



# THE MESSENGER

SUMMER 2021

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## Farewell gift provides fresh water access in Burundi

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

In honour of Bishop Jane Alexander and her ministry, the Edmonton diocese has gifted \$19,350 USD to Bishop Sixbert Macumi and the Diocese of Buyé. The funds collected for Bishop Jane's farewell gift will be used by Buyé diocese to help build water spring improvement projects in 19 more communities.

Bishop Jane is amazed and grateful: "I am overwhelmed at the generous response to the water projects in Buyé as a farewell gift," she says. "Your generosity will ensure clean water in 19 parish communities and this will be life-changing. I have seen firsthand what a difference it makes to the community to have a clean, fresh water source and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Bless you."

"Thank you so much for such good news," said Bishop Sixbert Macumi. "I am so thankful to everyone who contributed to the donations."

"In Burundi we have much water, but it is not well managed," said Bishop Sixbert on the

occasion of the 10th anniversary of Bishop Jane's consecration in 2018. At that time the offertory collection helped fund a community well in the village of Kiziba.

Burundi's water infrastructure system was severely damaged by civil war from 1993 to 2006, and clean water uncontaminated by bacteria and parasites is especially hard to get in rural areas. More than half of residents rely on lakes, rivers and swamps for their water.

While Burundi is blessed with abundant, clean groundwater, it is difficult for people to access it without contamination. It is common for natural spring water, the primary source of drinking water



Kirundo villagers collect clean natural spring water filtered through elevated pipes.

for people in Buyé, to be polluted by erosion and livestock.

Each improved spring supplies an entire village and reduces the incidence of waterborne diseases, which are a major cause of illness and death, particularly in children.

## Diocese to Elect 11th Bishop in Virtual Synod June 26<sup>th</sup>

The Rev. Deacon SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

In the month of June, the Diocese of Edmonton enters the final phase of the process for electing its 11th bishop.

The list of delegates to the electoral synod is finalized and preparations are underway for a virtual election on June 26, 2021. On that day, key diocesan officers will gather at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral in Edmonton and all other members of synod will gather virtually via Zoom. Delegates will vote using an app called Simply Voting which was created specifically for this purpose. The diocese has contracted a company called Data on the Spot, Inc. (DOTS) to manage the use of this app and all technical aspects, following the approach used in the dioceses of New Westminster and BC, which successfully held virtual electoral synods in 2020. Practice sessions will be held leading up the synod to ensure all delegates are confident using this technology. DOTS will have support persons standing by on the day of the election to deal with any technical difficulties.

At the time of writing, proposals for

candidates were still being received and assessed by the Diocesan Search Committee. Each candidate had until May 29 to provide a curriculum vitae, along with their responses to questions posed in the diocesan profile. This and any other information the committee has deemed helpful must be presented to Dean and Diocesan Administrator, the Very Rev. Alexandra Meek, no later than June 5. Meek will, in turn, share that information with members of synod no later than June 12. Meek asks that delegates, and the diocese as a whole, will recognise and honour the step each nominee has taken.

"Those who have allowed their names to stand have felt called to be a part of our process in discerning who is to be the Bishop of Edmonton and have stepped out in faith to do so," she says. "This process has required nominees to sincerely consider how God might call them into a new ministry and then to share with everyone their hearts and minds on the subject. So, as we receive the names of nominees on June 12, I encourage all of us to join with them in prayers of discernment. Honour the vulnerability they have offered by listening generously to their videos and written responses and pray with them for direction from

the Holy Spirit to guide us in electing someone who will faithfully lead and serve this diocese."

One other deadline of note is June 23. This is the final date by which members of synod may nominate a candidate they feel the search process may have missed. The purpose of this type of nomination is not that members of synod circumvent the process of the search committee, but that the range of candidates from which the synod makes its selection is not limited by the decisions of a single group, even one as thorough and trusted as the search committee.

Finally, at the electoral synod on June 26, 2021, the Diocesan Search Committee will present its report, including a complete list of all nominated persons. Then members of synod will, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, elect the 11th Bishop of Edmonton. Meek asks all members of the diocese to be in prayer until that time.

"May we be people who pray and who then listen and act with confidence in the answers we receive together as a diocese."

Visit the diocesan website at <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/synod/67th-synod-2021> for complete information about the electoral process.



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# Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for Bishop's ministry

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton editor

People from across the Edmonton and Buyé dioceses, the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, the Anglican Church of Canada and of Southern Africa, the Church of England, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the City of Edmonton and beyond, took part in a livestreamed Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for Bishop Jane Alexander, 10th Bishop of Edmonton, and her ministry.

Although a third wave of the COVID pandemic prevented a large gathering and reception (as one might expect for a beloved Bishop), a small congregation including members of Bishop Jane's family, diocesan staff and archdeacons, assembled at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral while people from around the world participated in the service, held April 17, 2021, from their homes and on their mobile phones, with an outpouring of prayers and farewell messages. At the time of writing, the service had been viewed more than 1,200 times on All Saints' YouTube channel.

The tribute was a reflection of Bishop Jane's visionary leadership which has encouraged people of the Edmonton diocese to grow in faith and use their God-given gifts to help others to, in her own words, "grow to love and to trust the church; to see it as a safe and wonderful place where they can experience the presence and love of Christ in action."

The service held on Treaty 6 Territory began with a moving Smudge Ceremony, led by the Ven. Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Indigenous Ministry.

