



# THE MESSENGER



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Susan Oliver, Archdeacon for Children, Youth and Family Ministries in the Edmonton diocese, leads a children's talk during a family retreat weekend held in July at the Moravian Church's Camp Van Es, located east of Edmonton in the Beaver Hills House UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

## Exploring 'The Way of Love' and celebrating new relationships at Diocese of Edmonton Family Retreat Weekend

The Ven. SUSAN OLIVER and MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Diocese of Edmonton

The Diocese of Edmonton celebrated the Anglican Church of Canada's new relationship with the Moravian Church in Canada with a family retreat at Camp Van Es. Under the stewardship of the Moravian Church, the camp is located in the Beaver Hills House UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, about half an hour from Edmonton.

Eight families, representing five parishes across the diocese, enjoyed a weekend of fun, fellowship and teaching. This

was the first family weekend organised by the Ven. Susan Oliver, Archdeacon for Children, Youth and Family Ministries, who hopes it will be an annual event.

The weekend featured activities, games and crafts organised by Archdeacon Sue with the assistance of Emily Stephen Garneau. Delicious food was prepared in the well-equipped kitchen by Ron Norton of the Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Edmonton. Everyone pitched in for clean-up. Daytime activities included swimming at the camp's indoor pool, hikes through the lush woods and relaxation in the cool

sitting room in Unity Lodge.

Teaching on the theme of "The Way of Love" was led by Archdeacon Sue and Bishop Stephen and Stephanie London.

"The Way of Love" is a tool for exploring discipleship developed by The Episcopal Church. Its seven components: turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest, are adapted for both children and adults.

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Children get creative and imaginative during activity time in the Unity Lodge at Camp Van Es.



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# July 1st fire causes extensive damage to Lac La Biche church

the Rev. Canon PETER CLARKE  
Athabasca Editor

On the morning of Saturday, July 1, at 6:30 am, St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Lac La Biche was reported to be on fire. Overlooking the lake, the church is located next to the Royal Canadian Legion and a community centre, and is surrounded by residences.

Fortunately, no one was hurt. The fire was extinguished, but there was substantial damage to the building. The fire inspector tried to discern where and how the fire started, and if it had been started in one location or several. At the time of writing that report is not yet available. The RCMP are investigating the incident.

The Legion readily welcomed the Rev. Deacon Kevin Pederson and the people of St. Andrew's to use their premises for church services, although every time a notice of service was placed on the Legion building it was soon removed and discarded.

A table altar was set up, initially with real candles, until it was noticed that the air conditioner was blowing wax everywhere, hence a move to battery candles. Copies of the *Book of Alternative*

*Services* and hymn books were quickly borrowed from various sources, as were the needed communion supplies. People rallied around to help.

Bishop David Greenwood presided at a Eucharist service, Sunday July 16, where prayers of thanks were offered to God for the safety of the congregation, and the prompt response of the Lac La Biche Fire Department, the assessors and the many helpful people involved.

Bishop Greenwood offered this prayer: "If this fire was deliberately set, we ask for you to forgive whoever set it, and heal them, and bring them into your family with us, so that they may learn of your love for them, the same love that you have overwhelmed us with in our lives." The prayer continues, "If this fire was not deliberately set, we ask that you guide the inspectors so that the cause is found and can be prevented from re-occurring."

Regular services at the lodge are continuing with the Rev. Deacon Kevin Pederson every third week. The sharing of Christ's love in Lac La Biche will continue irrespective of the state of the church building. Glory be to God.



An early morning fire on July 1, 2023 caused substantial damage to St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Lac La Biche. Photos: RCMP

## Creation Care a Team Effort

the Rev. CLARE LOUISE STEWART and  
the Rev. JONATHAN CRANE  
5th Mark in Action Co Chairs  
Edmonton Diocese

You may not know that the Season of Creation is a highly ecumenical endeavour.

September 1, the first day of a new church year in the Eastern Orthodox Church, was proclaimed, in 1989, as a day of prayer for the environment, by the late ecumenical patriarch Dimitrios I. During the 2007 European Ecumenical Assembly, it was proposed that a time of prayer and action for creation be held between September 1 and the feast day (western church) of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. Since that time, many diverse church denominations have taken up this important season.

While this is a newer season in the church, its necessity is evident and palpable due to the climate weirding that we have been experiencing in recent years. The effects of an unbalanced human lifestyle are becoming much more tangible than the theories we have debated these last decades.

The church is challenged to dig deep and become conversant in how our faith provides a sure foundation for care of creation and ecological conversion. The foundation is there, but we have not always given it heed. Jesus' parable reminds us that yeast can take many years to be worked through the dough. If the



ecological crisis is a major (*the major?*) faith challenge of living out the gospel in the 21st century, how is Christ leavening us to live faithfully in our time? What voice does our church speak into the world on these collective realities?

A new diocesan Social Justice subcommittee was created last year to steward this conversation and collective action in our Edmonton diocese. Remembering the 5 Marks of Mission, this subcommittee is called "The 5th Mark in Action" (we should have all 5 Marks on the tips of our tongues, no?). We are small but represent a fair breadth of personal and professional experience on the committee. If you are keen on joining us, we are also looking to grow our membership.

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## General Synod Honours Retiring Chancellor David Phillip Jones, K.C.

In her closing remarks to delegates at General Synod 2023, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and Chair of the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) Board of Directors, announced the establishment of the David Phillip Jones, K.C. Preaching Fund in honour of the Anglican Church of Canada's long-serving Chancellor.

"With these gifts comes our deepest gratitude for your ministry as a chancellor," said Archbishop Nicholls, "...as a mentor for new chancellors, as a wise confidante of primates and bishops, and a gentle hand at the tiller of navigating the needs of many General Synod gatherings."

In addition to serving as Chancellor of the Anglican Church of Canada since 2010, Jones, who is an active member of Holy Trinity Old Strathcona, Edmonton, served as Chancellor of the Diocese of Edmonton for 15 years, and as Provincial Chancellor of Rupert's Land for eight years.

"The most rewarding part of being a chancellor is getting to know the bishops one serves, and meeting so many wonderful people making such a difference in the Church," says Jones. "It has been a



David Jones, K.C. officially retires as Chancellor of General Synod, as of September 1, 2023.

privilege even though, at times, human resources issues have proved challenging..."

Jones is married to Anne de Villars and together they run the law practice of de Villars Jones LLP. He is the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for Yukon, Integrity Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, and a Chartered Arbitrator. In 2012, he

received the Distinguished Service Award for Legal Scholarship from the Law Society of Alberta and the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Bar Association. His legal wisdom is respected across Canada, and he is considered one of the foremost administrative lawyers in Canada.

Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada, says the new fund established through the Lewis S. Garnsworthy Memorial Trust, "will increase our capacity to support eligible applicants towards fees for preaching courses and the cost of preaching conferences."

"Excellence and passion in preaching (one of the principal functions of the Church), provide nourishment to the whole people of God," says Jones.

To make a gift to the David Phillip Jones, K.C. Preaching Fund visit [www.anglicanfoundation.org/dpjppeachingfund/](http://www.anglicanfoundation.org/dpjppeachingfund/)

# Enabling one another to grow ever stronger as God's Family

In the late 1300s, Julian of Norwich, an English mystic, wrote:

"Holy Church shall be shaken in sorrow and anguish and tribulation in this world, as men shake a cloth in the wind. I shall totally shatter you because of your pride and after that I shall gather you together and make you humble and gentle, pure and holy by one-ing you to myself."

Humble and gentle, pure and holy, by union with Christ. That, I suggest, is our destiny.

We are planning a diocesan synod for the end of September. My dream is to have a synod that joins us truly as the Family of God; demonstrating how we can worship and have a joyful experience together for all our parishes, incorporating all age groups and hopefully bringing families together in their participation.

A synod that enables us to demonstrate to each other that we can successfully live together as members of the Family of God, under the Lordship of Christ, as His disciples: in



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD  
Diocese of Athabasca

our families, in our parishes, in our diocese have learning; have worship and song; have prayer; have support and encouragement. In short, a synod that enables us to experience how to live out our faith in our day-to-day lives, as people of Christ in harmony with Him.

