



A Sanctuary of Peace in the Heart of the City

Edmonton's Inner City Pastoral Ministry Gets New Name and Renewed Focus

STEPHANIE LONDON
Edmonton Editor

Sanctuary of Peace is an ecumenical Christian ministry of presence serving the people of the Boyle-McCauley neighbourhood in downtown Edmonton. It began in 1978 under the name "Inner City Pastoral Ministry", and is jointly sponsored by four denominations: United, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran.

In 2026, the ICPM became Sanctuary of Peace. *The Messenger* sat down with Pastors Quinn Strikwerda and Maria Kruszewski to learn about the rebranding, their ministry at Sanctuary of Peace, and some of the realities facing people they serve.

TM: How did you choose Sanctuary of Peace?

Quinn: We got some feedback from the community then it went to discernment of the board, staff, and some of the volunteers. We spent a good year thinking, praying, and discerning.

When I ask people what comes to mind when they hear *sanctuary*, they say safety, security, a haven, refuge. Sanctuary can also be a sacred place, but people always think of a safe place first. That's beautiful. We want people to feel safe. We want them to feel like they're not judged, they're not going to be asked to leave. Whatever they're wearing, what they smell like, where they come from, they're not going to be judged.

The week before last, I was coming in from the parking lot on a Saturday morning to do some photocopying. There was a guy there sitting on the ramp. He had his shoes and socks off and he was looking at the wounds on his feet. They were really bad, with open, infected sores, and frostbite on his toes. So I went in and got some antiseptic from our first aid kit,

and some wipes and bandages and I went back out.

I went up to him and he said aggressively, "What the h*** do you want?" Then when he saw the stuff in my hand, his face changed, and he goes, "I'm so sorry, man, I thought you were telling me to leave." I said, "No, we just need to look after those feet."

People out here are constantly being moved along. They're getting their tents and their stuff taken. They're always being told they're not allowed to be here. As somebody once said, it feels like it's illegal to be alive if you're a street person.

So just for the times we're with people, we really want a place where people can feel like they can relax.

Maria: We knew we had nailed it the first Sunday when we announced our name. We were talking to some women outside. And they asked, "What's going on here?" And we said, "We're here and we're the Sanctuary of Peace."

And the friend said, "Yeah, Sanctuary of Peace. That's what I need. That's what I need." Then she came in and fell asleep for the whole service and that was fine. Lots of times that's what people do because it's a safe place to have a rest. She's not going to be robbed or assaulted or told to leave for that hour.

Quinn: That's what I hope we can bring to everything we're doing: our table time, our Bible studies, our men's and women's groups. It's a place where people can come and have that sense of peace, the Jesus gifts.

The tagline is "a circle of belonging in the heart of the city", so we sent that to a graphic designer and they made our logo. There's the circle, and the four directions colours, and the cross at the centre, because we are Christian at the very core of who we are.

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BY THE NUMBERS

- 60 local congregations, parishes, faith groups, and organizations provide direct support by providing volunteers and food for lunch each Sunday at the Bissell Centre West.
- 300 guests served each Sunday
- 600,000+ meals served by 20,000 volunteers through the ICPM/Sanctuary of Peace since its founding 42 years ago.
- 12.9% of the Edmonton population was living in poverty in 2019
- 61% of people who experienced housing instability in 2020 were Indigenous, though they represent only 6% of the overall population
- 2,993 Edmontonians received housing support so far in 2026
- The 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Homelessness identified 3,709 unhoused individuals, with a high of 3,902 in 2024 and a low of 1,114 in 1999. Of those, 12% are under age 24 and 8% are over 65. Homeward Trust estimates the actual number is closer to 5,000.

Sources:
icpmedmonton.ca
Poverty Reduction & Homelessness Prevention: A Snapshot
(edmonton.ca/fcss)
homewardtrust.ca
cbc.ca
openperformance.edmonton.ca

Photos: Sanctuary of Peace
Left: the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda ready for Table Time
Right: Maria Kruszewski and a volunteer load lunch supplies



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Good Shepherd Hosts African Song Workshop

ABIEYUWA OSAMWONYI
Good Shepherd, Edmonton

The free African Song Workshop was presented at the Good Shepherd Anglican Church by Sokhana Mfenyana on Saturday, May 30, and presided over by Archdeacon Jordan Ware.

