



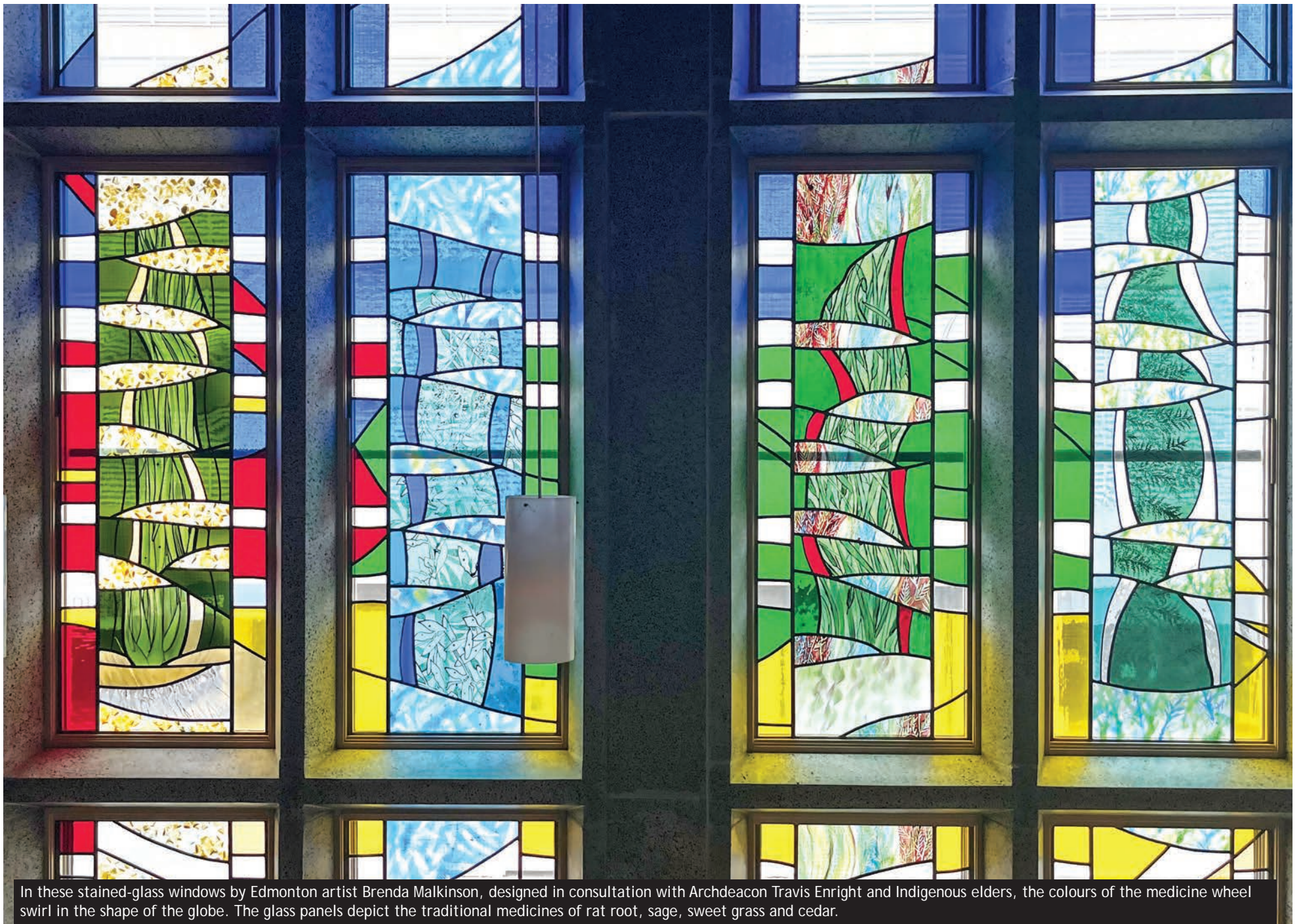
THE MESSENGER



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In these stained-glass windows by Edmonton artist Brenda Malkinson, designed in consultation with Archdeacon Travis Enright and Indigenous elders, the colours of the medicine wheel swirl in the shape of the globe. The glass panels depict the traditional medicines of rat root, sage, sweet grass and cedar.

Chapel windows fill cathedral with healing and hope

As the Orange Shirt has come to symbolise hope, so, too, do stained-glass windows that were installed this fall in the chapel of All Saints' Cathedral, and blessed the day after the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

On Sunday, October 1, Indigenous Elders and invited guests, as well as members of All Saints' and the Edmonton diocese participated in the service to bless the windows.

"These symbols shine on our worship, reminding us of the beauty and the gift and the medicine of this land," says the Very Rev. Alexandra Meek, Dean of Edmonton.

