



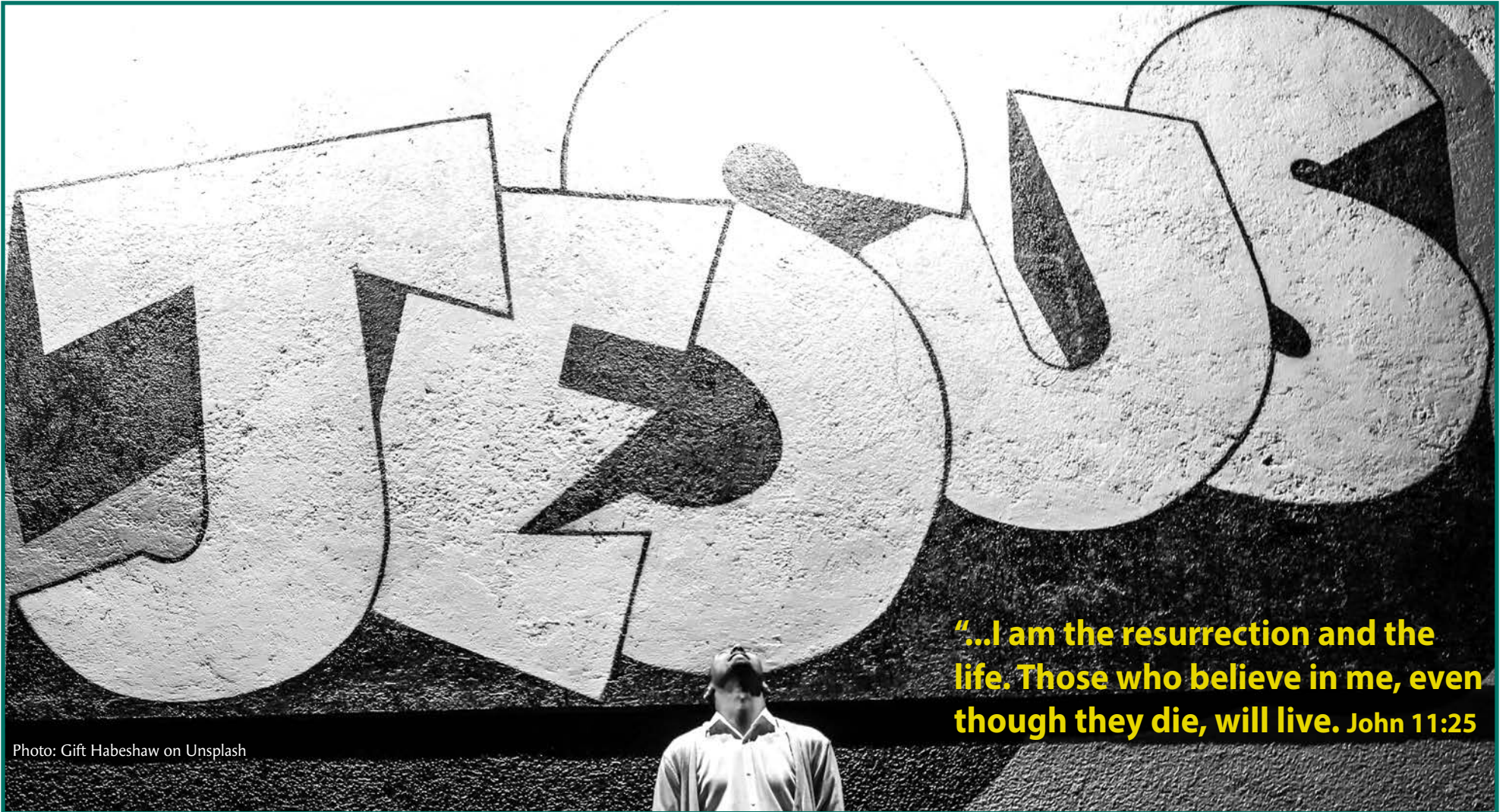
THE MESSENGER



www.athdio.ca

APRIL 2024

www.edmonton.anglican.ca



"...I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live. John 11:25

Photo: Gift Habeshaw on Unsplash

Belonging Centres safe places for neighbours to share lives

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

This winter, warming hubs at several Anglican churches in Edmonton have provided refuge for people seeking relief from the loneliness, isolation and life-threatening, cold temperatures.

On the last day of February, after a significant snowfall and plummeting temperatures dealt another harsh blow to anyone vulnerable to the elements, the Very Rev. Alexandra Meek, rector and Dean of All Saints' Cathedral, Edmonton; and Hayfa Hamad, Community Connections Support Worker, Boyle Street Community Services, welcomed people into the warm Cathedral.

The Thursday morning breakfast team of Canon (lay) Barbara Burrows, Jennifer Rees, Mary-Lou Cleveland, Tom Love were cheerfully greeting people, as they served 45 plates of pineapple ham, muffins, boiled eggs, bananas, bowls of warm oatmeal as well as countless cups of steaming coffee.



Hayfa Hamad, left, and Alex Meek welcome neighbours for breakfast at All Saints' Cathedral.

"We try to greet everyone as they come in the door and invite them to sit down, and then we bring them their coffee. If they're new here, they're often quite surprised. I think they enjoy the homey feel," says Burrows who started the breakfast program nearly

20 years ago. She still does all the shopping for the breakfasts, which run from Thanksgiving to the last Thursday in March.

Community members who attend the breakfasts and drop in to the Belonging Centre include residents of the Cathedral Close, a seniors' supportive housing residence next door, and anyone in need of warmth and companionship.

