



## A Word From Our Bishop

In the last month or two we have heard plenty about Ukraine and the battle that is raging there. We are fervently praying for peace. The bombs fall and armies posture and the people seem trapped between the proverbial rock and hard place. We have been praying regularly for the people of Ukraine, the people of Russia and for a change in the hearts of all those who have been drawn into this terrible tragedy of sin, war, and death.

It is also the Easter season when we are meant to think long and hard about the new life which Jesus offers us in his resurrection. The question that haunts us is how do we get from here (our current world, rife with destruction and pain) to there (the kingdom of love and light which is promised to the children of God.) I want to remind you of some of that story from the garden on the morning when Jesus was raised.

Mary did not recognize Jesus. It wasn't until he said her name that her eyes were opened and she could see him. You have heard me say that the resurrection to eternal life is the offering of Jesus to each of us, but one of the details we often forget is that resurrected life is not easily recognizable. Mary Magdalene did not recognize him, even though she had sat at table and served him. The disciples on the road to Emmaus did not



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

recognize him until he broke the bread in front of them. There is something about resurrected life which leaves us baffled when it is observed from this side of death.

Jesus kept teaching over and over again that our resurrected life is as different from the life we know now, as the seed is different from the full grown plant. In honour of Ukraine, I will use their sunflower as my illustration. We all recognize sunflower seeds. I have happy memories of eating bagfuls as a child and enjoying spitting contests with my friends with the shells. A sunflower seed is delicious as a snack, as a garnish on a salad or all alone by itself, roasted or plain. But looking at a sunflower seed does not in the least hint at the height and beauty and strength of the full grown plant. Only when I see the full flower standing tall, do I see the small part that the seed is of the whole. There is so much more to the picture.

Our lives are like the sunflower seeds. They have a purpose and delight, but God has so much more

planned for us that our hearts can barely perceive what God is up to. The new life will be glorious and it will be a profound change and that new life will be a great mystery, but who we already are will still be there, in the middle of that resurrected life, except we will be so much more than we have been. The tiny seed that was us in this world will be fully present. We cannot know the height and beauty and strength of the resurrected life we will occupy in that new, deathless, and resurrected life to come.

That is how I maintain hope in the between time of here and there. I know that we are called to live faithfully in the here, caring for one another and working for the broken and the lost. But at the same time, the way to there is to see in every broken human, in every person in need, and in every circumstance of life the seed of what is to come when God gathers all of us to himself. That is how I live between here and there; between what I see now and what I know is coming.

So for this Easter season, have a thought about the process of getting from here to there. Think about the ways we will carry who we are into death and then into that new and deathless life. This is what it means to be in the resurrected world. To know that we are seeds of something so much bigger, stronger and more beautiful than who we are now - even

### 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!

when who we are now is beloved of God. You will always be you, but you will also be so much more.



On the fourth Sunday in Lent (March 27), the Bishop visited the Neepawa Anglican-United Shared Ministry. In this screenshot from the YouTube recording of the service, the Bishop is pronouncing the absolution.

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.

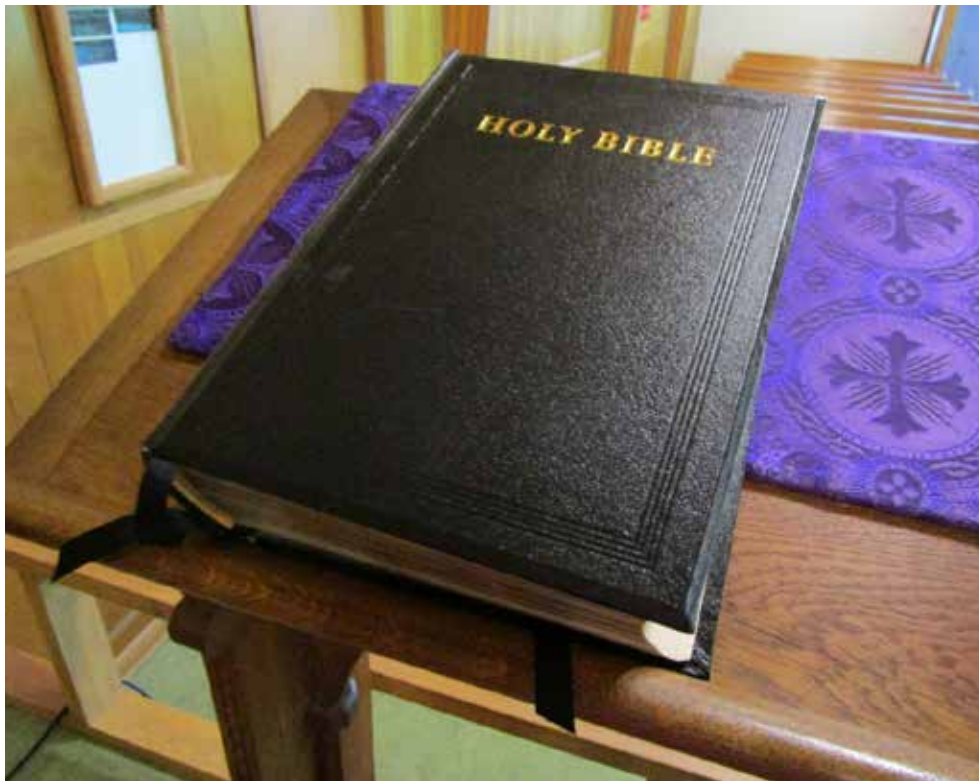
## News from the Pews

### PELLE PLAINS PARISH as submitted by Virginia Beelaert

Following the closure of their church, Christ Church, Roblin has gifted Christ Church, Russell with a Bible. The Bible had been presented to Roblin by the Rev'd Karen and Bob Binding "in loving memory of former members of the Parish."

