' Cathedral on Treaty 6 land, February 9th, for the launch of EndPovertyEdmonton (EPE) and new resources to support its vision to end poverty in a generation.

While many cities across Canada have advanced strategies to reduce or eliminate poverty, EPE's vision is deeply rooted in protecting human rights and ensuring dignity for all, furthering reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people by responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's *Calls to Action* and inspiring collective action.

"It's an honour to see the birth of EndPovertyEdmonton, having co-chaired the mayor's task force since 2014," said Anglican Diocese of Edmonton Bishop Jane Alexander. Together with Dr. Jeffrey Bisanz, a professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta, Bishop Jane leads the EPE Stewardship Roundtable.

EPE is a new community organization which brings together people impacted by poverty, community leaders from many sectors and representatives of all four orders of government (municipal, provincial, federal and indigenous). EPE has established "keystone relationships" with the United Way Alberta Capital Region, Edmonton Community Foundation, University of Alberta Community University Partnership and Edmonton Social Planning Council. The EPE strategy

to lift 10,000 people out of poverty in five years received unanimous approval from Edmonton City Council in the spring of 2016 and, last December, city council again voted unanimously to fund all 15 actions laid out in year one of the five-year road map.

"Poverty affects us all. It is a societal ill and a societal injustice," said Bishop Jane. "Poverty impacts the whole of society and it's going to take the whole of society to address it."

"There's a growing awareness that the root causes of poverty do not fit into neat jurisdictional boxes," said Edmonton-Center MLA David Shepherd, who serves as a provincial representative on the EPE Stewardship Roundtable. "These are issues that go beyond any one individual, community, order of government, department or ministry. To truly address poverty, we need to open ourselves to new ideas, new approaches and a renewed commitment to partnership and collaboration."

Bishop Jane acknowledges that the work to move EPE's progressive agenda into people's lives is challenging and sometimes "messy." Yet, she noted that more than 40 organizations – from community leagues, to school boards, to the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women - have already aligned with the EPE strategy.

"The momentum around a shared vision to end poverty continues to flourish in our city. We have a plan, we are moving to action, there are thousands of people involved and together we are going to do this," she said.

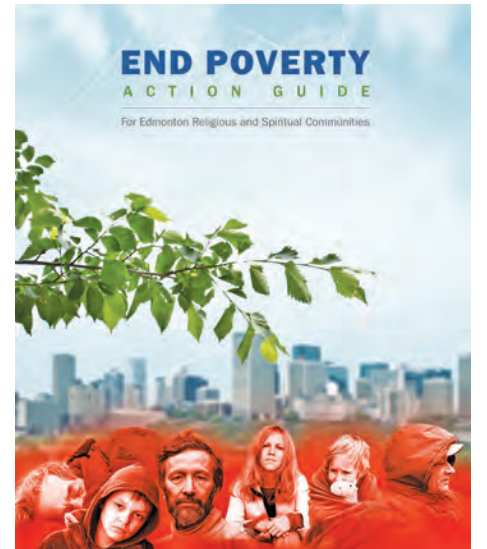


Above: City of Edmonton members check out new resources supporting the work of EPE; the *End Poverty Action guide for Edmonton Religious and Spiritual Communities* contains ideas and stories to inspire action.

City of Edmonton Ward 8 Councillor Ben Henderson said he has witnessed the concern of a small group of five or six people from the city, province, federal government and faith groups grow into the collective action of thousands.

"Mayor Don Iveson expanded the table by creating a task force to bring together all the people already doing work around poverty, enabling us to focus our efforts as a community," said Henderson. Led by the stewardship roundtable, EPE's work over the next five years will be guided by an indigenous circle, a stakeholder forum, an investment collective and the count-me-in network. This collective action will be centered around six Game Changers, or strategic actions, crucial to achieving long-term systemic change: Eliminating Racism, Livable Incomes, Affordable Housing, Accessible and Affordable Transit, Affordable Child Care, Access to Mental Health Services and Addictions Support.

As Henderson noted, faith groups have held an important seat at the table since the beginning of the movement to address the root causes of poverty and ensure all Edmontonians live with dignity. In 2011, leaders from 24 religious and spiritual communities, including Bishop Jane Alexander from the Anglican diocese, joined the Capital



Region Interfaith Housing Initiative (CRIHI) and pledged to "eliminate homelessness in our community." To help faith communities take action to end poverty, the CRIHI released two versions of a resource guide.

A new guide, supported and endorsed by EPE, was presented at the public celebration for EPE and its partners at All Saints' Cathedral. *The End Poverty Action Guide for Edmonton Religious and Spiritual Communities* was produced by the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton in collaboration with CRIHI and funded by the Anglican Foundation of Canada.

"Many agencies already at work battling poverty grew out of faith-based communities that saw a need and took it upon themselves to act. Our hope is for even more involvement... and for ever greater collaboration," said Margaret Glidden, Director of Communications for the Edmonton diocese. The toolkit is a collection of ideas, real-life stories and resources to help faith communities explore how they might join in the collective work of addressing poverty and homelessness. The *End Poverty Action Guide* can be downloaded from the Edmonton diocese's website:

www.edmonton.anglican.org.

