

A Word From Our Bishop



The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
Bishop of Brandon

As I am sitting here in my home office, we are in the midst of another outbreak in the city of Brandon and the Prairie Mountain Health Authority has warned us of the dangers of slacking away from the vigilance of the spring. The travel restrictions to the northern parts of our Diocese have been reimposed in the province at the request of the First Nations in order to protect the vulnerable communities that would be unlikely to withstand an infection by the COVID-19 virus. It is easy to give in to fear or despair. Will things ever return to normal? Will we get our life back?

One of the things that has had me thinking in this current round of worries and troubles is that our faith is no guarantee against difficult times. Believing in Jesus and trusting in him does not make it so that difficult times never come or touch our lives. My respect for First Nations people is the result of what I have seen: such deep faithfulness and commitment to Christ in spite of generations of trouble and sorrow and pain.

That pain and sorrow has been both imposed on them by history and circumstance but also by the sinful way in which both Canada and the church responded to their trust. To remain faithful in difficult days and circumstances is a testimony to the depth of love and commitment to Christ.

I am hoping and praying daily that these difficult times actually deepen our faith and trust in God. In fact, I am looking to learn daily from those around me to keep on trusting God in the midst of trouble. They are a testimony and a monument to the goodness of God. Our faith in Christ is not an insurance policy against the day when we are afraid and the world is coming apart. Rather, it is here to strengthen us for the way ahead, to fill us with hope for the future and to remind us that we are not the end point of the Church, but that Jesus has whatever it is we are meant to face well under his command.

That does not mean that as a person of faith I don't fret or worry about the future. I do. I am like anyone else in the world who has been shocked and tossed about a little by what COVID has done to the world. But in the midst of that fretting and worrying, I have a quiet confidence, spoken in the still, small, voice of the Lord that He is with me, even unto the end of the ages and that my job is to keep going.

Thank you all for your faithfulness, your continued witness to the faithfulness of God and to the Gospel, and to the ministry which we share together, both north and south as we look to see the disciples of God grow from strength to strength. I pray that your own faith is strengthened as we are blessed and built up in the Gospel and in the work which Jesus has given us to do. I also look for the day when we will join together again in joy to worship him, and to laugh with one another as we live out our calling. Until then, remember that the Lord promised he would be with you, and that he would never leave you...and that is the grace that is sufficient to today.

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page! Search "The Diocese of Brandon" on Facebook, or go to <http://www.facebook.com/brandonanglicans>

You can find an electronic copy of the Mustard Seed there each month, as well as photos from recent events in the diocese.

The Mustard Seed

Publisher:

The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff
7th Bishop of Brandon

Editor:

The Rev'd Matt Koovisk
mustardseed@brandon.anglican.ca

Mail: The Tri-Valley Parish,
c/o Box 15, Virden, MB, R0M 2C0

Phone: 204-748-1379 (OFFICE)

The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made through your parish or directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

Deadline for submissions: the first of the month. *Please note:* All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!

A New Rector for Christ Church, The Pas



The Rev'd Janice (Jann) Maloney-Brooks

In the midst of an exciting career in dialysis and pediatric palliative nursing, Jann discerned a call to ministry. In 2004 she was the first certified and commissioned Parish Nurse in the diocese of Rupert's Land, serving at St. Paul's, Fort Garry with Geoff Woodcroft (then rector, now bishop). She began the Master of Divinity program at The University of Winnipeg.

When the career of her husband (Dr. Bill Brooks) took them to the Toronto area, Jann devoted herself

to raising their three children: Hannah, Andy and Greer. Ministry was still calling though, and she resumed her studies at Trinity College, University of Toronto.

In 2016, Andy was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumour for a second time...and Jann put school on hold to care for him. In 2017, the Bishop of Niagara ordained Jann a deacon and she served as the parish deacon at The Church of the Ascension as well as a Port Chaplain with the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario. Jann learned to climb up and down gangways visiting the big "salties" and "laker" container ships that visit the ports of Toronto, Oshawa and Hamilton.

"Working with seafaring men and women from around the globe, is being a missionary where the world comes to us" she explains. As a Port Chaplain she ministered to seafarers in emergencies as well as moments of great joy, such as helping a seafarer to use technology to coach his wife through labour and delivery of their first child in the Philippines. Jann also used her knowledge of Canada's healthcare sys-

tem when aiding a seafarer who had attempted suicide while onboard. She was a comforting presence and advocate for him until he was well enough to be repatriated home.

In 2019, Andy passed away and after taking time with the family, Jann returned to her studies. Just as Covid-19 struck, she was in her full-time internship at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Hamilton. There she took on the challenges of running a parish during a pandemic. After a few weeks of observing, she also took on the creating and presiding of on-line Sunday services for the summer. These services were broadcast on YouTube and reached not just the parish family but Anglicans across Canada and the globe.