In her homily, the Very Rev. Alex Meek, Dean of Edmonton and Diocesan Administrator, said from the moment of Bishop Jane's consecration on the Feast of Pentecost, in 2008, "she has loved deeply and proclaimed God's love in word and action, not just within the bounds of the church walls, but to everyone we meet, knowing that God's love was never meant for just a few, but always and forever, for everyone."

The scripture passages: Isaiah 61:1-3; Psalm 104:24-35; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, read by the Ven. Jordan Haynie Ware, Archdeacon for Social Justice and Community Connection, were chosen from Bishop Jane's service of consecration and her 10th-anniversary service.

"These scriptures remind us that God's love is not small and stale, but strong and full of life and truth," said Meek. "Over the past 13 years, Bishop Jane has been reminding us of the love we have received from God and how that love is always meant to be shared with others. She has called us to be people who love our neighbours, and our neighbours' neighbours. To remember that the church exists always to be grown in love because the love of God continues to flow into this world and God continues to welcome us to be a part of

God's work."

Meek said Bishop Jane has celebrated with us when "we use our gifts to join in with the work of God as we see need and opportunity in our daily lives. And so today it is only right to be reminded of the gift that this leadership has been..."

The Gospel of John (7:37-39), proclaimed by the Rev. John Gee, All Saints' Honorary Vocational Deacon and Diocesan Secretary-treasurer was, as Meek said, Jesus' welcoming call to all who are thirsty to "come and to drink living waters; and the believers being taught they would be parts of this river, that they were being called to live lives that would flow with the living water of God, for the sake of all they would meet."

Offering Prayers of Thanksgiving for Bishop Jane's ministry, the Ven. Richard King, Archdeacon for Mission and Discipleship, said:

"You (Bishop Jane) have faithfully led us into deeper relationship with God, and with our neighbours. Emphasizing the importance of mission and discipleship, and the expansive love of God for all of God's creation, you have called us to remember that God is not done with us yet."

Following the Prayers of the People, led by Canon (lay) Barb Burrows, and the Holy Eucharist presided over by Meek, Bishop Jane gave The Blessing which was followed by her favourite hymn, "For All the Saints," played by

All Saints' Organist and Music Director Jeremy Spurgeon.

At the conclusion of the service, the Ven. Lee Bezanson, Executive Archdeacon of the diocese, led a physically distanced reception which was also live-streamed for people taking part off-site.

"In 2008, the Edmonton diocese won the best lottery," said Bezanson. "Not a hockey draft lottery (Connor McDavid was just 11 years old), but we won the lottery for life with the arrival of a woman with a vision, a woman with a desire to make that vision our shared story and our future."

"Bishop Jane passionately championed the causes of reconciling relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters; of advocating and working tirelessly as the co-chair of this city's campaign to end homelessness and poverty," said Bezanson.



Bishop Jane gives a thumbs-up.

"She challenged us all to become more environmentally concerned and proactive in being better stewards of our Good earth. Bishop Jane's vision and pastoral influence were destined to reach beyond the geographical boundaries of this diocese when she initiated and nurtured a blossoming relationship with the Diocese of Buyé in Burundi in Central Africa.

"Bishop Jane exemplified her penchant for prophetic ministry as she took her place

amongst the councils of both our National church and the Worldwide Anglican Communion," he said. "She was known as a voice; that if it was not always heard or listened to, was, nonetheless, a voice which would not be denied or ignored, and which always spoke the truth."

Dean Alexandra Meek shared a letter from Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson who said "with certainty" his experience of co-chairing the End Poverty Edmonton Task Force alongside Bishop Jane, in 2014-15, "is one of the highlights of my time on City Council.

"Your service and leadership have always been defined not only by your work within the Anglican Church, but also your work in leading and convening faith communities on a wide variety of life and social justice issues," said Iveson. "Edmonton's faith leaders have remained way ahead in their response to COVID-19 since the pandemic's early days due, in no small part, to your advocacy for community and congregations' well-being, health and safety. I am grateful to have gotten to work with you and learned from your leadership example."

"God bless you, sister," said the Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews, 9th Bishop of Edmonton, in her contribution to a video tribute that included a montage of pictures of Bishop Jane's ministry and clergy waving good-bye, an "Ode to Bishop Jane," written and performed by Dr. Alexandra (Sandra) Munn, accompanied on piano by Mary-Lou Cleveland; and messages from the Most Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land; the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; the Rev. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop of

the Synod of Alberta and the Territories of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Bishop Jane's dear friends Michael Harvey, founder of Back to Church Sunday and Director of Unlocking the Growth; and Fr. Michael Lapsley, SSM, the Edmonton diocese's Honorary Canon for Healing and Reconciliation; sent friendly greetings from Manchester, UK, and Cape Town, South Africa.



Bishop Jane Alexander blesses congregants.

Continued on page 3.

# The extraordinary can happen in Ordinary Time

The drama was over. The intense pain was gone, the euphoria at the end now a memory. In striving to finish the race as fast as possible, the swimmer had given their all and had been rewarded, maybe not with winning the race, but coming very, very close; and in the process having a personal best time. Their lungs had felt like bursting, the muscles of their arms and legs had felt like they were on fire, and the race, the culmination of literally months of training and effort, was now over. And their first thought was, "what's next?"



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD  
Diocese of Athabasca

June may feel like that. The celebration of Christmas, the intensity of Lent, the pain and depravity of Christ's passion and crucifixion, and the glorious life-giving resurrection of Easter are now memories. The season of Easter is done, as is Pentecost and Trinity Sunday. And you may think, "what's next?"

The church liturgical calendar is now quieter. There are a few saints' days, a few commemorations, but not too busy. We've entered what is known as Ordinary Time.