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Black History Month P. 2



St. Albert Youth Alpha P. 4



Coldest Night Walk P. 8

Black history service celebrates peace and unity

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

A diverse congregation of more than 14 Edmonton Christian churches came together at St. Faith's Anglican Church on the last Sunday afternoon in January to make music, dance in the aisles and shout "Amen and Alleluia" in praise of a loving God of peace.

For three years, St. Faith's has hosted a service honouring the legacy of black Canadians, past and present. In 2017, the Province of Alberta officially recognized February as Black History Month.

"We are happy that, for the past few years, this space has really become a home for this service," said St. Faith's rector the Rev. Canon Travis Enright welcoming the congregation.

The Rev. Dr. Adenike Yesufu, a deacon at St. Faith's, agrees.

Since she has been organizing the "ecumenical and inclusive" Black History Month Service for the local chapter of the National Black Coalition of Canada (NBCC), Yesufu has invited more than 40 churches of different denominations to the service and many have



Members of Gathering of the Saints Parish, Celestial Church of Christ, accompany Anglican Bishop Jane Alexander and the Black History Month congregation in praise and worship.

participated - Zimbabwe Methodist, Ethiopian Orthodox, Jamaican, Rwandan and Tanzanian Pentecostal church groups, African Celestial Church of Christ from Nigeria, and Filipino Seventh Day

Adventist Church of Edmonton - to name a few.

"I always encourage people to dress in their native attire and sing songs in their native language. This year, in addition to multicultural representation from various churches, we celebrated Canada's bilingual identity by reading



Above: NBCC Edmonton Society President Mertella Montague; Right: New



scripture and singing some songs in French," said Yesufu.

"We all have a different history, culture and forms of religiosity," she added. "Black Canadians are not a homogenous group whose history is solely rooted in slavery. Some of us identify as Africans. Some are from the Caribbean. And some are Black Americans who settled in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Amber Valley, near Athabasca (the largest community of black people in Alberta until the 1930s)."

"We have a responsibility to pass on our culture and spiritual beliefs to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren," said NBCC Edmonton Society President Mertella Montague. A past president of the Edmonton Multicultural Society, Montague said she discovered by doing a Google search, a wealth of information about the legacy of black Canadians.

Edmonton heroine Mary Burle was a woman of deep faith and courage who came from Arkansas. She dedicated the latter part of her life to advocating for the rights and dignity of the city's most vulnerable citizens whom she met as an outreach worker at Boyle Street Co-op.

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New beginnings for the Rev. Anthony Kwaw at St. Timothy's, Edmonton

MESSENGER STAFF

The Rev. Anthony Kwaw began his ministry in Edmonton in the summer of 2016. Kwaw was inducted rector of St. Timothy's by the Ven. Alan Perry, Executive Archdeacon of the Edmonton

diocese, on Sunday, October 16. In the autumn church newsletter, he describes the start of his ministry at St. Timothy's, and the family's first service in August: "My wife and our two boys came to the 8:30 am and 10:00 am services with me in order to meet the people. The congregation

was very welcoming. They rejoiced at having me as their new rector, and my family and I were very excited to be with them."

Anthony and his family moved to Edmonton from New Brunswick. Denise LeBlanc-Kwaw is a registered nurse and is working full-

time as well as continuing her studies on a part-time basis.

Kwaw reports that their two sons, Jedidiah (Jed) and Emanuel (Manny), are enjoying their new schools. The boys jumped right into the life of the diocese, attending Base Camp in August at Lac La Biche.



From left: the Rev. Anthony Kwaw receives the key to the church from St. Timothy's wardens; Anthony Kwaw and Denise LeBlanc-Kwaw, with sons Manny and Jed at the induction service, October 16, 2016; the Ven. Alan Perry, who presided at the induction, welcomes Kwaw to the Edmonton diocese.

Photos: Lloyd Ropchan

Path of holy discontent way to God's grace and peace



BISHOP FRASER LAWTON
Diocese of Athabasca

Contentment is something most people long for, whatever words they might use to describe it. We want to be at peace with our situation, including a sense of security, good relationships with family and friends, happiness

with what consumes our time, etc.

For many, though, contentment is elusive. Attempting to attain contentment can lead people to change relationships or jobs and/or to relocate. Very often these moves do not bring the hoped for result, and the contentment remains a hope.

Some *do* have contentment. Paul the Apostle speaks about having contentment, no matter the situation he faced or experienced (Philippians 4:11; 2 Corinthians 12:10). In fact, he was a bit of an "extremist" in this area, finding "contentment"

in what would cause most of us to feel the very opposite: lack of comfort, lack of reliable comrades, difficulty, and every sort of challenge.

What are we to make of this? Is there some mysterious regime to pursue or "secret" to being able to have this attitude? Well, sort of. The road to contentment travels straight through discontent. I don't mean a critical attitude, prone to grumbling gossip and pessimism. I mean "holy discontent." This is the attitude of not being satisfied with where I am in my relationship with God, and that provokes me to seek Him more deeply. It is something that draws me to a willingness to be changed, as opposed to trying to change the things around me, because the benefit is greater than the cost. This kind of "discontent" isn't about dissatisfaction with the world or my life, but about knowing that only God Himself can truly give the peace I seek.

