



# THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2018

www.edmonton.anglican.org



## Together sister dioceses of Buyé and Edmonton improve holistic wellbeing in Burundi

### Buyé diocese and health administrators open new pediatric ward

MESSENGER STAFF

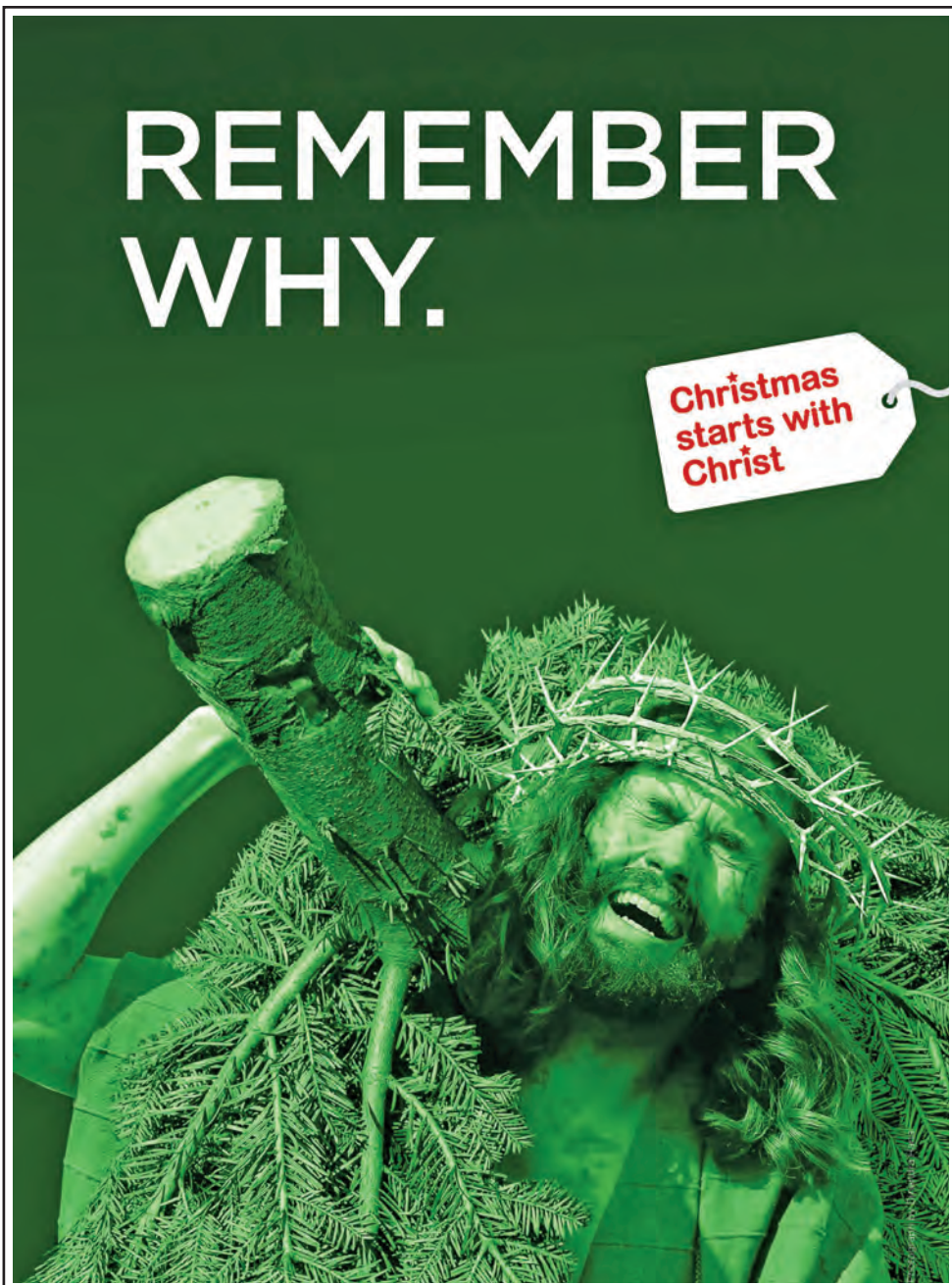
**D**iocese of Buyé Bishop Sixbert Macumi, the staff of Buyé hospital, administration leaders and community members celebrated the official opening of the pediatric ward at Buyé hospital on November 3, 2018.

Work made possible by the companion partnership of Buyé and Edmonton dioceses, such as the recently completed pediatric ward and Kiziba water spring, maternity ward extension and building of an HIV/AIDS clinic, are but a few of the many projects improving the holistic wellbeing of people in Burundi, said the Rev. Dominique Ciza, Buyé Diocesan Secretary.



Buyé Bishop Sixbert Macumi greets a mother and her children in the new pediatric ward.

The pediatric ward will help save the lives of many children. It is hoped that the sister dioceses can continue to work together on healthcare initiatives, such as medical cards which entitle women and their families to an 80 per cent discount on healthcare-related expenses.



## Coffee-hour donations help provide medical cards for Buyé sisters and brothers



The Rev. DANIELLE LEPINE, the Rev. REBECCA HARRIS and Messenger Staff

**T**his fall, parishes of the Edmonton diocese extended their stewardship giving to our sister Diocese of Buyé, Burundi. Parish youth coordinated coffee-hour fundraisers,

while one or two churches brought out their fancy Keurig machines to brew specialty coffee. Branches of the ACW gave generously, as did men's groups. In all, the "\$5 – 5 Ways Fundraiser," raised \$7,100, making it possible for more than 1,400 people to receive better medical care.