"They remind us that we, too, are planted here, and that we have so much to learn from the Indigenous People of this land. I believe they are a sign of the healing that is possible through the grace of God and of new hope and

life being breathed into the church."

The window installation, made possible by a small bequest received in 2019, and an Anglican Foundation of Canada grant, was crafted by local glass artist Brenda Malkinson in conversation with the Venerable Travis Enright, Archdeacon for Reconciliation and Decolonization, and Indigenous Elders, over a seven-month period.

The COVID pandemic halted work on the windows and the project was re-imagined, says Meek. "We quickly realised that we could not install new art over drafty 55-year-old windows, and so we moved from simply a small, art installation to a restoration project with energy-efficient windows."

During this time, the artist's imagination also took off and the project developed into an art installation encompassing all the chapel

windows overlooking the nave of the church. Malkinson used her craft to incorporate healing elements identified through the listening process with Enright and Indigenous Elders.

"The colours of the medicine wheel swirl in the shape of the globe, and the four center panels depict traditional medicines: rat root, sage, sweet grass and cedar," says Meek. "The prints of animals can also be found in the frosted glass."

Previously, Malkinson worked with the cathedral on the glass door etchings behind the baptismal font, and to design the banners that were sewn by members of the friendship guild and hang in the hall.

Continued on page 7.



Holy Cross Day Ordination p. 5



Golden Milestone p. 6



Orange Shirt Day p. 8

Revive Program to Equip Lay Leaders for Ministry

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Lay leaders in the Edmonton diocese now have access to a new resource to equip them for spiritual leadership in the church today.

This fall, the Diocese of Edmonton was blessed to welcome the Rev. Dr. Dawn Davis, director of leadership for ministry programs at Huron University College in London, O.N.

Davis was invited by Bishop Stephen London to speak at Clergy Day and the Leaders with Heart public gathering in September, about the Revive discipleship program she created to help church members, clergy and lay, renew their passion for ministry and grow in confidence as spiritual leaders. The Edmonton diocese joins several dioceses across the Anglican Church of Canada in offering Revive to parishes and ministries.

In this time of transformation, Bishop Steve says, "I'm a big believer that there are resources across the church we can utilise to learn and grow."

"During this challenging time in our wider world, when there's all kinds of uncertainty, turmoil, shifting and change, it's also a challenging time to be the church," says the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Canon to the Ordinary, Edmonton diocese. "The church has come through a period of several centuries where it had quite a bit of influence, access, and power. Sadly, it has sometimes misused that power."

In addition to making amends for the damage it has done, "the church struggles to be a voice people listen to in a more diverse and plural world," he says. We must be "thinking about new ways of adjusting to fewer people, different kinds of resources, and how we're going to organise communities in the future."

The Edmonton diocese has been envisioning and imagining, "about how we can faithfully grow, change and adapt to continue to be the same kind of gospel people that we've always been called to be, but in a very different world with very different realities."

"Through a strategic visioning process, we have been listening to people in parishes about what they see as the biggest opportunities, and the biggest challenges now facing the church from their experience," says Sharman.



Dawn Davis speaks to clergy of the Edmonton about how creating the Revive discipleship program for clergy and lay leaders helped renew her own passion for ministry.

Ministry -- where it happens, how it happens, who does it? -- has emerged as a common theme.

"Previous models of ministry were thought of as a thing professionals do, and ordained people do. But we have been trying to imagine and reawaken something that's always been at the core of the people who follow Jesus. It's understanding that all of us have gifts, all of us have callings, and all of us have things that the church needs for it to be fully itself," he says.

"We are offering the Revive program to parishes to help people explore this concept and feel confident and prepared to share their gifts in the ways their church needs them to."

"The ministry of the church is probably going to look different than it looked a generation ago, or before that. And so, one of the reasons we're grateful for Dawn (Davis) is that she and Huron College have been wrestling with a lot of those same kinds of questions."

"Although we don't necessarily know where the church is going, God tends to prepare people in advance for what we're going to need in the future. And, we already have the people and the gifts we will need to be that church of the future."

Davis funnelled her passion for helping people grow spiritually into creating the Revive program, published by Forward Movement.

Through a process of "engaging in prayer life and engaging in the scripture, we see people start to have spiritual experiences, and spiritual formation starts," Davis says. "It's just amazing. And then they come into the groups, and they share, which is just incredible. I mean, it's just a total privilege to be part of this."

As she explains, the last module of the Revive program explores vocational call: "who you are in the life of the church, and your purpose. What is it that God is asking, what yearnings are within you that are prompting you forward? These things can be hard to discern. So how do you start to get at that?" Revive looks at disciplines and practices and ways to help.

While Davis designed Revive as a 10-month, small group program, she says it is a versatile resource, that can be broken down into smaller sessions, and tailored to a parish's needs.