This kind of discontent isn't really natural to us. We are more inclined to think about things like losing weight, or taking a good vacation, or finding a better home, or taking up (or returning to) a hobby. There isn't necessarily anything "wrong" with any of these things. However, they only get at

the symptoms.

What we *need* is to be disturbed, with any lack of rightness in our relationship with God, to the degree that we take action. Many of us would be well served to ask the Holy Spirit to put this kind of discontent within us. Actually, it's more a case of making us aware of what is already there and to understand the true origin of our discontent. Once we recognize this – truly know it – we begin to be oriented toward the solution: the grace of God. When we are hungry, we will begin to eat. Psalm 34 (verse 8) says, "O taste and see that the Lord is good..."

This kind of discontent moves us to taste of the Lord. This is a good discontent. It helps us to be ready to understand what the Lord says to us in His word, moves us to pray more profoundly, to make space for worship in our daily life. It leads us to make space to be with God. Here is the place Paul spoke of. Whatever the situation he was in, he knew the presence of the Lord, the security of God's grace and the security of his life and future. May God give us this kind of discontent and lead us to its cure.

The Lord be with you, +Fraser

Slave Lake church receives blessing from Zimbabwe

JOE McWILLIAMS
Slave Lake Lakeside Leader

It's a small world, they say, and here's another example. The new pastor at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake is from Zimbabwe in Africa. And he came directly from there to take over the vacant position.

The Rev. Blessing Shambare arrived in Slave Lake on December 27 from Harare, Zimbabwe with his wife Florence and their three children. Since January 1 he's been officially on the job, with his family settled in and kids attending school. He conducted his first Sunday service as pastor on January 14.

"The welcome we received when we came surpassed our expectations," he says. "And their excitement is very encouraging."

The excitement has at least something to do with the fact there's been no pastor at St. Peter's for the past year-and-a-half or so. They've been looking for that long, and they finally found their man, and he found his parish. How, exactly, did that happen?

"Since 2015 I was considering a post somewhere else," says Shambare. "Just to have

an experience of God's love in other parts of the world."

As it happens, the Anglican Church – in which he was ordained a minister in 2005 – has a website showing vacancies from around the world. The one in Slave Lake, Alberta, Canada caught his eye.

"St. Peter's is a unique parish," he says, referring to the three-denominations-in-one concept (Anglican, Lutheran and United, with a few 'others' mixed in). "I came to see how this model can become a model of church worldwide. So I am very excited to be here."

Shambare's path to the ministry began in humble circumstances. He was raised by his mother – a subsistence farmer. He credits her with being "one of the pillars of my faith." When he was 21 he moved to Harare to take religious studies at the university there, earning a bachelor's degree. He followed that up with a master's degree at The Queen's Foundation, a theology school in Birmingham, England. Then it was back to Zimbabwe, in 2009, where "I served in many parishes."

His last appointment was as Canon of



The Rev. Blessing Shambare and his family have come all the way from Zimbabwe to minister at St. Peter's Ecumenical Church in Slave Lake.

Missions, which he describes as "very senior, demanding and very exciting." This was in Harare diocese. At the same time, he served as a parish priest.

And now here he is, half a world away, in frozen Slave Lake, in very different circumstances.

"It has been good," he says. "We are surrounded by people who are full of love."

SUBMISSIONS DUE MONTH
PRIOR to PRINTING DATE

DEADLINE for May, 2017
ISSUE: **APRIL 1**

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A \$15 annual donation is suggested. Please send donations to the Dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.

The Messenger is published under the authority of the Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton. Opinions expressed in The Messenger are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.

The Messenger is a section of the Anglican Journal, printed 10 times a year (no issues July and August) by Webnews Printing Inc. North York, ON.

NASA Mars Rover Mission adviser to speak at May 3rd Anglican Educational Chaplaincy fundraising dinner

The Rev. Dr. SCOTT SHARMAN
Educational Chaplain
Diocese of Edmonton

The official motto of the University of Alberta is the Latin phrase “*Quaecumque Vera*,” or, in English, “*Whatever is true*.” This is, of course, a reference to a line in St. Paul’s letter to the 1st Century church in the Greek city of Philippi (cf. Phil. 4:8). The apostle wrote these words to encourage a group of people with a lot of big questions to continue along their path.

The U of A is a world-class institution of education and research. It has students and faculty who come from all over the world. It is comprised of those with virtually every conceivable background and perspective. It provides knowledge

and expertise in nearly every field of human inquiry. All of this is done under the rubric of pursuing the truth.

The Anglican Educational Chaplaincy, a longstanding ministry of the Diocese of Edmonton, believes that in seeking truth, students must attend to their whole person: body, mind, and spirit. This involves exploring matters of deeper meaning: how to live well and that the role of faith ought not, in our opinion, be separated from the wider formation that goes on in lectures and classrooms. Finding a community of spiritual support, opportunity for prayer and means of giving in service to others is as invaluable as the knowledge acquired by reading books and completing assignments.

For more than 50 years, the Anglican Educational Chaplaincy



has helped connect students from all over the world with one another, their wider community and God. In order to carry out this ministry, we rely heavily on support from parishes and individuals who give generously year after year. Every May, we hold a gala banquet and silent auction in support of the chaplaincy ministry. This is an opportunity not only to raise the funds that keep our efforts going, but also to tell stories and celebrate all that has been done over the previous year with the help of our many donors and sponsors.