In our relationship with God, we may encounter one or more "mountain-top" experiences, where we may feel a spiritual high, a close connection with God, a euphoria of emotion. Sooner or later, however, the mountain-top experiences end and we have to walk back down into the valleys. And we may ask, "what's next?"

Ordinary Time is all the parts of the year that aren't included in Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Ordinary Time is where the extremes of emotion, intensity of liturgy, focussed intercessions, may all be less – however, ordinary time is where the real work happens. Ordinary Time is where you take all the lessons you've absorbed from your encounters of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, and let them become part of you. It's a time where you don't exhaust yourself in frenetic activity or extremes, but, instead, can focus on fine-tuning daily restorative practices. These are times where you can just "be." Be in your daily morning and evening prayer routines. Be in your weekly community worship (online or in-person, if possible). Be in your

ongoing conversations with God. Be in your daily scripture reading. "Be." Nothing grand is asked of you; nothing grand expected. It is a retrenching, an establishing, a time of steady, unspectacular growth. A time to feed yourself. A time to train your spiritual muscles, yes, and also grow all aspects of your life that are needed for health: mental, physical, and social, as well as spiritual. It is a time to be blessed, and to bless.

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our society – it is what it is. Ordinary Time is a space where you can work on adaptations and routines to help with living day-to-day. It is a space where you can be proactive, anticipating and experimenting. It is a space where you can positively anticipate changes as challenges, as positions to grow from. Most of all, it is a time to celebrate, and be thankful for, the capability to "be." May your Ordinary Time this summer be a time of rejuvenation, of growth, of blessing. May you feel Christ's hand in yours as you walk, ordinary step by ordinary step, along his way. May it be a time for you to take a huge, recuperative, breath. May you be greatly blessed, indeed, as you "be."

+David

## Service of Thanksgiving & Celebration for Bishop, continued

Continued from page 2.

Bishop Jane and her grandchildren unwrapped a beautiful, framed picture of rural scenes presented by the Rev. Canon Chelsy Bouwman on behalf of the rural parishes of the diocese.

Bishop Jane's husband, Dr. Tim Alexander, said her ministry "has been exciting since the moment she was ordained as a deacon. She would end her sermons with a call to quiet reflection, and then, just in case that felt too comfortable, a call to get out of your pew and act - right now, today and always. If, on a personal level, or in your community, or in the wider world, you see something isn't right, go out and help fix it.

"You have led us well in difficult times, always towards where we should be," he said. "You have made me, your family and all who have truly known you, proud of you. For your faith, leadership and determination...we thank God for all you have achieved."

Bishop Jane leaves her ministry as Bishop of Edmonton with "many memories and celebrations of what we have done together and in a spirit of great thanksgiving. Confirmations, ordinations,

baptisms, parish celebrations, synods, a centennial, TRC hearings, conferences, blanket exercises, learning circles - there is simply too much to mention. I am so sad that we cannot be together in person, but please know that you will always have my love, support and prayers.

"When I look back, it is the day-to-day growth of folk as disciples that has been the most exciting thing to see. Worship services, absolutely! But also messy churches, VBS programs, food programs and food banks, TYP TOP bakery, chaplaincies, the ACW, Cursillo, community gardens, Common Ground and A Common Word. It's End Poverty Edmonton, camps, intentional communities - so many ways in which we have all been finding our voice and our ministry as followers of Jesus: women and men, and boys and girls all finding ways to serve, ways to show their faith, ways to love.

"Because, at the end of the day, that's what it's all about isn't it? There is an African proverb that goes like this: 'You can't pick up a pebble with one finger.' You can't build a church with one person, either. Anything we have done, we have done together and if anyone is to be singled out – well,

it's Jesus.

"To the clergy, lay readers, lay evangelists, hospital visitors, pastoral care teams, Sunday school and youth leaders, and to every single one of you in parishes across this diocese trying to become ever more like Jesus - Thank You.

"And to my family: Tim, Mark, Sarah, Rachel, Peter, Amanda, Ryan, Graham, Jennifer, Olivia, Zoey, Ben, Jackson, Liam and Molly. To my sister Anne. Thank you for loving me through this ministry. For being so understanding of all the times I had to be away, or rush off at the drop of a hat (a pointy hat!) to be doing other things. For sharing in all the joys and concerns of episcopal ministry - Thank You, I love you to bits!"

While serving as a seminarian in the West Coast First Nations' village of Kingcombe Inlet, Bezanson said he learned there is no word for goodbye in the Kwakiutl language. Rather, the preferred and customary word is "Alakazla," meaning "until we meet again."

"Alakazla, Bishop Jane Alexander. Until we meet again! And, thank you."

<p><a href="http://www.edmonton.anglican.ca/blog/the-messenger">www.edmonton.anglican.ca/blog/the-messenger</a></p>	<p>Send to: Margaret Glidden (Edmonton) anglicanmessenger@gmail.com</p>	<p>LAYOUT &amp; DESIGN Margaret Glidden Shelly King</p>	<p>Please send donations to the Dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.</p>
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# Fruits of the Spirit flow from foundation of love



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

Welcome back to our series on the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and how these attributes are important indicators of what missional discipleship looks like. We concluded last time that love, joy, peace and patience speak to a world

that is crying out for them. That is equally true of the next of these fruits listed in Galatians 5. Let's remind ourselves again as to our key text:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23b)

Kindness is next after patience. Before we go any further, however, it's important to note that we should now be able to see a pattern emerge. We can see that each in this list builds on the foundation of the first fruit, love; and, indeed, they build on each other sequentially.