It all began in July, when Bishop Sixbert Macumi and his wife Clotilde, President of the Buyé Mothers' Union (MU), visited the Edmonton diocese. They told parishes about an initiative of the Buyé MU to help seniors purchase medical cards. The cards entitle them to an 80 per cent discount on medical expenses for one year. The \$5 cost for each card is an exorbitant amount for seniors, many of whom have done hard physical labour most of their lives and do not receive a pension.

That initial outreach has now expanded and Buyé diocese seeks to support even more people who otherwise cannot afford health care. Another 53 women received medical cards at the opening of the pediatric unit in October. Diocesan Secretary, the Rev.

Dominique Ciza, writes: "To identify the beneficiaries we work together with the administration and health agents, meaning that the assistance is not only for MU seniors, but also other needy women in the community are included." And it is not only the women who benefit. Men, women and children are all eligible for the healthcare discount with the card.

The scope of the "\$5 – 5 Ways Fundraiser" has extended far beyond what was originally envisioned by the Rev. Danielle Lepine and the Rev. Rebecca Harris when they launched the initiative in September. Whether you provided financial assistance and/or offered prayers for our sister diocese, they are grateful for your response.



New Ministry Blessings p. 5



Quilt Dedication p. 6



Ecumenical Potluck p. 8



# Open, inclusive Equally Anglican community welcomes all

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

There is a vibrant new ministry taking shape in Edmonton, and you can find it in action on the last Sunday night of every month at Holy Trinity Anglican Church (HTAC). Known as Equally Anglican, it strives to reintroduce the LGBTQ+ community back to the church.

Nearly three years ago, members of HTAC began a new ministry in the wake of the votes on Canon XXI at General Synod 2016. Inspired by the Equally Anglican group in Toronto and encouraged by the Ven. Chris Pappas, HTAC Rector, Imai Welsh, a second-term Vestry member, and the Rev. Heather Liddell, then assistant curate at Holy Trinity, now Anglican Chaplain at the University of Alberta, began an LGBTQ+ affirming Anglican community in Edmonton.

Equally Anglican has both “reintroduced LGBTQ+ people back to the Anglican Church, and has reintroduced the Anglican Church back to LGBTQ+ people,” said Matthew Mercer-Deadman who continues to strengthen the community’s presence on social media, using Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

“Equally’s commitment to being unapologetically, openly and proudly Anglican is a reflection of how we strive to hold both identities as LGBTQ+ people and as Anglicans,” he said. “It’s not always easy and, indeed, it can take continual wrestling, renewal, and turning to God.”

“In the grand scheme of things, it’s not meant to be a separate-but-equal congregation,” Mercer-Deadman noted. “It’s just seen as another Sunday night service for the parish of Holy Trinity that is more outwardly and specifically affirming for the LGBTQ+ community.”

In an expression of genuine openness and inclusivity, Equally Anglican endeavours to warmly

welcome newcomers to traditional Anglican worship.

“Typically, for us, that means a eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) though, occasionally, it is an Evening or Night Prayer. Our eucharists also feature

intercessions particularly geared to, from, and for the LGBTQ+ community, as well as for the rest of creation, the church and our world.

After the death of his grandmother, with whom he had attended services regularly, Mercer-Deadman said he had been “unchurched” for about five years. When he saw Diocese of Edmonton Bishop Jane Alexander speak in support of the first vote on amendments to Canon XXI on Marriage in the Church at General Synod, in 2016, it was like “a beacon to return to church,” he said.

Responding to a comment made by a member of General Synod in opposition to the marriage canon amendment, Bishop Jane told all LGBTQ+ people “You are not an abomination. You are a beloved child of God in the same way that every single one of us here is a beloved child of God.” (In 2012, the 63rd Synod of the Edmonton diocese voted in favour of the Bishop granting permission to any clergy who may wish to offer prayers of blessing for civilly married same-gender relationships. The Anglican Church of Canada same-sex marriage resolution will receive a second reading at General Synod in 2019.)

For Mercer-Deadman, Bishop Jane’s heartfelt speech was “a reaffirmation that the Good News applies to and is about everyone. It’s important we remind ourselves, and we remind our neighbours, that being made in God’s image encompasses everyone, regardless of race or sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression. It’s just so much bigger than that, and the sacrificial and redemptive love of Jesus is part of that incomprehensible largeness.”

The Rev. Lorne Manweiler, interim priest-in-charge of St. Timothy’s, Edmonton, was appointed

*For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” Galatians 5:14*



Imai Welsh (left) and Matthew Mercer-Deadman present Bishop Jane Alexander and Father Michael Lapsley (right) with Equally Anglican t-shirts; Bishop Jane celebrates communion with the Equally Anglican community at HTAC.



principal priest for Equally Anglican in the fall.

“I love connecting with this community that acknowledges we have each been created equally in God’s image and baptized into Christ; no matter where we come from; no matter what our sexual identity or gender expression,” he said. “Equally is a supportive community of hope and spiritual nourishment from which people can go out into their relationships, their corner of the world and brighten it with the love of Christ for all people.”

The community’s specific concerns are reflected in the prayers, the preaching, fellowship and time of connection both before and after the service.