"We're excited that Revive -- as an entryway into discipleship -- is one of the programs the Edmonton diocese has invested in," she says.

To hear more about the Revive discipleship program, watch part 1 of Dawn Davis's "Leaders with Heart" presentation at All Saints' Cathedral on Edmonton.anglican.ca

London appointed chair of Faith, Worship and Ministry committee

The Rev. Stephanie London, rector of St. Columba, Beaumont, has been chosen to lead the national Faith, Worship and Ministry (FWM) coordinating committee.

London says the activity of FWM, which began from the melding of several national offices, is "diverse in scope and eclectic." Its broad focus, however, is to provide support for the church in its prayer, theological reflection, resources, and ministry, both within the Anglican Church of Canada and with our partners from other organisations.

"FWM attends to matters that shape the public expression of this part of the Body of Christ, acting as a connection point for different ministries and initiatives," she says.

As chair of the FWM Coordinating Committee, London serves alongside representatives of several Anglican dioceses, including: the Rev. Benjamin Gillard, Toronto; Mr. Dion Lewis, Montreal; the Rev. Marnie Peterson, New Westminster; the Rt. Rev. Susan Bell, Bishop of Niagara.

She also works with several General Synod staff members, including: the Rev. Dr.

Eileen Scully, Director of Faith, Worship and Ministry; the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Animator for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations; Ms. Sheilagh McGlynn, Animator for Youth Ministries; each of whom oversees large program areas.

The FWM sphere includes several working groups that drive projects and work on initiatives related to FWM's mandate, such as the network of healthcare chaplains and the recently approved liturgy for gender transitions. After extensive preparation, study, and testing, FWM receives the results of this work and formulates motions which then travel through the Council of General Synod to the General Synod assembly.

According to London, FWM will respond to "two important directions from General Synod this year: to engage seminaries and



Stephanie London

theological education programs to support development of anti-racism curricula; and to address inclusion of traditional Indigenous spiritual practices and liturgical expressions across the Anglican Church of Canada.

Additionally, an FWM task force will conclude, over the next 18 months, "a 20-year process of revising the ordination liturgies in consultation with ecumenical partners, liturgical scholars and practitioners."

Other major work of FWM steering committees includes planning a leaders in spiritual formation conference for April 2024, and the next National Worship Conference; preparing

theological resources for Medical Assistance in Dying, an updated calendar of saints, contemporary language catechisms, rites for Christian Initiation, and more.

God sandwich provides sustenance for each day

Every day is an adventure. When I get up in the morning, I don't know what will happen in the hours before I pray that night.

"Father, just as the mattress of the bed supports and holds us, thank you for your support of us. Christ, just as the covers of the bed comfort and keep us warm and protected, thank you for your comfort, guidance, and protection. Holy Spirit, just as our breath enters our body, giving us oxygen to all our cells, thank you for feeding us with Yourself so we are full of You and share forth Your fruit. Thank you, Lord, for supporting, covering, and filling us with Your presence. To Your glory and our joy; Amen."

In bed, I picture myself in a "God sandwich," with Christ watching over, the Father supporting, and the Holy Spirit in-filling. It is a very comforting image for me. The mattress, the blankets, and my breathing in a very physical way relate to me the spiritual closeness of God.

It is also a reminder to me that this is the reality of my day, regardless of how I felt it. In our frustrations and our joys, in our hopes and our anxieties, Christ watches over us, our Father



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD
Diocese of Athabasca

I think of our emotions like our body's response system -- when part of our body has been harmed, we feel pain. When our body is under attack, it responds, sometimes through inflammation, sometimes through increased temperature, sometimes through allergic responses. All uncomfortable, and all designed to be health-stabilising. Likewise, anger, worry, anxiety, depression, fear -- all are emotional ways of saying "something is wrong here, something is not right." They are ways of alerting us and allowing us to respond how we choose. To seek health.

supports us, and the Holy Spirit fills us.

This is important for us to remember! At times we may feel lonely or disconnected. We may feel harassed and bullied, or overwhelmed and unable to cope with whatever life has thrown at us. Sometimes, the grief can seem unbearable, or the despair seems without limit. Even then, Christ watches over us, our Father supports us, and the Holy Spirit fills us.



And, regardless of our emotions, regardless of if we sense it or not, God is always with us. In joy and happiness, and in fear and sadness.

The past few years have been tumultuous ones for our diocese, and the near future looks to continue this trend. There have been hard times, and there will be hard times. But we can choose how we respond, and what we do.

As I said last month, we are in a (loving relationship in (community) with God). In my mind, this is the definition of church. Loving relationships, with each other, with God, and within us individually, are, if anything, even more critical in hard times than in easy times. They are also often more painful and harder to sustain. You are loved. It is critical you remember you are loved. Hold on to that love, and give yourself grace. Remind yourself that Jesus said, "remember, I am with you, until the end of the age." He meant it. Christ watches over you, our Father supports you, and the Holy Spirit fills you. Every day is an adventure.