"I like this place. On days when it's cold, it's open about 9 o'clock," says George, a regular

visitor to the Belonging Centre. "It's good here. It's a good mix of people. It's an older crowd, but I've made a few friends here. It's a better crowd than the crowd I'm used to."

"This is fantastic," says Esther, who is seated next to George and her partner David. "You have a fellowship of people all gathered to have breakfast and warm up. This place is invaluable. It really is. The volunteers and staff are wonderful and very helpful."

"I've been coming to the breakfasts for a year-and-a-half and I really enjoy them," says David. "I have food insecurities, sometimes we don't have enough to eat, so we supplement our income with these free, community meals."

In addition to volunteering at All Saints, Mary-Lou Cleveland, who plays beautiful piano music during the breakfasts, serves coffee on Sundays with the Inner City Pastoral Ministry, following worship with the community of Emmanuel.

"This is our chance to shine a light on some of the people we know do not have homes, or adequate shelter," she says. "We like them, and they know we like them. Here people are treated as human beings, as our brothers and sisters. It gives them a chance to relax."

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Belonging Centres safe places for neighbours to share life continued

Continued from Front Page.

"This is an opportunity to "put our faith into action," says Burrows. "It's nice that we can do a little bit for others."

When the breakfast winds down, staff from Boyle Street Community Services are present to connect people with further resources. The Belonging Centres are open several days a week at locations throughout the city, including the Anglican churches of All Saints' Cathedral downtown, St. Faith's on Alberta Avenue, St. Mary's in the Highlands and Good Shepherd on Castle Downs Road.

As a community connections support worker, Hayfa Hamad travels regularly between the Belonging Centres. Though she is not an Anglican, her maternal grandmother was, and she says she has "really been enjoying getting to know all the reverends and volunteers" since October when she began working with Boyle Street.

"This means the world to some of our community members," says Hamad who specialises in addictions counselling and has been in the community support services field for 17 years. "People feel somewhat empowered here. They feel safe. We're not judging anybody."

"When I see a community member it makes me smile," says Allen Nakkone who has been a member of St. Faith's since 2022 when she immigrated to Canada from Uganda. She became a volunteer at St. Faith's, where people welcomed her as a part of the community. Now she is now also employed by Boyle Street as a community connections support worker. Speaking with people to understand what they are going through in their lives, has "helped become a better communicator," says Nakkone.

Lodgepole Communitas (St. Faith's and St. Mary's, Edmonton)

Throughout the week, the Lodgepole Communitas Belonging Centres, located at St. Faith's on Alberta Avenue and St. Mary's in the Highlands, can "easily see more than 300-people," says the Rev. Jordan Giggey, transitional deacon.

He says a significant draw for the Alberta Avenue Belonging Centre is the Prayerworks Community Meals program, which provides meals made and served by volunteers. In addition to providing food and warmth, St. Mary's serves snacks and coffee, the Belonging Centres are a source of community connection.

"They are a part of the foundational understanding of what it means to exist in or as

Communitas for us," says Giggey. "We are building and living in community with anyone who wants a space to belong."

St. Luke's, Edmonton

Likewise, on the southside of the river, St. Luke's is home to the Strathearn/Holyrood Belonging Centre, a safe place for "neighbours to share their stories, be it their life's story, or what is on their heart and mind that day. Knowing one another's name and carrying a bit of one another's story makes the neighbourhood a community," says the Rev. Nick Trussell, rector.

St. Luke's location alongside the Strathearn and Bonnie Doon LRT stations provides for "a bit of a quiet oasis out of the downtown." Volunteers from St. Luke's and the Holyrood Mennonite Church just down the street offer coffee and conversation, as well as snacks and other prepared, packaged food from the food bank. Occasionally people from other area service providers visit and meet with neighbours.

"We have had a few friends visit with us not only to get out of the cold but to find some quiet and peace through conversation," says Trussell.

From Easter to Christmas of 2022, when our church doors were open, Mike, one of the most faithful members of our community, would be there," says Trussell. "Partially to stay warm, but mostly to feel that he was part of a community. During that time, Mike lived in temporary or transitional housing, or was sleeping rough. Through that season, the people of St. Luke's helped Mike with clothes, food, rides, prayers and a compassionate heart.

One Sunday, in December 2022, after coffee hour, Mike collapsed and died of a heart attack while crossing the street from St. Luke's to the Bonnie Doon Mall.

"Often, when one of the St. Luke's volunteers is at the Belonging Centre, they will say, 'Mike would have loved this!'"

On Wednesday mornings, five-year-old Micah visits with everyone who comes to the belonging centre. A few weeks ago, Micah was happy to play cards and colour with a six-year-old neighbour who came with their grandmother to meet with the Boyle staff.

"We have capacity for up to 20 people, but we usually welcome one or two visitors at a time which has made for very personal and healing conversations and an opportunity for prayer when requested."

Tee Pee Treats also uses the kitchen at St. Luke's and has hosted free meals in the hall, feeding about 150-200 people each time.

"It is a joy for us to work with the Boyle staff and to be able to reconnect with the friends we meet at the Belonging Centre, the Tee Pee Treat meals, the food bank depot and St. Luke's, or even at the Bonnie Doon Mall," says Trussell.



Belonging Centre community members George (blue shirt, grey toque), Esther and David (left) visit with a friend from the Cathedral Close seniors' residence.

Standing in Solidarity with Trans and Gender-diverse Community

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139

Queerly Beloved, the LGBTQ2SIA+ working group of the Diocese of Edmonton Social Justice Committee, stands in full support and solidarity with all trans, non-binary and gender non-conforming beloved children of God and their allies. We stand with you all, as beloved creations of our common Creator, whose comforting presence and reassuring hand we pray for in these troubling times. God loves all God's children, in all their wonderfully, beautiful complexities and diversities.