“In my mind, the liturgy and worship don’t conclude with the extinguishing of the altar candles,” said Mercer-Deadman. “They extend into how we interact with each other in right relationship. Sharing a post-service beverage, a chat, or my personal favourite, a laugh, are key to helping us to build and maintain a community. I don’t think Equally Anglican could be a true ministry if

we all scattered like church mice at the conclusion of the dismissal.”

As Equally Anglican continues to evolve as a ministry of the parish, Manweiler said there has been much reflection on what it means to be an integral part of the community outside the church: “a community of disciples striving to model our lives after Christ.”

Mercer-Deadman’s “ultimate hope is that the greater Anglican Church and, indeed, the Anglican Communion, can be reintroduced to the LGBTQ+ children of God that have at times been left behind or pushed out by some communities. I just keep thinking about Galatians 5:14,” he says, in reference to the Apostle Paul’s reminder to the Galatians that, at the end of the day, what counts in faith is loving one’s neighbour as thyself.

All are welcome and invited to join Equally Anglican on the last Sunday night of each month at Holy Trinity Anglican Church. You can find out more and stay up to date with the ministry’s happenings on Twitter @EquallyHTAC, Facebook and Instagram.



Diocese of Edmonton Bishop Jane Alexander speaking, in 2016, to the LGBTQ+ community at the 41st General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

## Christmas Campaign to Provide Shelter, Healing, Resources for Youth

Since 1999, No Room in the Inn has led a highly successful cross-denominational Christmas campaign to raise money for housing and housing improvements for those in need. No Room in the Inn is inspired by the story of Mary and Joseph, who arrived in Bethlehem to discover there was no room at the inn for them. They found a place in a stable, where they welcomed their son, Jesus.

No one in our community should be without safe, adequate housing.

By contributing to the 2018 No Room in the Inn campaign, the



congregations of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton will help support Youth Empowerment & Support Services (YESS) in providing shelter, healing and resources for

youth experiencing homelessness in Edmonton.

To donate, make a cheque payable to your parish and enter “No Room in the Inn” in the memo line. Drop the cheque in the Sunday collection basket or mail it to your parish. The parish will forward donations to YESS. You can also make a secure online donation at [www.YESS.org](http://www.YESS.org)



# Go out into the world and *live* the Good News *in* Christ



The Ven. TERRY LEER  
Bishop's Administrative  
Commissary  
Athabasca Diocese

We all, and I do mean all, know that gospel means good news. This is the good news *in* Christ (in His incarnation and identity as God inside time, space and human experience); the good news *from* Christ (in what He said and did), and the good news

*about* Christ (what others wrote, said and did about Christ). That's "the gospel truth."  
That gospel declares without a doubt that:

- God is sacrificial love;
- God is mission;
- the Church is God's tool for His missional love in our world.

As disciples of Christ (apprentices of the Master), and members of the Body of Christ, we are required to be:

- sacrificially loving;
- missional;
- obedient to God so that He might use us in His world.

Therefore, the Church (the Body of Christ) must:

- make room for others by sacrificing time,

resources and ideologies on behalf of others;

- go out into the world in obedience to God's mission (Matthew 28:16-20) and make additional disciples;
- sacrifice our own squeamishness and uncertainty so that we might be used by God in our world.

Such are the implications of the Gospel of Christ, who is God inside time, space and our human experience. This means these implications are owned by every disciple, in every circumstance and in every congregation. This should also be understood as good news. May it be genuinely so understood in every congregation in our diocese. Amen.

Terry+

# Shove over and make room for Christ in your Christmas



The Very Rev. JASON HAGGSTROM  
Bishop's Pastoral  
Commissary  
Athabasca Diocese

how Mary's day, her upcoming marriage and her entire life were changed by the angel's message. Mary was troubled and afraid when she saw the Angel and heard his greeting. She had to be

As we prepare for Christmas, we need to consider, "Are we willing to let Jesus interrupt our Christmas?" After all it is His day. Christ is Christmas. Thus, we need to consider, will we allow Him in and will we make room for Him to come into our lives?

Think about

asking herself, "What does God want with me?" Essentially, she was asked to make room for Christ.

God wanted Mary to allow her heart and mind to be open to the absurd possibility that He wanted to work in her life. He indicated that He was near her and watching her. Mary's life had found favour because of how she lived it: toward God and the kingdom. She is told that she would conceive and give birth to a son who would be King over David's people for ever.

We look, even now, for Jesus to come again, which is the purpose of Advent these days, and for God to restore things. We call for God to come down to fix the broken, to free those who are bound and to find that which has been lost. We want God to come down and sort things out because of the devastations that are happening around the world. We are dirty, in despair and naked. The Incarnation is about renewing the hope that we place in God. We do so by making room

for Christ. Jesus still comes to us so that we can honour the prayer that we pray as churches across around the world, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is why we need to allow our Christmas to be interruptible; that God might make known His favour for us, and for us to make room for Christ. In turn then, we can do the same for others.

This Advent, choose to stand firm on what you believe and hold onto the promises that God has given you. Don't run away: come and participate in what God is doing. In seeking and participating with God, we discover that God believes in us. He is watching and encouraging us to keep going and to keep doing good things. Remember, God is watching us and we are in His favour. Don't be afraid of what's happening next or of what we cannot control, rather, be ready for Him who is coming to you. Shove over and make some room.

