



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2018

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Bishop Jane Dedicates Community Prayer Labyrinth in Whitecourt



"This is such an exciting day to be here at St. Patrick's," said Bishop Jane Alexander blessing the community labyrinth at St. Patrick's Anglican Church in Whitecourt.

The project was made possible by the parish's REACH campaign and a community beautification grant from the Town of Whitecourt, as well as parish and community support.

The prayer labyrinth has a long, rich tradition of use within the Christian church, dating back to at least the fourth century, approximately 1,700 years ago. The circular path is simply a place to walk or sit, pray and be at peace.

Read more about Bishop Jane's visit to Whitecourt on page 10.

Faith community and government speak loudly together for affordable housing and dignity for all

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

***The rich and the poor have
this in common:
the Lord is the maker of us all.***

Proverbs 22:2



The Hon. Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing, and Pastor Mike Van Boom, Housing Ambassador for Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, speak at the Edmonton Faith Communities Talk Housing rally.

Members of Edmonton's faith community joined representatives of local social agencies and people who have experienced homelessness to voice their concerns about the need for affordable, supportive housing to members of municipal, provincial and federal government on September 6. Organized by the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative (CRIHI), the rally was held at Evangel Pentecostal Assembly.

Many people were invited to courageously share their personal experience of homelessness. Marilyn Bird, a Cree woman and former social worker, said she lost her marriage and career to alcohol addiction in 2010.

"My daughter, who was in Grade 12 at the time, said, 'mom, I can't look after you anymore. This is an important year for me and I need time to study. Instead, I stay up late each night making sure you make it to bed safely.' My heart dropped," said Bird. "I told my husband I was leaving, packed all I could into the car and drove away."

When she arrived in Edmonton, she had spent her last dollar and maxed out all her credit



Marilyn Bird (right) shares her lived experience of homelessness with advocates for affordable housing at the interfaith rally.

cards. She began "hanging out downtown with people who drank the way I did." A series of tragedies over the next several years would help Bird face her addiction and regain her dignity.

"When you're homeless and walking with a cart, you're invisible. People look away and pretend they don't see you," she said.

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Edmonton diocese welcomes deacon and priest

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Bishop Jane Alexander welcomed the Rev. Eric Kregel and the Rev. Lorne Manweiler into the “Anglican branch of the Jesus Movement” on the Feast of St. Bartholomew, August 24, at All Saints’ Cathedral, Edmonton.

Eric Kregel was ordained to the diaconate and has been appointed interim deacon-in-charge of St. George’s, Fort Saskatchewan. He had previously served as theological intern with St. George’s, Fort Saskatchewan and Christ Church in Edmonton.

Although “relatively new to Anglicanism,” Kregel ministered in the Baptist church for more than 20 years. Originally from California, he was ordained within the Southwest General Conference Baptist Association and served as a youth minister in the Los Angeles area. He moved to Canada with his wife Catherine in 2005 and served for 9 years as High Prairie’s Baptist pastor. He then pastored with the Evangelical Free church in Edmonton.

“I was drawn to Anglicanism about a year and a half ago, seeing how the liturgy of our services can shape our daily cooperation with God in His mission,” said Kregel, also a published science fiction writer, who loves to play the banjo and tell stories. “My desire is to be a priest in our diocese, leading a parish from the ‘altar to the neighbourhood.’ I love the grace

of God, as it is expressed by the eucharist and our heritage.”

The Kregels have two daughters and a dog. Their eldest Carys (10) read the First Lesson, Deuteronomy 18:15-18, at the ordination service.

Lorne Manweiler was received as a priest in the Church of God and serves as an honorary assistant at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Edmonton.

Manweiler hails from Vernon, BC and is an alumnus of the University of British Columbia and Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton. He was drawn to the Anglican faith tradition by “a church that sees itself as far

more than a passing fad or a transplanted European subculture. I was drawn to a church in which my confirmation and ordination vows might be most faithfully expressed in service to Christ and to all His people. I was drawn to a church that is open to the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit,” he said.

Manweiler served Lutheran Church–Canada parishes in Medicine Hat,

Calgary, Vulcan, Wetaskiwin, and Edmonton, and the LCC–Roman Catholic ecumenical dialogue. Additionally, he offered 15 years of service in parachurch capacities as Instructor of Organ and sessional professor of liturgy and dogmatics at Concordia University of Edmonton, and was sessional instructor in Systematic Theology and Liturgy at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton.

As an international recitalist and church music lecturer, Manweiler has had the pleasure of playing Holy Trinity’s unique Casavant Frères pipe organ; likely the only antiphonal of its type on the Prairies. In his spare time, he is a self-described “avid spin class addict, coffee lover, music listener, bookworm, Trekkie, and computer nerd.”

St. Bartholomew’s Feast is an “outstanding day to be ordained



Bishop Jane ordained Eric Kregel (pictured left of bishop) to the diaconate and received Lorne Manweiler (pictured right of bishop) into the Diocese of Edmonton and Anglican Church of Canada on August 24, the Feast of St. Bartholomew.

and received into the Anglican Branch of the Jesus Movement,” said Archdeacon Christopher Pappas, rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, welcoming Kregel and Manweiler as fellow faithful servants of God in the Edmonton diocese.

“All of God’s children are invited to sing in God’s song at all times and in all places,” said Pappas in his homily address.

“Additionally, some are called to sing a specific part emphasizing the life, teachings and values of Jesus.

Tonight, we are celebrating the parts that Eric and Lorne are called to sing in a song that doesn’t conform to society’s values. It won’t always be easy, even the uber disciples sometimes strove for the world’s values instead of Jesus’ values. But, like them, we’ll continue to be refined in our service to the

song.

Our ordinal says that both a deacon and a priest are called by God to special ministries. Central to both is making Christ and His redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom we live, work and worship.

Our role as clergy is also to sing the song of God’s redemptive love in the midst of our culture. Not apart from the world, but in it; engaging it and taking its story, its words and integrating them into Jesus’ melody, leading to transformation of the world...

Tonight we recognize two more singers, praying that the ripples they make will continue to play a role in Jesus’ transformative mission forever,” Pappas said.



Bishop Jane Alexander receives the Rev. Lorne Manweiler as priest in the Edmonton diocese.



Archdeacon Christopher Pappas, rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, preaches the homily.



The Kregels: Catherine, Eric, Ashlyn and Carys.