With the recent announcement of proposed policy changes from the Alberta government, Queerly Beloved is joining the chorus of voices from faith communities, social agencies, and expert professional bodies, in calling for the Premier and Cabinet to retract their proposed changes and engage in active listening to community groups and medical experts. The proposed changes threaten the safety, health and human rights of trans and gender-diverse individuals and their families.

We invite you, our siblings in Christ, to read the information collected and offered by The Trans Action Alberta Coalition. Prayerfully consider and discern if you as individuals, action groups, faith communities, or parishes, wish to sign on to the petition as we have. There is also an ask on the website for a donation to support any potential future legal action to protect the rights of those impacted.

Queerly Beloved

SUPPORT & SOLIDARITY

Resurrection: living in the light of hope

I pray that you had a blessed Easter my friends. We are now entering into the season of Resurrection. This is the season that is at the heart of our faith. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the lynchpin on which everything else hangs.

We cannot overstate how important the Resurrection is to us. When Jesus walked out of that tomb something brand new began in human history. The Resurrection of Jesus was the event that all of scripture was preparing for, and the resurrection is the reality in which the church is grounded. Everything that we say, do and believe is about the resurrection. There are too many reasons for this short meditation, but I will briefly give some of them.

First, the Resurrection is the vindication of everything Jesus taught and did. Until Jesus' resurrection, what he taught did not make sense to his hearers. Jesus told us that we should love our enemies, that the last in society would be first, that humility is better than power, that God is love, that all the nations are welcome to God's



Bishop STEPHEN LONDON
Diocese of Edmonton

table, that God's grace is everything. Jesus gives us such a different vision of society, and when he died on the cross it seemed to all be over and futile. But it wasn't. Resurrection.

Second, when Jesus walked out of the tomb, the proclamation was that God's power is greater than even death. We see in the Resurrection that the evil and cruelty of humanity does not have the last word. Death is not the end. There is something that is greater

and more powerful than either, and that is God's mercy and love. These will be the last words. We will know them for eternity. Resurrection.

Third, in the Resurrection, Jesus teaches us the truth about life. Jesus has turned the order of things upside down in what the Bible calls the New Creation. Before the Resurrection, when thinking about who the most important people in the world are, we would have pointed to the great conquerors of the world, like Julius

Caesar, or the powerful people of influence, or the wealthy, or the extremely charismatic. But after the Resurrection, we see that the most important people in the world are those who love, who bear each other's burdens, who are willing to step back in order to build up another person, who are kind and generous, the peacemakers and the merciful, those who work for justice. This is a whole new world. Resurrection.

Fourth, the Resurrection is a power that works within you. Jesus came that we might share the very life of God. Jesus came that we might have our hearts healed and made whole. Jesus invites us to live lives of trust in God without fear, anger or resentment. It is true that this healing is the work of a lifetime, but it is the work of God within you. Resurrection.

I could list so many more consequences. The point for us to ponder this season of Easter is that we live in a world marked by Resurrection. We live in a world of hope, of goodness. Even when we don't see it, when the pain of the world is too much, we live in the light of the hope of something greater and more real. Resurrection.

Blessings,
+Steve

People yearning for connection and belonging

I was reading a series of seemingly unrelated books recently, fiction and non-fiction (I love to read almost anything). I was surprised to find they had a common theme of belonging.

Our world, it seems, has an epidemic of people who feel they don't belong. A lack of social connection, acceptance, ability to identify with family, heritage, country, along with any commonality, including within themselves, results in feelings of loneliness, heartbreak and despair.

When I reflect on the WHY statements of each parish and our diocese's WHY statement: 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, it strikes me that all these statements revolve around a common concept: belonging.

God's kingdom is at hand, amongst us, springing up all around us, if we can but see it, and you are the people of that Kingdom. You belong here.

It is the kingdom of love. Not love as in erotica or physicality, not love as in sentimentality, not even love as in fondness or family attachment, it is love as in life-giving.



Bishop DAVID GREENWOOD
Diocese of Athabasca

Love which builds up, which invites, which encourages, which strengthens.

Sacrificial love. Love in which the Son says to the Father, "How much do I love you? I love you enough to die for you." Love in which the Son says to each of us, "How much do I love you? I love you enough to die for you."

Jesus was all about love. Jesus' family is about love. And so many in the world today need His love. But you cannot force people to love. The only way to introduce love (pursuing what is healthiest)

is by introducing love. The only way to change people over to love is by loving them. The only way people get to experience love is by being loved.

And you know this! I am not telling you anything new.

You have been through some very rough times – times when it might have been tempting to sweep everything aside and start over, to give up and walk away.

But you didn't. Instead, you loved. You loved each other, you loved the homeless, you loved your community.

You loved in your after-church lunches, in the soup kitchen, second-hand store,

community outreach, in the fall suppers, in the lessons and carols (and other) community concerts.

You loved in your homes and on the streets, in your actions and your conversations.

It fills me with great gratitude when I see you are a community that gives, cares and loves. This is such a blessing to me, and to the diocese.

Our diocese is going through some rough times, and the only cure, the only solution, is to love everyone within the diocese.

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

In loving others, you deny yourselves. In loving others, you sacrifice, so they can be blessed like Christ has blessed you. In loving others, you give your life for Jesus, and you find your life in Jesus. You bless many.

You are the people who love. This is the core of your identity.

The people who reach out to others, and say, just as Jesus did, "You belong here." The people who say, without any falseness, "The Risen Christ awaits you."

And I, for one, am so grateful. Thank you. Keep up the good work.

Happy Easter, everyone.