"We love because he first loved us," as John memorably and succinctly described it in his first

epistle. (1 John 4:19) God's great love and grace has reached out to us in Jesus. We have been redeemed, forgiven, justified, sanctified and chosen; "chosen to bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16)

That we should be so loved is a thing of wonder. That the Living God, the Ancient of Days, considers us worth the life of his Son, who gladly endured the cross for us and "is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters" (Hebrews 2:11), is all so amazing that it brings to us a wondrous joy! We are so loved! Wow! (I hope you have not lost that 'wow' of how special you are to God.)

From this flows peace, for all is well with us if God is with us. He has promised! "Never will I leave you;

never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5) The Living God walks with you in every moment.

I know that many of us feel uneasy when we are reminded of the great love God has for us. None of us considers ourselves worthy. Yet, to hold on to a sense of unworthiness is to refuse to see ourselves as God sees us. We find that hard to do, particularly when we are not growing as quickly as we think we should. But God is patient with us because patience flows from love. Indeed, there are a number of verses that directly link patience and love together. Perhaps the most direct is 1 Corinthians 13:4: "Love is patient. Love is kind."

Joy flows from knowing we are loved. Peace accompanies that joy for we

know all is well and we are reconciled to God. Patience flows from our God to us in our ongoing walk with him as by his grace we are transformed more and more into the likeness of his Son.

God is patient, and God is kind. That, too, is an expression of the nature of our God who is love. And as we experience and remember God's patience and kindness with us, we are enabled to be patient and kind with those in our lives who need to see Jesus in us. We don't manufacture it ourselves. It grows as fruit on a branch that is fed by the Vine.

More on kindness next time.

With every blessing in all your endeavours in His name.

*Richard*

## Thanksgiving may be our best motivation for sacrifice



The Ven. TERRY LEER  
Executive Archdeacon  
Diocese of Athabasca

Since Easter the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) has been bombarding the faithful with stories of the early Church as it worked to apply the two Great Commandments: love

God with all that you are, and love other people in a parallel way. The faithful, said Jesus, are to love each other even to the point of personal sacrifice and death. We are to demonstrate our love for God by meaningful and tangible sacrifices for other people. In personal sacrifice and tangible love we proclaim the salvation of Christ. That's the consistent lesson of the RCL from Easter to today.

Honestly, all those sermons about "death to self" (as in a grain of wheat) and giving up one's life for one's friends can be frightfully heavy, sombre and weighty with implications. And however true and well written those

sermons might be, they don't really tend to motivate people. Does "take up your cross and follow me" really propel people into making sacrifices for others?

It occurred to me that "greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends" is really a sombre translation of thanksgiving and generosity. Sacrifice on behalf of others is just a tool to say thank you to God and to demonstrate God's generosity to others. I think thanksgiving and generosity can motivate disciples to meaningful and tangible acts of love.

Thanksgiving to God is an acknowledgement of having received from God.

We have received from God life and the power to love. We have received our abilities (not our training) to work and achieve. Time and opportunity are two of his greatest gifts to us. And then he capped it all off with sanctification and salvation. Knowing what we have received, our primary response to him must be thanksgiving.

Generosity is an inevitable expression of thanksgiving. Our God is by nature divinely generous. He always gives us more than we need and more than we can use—more than we can ask or imagine. He gives us more than enough sanctification and salvation. His over-abundant gifts

must flow out to others in generous abundance.

That abundant overflow must be practical and tangible if it is to be meaningful. Our thanksgiving must be as practical as God's gifts. Our generosity to others must reflect God's generosity to us. The chief sign and demonstration of God's generosity is Jesus Christ, his life, death and resurrection.

So it is that Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for one's friends." This is his expression of thanksgiving and generosity. This is what the RCL has been trying to tell us all along.



Have you downloaded the church app yet?

Check out the Anglican Diocese of Athabasca church app and download for free.  
<https://tithely.app.link/anglican-diocese-of-athabasca>

## Athabasca Diocese Virtual Worship Resources and Opportunities

For access to online services, both mid-week and on Sunday, please visit the diocesan website at [www.athdio.ca](http://www.athdio.ca) or one of the following parish websites:

- [www.stjamespr.org](http://www.stjamespr.org)
- [www.christchurchanglicangp.org](http://www.christchurchanglicangp.org)
- [www.sttom.ca](http://www.sttom.ca)
- [www.allsaintsanglican.ca](http://www.allsaintsanglican.ca)
- [www.parishnorthernlights.org](http://www.parishnorthernlights.org)



Or, search Facebook.com for:

- The Diocese of Athabasca
- St. James Cathedral
- St. Mark's High Prairie
- St. Thomas Fort McMurray
- Christ Church Grande Prairie
- St. Anne's Church Valleyview
- All Saints Church Fort McMurray
- St. Peters Church Slave Lake
- Anglican Church of Athabasca
- St. Helen's Anglican Church
- St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

# It's a beautiful day to reach out to our neighbours

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

Throughout the season of Easter, the Anglican Parish of Christ Church explored the themes of justice, sabbath, love, neighbourliness, diversity, and faith using the example of the life and faith of Fred Rogers.

Through weekly Sunday worship and mid-week lessons on the parish YouTube channel, as well as a podcast learning series offered on the parish website, the Christ Church community explored Mister Rogers', and Jesus', message of love and being a neighbour to everyone.

"Being a good neighbour is not only something for the church to recognise as an institution. It's part of our individual callings as Christians," says Christ Church rector the Rev. Susan Oliver. "We are called to love our neighbours as ourselves, and, as Jesus did, to love and accept people 'just the way they are.'"