Annual Bishop’s Fund Dinner

In Support of Clergy of
Dioceses of Edmonton and the Arctic



WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 14, 2018

COCKTAILS 6:00 PM
DINNER 6:45 PM

ROYAL MAYFAIR
GOLF CLUB

Guest Speaker Presentation
Is Water Our Next Crisis?
Lessons for Alberta from a
Leading Expert
Dr. P. Kim Sturgess
CEO and Founder of
Alberta WaterSMART Solutions

For more information, contact
Neil Gower: lngower@gmail.com

Participation in Church no optional extra for Christians

The Ven. TERRY LEER
Administrative Commissary
for Bishop Fraser Lawton



It seems that a number of people, perhaps a majority, look at the Church as a nice option for Christians. It all comes from a fundamental misunderstanding of the Church. Many think of the Church as a nice social service agency. Others see the Church as a tottering, out-of-date institution. Yet others see the Church as the older cousin to fraternal

organizations like the Masons or the Elks. At best, the Church is a club for do-gooders. At worst, it is a power-hungry manipulator of people's souls. That's what many think.

But let us think about Church, and our participation in it, in terms of the identity of Jesus.

Jesus is God incarnate; God inside time, space and human experience. That's why His words and actions carry an authority far beyond that of any merely human rabbi. In Christian terms, what Jesus says, we do. So, when He created the Church using the foundation of the apostles, He removed any hint of optional participation. When He defined the Church as His body, He removed any hint of optional participation. When He commanded us to 'go, therefore, and make disciples,' He removed the optional aspect.

We are the Body of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit and God's chosen instruments in this

world. Our participation in the Church is a divine privilege granted us as we turn to God in faith and love. Our loyalty is not an obligation to an institution—it is our gift to God as He calls us into relationship with Himself and with one another. We serve God as we support one another through our worship and our ministries.

Each of us has to work this out, sometimes "with fear and trembling." But that's *really* why the Church is here: to provide the supportive atmosphere in which we work out our salvation in practical terms. Christ never intended that we should try this hard work on our own. He created the Church based on His own identity so that we might experience the love we need to live out the love of God. That's why the Church is no mere option. It is the creation of God for the sake of our souls.

Four decades of ministry in Edmonton's inner city

JOHN CAMPBELL
Chair, Board of Directors
Inner City Pastoral Ministry

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Inner City Pastoral Ministry (ICPM). It has been a privilege to walk with the residents of the inner city in shared ministry since 1978. We give thanks to God for the spirit and vision that has made our ministry possible during these four decades. We have been blessed with amazing volunteers, supporters and staff over the years - you have each helped to shape and sustain us. Simply, but deeply, we extend our thanks to all of you.

There have been challenges along the way, but there have also been countless moments of joy. The first pastor to serve with ICPM, the Rev. Barrett Scheske, summed up perfectly in one sentence the focus of our ministry:

*Hope lies in the building of relationships
and the small celebrations in daily living.*

We have rejoiced in the building of relationships over the last 40 years, and we have shared celebrations, both large and small, in the lives of the members of our inner city community.

ICPM's ministry has evolved in many ways since our founding. As part of a look back at the period of the early 1980s, from *Our Story*, a history of ICPM published on the occasion of our 25th anniversary in 2003, it was noted, in respect of those years when the Rev. Odette Perron was pastor, that: "Odette's ministry had



Pastor Rick Chapman and ICPM volunteers share berries and bread with the Emmanuel worship community during a Standing Stones service at the Bissell Centre last spring.

meager and humble beginnings. She had an office downstairs in the Bissell Store. Her first service was in the corner of a dilapidated gymnasium, an area otherwise being used for storage. Her first congregation was 12 - 20 people from the streets, who came in with the enticement of coffee and a sandwich after the service. Odette walked the streets, talked to people, invited them into her office, and reached out to them with love."

Fast forward to the early 2000s and things had changed considerably in the ministry of ICPM. By the time the Rev. Wendy Ainsworth became pastor in 2002, the attendance at the Sunday worship services had greatly increased and the numbers for the lunches following the service had grown to an average of 245 people per meal, with some

Sundays seeing as many as 370 coming in. Pastor Wendy reflected on what she experienced during her time in the ICPM ministry:

*There is joy in this ministry in the deep
and abiding faith of the people through all
that life - and in particular, God - offers to
those who walk in faith... It is God's work
that we do here - and it is only successful
when held in the hands of God - and God
works in wondrous ways.*

The past few years have been exciting for our ministry. Under the creative and visionary leadership of Pastor Rick Chapman, and the commitment and dedication of our board of directors, we have developed a special ministry emphasis on reconciliation initiatives with the Indigenous community of the inner city. This led us initially to the hiring of Michelle Nieviadomy as an Oskapewis ("helper" in Cree) three years ago, to lead us in this important work that follows up on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We have also, in the past year, developed a partnership with the Moving Forward in Reconciliation Group of the United Church in Edmonton, and have welcomed a second Oskapewis staff member, Evelyn Day. There is a lot of work to do in this area, but we are excited by the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for your support of Inner City Pastoral Ministry over the 40 years of our ministry. Happy Anniversary!

<p>SUBMISSIONS DUE 1 MONTH PRIOR to PRINTING DATE</p> <p>DEADLINE for November 2018 ISSUE: OCTOBER 1</p> <p>Submissions: We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories (max 500 words), event notices, book reviews and photos.</p> <p>Send to: Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) anglicanmessenger@gmail.com or</p>	<p>Peter Clarke (Athabasca) seens@telus.net</p> <p>Read Online: www.edmonton.anglican.org/ blog/the-messenger</p> <p>Find Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/anglican.edmonton</p> <p>Subscribe: www.anglicanjournal.com/ subscribe</p>	<p>THE MESSENGER TEAM</p> <p>EDITORS Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) Peter Clarke (Athabasca)</p> <p>LAYOUT & DESIGN Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p> <p>PROOF READING Jennifer Wirun</p> <p>REPORTING Peter Clarke Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p>	<p>A \$15 annual donation is suggested. Please send donations to the Dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Messenger is a section of the Anglican Journal, printed 10 times a year (no issues July and August) by Webnews Printing Inc.</p>
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Five key questions to cover all the bases in your MAP



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

We've come a long way on this journey of working out our Mission Action Plan (MAP)! Back in February, we saw that the whole point is not to plan a few events, but to actually become missional disciples who make missional disciples, and we found our

model in the way Jesus' sends out His disciples to learn by doing (Luke 7). In March, we looked at praying and thinking through who we are as a church family and in what direction of travel Jesus might be leading us. In April, we said that all the things we normally call *ministry* must be included so we can join the dots and make sense of all we do. Finally, we have examined red flag alerts that can at best hinder and, at worst, completely derail even the best MAP.

Along the way, we said that we must have a good process for collecting ideas; that in a MAP-making session it's good to give people time to think and write down their ideas before launching into group discussion in which the

extroverts (I know, I am one) always tend to dominate.

This is even more necessary if we get more of the church family involved, and that *really* is important. We are all the Body of Christ and MAP-making should involve as many church members as possible. Setting aside a day for the whole church to come together is a good way forward if you want everyone to own the process and subsequent plan.

One way to capture ideas is to ask everyone this question: "If you set aside concerns about money, time or guarantee of success and took a risk on doing one thing, what would you love your church to try?" Again, it's best to ask everyone to do this in writing, even on something as simple as a 'sticky-note' that can be

handed in anonymously.