Jason+



You don't have to wait until Christmas to give a gift that will make a difference right here in Canada

GIVE LOCAL  
GIVE CANADIAN

www.anglicanfoundation.org

ANGLICAN  
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

### Holy Trinity Riverbend Confirmation

Sunday, October 14, 2018, Bishop Jane Alexander confirmed Manuela Thiessen Carvajal, Oscar Pearson and Anya Pearson at Holy Trinity Riverbend, Edmonton. Pictured with Bishop Jane and the confirmands are their parents, Paul and Suzanne Pearson, and Carmen Carvajal and Greg Thiessen.



<p>SUBMISSIONS DUE 1 MONTH PRIOR to PRINTING DATE</p> <p>DEADLINE for January 2019 ISSUE: <b>DECEMBER 1</b></p> <p><b>Submissions:</b> We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories (max 500 words), event notices, book reviews and photos.</p> <p><b>Send to:</b> Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) anglicanmessenger@gmail.com or</p>	<p>Peter Clarke (Athabasca) seens@telus.net</p> <p><b>Read Online:</b> www.edmonton.anglican.org/ blog/the-messenger</p> <p><b>Find Us on Facebook:</b> www.facebook.com/anglican.edmonton</p> <p><b>Subscribe:</b> www.anglicanjournal.com/ subscribe</p>	<p><b>THE MESSENGER TEAM</b></p> <p><b>EDITORS</b> Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) Peter Clarke (Athabasca)</p> <p><b>LAYOUT &amp; DESIGN</b> Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p> <p><b>PROOF READING</b> Jennifer Wirun</p> <p><b>REPORTING</b> 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>
---	--	---



# Following in Jesus' footsteps not a quick-fix program



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

**W**e have spent considerable time on Mission Action Plans. Those articles are available on the diocesan website. I hope they'll be a useful resource for you as your church family engages in the wonderful task of being our Lord's missional disciples. This task must be at the center of our lives, for as we have seen in

Luke 7-10, it is by mission that Jesus catalyses our discipleship. All manner of other church activities have their place, but if we are not in some way involved in furthering God's kingdom in this world, we will not grow as we ought.

One of the things we are learning in "ID" (the diocesan prototype discipleship framework, which has now begun in eight parishes) is that, having lived so long in Christendom (the world view now ended, in which Christian beliefs and values were held as the norm through most of western society - see previous articles), we are now left with an incorrect and skewed understanding of certain key truths. These include a lot of baggage around the meaning of the words church, mission and discipleship.

We are also observing this: that we have inherited a program mindset. We want programs that will fix whatever we see as being wrong with the church, and we want those programs to produce instant results. There is a sense that, if something is of God, it will therefore work quickly. This simply isn't true. This thinking very much comes from the quick-fix culture in which we live. We must take on our discipleship, knowing that it is a lifelong endeavour.

It's interesting to note the parables Jesus uses to describe our growth. He very often uses stories about seeds, fruit and pruning. He describes himself as 'The Vine' and we 'the branches' (John 15). He talks about seed being sown but not all of it resulting in good crop (Luke 8).

I particularly like the power of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32). Jesus tells the story of a farmer planting one, just one, extremely tiny mustard seed in the middle of a big field. Imagine witnessing the scene. We would be incredulous! What a waste of a field!! But what is the farmer's focus? It's that *one* seed. He is not going to be distracted by tending anything else. His sole job is to protect that seed from the elements, weeds and anything else that could cause it harm during the long process of that tiny seed's growth. Jesus ends by declaring that the seed grows to become a large tree where the birds come to nest.

What is Jesus saying? That our growth is under his watchful care but it takes time. Imagine watching a tree grow from a seed. It is

an exercise in patience to say the very least. We may think ourselves insignificant but we all have such potential. How do we grow? To follow Jesus is to follow and be trusting of His ways and not appropriate the road of our growth back into our hands, as if we know better than He through whom all things were made.

Jesus' road to growth for us all is to be part of His church, to be His disciples, and to have His mission at the core of that discipleship. That's where it's so important that we understand the way our understanding of these words has become skewed. So what do they mean? We'll pick up that discussion next time.

Until then, I wish you a most blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Richard

## Becoming intentionally missional: choice over instinct



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

**I**t seems to me that we Anglicans do not instinctively do mission well. We certainly know that we are supposed

to do mission and to be missional. Both the Diocese of Edmonton and the Diocese of Athabasca spend real money on developing disciples to do mission. But, we do not instinctively do it well and many a disciple passively resists mission.

*Mission* is God's plan for His world, a plan which includes the salvation of all people. God sent Himself—that's the mission part—into the world in order to bring His mission about.

By God's plan and decree, every disciple of Christ is to do mission and the Church itself is to be missional (embodying and

expressing God's mission). By God's definition, every disciple is a missionary for Christ and for God's sacrificing love.

But such a missional existence does not come naturally or easily. We do not automatically embody Matthew 28:16-20 in our everyday lives. We want to be sacrificially loving—the life for which God created us—but we come with built-in barriers. Living missionally is not easy, automatic or instinctual.

We have to *choose* missional living. We have to be intentional about being Christ's disciples. We have

to turn our theology about the necessity of mission into action in our lives as missionaries.

1. Develop an attitude of gratitude: you have experienced Christ's salvation in the power of the Holy Spirit. You have been saved by grace through faith. Recognize your need for that grace and be grateful for it. Determine to show that gratitude in your actions.