God bless you greatly as you walk with Him.

+David

Discipleship - the path for inner transformation

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives his disciples their final instructions. He tells them to make more disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19a). There are many reasons for this. But in this meditation, I want to think about discipleship, because it is the path for inner transformation.

The church is about changing people's lives through the transforming love of Jesus Christ. The good news of the Gospel is about healing all of creation and the world in which we live, and healing the human heart. Christ wants to set us free from the anxieties and angers that cloud our hearts. He wants us to be *wholehearted* with lives of meaning and hearts full of love. Hearts of people that no longer fear the pain and setbacks of life, but that learn to walk the hard paths with maturity and goodness. This is part of God's plan of salvation.

The transformative path of discipleship is a lifelong journey. We take discipleship seriously as a church because we take salvation seriously. Not that salvation is our work; it is God's. But we are called to walk with God in a renewed relationship that Jesus Christ has made possible.



Bishop STEPHEN LONDON
Diocese of Edmonton

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...
Matthew 28:19a

Ultimately, salvation is about belonging. It is about belonging, contributing to and serving a new community within a new creation that is centered in Christ. A community in which we love one another, proclaim the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and will endure into eternity transcending even death. In other words, discipleship is about loving God and loving neighbour. And there are levels of discipleship.

On the first level, discipleship is about turning our Lord's teachings into action. We learn by doing. He taught us that we need to serve one another, to not intentionally take first place in things, to forgive one another, to be merciful, to hunger and thirst for righteousness, to pray, to love our enemies. I could go on. But Jesus didn't come to just give us knowledge about God, but to call us to put God's mission into action.

On the second level, we find that Jesus' teaching is incredibly difficult to live out. It goes against so many of our basic instincts to strike back, take command and defend ourselves. To walk this path, we find that we have to continually come back to relationship with Jesus; to start over and remind ourselves why it is important. As we struggle with this level, we find we grow closer to Christ. We discern his Holy Spirit deep within our hearts, and we learn to live from this source.

On the third level of discipleship, as we practice, struggle, grow closer to Christ and keep trying, we find that over time we are transformed. Our attitudes change, our anxieties lessen, and faith, hope and love become ever more central to our lives. We find we grow in wisdom.

If I have any word for you reader, it is to take your daily discipleship seriously. It is God's path for your healing and transformation.

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: DECEMBER 1 for JANUARY 2024.

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This is Our Missional Good Shepherd Community Pantry



Last month in this space, the Ven. Richard King concluded his seven-year Mission and Discipleship column with a reminder to keep tuning into the missional heart of God and to become more relational even when doing so is uncomfortable.

We would like to hear what God's heart is saying to your parish. What are you doing to be more relational, to be more missional? Please send your parish stories (max. 500 words) and pictures (min. 1 MB) to anglicanmessenger@gmail.com.



The Ven. JORDAN HAYNIE WARE
Rector, Good Shepherd
Edmonton



on their own, we want the whole neighbourhood, as one family, to use this communal space.

The response to the community pantry has been astonishing. Folks get off the bus at the end of a long work day and head straight for the pantry. A soup company from St. Albert donates dried soups, and somebody (not a Good Shepherd member), stocks the shelves with loaves of bread every few weeks. Community leagues donate items to our pantry as their entry fee to league events! And, of course, it brings me such joy to watch people fill the pantry on their way in to worship on Sunday mornings.

The need is such that even all this activity does not keep the pantry full for more than

an hour or two at a time. The Little Free Pantry philosophy doesn't fret at an empty pantry. We never promised it would always be full. We promised to create a space where community members can practice generosity when they are able and receive care when possible. But it is difficult knowing that our neighbourhood needs more than we can offer.

Thinking of the whole neighbourhood as our family has completely changed the way we make decisions at Good Shepherd. In recent months, more campers and visitors have been come to our courtyard, and our parishioners' first response is to offer any food we have stashed inside to restock the pantry. When folks show up to donate or receive food from the pantry, they are invited to join us for coffee hour, parish BBQs, and more. They are all our family, and they all *matter to us (and to Jesus) as much as any other family member.*

As the rector, I have the blessing of receiving calls from other churches that are considering doing something similar. Churches of many denominations have reached out to ask if it is as simple as constructing the space -- and it is! If you would like to build a community pantry at your parish, give me a call. I would love to spread this movement widely.