On Sunday mornings, Rev. Sue greeted families watching at home as Mrs. Rogers. She slipped on a comfy pair of shoes and chose a colourful cardigan

sweater to match her mood from a coat rack placed between the empty choir stalls (in amongst a rug, plants and cozy bench). She would talk to the children (often her own children Amelia and Simon would join her) about how they and others were feeling inside. Then Madame McFeely would pop by with a singing telegram and her guitar to sing a song like "I'm Taking Good Care of You."

Guest preachers like Dr. Stephen Martin (also Sue's husband) and lay evangelist Dr. Alison Hurlburt were invited to the worship/film space to share their views and the Bible's message through scripture readings and sermons about people, helpers, stories and being



Graphic by Anna Schroeder



Rev. Sue greets virtual participants as "Mrs. Rogers."

sad, mad and glad in the neighbourhood.

Oliver recalls going to see the documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbour* and leaving the theatre overcome with tears, hope and a deep desire to quite simply be "more like Mister Rogers," an ordained Presbyterian minister and children's

"All of us, at some time or other, need help... That's one of the things that connects us as neighbours. In our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."  
Fred Rogers

TV icon, whose quiet faith imbued his television show.

"In a world that has become increasingly polarised and divided, it seems fitting to encourage each other to not only know our neighbour, but reach out in love to them," she says. "Even though Mister

Rogers was a children's entertainer, the themes he explored on his show were never shallow or simplistic. He practiced radical hospitality and helped build supportive communities,

challenged racism and found a healthy outlet for anger. It's not difficult to find these same themes in the Bible!"

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, for some a time of tremendous loneliness and social isolation, Christ Church has connected with its

neighbours through socially-distanced, summer garden concerts, making snacks and lunches for vulnerable children, providing a monthly dinner for Prayerworks ministry, and delivering Christmas meals to seniors.

Oliver, who is the Edmonton diocese's Canon for Children and Family Ministries, says the parish aims through scripture and discussion to encourage people to continue to expand their view of what it means to be a good neighbour in 2021. As a final part of the Mister Rogers series, the parish has also planned a virtual gathering to share their learning and meet their neighbours.

"So many of us have found comfort in the gracious welcome Mister Rogers offered to us as children. Having experienced that grace through his good example, we know how important it is to offer that same welcome to others," she says.

## Rural Communities Invite Diocese on Summer Adventure

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

In May, the Rev. Chelsy Bouwman, Canon Pastor for Rural Ministry in the Edmonton diocese, invited families to join her on a summer-time Rural Road Trip Adventure.

"It's no secret," she said across the Rural Ministry Initiative's social media accounts and on the diocesan website, "we are heading into our second pandemic summer, and many of us will be planning adventures closer to home. What better time to hit the open road for a day trip to rural communities across the Edmonton diocese?"

"Where we live is a part of our story, and it's

a story that deserves to be shared," she says. "We all love to share the history and attractions of the places we call home to visitors."

Rev. Chelsy and her family love to take day trips around the province. When camping in the summer they plan their destinations based on attractions they want to see.

"We usually pack a picnic lunch and hit the road. We're never in a hurry. We are happy to be together and to make

memories on these random day trips."

Through her ministry, Bouwman is working to connect rural parishes which are isolated geographically. Each week she posts the address and description of one or two rural church

communities, prompting viewers to pack up the family vehicle and head out on a road-trip adventure. To lessen the workload of planning a day trip (deciding where to go, when to leave, what to see, what to pack), which can sometimes be a

turn off, Bouwman shares attractions recommended by community members.

"I wanted to feature rural parishes and communities in a fun way so people might be inclined to venture outside their own community," she says. "It gives our rural folk an opportunity to share what they love about their community with others." Followers of @countryroadsyeg on Instagram and the Rural Ministry Facebook Page can fill in a Road Trip BINGO Card, and post selfies as they visit featured churches. Families are encouraged to safely visit recommended attractions while making their own memories.



# Approaching 100, retired priest recalls 'fascinating life'

The Rev. JOANNE WEBSTER  
Spiritual Care Chaplain  
and  
CATHERINE BANGEL  
Canterbury Foundation

**B**asking in the sun, sitting in his easy chair looking out the window of Canterbury Court, is where you'll often find the Rev. George Brant -- who is known to many as Father Harry.

Father Harry is a man of great intelligence, a speaker of many languages and a lover of all things musical. While he loves the traditions within an Anglican service of chanting and music, he is equally comfortable with the less traditional -- having interfaith dialogues and meeting with people of all walks of life and beliefs.

Father Harry was born in 1921, in England. His parents who had met and married in Saskatoon, found England stifling, so they returned to the wide-open, blue skies of the Canadian prairies, where Harry grew up.