Our 2017 gala event will feature

a keynote address from Dr. Chris Herd, U of A Professor of Planetary Geology and adviser to the 2020 NASA Mars Rover mission. Chris will speak to us about his research and the way his pursuit of truth as a person of faith in Christ, intersects with his pursuit of truth in science. We will also hear from a student about the support they have received from the educational chaplaincy on their journey to find truth.

Join us Wednesday, May 3, 5:30-8:30 pm, at the University of Alberta Faculty Club (11435 Saskatchewan Drive) for the 2017 Educational Chaplaincy Dinner, and continue to partner with us in helping generation to generation to seek out “*Whatever is True*.”

To purchase tickets, visit:
www.educationalchaplaincy.eventbrite.ca.

Great start to 2017 for Cursillo

CATHY PONECH
Edmonton Cursillo Secretariat

Greetings, my brothers and sisters in Christ! It has been an exciting few months within the Cursillo community, and we have so many things to share. Adrian Crane blessed us at the February Ultreya by sharing his experiences of God in his life. He then led us in discussions to see whether our own theologies allow for a close, personal and talkative God.

We marched right out of Edmonton and over to Emmanuel Anglican Church in Gibbons for our March Ultreya. The Rev. Ron Hörst spoke on healing prayers for the soul in the resurrection power of Jesus. Thanks Gibbons Cursillo Community for hosting us.

With Lent upon us, and Easter right around the corner, we will take

April to reflect upon the impact and power of Jesus’ death and resurrection, resuming our Ultreyas on the third Friday in May. Back at St. Timothy’s Anglican Church in Edmonton, 8420-145 Street NW, Val Wilbur and Terry Gushuliak will be sharing what it is to be a candidate sponsor before, and after, a Cursillo weekend. St. Matthias will host us for Bishop Jane’s teaching day on June 10th. Please mark your calendars and expect more details closer to the day.

We wish you many blessings as you celebrate Easter. If you are looking for an uplifting, faith-building way to spend a Friday evening, we welcome you and your family or friends to come to our regularly scheduled Ultreyas on the third Friday of each month.

Check us out on Facebook or www.edmontoncursillo.ca/



SANDRA MOLONEY
St. Matthew’s, St. Albert

Young people from St. Matthew’s Church in St. Albert have been participating in the Youth Alpha program since late fall. Our numbers vary, as friends are always welcome to join us for dinner, a video, and discussion.

On, February 3 and 4, 10 participants gathered after school, at the Star of the North Retreat

St. Matthew’s youth follow Alpha out of comfort zone

Centre, to for an overnight Youth Alpha Retreat. Attendees were: Chloe and Natasha Campbell, Meghan and Owen Woollam, Josh and Jalene Webb, Madeleine Poole, Ilana Anderson, Haylei Hildebrandt and Emily Moloney. The retreat was led by the Rev. Colleen Sanderson. Lisa and Matthew Furry and Angela Bokenfohr provided the music and Carolyn Dunlop and Sandra Moloney gave logistical support.

On arrival, each youth chose a Lego avatar to represent themselves, which were used to determine teams for activities and mealtime seating.

Continued on page 7.

Indigenous roundtable continues season of relationship

FIONA BROWNLEE
Aboriginal and Rural
Communities Liaison
Diocese of Edmonton

We gathered together from rural communities and urban centres, from small churches and large churches. As Anglicans who want to do better at the reconciliation work between indigenous and settler peoples, we came to hear from each other and to learn from each other and, we did.

On Saturday, January 28th, about 50 of us came together at Good Shepherd, Edmonton to talk about Indigenous Reconciliation: the second offering of a series of roundtable gatherings from the Social Justice Committee of the Edmonton diocese.

Under the able facilitation of the Rev. Canon Travis Enright, we talked about the perceptions of both indigenous and settler: how we see each other and how land, language and lodge are lost to indigenous

communities. We talked about our roles: settlers need to be reconcilers and indigenous need to be restorers. Reconcilers need to make spaces that are safe for conversation and relationships between indigenous and settler. Restorers need to work in their own communities.

We were asked to consider what would strengthen indigenous/settler relations in our home parishes. There was lively conversation at each table about how we might do this. As settlers, we must find our

indigenous neighbours where they are and not expect them to come to us. This is not easy work, but it is essential work for those of us engaged in reconciliation.

Canon Enright reminded us that we are in a new season of meeting and being in relationship. This new season commits us to this work of reconciliation; of relationship with each other in God’s church.

For further information, please contact Fiona by email:
f.brownlee@edmonton.anglican.ca

Post-Christendom mission means seeing with fresh eyes



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

Last month we considered the reality we live in but so often overlook in the life of our churches: namely that Christendom has ended. The era in which Christianity was the norm in western culture started with Emperor Constantine and

fizzled out sometime in the late 20th Century.

The implications are huge and demand a change in our approach! Yet, through the 25 years of my ordained ministry, I have often observed that we are so daunted by the challenge of the times we live in, we repeatedly revert to Christendom models of being church. These models keep the focus on Sunday attendance and “in-strategies” (ie: what we have to do to get

people to come “in”).

