

A Word From Our Bishop



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

It is my hope that as this issue of the Mustard Seed has reached you, we will all be enjoying a return to parish life as it approaches the “new normal” of life after the pandemic. We do not know what the new normal will look like, but we will be sure that we can meet together, praise God, spend time in one another’s company and begin to feel our way into the future. I think that the covid-19 virus is probably here to stay, like a seasonal disease for which we all need regular boosters and inoculations. I am so grateful for the skill and learning that has brought us to the point where we may safely gather again. I am old enough to still have my scar from the smallpox inoculation I got in kindergarten at the tender age of five. To this day I remember how much it itched and the soft plastic bubble that they taped to my arm to keep me from touching or scratching at it. It was with a sick fascination that I watched the lesion from the inoculation grow on my arm and then dry up and fall off. I had no idea at the time that I was part of the last generations to receive a smallpox vaccine. By 1980, a disease which had been weaponized in some cases or had scarred or killed millions through centuries of history was officially eradicated- there hadn’t been a naturally occurring outbreak in Canada since 1927 and the last single case brought into this country by travel was in 1961.

Managing a disease as a chronic condition is something many of us face. Diabetics, people with arthritis, Crohn’s disease, and a myriad of other afflictions which are the daily walk for people are managed effectively due to the care and concern, research and study of doctors, nurses and scientists all over the world. In spite of the disinformation and distrust which tend to mark these discussions on social media, scripture reminds us to honour physicians for their skill and thank God for sending them the wisdom and knowledge to treat illness. One of the readings that comes up in Morning Prayer and is the first reading at the Feast of St. Luke the Apostle reads:

*“Honour physicians for their services,
for the Lord created them;
for their gift of healing comes
from the Most High,
and they are rewarded by the king.
The skill of physicians makes them
distinguished, and in the presence
of the great they are admired.
The Lord created medicines
out of the earth, and the sensible
will not despise them.
And he gave skill to human beings
that he might be glorified in his
marvellous works. By them the physician
heals and takes away pain; the
pharmacist makes a mixture from them.
God’s works will never be finished;
and from him health spreads
over all the earth.*

*My child, when you are ill, do not delay,
but pray to the Lord,
and he will heal you.
Give up your faults and
direct your hands rightly,
and cleanse your heart from all sin.
Then give the physician his place,
for the Lord created him;
do not let him leave you,
for you need him.*

*There may come a time when recovery
lies in the hands of physicians,
for they too pray to the Lord
that he will grant them success in
diagnosis and in healing,
for the sake of preserving life.”
(Sirach 38.1-4, 6-10, 12-14)*

Beside reflecting on Covid-19, what has me thinking about chronic diseases? Sin. Sin is a chronic condition of humanity. It dogs us through our lives, it destroys what we try to build and it tears apart lives. Sin is the source of so much that has gone wrong in the past. Every form of racism, sexism, violence and domination is the result of sin. The horrors we are facing now of Residential Schools, the inter-generational traumas that haunt our families, the lives broken by shame and terror and loneliness because of these schools are all the results of sin.

Sin is the first and foremost chronic disease of humanity and we must manage it carefully. There is no antidote to it in this life, but thanks be to God there is a treatment, and that is trusting the Lord Jesus and hearing the gospel of his life, death and resurrection. We in the church can sometimes become worn down or dispirited by the recurrence of the pain or wreckage in lives that sin causes. But we must keep our minds on the fact that we are managing a chronic disease. It never goes away but can be safely treated. The treatment is not painful, but it is regular. Prayer, bible study, discipleship, learning and walking the good road that Jesus set out for us is the way in which we treat this chronic disease of ours. Give thanks that the treatment is available, and that the cure has been brought to us by Jesus!

The Mustard Seed

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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!

We asked...

...you said Yes!

Thank you

To all our volunteers, individual donors, and team fundraisers for giving generously to AFC's *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign.

Together we raised over

\$110,000

to fund programs that will support children, youth, and young adults in a post-pandemic world.

With courage, compassion, and creativity, AFC will *Say Yes! to Kids*.

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.

It also contains links to daily morning prayer services by the Dean, as well as the weekly Eucharists led by the Bishop.

