

From the Bishop's Desk...

Community Matters!

I had the opportunity to volunteer at a local Guinness world record attempt for the longest cooking marathon for an individual. The previous record was 140 hours, 11 minutes, and 11 seconds. Zainab Oladipo, owner of Afrofusion restaurant in Kamloops goal to cook for 300 hours, cooking 95,000 dishes from 195 countries. All of the prepared dishes were given out for free or by donation to anyone who came to the restaurant, and the rest was shared with local social agencies that feed those in need. Her hope was to create community through sharing a meal. I was one of the witnesses and timekeepers on her first attempt before it stalled because of a medical issue. She had completed about 87 hours at that point. A few days later, she was given permission to try again, and as of the writing of this article, she had gone well beyond her goal (yet to be confirmed by Guinness World Record officials). An amazing achievement!

It's an incredible story and witness to what can be accomplished when you put your mind to something worthwhile and invite those around you to work on a common goal. As I sat in the Afrofusion kitchen observing and noting what was unfolding, I could not help but notice the power and impact of community. Zainab had gathered a group of friends, family, and community members together to help achieve this goal. Some were chopping and prepping food and organizing each menu's ingredients, others were busy cleaning or serving the completed dishes, while others were coordinating volunteers and tracking livestream videos. Others were there, coaching, singing, and encouraging her as she felt the waves of weariness. They made her laugh, they made sure she ate, massaged her shoulders, and never gave up on her. There was a community of support around her 24/7. She could not have done this alone.

Scripture often reminds us of the value and gift of community. We are told that we are the body of Christ, called to work together, each with our unique gifts, to support and live out the good news of the Gospel. Community matters! We cannot do it alone, and no one person should ever feel the burden of trying to do everything on their own.

Part of what draws people to Christ are the ways in which we work together, how we serve, worship and pray together. Our relationships with each other and how we make room for each other's gifts are incredibly important.

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." (Hebrews 10:24-25a, NRSV Updated Edition)

In Christ's Service,

+Clara

Bishop's Schedule September-October

September

Sept 9 – Clericus Mtg (Zoom) 3 pm

Sept 11 – Clergy Conference Planning Mtg (Zoom) 11 am

Sept 14 – 17 – Provincial School for Congregational Development Course – Whitehorse

Sept 17 – 21 – Diocese of Yukon Visit (Bishop preaching/presiding at Cathedral in Whitehorse)

Sept 18 – Administration Committee (Zoom) 7 pm

Sept 22 – 26 – Continuing Education Week

Sept 27-28 – St. Timothy 100 Mile House Visit

October

Oct 2-7 – Diocese of Montreal visit (Consecration/Installation Bishop-elect Victor-David Mbuyi Bipungu)

Oct 14 -17 – Council of General Synod (CoGS) Planning/Agenda Team in-person mtg Toronto

Oct 18 – Fraser Basin Properties Society AGM - Kamloops

Oct 19 – St. Alban's, Ashcroft Parish Visit – Confirmation Service

Oct 20-23 – Clergy Conference Sorrento Centre

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families, and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline, and Ernie Michell
- * We pray for the members of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) who were elected at Sacred Circle in August.
- * We pray for leaders around the globe that their hearts will be softened and willing to work for the common good.
- * We pray for wisdom and courage as people of faith that we will seek hope and practice hope wherever we are.
- * We pray for all who are confined by illness, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others.
- * We pray for those who are discerning a call to a vocation in the church.
- * We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East (Gaza, Israel, Iran), Ukraine, and Russia.
- * We pray for those who suffer through environmental disasters such as earthquakes, fire and floods.
- * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn. We especially pray for Andrea Drynock in the loss of her daughter, Sadie, and for the family of Archbishop David Crawley.

Alongside Hope Wild ride Fundraiser Solar Suitcase Project is on!



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Help Light the Way for Women and Babies in Mozambique and Madagascar. Imagine giving birth in the dark, with only a flashlight or cell phone for light. That's the reality for many women in rural clinics across Mozambique and Madagascar. But it doesn't have to be. Alongside Hope's Solar Suitcase project equips these clinics with solar-powered kits, bringing bright light, vital medical tools, and peace of mind. Every gift is being matched up to \$150,000, so your impact can go even further. Please give today. To learn more about the Solar Suitcase project, visit alongsidehope.org/solar-suitcase.

