

A Word From Our Bishop

I have sat through some terrible preaching on the sheep and the goats. You remember the passage where Jesus is in the temple, only a few days away from his betrayal, trial and death and he looks around at the crowded temple and then tells three parables that are all connected: The Parable of the Wise and Foolish bridesmaids, the Parable of the Talents and then the Parable of Judgement - the sheep and the goats. In the end, the goats are sent away from Jesus in the final judgement because they had not fed the hungry and thirsty, or visited the sick and imprisoned. The terrible preaching is rooted in the irresistible desire by some to hedge and assume that Jesus would never separate us out, one from the other. Others glory in the judgement, feeling righteous about the condemnation of the goats.

I was raised in a different denomination that saw conversion to correct belief and interior commitment to Jesus as the only manner of being saved. However, this parable was about being received into the kingdom because of the good works of mercy that had been accomplished in life: "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me, sick and imprisoned and you visited me." It could be confusing.

All my life I had been warned that just being a 'good person' wasn't enough, that faith and accepting Jesus as my Saviour was the only



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

way to salvation. Nothing I did in the list of acts of mercy above would make me right with God.

On the one hand, preachers have agonized over this text because it implied that our care for the poor, sick, hungry, naked and imprisoned mattered with regard to salvation. On the other hand, preachers later in my life were undone by the thought of God making any judgement at all. They could not fathom that God's inclusive love could end in condemnation.

But we must remember, that Jesus is only days away from his betrayal, trial and death. This is his last public teaching; given in the precincts of the temple. Jesus is very aware of the shifts and politics around him and he has warned his disciples that the Son of Man must suffer and die in Jerusalem. So in light of these hard parables and teachings, the contemporary desire to make Jesus more loveable or at the least more pliable to our sensibilities is a terrible temptation. We must not give in, but instead, look again.

Both the sheep and goats are surprised by the judgement of the Son of Man. The goats clothe

themselves in injured ignorance when the Son of Man indicts them for the unrelieved hunger, thirst, want and loneliness they had observed and to which they did not respond. Their objection is that if they had known it was Jesus who suffered hunger, thirst, want or loneliness, then they would have stepped right up. But they hadn't seen Jesus in the suffering and so they are lost.

The sheep will also wonder at when it was they saw the Son of Man in any of these disguises. They had seen need, but hadn't see Jesus - and they reacted to the need by acting with compassion. The goats are condemned because they saw suffering but did not see Jesus. The sheep are welcomed into paradise because while they didn't see Jesus, they saw suffering, and responded with compassion and love.

We are only a short way from the beginning of Lent. It is time for us to engage our faith while we use our eyes so we can see Jesus in all those around us, but most especially in those who are suffering. We must not turn away. In the parable of the sheep and the goats, though neither group saw Jesus, the sheep saw the hunger, thirst, want, and loneliness as demanding compassion even if they did not perceive that they were doing it for Christ. We must take the time now to be sure our eyes behold what our faith can and will perceive: Jesus in all those around us. We have an advantage over both the sheep and the goats.

The Mustard Seed

Publisher:

The Rt. Rev'd William G. Cliff

7th Bishop of Brandon

Editor (and Secretary of Synod):

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!

We have been warned. We can use our faith to seek and serve Christ in those around us, loving our neighbours as ourselves. Be on the lookout for Jesus, for he is in the suffering around you and reach out in compassion.



The Bishop participated in the January 22nd consecration of the Rt. Rev'd Helen Kennedy, Bishop of Qu'Appelle.

In this photo, the Bishop (on the left) is joined by the Most Rev'd Greg Kerr-Wilson, the Rt. Rev'd Helen Kennedy, the Most Rev'd Linda Nicholls, the Rt. Rev'd Chris Harper, and the Rt. Rev'd Adam Halkett.

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, Morning Prayer services with the Dean, Sunday Eucharists with the Bishop, as well as photos from recent events in the diocese.

News from the Pews

CHRIST CHURCH, RUSSELL *as submitted by Virginia Beelaert*

Jen Klimack of the Russell Alliance Church with the support of the Rev'd Chris Pilon of Christ Church and others in the community has brought the red mailbox program to Russell. The program was started in the Diocese by the Rev'd Jann Brooks of Christ Church, The Pas.

The location of the box toward the back of the church offers not only accessibility but also privacy.