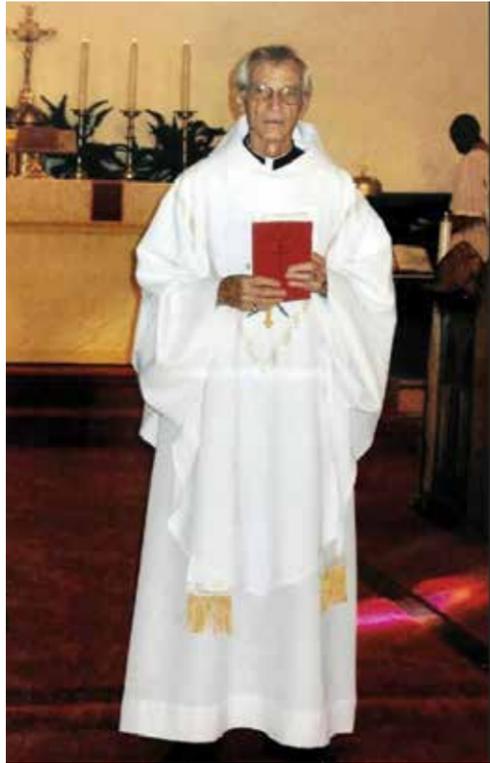
The family lived in many Saskatchewan small towns. Harry, one of five siblings, studied music and learned French. As an accomplished pianist, he and his sister Alice would perform together at dances. She would sing; he would play. Alice adored her brother Harry, and he loved her. In fact, when it came time to move back to Canada, he moved to Canterbury Foundation because Alice, his sister, was also there. Alice died a year ago, at the age of 96. Harry is the last remaining sibling in his immediate family.

Today at age 99, Father Harry mostly misses the sounds of music; he has complete hearing loss and is unable to hear services and the music that accompanies. This is one of the hardest things for Father Harry now in his later years.

Father Harry studied theology at Immanuel College in Saskatchewan and, in 1944, he was ordained a deacon at All Saints' Cathedral in Edmonton. The then-Bishop would not ordain him to priesthood for some time because he felt he looked too young. Even now, people often do not think Father Harry looks his 99 years of age.

Father Harry held the position of curate at the cathedral and then went back to seminary to study Church History and Apologetics.

After his father's death, he accepted a call to serve in Telford, New Jersey, about an hour from Manhattan. Father Harry loved his time in the United States, but the



Pictured clockwise from above: Fr. Harry serves as priest in New Jersey; Fr. Harry with Bishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador; Fr. Harry pictured more recently in his home at Canterbury Court in Edmonton.

place he speaks most fondly of is Mexico.

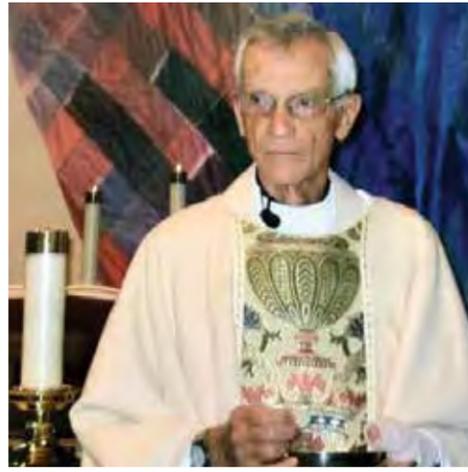
"I had so many happy memories of working in Mexico," says Father Harry. "Learning about the people and their lives. Sitting down with people in whatever situation people found themselves to be in and to listen to them. It is so hard to have lost all hearing now."

Father Harry moved from New Jersey to Mexico City in 1970 and used his knowledge of Spanish for ministry in the cities of Monterey and Chihuahua. He also served in English-speaking parishes there.

In 1984 Father Harry traveled to El Salvador where he spent time with Bishop Oscar Romero and assisted him in Catholic services. Not long after the photo above was taken, Bishop Romero was assassinated. It was one of the most notorious crimes of the cold war.

From Mexico, Father Harry returned to the U.S. and became rector of the parish of St. James in Hackettstown, New Jersey. For 15 years, he continued ministry in both Spanish and English, retiring in the 1990s. During retirement, he continued to travel the world teaching English.

Through the Global Volunteers



program, Father Harry traveled to Reymontaawka, Poland, in 1995, Xian, China, in 1998, and to Queretero, Mexico, in 1999, to teach English.

When you ask Father Harry what he thinks his greatest contribution to the church was he says, "I think it is my gift of language and breaking down barriers."

Through Elder Hostel, a scholarly educational adventures company, Father Harry went to the Centre for Cross Cultural Study in Cuba, in 2000.

At the age of 97, Father Harry moved from New Jersey to Canterbury Foundation, a seniors' continuing care center in west Edmonton, to be near his family. His children live here in Edmonton. While he says it was hard to move at

that stage in life, and he very much misses his Anglo-Catholic parish in the U.S., he is grateful for his family's support.

Now at Canterbury, Father Harry likes the community feel. He eats meals together with the many residents in the Court Dining Room and enjoys walking in the outside courtyard. He prays the daily offices each day and meets privately with Canterbury's spiritual care chaplain.

He is happy that other residents have the availability of the chapel especially now, during the pandemic.

His advice for those during this challenging time in our history is, "While it is hard to be separated from family, we are all in this together, we are not alone. We have each other and we have God. Maybe God is in all the

knowledge we gain, and in helping us to solve the difficulty, (through science). God is in the midst of us."

Father Harry often says he is still planning to go back to university. What he means is, upon his death he will donate his body to the University of Alberta for medical research. His brother was a doctor and Harry was so inspired by his work that he wishes to give the gift of his body.

For a man so well traveled, so well versed in languages and so inspired by the world's teachings, Father Harry has had a full life.

When asked to look back and reflect on his life, Father Harry simply says, "I have had a fascinating life."

