ᐊᓐᓴᕆᑲᓂᐸᓐᑎᑲᓂᓐ

The Mustard Seed.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • JUNE 2025

HOPE IN A LOSS

By the Rev'd Canon Robert Parker

This artical was originally printed for the May 18th, 2015 edition of the Atlantic Fleet publication called The Trident by Lt(N) Robert Parker, Fleet Chaplain.

As of this publication the Christian church will have celebrated the 7th Sunday of the Easter Season marking the post resurrection stories of Jesus of Nazareth. There are many things that change during this time of year, in the church and in the world around us. The snow is finally gone and the flowers that have been waiting, patiently to break out of their winter tomb and emerge triumphantly to reach for the sun. Humans too, are emerging from the cold and damp of a very long winter to ride bikes, walk in parks, clean up yards and get ready to enjoy warm temperatures. Things have also been transforming for the Navy as well.

On Friday May 1st, (2015), I had the privilege and the honour of officiating prayers at the Paying-Off Ceremony for HMCS IROQUIOS. It was an emotional and poignant ceremony for many past and present crew. Many generations of sailors gathered to remember and to be a part of saying good-bye to the lead ship in our East Coast Fleet. IROQUIOS was home to over 10,000 sailors during her time in service to Canada, myself being one of them, and I have to admit that I can't help but compare the crew to the disciples of Jesus after the Crucifixion.

In the Gospel of John it says that after Jesus was buried in the tomb, the disciples were locked away in the upper room in fear. Part of that fear was that they did not know the answer to some very big questions; "What next?" "What are we to do now?" Like people everywhere and in every age, when confronted with major change, they ask the big questions and search for answers that are not forth coming. They have to wait and think and pray before God opens to them the path that is laid before them.

Like the disciples, the current crew, and maybe the past sailors, are wondering, "What now?" "Our ship, the might and majestic IROQUIOS is no longer an HMCS, what does that mean for us?" Just like the disciples, they have to wait, to think, and for some, pray before the answer is opened up before them. They are professionals with skills and abilities they gained while in IROQUIOS and they will take those skills and abilities out to be a benefit to the rest of the Fleet and the Royal Canadian Navy.

There is hope in loss, there is renewal in spring, and there is the light of the sun to warn us and make visible the rocky paths that may lay before us.

Ladies from the congregations of Prairie Alliance Church & NUASM in Neepawa, have been busy working together over the winter on a service project to make denim blankets for the Bear Clan to distribute to homeless people in Brandon . Over the course of three work bees the ladies finished six denim quilts backed with fleece.

It turned out there was lots of interest in this project. There were 18 women at the first meeting on October 17th, 18th and 29th and at two other workbees. We started cutting apart many donated jeans. Extra squares are stored for use in the Fall to make more quilts

Thanks to all who offered to help.

Submitted by Bae Betts, NUASM

A Word from the Bishop

We are approaching the end of the school year and that time in church-land when we start to consider slowing things down. Quite often Vestry meetings and Bible Studies go on hiatus until September. Our clergy begin the mad rush of finding pulpit supply or encouraging Lay Readers to prepare for some Sunday worship while the clergy themselves look with eagerness to a week at Cropthorne, a trip to see family, or even just those lazy days in a hammock with a good book and a cold beverage. These upcoming summer months bring with them the promise of refreshment and renewal for all. As they should …

However, we aren't there yet! The month of June is still a full and active time in the Church at every level and we need to continue to pray, celebrate, and do the work of the Church even as we make those summer plans. The Diocese is still in full-swing preparing for a Clergy Conference for our Incumbents as we join with clergy from the Diocese of Rupert's Land and the Manitoba-Northern Ontario Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Our Finance & Property and Diocesan Executive Committees are preparing to gather in The Pas for our second meeting of the year. Our Camp Coordinator Mackenzie (Roo) Kukurudz is wrangling with all the last-minute details of preparing our Anglican Memorial Camp for all the young people whose lives will be blessed at camp this summer. Archdeacons Kara Mandryk and Lydia Constant are planning the 45th Anniversary for Henry Budd College in late August, and Sacred Circle will be gathering at the University of Calgary in August as well. We have much to plan and pray for.