But we do not have to be daunted. We proclaim and minister in the name of the Living God. We have His promise that He will be with us as we ‘go and make disciples, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and teaching them everything that He has commanded us.’ (Matthew 28:18-20)

We just have to be open to new ways of thinking about how we do that. We have to be okay with trying new things, and to roll with the successes and (perceived) failures, as we re-learn how to engage with the world around us.

I want to start with a simple, fun exercise. This Sunday when you attend your church service, try and see the whole experience - from the moment you park your car to the moment you leave - through the eyes of someone who has never attended a service before. Pretend you know nothing of what usually happens. Is everything clear as to what to do and where to go? If you were a newcomer would the service be easy to follow? Would it be clear where to go if you wanted to stay for coffee? Would anyone speak to you if you did stay?

See whether a few others from your church will do the exercise, as well, and discuss your observations. Or, an even better way to do this exercise, would be to enlist a family member or friend who doesn’t normally go to church. Tell them you honestly want to see the whole experience through new eyes... no strings attached.

Next month we start to consider how we grow individually and corporately as missional disciples. We’ll start in small steps and we’ll start with the principle of the “Open Front Door.” And on that cliffhanger is where we’ll pick it up next time.

May God bless you richly in all your efforts of being salt and light for Him,

Richard

PS. If you would like a book recommendation to help you consider all this further, I suggest *The Forgotten Ways*, by Alan Hirsch. A second edition came out in September last year. Hirsch describes the impact on the church now that Christendom is over, and how we equip ourselves to be a more missional movement. Hirsch is guest speaker for our upcoming clergy conference in May.

Ordination leads to a love of rural ministry and a life of service

Throughout 2017, in honour of the 40th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church of Canada, we will highlight the lives and ministry of women who have been ordained in the Diocese of Edmonton. This month features a reflection from the Rev. Coleen Lynch, Rector of St. Saviour’s Mission in Wabamun.

“All things are possible with God.” So said the bulletin cover for Joanne Chamber’s and my priesting on November 1, 1998. It was true then, and it has proved to be a driving force for me over my 20 years of ordained ministry.

My ministry life overflows with the privileges and opportunities I have had to serve God. Early into my years of ordination, I founded the Women’s Reintegration Chaplaincy, a ministry to help women on parole fit back into society. I ministered during the week out of the parole office downtown. On Sundays, I was sent to various parishes, usually rural, to fill in, often for several months. It was during this time that my love and appreciation for rural ministry took root.

I later served in Devon, Rexboro, Tofield and now my beloved Wabamun. What captured my heart? The goodness and graciousness of the people and the beauty and the glory of the land.

In April 2014, Bishop Jane

asked me to go to Wabamun and start a year-round church. To my great surprise, thrill and delight I got to name the parish. The former parish in Wabamun closed in 1967 and I had known it was called St. Saviour. I knew the name had to be about Jesus because our founding was only ever about God, and our continuance would only happen in faithfulness to being with the Lord. I actually felt God inside me saying, “call it the Mission of St. Saviour.”

We had our first service May 14, 2014 and our official date of formation was on the Feast of St. Ninian, September 16, 2014. Countless people have helped our parish to get going and continue to support us through prayers and various donations.

Thanks to St. John’s, Onoway, we now have the bible, more than 100 years old, from the original St. Saviour’s church. We proudly place it on the altar each Sunday as a reminder that God’s Word directs our lives and that we exist in the line of the faithful ministry and presence of those who have gone before us.

At St. Saviour’s, as our People’s



‘Team Jesus’ member the Rev. Coleen Lynch at Cowboy Church with Schwartz, St. Saviour’s bear.

Warden Michelle Squance-Slade so aptly states, “church” is an action word. Easily identifiable in our bright blue “Team Jesus” t-shirts, we go out into the community and we help. We flip pancakes at town functions and give out water at the Dragonfly Festival Parade. We do Cowboy Church, lead the World Day of Prayer service and volunteer at the

Seniors’ Potluck and at the Thrift Shop. We offer special event services through every season in the space we rent at the Seniors’ Centre. We even do annual clean-up of our adopted portion of Highway 16. We have gained the reputation of being ‘those church people who help and have fun!’

We do ordinary things, meeting ordinary people who tell us about their lives and their worries and ask for our prayers. Some check us out on Sunday. Many stop by our office in the Main Street Marketplace, just to say “hi” or to “Come and Ask” their questions about God, church, religion and life in general. We visit with people where they are and listen to what matters for them. It is now my privilege that people do not introduce me as the only Protestant

Female
Priests of
the
Diocese of
Edmonton
Ordained in
the 1990s:



1995: Joyce Mellor, Anne Wightman
1996: Eileen Conway
1997: Mary Charlotte Wilcox
1998: Coleen Lynch, Joanne Chambers
1999: Maureen Crerar

Correction: on page 5 of the March, 2017 issue, it should have been noted that Kay Schmitt was ordained in 1984. We regret this omission.

Watch upcoming issues of *The Messenger* for reflections from women ordained after the year 2000.

minister in town, they introduce me as “Coleen, my friend.”