Yellowhead / Edmonton West ACW Ladies Hold Fall Gathering in Spruce Grove



BETTY SQUANCE
St. Augustine-Parkland ACW

For the 39 people gathered for the Yellowhead/Edmonton West Regional ACW Meeting at St. Augustine's-Parkland, in Spruce Grove, the day began with coffee, tea or juice, fresh fruit, and a variety of muffins fresh from the oven.

The Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector of St. Augustine's-Parkland, celebrated the Eucharist, and taught us a bit about Ninian.

Following the service, the Rev. Shelly King spoke about what God really wants us to do according to Micah. We are to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Simply

put, I need to treat my siblings, children, grandchildren equally, no favouritism; acknowledge kindness shown to me and show it to others; and serve God daily without expecting to boost my status in the community or see my name in neon lights.

We enjoyed more visiting during lunch and then held our business meeting followed by a singsong. The offering collected during the service will be given to the Alzheimer Society.

There may be changes made to the regions of the diocese, but regardless of what the new groupings look like, we want to continue to get together. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success!



St. John's, Sedgewick Hosts Community Church Service at All Saints', Lougheed

Twenty-five people from the neighbouring communities of Sedgewick and Lougheed, as well as Edmonton, passed under a wooden archway at the Iron Creek Museum and made their way along the boardwalk to All Saints' Anglican Church (open to museum visitors and for special services), on Sunday, September 10.

They were greeted at the door by the Rev. Colleen Sanderson who had made the two-hour drive from the city to lead the community service offered annually by the Parish of St. John's, Sedgewick. She was assisted by people's warden Sheila Tanton, who accompanied the congregation's singing on an antique pump organ and read the lessons and Psalm. Many Anglican and United

Church members, from school age to age 98, participated in the service of Morning Prayer, gathering afterward for lunch and fellowship in the museum's log cabin.

Although fewer than 10 people now attend St. John's regularly, the parish remains an integral part of its surrounding community. Churchwardens Sandra Rosiechuk and Tanton are retired schoolteachers and farmers who helped start a community garden in the green space behind the church in Sedgewick; and parishioners regularly volunteer at the Good as New thrift shop, an ecumenical and community ministry offered out of the town's former Lutheran church.

Priest and Deacon Ordained on Holy Cross Day

Standing before Bishop Stephen London, their parishes, family, friends and members of the Diocese of Edmonton, the Rev. Lisa Wojna and Jordan Giggey publicly answered the call of Christ to begin their new ministries as priest and transitional deacon.

"Lisa and Jordan, this evening is the beginning of a journey in which you are giving yourselves to Jesus Christ to be workers in the vineyard of the kingdom, to be ambassadors of reconciliation, to be proclaimers of the Gospel, to be living icons of the mercy and love of God," said Bishop London addressing the ordinands during the Holy Cross Day service, held September 14, 2023, at All Saints' Cathedral in Edmonton.

"The Feast of the Holy Cross is particularly profound because at the heart of it is the cross of Jesus Christ, the great sign of God's love for the world where Christ died for the sins of the world and reconciled the world to God," continued Bishop London in his Homily.

"To see Christ on the cross is to say that God's love does not only shine in perfect places to perfect people God's love goes to the darkest corners to bring hope and healing and goodness and mercy. God is always the shepherd going to the margins. We go to the cross because it shows us that we don't have to hide from God in our failures, and shame, and sin. Whatever we hide from other people, we don't have to hide from God because God is already there. God knows inside God's own heart your pain... and has compassion."

The cross is also a reminder that the church is broken, he said. "We are coming out of a hard history where we know well that our church has not lived into the values of the Kingdom of God. We have run residential schools, we have denied the LGBTQ2+ community full inclusion, and we have often in history been a church of the wealthy and powerful..."

"Yet we remember the cross leads to resurrection, said Bishop London. "Today we are in a profound and exciting time of reformation, and we see glimpses of God transforming our beloved church," he said looking upward to the back of the cathedral, where stained glass windows, designed by local artist Brenda Malkinson in consultation with the Ven. Travis Enright (Archdeacon for Reconciliation and Decolonization) and Indigenous elders, let light through to the chapel. These windows are a "beautiful icon of renewal."

Though the Rev. Lisa Wojna says she may have always felt God's presence in her life, but it was not until she was driving past Taylor Seminary in Edmonton, at age 53, that "I recognised I needed to place effort behind that calling. I began the process of discernment in a serious way, aided by my priest at the time, the Rev. Susan Ormsbee. She has been instrumental in my journey throughout," says Wojna, a member of St. Paul's, Leduc. As a chaplain at Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Wojna hopes to now be able to "bring the sacramental part of my ministry to my Anglican patients when requested."

"I always say that God took the scenic route with me," says the Rev. Jordan Giggey, a theological student and member of St. Mary's, Edmonton.