A synod that enables us to experience His shalom: peace, harmony, wholeness, completeness, prosperity, wellness, and tranquility; share His shalom; experience loving, caring relationships with God and with each other; gets

each of us to understand that this should be the normal way of us living and interacting with each other.

A synod that enables us to reach out for healing of broken relationships: in families, in communities, between our Indigenous brothers and sisters and non-Indigenous brothers and sisters; to define a world in which there are no homeless, no hungry, no lost and despairing – and live into that; to define a world in which our worship centres are full of grateful, loving, generous people – people who live the joy of

the Lord; to define a world in which we all freely experience the love of Christ, we all freely share that love, and Christ's family grows.

That is my dream. My dream is that synod will help everyone who attends it to experience, even in just a little bit, God's Country. My dream is that it will enable people to take things home with them so they can continue to live in God's Country, even if just by a little bit more than they can right now, across our diocese. My dream is that synod is a place where God's love is experienced, and God's love is shared. My dream is that we can show justice, share mercy, and walk humbly with our God. That is my dream.

Our church, in many ways, has been shaken in sorrow, anguish and tribulation. Through Julian of Norwich 700 years ago, Christ announced that He wishes to gather us together, all His Holy Temple, to be humble, gentle, pure and holy in Him. This is our destiny, His desire. Let us experience His love and share His love. Let us show justice, share mercy, walk humbly. Let us be gentle and caring and seek what is healthiest – and let us worship together, in grateful thanksgiving. What better time than now?

Shalom be with you.  
+ David

# Collaborative Partnerships - Fourth of Five Primary Principles

The vision of collaborative partnerships is both an ancient concept of the Christian church and a new discovery. We know from the New Testament that Jesus Christ broke down boundaries that separated people. He reached out to so many on the margins: the sick, the lost, the sinful, the poor, women, children, outsiders and more. When Paul was planting churches, he exhorted them to remember that in Christ, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28)



Bishop STEPHEN LONDON  
Diocese of Edmonton

However, over centuries, the church put back up a lot of the boundaries that Jesus tore down. I know when I was growing up in a Lutheran church, for instance, we used to tell jokes about different Christian denominations. On the surface, they were meant to be funny. But they were built upon deeply rooted stereotypes. The reality was that my church was deeply suspicious of other churches and other denominations. Before they would talk with other Christians, the other Christians had to first prove that they were sufficiently "Christian." Perhaps most churches could do this, but it is hard to build deep relationships on suspicion.

I later learned that my childhood church was

slow to join the ecumenical movements of the 20th century. One of the great movements of the Holy Spirit has been the breaking down again of the boundaries of suspicion that have kept Christians apart. In this century, we have seen many movements such as the Second Vatican Council which led to open dialogue and the ability to work together across denominational lines for the sake of the Gospel. Because of this movement forward, we

in the Anglican Church are now committed with excitement to the *Lund Principle*. This principle states that where we *can* work together with other denominations, we *should*. And only in places where we cannot, should we work alone.

We have found that we need each other deeply for the living out of the Gospel. No single denomination has the complete vision of where Christ is calling us as Christians in the 21st century. As Anglicans, we have great gifts to bring. But we recognise that we need to receive gifts as well, and we can only do that in relationship. I am excited about what is possible. This summer, the Anglican

Church of Canada approved a full communion relationship with the Moravian Church. I am looking forward to the gifts that will be revealed as we work closer together. Glory be to God who calls us to tear down these walls and work together for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,  
+ Steve



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, for example: **SEPTEMBER 1** for **OCTOBER 2023**.

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# God *is* calling us to a new thing. Are we prepared to listen?

Hello everyone! I hope you have had a good summer. I don't think lit's an exaggeration to say mine has been life-changing. In large part, that is the result of a course I've been on: The Leadership/Neighbourhood Project run by Forge Canada. I am working with ministers from several denominations across Canada and the U.S. A common theme among us is the damage we've seen to our churches coming out of the pandemic. More than three years later, it seems there is not a single church unaffected.

Our churches honestly desire to be loving and faithful, but we have often limited our idea of discipleship to attending our Sunday services. Sunday services are good, of course, but don't provide the full, strong foundation we need. We also still tend to see ourselves, firstly, as



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

'liturgical,' rather than missional, and have failed to really pay attention to the fact that the communities around us are not interested in what we have to say. Thus, when the pandemic struck, the cracks in our foundations widened.

We are also seriously affected by the consumer culture in which

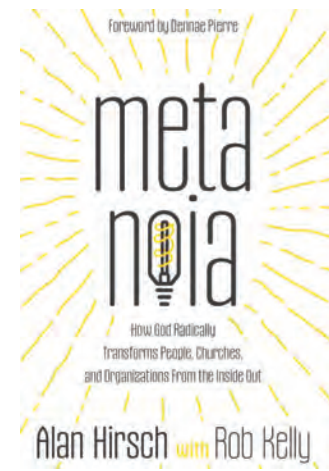
we live. People leave churches if they do not 'get what they want.' And while live-streaming has allowed us to connect with some we have not had contact with before, it has also enabled some to avoid even the attendance on Sunday that they used to consider important; to stay home instead and watch from a distance.

As I and the others on the

course grapple with the changed world in which we find ourselves, we have been reflecting on this question: 'How is God leading us so we can join in with what God is doing in our neighbourhoods and communities?'

Despite all that could be discouraging, God *is* at work and *is* calling his followers to work alongside him. So how do we move forward? How do we see and hear how God is leading?

Alan Hirsch, who spoke at our clergy conference in 2017, released a new book in April called, *Metanoia*. 'Metanoia' is the Greek word that we translate as 'repentance.' Hirsch is suggesting that the Church needs to repent; not simply to feel sorry, but to truly 'think again,' to make a 180-degree-turn and live differently. Hirsch says he also needs to repent, for in all his previous writings he did not grasp just how much our churches are wedded to an



understanding of ourselves and how we do things, so that we have not been prepared to listen to what new things God might have been saying to us. I would say the same for myself. For despite much experience and the message of many great

writers over the years, I have been slow to truly grasp the same.

So, shall we do that? Shall we consider that what we need before anything else is metanoia? So that we can truly hear what God is calling us to and not assume it's just more of the same? If you want to, I invite you and your church to grapple with that question.

And what might we do after that? I'll write more next time.

*With every blessing,*  
Richard

## Rector Feels at Home at Christ Church, Grande Prairie

the Rev. MARYANN AMOR  
Rector  
Christ Church, Grande Prairie

It has been such a huge blessing being called to, and now serving at Christ Church, Grande Prairie.

This is my first time serving as rector of a parish. Getting to this point in my life has been incredibly challenging. After feeling called to ministry in 2002, I initially tried to push it out of my mind and pursue something else. However, that didn't work, and I eventually decided to follow the call.

Doing so, led me down many unexpected paths including a journey to Edinburgh, Scotland, where I completed a PhD in Hebrew and Old Testament studies at the University of Edinburgh. Upon finishing that degree and returning to Canada, I found my way to the Diocese of Edmonton, where I became the curate first

at St. Luke's, then at St. John the Evangelist, working with the Ven. Richard King. Richard showed me that being a priest is about equipping people to work together to be the body of Christ in the world; so, the role is primarily about encouraging a congregation to live out their ministries.

What I truly appreciate about Christ Church is that the congregation is already active and joining together in ministry. Everyone at Christ Church has been so kind. There are no words to express the gratitude I feel. I have shared many meals and coffees with members of the congregation, experienced Pioneer Days in Beaverlodge, attended one of our children's birthday parties (Harry Potter themed, so I was excited!), and been shown all around the city.

Being alone in a new city is challenging, but the love and support I have received have

made it a lot easier. I am also extremely grateful to have the support of the Rev. Karen Kovacs, our vocational deacon. She is so gifted, especially in pastoral care. It is a joy to learn from her.