News from the Pews

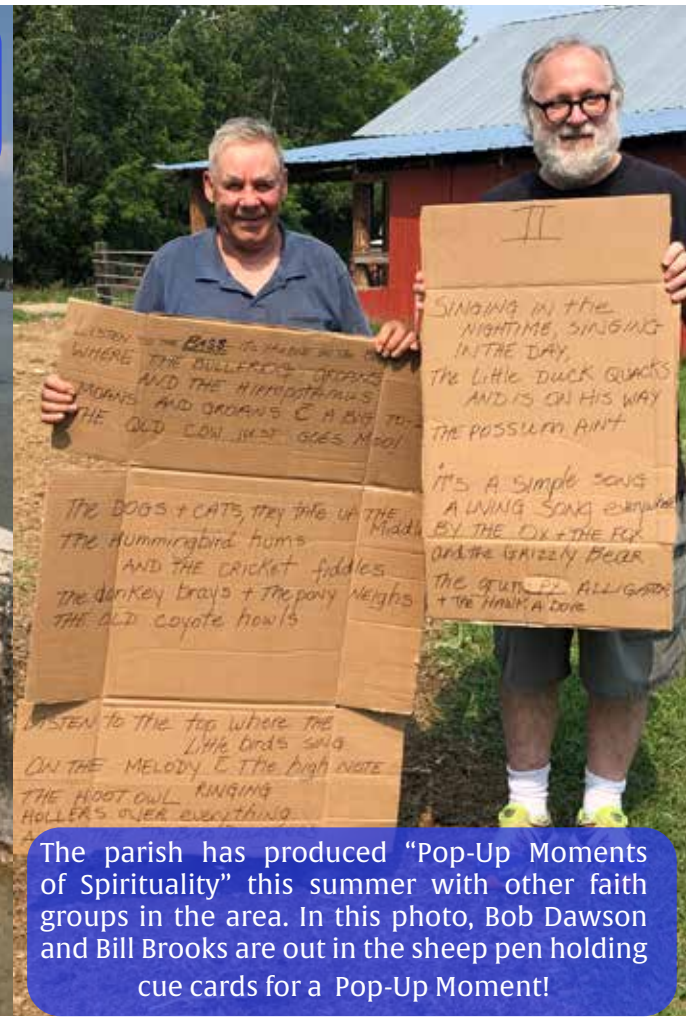
CHRIST CHURCH, THE PAS photos submitted by the Rev'd Jann Brooks



The Left-Handed Blessings crew (Prayer Shawl) were out on International Knit In Public Day on June 12. Pictured below are the Rev'd Maureen Masciesza, Sue Field Harper, and the Rev'd Jann Brooks.

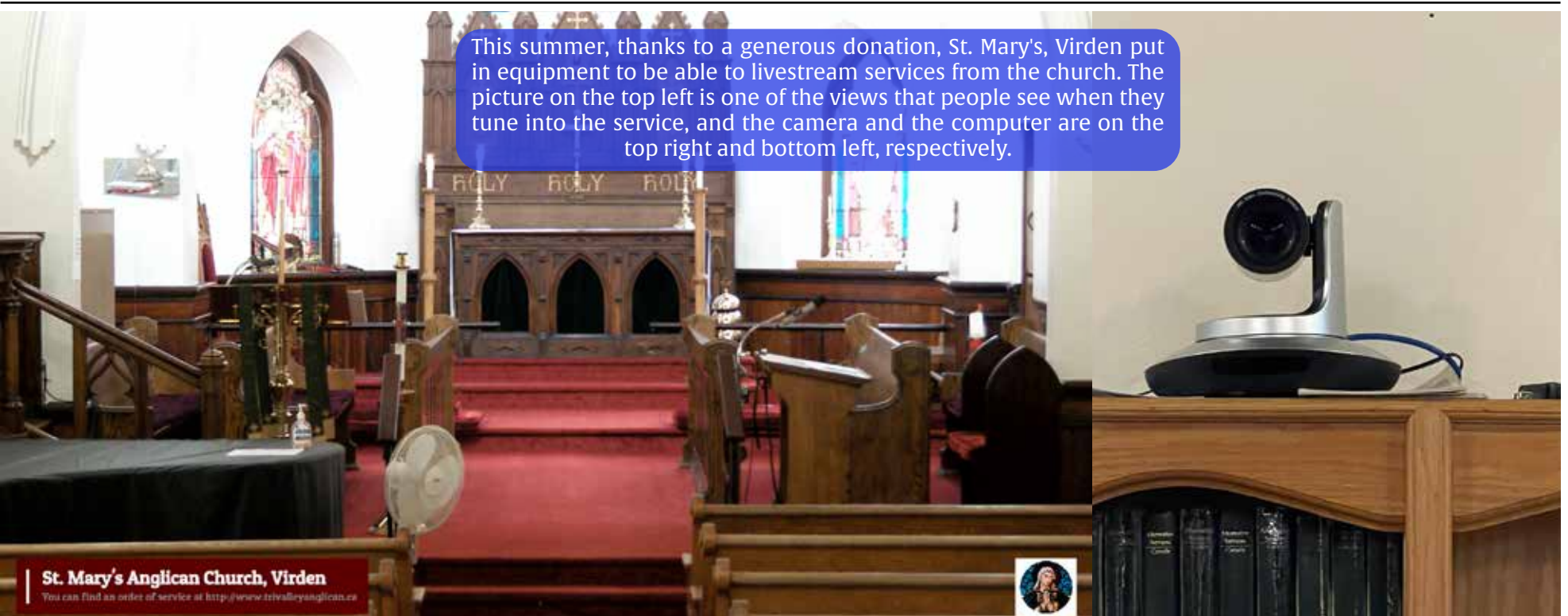


The Rev'd Maureen Masciesza and the Rev'd Jann Brooks pose for a photo at Clearwater Lake after recording a Morning Prayer service on July 15.