Giggey who was ordained as a transitional



Pictured clockwise from top: the Diocese of Edmonton clergy community welcomes Lisa Wojna and Jordan Giggey (front and center) as priest and transitional deacon; Bishop Stephen London presents the new priest and deacon to the congregation; the Bishop presents Lisa Wojna with a chalice; Wojna is vested by Archdeacons Jordan Haynie Ware and Rachael Parker (left); Bishop London lays hands on Jordan Giggey.

deacon says he, too, has felt called to ministry from the time "I was a small child going to mass with my dad at a Polish Catholic church." Yet, he says during his adolescent and teenage years, "I spent a long time ignoring God's call."

Former Dean of Edmonton the Very Rev. Neil Gordon and, more recently, the Ven. Travis Enright, rector of St. Mary's and St. Faith's, Edmonton, were his "formational and instrumental mentors."

Serving people through St. Mary's food bank ministry and the Queer Beginnings queer-affirming community, as well as Queerly Beloved, a working group of the diocesan social justice committee, has enabled him to "etch out a space for those of us who had been pushed out, in one way or another, to reclaim our spirituality and have a welcome space."

Embracing his calling, Giggey often reflects on a message he shared with St. George's, Devon when he served there during the summer: "When you choose to have that firm faith in the Lord's call and listen to what God is calling you to do, the Lord truly does provide."



Shared ministry covenant signed at joint worship service

The Rev. Canon PETER CLARKE
Athabasca Editor

More than 15 years ago, in 2007, Zion Lutheran Church, Athabasca, and St. Andrew's Anglican Church in nearby Colinton entered a shared ministry relationship. The two congregations worshipped jointly in alternating Anglican and Lutheran services in St. Andrew's home in Colinton. They shared clergy and essentially functioned as one congregation. St. Andrew's is part of the Diocese of Athabasca, Anglican Church of Canada. Zion is part of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. St. Andrew's was also part of a multi-point parish, the Parish of the Northern Lights. So, the new shared ministry also became part of this multi-point parish, sharing clergy with the other points serving



ABT Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, Bill Creaser, deacon; Rosemarie Howell, rector, Parish of the Northern Lights; Diocese of Athabasca Bishop David Greenwood.

Anglican congregations.

From the outset, there was a mutual desire to formalise the relationship in some way. On-again-off-again-efforts to do so

continued until the two agreements were finalised.

A Shared Ministry Agreement between St. Andrew's, Zion, Athabasca diocese and the ABT

Synod, was finalised and signed virtually (like so many agreements made during the COVID-19 pandemic) on April 18, 2021. The agreement covers matters impacting only St. Andrew's/Zion and not the rest of the parish; things like worship services, makeup of the St. Andrew's/Zion Council, etc.

The second document deals with matters relevant to all points in the parish, such as clergy recruitment, makeup of the parish council, etc. It is a Parish Covenant between all points in the parish, as well as the diocese and the synod. The covenant was signed in person on April 30, 2023, at a joint parish worship service officiated by the Rt. Rev. David Greenwood, Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca; the Rt. Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer, Bishop of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories; and the Rev. Rosemarie Howell, Rector of the



Judy Flax signs the Covenant.



Cecil Harrison signs the Covenant.

Christ Church, Berwyn Celebrates 100 Years of Ministry

Members of Christ Church in Berwyn gathered on September 10 to celebrate 100 years of ministry in the community.

Bishop David Greenwood led the 100th Anniversary Eucharist Service at Christ Church. There

was time for reflection on the many significant moments in the life of the church.

In true Anglican style, a luncheon was offered following the service. Many people came to help celebrate by sharing fellowship, food and memories.



Cathedral Welcomes Fall with Corn Roast

BARRY CRAIGEN
St. James' Cathedral, Peace River

The cathedral parish of St. James' in Peace River hosted a corn roast on Saturday, September 9 to welcome fall.

Bishop David Greenwood was invited and participated, as did many parish members who enjoyed the fine weather and ham, potatoes and beverages provided by the parish. In typical Anglican style there were also potluck salads and deserts to round out the feast.



Housing a human right, yet thousands unhoused

JENNIFER STEWART
Social Justice Committee
Diocese of Edmonton

The tents, the encampments, the stories of the people, our brothers and sisters, living in them. What can we do? What can we pray? What can we imagine? What action is needed?

Jim Gurnett, member of the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homeless (ECOHH) and Inner City Pastoral Ministry Pastoral Associate, proposes that we begin from a place of recognising that housing is a human right in Canada; enshrined in the National Housing Strategy Act by the federal government in 2019. The Act recognises housing as a human right, and commits organisations and governments to reform housing laws, policies and programs from a human rights perspective; to involve communities in meaningful ways; and to prioritise the most vulnerable groups and those in greatest need of housing.