*Article supplied by Canterbury Foundation.*

*Canterbury has delivered the promise of home to Edmonton seniors since 1974. Please visit [canterburyfoundation.com](http://canterburyfoundation.com) for more information.*

Love My Neighbour  
Aime mon prochain

**Gift 1 Vaccine Forward!**

Join Canadians across the country and gift 1 vaccine to a global neighbour for \$25. Let's supply 38 million vaccines and write the pandemic ending together.

lovelyneighbourproject.org #GiftaVax unicef CANADA

Photograph: © UNICEF/Cesar

# PWRDF helping fathers support families through crisis

June is the month to celebrate fathers, and as I think of mine, I remember growing up believing my dad could do anything. If he didn't know how, he would get a library book (this was pre-Google) and learn. At a time when there were meagre funds available, our large family always had food on the table, and through his creativity, whatever else was needed. I think his "can-do attitude" was the result of two attributes: he wasn't afraid to try and he was quite stubborn!

Unfortunately, these character traits don't guarantee success for all fathers, and many families aren't as fortunate as we were.

If you have fled your home because of conflict and are living in an overcrowded refugee camp relying on food aid to keep your family alive, no amount of positive attitude is going to relieve your circumstances.

Likewise, when frequent and disastrous weather events have washed away a father's family farm and future, he is left with few resources to succeed.

All over the world today there are fathers who would give anything for the opportunity to feed and support their families, but they aren't



DOROTHY MARSHALL  
PWRDF Representative  
Diocese of Edmonton

given the chance. Even their best efforts are not enough without your support.

On your behalf, as our Canadian Anglican relief and development agency, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) works with partners to support many projects which enable both fathers and mothers to feed

their families.

One father who is benefitting from our work is Halefom Gebriel. Last fall a longstanding disagreement between the state of Tigray and the Ethiopian government lead to armed conflict, which forced residents to flee their homes. Halefom fled with his wife Neguesti and their four children to a safer area. Since then, the region has descended into chaos with 4.5 million people displaced from their homes and in need of humanitarian assistance.

Neguesti and Halefom used to be farmers. They worked two hectares of land growing sorghum and sesame and earned a decent income to feed their family. The night they finally decided to leave, their house and crops were burnt to the ground. They fled only with the clothes on their backs.

With no government support, they have been living off the



Young mothers congregate in a displacement camp in Ayder, Ethiopia.

generosity of local people and local churches who continue to carry the brunt of the emergency response.

PWRDF is now working with our partner, Lutheran World Relief, who are active in the area. LWF Ethiopia has been providing emergency distribution of food and cash to displaced families and vulnerable host communities. They have also been advocating for the government to resume delivery of subsidized commodities, prioritizing nutrition for pregnant and lactating women. As a lactating mom, Neguesti has also been receiving nutritional supplements through this appeal.

As you remember your father this month, please also remember the work of PWRDF supporting other fathers. You could give a gift

in your dad's honour to support those less fortunate fathers and their families who suffer through no fault of their own. They must rely on our generosity to survive. We, who have been so blessed, have the ability to bless others; to give a gift that will feed families, a gift that will sustain life!

You can specifically support the appeal in Ethiopia by donating to PWRDF. Visit [pwrdf.org/give-today](http://pwrdf.org/give-today) and choose Emergency Response. Then indicate Ethiopia in the notes section.

If you would like to learn more about the relief and development work of PWRDF, please check out our website at [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org) or contact me, Dorothy Marshall, your Diocese of Edmonton representative at [pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca](mailto:pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca).

## Reconciliation team leads Red Dress memorial event

FIONA BROWNLEE  
Immanuel, Wetaskiwin  
Reconciliation Team

Communities all across the diocese found different ways to remember and honour the murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people (MMIWG2S) in May. Many posted on social media to bring attention to this important issue.

The Reconciliation Team of Immanuel, Wetaskiwin placed red dresses and educational information in two of the city's parks during the week of May 1 to May 8. Gloria Rogers, the lead on this campaign, said the team's effort was to bring the issue to the forefront of the community. It was Rogers who brought the idea to the team, and found most of the red dresses used in the installation. About 35 dresses were hung in the two parks.

On Saturday, May 1 a group of adults and children arrived in Jubilee Park to participate in a smudge, to pray together, to watch the dresses being smudged, and then to help display them in the park. The team went on to By the Lake Park to complete the installation. Along the way, people asked the team walking the trail about what they were doing, which led to lovely conversations. The team has also since noticed people stopping to observe the dresses and posting photos.

On May 5, Red Dress Day, a small group gathered at the Peace Cairn in Wetaskiwin. This cairn remembers the 1885 Peace Treaty between the Nehiwayak and the Siksikawa peoples, a significant event for both Indigenous and settler peoples in Wetaskiwin. The group was led in prayer by the Rev. Hugh Matheson, rector of Immanuel,

Wetaskiwin. Cheryl Montour, from Maskwacis, sang an honour song for the murdered and missing women, girls and two-spirit people.

Immanuel parish and its Reconciliation Team have made reconciliation the mission of the church. This work includes education, conversation and action. The team is grateful all three of these occurred during this week. It is hoped that a similar event will happen next year.



Cheryl Montour, of Maskwacis, sings an honour song for the murdered and missing women, girls and Two-Spirit people at the Peace Cairn in Wetaskiwin.

# 'Fairyland' of a book introduces *Hidden Life of Trees*

MARION BULMER  
St. Thomas', Sherwood Park

This was a wondrous fairyland of a book.

A gentle, lovely read, but fully based on scientific research on the world of trees. When I spoke with Cidra Al Saadi about what I was learning, she assured me this was what they were learning in school. She is in junior high.

At times we take pleasure walking in the woods; the beauty, shade and birds and animals amongst the trees, enjoying nature. For many of us trees are a utility we use without thinking.

But reading this book has altered my perspective. Trees are truly incredible.