Coleen Lynch is married to the Rev. Michael Lynch, rector of St. Columba, Beaumont. They have one daughter Karlene, married to Miles.

Coleen is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree at St. Stephen’s College through the U of A. Her dissertation will tell the story of St. Saviour’s. At the same time, she is studying rural sociology through the U of A Augustana in Camrose. She hopes this course will further her understanding of the challenges of rural communities, as well as opportunities for development and sustainability.

PWRDF ministry a lot of fun, but no monkeying around



DOROTHY MARSHALL
PWRDF Representative
Diocese of Edmonton

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) parish representatives from the Edmonton diocese gathered at St. Matthias Church, on the last Saturday in February, to share and learn about PWRDF programs and to engage with and support each other in our ministry. These dedicated volunteers from a

variety of backgrounds share a passion for making a difference in the world with PWRDF.

As we shared stories of our work, we recognized a need to increase awareness about the PWRDF at the parish level. Some members of our church communities did not grow up in the Anglican Church, and for many PWRDF is a meaningless acronym. Valerie Wilbur, from the Church of the Good Shepherd, told us of her surprise when someone asked her if she was working with Jane Goodall's Institute protecting chimpanzees! I, too, have been asked in the past where my sudden interest in monkeys came from.

In this case, the "Primate" we refer to is not of the ape variety but, rather, Archbishop Fred Hiltz. As head of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), he champions the official development and relief agency of the ACC, calling PWRDF one of 'the most exciting ministries of our church,' inspired by 'a vision of a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world.'

Several of our parish reps, like Chris Wudarck from St. Michael and All Angels, and Debbie Legere from St. Margaret's, had little prior knowledge about the organization and were brave to take on a new position. Carol Mercier from St. Stephen the Martyr is also new to her role and is eager to get involved learn.

Bev O'Brien, the parish rep for St. Matthias, and also our host, came to know and appreciate the mission and work of PWRDF, especially in the area of maternal, newborn, and child health, in Africa. Bev had recently returned from South Sudan, where she volunteered as a mid-wife. She told us about the drastic situation in relief camps caused by the famine. PWRDF recently put out a call for aid for those affected by the drought in South Sudan.

Bev also noted that a strong network of volunteers across Canada, including the parish representatives who share information about the organization's projects, enable PWRDF to keep its administration costs (7.94% in 2016) at a minimum. With a greater awareness about and understanding of the projects people are more likely to donate to the work of PWRDF.

A few of our diocese's dedicated reps from Edmonton have been involved in this ministry for almost 10 years: Gen Ashwell, from St. Timothy's; the Rev. Mark Vigrass, from St. Patrick's; and the Rev. Dr. Adenike Yesufu from St. Faith's. They all expressed an appreciation for the value of this work in responding to humanitarian crisis and carrying out long-term community development, enabling people to become agents of change in their own communities.

The gathering was a great opportunity for people to learn from others and share ideas of what has worked in their parish. Charles Andrews, who is the parish rep for St. Mary's, Redwater, became



PWRDF Parish Representatives from the Edmonton diocese at a recent gathering with diocesan rep Dorothy Marshall. Pictured, from left, are: Charles Andrews, Mark Vigrass, Chris Wudarck, Debbie Legere, Florence, who is a guest from Ghana, Valerie Wilbur, Gen Ashwell, Bev O'Brien, Carol Mercier, Adenike Yesufu.

involved in the PWRDF at the recommendation of Bishop Jane Alexander. He shared several ideas for building awareness and fundraising. Others talked about organizing educational opportunities during coffee-time and fundraising suppers.

At present, the Edmonton diocese has 35 PWRDF Parish Reps. If your parish does not yet have a rep and you have a heart for social justice and living out the "Marks of Mission," this ministry might be a good fit. Again in the words of Primate Fred, 'All of us working together make PWRDF what it is – a powerful force for all that is good and right and just in this world.'

You can find more information online at: www.pwrdf.org website, or send Dorothy Marshall an email at camfarm@syban.net.

It seems appropriate to end with Jane Goodall's words originally intended to refer to her work with primates, but relevant to our work with PWRDF: '*Only if we understand, will we care. Only if we care, will we help. Only if we help, shall all be saved.*'

Kingdom ambassadors set forth from Mission Action Sunday

ARCHDEACON for MISSION DEVELOPMENT
Diocese of Athabasca

A single email attachment unleashed a steady stream of information. Each day, one or two new attachments would appear in the email boxes of every lay reader and licensed clergy person in the Diocese of Athabasca. Recipients began to roll their eyes and wonder what could be done to filter out the sender's messages.

The resource materials, prepared by the archdeacon for mission development, were part of a response to executive council's decision to emphasize mission development through the ministries of the diocese. Bishop Fraser Lawton issued a pastoral letter challenging parishes to reorient ministry through the lens of mission.

The materials reflected a central theme: 'While mission may not result in developing disciples, disciples always aim themselves at developing mission.' In this framework, mission belongs to God and His mission is to have all people accept His offer of reconciling love. The disciples (apprentices of Jesus who both learn His content and live His life in our context) are the ambassadors of God's Kingdom and the workers

who implement God's mission through the Church's ministry.