The audience was multinational and multicultural, consisting of people from various countries. It was an exciting and participatory experience. Sokhana successfully taught the audience three South African gospel songs along with the dance steps.

In beautiful cultural costume, the Ugandan choir from St. Faith's, directed by

Betty Kaahwa, gave a musical performance. They also presented the hymn 'Pass me not O gentle Saviour' in Luganda while Sokhana rendered it in Swahili. The audience sang it in English. A member of the audience also performed it in one of the Nigerian Languages. After a tea break, members of the audience performed various songs including from Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Sudan.

Sokhana concluded by teaching a popular Nigerian Song 'I just want to say, Baba o Eshe'. It was a wonderful time in the Good Shepherd Anglican Church, and it was spiritually fulfilling.

Below: Sokhana Mfenyana leads the African Song Workshop at Good Shepherd.
Below left: the Ugandan choir from St. Faith's, Edmonton

Photos: Stephanie London



In Touch editor Willa Gorman with Bishop Stephen London at the ACW Annual Event in June.

Photo: Tracey Fodchuk

ACW Updates

DIOCESAN ACW EXECUTIVE
Diocese of Edmonton

Willa Gorman has retired from being the editor of our *In Touch* newsletter. Melissa Lee and Mary Jean Locock have now retired from the Diocesan ACW Executive.

These names will be very familiar to many in our ACW chapters. They have served faithfully on our executive for a very long time. Their service, faith and hard work have been an inspiration to many. These ladies were honoured with their Life Memberships many years ago.

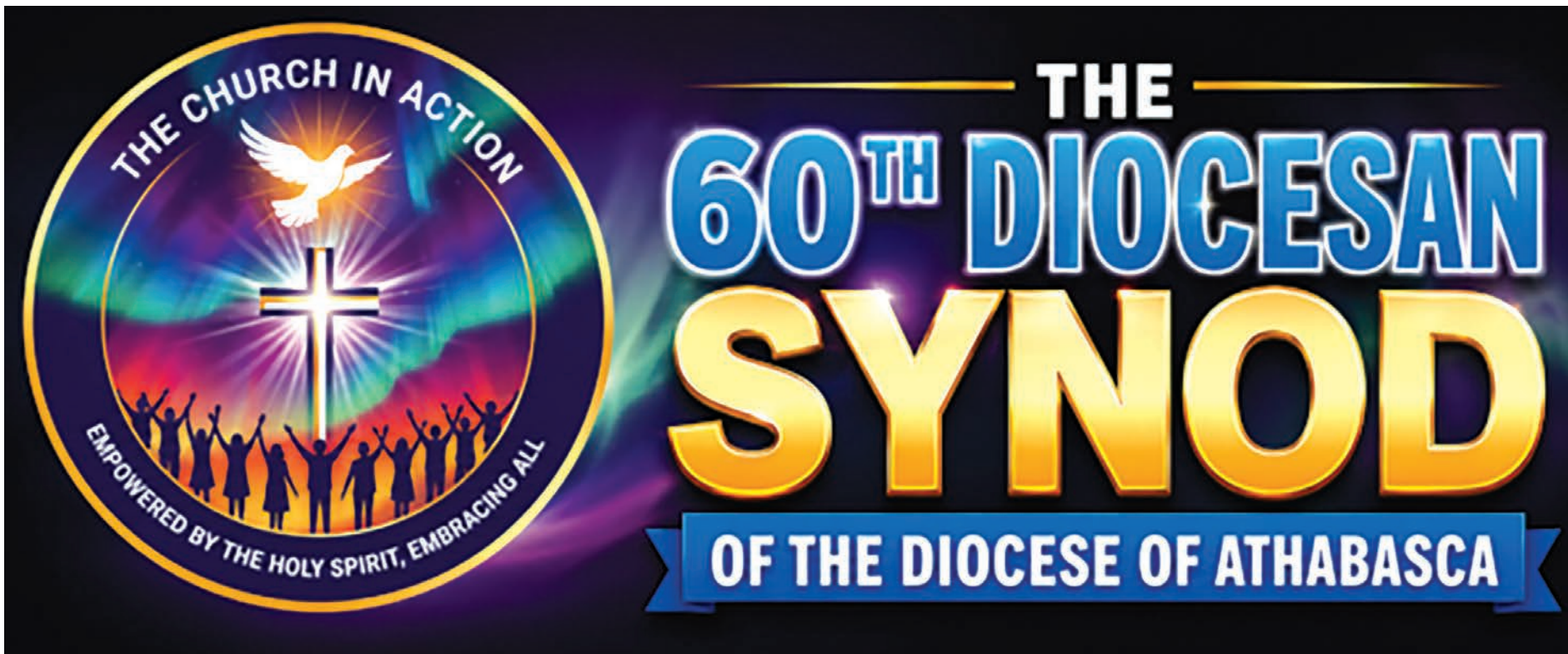
Willa Gorman was our editor for *In Touch* for over 20 years. This quarterly publication has kept all our ACW chapters together with news, updates, recipes, games, and faith-filled, loving devotions.