As we, at Christ Church, look forward to the next year, I hope we can discern and develop our gifts, continue to embrace newcomers and welcome them to come alongside us, try new models of church, and work on becoming



Maryann Amor (left) at the Community Tailgate Garage Sale at Christ Church, Grande Prairie.

a thriving church family. There is so much I know we can do, and while I feel some pressure because of my role, I know I don't carry anything alone. We are all in this together and I am so excited for what is coming next.

## St. Helen's busy worshiping community in center of Fairview

ELLEN LUPICK  
St. Helen's, Fairview

St. Helen's Church, located in a shopping mall in the center of Fairview, continues to be a healthy, happy place of worship, with about 10 people attending Morning Prayer regularly and about 15 worshipping with us for Holy Eucharist.

We have found it very rewarding to be part of the shared ministry with Berwyn and Grimshaw churches. The Rev. Lloyd Nyarota from the church in



St. Helen's, Fairview Parish Officers, 1 to r, are Lloyd Nyarota, Alice Schwartz, Doreen Verschoor, Darrell Pepler, Edna Fix, Shirley Lof, Tammy McKeachnie, Vickie and Harvey McKeachnie, Ellen Lupick, Inez Austin.

Manning brings a positive attitude and openness to our church atmosphere.

At present, we have three Morning Prayer Sunday services per month, led by lay

readers. The Rev. Lloyd Nyarota celebrates Holy Eucharist on the fourth Sunday. People can also join us for Sunday worship virtually on Zoom.

Additionally, we provide Evening Prayer services at Homesteader Lodge.

Our "Food for the Soul" outreach mission is going well. We are spreading the Good News. We are also developing a good rapport with the Food Bank staff -- so that they can connect us with their clients when they see a need.

# Athabasca Synod to come Together as Family of God

SYNOD PLANNING COMMITTEE  
Diocese of Athabasca

The 58th Synod of the Diocese of Athabasca will take place in Peace River, September 28 to October 1.

Originally the synod was going to take place in Athabasca, but due to the unavailability of accommodations for the weekend, the planning committee decided to hold the synod in Peace River.

The hope for this synod, themed "Together as a Family of God," is that delegates and visitors will fully be able to understand and commit to the why of the diocese: "To experience and share Christ's love in all circumstances and to all people, so that the family of Christ, the Kingdom of God is further established."

The synod is open to visitors as well as elected delegates. There is a charge of \$100 for visitors. Registration opens at St. James' Cathedral, Thursday September 28, 4:30 pm. Interested people can call the Synod Office at 780-624-2767 or email [dioath@telusplanet.net](mailto:dioath@telusplanet.net)

The opening service will take place at St. James' Cathedral, Peace River on Thursday, September 28, at 7 pm. Clergy will robe white. The closing eucharist, also taking place at the cathedral, will be held Sunday, October 1, at 10:30 am. Clergy will robe green.

All other sessions and workshops will be presented at the Chateau Nova Hotel, 10010-74 Street, on the west hill. The guest speaker's presentations will be broadcast online, and the workshops will be recorded for future use.

The Rev. Dr. Judith Paulsen, guest speaker to synod, is familiar to members of Athabasca diocese having led diocesan

seminars online last year. After completing a doctorate in missional leadership, Judy joined the faculty at Wycliffe College, where she still teaches students preparing for church leadership. Judy also served for seven years as director of the Wycliffe Institute of Evangelism, working with churches and dioceses to help them share the faith with unchurched and de-churched people. Her primary interests lie in effective communication of the Gospel in today's culture, and in organisational change within the Church.



- "What Sort of Family is This Family?" – Friday, Sept. 29, 11:00 am
- "Can We Get to Know the Head of This Family?" – Friday, Sept. 29, 3:30 pm
- "What is Required to be a Member of This Family?" – Saturday, Sept. 30, 12:45pm
- "How does This Family Grow?" – Saturday, Sept. 30, 4:30 pm

We are blessed in the diocese to have two eminently suitable speakers to lead the synod in specific workshops.



The Rev. Danielle McKenzie is a deacon in the church and currently the Peace Regional Dean and provincial executive representative. A life-long resident of the north, she has worn several hats within the Diocese of Athabasca, but this is her first time as a workshop presenter.

In her "Crazy Cool Church Outreach" workshop, she will equip parishioners to respond to the needs of the community around them while creating positive change that reflects God's love. Hear about tried-and-true outreach and spend some time considering crazy cool ways to make an impact where you live.

- Saturday, Sept. 30, 10:30 – 11:45 am
- Saturday, Sept. 30, 2:15 – 3:30 pm

The Rev. Dr. Blessing Shambare, is the regional dean of Athabasca Deanery, serving at St. Peter's Ecumenical Parish in Slave Lake. His special interests are in Practical Theology, Mission, Justice, Ecumenism, Spirituality, Healing Ministry and Prayer. He enjoys learning every time an opportunity presents, and he believes that seeking new insights and gaining knowledge is empowering.

- Saturday, Sept. 30, 10:30 –



11:45 am

- Saturday, Sept. 30, 2:15 – 3:30 pm



Vince Solomon likes to be in nature to listen to God and be part of the cathedral of praise that is creation. He is from Norway House Cree Nation, and is proud he was placed on earth to be a Cree man. He is husband to Kris and father to Daniel. Currently Vince works as Urban Indigenous Ministry Developer for the Diocese of Rupert's Land and is priest at Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church. He has worked for the Mennonite Central Committee as Coordinator of the Indigenous Neighbors program and as Aboriginal Liaison and Cultural Teacher for St. James-Assiniboia School Division.

## McLennan Ecumenical Community Holds Farewell Tea for Long-time Member

The Rev. Canon PETER CLARKE  
Athabasca Editor

On Sunday, July 16, the people of St. Paul's Church in McLennan gathered in the old church rectory (manse) after the Sunday service and said a fond farewell to Monica Bisley, who had lived in McLennan for 43 years, and is moving to Calgary.

For a number of years, Monica has been a regular attendee of St. Paul's Church. She also regularly attended St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic parish, the cathedral being her home church. This might seem somewhat unusual, but people from various home churches in McLennan rallied around St. Paul's when it was without an incumbent priest, as they had no wish for it to close.

These days, every third Sunday, there is a service, generally a Eucharist with a



Monica Bisley, guest of honour, with farewell gift.

visiting priest and the service is supported by the various other church members in the community. A wonderful example of the Family of God.

Monica has been a very welcome member of St. Paul's and she will be missed.

## Lending Library Proves Popular at High Prairie Second Wind Thrift Store



A lending library, installed in May at the Second Wind thrift store in High Prairie, has proved to be very popular. The Second Wind store is run by volunteers from St. Mark's Anglican Church and other church and community members, who work on Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 1-5 pm. When wildfires threatened areas surrounding High Prairie, the store was opened to evacuees to take what they needed.

Photo: Peter Clarke

## General Synod - Assembly 2023 "Let there be Greening"

# Bishop sees General Synod-Assembly 2023 as convergence of 'heart religion' and social justice

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

For Bishop Stephen London, the highlight of the "Let there be greening" Assembly 2023 was Christians being able to celebrate a similar vision of what it means to live the Gospel today.

There was "a lot of trepidation coming into this synod about whether it would be a continuation of antagonism between groups and a further breaking apart of the Anglican Church," he says looking back to General Synod 2019, which was divided over a motion (defeated) to amend the marriage canon to allow the blessing of same-sex marriages.

However, the 2023 General Assembly (some of the sessions were held jointly with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada which was also holding a national gathering in Calgary) was, for the most part, different.

Delegates were able to move beyond a potentially divisive discussion about a motion to enable Archbishop Linda Nicholls to serve as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada until the next General Synod, which was defeated, reintroduced the next day, and defeated again.

"It was obvious that Linda took this to heart, and we are not going to have that continuity of leadership. But there were many signs of hope, and many things brought us together," says Bishop Steve.