To contribute to the ECOHH vision of safe, affordable, adequate and appropriate housing for all, it is important to gain an understanding of the factors which have contributed to thousands of vulnerable people living on the streets in Edmonton.

Housing has been neglected for years as a public policy issue and at election time by voters.

"It's terrible," says Gurnett. "But it's not a crisis in the sense of being unpredictable or unexpected," because government policy choices and lack of investment in affordable housing have led us to this place.

A severe shortage of basic affordable housing is a direct result of governments withdrawing from investment in non-market, affordable rental housing over recent decades. So much so that there is less affordable housing available today than there was 30 years ago. This has had a profound impact on those who can't afford to pay market rent, including people earning minimum wage and families receiving social benefits who can not absorb even a minimal rent increase.



JIM GURNETT

Our most vulnerable community members who need on-site support to stay housed, including people with disabilities, mental or physical health challenges, addictions, and seniors and refugees, also struggle to find supportive, affordable housing.

Increasingly, at the local, national and global level, rental housing has become a for-profit investment. Investment properties generate large profits for corporations and pension funds. In general, rental rates are continuously rising, regardless of local market needs - a trend Gurnett describes as the "death knell of housing as a human, social, and community matter."

In our families, our parishes, and our communities, we can learn and equip ourselves so that through our prayers, our actions, and with renewed gratitude for the safety and warmth of our homes, we find a new and vital commitment to ensuring that each of our brothers and sisters has a place to call home.

To prepare for an election, we can educate ourselves about the issues, speak out and become involved in prioritising government investments in affordable and supportive housing.

"What it requires is telling our elected leaders that building non-market housing is a priority and we want action on it," says



Prayer for National Housing Day

Loving God, you understand how important it is for each of your children to have a good place to call home.

And yet we come to you now, aware that in Canada tens of thousands of your children are homeless, hundreds of thousands more lack adequate housing, and some will die today because of this.

We remember that in his final hours of ministry, aware his friends were frightened and confused, your son Jesus comforted them with the promise of a real home he would prepare for them.

In your Creation, we see a rich diversity of homes for all, and yet we let some of our neighbours struggle in misery because they lack adequate housing.

As we move towards National Housing Day on November 22, open our hearts to care and reach out to those without, provoke us to have hands and voices that speak out to our leaders and demand the wise use of public resources to invest in housing for those who cannot afford the market, and support us as we examine our own lives to see how we can do more to change this terrible reality.

Thank you for all the blessings of home and hearth you have given to us and thank you for the image you have given of you as a mother bird offering warmth and security to her little ones. May this powerful picture of the importance of a place to call home inspire our actions.

Amen.

Jim Gurnett

Gurnett. We are all in this story.

On National Housing Day, November 22, you can join ECOHH for a screening of the documentary PUSH at the Garneau Theatre in Edmonton, at 7 pm. Through the eyes of Leilani Farha, a United Nations special rapporteur on housing, PUSH sheds light on

the global phenomenon of the commodification of housing and consequent lack of affordability. Encourage your friends, family and parish to buy tickets. See the ECOHH website for details.

For more info about the ECOHH which meets online monthly, visit: <https://www.ecohh.ca/>

Finding Our Way Primary Principle #3 Outward Focus ... to Bless and Serve Others ...

Chapel windows fill cathedral with healing and hope continued

Continued from Front Page

In a Facebook post he made at the time the windows were installed in September, the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Canon to the Ordinary, said: "...These are medicines of this land, and of the First Peoples of this land -- the Cree, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene, Nakota Sioux, Saulteaux, and others. They will now stand

alongside other images of saints and angels and biblical scenes for generations to come.

"The teachings about these medicines, and the healing they have to offer, have always been here, from the hand of the Creator. They grow just outside the door and down the hill from this church building. Too often, however, some of the minds and hearts of people in the churches have not been

ready or willing to learn from them, nor from the wisdom and ways of those who know the remedies and ceremonies in which these medicines play their part. The damage that has been done by the refusal of these gifts, and of the relationships they could open, has been horrible, in so many ways. "But something is beginning to change. Now, as the work of justice and reparation moves painstakingly

ahead, there is new sight and awareness in front of us. We can finally see the need to be healed by these medicines, and by becoming relatives once again with those people who have their stories to tell. These windows, therefore, are a prayer and a goal. May God help our Diocese be worthy of displaying the hope they offer, and of living the vision they portray."

Wetaskiwin Community Observes Truth and Reconciliation Day

FIONA BROWNLEE
Aboriginal and Rural Churches
Liaison
Diocese of Edmonton

More than 100 people gathered at the Diamond Jubilee Park in Wetaskiwin for the third annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, on Saturday, September 30.