Melissa Lee has been responsible for the upkeep of our *Book of Remembrance*. She has been in touch with our Lone Members, ACW ladies who are in care homes. She has brought them together in remembrance and kept them in our thoughts and prayers.

Mary Jean Locock has produced our beautiful certificates given to Life Members.

There are not enough words to thank these ladies for their valuable contributions. We appreciate and recognize them for all they have done for our ACWs. Our prayers and thanksgiving go with them as they retire from the board.

Bishop Stephen London was on sabbatical in July and August, working on the Mainline Christianity Project. His column will return next month.



Structures Support the Life of the Church

This October, we will have the sixtieth Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca. I'd like to share some information about Synod from Diocese of Athabasca Best Practices, found at <https://www.athdio.ca/resources/diocesan>.

Our Diocese's structures, including Synod, exist to support the life of the Church as the body of Christ, helping its members live out Christ's mission faithfully and in good order.

Synod is the official meeting of the Diocese. *Synod* comes from the Greek *sun* (together) and *hodos* (way) to form *sunodos*, which means "together-way". The Synod is where business relating to the health and welfare of the Diocese is presented, debated, prayed over, and decisions are made to be put into action.

Synods of the Diocese of Athabasca occur at least every three years. This year, Synod will include business items, elections, our special guest speaker—the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Most Reverend Shane Parker—and three workshops: one on mission, one on healthy small churches, and one on contemplation. We will elect members of the DEC (Diocesan Executive Council), and delegates to upcoming Provincial and General (National) Synods.



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD
Diocese of Athabasca

Our ideal is not that the "bishop rules by pronouncement", but that the bishop nurtures and guides a healthy DEC. This group takes on responsibility for the overall health and nurture of the diocese, just as the bishop nurtures and guides healthy clergy who represent the bishop in doing the same for their parishes with their wardens and vestries.

The DEC is divided into three working groups: the Management Committee, the Property Committee,

and the Ministry and Mission Committee. Each committee has a chair selected by the bishop. Each September (or following Synod as appropriate) and annually thereafter, DEC members rank their working group preferences. The bishop is responsible for final committee member selection for the year. While the bishop is an advisor to all three sub committees, the bishop is not a member of them.

DEC members work hard. Their schedule includes one in-person meeting per year and nine Zoom meetings, with a break in July and August. The following are members of DEC:

- The bishop, who functions as Council Chair.
- The Diocesan Secretary, who is Vice-Chair.

- The Diocesan Chancellor
- The Diocesan Registrar
- The Executive Archdeacon
- The Diocesan Dean
- The Regional Deans
- The Diocesan Treasurer
- The Diocesan ACW Coordinator
- DEC Clergy Members (one elected from each deanery at the Diocesan Synod), as accepted by the bishop
- DEC Lay Members (three elected from each deanery at the Diocesan Synod), as accepted by the bishop
- Up to three additional members who are appointed directly by the bishop. These appointees must be diocesan members in good standing.

The DEC is ultimately responsible to the bishop. It functions on behalf of the immediately-preceding Diocesan Synod, to pursue actions which have been approved at that Synod.

All diocesan members are invited to come to our Synod. Please let the Synod Office know if you'd like to attend! While only official delegates are allowed to vote, all are welcome to participate in the workshops and hear the Primate speak. If you are a delegate, I invite you to consider letting your name stand for DEC, Provincial Synod or General Synod. See you in October!

May you be filled with blessings from Christ.

+ David

Official Notice of Diocesan Synod, 2026
October 15 - 18, 2026 - Peace River, Alberta

Register now
Please secure your accommodations as soon as possible. All are welcome. Please let the synod office know if you plan to attend and are not a delegate. There is a form to fill out if you wish to share meals with the delegates. Registration Forms and Fees due to Synod Office by **September 1, 2026**.