2. Pray: ask God to send someone into your life with whom you can share the reasons for your grateful living. Ask God for guidance in how to share

your gratitude.

3. Take action: put yourself intentionally into situations in which you may embody Christ's sacrificing love. Intend to share the good news and plan for that sharing. Never rely on happenstance or assume that you will take the step once an opportunity presents itself. That kind of passive mission has not worked well in the past, and it certainly won't work well in today's society. Our salvation and our love for others demand that we take action and be intentional—despite the fact we are Anglican Christians.

## Strong showing for Edmonton diocese at regional Messy Meet-up

SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

**A**bout 20 Messy Church leaders from throughout Alberta converged on St. Andrew's United Church in Lacombe for a Messy Meet-up on October 20. Facilitated by Sue and Andy Kalbfleisch, Messy Church Canada Team Leaders, the day offered a chance to share ideas and

talk through the issues that have come up for those developing Messy Church congregations.

More than a third of participants were representatives from Edmonton diocese; including St. Augustine's Parkland in Spruce Grove and Christ Church, St. Luke and St. Michael and All Angels in Edmonton.





# Onoway induction: a time of celebration and anticipation

SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

It was a full house at St. John the Divine, Onoway on Thursday, October 18, for the induction service of the Rev. Cheryl Boulet as Rector. The parish came out in full, along with visitors and members of the clergy from other parts of the diocese. It was indeed a celebration of this new ministry in Onoway and the atmosphere was one of joy and anticipation.

The only sadness in the evening was the absence of Bishop Jane, who was ill and unable to attend. In her place, the Ven. Lee Bezanson conducted the service adeptly and with his usual good humour. His sermon focused on the choices we all make as we follow in Jesus' footsteps and the fact that we are continually stretched and called forward in our faith. He likened the journey of faith to the Olympic high jump event, where they never bring the bar down! It is always raised, challenging the athlete to greater heights.

The service of induction itself always follows the same beautiful and meaningful pattern. After the licence for the new minister

is read to the congregation, as it was on this occasion by Executive Archdeacon the Ven. Alan Perry, members of the parish present symbols of

ministry to their new priest. The symbols include a bible, a pitcher of water, oil, the canons of the diocese, the keys to the church, a prayer book, and bread and wine.

After the service, the celebration continued in the downstairs hall, known at St. John the Divine as the "Holy Grounds Bistro," where the ACW had prepared a feast and a special cake for the occasion. The Rev. Armand Mercier also presented a *Book of Common Prayer* on

behalf of the Prayer Book Society.

A service of induction is meant to be the blessing of a new minister and the parish to which she or he has been called. For Rev. Cheryl, it was an evening full of encouragement.

"I felt extremely blessed and supported by, not only the congregation and visitors, but also by all the clergy who were in attendance. It was an absolutely Spirit-filled evening and I give thanks to our ever loving Father in heaven, whose presence was certainly felt throughout!"



Pictured counter-clockwise from top: St. John the Divine parishioners proclaim, 'We will!' when the induction liturgy asks if they will support the ministry of their new priest; wardens present Rev. Cheryl with the keys to the church; happiness and good will evident in the fellowship following the service.

## Red Dress Memorial service a time of mourning and challenge

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

All Saints' Cathedral hosted its 4th annual Red Dress Memorial Service on the evening of October 4.

The candle-lit prayer vigil was led by the Very Rev. Neil Gordon, Dean of Edmonton and Rector of All Saints' Cathedral. The Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministries, led a smudging ceremony and gave the reflection.

Drum Keeper Lloyd Cardinal played an Honour Song and shared the history of the Sisters in Spirit Vigils (#SISVigils) and the emerging Stolen Sisters and Brothers Awareness Movement. Every year, family members, Indigenous community members and concerned citizens gather for vigils across Canada to raise awareness and honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and

provide support to families who have lost a loved one.

Participants in the cathedral vigil, including Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson and City Councillor (Ward 6) Scott McKeen, stepped forward to light candles as the names of 1,100 missing and murdered

Indigenous women were read in the

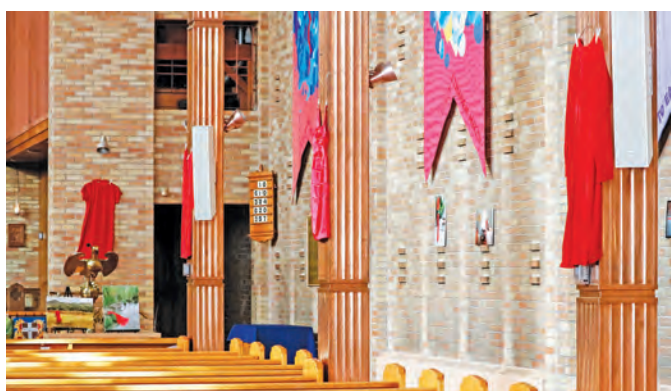
background. The congregation sang the hymn "River of Life," written by Jonathan Maracle, a Canadian Mohawk composer.

In the weeks leading up to the memorial service, the cathedral sanctuary was adorned with red dresses, and photographs by Mufty Mathewson. Inspired by the original REDress Project, which was launched by Métis artist Jaime Black in 2014, Mathewson, a local photographer, went to the nearest "next to new" shop, bought three red dresses and

began photographing them in different locations. She posted several images on the Alberta Images Camera Club website and invited other members to join her.