"At the end of the Sacred Circle presentations, Chris Harper (National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop) invited the whole church into a round dance. Chris spoke about the 2019 synod and said he never wants to see another one like it. 'We really need to focus on the fact that we are siblings in Christ,'" he said. "That was a magic moment. You can't script this stuff."

"We celebrated with the Indigenous church the work they are doing that is such a blessing to us. Along with Ian Alexander (newly elected Prolocutor), I had the great privilege to write and move a motion in celebration of *The Covenant and Our Way of Life* (the founding documents for the self-determining Indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada). As I read the motion from my laptop, there was huge applause and people hugging each other."

Although Bishop Steve had represented the Edmonton diocese at General Synod as a clergy delegate, in 2007, this was his first time leading the Edmonton diocesan delegation as Bishop. He was joined by the Rev. Danielle Key, the Ven. Jordan Haynie-Ware,

Cathy Armstrong, Matthew Mercer-Deadman and Emily Stephen Garneau (youth), as well as the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman who also works for the National Church. Canon (lay) David Jones, K.C., who is retiring as Chancellor of General Synod, is a former Chancellor of the Edmonton diocese and a member of Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

He says an opportunity to be part of the Nominating Committee was "a blessing," in terms of being able to see the process of electing people to the Council of General Synod (CoGS) and the standing committees. "These are the people who will continue the work of the church through the biennium. It was a chance to meet people who are really involved in the church, both in their dioceses and at the national level. This experience brought both an education and an appreciation of the work being done."

Bishop Steve returned from General Synod "excited by a convergence of thinking about what it means to live the Gospel in our day and time."

"I think the themes articulated in the five transformational aspirations (which he spoke in favour of at General Synod), are the themes that mainline denominations are wrestling with and thinking through. They match our Baptismal Covenant, they match what came out of Lambeth, they match what came out of the National Council of Churches and, of course, they match many of the themes that we're articulating through Finding Our Way, the strategic plan for the Edmonton diocese."

"We're trying to bring together again what I would call a heart religion and social justice. Often, in churches, these are two separate things. But we want people to be formed in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ; to pray regularly, to have their hearts set on fire with this good news of Jesus Christ, and to work that out in the social justice calls of our church. In the past, those things have seemed to be two different visions of the church. In these themes, they're coming together."

The strategic vision for the Anglican Church of Canada adopted by General Synod is to:

1. invite and deepen life in Christ;
2. champion the dignity of every human being; works to dismantle racism and colonialism;
3. embrace mutual interdependence with the Indigenous church (Sacred Circle);
4. nurture right relationships among people of faith in local, national and global communities

and networks; 5. steward and renew God's creation; protect and sustain the earth; pursue justice for all.

General Synod also voted to support the continued work of dismantling systems that perpetuate racism, bias, and discrimination in churches, institutions and communities across Canada by establishing a permanent National Advisory Council on Dismantling Racism relationships with other Christian communities. Additionally, General Synod will continue to encourage ministries "to engage with the full historical realities of the Anglican Church's involvement" in residential schools. This includes supporting dioceses to "take steps towards addressing the continuing impacts of these practices."

Furthering its relationships with several other Christian communities, it celebrated

and grow in understanding of their respective faith traditions.

Anglicans and Lutherans have also now entered into full communion with the Moravian Church of Canada.

"Scott (Sharman, Canon to the Ordinary and Ecumenical and Interfaith Coordinator), cleared many hurdles" to help General Synod welcome the Moravians into full communion partnership," says Bishop Steve. "We already have two Moravian pastors in our midst," the Rev. Trina Holmberg, rector of St. Andrew's, Camrose; and St. Mary's, Ponoka; and Rob Key who is married to the Rev. Danielle Key, rector of Holy Trinity Old Strathcona, Edmonton. The Edmonton diocese also hopes to partner with the Moravian camping program in the near future.

Bishop Steve says General Synod's endorsement of the use of *Pastoral Liturgies for Journeys of*



Edmonton delegates to General Synod-Assembly 2023 pictured above from left: Emily Stephen Garneau, Bishop Stephen London, Jordan Haynie Ware, Matthew Mercer-Deadman, Danielle Key and Cathy Armstrong. Below: Bishop Stephen London speaks to a resolution at the GS-A 2023.

Churches Beyond Borders, an extension of the 2001 Waterloo Declaration, an establishment of full communion between the Anglican and Lutheran churches in Canada, as well as Called to Common Mission, an agreement establishing full communion between The Episcopal Church and the ELCA.

Anglicans and Lutherans are working together in areas of advocacy around homelessness, affordable housing, and emerging interfaith work and dialogue, and the two churches are developing resources available on [acommonword.ca](http://acommonword.ca) – a website of resources for Canadian Christians and Canadian Muslims who want to know one another more deeply

*Gender Transition and Affirmation* (set of gender-themed liturgies) where authorised by the ordinary, "does my heart good. While it will be up to the individual churches to decide to use the liturgies, I hope they will. Giving people the freedom and space to explore their identities and to feel welcome in this church as they do so, points to the inclusive love of God."

In summing up his experience of General Synod, Bishop Steve is encouraged by what he describes as being "a listening exercise across the Anglican Church of Canada, which has reaffirmed for me that we're listening together and we're listening rightly."



# Synod an Experience of Love in the Midst of Challenge

BISHOP DAVID GREENWOOD  
Diocese of Athabasca

If I could summarize my experience of General Synod 2023 in one word, it would be "intense." Going from 7:30 am to 9 or 10 pm, the days were long and full.

There were many exciting things which happened, amongst which I would highlight the reception of the Sacred Circle *Covenant and Our Way of Life*; the introduction of the prayer "For the Reconciliation with the Jews"; the recognition of full communion relations between the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and the Moravian Church in Canada, along with The Episcopal Church in the United States and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We affirmed the pursuit of peace and justice for all in Israel and Palestine. We affirmed our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, and to combat racism.



Bishop David Greenwood representing Athabasca diocese at General Synod-Assembly 2023. Photo Jim Tubman

In joining with the Lutheran National Convention as Assembly 2023, I got to meet some special people from that side of the fence, amongst them Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, our own Deana Lemke from St. Andrew's-Zion in Colinton and my niece Shae.

There were many distractions and intrusions which made it a challenge to focus on any one thing. St. Andrew's, Lac La Biche was burnt. One of our delegates became seriously ill. In my own family, I had children and grandchildren in and out of hospital. Each one of these was immensely important, and so, for each distraction, I put General Synod aside for the moment to focus as needed.

There was the overwhelming vote to authorise *Pastoral Liturgies for Journeys of Gender Transition and Affirmation*, which I voted

against. This has caused me serious and deep reflection on how out of step I am with the rest of the church, at least as represented at General Synod 2023. The next day, I was talking with a fellow bishop who had spoken convincingly in favour of the motion. When I shared that I had voted against, she expressed thanksgiving that we could still talk and pray and journey together, to which I responded in surprise, "Of course, we can still talk with each other! We need to!"

There was a lot of sharing about the role of bishops and the possible impacts of voting to remove the requirement that proposed amendments to the Declaration of Principles and Canons dealing with discipline, worship and doctrine must be passed at two successive sessions of General Synod; and change the requirement that they must be passed with "a two-thirds majority in each Order" (Bishops, Clergy, Lay) to be "a two-thirds majority of the members with a majority in each Order." After we had spent considerable time educating ourselves on the possible implications of such changes, we promptly decided not to decide, but table the two motions until General Synod 2025.

Most meaningful of all was the ability - for in all our differences and difficulties, in all our failures to listen and understand, in our

tiredness and our lack of capacities, - to relate to one another. Christ was there. There were interactions with old friends, and the making of new; we were all were invited to participate in a Round Dance; reflections given by our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Chris Harper; the professionalism and dedication of our Primate Linda Nichols; the morning eucharists; the prayers and worship during the days; the Gospel Jamboree emceed by Bishop Lydia Mamakwa of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh; the meals and table discussions, where we were able to share our vulnerabilities and pray with each other.

As I shared with my fellow bishops near the end of General Synod: 'I just want to thank you all. The love and support I have felt from this house during this dramatic week (for me) has been overwhelming. In agreement or disagreement, I know your love. Thank you.'