The morning started with a smudge, followed by a pipe ceremony for both men and women in separate tipis. Following the ceremony the community

walked to the Wetaskiwin Peace Cairn. The children placed orange-painted rocks around the cenotaph as a memorial. We then returned to the park for a Round Dance, speakers, bannock and good conversation.

Immanuel, Wetaskiwin thanks the Wetaskiwin & District Heritage Museum and the City of Wetaskiwin for their ongoing partnership in this day. Please check out Immanuel's Facebook page for more pictures from the day.



Joan Chittister - Her Journey from Certainty to Faith

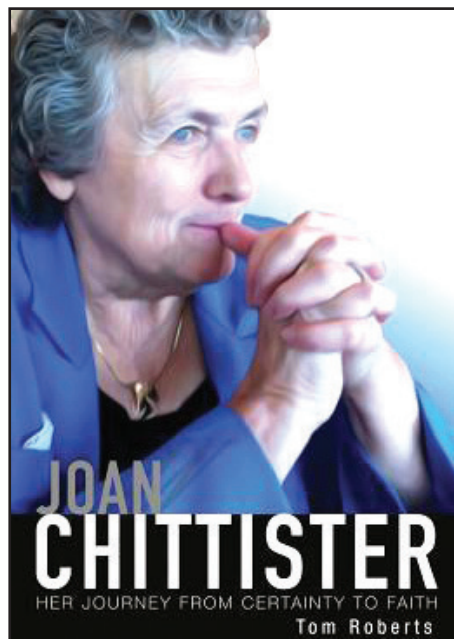


MARION BULMER
St. Thomas, Sherwood Park

It was a joy to reread this book, first published in 2015. Joan Chittister is a prolific writer and important leader in the Christian church. Tom Roberts, author of this biography, initially interviewed Joan, who was born in 1936, to update her obituary -- for when it might be needed.

Joan's childhood, her keen and questioning mind, education, Erie Benedictine community and the spirituality and practice of the Benedictines, were major influences on her life. She contracted polio shortly after entering the monastery, resulting in life-long health challenges.

She had not previously spoken of her early life out of love and respect for her mother and stepdad. Her mother Loretta was



raised Catholic and married her father, a protestant, at a young age. Loretta had little education, and no skills. Dutch drank and was abusive. He died when Joan was a small child. The family was poor. Joan adored her mother. She respected Dutch, and he loved and encouraged her.

Joan's mother urged her daughter to get a higher education and to be independent. Even as a teenager, Joan knew she would enter the monastery. When she joined the Erie Benedictines, at 16, her life went from continual chaos

to peace.

It was not Joan's intention to pursue a PhD, but the community had asked her to represent them at a conference. A professor from Penn State University, Dr. Phillips, was the lecturer. There was a group discussion, and Joan's ability to ask questions and zoom in on the heart of things, made her a stand-out. Dr. Phillips asked her when she would join them to do a PhD. In time, Joan was persuaded. Being truly away from a Catholic place and out in the world, had a strong influence on her, as did Carroll Arnold, her "beloved mentor" and advisor.

Joan had been a writer since she was 14. Prior to pursuing her PhD, she had been accepted at a prestigious school in Iowa, but her prioress would not allow her to attend.

Prioresses are elected. Joan was encouraged, perhaps bullied, into being prioress at a young age. Being prioress gave Joan opportunities to connect with women Benedictines across the United States.

In her time, religious communities were changing; moving away from traditional garments and traditional ministries. With these changes came. Relying on her understanding of scripture,

Joan helped communities face these changes, which for many brought turmoil, loss and fear.

The Erie Benedictines gave up their teaching ministry, and with Joan's guidance, the old monastery became a place to serve the poor, and refugees and immigrants of any faith. They built a new monastery in the country with separate small houses. In later years, Joan lived in a small house in town with a few others in the community.

In this time, she began writing, teaching and speaking in ecumenical settings all over the country and the world. She was not welcomed by everyone in Catholic communities, where some saw her as a radical voice on women, peace and the environment.

In 1999, Joan agreed to speak on women in the priesthood at a conference in Dublin. She and the prioress were pressured by the Vatican to withdraw, or they could both be asked to leave the monastery. They were afraid but held steady. In the end, her whole community voted for her to speak.

This book reveals Joan as a writer, leader, teacher and prophet. Whenever someone asked, she would say her ministry was that of teaching discipleship.

Save the Date

David Phillip Jones
Preaching Fund Marathon

Saturday, November 25, 2023
All Saints Cathedral, Edmonton



Anglican Diocese of
Edmonton

ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA



Watch edmonton.anglican.ca for details



Correction: A picture caption in the September 2023 story "St. Augustine-Parkland Welcomes Kevin Kraglund as Rector" incorrectly states that the Rev. Rebecca Harris is retired. In fact, she is actively serving as an Honorary Assistant at St. Matthew's, St. Albert. We apologise for the error.