Each participant in the vigil was given a paper heart to take home and write down the ways they will "honour women, girls and gender diverse people, while contributing to systemic change to keep them safe."

Members of All Saints' parish have been engaging in the *150 Acts for Reconciliation* project. Suggested acts, such as attending a cultural event like a pow wow or watching an educational documentary, are listed on the [www.activehistory.ca](http://www.activehistory.ca) website. To learn more, visit the site and search "acts of reconciliation."



All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton adorned with red dresses and photos by Mufty Mathewson.



# St. Saviour quilt tells the story of a land and its people

TRICIA POLOWY  
St. Saviour, Vermilion

Nearly nine months after the end of Canada's 150th birthday year, St. Saviour Anglican Church in Vermilion dedicated its 150th anniversary quilt.

The quilt has been hanging in the hall for most of 2018, but this was the first opportunity we have had to officially dedicate it and to reflect on its meaning. This time has allowed us to consider what the quilt represents to us as a parish community.

The idea of a quilt began with a very practical purpose: to provide a decorative sound barrier on the far wall. But, as members of the parish took part in the Canada 150th mosaic project, the idea of making a quilt began to take shape.

With the support of our ACW, parish wardens Joann Mones and Judy Misick, we asked Rita Barr if she would consider taking the project on. Rita agreed and we began to look for an appropriate pattern. It took some time, but we finally discovered the pattern you see now, and Rita began to work on the quilt top.



St. Saviour parishioners gather to dedicate a special quilt on Sunday, September 30, 2018.

Quilters will know that as you work, a kind of relationship builds between yourself and the fabric. Ordinary pieces of material take on meaning and, as the quilt takes shape, ideas and thoughts come into the mind of the quilter.

So it was that Rita came to recognize there was something wrong with the original pattern. The pattern we had chosen called for a dark zigzag piece to intersect the quilt right down the middle. She felt that this was too harsh and approached us with the idea of replacing this with some white fabric. We agreed and the pieces were replaced, resulting in the quilt you see today.

Finally, it was time for the quilt to be completed.

The quilt was completed with a generous donation from Carol Wasylik, owner of Extraordinary Extras Inc., who donated the quilting and the binding. With the assistance of Dean Barr it was hung in the hall early in the new year of 2018.

As months passed, the Rev. Elizabeth Metcalfe had many opportunities to reflect on the quilt and came to recognize the appropriateness of the quilt as a recognition not only of the 150th anniversary of Canada, but as a means of recognizing and honouring this land on which we live. The colours of the quilt are the colours of the land: the blues of the sky and the water, both on clear and stormy days; the greens,

browns and golds are the colors of the grasses, crops, forests and meadows; the whites reflect the clouds and snows of winter. It is a land that is rich and filled with life and abundance and has provided our ancestors with sustenance and plenty for many generations. It has also been a good land for those who lived here before we came.

The story of the quilt reflects the story of our two peoples living on this land,

yet living apart, truly two solitudes. Appropriately, we dedicated our quilt on Orange Shirt Day, which happened to fall on a Sunday this year. Thanks to Rita, the two sections of the quilt (which can be seen as representing the two peoples of this land), are not divided by a black line, but by a white strip - the color of openness. The white provides a space where something new can be written, a place where the two people can come together in friendship and hope to together create something new.

And so, we dedicated our quilt to the Glory of God, in thanksgiving for this beautiful and unique land, in a spirit of friendship and hope, recognizing that this quilt is more than a commemoration of 150 years of Canada's founding or a sound barrier; it is a symbol of hope and healing in our midst.

## St. Saviour Community Connection

St. Saviour's, Vermilion held our annual garage sale in September. We wanted to try something different this year. After multiple sessions with Archdeacon Richard King, in regards to the ID framework, we identified being part of the community as a priority. As a result, we donated all garage sale proceeds to be split equally between the hot lunch programs at Vermilion Elementary School and St. Jerome's Catholic School.

## St. Francis' Feast Day Pet Blessings

### Holy Trinity Riverbend

Holy Trinity Riverbend, Edmonton hosted a Blessing of the Animals service on Saturday, October 6. Our wonderful gathering of pets greeted one another with interest and enthusiasm! The Rev. Dan Wold and the Rev. Rebecca Harris blessed six dogs of varying size, age, and energy; one outnumbered cat, and a vocal cockatoo who let us know what she thought of the whole crazy event. It was a fun morning for everyone. We raised \$30 for the Edmonton Humane Society, and even managed a group photo.



### St. Augustine Parkland

Seventeen people and fifteen pets gathered outside St. Augustine's Parkland, Spruce Grove, October 4, to celebrate the Feast of St.



Francis of Assisi with a blessing of the animals and creation service to mark the end of the Season of Creation. As doggies howled with praise to God, we recalled our responsibility to care for God's earth, and that all God's creation sings with one voice.

## Auggie's Café first baptism



The Auggie's Café community at St. Augustine's Parkland in Spruce Grove celebrated its first baptism on October 23, 2018. Cynthia received the sacrament of baptism during the weekly community lunch. The baptism took place outside the café so that invited members could also participate in Cynthia's baptism. It was an amazing way to celebrate with the faithful people who experience church by walking through the doors of Auggie's Café.