Ten resource files were sent to each disciple ahead of the diocese's first ever "Mission Action Sunday." By the end of the preparation period, those in charge of the worship and Christian education in each parish had accumulated a toolkit of crossword puzzles, PowerPoint solutions, conversation starters and a *Mission-Minded Monitor* newsletter, in addition to mission development and assessment tools (including a sermon based on the lectionary for February 19, but adaptable to any Sunday).

Efforts to equip church leaders with tools for discipleship continue the work of the diocesan synod 2012, which set aside funding for mission development in the Diocese of Athabasca.

God's Mission, Our Ministry

But what is "mission?" The Church throws around words expecting their meaning to be understood the same way by everyone. Like *Gospel* and *gospel*, *Church* and *church*, or *prophecy*, or *spiritual gifts*, or *apostle*, or *disciple*, or... Each of these words has a variety of possible meanings. Furthermore, when secular society uses our language, the meaning of certain words is, yet again, redefined in non-Christian ways.

The challenge before the Diocese of Athabasca is the proper use of the word "mission." Mission does not mean:

- a satellite congregation of a larger parish that is struggling to survive
- a parish with only a part-time or interim priest
- a weekend event focused on evangelism and personal conversion, often featuring a guest speaker
- a group sent by a superior organization to spread its own understanding of the faith
- the content of a congregation's "Mission Statement."

Mission is:

- God's work already evident in the world
- God's plan, intent and purpose in the world
- God's guidance for the Church's function, goals, purpose and ministry.

Mission belongs to God. His is the only possible "Mission Statement." The Church exists only to fulfill His mission. The Church develops Christian disciples who dedicate themselves to God's mission and the Church's ministries.

We must allow this reality to soak into our bones, our hearts, our minds and our very souls. Maybe then, we can recover God's vocabulary.

EndPovertyEdmonton vision counts on faith community action cont.

Continued from front page.

In 2015, the mayor's task force commissioned the Edmonton Social Planning Council (EPSC) to paint an overall picture of poverty in Edmonton. At the EPE launch, Susan Morrissey and John Kolkman presented the *2017 Profile of Poverty in Edmonton Update* (www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca). The report shows that, in spite of strong economic headwinds, Edmonton's poverty reduction initiative – supported by investments made by other orders of government – is off to a promising start.

"Edmonton is the youngest of the six largest urban centers in the country," said John Kolkman, ESPC research associate. Many newcomers to Canada have been welcomed by Edmontonians. Between 2005 and 2015 there was a 178 per cent increase in the number of refugees settling in Edmonton. While the data collected from the 2016 city and federal 2016 censuses varies, the median age of the metro Edmonton population (somewhere between 899,000 and 933,000) is 36 years.

In 2014, Edmonton had the highest median after-tax income of any major Canadian city, at \$38,100 per person. Still, according to the same measure, 12.1 per cent of people living in metro Edmonton were low-income — or living in poverty, with the greatest number being lone-parent families. That works out to almost 108,000 people living in poverty, including 44% of indigenous children under the age of five.

Kolkman said an important area of advocacy for community groups like faith and spiritual communities is to encourage employers to pay a Living Wage. The Living Wage in Edmonton has been calculated at \$16.69/hour, yet 19.5% of all employed Edmontonians earn less than \$15/hour.

"What we know, and what this report shows, is that many people living in poverty have no control over the barriers they face," said ESPC Executive Director Susan Morrissey.

As David Shepherd said, "leaving members of our community to churn endlessly through the cycle



Bishop Jane Alexander, End Poverty Edmonton Co-Chair, addresses a crowd of more than 120 community and government leaders at All Saints' Cathedral.

of poverty is not only inhumane, it's expensive." Managing poverty costs Albertans \$7.1-\$9.5 billion every year. That is \$2,700-3,600 for each taxpayer in the province.

"There is recognition that the costs of inaction are far higher than the investments required to provide access to affordable housing, education and training, physical and mental health supports and jobs that pay a Living Wage," said Shepherd.

For more information about EndPovertyEdmonton, visit: www.endpovertyedmonton.ca

OKITIMĀKISIW

The Cree word for "poor" is *okitimākisiw*, which loosely translates into "a person in need, one who is poor." Poverty is complex, systemic and deeply rooted. Finding solutions involves the whole community. Edmontonians experience poverty when they lack or are denied economic, social and cultural resources to have a quality of life that sustains and facilitates full and meaningful participation in the community.

Black History Month Service celebrates peace cont.

Continued from page 2.

Yesufu observes that in spite of cultural and historical differences "we are all ONE in Christ." She chose the theme of "Peace Together. Peace for All," which, this year, was especially poignant. A few days earlier, US President Donald Trump had signed an executive order banning the immigration of people, including refugees, from seven predominantly Muslim countries, and hours after the service, on Sunday evening, six Muslim men were shot dead while praying at a Mosque in Quebec City.

"Particularly now, with actions that are working to divide us, we need events such as this one to bring people together and celebrate our



The Rev. Michael Grange

diversity," said Edmonton Centre MLA David Shepherd.

"Peace is not a noun, peace is an action word," said the Rev. Anthony Kwaw, rector of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, who led the service. "The entire human race must live by the Golden Rule: Treat others as you wish to be treated."

Only then, will the lion and the lamb lie down together."