We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories and book reviews (max 500 words), event notices and high resolution photos (min 1 MB, 200 dpi) Submissions are due one month prior to the issue for which they are intended. The next deadline is September 8 for the October 2026 issue.	CONTACT Stephanie London (Edmonton Editor) anglicanmessenger@gmail.com Peter Clarke (Athabasca Editor) seens@telus.net LAYOUT & DESIGN Stephanie London A \$15 annual donation is suggested. Please send donations to the dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.	<i>The Messenger</i> is published under the authority of the Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton. Opinions expressed in <i>The Messenger</i> are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. <i>The Messenger</i> is a section of the Anglican Journal, printed 10 times a year (no issues July and August) by KT Web Printing, 287 Bridgeland Ave Toronto M6A 1Z6 Mailed by Elite Bindery and Mailing Services, 1860 Midland Ave, Scarborough ON M1P 5A1. The publishers and editorial staff	of <i>The Messenger</i> value honest, transparent and respectful communication. We seek to provide encouragement and inspiration to all who are building loving, inclusive, Christ-centered communities. We respect the dignity of every human being, endeavouring to lift the voices of people who are marginalised. We are committed to the quality of our content and reserve the right to edit all contributed material. We immediately correct factual errors. To report an error, please email anglicanmessenger@gmail.com.
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Sanctuary of Peace, continued

Ministry at Sanctuary of Peace

Sunday is the main worship service of the Community of Emmanuel at Sanctuary of Peace. Because the building is shared, they have to set up the worship space each week. Soon, volunteers from local congregations and community groups arrive with lunch.

They have sixty cups of coffee ready when doors open at 8:45, or earlier if it's cold or rainy. Maria and a small group of musicians play as the community gathers. The service rotates among Communion, Morning Prayer, and Standing Stones led by elder Verna Fisher. After the service, everyone moves outside for lunch, where community members who don't attend church or haven't found room inside are waiting.

During the week, ministry continues in many ways. On Tuesdays, they set up a table outside to visit and hand out food. Because of high levels of illiteracy in the congregation, they study the Bible through movies and videos on Thursday mornings.

Sanctuary of Peace hosts a men's group and a women's group each month to provide an opportunity for deeper conversation and listening. "It's beautiful," Quinn reflects, "Everybody gets a chance to talk. Sometimes folks don't have much chance to talk when people will actually listen to them. Sometimes guys go on a little bit. They don't always make a lot of sense. But everyone is patient."

Through a partnership with the Star of the North retreat centre in St. Albert, they offer men's and women's retreat weekends each year. The events are popular. Maria says, "When I say I'm handing out the application forms, everyone shows up. When I say bring your application form back, they all show up.

Everyone wants to be at this weekend because it's really special. They get to stay in their own room with nice little gift packages waiting for them. We have workshops where they can do crafts or yoga or circle dancing. Last year, we had a limo driver bring some of the women from the West End. They felt like the queen!"

Outside scheduled events, the rest of the week is filled with meetings, pastoral visits, house blessings, funerals and memorials, advocacy, distributing food vouchers, and responding to the many needs that arise.

"For us to be out front there, and just to help with a pair of underwear or water or a snack, sometimes you don't feel like you're doing much, but those little acts can go a long way."

- Quinn Strikwerda

Complex Issues

Ministry at Sanctuary of Peace brings staff and volunteers face-to-face with the effects of economic and social inequality, government policies, rising prices, and the opioid epidemic.

Homelessness is complex and requires a multi-dimensional response. Alongside their spiritual work, Quinn and Maria both volunteer for the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (www.ecohh.ca) as a way to advocate for policy change.

Quinn stresses that housing is not a privilege, but a human right and a necessity: "It doesn't matter whether people are strung out on drugs or not. House them."

Every day, he witnesses the desperate need for more social housing, which is accessible, capped at 30% of residents' income, and includes wrap-around services. "It's no accident that we've been around for 40 years," Quinn observes, "Because that was when the federal government stopped funding social housing, so the stock has been getting older. It's crumbling and falling apart. No one is fixing it or building more."

The need far surpasses available funding and infrastructure. The waiting list for existing social housing is years long. Every nonprofit working to address these needs is at capacity. Maria adds, "A couple of churches have stopped bringing lunches here because they're starting to see the need in their own little towns. The need is spreading."