It seems I have forgotten something though. Oh! That's right. General Synod is happening the last week of June. I will be travelling to London, Ontario following our Clergy Conference to participate in my very first General Synod. Meeting me there will be your clever and capable clergy and lay delegates: The Reverend Charlie Lathlin and Archdeacon Cheryl Kukurudz, and Lay delegates Rae Smith and Brian Lee will be participating on your behalf in prayer, discernment, conversation, Bible Study, and decision making from the 23rd to the 29th of June. Please hold your

Brandon delegation in your prayers as we all prepare for an important and determining General Synod.

While there are many motions, conversations, and presentations which will be deliberated on the floor of Synod, probably the action which most people are praying about is who will be elected our next Primate. As you may know by now, the candidates are: The Most Reverend Chris Harper (National Indigenous Archbishop); The Most Reverend Greg Kerr-Wilson (our Metropolitan in the Province of Northern Lights and Diocesan Bishop of Calgary); The Right Reverend David Lehmann (Bishop of Caledonia); and The Right Reverend Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Suffragan Bishop in the Diocese of Toronto). I ask your prayers for each of these bishops and their families as the primatial election carries with it many changes in ministry and location for whomever is chosen.

When we consider the election of any bishop, and specifically the Primate or Archbishop for the National Church, we must hold in mind the true nature of these elections. Unlike the Federal election of 28 April, the election of a bishop or primate is not an opportunity for politicking or campaigning. Naturally, there are quiet conversations among clergy and lay alike as to who they think might make the best choice. However, it is understood and lived out that it is God's choice who will be named when the final ballot is counted.

There can be some confusion as to how the Primatial election even happens. The nominees for the role of Primate come from among the members of the House of Bishops. All consecrated bishops who have more than a brief time until retirement is eligible for nomination. At the spring House of Bishops gathering, the current Primate (Acting Primate Anne Germond) calls for nominations and the nominees are voted on until 3-5 bishops are both chosen and agree to allow their names to stand. This process is held "in camera" until such time as it is clear that a slate of nominees has been formed. This process is powerfully held in prayer after a time of retreat. The gravity and reality of what the bishops are called to do in creating the slate of nominees is palpable. (Please trust me when I say that it is a process held with gentle hands and discerning hearts.)

Once the slate of nominees has been made public, the nominees are called to prepare written statements, CVs or resumés, and record a video introducing themselves. All this information is then made available through the Anglican Journal in print and online and through the Anglican Church of Canada website. As there are no candidate speeches at General Synod, it is expected that delegates to Synod will read, watch, pray, and discern who they hear the Holy Spirit calling them to cast a vote for. (I would also hope that our delegates will have robust conversations with members of their communities throughout the diocese as well.)

The day of the election at General Synod, the House of Bishops and the nominees are sequestered. The bishops do not vote in the primatial election. The House of Clergy and Laity are the only people who have the right to vote. Ballots will continue until there is a clear election in both the Lay and Clergy Houses. Only then will the House of Bishops be invited to return to the floor of Synod.

As I mentioned above, while this is called an "election" it should be considered more of a prayerful form of "selection." The role of the Primate, like that of any bishop, is one that requires certain charisms, gifts, strengths, and other qualities and competencies that not every person, or bishop, may have.

The Primate, once elected in June, will have a significant challenge ahead of them as they become the face and voice of the Anglican Church of Canada at home and abroad. Not much of what they are called to do will be easy. Difficult conversations, discerning, decisions will be

The Mustard Seed

Publisher:

The Rt. Rev'd Rachael Parker

Eighth Bishop of Brandon

Editor: The Rev'd Canon Robert Parker, CD

Email:

mustardseed@brandon.anglican.ca

Mail:

Diocese of Brandon

403 13th Street

Brandon, MB R7A 4P9

Phone: 902-476-9833

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 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 day of the month preceding publication.