I have found that the advantage of collecting ideas this way is that it releases the *missional imagination* of the church family. It prevents the cynical or overly-pragmatic from suffocating innovation, yet still preserves the common sense and realism needed in the process.

Then, because it is impossible to hone the details of a MAP in a very large group, the vestry or corporation could decide on which three or four ideas to take forward from those sticky-notes. There will be more than three good ideas! The other good ones can be part of a rolling, developing plan over 3-5 years that can be reviewed and tweaked as you go.

I then ask five questions

that, for me, are vital.

Do these ideas, when put together in our MAP, help us as a church family:

- to move forward as a movement? (The Christian church is a missional movement, not a monolithic institution.)
- to be faithful followers of Jesus?
- to connect with people outside our church family?
- to care for each other?
- to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of God?

Unless the ideas we want to implement in our MAP provide a clear 'yes' to all five questions, we must tweak them until they do, or drop them and try again.

Next time, we write the plan.

*With every blessing,
Richard*

Missional disciples: image-bearers of our missional God



The Ven. TERRY LEER
Archdeacon for
Mission Development
Diocese of Athabasca

Mission is still kind of mysterious for most Anglicans.

We've all seen the word in the church newspaper

and in our parish bulletins. Many of us have attended "Spiritual Gifts" seminars or "Stewardship" workshops. Our diocese even had a mission dual event, first for clergy and then for laity all in one week. But I still hear comments about how the church should hold a mission weekend, by which they mean having a conference with a guest speaker on the topic of prayer. Mission is not universally understood and certainly not universally grasped.

Mission is not just something we do: it is also who we are in Christ. You see, we are made in

the image of God, who expresses Himself as mission. We disciples are remade in the image of Christ, whose own incarnation is missional. By God's own design and intent, we Christians are God's mission to our world.

Here's another way of thinking about it: we are God's sacrament of mission in the world. A sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given to us by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive this grace, and a pledge to assure us thereof." (*Book of Common Prayer* 1962, p. 550) Christ has made us the outward

and visible sign of God's mission to the world. We are also the ones through whom that mission is brought to the world and as we do that, others see God's assurance to save.

We really don't have a choice or option in this. This is a matter of who God has made us to be. It's not as if being missional is a matter of style, like choosing Hillsong over Fanny Crosby. It's not as if it's like choosing between cassock or surplice. It's not an emphasis to be selected for a season, like "Stewardship Development" versus "Pastoral Care in the Pew." God has made us this way in

Christ. It is an essential part of Christian identity, not a choice, option or emphasis.

Mission Development Officers—like a couple of archdeacons I know—are appointed to highlight this identity in Christ and to facilitate our ministries as we "work out [our] own salvations in fear and trembling." (Philippians 2:12)

Now, how they do that really is a mystery.

Next time: what do small, struggling, rural congregations do if they desire to be faithful in mission?

Yes, you can make Cursillo again! New weekend format for cursillistas

CURSILLO SECRETARIAT
Diocese of Edmonton

Edmonton Anglican Cursillo movement is stepping outside the box this year with a renewal weekend, November 16-18, tailored exclusively for those who have made their Cursillo in the past.

"I attended my Cursillo Weekend 20 years ago, and I know I'm not the only one who has thought how

awesome it be to be able to take it a second time," says Secretariat Lay Director David Holehouse. "I am definitely someone who will benefit from a renewal and a re-igniting of the core of Cursillo - the path to a closer walk with Christ and community."

Next year, we will return to the regular format Cursillo Weekend, for those looking to enrich their Christian life and leadership. But this

year's gathering is for past Cursillistas who want to revive and re-energize their spiritual journey and their role in building the kingdom.

The co-ed weekend features everything so loved about Cursillo; with a focus on renewing your relationship with Christ and community, in a place of peace, dialogue, prayer and music. National speakers will join Edmonton leadership in presenting

this joyful, refreshing weekend at Star of the North Retreat Centre in St. Albert.

"I may not be alone in that, over the years, life has opened up new paths, and Cursillo has occasionally taken a back seat," says Holehouse. "Life gets busy, and while we all do our



share as labourers in God's harvest, we could use some encouragement and refreshment at times. With this weekend, we can revisit the essential tools of Piety, Study and Action, our community of prayer, plus our ongoing opportunities of Ultreya, Spiritual Direction, Sponsorships and Grouping."

Many reasons to rejoice at All Saints' Church, Athabasca

MARY GISLASON
All Saints'
Athabasca



Happiness is a fitting description for All Saints' Church, Athabasca through spring and summer of this year.

After Bishop Lawton's visit in May, we welcomed visitors from our past. We were reunited with Mildred and Peter Krawec who came for morning prayer and stayed for lunch and a trip down memory lane at the museum. Mildred served for 25 years on the altar guild and Peter served as a church councillor for many years. Peter had helped Gene Kowalchuk take down All Saints' I, so that All Saints' II could be built on the same site.

A few Sundays later, we were joined by the Rev. and Mrs. Graham Spear for a service, luncheon and reunion. Coincidentally, the Rev. Spear had been involved in the planning of All Saints' II, which was then

built during the tenure of the Rev. Ron Risley, and was consecrated by Bishop Gary Woosley.

Before leaving on vacation, the Rev. David Greenwood baptized Skye Edwards. Family crowded the church to mark the occasion and the congregation enjoyed a special song by Ida Edwards in Skye's honor. The fussy little miss settled down happily once the Rev. Greenwood took her in his arms.

Our congregation marked a sad occasion when Marvyn Rogers,

who for five years arranged a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at All Saints' church, passed away following heart surgery. This ecumenical Christmas event brought together participants from various churches and community choirs, and featured community leaders reading the lessons, with a free-will donations going to Road to Hope which provides transportation for cancer patients requiring treatments in Edmonton. We hope that members of the community will be able

to continue the event in Mervyn's memory.

The summer continued with a Canada Day church service, followed by a community parade. The community hosted an antique car display, with judging taking place on the street outside the church. All Saints' church fed hungry merrymakers with a chili fundraiser at noon.

On July 15, All Saints' parishioners were pleased to have the Rev. Gordon Lines celebrate the eucharist. The Rev. Lines grew up

in Athabasca and taught Sunday school here before becoming a minister. Youth campers from the Edmonton diocese's annual Base Camp and camp director Dr. Mark Armstrong also joined the All Saints' congregation that morning. On their way to camp at Lesser Slave Lake, the group spent Saturday night at All Saints' and took part in the service, providing their own sing-song and guitar music.

The Rev. Lines and retired minister the Rev. Christobel Lines took turns leading services and the worship music (accompanied by Mary Olson on organ), while the Rev. Greenwood was on holidays and, on July 29, the Sunday School enjoyed the "Children's Focus" with the Rev. Gordon Lines before going to Sunday School with Rev. Christobel Lines.