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: MAY 1 for JUNE-July 2024.

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A \$15 annual donation is suggested. Please send donations to the dioceses of Athabasca or Edmonton, c/o The Messenger.

The Messenger is published under the authority of the Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton. Opinions expressed in The Messenger are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. The Messenger is a section of the Anglican Journal, printed 10 times a year (no issues July and August) by Webnews Printing Inc., North York O.N.

The publishers and editorial staff of The Messenger value honest, transparent and respectful communication. We seek to provide encouragement and inspiration to all who are building loving, inclusive, Christ-centered communities. We respect the dignity of every human being and endeavour to lift the voices of people who are marginalised. We are committed to the quality of our content. We reserve the right to edit all contributed material. We correct any factual errors in a transparent manner. To report an error, please email anglicanmessenger@gmail.com



Clockwise from top left: Mary-Lou Cleveland plays music; Barb Burrows serves beverages and oatmeal; Jennifer Rees plates breakfast: pineapple ham, boiled eggs, muffins and bananas.



WHY Committee Encouraging Parishes in Christ's Love

TAMMY MCKEACHNIE
ntmckeachnie@gmail.com

website: <https://athdio.ca/collections/resources>

We will use all available means to His Love including *The Messenger*. Please let us know about the events and ideas you have tried. Even if one was not successful, what did you learn from the challenges you faced?

During the season of Lent, the parish of St. Helen's, Fairview used a virtual Chartres Labyrinth and meditation from Veriditas, that was developed by the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco California. Scan the QR code and download for free to use it as you wish.

You can reach the WHY Committee by email at dioath@telusplanet.net. Be sure to indicate what you would like the WHY Committee to address.



Scan me!

The WHY Committee is one of three committees within the Diocesan Executive Council, (DEC). We encourage growth and vitality by proclaiming and celebrating Christ's love.

Bishop David Greenwood has asked us to focus on who we are and whose we are, while recognising that we are more than our church buildings. Each of us is the church. We should endeavour to proclaim, teach, receive, identify, serve and live our faith in love.

The Why Committee provides communities of the diocese with tools and paths forward. You will find many resources on the new diocesan

"You are Precious in My Eyes"
Isaiah 43:1-7



Diocesan Women's Conference
Retreat for Spiritual Encouragement
Creativity and Recreation
Led by the Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls
April 26-28, 2024
Christ Church, Grande Prairie

Visit <https://athdio.ca/> for Info and to Register

Making Ministry Roads in Northeastern Alberta

ELLEN LUPICK
St. Helen's, Fairview



Pictured, left to right: Lloyd Nyarota; Doreen Verschoor, Shirley Lof (standing), Lloyd Nyarota, Genevieve and Irwin Konratt, Marie Neil, Darrel and Audrey Pepler, Inez Austin.



The Rev. Lloyd Nyarota serves St. John's Anglican / United Church in Manning, as well as Anglican churches in Grimshaw, Berwyn and Fairview on a regular basis. The distance from Manning to Fairview, where St. Helen's parish is located in the Fairview Mall, is about 145 km.

Recently, Nyarota attended a mid-week bible study, a vestry meeting the next night and led the Sunday service at St. Helen's. He also does pastoral visits in the communities he serves. It is great to have him here when he can be with us.

Fellow disciples of Christ uniting to share gospel

Acknowledging that "we live in a changing church within a changing world," Bishop Stephen London, on behalf of the Diocese of Edmonton, has formally pledged support for Ecumenical Shared Ministry (ESM).

Bishop London signed a memorandum of agreement presented to the Executive Council by the Rev. Canon Dr. Scott Sharman, Canon to the Ordinary and Ecumenical and Interfaith Coordinator.

According to the agreement, Christian ministry is in a period of transformation. Many communities of faith are looking to new models of organisation and different ways of being to sustain their witness to the gospel within

their neighbourhoods and communities.

"There was a time when church denominations had the so-called "luxury" to work in isolation or even compete with one another," says Sharman. "This led to the situation where a neighborhood might have four or five churches within a block from each other, or a town with eight or nine churches. The strangeness of this arrangement didn't really register, when they all had a lot of money and resources.

Similar situations are unsustainable today and, as Sharman says, may even "contradict the message of the healing and uniting power of the Gospel of peace and reconciliation.

"In the Canadian context, and especially the west, I believe many church leaders are now beginning to see our need for one another as fellow disciples of Jesus Christ. When we're all facing the same challenges, history is seen in a very different light."

An ESM is an expression of church which involves one or more denomination covenanting together to share some combination of buildings, programs, outreach, worship services, staff and clergy leadership, all with the blessing and support of their existing ecclesiastical authorities.

Currently, there are approximately 150 ESMs across Canada. Frequent partnership participants include the

"All who believed were together and had all things in common"

Acts 2:44

Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United church traditions. Additional cooperative relationships include Mennonites, Disciples of Christ, Moravians, Roman Catholics and other churches.

"While, in some cases, there are limits to the things that can currently be done together as churches, I think there are always ways that we can work together with fellow followers of Jesus for the good of the whole Church of God," says Sharman.

Continued on page 7.

Recalling powerful encounter of Holy Spirit, deep sense of community and natural beauty of the Edmonton diocese

Edmonton has been blessed by strong leadership over its 111-year history. We join the Anglican Church of Canada in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the episcopal ordination of Bishop Victoria Matthews, the first woman to be ordained a bishop and diocesan bishop in Canada. The Messenger invited Bishop Victoria and Bishop Jane who, in 2008, succeeded her as Bishop of Edmonton, to share a few thoughts.