So far, there are three teams/individuals raising funds in the Territory, including **Bishop Clara's prayer flags** project, **St. Paul's Cathedral Kamloops WaySeekers** and **100 Mile Walkers**! Donations may be made to any team. You will find their names listed on the donation page under teams or individuals. To donate, go to: <https://alongsidehope.org/wild-ride/> Help us make a difference by offering hope and light!

Sacred Circle 2025 – Calgary Alberta

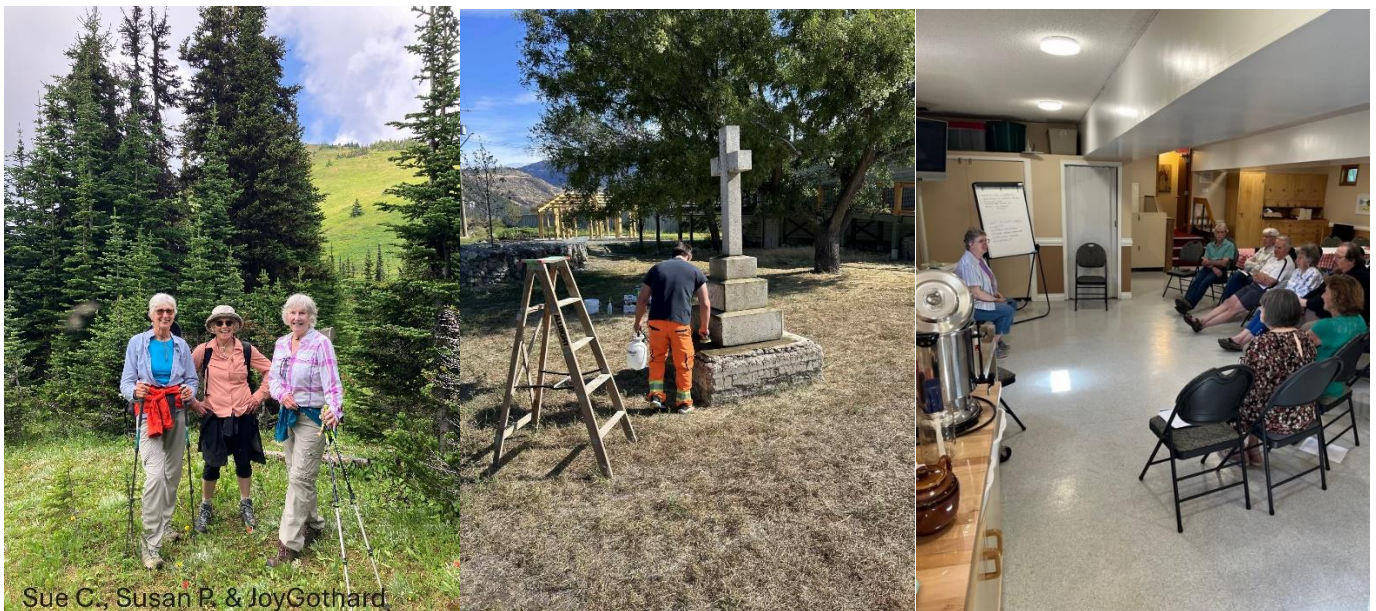
Bishop Clara and our Territory Alongside Hope Coordinator Joy Godard were given the opportunity to attend Sacred Circle, to listen, witness, and learn as Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis Anglicans gathered from across the church August 4-10th. It was acknowledged that the process to identify representation from each diocese/territory had been difficult, and that the dates for Sacred Circle had changed a couple of times.

We came away from Sacred Circle with a deeper appreciation for the depth and diversity of Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis Anglicans and how challenging it is to create a self-determining Anglican Indigenous church with the Anglican Church of Canada. Attempts were made to consider establishing multiple regions within Canada that would choose representatives to serve on the ACIP (Anglican Council of Indigenous Persons) between Sacred Circles. The current model is to elect representatives from each of the 4 Ecclesiastical Provinces. The journey to self-determination is complicated, hard work and much like giving birth. It was a privilege to witness the conversations and effort to live into this new way.

The work and discernment about a way forward continues. Non-Indigenous bishops in attendance were able to hear the concerns and challenges of working within the Anglican Church of Canada Canons, and the bishops were able to commit themselves to supporting the work of Sacred Circle and the changes that are still needed to allow for decision-making to be fully within Sacred Circle. It is hoped that at the next Sacred Circle, we will be better prepared to ensure local Indigenous Anglicans are able to attend.



IN OTHER NEWS – Photos from around the Territory



Walk for Alongside Hope at Sunpeaks, Cleaning the memorial at Lytton, The Bishop at Grace Church

For more news check our website out at <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/>