With wonderful memories of their years in Manitoba, Jann said "It was like a dream come true" when Bishop William Cliff and the parish wardens invited her to become the Rector of Christ Church, The Pas. Jann, Bill, and their new puppy are happy to return to the land of sun dogs and warm people.

News from the Pews

ST. MARK'S, MINNEDOSA *submitted by Lynne Tolton*

Among the folks in the Minnedosa area effected by the severe flooding at the end of June were Patti & Patrick Menard, faithful members of St. Mark's, Minnedosa. Unfortunately their home had extensive damage. It has been a tremendous amount of work but with the help of family & friends, the Menards are getting close to be able to move back into their home.

The church family at St. Mark's including St. John's, Bethany organized a fund to help Patti & Patrick with some of the hefty expenses they incurred. Donations from our church family members, St. John's, Kelwood and other friends were appreciated. We were happy to present Patti & Patrick with a cheque as our gift.



Pictured from left to right: The Rev'd Garry MacDowell, Patrick & Patti Menard, and the Parish Treasurer, Deb Jackson. Photo Credit: Lynne Tolton

CHRIST CHURCH, CARTWRIGHT *submitted by Sally Calcott*

The congregation of Christ Church Anglican in Cartwright was pleased to join Tyler and Denise Wallace and their families for the christening of their son Carson Joseph Wallace on June 28th, 2020.

The service took place in the Remembrance Gardens by the church on a lovely Sunday morning. The Rev'd Michael Canning officiated the service and Carson's grandmother, Mary Livingstone and a congregation member Allan Macklem did the readings.



Pictured from left to right: Denise (holding Carson) and Tyler Wallace, and the Rev'd Michael Canning. Photo Credit: Sally Calcott

ST. JOHN'S, RESTON *as submitted by Nancy Schiltroth (with notes from the Rector, the Rev'd Matt Koovisk)*

For a few weeks in August, as well as the September long weekend, public worship in the Archdeaconry of Brandon was suspended due to an outbreak of COVID-19.

The parish also participated in the town wide garage sale on Saturday, September 12. The store, as well as the parish hall, was open for customers. Items available at the parish hall were larger items such as furniture. Normally, the parish hall would also be offering roast beef on a bun with coffee (or soft drinks and water.) However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only take-out coffee will be available in the parish hall for shoppers.

However, the thrift store, Hidden Treasures, remains open Thursdays and Fridays of each week, but under some very strict guidelines. All customers must wear non medical masks while shopping in the store, and there is a maximum of 6 shoppers allowed in the store at any one time (with 4 workers, equalling ten people in store.) While the guidelines for shopping in store are strict, this is to keep all of our faithful customers safe in this time of pandemic. Even in the midst of this pandemic, the store remains as busy as ever, a fact that we're very glad for!

Before her death in August, faithful shopper Eunice Demas donated a beautiful quilt to Hidden Treasures, and it now has a place of prominence in the store. She is very much missed.



(from left to right) Sheila Perreault, Dene Skelton, Pat Forbes and Nancy Schiltroth briefly pose in front of Eunice's quilt. Photo Credit: Nancy Schiltroth

HENRY BUDD COLLEGE FOR MINISTRY *from their Facebook page (with notes from the Coordinator, the Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk)*

CBC journalist Tyson Koschik was at the College on September 2nd, 2020 filming for a short piece on the work of the Rev'd Henry Budd, Sr. It will air on CBC Manitoba sometime in late October. As part of his visit, he filmed at Christ Church, The Pas, and at Budd's grave.

He interviewed Dr. Keith Hyde extensively, as he has been transcribing Budd's journals from 1850-1869. He also interviewed the Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk, as well as the Ven. Lydia Constant and Charlie Chartrand.



The Ven. Lydia Constant is interviewed. Photo Credit: The Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk



Charlie Chartrand is interviewed. Photo Credit: The Rev'd Dr. Kara Mandryk

The Gift Named Matthew

as written by the Rev'd Dr. Paul Shore,
Deacon Assistant, St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon

If you have ever entered the Parish Hall at St. Matthew's Cathedral you will probably have noticed a large and colourful painting on one of the windows on the way in. There you'll see the evangelist Matthew, who, depending on which side of the window you look through, may seem to be left handed as he writes down the Gospel. As a left-handed person I've always liked to think of St. Matthew that way, but no doubt I am merely looking through the wrong side of the glass! More seriously, St. Matthew, whose feast day is the 21st of this month, deserves to be remembered as a writer of great gifts-- indeed, his name in Hebrew means "Gift of God."

"And he got up and followed him..."