Bishop VICTORIA MATTHEWS
Episcopal Administrator
Diocese of Moosonee

Being invited to be the Bishop of Edmonton by the Holy Spirit and the Electoral Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton was a very exciting moment in my life. I had mixed feelings about leaving the Diocese of Toronto, where I had ministered for almost 20 years, and moving west to a new part of Canada and a different expression of episcopal ministry.

Nevertheless, I very quickly fell in love with the Edmonton diocese. The natural beauty, the deep sense of community and the bluest sky I have ever seen, made me know that God had called me to one of his most beloved dioceses.

For the first several months, I lived with the Sisters of St John the Divine at the convent in Edmonton. Having the chapel right down the hall was wonderful. But eventually, it was time to find my own digs and bring my dog out west, as well. I drove Zeus out in my car, and he quickly adapted to the extremes in temperature and the close proximity of national parks. I cannot imagine episcopal ministry without a dog, and I am so grateful for each dog who has been both my chaplain and mentor.

Bishop JANE ALEXANDER
Honourary Assistant
St. Timothy's, Edmonton

A Paramount Calling

Victoria was always very clear that listening through prayer and then faithfully following where you felt you were called to go were the absolute foundations for ministry. So even if something seemed scary, listen carefully and trust God. Victoria was also flexible when it came to looking at models of preparation for ministry and for study. I came to see her as a mum of 4 young children with a husband tied to a job in Edmonton. Moving across the country for seminary would not have been possible for



Quite quickly, I realised there was a group of young adults in Edmonton who deeply loved the Lord Jesus and had a heart for ministry. Bishop Ken Genge had planted seeds I was happy to nurture and eventually harvest. In time, we had a remarkable group of young clergy and the diocese continues to benefit from their faith and commitment.

On one occasion, someone from the General Synod in Toronto was visiting the diocese and we were asked to share our

story. When we reached the topic of youth ministry, Stephanie Crane [she is now Stephanie London and serves as rector of St. Columba, Beaumont] said, 'in Edmonton, the youth have a culture of vocation.' I had not heard that expression before, but I knew it was accurate and true.

One summer, the Diocese of Edmonton hosted a Camino and Taizé experience that, in and of itself, changed lives and breathed the Holy Spirit into the diocese. Our time on the Camino in Spain was very wet, and we learned a lot about drying clothes and boots each night, to say nothing of treating blisters and sore feet and knees. Nevertheless, the spirits of the pilgrims remained strong and when we reached Taizé, the experience of prayer services three times a day opened our eyes and hearts to God.

Time and again over the decade I spent in Edmonton, I thanked God for the sheer privilege of serving God's people there.

All Saint's received a large gift of money from a former parishioner and decided to renovate the upper level of the Cathedral. The parish also invited the synod office staff to move north across the river from Holy Trinity, Old Strathcona. This meant I was able to attend Holy Eucharist every day which was an enormous spiritual support.

The diocesan office staff (Barb White, Dale Purkis, David Connell and a revolving door of youth ministry staff) was called the Dream Team. We enjoyed each other very much. It makes such a difference when there is a good sense of community where one ministers.

Was I conscious during this time that I was the only female bishop in the Province of Rupert's Land? Yes, but it did not bother me. I look at the 15 female bishops presently in the House of Bishops with awe. Canada has certainly embraced female leadership.

As I look back on my decade in Edmonton (1997 to 2007), I give thanks for the gift of the most wonderful Chancellor in David Jones, Q.C.; superb senior clergy, such as then-Dean Greg Kerr-Wilson and Archdeacons John Privitt and Kathy Bowman to name just a few. Many of the clergy from that decade are now bishops in the wider church: Edmonton's own bishop, Bishop Stephen London; Bishop Sally Johnson French (New Jersey, U.S.); Bishop David Lehmann (Caledonia); Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson (Calgary and Metropolitan of Rupert's Land); retired Archbishop John Privitt (Kootenay and Metropolitan of B.C. and Yukon) and others have followed.

The Diocese of Edmonton is the place where I encountered most powerfully the Holy Spirit of God. Thanks be to God.



Episcopal leaders Bishop Victoria Matthews (left) and Bishop Jane Alexander.

Every one of us called to faithfully proclaim the gospel

ways of securing the education and experience I needed. The call was paramount, the path could bend.

Make No Assumptions

Not every part of the church, or Anglican communion, was of one mind on the topic on the ordination of women, let alone ordination to the episcopate. So, for me, on the subject of gender, as with many other topics, I never assumed I was walking into a room of like-minded individuals. It was always important to remember that people are often apprehensive of what they do not know, or of what they have never experienced personally. Over my time as bishop, I held many roles in the wider church and

travelled extensively. I was always treated with great respect and welcomed as a sister in Christ.

Lead with an Open Heart

If people have come in faith and discernment to talk about a call to ministry then the job of the leader is to listen, take counsel and encourage people to explore their call. Not everyone is called to ordained ministry, but all children of God are called to be as fully a part of the body of Christ as they can be.

Continued on page 8.



us. Rather than say, 'well this is how it always works in the church,' or 'there is only one way,' Victoria talked through different paths and

This is Our Missional



Parish Teams Help Mustard Seed Reach \$35,000 Goal

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

Two teams from Anglican parishes in the Diocese of Edmonton joined people across Canada on Saturday, February 24, to walk in a pre-snowstorm Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) event in support of people and families experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness in their communities.

In Spruce Grove, the team Parishioners for Paula, from St. Augustine's-Parkland, fundraised and walked in memory of "our dear friend Paula Dunbar" for the Parkland Food Bank.

"Paula was an avid supporter and volunteer with the food bank for decades," says parish administrator Michelle Squance-Slade. "Her husband David even wore her food bank apron to walk! It was a beautiful way to pay tribute to such a phenomenal lady."