At the same time, the supply of street drugs has become exponentially more toxic. Unhoused people have higher rates of mental illness. Once someone loses access to a home, the road back is nearly impossible to navigate. At the Sanctuary of Peace relaunch party in May, a congregation member described the anger he encounters every day. Quinn agrees. "It's just so frustrating for people. You don't want me to be homeless, but there's nowhere for me to live. So I'm homeless but it's illegal to be homeless. There's no way forward." Maria adds, "We remembered 349 people at our homeless memorial in June here for last year. I hate to think what 2026 will be like with the loss of safe consumption sites."

Sanctuary of Peace's website asks, "Do you see me? Do you hear my voice when the world does not? Love me. Pray for me. Be the hands and feet of Jesus to me." For 42 years, Sanctuary of Peace has done just that.

How to Support the Ministry of Sanctuary of Peace

Donate

The Deacons of the Diocese of Edmonton are hosting an outreach table at this year's Synod to collect items for the Sanctuary of Peace. You can bring donations to All Saints' Cathedral on Friday, October 23. Please encourage your congregation to participate.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)

The Sanctuary of Peace list of winter needs:

- Men's and women's gloves or mittens
 - Toques in black or grey
 - Men's and women's long underwear
 - 'Hot Shots' or other warming inserts for boots and gloves
- We ask for items to be sent in muted shades of grey or black as much as possible, as that is the preference of our friends on the street. Please try to avoid brightly coloured knit items.

Give

In addition to staff, program, and facility expenses, Sanctuary of Peace keeps supplies on hand to fill immediate needs. Weekly outreach mornings cost between \$150 and \$250, which goes towards snacks, bottled water, socks, underwear, and hygiene items. Sanctuary of Peace can also receive donated items and supplies, but it's important to **contact them first** to find out what they can use.

Serve

Many Diocese of Edmonton churches already provide Sunday lunches at Sanctuary of Peace. Please sign up when it's your parish's turn. Congregations prepare sandwiches and pack lunch bags with nutritious foods, then deliver them on Sunday morning and help serve. If your congregation does not yet participate, contact Sanctuary of Peace to sign up, or join an existing team. They also always need people who can volunteer on short notice if a congregation doesn't have enough people or something falls through.

Learn & Advocate

Misconceptions and stereotypes influence our communities' attitudes toward housing and homelessness. Many of the organizations below include links to current research, learning materials, and volunteer opportunities on their websites. Visit the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ecohh.ca), the Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network (womenshomelessness.ca), the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (caeh.ca/vision-mission/), or Social Housing & Human Rights (www.moresocialhousing.ca/about-us/). When you vote, consider the impact of government decisions on your unhoused neighbours.



Greetings from the Diocese of Ibba

Athabasca's Partner Diocese Holds Peace & Reconciliation Event

The Diocese of Athabasca has been involved with the Episcopal Diocese of Ibba in South Sudan for many years. Bishop Kamani the diocesan in Ibba attended the Diocese of Athabasca Synod in 2017, and we have been in regular contact since then. Last year we managed to send 16 bicycles to Ibba for the ladies to use when they tour the Archdeaconeries doing their ministry. This is the latest news from Ibba.

Greetings and happy Sunday to you, Mama Benita and all Christians. By God's grace, despite the difficult economic crisis in our country, we are thankful to God for His grace, ceaseless love and relative peace we experience in Ibba. Our plan and prayer is to share the relative we have with the other ten counties

in our State. Our annual peace and reconciliation program every January that draws young people (footballers, Church choirs) politicians, Church leaders, chiefs, organized forces makes our unity, our effort to ensure that our County remains calm and viable. Therefore, as we approach January, I write to invite prayers from our partners and well-wishers. Practical supports will also be appreciated. Here are some photos from last peace and reconciliation in which 10 counties participated. I am glad to say, other Counties and dioceses are happy with this strategy and they are trying to emulate it. May God bless you all

The Rt Rev. Dr. Wilson E. Kamani
The Episcopal Diocese of Ibba
Western Equatoria Internal Province



The Diocese of Ibba gathers participants from ten counties in South Sudan for its annual peace and reconciliation program.
Photos: Diocese of Ibba



St. Helen's: an Oasis in Fairview

PETER CLARKE
Athabasca Editor

Bishop David Greenwood had the joy of leading worship with the congregation of St. Helen's, Fairview, on Sunday, July 26, 2026.