Matthew also merits our attention because of his life, or to be more specific, the turn his life took. One of his names was "Levi," so not only was he certainly Jewish, but he may well have been descended from one of the most eminent tribes of Israel, the Levites, who were the keepers of the Sanctuary. But our Matthew, also known as Levi the Son of Alphaeus, had branched out, career-wise, from the work of his pious forbearers. He was a tax collector, which meant he was collaborating with the Roman occupiers and taking a cut for himself of the taxes he collected (interestingly, his Gospel also talks more about money than the other three do). He would have been disliked and mistrusted, to put it mildly, by his fellow Judaeans. Perhaps that is why Our Lord called him-- to make a point about the variety of people-- the holy and the not so holy-- who can help bring the Kingdom of Heaven closer. This message is brought home again when the ex-tax collector held a dinner party full of characters even less reputable than himself --Luke even says there



A decidedly right-handed St. Matthew (getting a little help from an angel), by the Italian master Guido Reni (1575-1642).

"You have heard it said... But I say to you..."

The picture of Jesus that Matthew paints in his Gospel is powerful and distinctive. It is no accident that his Gospel appears first in the New Testament, as it always been regarded as authentic and close to the events it describes. At the very start it is made clear that Jesus is Emanuel, the Hebrew phrase meaning "God is with Us." Matthew goes on to reveal Jesus as the great Teacher, the Giver of "New Law," about which He explains, "I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."

This Teacher is also the Messiah, the Son of David, fulfilling ancient prophecies in unexpected ways. He preaches five great discourses, among them the Sermon on the Mount, and gives us the version of the Lord's Prayer that we use in each church service. And like the discourses and the Lord's Prayer themselves, Matthew's Gospel is made to be heard out loud-- experienced with the senses as well as with the mind. In Matthew's telling the divine and human natures of Jesus are intermixed, and completely compatible with each other. In contrast to the venality and scheming of the Pharisees, Jesus's servanthood is constantly emphasized, which by implication is a call to us to serve as well.

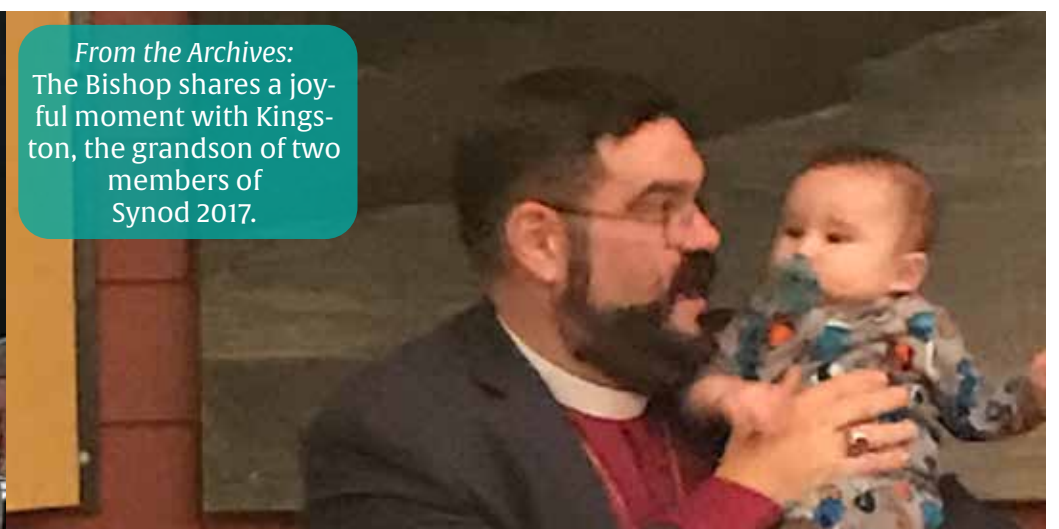
Jesus in Matthew's Gospel is deeply rooted in His Jewish heritage-- a point some Christians in the past unfortunately have ignored-- but it is also in Matthew where the Messiah explicitly tells His disciples, "Go therefore and teach [again, the connection to teaching!] all nations..."

The Gospel of Matthew is thus quite a package in less than 30,000 words-- half the length of a short-ish novel.

St. Matthew the witness and writer, indispensable to our understanding of the life and message of the Christ: a gift who is with us all year, and whom we commemorate on September 21.



From the Archives: The Very Rev'd Don Bernhardt speaks to a motion at Synod 2017.



From the Archives: The Bishop shares a joyful moment with Kingston, the grandson of two members of Synod 2017.

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Call for Nominations: Synod 2020

While we are not meeting in person, but via telephone, we will still be having elections for the following positions:

Delegate, General Synod 2022: 2 clergy, 2 lay & 1 youth
(must be between 16-25 at the time of General Synod.)

Delegate, Provincial Synod 2021: 3 clergy, 3 lay
(1 lay member must be between 16-25 at the time of Provincial Synod.)

Member, Executive Committee: 3 clergy & 5 lay

Member, Canons and Consitution Committee: 1 clergy & 1 lay

Member, Diocesan Court Lists: 4 clergy & 4 lay

Please consider putting your name forward if you are a Synod member.
More information was mailed as part of your Synod information packet.