"Our own Karen Adlem was recognised at the event as a member of the 1K-fundraising club." Adlem's individual effort brought in more than \$2,000.

"If you close your eyes and picture Paula, it won't be hard to remember one of her famous hugs. She's sure to be smiling down and hugging us all for our efforts."

In Edmonton Strathcona, the team St. Strummer, from St. John the Evangelist (14 youth and 9 parents), helped the Mustard Seed reach its CNOY goal of \$35,000. Led by Blake Holt, SJE Youth Director, team St. Strummer was joined by Eric Kregel, Community Chaplain, Mustard Seed, (Southside Edmonton).

Kregel, who was also joined by his daughters for the fundraising walk, shared with the youth about the Seed's presence for people struggling with homelessness at its many sites in Edmonton: emergency shelters, medical shelters, supported housing, drop-in centres, collection centres as well as a chaplaincy.

"We are incredibly grateful for the funds raised by these generous young people for our CNOY walk," he says. "All of them walked 5k around the Old Strathcona neighbourhood, visiting our sites and learning about local poverty. If you know any of these walkers, please say a big 'THANK YOU!' We really appreciate their support."

"The (Mustard) Seed is doing good work, but it needs more people to step up, says Holt. "We (Anglican Church of Canada, my church, myself) could and should be doing more. I have ideas, but it's easy to come up with those. It's another thing to make them a reality."



Members of the SJE Youth Group pass by the Mustard Seed during the Coldest Night of the Year Fundraising Walk. Photo: Karen Kwan

JOIN BISHOP STEPHEN LONDON AND ANGLICAN, LUTHERAN AND MORAVIAN YOUTH

ECUMENICAL YOUTH EVENT

Sunday, April 14

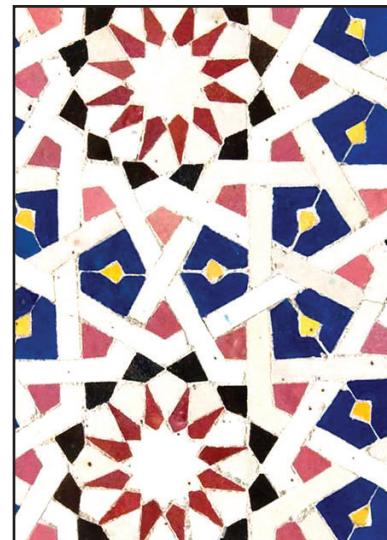
Trinity Lutheran

1:30 to 4:30 pm

See You There!



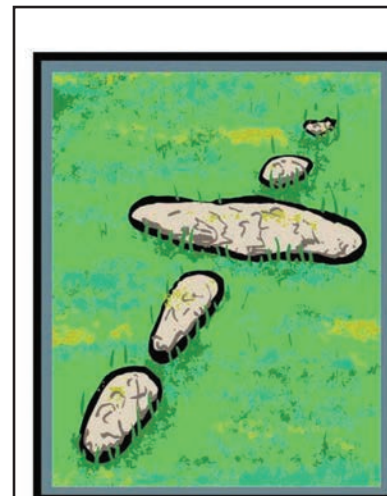
REGISTER AT [HTTPS://EDMONTON.ANGLICAN.CA/EVENTS/JOIN-BISHOP-STEPHEN-FOR-ECUMENICAL-YOUTH-EVENT](https://edmonton.anglican.ca/events/join-bishop-stephen-for-ecumenical-youth-event)



Seeking a Common Word

A webinar to inspire and inform Christian-Muslim dialogue

Online via Zoom
April 16, 2024, 2:00-3:30pm EST



National Worship Conference

STONES CRY OUT: Praying with the Land

July 18 to 21

PWRDF Reps participate in Zoom conversation

MARGARET GLIDDEN
Edmonton Editor

At the invitation of Jeffrey Hanger, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Representative, Diocese of Edmonton, people interested in the work of PWRDF came together virtually on Zoom, in February.

"One of things I like about PWRDF is its ability to respond to change," said Hanger. "It works with partners on the ground in a huge number of countries to respond to emergencies and assist communities with long-term development."

St. Mary's, Ponoka, Hanger's home parish, has held several events, including themed activity nights, in support of the work of PWRDF.

Many people at the virtual gathering said that, although they have donated to PWRDF, either individually or as a parish, there is not currently a PWRDF rep for their parish. Limited time and energy, coupled with declining and aging membership were cited as barriers to involvement.

On the flip side, one couple said their parish in Edmonton has welcomed "an influx of young families and lots of kids" in the last few years. They asked about resources for young people and little ones that could be used in Sunday school and for kids' talks. They also inquired about activities that parishes have done in the diocese and across the country to raise funds.

PWRDF remains committed to helping achieve the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 through the following program areas:

Food Security & Climate Change Mitigation

Empowering Women

Preventive Health

Humanitarian Relief and Disaster Response

Accompanying Refugees

Indigenous Communities

Some of the people recalled promoting awareness and raising funds with dinners, and Christmas card sales.

"I'll do what I can to help you feel comfortable and confident talking about PWRDF, a charity making a global impact," said Hanger.

He noted that the PWRDF has a youth wing made up of representatives from ecclesiastical provinces across Canada. Leah Marshall, of St. Andrew's, Camrose, was a recent Rupert's Land youth council rep from the Edmonton diocese.

Kinsley Hanger, the youngest member taking part in the Zoom discussion, said she found a magazine published by the PWRDF for young people "interesting and fun."