Submitted by  
the Rev. Billy Isenor



# When it comes to Christmas, are our rituals righteous?



DOROTHY MARSHALL  
PWRDF Representative  
Diocese of Edmonton

**W**e currently have a wonderful Ladies Study Group going on here at St. Andrew's; a time of reflection and lively discussion about living "Jesus-shaped" lives.

We are looking at the Beatitudes through the lens of the *Pilgrim* series of guides, which are produced by the Church of England. I learned of this resource through Bishop Stephen Cottrell when he spoke at the Rupert's Land Provincial

Synod, in Edmonton, last spring. They are well written and seem to promote good discussion. I would recommend them if you are looking for such a resource.

Last week we were reading a passage from Amos, chapter 5, verses 21-24, where God says (through Amos) that He despises the way the people are worshipping Him with their festivals, offerings, and noisy songs. Apparently they have been performing the necessary rituals, but not following God in their daily lives; their worship is hollow and meaningless. God says He wants to see "justice to roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Someone asked the question 'what does this say about how we celebrate Christmas?'

Is the Christmas season a pressure cooker of shallow rituals we follow each year? Decorating

our homes, celebrating at parties and concerts and feasting with family and friends can be a roller coaster of stress. Does the rush and bustle of it all remove the pleasure of what is important? Of course, we also have the gift-giving tradition. In many cases, this is an ever-challenging time of trying to find the perfect gift for people who already have everything they need.

As we go about preparing for Christmas, are we remembering why we are celebrating the season? Are we making "Jesus-shaped" choices in a right-with-God manner? In keeping with those Beatitudes, are we including those less fortunate in our Christmas preparations? We can invite a lonely person to share our

feast, or we can support local food drives and toy collections. And we can expand the reach of our generosity by choosing to give from the *World of Gifts* catalogue, sponsored by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. These are the kind of gifts that really make a difference!

Through the PWRDF catalogue you can give to people you love *and*, in so doing, assist people you will likely never meet. You can purchase livestock or seeds to help hungry families grow food to feed themselves and sell for income. You can change lives by purchasing bicycle repair kits or water purification systems. You can find the perfect gift for everyone on your list. It is fun to match the recipient's

interests with your gift choice. In the past, I have received several pigs and chickens. This year I have sheep on my list! Many of the gift choices are part of the PWRDF Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Project and your donation will be matched 6:1 by the Government of Canada. What a great way to see your generosity grow!

You will have received a copy of the *World of Gifts* catalogue with the *Anglican Journal* and *Messenger* papers this fall. The catalogue can also be viewed online at [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org). Here you can purchase gifts and Christmas cards, as well as read about the PWRDF's many projects supported by Anglicans across Canada.

If you would like more information about how you can be involved with PWRDF in your parish, please contact the Diocesan Representative, Dorothy Marshall at [pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca](mailto:pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca).



## Manna Market increases food security in downtown Edmonton

SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

**A**fter an initial two-month trial period, All Saints' Cathedral held the Official Grand-Opening of Manna Market on Wednesday, October 31. Rockstar Rod Stewart (aka the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda) made a special appearance for the Halloween ribbon-cutting, as customers streamed through the door to get first pick at the fresh produce.

On average, 60 people come each Wednesday for an opportunity to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables at extremely low prices.

Manna Market buys the food wholesale and sells it at cost, filling a need for greater food security in downtown Edmonton; a need especially felt by seniors and others on low or fixed incomes.

Most customers are from the neighbourhood around the cathedral; many live in low-income or seniors' housing, including the Cathedral Close - subsidized apartments connected to the cathedral

building and run by the Greater Edmonton Foundation. A few people have started coming because of connections with Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

Manna Market Organizer Doreen Abbott says a market like this gives people an affordable means of buying fresh produce.

"It's a way to maintain someone's dignity while helping stretch their food budget," she says. "Rather than handing them an apple, they get to choose for themselves between an apple and a pear."

To get the market up and running each week, Abbott works with Rev. Quinn, Vicar of All Saints', and about eight other regular volunteers from the parish. Plus, a strong connection has been established with an agency called Lives in Transition (LIT). LIT helps women who are under or unemployed to learn or re-learn skills to get them back in the workforce. Two or three different women come from LIT each week to help mainly with set up: sorting, displaying and pricing

the items. A few gardeners in the parish helped out this autumn, bringing in their surplus beets, potatoes, leeks and apples.

Manna Market is funded entirely by donations to the REACH campaign, although the goal is for the ministry to become financially self-sustaining as time goes on.

To the All Saints' team, the market's success is in the stories they hear from individuals, such as the lady who had raspberries for the first time in years because she couldn't afford them at the supermarket and never got them at the foodbank. When she opened up to share her childhood memories of picking raspberries, a personal connection was made.

Success is also the lady who told volunteers that, when her

doctor asked her why she is so healthy, she was able to respond "It's because of a good healthy meal (another service provided once a week at the cathedral), and being able to buy the fresh fruit and veg I couldn't before."

Along with the groceries, the coffee is always on while the market is open, allowing a chance for people to create new friendships. Abbott and Strikwerda are grateful for the sense of community that is developing among patrons. Some have come to consider the cathedral their own church and tell others so, even though

they don't come to Sunday services. One woman has expressed interest in coming on Sunday, though she will choose the service with the fewest people.