In September, the Rev. David Greenwood resumed Bible study, from 9:00 to 10:00 am, before Sunday services.



Pictured from left: the Rev. Graham and Mrs. Spears; the Rev. David Greenwood with Skye Edwards on her baptism day; the Rev. Gordon Lines presides at All Saints' Anglican Church on July 15.



St. James' high tea raises funds for accessible church

On Saturday, July 8, the Parish of St. James Cathedral, Peace River invited the community to an afternoon of high tea.

Tables were set with white table cloths and the good china. Guests chose from a variety of teas, served in china teapots and accompanied by a variety of sandwiches, homemade cakes and cookies and, of course, strawberry shortcakes.

Guests came from near and far, including a group from the local "Red Hatters" group and some friends from Edmonton, in Peace River on holidays.

The event was enjoyed by all and raised more than \$500 for St. James' accessibility project; which includes installing a one-person lift in the multi-level building and upgrading the ramp system to enter the church.

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare for the day by making goodies and supplying china and tableware for the event.

Story and photos submitted
by Kathy Budd of St. James'
Cathedral, Peace River



ATHABASCA DIOCESE CONNECTIONS

Diocesan website: www.dioath.ca
(includes sermons for lay readers for each Sunday)

The Anglican Centre (archives
for the Diocese of Athabasca)
Phone: 780-624-2767
Fax: 780-624-2365
Email: dioath@telusplanet.net

Parish websites

- Peace River: www.stjamespr.org
- Fort McMurray, All Saints':
www.allsaintsanglican.ca
- Fort McMurray, St. Thomas': www.sttom.ca
- Grande Prairie: www.christchurchanglicangp.org
- Boyle: www.parishnorthernlights.org



Faith community and government speak loudly together continued

Continued from Front Page.

In 2012, Bird's friends were hit and killed by a semi-truck while returning from the liquor store as she waited for them in a west end motel room. The next year, a man she had met on the streets and later became her partner, also died. Then her sister, "who was my anchor," died of stomach cancer. One day, alone and heartbroken, she was sitting at a bus stop at 95 street and Jasper.

"I was so lonely and I remember thinking I can go to the liquor store and not feel this anymore." Instead, she looked up and asked for the Creator's help. "I said, 'I can't do this anymore'" and immediately felt at peace. "It was like everything stood still and Jasper Ave went quiet. I took a breath and my first thought was 'I don't have to drink anymore.' I knew, in that moment, that Creator had blessed me with life."

Previously, she had applied to the Homeward Trust Housing First program and was placed in, and subsequently evicted from, three different homes. "I didn't know how to be a good tenant. By then I was used to living in poverty."

Once again, Bird turned to Homeward Trust and was placed in an apartment in the Morning Fire Protector complex, one of six Permanent, Supportive Housing programs funded by the agency in Edmonton. She has been there ever since.

"I love my apartment. It's the only home I've had since I've been single, where I've felt safe." Today, Bird works for Boyle Street Community Services, helping people at safe injection sites cope with their own addictions and unresolved pain.

"I want people to see it's possible to get sober. It's possible to live a life with dignity, and I'm grateful for that moment in time when my prayers were answered," she said.

Religious and spiritual



"I'm very grateful to the City of Edmonton for ensuring that every neighbourhood has affordable housing," said the Rev. Deborah Hoekstra, minister of Beverly United Church and co-chair of the CRIHI.

communities share common values, including "respect for human dignity, respect for those who are poor and vulnerable and an affirmation of the importance of inclusive and welcoming communities where individuals and families can thrive," said the Rev. Brian Kiely, Unitarian Church of Edmonton Minister and emcee for the interfaith rally.

"I'm very grateful to the City of Edmonton for ensuring that every neighbourhood has affordable housing," said the Rev. Deborah Hoekstra, minister of Beverly United Church and co-chair of the CRIHI. In August, council approved a city-wide housing framework to ensure 16 per cent affordable housing in all Edmonton communities.

"There's something to be said about communities that are integrated," said Hoekstra. While growing up, the fourth generation minister said she and her family worked toward an understanding of what it was to be an inclusive and diverse community.

"I'm excited in the possibilities which can come out of these events," said Hoekstra. "So that the community I serve and the community I live in can be more in tune with one another. The relationships we build take us beyond our own limited experience, leading to more conversations and concrete action."

The Rev. Rick Chapman, CRIHI Co-chair and Inner City Pastoral Ministry Pastor, said that, in order to effectively address homelessness in Edmonton's inner city, the people he walks beside (many

of whom have complex, chronic needs) require access to long-term, supportive housing programs, like Morning Fire Protector and Ambrose Place. The current acute care approach of treating people in emergency and sending them back out into the streets – "does not work," he said.

Chapman also encouraged faith communities throughout the city to reimagine their aging worship spaces to include an element of social housing. Westmount Presbyterian Church in North Glenora, which partnered with the Right At Home Housing Society to replace its aging building with a smaller worship space and sustainable housing for 16 families, is a successful example of this type of housing model.

Kiely noted the presence of all three levels of government and all major political parties at the rally, acknowledging representatives for their support.

"As many of you are aware, a fire ripped through my hometown of Fort McMurray two years ago, destroying more than 2,500 homes," said Laila Goodridge, MLA for Fort McMurray-Conklin. "Every family within my region experienced homelessness. They experienced the instability. Some were gone for a month. Some still have not returned home. Two years later, as of August 24, just 770 homes (30 per cent of the homes that were destroyed) have been rebuilt and passed final inspection. Unfortunately, some of our communities are only a fire or a flood away from homelessness," she said.

"Many, many people and faith-based organizations helped our community back to its feet; to make sure we had what we needed to move forward. Most people from Fort McMurray actually convalesced here in Edmonton and the greater Edmonton area. Thank you for opening up your homes and your hearts to our community."

"Safe and affordable housing is the cornerstone of our vision for a healthy, inclusive, and smart city," said Michael Walters, a member of Edmonton City Council (Ward 10).



Edmonton City Councillor (Ward 10) Michael Walters urged faith community leaders to "speak loudly with love."

In 2016, one in four (48,550) renter households in Edmonton spent more than 30 per cent of their annual income on shelter, he said. And more than 22,000 households spend more than 50 per cent of their income on rent. "These numbers aren't just startling, they are unacceptable."

Edmonton has the fourth most expensive housing market in Canada and, over the last decade, waiting lists for affordable housing in Edmonton have quadrupled. Currently, with the exception of McCauley, Kildare, Abbotsfield

and Belvedere, the majority of neighbourhoods in Edmonton have less than 10 per cent affordable housing. The newly adopted 16 per cent policy, demonstrates that "the city is committed in spirit, in principle and in action to ensuring affordable housing options are available in every neighbourhood," said Walters.

Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Seniors and Housing and MLA for Edmonton-Riverview, shared some of the highlights of the \$1.2 billion Provincial Housing Strategy, an initiative centered on providing estimated 4,100 new and renewed homes for seniors and low income Albertans.

"Many years ago affordable housing helped me, as a single mom, provide for my son," said Sigurdson.

"The peace of mind of having a safe and stable home to live in, while I pursued a better life for my family, was invaluable. I know government cannot solve the housing problem alone. That is why we value the partnerships we have with other levels of government, as well as the support of faith communities."

Continued on next page.



Cree Elder Russell Auger (front) works at Ambrose Place, a Homeward Trust Permanent Supportive Housing Program for chronically homeless Indigenous people. Traditionally, he says, "Indigenous people lived by the rule of being kind, being honest, taking care of each other and taking care of the land. Under that rule, everyone was equal, no one was better than anyone else."

A year in God's time - Melissa Ritz off to Lambeth

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

A theological intern from the Edmonton diocese has joined the Community of Saint Anselm at Lambeth Palace in London, UK.

In September, Melissa Ritz, a Wycliffe College graduate with a Master of Divinity Degree, joined 15 residential members from different countries and denominations and 20 non-residential members, who live and work in the London area. She will reside at Lambeth for 10 months.

Since 2015, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has invited Christians, aged 20-35, to "spend a year in God's time" living, praying, studying and serving together at his official London residence.

Members of the community named for St. Anselm, a Benedictine monk and scholar, abide by a Rule of Life centered on a commitment to learning from Jesus, being set apart, silence, prayer, study, unity, worship, serving with compassion, trust and sacrifice; learning together how every aspect of daily life can be Jesus-shaped.

"The Rule of Benedict talks about stability. I'm looking forward to the stability that comes with figuring out who I am and being able to take that with me into the world," said Ritz. "I'm introverted and shy



Melissa Ritz, joined by Dr. Stephen Martin (left) and the Rev. David Tiessen (right), in the hot seat at Christ Church, Edmonton for "Did God Really Say?" - a fundraiser for Ritz's year at St. Anselm.

and have a tendency to be a hermit, so I'm looking forward to spending time with God and others with a common purpose."

In addition to prayer, study and worship, community members have a daily routine that includes household tasks such as cooking, cleaning and laundry; as well as volunteering with London charities that care for people less fortunate.

One rule of St. Anselm instructs community members to limit their use of electronic devices. Ritz, who is somewhat apprehensive about not being near her sister and mother, especially at Christmas, said "My dad died five years ago and it will be different not being with them." While she expects the rule to be a challenge, in some ways, she said, "it will be a relief to leave my phone and computer behind in my room."

Ritz was raised in the parish of St. Matthias where her mother Dawn serves as a lay reader. Between her first and second year at Wycliffe she served as a theological intern at Good Shepherd, Edmonton. She was serving with Christ Church, both as an intern and office administrator, when she was interviewed, via Skype, for the opportunity to join the St. Anselm community.

It was during her third year of study that she first learned about the community of St. Anselm. "In class we watched videos produced by the community and I was immediately drawn to it. I couldn't think of anything else that whole day," she said.

"I'm very passionate about liturgy and one of the things I miss most about living at Wycliffe is being involved with planning and

leading daily prayer," said Ritz, who also enjoys reading (G.K. Chesterton is a favourite author), teaching and, especially, preaching.

Members of St. Anselm are asked to make a sacrificial gift to help with program costs which are estimated to be \$28,000 per resident. In July, Ritz hosted "Did God Really Say?" an enlightening and entertaining pub theology fundraising event at Christ Church Parish Hall. Serving on a panel with Dr. Stephen Martin, associate professor of theology at The King's University, and the Rev. David Tiessen, rector of St. Matthias, Edmonton, Ritz gave thoughtful responses to questions like: Do you have to be Christian to go to heaven? Am I a bad Christian if I don't believe in the Creed? Does individual consciousness continue to exist after death? Why is violence perpetrated in Jesus' name? Why does God allow bad things to happen? Is secularism ruining society?

When asked what she is most looking forward to this year, Ritz replied:

"Benedict encourages finding community and developing one's self in God that endures wherever you go. I'm terrified to begin this journey, but I look forward to where God takes me next."

Housing talk continued

Continued from previous page.

Housing Ambassador Mike Van Boom outlined the critical priorities for the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative. CRIHI plans to continue its response to social need by "gradually shifting our focus from a city-wide movement to activating local area networks of faith communities."

CRIHI Critical Priorities

- 1. Portable Housing Benefit:** this income supplement is proposed in Canada's first-ever National Housing Strategy, a 10-year, \$40-billion plan. Set to launch in 2020, the Canada Housing Benefit will provide affordability support directly to families and individuals in housing need, including potentially those living in social housing, those on a social housing wait-list, or those housed in the private market but struggling to make ends meet.
- 2. Permanent Supportive Housing:** these facilities function

much like seniors assisted-living residences, providing wrap-around support for people with a history of chronic homelessness (approximately 70 per cent of people living on the street).

- 3. Increased Funding for Mobile Support Workers:** trained staff with the mandate and flexibility to provide support to people in their home or community, such as homecare and support for seniors, Housing First teams (support workers and case managers) and tenant support workers.

- 4. A Vision for the Way Ahead:** learning from others like us with experience in building diverse housing in well integrated communities. One example is the Netherlands' approach to affordable housing.

"We sometimes worry about where to put affordable housing," says Van Boom. "For hundreds of years, the Dutch answer has been 'everywhere.'"

St. Timothy's Improves Worship Experience for Hearing Impaired

St. Timothy's, Edmonton has installed a hearing loop system for the hearing impaired. Those with t-coil equipped hearing aids or cochlear implants can now hear clearly all aspects of the service.

St. Timothy's chose to test the loop system after consulting with the Edmonton Branch of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA). Before the six-week trial, participants said they could understand 20-30 per cent of what was said in church. The loop system brought that up to 80-90 per cent.

One in six people suffer from some degree of hearing loss, which is often referred to as the hidden disability. Hearing aids and other devices greatly reduce the effects of hearing loss, but many find it is difficult to differentiate conversations from ambient noise. In a church setting this makes it difficult for the hearing impaired to understand the sermon, prayers

of the people, announcements, and other parts of the service. Without a solution, many parishioners simply suffer through not understanding the entire service, or don't come to church at all.

At present, approximately 75% of hearing aids and all cochlear implants have the t-coil receiver built in. An induction loop system wirelessly transmits magnetic energy to the telecoil-equipped hearing aid using a wire that surrounds the room in which it is used. When a sound source is transmitted through the loop, the telecoil circuit inside the hearing aid receives that source directly, without background noise from the room, making it much more intelligible to the person with the hearing aid.

For more information, please contact St. Timothy's Anglican Church by phone at 780-483-5506, or visit our website at www.sttimothy-edm.ca.