Diocese of Athabasca, your delegates were fantastic. They prayed, they listened, they spoke, they participated. They helped the body as a whole to discern. We supported each other, in agreement or disagreement. Though we did not sit together during the voting, nor discuss how we voted, I know we agreed in seeking the desire of Christ. To each of you, thank you.

At General Synod 2023 there was definite joy and definite grieving, there was fear and there was reaching out. There was hope and support. It was a very strange week. It was intense.

## Delegate Hopeful as GS-A Draws to a Close

EMILY STEPHEN GARNEAU  
Edmonton Diocese Youth Delegate

My name is Emily Stephen Garneau. I attended the General Synod in Calgary as the youth delegate for the Diocese of Edmonton. This was my first time at General Synod, and I was very excited to attend. As a youth delegate I had to arrive one day early for special youth meetings. There was a lot of preparation, reading and attending meetings before leaving, to make sure that I was well versed in all the intended resolutions.

It was so much more than I expected, and a wonderful experience. I met many other delegates, especially youth delegates from across the country. I heard about the experiences of the youth delegates at different events, such as the youth pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Sacred Beginnings and CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gathering). I have made friendships that will last a lifetime. National Indigenous Archbishop



Pictured right: youth delegate Emily Stephen Garneau with Archbishop Linda Nicholls at General Synod-Assembly 2023.

Chris Harper led a round dance for delegates one evening. It was not the first time I had experienced round dancing, but it was a truly liberating experience.

General Synod passed many

resolutions and tabled others. One of the resolutions we passed was to be in full communion with the Lutheran and Moravian Church. The Rev. James Lavoy, from Camp Van Es, spoke eloquently about Anglicans, Lutherans and Moravians being in full communion. Immediately after synod I was at Camp Van Es working with the Anglican and Moravian youth.

Another resolution that was important to me was on transgender liturgy. There were many differing views, even among the youth, however in the end it was carried. This resonated with me as I have friends who are LGBTQIA2S+ in the church and in the wider community.

I left synod feeling hopeful about the future for youth in the National Anglican Church of Canada. I look forward to further representing the Anglican youth in the Diocese of Edmonton.

## GS-A 2023 an experience of the 'broad tent' of Anglicanism

The Rev. DANIELLE KEY  
Edmonton Diocese Delegate

Picture, if you will, the largest vestry meeting known to humankind and mix in a one-week sleepover camp with your entire high school. This is what General Synod reminded me of.

First, I'm a vestry junkie. I love a good meeting. So, synod was a supersized delight of voices, perspectives, agendas and personalities. It was wonderful.

Second, high-school sleepovers were some of my favourite experiences, because you were forced, in a way, to rest and mingle with people of various viewpoints, thoughts and opinions.

This was General Synod. A kaleidoscope of personalities and preferences mixed with concern for the future of the Church, from the perspectives of our very own corners of the tent that is Anglicanism.

The highlight for me was the unanimous acceptance of the tri-lateral full communion agreement of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Northern Province



Edmonton delegate Danielle Key addresses General Synod. Photo: Carter Brooks

of the Moravian Church; and the adoption of a new trans-affirming liturgy which will prove to not only encourage inclusion but will absolutely prove to be live-saving.

There were many, many good things that came out of this experience. However, what became blatantly obvious as the days passed is that we, the Anglican Church of Canada, have much work to do in becoming united as a full community in Christ. Much like families and communities, there is a disjointedness that exists between us. It is my hope and my prayer that we will find a way to reconnect, to co-exist, and to truly support, encourage and love all our fellow siblings in Christ.



Bishop Stephen London joins round dance led by Archbishop Chris Harper. Photo: Jim Tubman

## Best and Worst of GS-A 2023 through Eyes of Clergy Delegate



Jordan Haynie Ware (l) with Scott Sharman and other delegates at GS-A 2023.

### Best aspects of GS-A 2023:

Connecting with other Anglicans:

- (re)connecting with seminary classmates, folks from Leading Women (2019 conference);
- meeting Grace, Dion, Gail, Sam;
- smart young people involved at every level.

Ecumenical connections:

- Evening Prayer with Lutherans;
- full communion with Moravians.

Emergence of the self-determining Indigenous Church:

- consensus model;
- Away from parliamentary procedure;
- linguistic inclusion - could have been much better, we were called out by an Inuktitut speaker, but it demonstrated how many different languages are spoken by Canadian Anglicans;
- Council of General Synod (CoGS) – elected a diverse CoGS, ethnically, geographically and age-wise.

Anti-racism action:

- set up a task force to write a curriculum.

Peace and justice in Israel/Palestine:

- Listened to Rabba Gila Caine, who grew up in Israel and now serves at Tempel Beth Ora in Edmonton. Removed a problematic section (in the resolution), but also passed it as we were asked to.

### Worst aspects of GS-A 2023:

Tense and combative atmosphere, lack of trust, especially between the Chancellor, General Secretary, Primate and others:

- double vote, re: Primate's tenure;
- canon changes, re: 2nd readings and 2/3s vote;
- but: nimble, able to hold a "mind of the house" session.

How best to pursue anti-racism with nuance about the different experiences of each group:

- Indigenous members wanted to be counted separately.

One would never know about church decline from General Synod-Assembly. It seemed like everything was honky-dory, but it is not.

*Submitted by the Rev. Jordan Haynie Ware, Edmonton Diocese Delegate*

## GS-A 2023 Delegate Role both a Responsibility and an Honour

MATTHEW MERCER-DEADMAN  
Edmonton Diocese Delegate

This was my first opportunity to serve as an elected delegate to General Synod. I remain grateful to the Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton for entrusting this responsibility to me, and for the opportunity to connect with Anglicans, Lutherans and Moravians from all over the country.

The experience of synod was in many ways what I expected. As a friend and fellow delegate (from the Diocese of Qu'Appelle)

put it, it was like a "vacation Bible parliament." I don't think I could've come up with a more apt description of our routine through the week in Calgary. Having served on vestries, diocesan synod, and as a member (and later speaker) of the Youth Parliament of Alberta, I was very familiar and at home with the parade of resolutions, motions and votes.

I was delighted to be able to participate in and witness the passing of resolutions commending trans-affirming liturgies to be used in affirming dioceses, and the unanimous passing of the One

Flock, One Shepherd Agreement entering into full communion agreement with the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in North America. The Spirit of love was palpable for me in those moments.

I am hope-filled for the direction of the national church, and I look forward with great joy and anticipation to the further formation of the self-determining Indigenous church as expressed through the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Sacred Circle.

There were a handful of

governance resolutions that were postponed to the next General Synod and, if it is the will of the Holy Spirit, I would be honoured to represent the Diocese of Edmonton once again.

I think the biggest impact and change for me was that being able to connect with online Anglican friends in person and being exposed to the various ministries in the church really lit a fire in me to examine the roles I've taken on in the church, and how to deepen my relationship with Christ and His Body.

# St. Augustine-Parkland Welcomes Kevin Kraglund as Rector

The Rev. SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

Bishop Stephen London led a service of induction on Saturday, June 3, welcoming the Rev. Kevin Kraglund as the rector of St. Augustine-Parkland in Spruce Grove. Kraglund offers his thanks to all who attended and participated in the service.

"This celebration of new ministry at St. Augustine-Parkland was a most meaningful and worshipful occasion," he said.

"In observing the memorial of the Martyrs of Uganda and Janani Luwum, we were also reminded about the call to 'remain steadfast in the love by which God binds us to himself' (from the collect). It was truly a Spirit-filled and spirited ceremony," said Kraglund.

Highlights of the service included:

- St. Augustine-Parkland parishioners presenting Kraglund with symbols of ministry, an Auggie's Café apron and a Neighbourlink care package to reflect the outreach ministry of St. Augustine's;
- the church vestry presenting the canons of the diocese;
- an Indigenous youth of the parish presenting an Indigenous blanket with his

- grandmother;
- the first reading by a parishioner of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Spruce Grove, reflecting the full communion relationship between Anglicans and Lutherans;
- Bishop Steve blessing a new red frontal and paraments donated by the family of the late Rev. John Rushton in his loving memory;
- singing the recessional hymn (new to the parish)/ which is based on a prayer of St. Augustine of Hippo: "Light of the Minds that Know Him."