The parish has produced "Pop-Up Moments of Spirituality" this summer with other faith groups in the area. In this photo, Bob Dawson and Bill Brooks are out in the sheep pen holding cue cards for a Pop-Up Moment!

THE TRI-VALLEY PARISH (VIRDEN, ELKHORN, RESTON & MELITA) as submitted by the Rector (aka: the Editor)



This summer, thanks to a generous donation, St. Mary's, Virden put in equipment to be able to livestream services from the church. The picture on the top left is one of the views that people see when they tune into the service, and the camera and the computer are on the top right and bottom left, respectively.



As a thank you for preparing sermons for the local radio station since the beginning of the pandemic, Fr. Matt received a set of four mugs from CJ103 Virden. One of them even has his name on it (it's not pictured.)

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Virden
You can find an order of service at <http://www.trivalleyanglican.ca>

You Said Yes!

as prepared by the Anglican Foundation of Canada

The Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) celebrated the close of the Say Yes! to Kids campaign on July 8, 2021 with a Celebration of Giving via Zoom to announce the final result of the campaign: over \$110,000.



“This campaign set a stretch goal for AFC, and no one really knew what to expect,” said Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate and Chair of AFC. “In the end, hundreds of donors from coast to coast to coast have given generously to Say Yes! to Kids.” Archbishop Nicholls thanked dioceses, ACWs, parishes, corporate sponsors, and other groups from across the church for their generosity. “To those who chose to support Say Yes! to Kids when local youth efforts you would have normally supported were suspended due to COVID-19, you helped this campaign to be successful, and the church will be stronger for it.”

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director, AFC, thanked AFC's friends and volunteers – Board Directors, Diocesan Representatives, Bishops, and diocesan staff champions – who carried the banner

for Say Yes! to Kids in their dioceses. “Much of the momentum for Say Yes! to Kids grew out of the efforts of our team fundraisers and their supporters,” said Canon Rois, “We had 12 teams and 33 individual fundraisers in AFC's first peer-to-peer fundraising effort, and we have been inspired by your energy and enthusiasm.”



AFC's Celebration of Giving panel of speakers, including Executive Director Judy Rois, Archbishops Linda Nicholls and Anne Germond, Diocesan Representative for Huron Diane Dance, and AFC staff Scott Brubacher and Michelle Hauser.

Archbishop Anne Germond, Vice-Chair of the AFC Board, spoke to the impact the Request for Proposals (RFP) arising from this campaign will have in dioceses. “In the Diocese of Algoma, and elsewhere in the country, there are wonderful ministries serving vulnerable children and youth. Through this campaign they have discovered that there is both a will and a

way to provide the additional funding they need.”

Diane Dance, AFC's Representative for the Diocese of Huron, captain of Huron Says Yes!, the campaign's top fundraising team, and member of the Request For Proposals (RFP) Committee said, “My hope is that champions for youth across our church will spend some part of the summer months imagining the kinds of projects they might undertake with this new funding.” Dance, a retired educator, added, “I spent 40 years in the classroom, and I know that not all children have the same opportunities. The church has a vital role to play in post-pandemic recovery and maximizing what we can offer children and families in our communities will be part of that.”

While the campaign is officially closed, late gifts will continue to be counted and will increase funds available for the RFP and maximize funding impact at the local level.

For more information on the RFP, visit anglicanfoundation.org/2021rfp or email foundation@anglicanfoundation.org.

A Note from the Editor

Welcome to the 2021-2022 publishing year! I write this note at the beginning of August (because of publishing schedules.)

As I write this, we're slowly starting to see a return to in-person worship in the different churches throughout the diocese. I know that in my parish, we've been meeting in person since the beginning of July, and I can tell you that I'm very happy to see faces in the pews rather than in a small box on a computer screen.

As the fall rolls on and the weather cools in our little part of the world, we're starting to gear up for the normal activities of life, even if we're still not completely

back to the way things were before this all started.

As the fall rolls in, our parishes will once again spring into life (pun not intended.) As we begin another publishing year, I'd like you to consider contributing news to our newspaper - as the pandemic has proven to us, it is a way for us to keep connected with other Anglicans in our area. It is a way for us to remember that we are not alone in our different corners of the diocese - that there are other Anglicans out there in different parts of southwestern Manitoba.

I'm looking forward to what the next publishing year will bring. I hope that we can continue to tell the sto-

ries of our individual churches and what we're doing in our different corners of the diocese to "proclaim the Gospel, make disciples and equip the Saints."

Grace and peace,

The Reverend (Father) Matt Koovisk
Editor

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Westman Community since 1906.
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This photo was taken outside the Cathedral on a very, very smoky day in July.