Manna Market began on the last Wednesday in August. The team had committed to carry on until the end of December, even if things were not going well. However, it is clear that things are going very well, and Manna Market is now a permanent fixture at All Saints'. Everyone is welcome to come and shop. Just be prepared to pay in cash and bring your own bag.



Manna Market regular customers line up to be first ones in the door each Wednesday.



## Four west Edmonton churches *connect* at potluck gathering

The Rev. ANTHONY KWAW

Four west Edmonton churches met at St. Timothy's Anglican Church, on Saturday, September 22, for the first ever Connect Potluck - an afternoon of joyful singing, neighbourly fellowship and an abundance of food.

Although four congregations had been sharing St. Timothy's church building for worship space for the past four years, their different hours of worship made interaction difficult.

The idea for an ecumenical potluck was enthusiastically received by St. Timothy's rector (as of November 1, appointed interim priest-in-charge of Emmanuel, Gibbons), the Rev. Anthony Kwaw, and members of vestry. Kwaw then invited the other congregational leaders: Rabbi Michael Terrett, B'Nai Chayim Messianic Jewish; Pastor Dejan Buljovic, Calvary Chapel; Pastor George Obeng, Bread of Life; to come together to explore the possibility of an ecumenical potluck.

The congregational leaders unanimously embraced the idea and decided to call the event "Connect" - an occasion for members to meet and connect with one another. A date was set, and each congregation sought five volunteers to help with planning and organizing.

Despite inclement weather, more than 90 people, ranging in age from infants to seniors, met in the sanctuary to sing songs selected by each congregation. After the singing, Rabbi Michael said the blessing before the potluck meal. People served themselves and sat at dinner tables in St. Timothy's narthex and cloister where they were able to meet and mingle. There was an abundance of food and many leftovers.

God willing, the congregations plan to make the Connect Potluck an annual event, and are considering adding an ecumenical worship service. Thank you to all who participated in this grace-filled event.



Photos: Lloyd Ropchan



## Travelling theologian visits Edmonton

SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

Edmonton diocese welcomed a special guest visitor October 13-16. Bishop Jane invited Stephen Backhouse, author and theologian, to connect with parishes and clergy to learn and to get a sense of whether Stephen's particular gifting might be something that could benefit the diocese going forward.

Backhouse joined the ID session at St. Matthias' in Edmonton on Saturday, October 13 and preached at St. Luke's on Sunday, October 14. St. Luke's parish found him to be one of those rare people who are academically gifted, yet able to communicate in a very down-to-earth, accessible manner.

On the evening of October 15, Backhouse engaged in lively discussion at a Pub Theology session. Diocesan Educational Chaplain, the Rev. Heather Liddell counted 32 people at the event (special thanks to Grindstone Theatre and Bistro for opening up especially for this group).

"We opened the floor for people to ask a traveling theologian any question they wanted. They dug deep and asked some of the really difficult questions you don't get a chance to ask anywhere else, and Stephen handled it amazingly," said Liddell. "It was intense and wonderful!"

Finally, Backhouse met with a group of about 40 for a clergy day on October 16, hosted by St. Luke's.

"It has been a joy to have Stephen with us in the diocese," said the Ven. Richard King, rector of St. Luke's. "He is immensely talented, knowledgeable and authoritative. His commitment to the local church and to seeing each member of the local church activated in their discipleship and growing in their ministry in our post-Christendom world, is inspiring and impactful. I hope we will



Stephen Backhouse shares his concept of Tent Theology at the Diocese of Edmonton Clergy Day in the fall.

Photo: Richard King

see him again."

Stephen Backhouse is Canadian, but completed the majority of his academic education at Oxford University. His most recent formal position was on faculty with St. Mellitus College in London, England. Formed in 2007, it is a fairly new, yet influential theological college known for its practical approach of 'hands-on' ministry training combined with rigorous academics. Notable lecturers include the Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and his wife, Dr. Jane Williams, who is a lecturer in systematic theology.

Backhouse was Director of Graduate Studies at St. Mellitus and lectured on social and political theology, yet he sensed a call to something different; something that would bring him and his love of practical theology closer to the local church. To that end, he has launched Tent Theology, which is a ministry that brings custom designed teaching to parishes to meet their own perceived needs and to develop ongoing relationships with them. He currently pursues this ministry in both the UK and Canada. He is also author of *Kierkegaard: A Single Life* which is available on Amazon.

## St. Patrick's Dedicates Community Bench

During the fall, colourful benches began appearing throughout the Knottwood neighbourhood of Mill Woods in Edmonton.

While passing by the front doors of St. Patrick's Anglican Church, pedestrians are beckoned by an inviting red bench featuring a friendly, bright, blue cross, painted by parish vestry member Lynda Haug. A visible sign of God's gift of community, the bench was blessed by St. Patrick's rector the Rev. Kevin Kraglund during the 10 am worship service on Sunday, October 21. Gathering around the bench, the congregation gave thanks for the Knottwood Community League initiative intended to make the community more friendly and walkable.

"God's light truly shone upon us during this special celebration," Kraglund said.



Pictured at the bench blessing, back row, left to right, are: Kimberly Shaw, Program Director, KCL; Thomas Shaw, President, KCL; the Rev. Mark Vigrass, vocational deacon, St. Patrick's; Rosa Little, member, KCL; Lynda Haug, vestry member, St. Patrick's; the Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector, St. Patrick's; the Hon. Christina Gray, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Woods; Sydney and Nolan Shaw, children of Thomas and Kimberly.