St. Helen's is a unique parish, located in the Fairview mall across from the Food Bank. Each week, when the Food Bank is open, the congregation offers an outreach ministry by handing out water, providing a quiet and safe place for people to rest and talk, and often listening to those who need to share or offering music for comfort and encouragement.

Following the worship service, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of pulled pork sandwiches prepared by members of the congregation, along with desserts from the neighboring Bootstrap Bakery. The Bishop spent time visiting with parishioners and friends over lunch.

It was especially meaningful to worship with the congregation, as the Bishop had been forced to cancel his previous visit because of a severe snowstorm. In fact, it was the only occasion on which he has ever had to cancel a service due to dangerous travel conditions.

New Season for Diocese of Edmonton Children's Choir

STEPHANIE LONDON
Edmonton Editor
with files from
the Anglican Foundation of Canada

The Diocese of Edmonton Children's Choir is beginning its fourth season this month. The choir offers opportunities for children and youth in grades two and above to learn choral music. They participate in church services and special liturgical events throughout the diocese and in the community.

The choir launched in September 2022 and is supported by a "Say Yes! to Kids" grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada. Its conductor, Laura Hawley, has extensive experience leading children's choirs in the Anglican faith tradition and choral conducting.

There is no cost to join the choir, which rehearses on Wednesday evenings, 5:15 to 6:15 pm, at Christ Church, 12116 - 102 Ave, Edmonton. To register, visit <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/pages/diocesan-childrens-choir>.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada exists to support ministries of the Anglican Church, equipping communities for transformative ministry. In 2026, 24 fundraising teams from across the Anglican Church of Canada raised \$165,000 in support of local ministries with children, youth, and young adults. The Diocese of Edmonton Children's Choir is grateful for the ongoing support of the Say Yes! to Kids campaign.

Do you have a ministry idea? The Anglican Foundation has announced its 2026 Request for Proposals: *Community Bridge-Building and Crisis Response*. Between September 1 and October 1, your congregation or ministry can apply for funding in one of the following categories: new or emerging initiatives beginning local responses to urgent community needs; or established ministries ready to deepen impact, expand partnerships, or scale successful models. This year's theme welcomes initiatives such as homelessness response, food insecurity programs, addiction and mental health supports, community

bridge-building and neighbourhood tensions, volunteer training, Indigenous-led or culturally grounded approaches, reintegration and belonging initiatives, and safety improvements that enable sustainable community ministry.

For more information about the Anglican Foundation of Canada, visit anglicanfoundation.org.



Messy Church at St. Andrew's, Camrose

A Joyful Pentecost Celebration

ILONA BEVAN
Children's Discipleship Animator
Diocese of Edmonton

Come on in — we're glad you're here." This simple welcome set the tone as families entered St. Andrew's Camrose for a Pentecost-themed Messy Church gathering. From the moment I arrived, I was struck by the warmth of the space, captured in thoughtful details—a vase of fresh purple lilacs and soft music playing—making it feel less like an event and more like stepping into a community already in motion.

Children and caregivers moved freely between hands-on activity stations, shaping dough into doves, creating colourful pinwheels, blow-painting fire colours, and decorating flame headbands. There was laughter, focus, and a gentle rhythm of shared work. A sensory station invited playful exploration, while a candlelit prayer corner quietly encouraged participants to name the "helpers" in their lives. Naomi Pattison-Williams has been deeply involved in Messy Church since its launch at St. Andrew's in December of 2024 and notes how far reaching its benefits are:

"The volunteers (in the craft area and the kitchen) always comment on what a joyful experience it is, and how much they enjoy being involved which feels like a testament to the fact that it is an energising thing for the Sunday congregation members too. A true gift for everyone involved!"
– Volunteer

What stood out most to me was the sense of ease among everyone present. There was no rush, no pressure—just a natural flow of participation. Caregivers, children,

and volunteers seemed equally at home, each contributing in their own way. It was a reminder that faith formation can happen most powerfully in spaces where people feel welcome, relaxed, and free to engage.

A highlight of the afternoon was a joyful procession into the sanctuary, led by a father playing violin. As we gathered, the story of Pentecost and a song were shared in an interactive and accessible way. When the children blew into their balloons to represent the wind of the Holy Spirit, the moment felt both playful and meaningful—a glimpse of how play and spirituality can exist side by side. The warmth and accessibility of Messy Church at St. Andrews not only extends to different generations, but also to those with learning disabilities.