ST. GEORGE'S, BRANDON & ST. LUKE'S, SOURIS *as submitted by Janet English*

In the photo on the left, Marlie Slack is delivering hampers to the Christmas Cheer program in Brandon on behalf of St. George's, Brandon and St. Luke's, Souris.

The other photo is a sample of what was in the hampers.



ST. JAMES', RIVERS *as submitted by Kathy Roberts*

Some time ago, Beth Schafer conceived the idea that she would like to see a permanent memorial in the Roseville cemetery to honour the many veterans laid to rest there. (Beth grew up in the area and attended Roseville church as a child. It is in this cemetery that Beth's husband and many relatives have been laid to rest.)

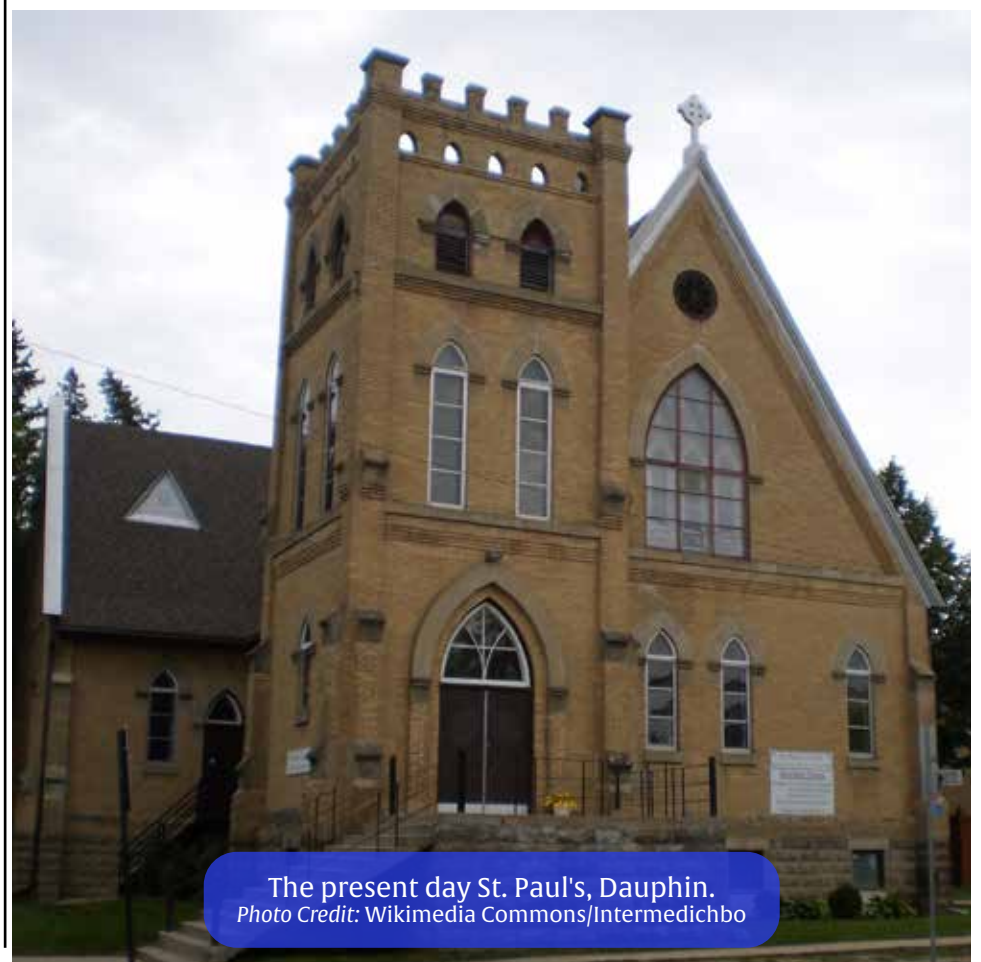
Beth discussed her idea with her family, brother-in-law George Roberts and Gordon Allen and plans were made. George and friend Wes Turner built a steel six foot cross and Beth had a suitable plaque engraved on black granite. In October 2021 a willing crew gathered at the cemetery and the cross was erected, just in time for Remembrance Day.



The installation crew (from left to right): Gordon Allen, Bob Klassen, George Roberts, Susan Klassen, Beth Schafer, Wes Turner, Ethel Turner.