Kraglund says he is excited to partner with the parish in its mission: 'Rooted in the Word and in worship, we strive to be a vibrant community, shining the light of Christ into the world around us.'

He says he looks forward to "serving the whole people of God for many years to come as the rector of St. Augustine's."

A June-5th Facebook post by St. Augustine-Parkland seems to indicate the parish echoes his sentiments. Along with photos, they commented, "Welcome Rev. Kevin Kraglund - hope you're comfy 'cuz you're not going anywhere!"



Pictured clockwise from top left: Lou Hansen and her grandson Laine Hansen of St. Augustine-Parkland, Spruce Grove present their new rector Kevin Kraglund with an Indigenous blanket; Winnie Kennair (l) and Debbie Courtis present an Auggie's Café apron and a Neighbourlink care package; Andrea Perrin (l) and Aglaia Lessard present prayer books and a hymnal; clergy of the Edmonton diocese (l to r): Rebecca Harris (retired), St. Matthew's, St. Albert; Dean Alex Meek, All Saints' Cathedral; Kevin Kraglund; Colleen Sanderson, St. Michael and All Angels, Edmonton; Bishop Stephen London; Cheryl Boulet, St. John the Divine, Onaway.

# School of Women in Ministry accepting applications for fall cohort

The School of Women in Ministry (SWM) is accepting registrations for its next cohort beginning Saturday, September 16 at Taylor Seminary, 11525 23 Ave NW, Edmonton. SWM provides women with an interest in serving in ministry with an opportunity to grow in faith theologically, practically and spiritually.

Christa Eisbrenner, Dean of the School of Ministry since 2017, says she became involved with the school after completing a partner program in Europe, and it has impacted her in a multitude of ways.

"I have grown in spiritual formation and leadership skills, but it has also pushed me to use my voice for the marginalised, even at great personal expense.

"Even though I have a seminary education and many years of ministry experience, the school was a breath of fresh air in my weary soul," says Eisbrenner, a member of Immanuel Anglican Church in Wetaskiwin. "The church as a whole benefits when all of its members are growing personally and corporately."

The SWM program is flexible, enabling women to keep learning and growing in their spiritual formation and ministry experience.

"It is designed by women, for women, intentionally centring on women's experiences and practical needs. It is designed for people with busy schedules and a desire to keep learning."

The two-year, online program also has six in-person class days a year. Although it requires a greater

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WOMENINMINISTRY.CA



time commitment than a Bible study or workshop, the program does not require the intensity of a seminary course, she says. Students are grouped in small cohorts to discuss what they are learning together.

SWM has an Academics Supports Coordinator who supports

students with academic challenges, such as scheduling and English language needs. The school also invites the public to in-class days.

You can learn more online at [womeninministry.ca](http://womeninministry.ca), or by emailing [academics@womeninministry.ca](mailto:academics@womeninministry.ca)

# Athabasca Remembers Canon Marjorie Glanfield

The Rev. Canon Marjorie Glanfield, who served as Rector of St. Paul's, Ft. Chipewyan, died on July 8, 2023, at the age of 84, at Fort McMurray Hospital. She is remembered as a kind soul by her colleagues and friends.

"... She was surrounded by her beloved family when she finally rested. May her soul and the souls of all the departed, through God's mercy, rest in peace. And please

include her family in your prayers as they mourn their beloved Nana."

- the Rev. Leon Cadsap OSMSJ

"I was saddened to learn that a very dear friend and servant of our Church in the Diocese of Athabasca has died... She was a very gifted priest and servant of her church who never condemned but knew how to receive people and in doing so laid an example of service that was exemplary. I say that as one

who shared her journey with her. Go in Peace my dear friend, I and the Church family will miss you!"

- the Most Rev. John R. Clarke

Following a decision to no longer provide a resident Anglican priest to the community of Ft. Chip, which for most of the year is a "fly-in" community, Marjorie Glanfield took on the responsibility of providing pastoral care and leading services in the community. (*Northern Witness, Anglican Church of Canada*)



Marjorie Glanfield (center) with Bishop David Greenwood (l) and Leon Cadsap in early 2023.



# In Early Spring, All Saints' Parishioner is Wakened by a Neighbour to Evacuate her Drayton Valley Home as Wildfires Rage

MIRIAM ROBERTS  
All Saints', Drayton Valley

In late April, the communities of Entwistle, Evansburg and Wildwood, located 40 km north of Drayton Valley, had been evacuated from a wildfire. A few days later, on May 4, emergency alarms began sounding on the TV and on cellphones for the Buck Creek fire 14 km southeast of Drayton Valley.

Surrounded by two major fires burning out of control, Drayton Valley residents were advised to pack important documents, medications, clothing and food for three days. Though we had been reassured the fire was east of the North Saskatchewan River, some of us were not so sure it would stay there.

Then the inevitable happened. The fire jumped the river and was raging westward, mostly south of Highway 22. On May 4, at 11 pm, we were ordered to evacuate. I was already in bed, but my neighbour came to alert me.

She rapped on my bedroom window and said, "Miriam, we have half an hour to evacuate, get up!" I asked where we were to go. "North to Stony Plain via Tomahawk," she said.

Once I woke up, I got into high gear; memories of being on call as a nurse came flooding back to me. I put the supplies for three days in the car and tried calling my son who lives five miles northwest of Drayton Valley. There was no answer. My next move was to drive over to Season's Retirement Community where my husband, who suffers from dementia, resides. The staff packed his belongings and medication, and I signed him out. I went back home a block away to retrieve my cell phone charging cord.

The night before, I was prompted to fill my car with gas, which I had done first thing in the morning. I was thankful I did.

As I approached 50th Avenue, traffic slowed dramatically. I had thought of going west to my son's place, but when I saw the steady stream of traffic coming from the west, I joined the flow of vehicles going north on Highway 22. I was impressed and thankful that the traffic was leaving in an orderly manner. We were fortunate there was no smoke or flames. Before long, my husband asked where we were going. Not wanting to alarm him, I said, "I am not sure."

The traffic crawled along, like a caterpillar with red lights. I was pleased everyone was staying in the northbound lane, and no one was honking their horns or flashing their lights. A steady stream of flashing lights and sirens blaring from emergency vehicles filled the southbound lane. Gradually, we were able to speed up, only to



In early May, Drayton Valley residents, including Miriam Roberts, were evacuated due to a wildfire. Photos: CTV; Christel Durham



have to slow down again to turn east on Secondary Hwy 624, a narrower, bumpy road.

I was getting tired, thinking I would take a rest north of Tomahawk. My husband was not able to relax. I kept going and turned east again on Hwy 627, at least now the traffic was picking up speed, and soon I was able to drive the speed limit. I decided to carry on to Hwy 60 to Devon, to look for a place to stay. By then, it was about 3 am. Through the haze, I was happy to see a sign displaying "The Inn." At reception, I was told, "Sorry, no room in the Inn," which was reminiscent of Mary and Joseph's plight the night of Jesus' birth.

So, we carried on along Hwy 60 through a construction zone and an obstacle course of pylons. It was more of the same on Hwy 19 toward the Edmonton International Airport. Needless to say, I was glad that the first motel we came to had vacancy at a very reasonable rate. We dropped into bed at 4 am. I was tired and road weary, but it was some time before I could relax enough for sleep. My husband woke up just before breakfast ended, and the receptionist was reluctant to give us bread. We were too tired to move to another motel, so we stayed for two more nights.

I touched base with my family the next day. My son north of town had not been evacuated. Our granddaughter Samantha, an RN, helped evacuate patients in the Drayton Valley Hospital to Rocky Mountain House. Our other granddaughter Dakota, who works in the office at Shangri La Lodge, helped evacuate the residents, some of whom ended up at the Devon Inn. Her aunt from Calgary had been trying to reach me on my cellphone, which I wasn't answering. She asked Dakota to go over to my place to check on us. But by that time, we had

already left.