Suzanne Rumsey, Public Engagement Program Coordinator, and Anslim Hameed, Donor Relations and Fundraising Facilitator for the PWRDF, joined the discussion and gave an overview of the organisation. Rumsey said the PWRDF has been connecting Anglicans in Canada to people in need since 1958, when a coal-mining tragedy in Springhill NS prompted Anglicans and other Canadians to respond with assistance for the stricken families. Since the Springhill Mine disaster, the organisation has expanded its efforts here in Canada and around the world by working with partners, such as the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and the ACT Alliance.

When a disaster happens, the PWRDF works with the dioceses affected by the emergency to

disburse the funds. In western Canada, PWRDF has helped raise funds for wildfire response, and cultural programs in support of Indigenous mothers and families.

Members of the diocese joined the discussion from Jasper, Ponoka, St. Albert and Edmonton. Canada's shortage of affordable housing and Edmonton's homelessness crisis were top of mind for many people. Rumsey said that although the PWRDF has not yet directly responded to this nation-wide crisis, the Anglican Foundation of Canada may be better suited to help with funding for specific projects aimed at helping people who are unhoused.

Hameed manages a crowdfunding platform that enables people to set up an online giving page in celebration of a personal milestone. This is one way people can raise funds for a specific cause. To learn more, please email Anslim Hameed at ahameed@pwrdf.org.

Ideas for parish activities, such as hosting a reconciliation workshop or holding a PWRDF Sunday can be found on the "PWRDF at Church" section of the organisation's website: pwrdf.org/get-involved/pwrdf-at-church/

If you are interested in becoming a representative for the PWRDF in your parish, please email Jeffrey Hanger at pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca.

Fellow disciples of Christ uniting continued

Continued from page 4.

In many rural communities, where "churches have long histories of common efforts in community organisations, the

foundations for being open to working together and sharing resources for the common good are already there just below the surface," says Sharman.

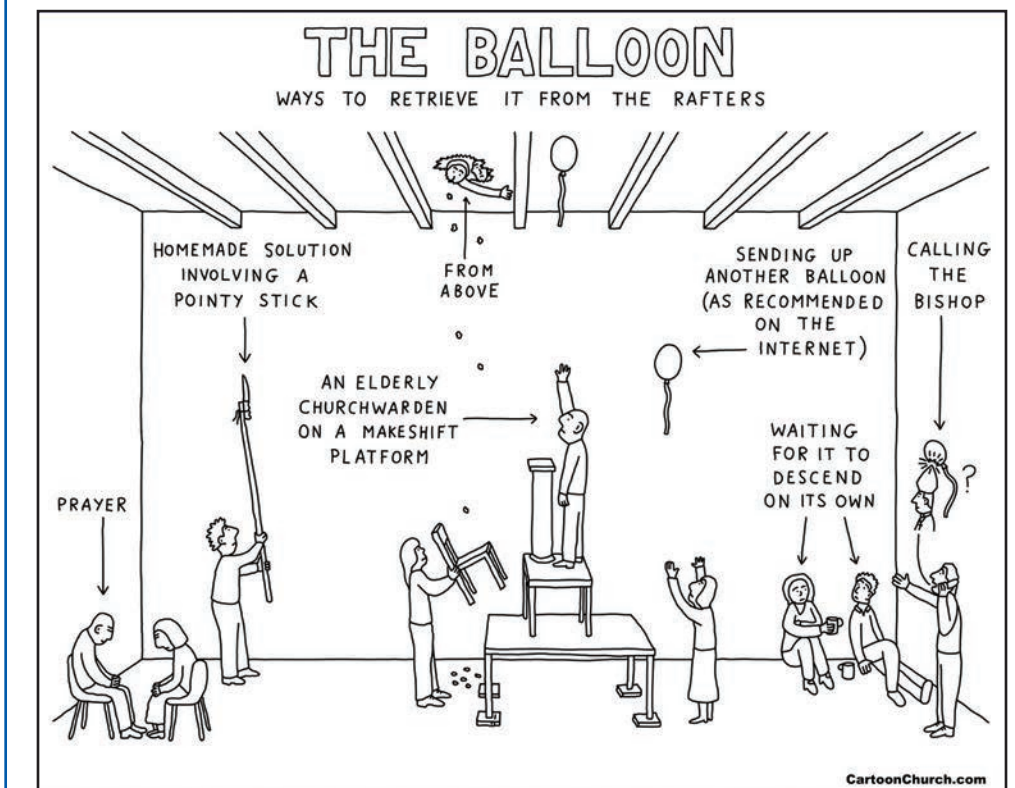
CURSILLO WEEKEND

May 3 to 5

Star of the North Retreat

Centre, St. Albert

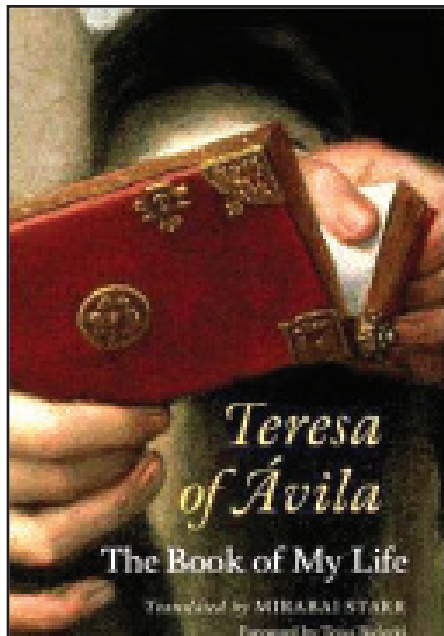
edmonton.anglican.ca/events/cursillo-weekend



Contemplative saint an influential and powerful voice



MARION BULMER
St. Thomas, Sherwood Park



When I was about 30, after some challenges in life, I chose to take a spirituality course from a Catholic nun at St. Joseph's College on the University of Alberta campus.