ST. PAUL'S, DAUPHIN *as submitted by Sandy Pacey*

St. Paul's, Dauphin celebrated the Conversion of St. Paul (transferred from January 25 to Sunday, January 30), and marked the 133rd anniversary of the congregation. We rejoiced and remembered the parishioners who came before us stretching back to 1889; our present members; and those who are to come. Our present building, the third church, is 108 years old. Thanks be to God!



The present day St. Paul's, Dauphin.
Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons/Intermedichbo

A Pandemic Shopping Adventure

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Through her network of contacts, Freda connected with clergy and lay leaders from the communities to arrange distribution of the hamper supplies. After dropping off hampers in Grand Rapids, Freda and Darlene were off to The Pas where Henry Budd College became a temporary distribution centre for the communities of Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Easterville, Cormorant, and Moose Lake. Clergy and lay leaders these communities came into The Pas to load up their vehicles so that they could make sure the hampers got to those who needed them most.

Freda and Darlene still have their work cut out for them – deliveries are planned for the following communities: Wabowden, Thompson, Thicket Portage and Pikwitonei (on the Bay line), Leaf Rapids and Lynn Lake, Brochet and Sherridon.

We have all felt the effects of the pandemic, we have all felt the isolation, and maybe even some of us haven't been able to get the supplies that we need, when we need them. The generous funding from the PWRDF will go a long way to alleviate some of the pressures felt in remote or isolated communi-

ties in northern Manitoba, especially those who don't have support from bands or extended families. But generous donations are only one side of this story. It takes people like Freda Lepine to make sure the aid gets to where it needs to go. The countless hours shopping, driving, and connecting with community leaders shouldn't be taken for granted. Freda, Darlene, and the clergy and lay leaders who serve their communities are incredible examples of service in the name of Jesus. We give thanks to God for their generous and tireless service!

HIRING FOR SUMMER 2022

We're searching for multiple PAID positions:

- Cook 1
- Cook 2
- Kitchen Assistant
- Program Director
- Lifeguard
- Maintenance Person

We are also looking for the following weekly VOLUNTEER positions:

- Camp Facilitators
- Councillors
- Health Officer
- Chaplain

ROOM & BOARD - COMPETITIVE WAGES
FULL TIME SEASONAL POSITIONS



Send resumes to
camp@brandon.anglican.ca

Don't let a missing certificate or skill stop you from applying. We are willing to train the right candidates

APPLY NOW!

ANGLICAN MEMORIAL CAMP INFORMATION

2022 SUMMER CAMPS

Teen Camp: Saturday, July 2 – Friday, July 8

Family Camp: Sunday, July 11 – Wednesday, July 13

Junior Camp: Sunday, July 17 – Saturday, July 23

Intermediate Camp: Sunday, July 24 – Saturday, July 30

Early-bird date: May 13, 2022, Cut-off date: June 13, 2022

Every camp registration in by June 13, 2022 receives a free ticket into our raffle.

CAMP FUNDRAISING BARBEQUE

Rideau Park in Brandon - June 4, 2022.

2022 CAMP RAFFLE

Draw Date: June 14, 2022 at Noon
1 ticket for \$10 & 3 tickets for \$20

Tickets available to purchase through your parish or by contacting Deacon Cheryl in the Synod Office (204-727-2380 or admin@brandon.anglican.ca). Payment can be made by e-transfer to finance@brandon.anglican.ca. Use the password raffle.

1st Prize: 3 Night stay at Geiler Corner, Wasagaming, on Thanksgiving weekend 2022 (a \$1650 value)

2nd Prize: Kayak w/ Paddle (an \$800 value)

3rd Prize: Meat Package (Donated by Robert Jasper, a \$500 value)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AMC, FEEL FREE TO CHECK THEM OUT ON:

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INSTAGRAM: [HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/AMC_1950/](https://www.instagram.com/AMC_1950/)

Classes start soon!

The Practise of Pastoral Care: *Being More Than a Friendly Visitor*

Instructor: The Reverend Matt Koovisk B.A., M.Div., Th.M., FGMS, SCP

Dates: Tuesdays from March 8 - April 25 from 7-9pm Central Time

Location: Zoom (or in-person at St. Matthew's Cathedral, Brandon)

Cost: Free for members of the Diocese of Brandon, \$300 for others who wish to take the course for credit towards the L.Th. diploma.

To register: contact Deacon Cheryl at 204-727-2380 or admin@brandon.anglican.ca.

Huron
AT WESTERN



332-8th Street, Brandon, MB, R7A 3X4
TELEPHONE: 204-727-0694

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