Several members of Russell's Christ Church and Knox United participated in a Lenten Bible study hosted by Grace Lutheran Church. Discussion followed readings from *Voices at the Crossroads* by Paul K. Peterson.

The members of St. George's Birtle have enjoyed the return of their coffee get-togethers following Sunday services. They had been halted due to Covid-19.



### NEEPAWA ANGLICAN-UNITED SHARED MINISTRY as submitted by the Rev'd Chad McCharles OSBCn

Throughout February, parishioners of the Neepawa United Anglican Shared Ministry challenged themselves to raise funds for the Vaccine Equity Fund of the PWRDF. As an outward and visible sign of these efforts, the Mission Service and Outreach (MS&O) Committee committed to posting one heart in the sanctuary for every \$5 that was raised. By the end of the month, \$2,762 was raised, which meant 552.4 hearts had to be cut out and posted on the walls of the sanctuary! This became such a task, that the MS&O Committee had to employ Sunday School to help with posting all the hearts. Across Canada, this PWRDF initiative has made a massive difference, with over \$60,000 going towards ensuring everyone around the globe has access to the Covid-19 vaccinations. NUASM gives thanks to all who generously donated towards this initiative, both United and Anglican alike! Yet another outward and visible sign of the inner, spiritual ties that bind us together in love, with our ecumenical congregation, and our brothers and sisters around the globe.



### THE TRI-VALLEY PARISH (ST. MARY'S, VIRDEN; ST. MARK'S, ELKHORN; ST. JOHN'S, RESTON; CHRIST CHURCH, MELITA) as submitted by the Editor



On March 24th, I celebrated my fifth anniversary in ordained ministry. I mentioned it to the parish secretary, who acknowledged it and went back to work. She eventually left the building to "run some errands." About 20 minutes later, she returned with this cake that you see below. I wasn't expecting it,

and I'm thankful for the cake, the recognition, and my time here in Virden. Later that week, the article below appeared in the local paper, the *Virden Empire-Advantage*. I include it below for your reading pleasure.

Yesterday [the article originally appeared on March 25], I celebrated my fifth year of ordained ministry in Virden. On March 24, 2017, I was ordained as a deacon (the first ordination for many Anglican clergy) over at St. Mary's. It was a day that was not only a long time coming, but it was also a day that I'll never forget. However, all that being said, the first couple of months here I struggled. I wasn't struggling because of anything anybody did (or didn't do), but because I was going through culture shock. Some of you may know that prior to moving to Virden, I had really only lived in big cities. Sure, I had done a few stints in small towns in Saskatchewan and southwestern Ontario, but this was a different kettle of fish. I was moving from cities, where I could get anything I wanted at any hour to minister to small towns where the local grocery store closed at 6pm on weekends.

I was ordained on the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation, the Feast in the Church calendar where we reflect on the announcement that Mary was to become the mother of Jesus Christ. At the end of the story, we hear Mary say these words: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." As I was moving and starting out here, these words rattled through my head, as a kind of assurance that things were going to get better as I settled in.

And frankly, dear reader, they did (but you probably knew that was coming.) I've been here five plus years now and I have learned that small towns have a charm about them that cities can never have. There is a sense of community here that isn't present in cities – when I lived in cities, I didn't know many people in the varied neighbourhoods I lived in. That isn't the case in small towns – I've been made to feel very welcome here over the past five years. I feel like I'm part of this community and am known.

So, thank you for opening my eyes to the charm of small towns. Thank you for welcoming this city boy with open arms and making him to feel like a part of the community. I look forward to more years in and around the town that means so much to many of us.



Then-Deacon Matt with his very proud parents following the ordination.

The Northern Lights from the Rectory at Christ Church, The Pas.  
Photo Credit: The Rev'd Jann Brooks



# HIRING FOR SUMMER 2022

We're searching for multiple PAID positions:

- Cook 1
- Cook 2
- Kitchen Assistant

We are also looking for the following weekly VOLUNTEER positions:

- Family Camp: **Leader, Health Officer and Chaplain**
- Intermediate Camp: **Health Officer**
- **Counsellors for ALL camps**

**ROOM & BOARD - COMPETITIVE WAGES  
FULL TIME SEASONAL POSITIONS**



Send resumes to [camp@brandon.anglican.ca](mailto: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!**



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## The Ladies Getaway "The Three In One: A Love Story" scheduled for June 2022

This event has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope to have it in June 2023!

## The Anglican Fellowship of Canada LET US PRAY

MAY 16 AT 12:00PM:

*Re-Imagining Prayer (Imaginative Prayer)*

JUNE 20 AT 12:00PM:

*Praying with Icons (including Indigenous Icons), led by the Most Rev'd Anne Germond*

For more information, check out their website at [www.anglicanprayer.org](http://www.anglicanprayer.org) or contact the Rev'd Deacon Barry Nadolny at [barrykn@zoho.com](mailto:barrykn@zoho.com) or 204-638-6531.

## 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](mailto:admin@brandon.anglican.ca)). Payment can be made by e-transfer to [finance@brandon.anglican.ca](mailto: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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