We were assigned an essay and I had heard of Thomas Merton, so I asked to write on him. This dear soul said, 'well dear, if Merton, why not step back to a real pioneer of contemplative prayer?' That individual was Teresa of Avila.

When I began to research Teresa of Avila in St. Joseph's extensive library, I realised she lived during the 1600s and her original writings were in Spanish.

Teresa's voice through her writing is beautiful. It is as though she is sitting across from you and intimately sharing. Her discussion

of prayer, and her work to reform Carmelite orders to a life of poverty, simplicity and isolation from the world, are fascinating.

Yet, she wrote to bishops and kings and travelled about setting up monasteries. Her own life did not seem a very secluded life to me. Teresa was from a middle-class family and her mother had died during childbirth. She did not want to marry, and the other option for a respectable woman of this time was to enter a monastery.

Book of My Life was written at the time of the inquisition and

contemplative prayer, when her visions and teachings had come to the attention of the establishment. Those in power questioned if her visions really were of God, or something sinister.

Teresa was ordered to write and talk of her faith journey and her testimony was submitted to her confessors and the inquisition in 1562. She was never found to have deviated from the teachings of the church and her influence grew. Teresa was a powerful, influential woman in her lifetime. Clearly, she influenced her male confessors and her spiritual directors.

She would unabashedly seek out those who could direct her and be in conversation with her. She was extremely critical of spiritual directors who were not well educated. Over time, one sees her also wanting advisors steeped in silent prayer. Always they must all be attempting to be free of sin, to return to Holy scripture to pray and serve God, bringing forth the truth. We see her grow and gain appreciation for well-educated Jesuits.

Teresa could take criticism, and at the same time, she held her ground when convinced about the will of God.

She encountered great resistance when trying to start a

small monastery that would live in poverty with no endowment. Teresa's conviction was so strong she sought permission over the head of her Provincial authority.

There was opposition, but Teresa was clearly bright, wise and persuasive, perhaps even charismatic. Many of her advisors liked her and were her friends. Teresa was a spiritual force, just as her writing is.

Teresa was made a saint 40 years after her death in 1582. She was also granted a posthumous doctorate by the Catholic Church in 1970 and was the first female to be granted this distinction.

Book of My Life is not a manual for contemplative prayer. It is the author's journey of growing in relationship with God. To read her is to have her spirit wash over you. In her prayer, the most important thing is God within you. The goal is to unite with God.

My attraction to Teresa is her honest and straightforward writing and her commitment to the doctrines of the Catholic Church. Turns out my instructor was right, and through the writings of Teresa of Avila, my once slow journey to meditative prayer was set in motion.

Called to faithfully proclaim cont.

Continued from page 5.

Calling Transcends Gender

Your gender does not define your call. It is my firm belief that there are not male and female ministries when it comes to deacon, priest or bishop. Each one of those callings to ordained ministry is to a specific type of work, work that God calls us to because of the gifts people have received through grace.

Sea Change

In the early days, I think, there were still a lot of unwritten, or should I say unspoken, beliefs that women should not necessarily be in charge of larger parishes, that they were more suited to chaplaincy or pastoral ministry, or even part-time ministry, because of balancing family commitments. Women would be asked questions that men would never be asked at interview, particularly around childcare, etc. Thankfully this has changed.

Bold Move Forward

I think we are being called to a time of growth and re-grounding in the gospel of Christ. Particularly,

following the global pandemic, churches are finding that they have differently shaped congregations. Many of those who left during COVID have not returned; some who attended online have stayed online, and the church is trying to work out what that means and how to form and nurture true community.

We need to continue sharing the gospel by word and deed; to invite people into Holy space, to go out into the world and invite people to get to know Jesus. The church of the future is still being formed and we may think we know what it will look like but, really, how can we know? We are called to be faithful, and being faithful means proclaiming the gospel, which is rather an active thing, don't you think? Occasionally, the opposite is true, and the church could be accused of keeping the gospel secret and waiting for people to find us. So, my prayer for the church is for a time of boldness, going out to places we have not been before, taking risks, investing in what might be, growing and thriving.

Edmonton Clergy Respond to Call to Use Ministry Gifts in New Ways

Rector and Engineer to Serve on Task Force for Creation

The Rev. Clare Stewart, rector of St. Timothy's, Edmonton, has been appointed by the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop and Primate, to serve as the Anglican Church of Canada representative on the Task Force on Creation for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

"Our full communion partnership continues to grow as we are committed to sharing our work on issues of common concern and interest," said Archbishop Nicholls in the appointment letter.

Stewart also serves as a member of the national Creation Matters Working Group, under the leadership of Ryan Weston, Lead Animator for Social and Ecological Justice.

She has an undergraduate degree in geological engineering and a master's degree in hydrogeology and is a member of the North American chapter of the Society of Ordained Scientists.



Rector and Social Justice Archdeacon Candidate for Episcopal Ministry in Olympia Diocese

The Ven. Jordan Haynie Ware, Archdeacon for Justice and Rector of Good Shepherd, Edmonton, is a candidate for election as the 9th Bishop of the Diocese of Olympia, the diocese that covers the western half of Washington state.

"It's important that you know I did not go looking for a job. It's not that I feel called away from our work together, but rather that the work we have done has given me so many gifts that I feel called to faithfully discern whether God is calling me to share those gifts in a new ministry context," said Haynie Ware in her pastoral letter.

The election will take place on Saturday, May, 18, the day before Pentecost. Please hold Jordan, Derek Ware and the Parish of Good Shepherd, Edmonton in your prayers.