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7

Exploring the spiritual understanding of peace in his homily address, the Rev. Michael Grange

from Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ Apostolic, said that "peace is a blessing from God... Christ's work is to bring peace and Christ's death is to bring peace between God and humanity. When we spend time with God and live righteously we will have peace within and find peace with each other."

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." John 14:27

Yesufu requested that saxophonist Gabriel Uduka play "Peace Perfect Peace" during the service. "It was my prayer for the congregation to have peace in their homes, in their families, in their workplace, in their communities, in their countries and in the world."

The joyful congregation received a blessing from the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese Edmonton, and many members stayed to share a meal provided by the NBCC Edmonton Society.

For more information, visit: www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html



St. Albert Youth Alpha continued

Continued from page 4.

Our gathering space was set up with an art station, snack table, bibles, board games and an altar. Everyone was invited to write their prayer requests and hurts on Band-aids and stick them to a standing cross near the altar, demonstrating our need to bring our pain and sorrow to the cross for healing.

During the retreat, we watched three Youth Alpha videos and explored discussion questions together. Several youth came forward to be anointed by the Rev. Colleen during the Holy Eucharist. She was available for one-on-one conversations throughout the retreat.

It was interesting to witness these young people, who range in age from 12 to 22, attend different schools and have different stories, come together to share personal stories, fears and dreams. By actively participating in discussions and worship, they stepped out of their comfort zones to realize they are not alone as Christians on their journey.



Members of the Black History Month service dance in the aisles of St. Faith's, Edmonton.

Edmonton parishioners bundle up for Coldest Night charity walk

MESSENGER STAFF

Teams from All Saints' Anglican Cathedral (registered as All Saints' Pilgrims) and Christ Church (Anglican Parish of Christ Church) took to the streets of downtown Edmonton on February 25th to walk for a cause as part of the Coldest Night of the Year program. Coldest Night, put on by Hope Mission, is a family-friendly walking fundraiser that supports local charities dedicated to serving

the hungry, homeless and hurting in 100+ communities across Canada.

Canon Barbara Burrows of All Saints' Cathedral says, "The walk was quite pleasant - not too cold (though almost the coldest night we've had in quite a while) and just a light snow - until we walked north on 124th Street and into the wind! Five members of All Saints' Pilgrims did the 10-km walk which took us just over two hours. We did five

kms last year, the first time we had joined CNOY, so we thought we could do 10 this year."

Bishop's Assistant, Sara Edwards-Smith walked the 5K with husband Steve and 18-months-old Culley. "It was so much fun," says Sara. "A well-organized event. Everyone was so nice. Culley stayed awake for the whole thing!"

Anna Schroeder from Christ Church says, "We began preparing for "walk day" by recruiting team members and collecting donations. Clad in our yellow and blue toques, we walked five kms as a group! I think I can safely speak for all when I say that the experience allowed us to "walk in another person's shoes."

Along our walk, we noticed how other pedestrians and drivers glanced our way, some even dared to ask, "why are you all wearing the same toque?!" In that way, the event sparked conversation, allowing us to share the vision and values of Hope Mission with the Edmonton community. After the walk we were greeted with cheers and a warm meal, and though that was the end, there are still ways to show support and it is our hope that this can become a tradition. Thank you to everyone who donated and



At 18 months, Culley Smith was one of the youngest participants.

walked for Hope Mission!"
Between the two groups, All Saints' and Christ Church raised \$14,160!!



Some of the All Saints' Pilgrims walked the full 10K. Together they raised more than \$4,000 in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser.



Parishioners from Christ Church, Edmonton raised more than \$10,000 for charity.

Christ Church, Grande Prairie finds ways to engage with the community

CANDACE MAHAFFEY
Christ Church
Grande Prairie

The ladies of the Christ Church, Grande Prairie ACW invited the Captain of the local Salvation Army to a recent gathering. He shared his story and what his dreams and plans are for the poor and vulnerable in our community. We then had the opportunity to help the Salvation Army make candy

bags and assemble packs of essential items, such as socks, gloves, a scarf, soap, toothbrush and toothpaste and shampoo. We divided ourselves into two groups and engaged in friendly competition. One group went for streamline and speed, the other for beauty and presentation. It was a rewarding evening for us.

We had lots of fun and gained an awareness of how much we can do



Maryam Khandani and Zoey Rak (above) and Judy Kenig (right) on pancake duty at Christ Church. Photos: Candace Mahaffey



Engaging in a little friendly competition for the Salvation Army are: Beth Davis, Janice Orr, Karen Kovacs, Jean Wilson and Leita Askiw.

for others throughout the year. We continue to look for the opportunities God provides us with to do His work each day. We find many ways to get together and build community.

Sometimes we host a Whist night, other times we hold a pancake supper. Everyone is invited to lend a helping hand, whether it is by welcoming guests at the door, mixing batter, or flipping pancakes.

Save the Date:
**Athabasca ACW
Conference**
Fort McMurray
April 28-30, 2017
Guest Speaker:
**The Rev. Susan Horton
(ELCIC)**

Calling all Junior High Adventure Seekers:
start planning now for
Base Camp 2017
July 10-16 at Dry Island Buffalo Jump Provincial Park
Watch www.edmonton.anglican.org
for registration and details.