Clean water, a gift to keep on giving in Buyé diocese

MESSENGER Staff

It was the week of July 23, while Bishop Sixbert Macumi and his wife Clotilde of Buyé diocese were visiting Edmonton, that Bishop Jane Alexander and Bishop Sixbert announced a new project to create access to clean drinking water for more members of Buyé diocese.

Funds from the offertory collection at the service celebrating the 10th anniversary of Bishop Jane's consecration in May amounted to nearly the sum needed to improve a natural spring in the village of Kiziba in Mwumba County, Buyé. For Bishop Jane, the opportunity was clear:

"Our partnership with Buyé is a friendship. Last year, when Tim and I were in Buyé, we were impressed once again with the work around providing enough water for people in the communities, particularly during that time of drought. People were going great distances to the nearest lake for drinking water. We have an opportunity to replenish work around a spring in the community of Kiziba and, just as God would have it, the collection from the



July: before construction on the new water system begins, the otherwise safe, clean water of Kiziba's natural spring seeps from the ground and becomes contaminated before villagers can collect it.



August: above, Rev. Dominique sports a Canada t-shirt while helping clear the site; below, even the children of Kiziba pitch in to help.



September: the Kiziba spring in use. Pictured upper right is an area set aside for laundry, previously done in the same area where water was collected for drinking.

service is almost enough to replenish this spring. (The remaining funds will come from REACH). I was blessed by the service - a great thanksgiving - and the thing about blessings is you don't keep them for yourself, you give them away."

"In Burundi we have much water," said Bishop Sixbert, thanking Bishop Jane for her blessing on the people of Buyé diocese. "But it is not well managed. You can find animals, cows and goats, coming to drink water and also people coming to fetch water alongside the animals. Clean water does not have colour, but the water that people are drinking from the lakes in Burundi can be coloured green and that causes people,



especially children, to suffer from worms. This project will help people to have clean water and be well."

According to Edmonton's diocesan treasurer, the Rev. John Gee, the cost of improving a spring is approximately \$1,000 US. This investment makes the best use of the natural springs that exist in

the region and ensures that a village will have a supply of clean water indefinitely.

The springs have no moving parts

and require no energy source and little maintenance. The only work needed was to add pipes, gravel filtration and a concrete wellhead to an existing natural spring, so that the water can be used without contamination.

By mid-August, work on the Kiziba spring was well underway, with the

whole community pitching in to help. At the time of publication, in early September, construction was complete. Villagers were only waiting for the cement to dry, so that the pipes could be cut shorter. The Rev. Dominique Ciza, Buyé diocesan secretary, wrote that they had formed a committee of two women and three men responsible for the upkeep of the spring. Plans were also underway for a signpost acknowledging the work of the Diocese of Buyé and the support of the Diocese of Edmonton, Canada.

Extension of Buyé hospital pediatric ward nears completion

MESSENGER Staff

A major project to benefit children and families in the Diocese of Buyé is nearing completion.

At the end of August, the Rev. Dominique Ciza, in his role as diocesan health

and Christian education coordinator, sent photos of the newly completed building which is the expansion of the pediatric ward at the Buyé health centre. Construction began in April and continued apace through the summer months.

Ciza explained at

the start of the project that the pediatric ward being replaced was built approximately 70 years ago. He said overcrowding in that building led to children being infected by other patients.

Ciza said the new extension will go a long

way to solving those issues. Children will be admitted separately according to their sicknesses and instances of reinfection while admitted should be reduced.

Parishioners in Edmonton diocese responded generously to Bishop Jane's Christmas

appeal for donations to support this work. More than \$77,000 was forwarded to the Primate's World Development and Relief Fund (PWRDF), which coordinated the project.



Workers dig foundations by hand in April.



Before and after: the extension to the Buyé pediatric ward under construction in April; the finished exterior in August.



Good news story connects Canadian Anglicans & PWRDF



DOROTHY MARSHALL
PWRDF Representative
Diocese of Edmonton

Imagine we have all had the experience of reading a great book and immediately thinking of someone we want to share it with. One recent Sunday after church, a friend told me about a book 'I just HAD to read.' She offered a quick synopsis of the contents, and I was excited to realize I had heard of this story.

The book *Strength in What Remains* chronicles the incredible life experiences of a young medical student named Deo. While growing up in an impoverished rural

area of Burundi, he lives through and then escapes genocide in 1994. The book, written by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder, illustrates how with the support of friends, he masquerades as a coffee buyer in New York on a business trip. In the following years he comes to terms with his horrific memories and, with help from several strangers, even resumes his medical studies. Eventually, against all odds, he fulfills a long-held dream to build a community clinic back in Burundi.

There are two good reasons we should all read this book. The first is that we, along with all Canadian Anglicans, have contributed to the success of Deo's medical facility in a remote mountainous region of Burundi. The project is called Village Health Works and today includes a clinic, staff housing, a community centre, and a demonstration farm. The project provides

preschool education, economic development and community engagement. It is part of the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health project funded by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. This project is also funded by the federal government; donations are matched at a rate of 6:1.

Deo's story builds understanding and appreciation for the struggle of our brothers and sisters in our companion Diocese of Buyé to survive the genocide. Today, multiple



Delphine is able to safely deliver her baby after an ambulance ride to the Village Health Works Hospital.

civil wars have left the people of Burundi grappling. His story also gives us a greater understanding of Burundi's pre-colonial and colonial history and its impact on the country's current situation. This is important, as we continue to support our friends with development projects and prayer.

In the book, Deo asks a question that has been on my mind ever since. After his escape, he sits in the baggage claim area of the New York airport observing a new world unfold before him. Almost everyone looks happy. No one looks alarmed... or terrified. People simply went about their business, as if they did not know that there were places in the world like the one he had just fled. 'But how could they not know? God, why is this?' he wonders silently.

I asked myself, 'How is it that I did not know? How is it that, in

1994, I was unaware of what was happening in Burundi? And what am I unaware of today? How can we help if we don't know?'

This is where PWRDF comes in. No *one* of us can save the world, but through awareness of projects like Village Health Works, we can help as we are able. Parish representatives for PWRDF play a vital role in this; sharing these stories within their parish so people can know. The PWRDF website is also full of great content explaining current projects, sharing success stories and describing needs. Very few of us will ever travel to Burundi, but each of us has the ability, through prayer and financial support, to positively impact the lives of those living there. We simply have to *want* to know.

For more information, please check out www.PWRDF.org or contact me, diocesan representative Dorothy Marshall at camfarm@syban.net.

Challenge and change: the work of a Jesus-Shaped Justice

When the diocesan Social Justice Committee sponsored our workshop on Jesus-Shaped Justice earlier this year, we knew that a one-off event was only going to be the beginning.