I called Garth Blades, People's Warden at All Saints', the next day. Garth's wife Sandra and dog Murphy had slept in their car at Tomahawk the first night of the evacuation. He began calling parishioners whose cellphones he knew. It was comforting to hear Bishop Stephen London had called him to say he was praying for us, as was the Rev. Robyn King, who had also tried contacting parishioners.

As my husband and I were still in the Leduc area on Sunday, we attended St. Paul's, where we were warmly received, and given sound advice. We heeded the advice and stayed at two of the places we were offered shelter. It was a time of renewal of friendship, for which we were very thankful. My son and daughter-in-law from the Calgary area came to see us on the second weekend.

We received a welcome phone call, on May 12, at 2 pm, from our

other son to say we were allowed to return home. But my friend invited us to stay another night, which we did. We stocked up on groceries and filled our tank with gas, before heading home on a very quiet highway where we were greeted by our neighbours with welcoming hugs.

All Saints' parishioners came together, on May 21, for a service of prayers prepared by the Rev. Robyn King. Members of the congregation could add their prayers, which overwhelmingly included prayers of thanksgiving for the firefighters, first responders, town and county administration, and for the safe return to a town which had narrowly escaped a major disaster. Five houses had been burnt in the area surrounding town, but no lives were lost. We shared many stories of kindness and hospitality during coffee and fellowship after the service.

## Creation Care a Team Effort Continued

Continued from page 2.

While our long-term vision is looking towards our next synod and what we can do all together as a diocese, we are providing, in the meantime, some simple resources for this 2023 Season of Creation.

Resources designed as a kind of 'grab bag' for parishes to use to help shape their Sundays between September 1 and the feast day of St. Francis, can be found on the diocesan website at <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/what-we-do/environmental-stewardship/>.

We provide a theme, prayer resources, resource links, hymn suggestions, challenge ideas, and a small video that could be used on Sunday or in a small group setting.

Care of creation is a team effort, so lay members who are

passionate about this, could offer to lead these portions, or to support their priest's lead in this regard.

And, while this work can seem crushing and hopeless, be sure to celebrate what you are doing already – we don't encourage one another on the way often enough. Every small action is worth celebrating, as we seek to not only change a light bulb but to step boldly into a whole new way of thinking and being as ecologically alert Christians.

We should also remember that we are not alone in our work, but the whole Christian world is being united through this collective action. Perhaps, other denominations near you are doing similar work. Our churches together can let the Land teach us the good and common life.

# Courageous Stories from Individuals Living with FASD Shine Spotlight on Need for Compassion and Action

JENNIFER STEWART  
PrayerWorks Ministries  
St. Faith's, Edmonton

**C**ourage lights up a new book *Born Broken: Reflections on Life and Resiliency from Individuals Living with FASD*, recently published by the Bissell Centre's Fetal Alcohol Spectrum of Services (FASS) program.

The title of the book is powerful. Chosen by the contributors after profound discussion, as editor Jared Epp describes in the preface, the title speaks to the realities of living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). FASD is the diagnostic term used to describe the impacts on the brain and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol.

I am reminded of an earlier book by American author Michael Dorris, who published a groundbreaking memoir in 1989, *The Broken Cord: A Father's Story*. Dorris adopted Adam, a beautiful three-year-old boy who was later diagnosed with FASD. Dorris wrote, "My son will forever travel through a moonless night with

only the wind for company."

More than three decades later, the contributors to *Born Broken* share their stories in ways that light up that moonless night, so that we can better understand. The contributors talk about a range of experiences: early childhood and school experiences, FASD diagnosis, the child welfare system, health and mental health, adversity and healing, the justice system, addictions, families, friends, relationships, community, art, music, grief, loneliness, forgiveness, hope and love.

This book is a call for compassion. Here lives hope, creativity, the strength that emerges from great struggle, humour, friendship and community. Most important is the courage it takes to live with FASD. There is much to learn from the those who shared their stories and



reflections in *Born Broken*.

Their stories also give life to the mountain of clinical research on the lifelong and complex impacts to the brain, central nervous system and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol. FASD is

the most prevalent developmental disability in the western world; impacting the lives of four per cent of the population in Canada. Though higher in vulnerable populations including those involved in the child welfare system and where there is intergenerational trauma, all populations where alcohol is used are impacted. Still, FASD is often underdiagnosed, misdiagnosed and stigmatised.

So the book is also a call for action: increased community awareness that FASD is not a private and family disability, but one that is grounded in the social determinants of health, resources

and supports; early diagnosis and interventions, schools that are FASD aware, faith communities that are welcoming, community and housing supports, employment training, and health and mental health care which are critical for individuals with FASD to reach their full potential.

Without these supports, many children and youth with FASD will continue to be underserved by education systems, and families will travel arduous journeys to find supports and services. Youth and adults with FASD will continue to experience multiple adversities and be disproportionately involved in the criminal justice system, as victims as well as accused. And, communities will miss out on the gifts and contributions so evident in their stories in *Born Broken*.

*September 9 is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) International Awareness Day, and September is a time to support and celebrate the accomplishments of individuals with FASD, to educate, and to raise awareness of prevention. Resources are available at CanFASD and the*

# U2 frontman tells of Surrendering to family and faith

**M**y first encounter with Bono was through an interview he did of Eugene Peterson. Peterson is a well-known American Presbyterian writer and preacher. It was a good interview, and my first introduction to Eugene Peterson. I was impressed by Peterson and became aware of Bono.



MARION BULMER  
St. Thomas', Sherwood Park

Researcher and storyteller Brené Brown suggested the audio book as the most interesting version of Bono's *Surrender*. It is a lengthy book, but each chapter highlights a song. U2's voice, as well as Bono's ability to mimic voices, are entertaining.

Bono's mom died when he was 13 and his dad withdrew into his own pain. Iris, his mom, is mentioned throughout the book.

Bono met the three other members of U2, and Ali whom he later married, at Mount Temple Comprehensive School. When he meets Ali he is grieving the death of his mother, and her family, as well as over time the members of U2, become his family.

In Dublin, Mount Temple was uniquely co-ed, ecumenical and I would say progressive. It was clearly a good school, with teachers that influenced the members of U2.

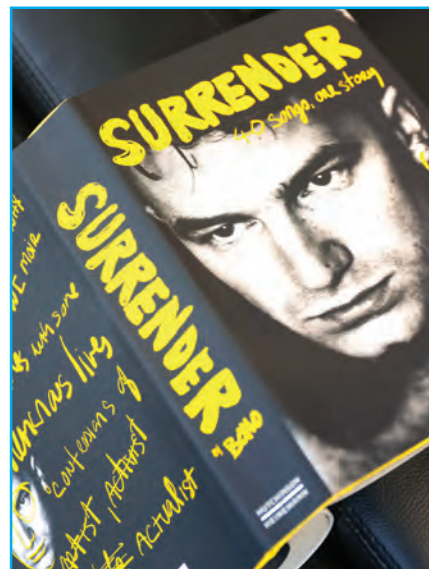
The structure and shape of the book is around 40 songs, this is not a coincidence. It links to

Jesus's 40 days in the wilderness and Moses' 40 years in the wilderness. This book is a spiritual journey in song and word. Though the songs I played aren't exactly my style, some have grown on me.

While at Mount Temple, Bono, Ali, Larry and Edge are members of a charismatic renewal group. They drift from other members of the group later in life, as their literal translation and understanding of the bible are questioned.

In the second half of Bono's life journey, he becomes more attracted to churches with ritual and liturgy. Like many, he is not attracted to "religiosity." Bono has never been able to settle in one church. Yet faith underpins all that he does.