"I love that Messy Church is so intergenerational, and I equally love that children and adults with various cognitive abilities feel welcome to attend and participate... especially those from the community who faithfully attend Messy Church but nowhere else."
– The Rev. Christa Eisbrenner, Rector.

As we returned to the hall, the space had transformed once again, with tables set for a shared barbecue meal. This final transition felt fitting. The entire experience reflected the spirit of Pentecost itself: movement, connection, and the bringing together of people in joyful, living community.

Benefits of Messy Church:

- Creates space for families with children of different ages, abilities, to connect and participate together while

engaging in meaningful, hands-on activities

- Offers a flexible, inclusive, and welcoming environment where caregivers and participants can move freely—even with babies in their arms
- Provides a fun, low-pressure setting for worship and faith exploration, allowing families to participate without expectations or the need to separate from their children
- Opportunities for fostering personal connections

Messy Church might be a good fit if your church...

- Values hospitality and sees shared meals as an important part of community life
- Seeks to foster genuine intergenerational relationships
- Would benefit from the ready-to-use resources, training, and support offered by Messy Church Canada
- Is looking to build connections with families across the wider community and/or collaborate with neighbouring churches
- Wish to foster trusting relationships, worship, and faith explorations that can accommodate a variety of cognitive needs and abilities in a consistent and intentional manner.

Are you proud of what your church is doing to foster connection between generations? Curious to try an idea more suited to your specific context? Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at ilona@edmonton.anglican.ca. I'd love to hear from you.



Photo: Ihnatsi Yfull on Unsplash

Adrian's Basket Continues Legacy of Generosity

JANE PIERCY-BALLARD
St. Columba, Beaumont

For many years, St. Columba Church in Beaumont had a food bank donation basket that occasionally would be full. Our priest at the time was the Rev. Stephanie London. After the death of her father Adrian, she told us of his amazing generosity,

holding pancake breakfasts for the neighbours, and always serving others in need. The congregation was so inspired by his generous spirit they decided to dedicate the basket in his memory and thus Adrian's basket was born. The basket now overflows every month with supplies for the foodbank.

Editor's note: Adrian was my father. When he died suddenly mowing his lawn last spring, every neighbour who saw the ambulance and stopped by spoke about his generosity. Some told us about the baking he'd bought that morning and left in their mailboxes. Others reflected on the friendships they'd formed at his pancake breakfasts, when he delivered invitations up and down the neighbouring streets and invited everyone over for the meal he cooked best. He quietly kept in touch with people who were sick or widowed. He walked around his block several times each day and prayed for his neighbours. He volunteered and gave so much that the CRA regularly audited him. He lived with intentional simplicity so he could free up his time and treasure for the work of the Kingdom of God. Adrian had a biblical reason for everything. I think he would have reminded us of God's command not to reap all the way to the edges of your field (or your income) so that you can "leave some for the poor and for the foreigner residing among you" (Leviticus 23:22).



Do you want to start your own Adrian's Basket? All you need is a basket, a sign, an announcement at church, and someone to bring the donations to the food bank. Photos: Jane Piercy-Ballard (above); Stephanie London (left)



Help Seniors in Buyé Access Medical Care

STEPHANIE LONDON
Edmonton Editor

Since 2018, parishes across the Diocese of Edmonton have collected donations at coffee hours in September to purchase medical cards for seniors in our partner diocese. Each \$5 card offers a full year of access to medical care. It covers 80% of costs for the bearer and all minor children in her household. Many of the recipients are grandmothers caring for grandchildren whose parents have died. They are often subsistence farmers who must choose between medical care and food for their households. The Diocese of Buyé has identified access to medical

cards as the most pressing need in the regions they serve. Because of the economic disparity between Canada and Burundi, the difference in cost of living, and the value of our currencies, the money we would spend on a bunch of bananas or a loaf of bread is life-changing for our sisters in Burundi. 100% of donations go directly to this worthwhile cause. The Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Buyé distributes the cards as part of their extensive ministry with families. Please have your parish treasurer send donations directly to John Gee at the Synod Office. Mark cheques and e-transfers with "Buyé Coffee Fundraiser."



Above: Leaders from the Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Buyé distribute medical cards to seniors. Right: A Mothers' Union literacy program. Photos: Stephanie London