Bishop Jane and our guest speaker Gary St. Amand reminded us of the Gospel's strong message encouraging followers of Jesus to be confident in the actions we take for social justice. That action, however, cannot be limited to social service activities, even though they will always be important. We also need to address the causes of injustice and change the circumstances precipitating it.

So what does that look like? Committee member Jim Gurnett led us through a "hands on" exercise to show us what is involved. We started by looking at some basic principles, such as,

what change will our actions bring about? Things are not as they are by chance. Those who benefit from the status quo will not willingly agree to change. He reminded us to always look for those in power with the authority to say "yes," not the people with only the capability to say "no."

We then looked at the process of effecting change, which begins with research: gathering relevant information and learning what you can from other places or times; as well as analyzing the current situation to determine who has the power to make the change you seek.

The next step is to develop a plan, starting with a clear statement of the goals and change you want to achieve. This involves formulating clear strategies and tactics and a timeline and for mobilizing support.

Then it is time to

proceed with implementing the plan, monitoring and documenting as you go. Persistence is a valuable tool; if you push something long and hard enough it will fall over. It is helpful to seek allies, whenever possible. Of course, you will want to respect and appreciate members of your group to maintain good personal relationships.

This work can be time-consuming and discouraging, but we must always have hope. According to Czech revolutionary, Vaclav Havel: "hope is remembering that what you are doing makes sense."

Brazilian Roman Catholic Archbishop, Dom Hélder Câmara, who worked tirelessly through his life for the disadvantaged, said, "When I give to the poor, they call me a

saint. When I ask why the poor have no food, they call me a communist."

Gurnett gave us the tools for asking the hard questions. The goal of the workshop was to focus on how ordinary people, alone

or in a group, can be more effective in affecting social change for a more just, more fair situation for those who are hurt or limited by injustice. That is the work that is before us all now.



Diocese of Edmonton

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Margaret Glidden
Director of
Communications
Edmonton Diocese



St. Patrick's Whitecourt celebrates dream come true

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The Rev. Rita Milne had been praying for God's guidance for two years, when she dreamt that the barren lot behind St. Patrick's church in downtown Whitecourt had been transformed into a beautiful and peaceful prayer labyrinth.

St. Patrick's priest-in-charge shared her vision at the parish AGM in 2017, and support for a community prayer labyrinth was unanimous, with the parish pledging its REACH funds to help bring the project to fruition.

"Their reaction was 'this is awesome – let's do it!'" said Milne.



St. Patrick's parishioners hard at work, digging post-holes, landscaping, and painting the lines of the labyrinth onto a 33-foot concrete slab.

A circular foot path leading to a center space, a labyrinth represents the physical, emotional and spiritual journey of life. It is a sacred space intended to bring peace and personal insight to those who walk it to reflect on their own journey.

St. Patrick's tiny congregation (just 14 members) believed wholeheartedly that God was calling them to beautify their downtown property and, at the same time, reach out to community members seeking a quiet and meditative space to take pause from their hectic lives. To their great joy and surprise, they submitted and received approval from the Town of Whitecourt for a community beautification grant.

The labyrinth design was selected with the help of Deb Stevens, a labyrinth facilitator and spiritual director from St. Mary's,

Ponoka. She shared several design options with the parish and they chose an uncomplicated path leading walkers to an oasis of quiet beauty.

Though he had never worked on a labyrinth before, the owner of a local concrete business was intrigued by the project. He donated his time and labour, saving the parish thousands of dollars. In May, Milne and parishioner Holly Heaven began a several-month commitment to the project by staking out an outline for their plan in the still frozen ground.

After thawing, the ground was prepared for a 33-foot slab of concrete. A new sidewalk was also poured to make the site accessible to people using mobility aids like wheelchairs and walkers. The labyrinth was stamped and stained into the concrete, and a parishioner's Celtic cross was used as the mold for the center piece.



Between rainstorms, St. Patrick's members painted the labyrinth onto the concrete, finishing in late July. To enhance aesthetic appeal and to deter deer and vandals, they planted burning bush and juniper shrubs on the side of the labyrinth bordering the alley. Many more people, including Holly's husband Malcolm, helped with the landscaping work, adding benches and a large rock. Signs were placed alongside the labyrinth, inviting visitors to walk or sit, clear their mind, and rejuvenate their soul.

"The labyrinth has been a wonderful project and the community has helped so much," says Holly. "Rita's vision has come to life. All her hard work, with the help and encouragement of our congregation, as well as the community, has made it possible."

St. Patrick's celebrated the realization of their dream on August 19, welcoming Bishop Jane Alexander to dedicate their community prayer labyrinth.

"This is such an exciting day to be here at St. Patrick's," said Bishop Jane, greeting the Sunday morning congregation.

"Any one of these things would be cause for celebration," said Bishop Jane. Not only did she bless the labyrinth, she also baptized Linkin Cairns, infant son of Tara Young and Jeremy Cairns; and confirmed and received into the Church of God Ethan and Jacob House, Nicole Galang, Sheldon King and Mary Grace Gould.

She then presented another young member of St. Patrick's, Maria Vasseur, with an Anglican Church Women (ACW) honorary life member pin. Vasseur had used her creativity and artistic ability to bead whimsical dogs in support of



Pictured above: Holly Heaven, Bishop Jane and Rita Milne prepare to cut the ceremonial red ribbon August 19; Erika Newhook is one of the first to walk St. Patrick's labyrinth.

PWRDF's "Fred Says" food security program.

After the service, Bishop Jane led the procession outside for the dedication. She was joined by Milne and Heaven for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The parish hosted a second celebration on September 8, inviting community members and parishes of the diocese to experience the labyrinth.

"Our theme this year has been JOY," said Milne. "We have certainly been blessed with joy in abundance."



Pictured above left: Sheldon King, Ethan and Jacob House, Nicole Galang, and Mary Grace Gould are confirmed and received into the Church of God. Pictured above: Bishop Jane presents Maria Vasseur with an ACW life member pin. Pictured left: Bishop Jane presents newly baptized Linkin Cairns to the congregation at St. Patrick, Whitecourt.

Cathedral now home to Wednesday Manna Market

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

The sweet aroma of peaches greeted visitors to an indoor church market on a Wednesday afternoon in late August. Neighbours, some meeting for the first time, perused tables laden with apples, melons, tomatoes, peppers and lettuce.

The All Saints' Cathedral Manna Market is intended to build community and help people cope with escalating grocery prices. It was proposed by the parish's REACH committee to "address some of the needs not already being met by social agencies in the downtown core," says Manna Market Organizer Doreen Abbott.

As the committee prayed and contemplated about what direction to take, "we read a news article about the Jasper Place Wellness Center's *Food 4 Good* program in Edmonton's west end," she says. "We contacted Ashley Bouchard, who runs the Food for Good program and she has been a fantastic help and a wealth of information about food insecurity in Edmonton."

"There are many programs, some of them already in place at the Cathedral, that are designed to help feed people living on the streets," says Abbott. "But there are few programs that address food security."