I had heard Bono's name around campaigns like "One" and "Live Aid." My sceptical nature



felt, perhaps, he was attached to these campaigns for publicity. After reading this book, I would have to say it is more than branding. Bono's family, music and work for justice and peace are his passions. Ali is fully part of that, as is the band who supports this work, even as they may sometimes find it a bit "burdensome and time absorbing."

When producing an album, the band members can feel stretched, and are tense around each other. They love to perform. In performing a song, the band and the audience can become one with each other and the audience. That oneness is felt by Bono as a holy experience.

Their long-term manager cautioned that they sort out their financial approach as money rips more bands apart than music. They split all proceeds no matter who writes the songs.

Bono's family is paramount. He has tried to keep their lives private and normal. Bono encourages the dreams of his children. His father did not encourage him.

Together Ali and Bono have a

committed marriage, family and private life, and do justice work together. They see this as core to their Christian faith.

Jubilee 2000 (a movement to forgive the debt of the world's poorest countries) was a huge thrust of churches in North America and the world. Thelma Hansen, who led Partners in Mission for the diocese, and me as the diocesan rep for the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), worked extensively on this campaign.

Bono and a team also worked very hard on Jubilee 2000, a global campaign. The interest saved on debt-servicing by countries like Uganda has resulted in money for health care and education. My sense is he has had good advisors, and worked to understand these complicated issues, to be able to talk with integrity to leaders of the world.

Bono clearly has a strong personality. It has been a struggle for him to surrender to his wife, family, band members etc. To surrender to his faith. He sees Jesus surrendering to his call in both life and death.

This is a fun, thoughtful book which, if you choose to listen to it, may bring you pleasure. Certainly, it informed me of a person who has worked to grow in his journey of faith and of a high-profile worker for justice; of Ireland and of a music career.

## Young Missionary to Ukraine Brings Hopeful Message to Vegreville

LISA TOPIJKO

St. Mary the Virgin, Vegreville

I can't speak for everyone in my Ukrainian Canadian community, but I know that many of us in Vegreville have been hungry to hear a message of hope from Ukraine.

Rebecca Sanden, a young Canadian missionary, has been working there for about four years, mostly teaching English at Grace Church in Chernivtsi, a small city near the Romanian border. Rebecca is the daughter of a dear friend. While I always enjoyed hearing my friend speak lovingly about Rebecca, it was an honour and privilege to learn firsthand what is in Rebecca's heart and head as she serves God in Ukraine. She is affiliated with Commission to Every Nation, her sending organisation.

When Rebecca visited St. Mary's Anglican Church in Vegreville on July 16, she shared, through personal stories, photos and videos, a message of love in action; the resilience, perseverance, and diligence of Ukrainian people who are not only surviving but are thriving in their own ways. It was a message Vegreville residents had been yearning for.

I invited some of the people attending Rebecca's presentation on her mission work to share with me how they have been impacted by her message.

"Rebecca is hugely committed: putting herself in harm's way to some degree," said one person. "Her commitment to the people she's trying to teach is pretty honourable."

People were moved upon hearing that Rebecca's church had organised fun days for local children. She shared photos of a giant bouncy castle, games, food, and fun that they brought to village children in the rural areas around Kherson. Parents of the children had expressed to

Rebecca that they were tremendously grateful to be able to hear, even if just for one day, their children shriek together in laughter, instead of crying out in fear.

Others were impressed to hear how churches in Chernivtsi, regardless of denomination, "were working together to help with whatever was needed" by people fleeing through their city to Romania. They observed that "life seemed somewhat normal in some places, and totally devastated in other areas." And they appreciated "the church's focus on service to the internally displaced, and its willingness to work with the Orthodox church in the eastern part of Ukraine," where the fighting is the most intense.

A friend stated, "Amid strife, fear, and pride, people look to missionaries spreading God's word for hope."

Rebecca explained that her church offers low-cost English classes, using the Bible as their textbook. English conversation groups regularly tackle life's important questions and struggles.

Earlier this year, in studying the book of Matthew, the scripture lesson involved forgiveness, including one's enemies. Rebecca said, "To forgive an enemy that is trying to kill you is a hard concept to understand." Indeed! And, she said, it was an incredibly difficult conversation that many of her students were not ready or able to engage in.

Another attendee observed that, "Not only should we pray for the safety of the Ukrainian



Canadian missionary Rebecca Sanden (l) with former English student Maryna Bodnar from Chernivtsi Ukraine.

families, but also for a change of heart for the enemy to realise what they are doing."

An interesting observation came from a Zoom participant: "It's so much more than just teaching English. It's a labour of love; meeting human needs of community; physical needs and spiritual nourishment. Rebecca and her co-workers show courage and creativity to step outside their comfort zones and reach out with open arms to meet those needs."

One person said, "For me, Rebecca confirmed Ukrainians will do whatever needs to be done to save their country. All they need is support and direction." Someone else was grateful Rebecca provided a reputable link for monetary donations.

During Rebecca's Sunday afternoon presentation, there was an amazing occurrence. A week prior to the presentation, a lady named Maryna, living in Vegreville for about a year, had recognised Rebecca Sanden as her former English teacher while living in Chernivtsi! Maryna was able to attend the event and reconnect with Rebecca, this time on Canadian soil. Truly remarkable! Rebecca's photos, videos, and stories made them tearful for they both love and miss Ukraine and the wonderful people there.

And what were Maryna's thoughts? "I was amazed at how people who know each other can meet in such a large country among millions of people," she said. "What also impressed me

was when Rebecca told me (years ago) that she came from Canada. At that time, I had just started learning English, and I responded in class that I dreamed of going to Canada some day."

As for Rebecca's presentation, Maryna said, "I cried during her stories and videos. It still pains me to see how much people suffer, how they try to rebuild their homes where they have lived their entire lives, and how traumatised the children in Ukraine are because of the war. I was also impressed by how many volunteers from EWay (an evangelical missions organisation comprised of Ukrainian staff working in cooperation with American/Canadian missionaries) have helped and continue to help people. It used to be just a church where they talked about God, and people came to practice English with native speakers. But now, they do so much for displaced individuals who have been affected by the war. They travelled to the east of Ukraine, risking their lives, all to help people. I was impressed by the kindness of those people, their sincerity, and I am very grateful to them for everything they have done and do for my country."

As I first stated, the people of Vegreville and area are hungry for stories of faith and hope. They yearn to hear about love in action, such as people rebuilding homes for Ukrainian families. And, even though our hearts still ache for Ukraine, we were encouraged to learn from Rebecca that many are serving God and doing His work there. And they are making a tremendous difference.

As I write this, Rebecca is returning to Chernivtsi, via Bucharest, Romania, at the beginning of August. May her work and the work of her co-missionaries, continue to be a blessing to all those they serve. Thanks be to God!

## Diocese of Edmonton Family Retreat Weekend explores the way of love continued

Continued from Front Page.

Evening activities featured singing and s'mores around a campfire. The weekend ended with a Eucharist in the rustic chapel on Sunday morning.

Throughout the weekend, families got to know one another over meals, around the campfire and through times of learning and play. The weekend met and exceeded Sue's expectations and she was grateful to all who participated and helped. Thanks to the diocese and to Christ Church for supporting some of the extra costs associated with this first annual family weekend.

The response to the weekend was very good, and people expressed not only gratitude for the weekend but anticipation for next year.



"I enjoyed meeting new people from across the diocese during meals and the adult prayer discussions; my children loved swim-time and the activity Rev. Sue set up asking them to put the

books of the Bible in chronological order. The blessing box craft and marshmallow-sharing exercise also went over well and are something my kids continue to reference," says Kelly Summers, a member

of Christ Church, Edmonton, who attended the family retreat with her 9-year-old son, Rupert, and 6-year-old daughter, Bea.

"I would definitely recommend" a retreat to other families, says Summers who started attending Christ Church earlier this year. "It was a highlight of our summer. As a new member of the congregation, we got to know the church leadership and other members much better than weekly services permit. My children laid the foundation for future friendships and are more open to becoming involved in other church activities like the children's choir. It was a restful but also invigorating weekend, and we deeply appreciate all the work required to make it happen, from planning, to meals, to themed activities."