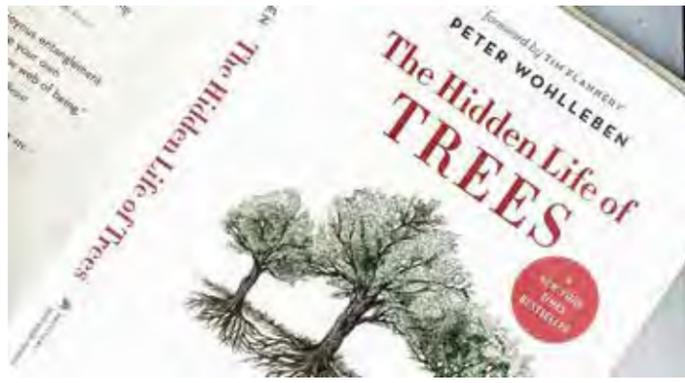
Peter Wohlleben does not suggest we do not

utilise wood. Instead, what is at issue is how we utilise, and how we live with forests.

I believe the purpose of his book is to nurture kinship and a respect for trees.

Wohlleben, a forester for many years, grew troubled by the management practices he had been taught. He was concerned about cutting down mature trees and many other practices.

Eventually, as manager of a communal forest in Germany, he was able to implement more careful practices, while at the same time teaching the general public about trees.



Trees help each other survive by sharing water and nutrients. If a tree is sick, other trees turn their attention to that tree; sometimes restoring it to good health. They forge communication with each other via fungal networks.

Trees are quite tribal: beech trees helping beech, oak trees helping oak. They will try to outstrip other varieties in height or width to force out other trees. Learning this, I

was reminded of human communities throughout the world: both the good and the bad. Where tribalism supports one community, while hurting others through

tribal attacks or exclusion. I was a bit sad to read that lone trees who are not part of a forest, are like orphans and do not fare as well as trees in a forest. I think we know, scripturally and spiritually, the lone individual without human community also fares poorly. We all need to be connected.

I read that a forest of quaking aspens called Pando, in Fish Lake,

Utah, is actually a single tree. Each of the 47,000 trees are stems springing from an underground root system. It is one genetically identical organism. Are we, somehow, one large, interconnected organism?

Like humans, trees fare best in community. I like to think through God we are all connected, and we also do better with and because of each other.

*Marion Bulmer is a member of St. Thomas' Anglican Church in Sherwood Park and an avid reader of books from a variety of genres, including memoirs, non-fiction, spirituality and theology. In her words: "my joy of reading helps bring balance to the busyness of life."*

## "Tireless champions for young people across Canadian church" - Wall

MICHELLE HAUSER  
for AFC

"We really didn't know what to expect when we launched the Say Yes! to Kids campaign," says the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC). "This is AFC's first-ever peer-to-peer fundraising effort—a new idea for an established charity—and we have been surprised and impressed by the spirit of creativity and generosity with which it has been embraced across the country."

Say Yes! to Kids is AFC's response to concerns about COVID-19's impact on young people. This national campaign is meant to have local impact by supporting champions for children, youth, and family ministry across the country as we face a post-pandemic world.

"Children have had to endure so much as a result of the pandemic," says Canon Rois, "social isolation, limited recreation, exposure to

disharmony at home, depression, sleep difficulties, and emotional struggles. Say Yes! to Kids will ensure there is money available for homework clubs, nutrition and food security, private and group tutoring, safe outdoor recreation, mental health supports, and the many other courageous and creative ministries our church has the capacity to offer."

Between online and offline donations, the campaign is nearing the \$20,000 mark of its \$100,000 goal.

"It is an ambitious target," says the Very Rev. Peter Wall, Gift Consultant for AFC. "But an achievable one. It is all that more achievable thanks to an extraordinary matching gift of \$25,000." Wall explains the matching donation will be applied to the Say Yes! to Kids peer-to-peer portal and double the efforts of online fundraisers."

In some dioceses, teams are rallying around specific ministries they hope will benefit from the

campaign.

"In our meetings across the country, we are seeing the emergence of a national story about outreach to children and youth," says Wall. "It's a story about compassion in the face of crisis. There are tireless champions for young people across the Canadian church who have been undeterred by the pandemic. They know exactly where and how new investments can be used to make an impact."

Helping to strengthen existing ministries is only one goal of the campaign.

"We are working through our network of volunteers at the diocesan level to get people thinking about pilot projects," says Wall, "and what they might do if they had some extra funding. In this way Say Yes! to Kids has the potential to both seed and sustain ministry."

Since 2011, and the launch of the Kids Helping Kids Fund, AFC has invested over \$1 Million in ministries that benefit children, youth, and young adults in Canada. Canon Rois says AFC will rely on the strength of its granting

program to quickly turnaround Say Yes! to Kids campaign proceeds by funding a Request for Proposals (RFP) for youth-focused initiatives in fall 2021.

Say Yes! to Kids launched on April 6 and will run until June 30. For more information, email [foundation@anglicanfoundation.org](mailto:foundation@anglicanfoundation.org). To join a Say Yes! to Kids fundraising team, or to make an individual donation to the campaign, visit [www.anglicanfoundation.org/kids](http://www.anglicanfoundation.org/kids).

## All Saints' Families Exchange Video Hellos



Although All Saints', Drayton Valley has been closed to in-person worship since November 2020, church members have found innovative ways to stay connected with their church and one another. At the end of each week's live-streamed service, church members share video greetings and/or words of comfort. This came about as an idea of Tammy Flett, All Saints' rector's warden. Not only have church members been featured - but also their "extended families," including their dogs, cats, and even Rev. Christopher's cockatoo.