Fifty people bought produce at the first Manna Market, held August 29, filling their reusable shopping bags with healthy food for one-third to half of the retail grocery store



Pictured clockwise: tables of fresh produce brighten the cathedral hall; orange-juggling vicar, Quinn Strikwerda; volunteers Mary-Lou Cleveland (left) and Doreen Abbott (second from right) with two of the first visitors to Manna Market.

cost.

"The cost of living in our city, especially for housing and food, is rising," says the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda, Vicar of All Saints'. "Wages and income supports are not keeping pace and so, for many people, fresh produce is not affordable."

Apartment residents, in particular senior citizens, sometimes experience loneliness and social isolation. The market facilitates community by providing a welcoming space for people to sit and enjoy a muffin and a cup of coffee (donated by a nearby Tim Hortons) with their neighbours.

"It's a wonderful way for neighbours and volunteers to get to know one another in a safe, low-stress setting," Strikwerda says.

"This is an aspect of the market that we anticipate people will utilize even more when the weather turns ugly," adds Abbott.

Initial response to the market has been "extremely heartwarming," she

says. "An elderly lady told me she hadn't had raspberries in over two years because they were too costly. She was going to go home and savour the ones she bought at the market that day."

Strikwerda says inexpensive, quality market produce is purchased from local grocery wholesaler Fatima's and then sold at cost.

"One customer told me how amazing it was not to have to make the choice between vegetables or chicken for supper, because now she can have both," says Strikwerda. "Providing choice and dignity in the context of community is what this initiative is all about."

The produce is ordered on Tuesday and delivered to the Cathedral, for free, on Wednesday morning. Volunteers then sort, display and price the food.

"We are excited about a volunteer partnership we have with a local agency wanting to help its clients gain life skills," says Abbott.



"We hope to build other relationships like this one."

The Manna Market runs every Wednesday afternoon, from 2-5:00 pm, at All Saints' Cathedral. The Grand Opening will be held sometime this month. A date had not been determined at press time.

"I am so excited to see where God will lead us as we further develop and expand the market," Strikwerda says.

All Saints': building community connections in the Valley

The Rev. EMMA VICKERY
Rector, All Saints'
Drayton Valley

All Saints', Drayton Valley had a very busy summer and we wish to share with you a couple of the highlights.

Like many churches, we faced the question this year of what to do when there is a community parade and celebration scheduled for the same time as our regular worship. We decided to offer worship at a different time, so that anyone who wanted could attend the service and also participate in our local parade. We had a wonderful time decorating a truck and seven children join me in the truck bed, while others handed out candy and bookmarks. It was great to see so many people coming



Top: All Saint's Drayton Valley joins the local Canada Day parade. Above: donations collected at the end-of-summer Block Party and Food Drive are lined up on the ramp outside the church.

together to help with this project.

Later in the summer we welcomed our neighbours to a Block Party and Food Drive. This initiative gave us an opportunity to invite residents of neighbouring housing complexes, apartments and

assisted living condos.

We organized simple activities for the children and a "people bingo" game for the adults. We provided a barbecued meal; with gluten-free, all-beef and vegetarian options.

We had more than 40 people come to our event. Incredibly, many of the children from the low-income housing complex came without their parents. Two of the teenagers saw us setting up and, in their excitement and anticipation, came over early to help.

We also gathered six boxes of donations for the Drayton Valley Food Bank to help offset the food shortage they often experience toward the end of summer. There are many families in need of some extra help in September, when their children are going back to school.

Back-to-school backpack blessings... at Mission of St. Saviour, Wabamun & Holy Trinity Riverbend, Edmonton



On Sunday, September 2, the Rev. Aaron Parsall-Myler blessed the children (and their backpacks) of St. Saviour's Mission in Wabamun, as they prepared to start a new school year. Adult members of the congregation were also delighted to receive a sign of the cross and a blessing.



Submitted by Michelle Squance-Slade, Mission of St. Saviour's People's Warden

Every fall, Holy Trinity Riverbend has a Back to School Sunday when we invite our children to bring their backpacks to be blessed for the upcoming school year. In addition, our congregation donates backpacks and other school supplies to help families who have a difficult time with the costs of going back to school. Our church community was generous again this year, and many backpacks were donated to children at Tipaskan School in Millwoods. The backpacks were delivered by the Rev. Rebecca Harris, vocational deacon, and were gratefully received.

We ask God's blessing not only for the backpacks, but for the students themselves, along with their parents and teachers and administrators who embrace their call to teaching and learning. We pray that they may be reminded of the love and care of this congregation that surrounds them each school day.

Submitted by the Rev. Dan Wold, Deacon in Charge, Holy Trinity Riverbend



...after vbs summer fun! St. Augustine Parkland Rolling River



This summer organizers of St. Augustine's Parkland's Vacation Bible School (VBS) partnered with St. Matthew's Lutheran Church to welcome approximately 30 children to "Rolling River Rampage." Amidst the summer heat and smoke from forest fires, we learned lessons from the bible and, most importantly, developed friendships through fun and faith. This year's VBS was a great success and a great ecumenical adventure.

Submitted by the Rev. Billy Isenor, Rector of St. Augustine Parkland

Dr. Seuss at St. Patrick's Edmonton



Children from Lord of Life Lutheran and St. Patrick's Anglican Churches in Mill Woods united from August 13-16 for a Seussian-themed VBS adventure. Inspired by James Kemp's book *The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss*, four Seuss stories were selected to shape our week: Yertle the Turtle, The Lorax, Horton Hears a Who, and Oh, the Places You'll Go. Each of these stories were then paired with a Bible story and followed by crafts, games and activities around the day's theme. A fun and faith-filled time was had by all!

Submitted by the Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector of St. Patrick's



Superheroes at St. Mary's Ponoka



St. Mary's, Ponoka transformed from a quiet church into superheroes central in July. We had 15 kids come to learn about superheroes and their powers; in everyday life and in the bible. The kids were full of enthusiasm and energy while making costumes, building a city and navigating a laser maze. The best line of the week was delivered by a five-year-old. One day we were talking about Simon Peter being a fisherman, when he piped up "I am a fisherman, too!"

"What does he fish for?" he asked, and I replied "Perch and Bass."

His response was "Me, too. I fish for Bass. I am like him!"

Submitted by Treena Hanger, Secretary, St. Mary's

St. Philip's Westlock Splash Canyon

Thirty-seven children from several denominations took part in "Splash Canyon" VBS, hosted by St. Philip's, Westlock at Trinity Lutheran Church. The kids journeyed



with God to save Moses from the Nile, help the Hebrew people cross the river Jordan into the Promised Land, cure Naaman with the waters of the Jordan, save Paul from shipwreck and witness Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. It was a wet and wild week of Bible adventures!

Submitted by the Rev. Peter Yeung, rector of St. Philip's