2025 Publication Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
May 2025	*April 1, 2025*
June 2025	*May 1, 2025*
Sept 2025	*Aug 1, 2025*
Oct 2025	*Sept 1, 2025*

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!

News From Around the Diocese

A Call for Pillows!

At the Thanksgiving Weekend Gathering of our Youth at the Camp this past October, the Bishop was caught off guard when the young people answered her question: what do you want for your Church. She was hoping to get answers about how the Church might be shaped in the years to come. However, these precocious teenagers answered quite literally. They want to be comfortable in Church! The Camp Chapel that is.

So, this is a call for all those who love to sew; those who have left over materials – the weirder and funkier the better. For the start of Camp in July we need from 75-100 pillows. We're not talking about the ones on your bed you're going to throw out. We're not asking for fancy throw cushions that are too pretty to be sat upon. We are looking for good teenage-bum-sized pil-lows that will make Pierre Berton's "Comfortable Pew" roll over in its literary grave. We need pil-lows that can be knelt upon for prayer, held like a hug, dragged around like Linus' blanket from Charlie Brown's "Peanuts" and just generally loved.

Your donations of pillows will give the gift of love to homesick hearts. They will be shared and tossed around. They will bring laughter. They will absorb tears. And every time the pillows you donate do any of these things … you will have given that very gift to a young person who will know that they are loved!

Say "YES" to Kids!

Welcome to our 2nd Annual "Say 'Yes' to Kids' Camp - Brandon" Month.

Our Diocese recognizes the importance of all of God's children knowing that they are loved; they are beautiful; and they are important to the Church.

The Camp is the best opportunity for our children to share firsthand experiences of what it is to love and be loved, to laugh and play, to discover God's Creation in ways that they may not be able to experience in their "day to day" lives. From North to South and East to West of our Diocese, we invite our children and young people to become Campers and Volunteers and Staff at AMC.

The "Say 'Yes' to Kids' Camp – Brandon" month of outreach and fundraising is intended to be an opportunity to create opportunities for our Youth to realize and recognize the call God has on their lives and give them new chances to come to know Jesus for themselves, alongside their siblings in Christ.

Nationally, people from across the country have the opportunity to donate on the Anglican Foundation website by checking out the article about our camp and hitting the "Donate" button. All donations made via the National site will contribute to camperships. There should be no reason a child with limited financial resources within the Diocese of Brandon should miss out on going to Camp!

However, the Camp is always in need of refreshing, maintenance, food, staff wages, and funds to assist with unexpected "oh wow's!"

If you or your congregation would like to host an event, pass the hat, or do something creative to assist us, please feel free to go ahead and do so! Just remember to take pictures, write up a paragraph or two and send it in for the Diocese for The Mustard Seed and the Facebook Page.

<u>Some ideas may be to:</u>

* host a tea party for a small donation (grandma's and moms could invite their next generations to get dressed up and come to tea as a Parish!

* for churches with no Sunday School, create a bulletin board with pictures of your children, grandchildren, neighbour kids, etc. and "sponsor" the pictures

* have a special coffee hour and put out a donation basket

* host a neighbourhood barbeque

* offer to babysit your neighbour's children for a couple of hours for a donation

Throughout the month of June, Bishop Rachael is inviting each and every Congregation within the Diocese of Brandon to pray and plan ways to promote and support the Camp. There may just be a child in your community who would love to go to camp even though they don't come to church … yet!

Remember, no donation is too small and no word of mouth in support of the Camp is ineffective! Let's make June a month when we really do "Say 'Yes' to Kids' Camp" in Brandon!

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

For Synod Delegates, Staff and Leaders

O Holy One, guide all our synod delegates,
That those called to serve in these responsibilities may be men and women living a holy life, seeking to be in your will, able to overcome prejudices, examining issues with care, and that the decisions of Synod may be to the building up of your church and to your glory.
May we be truly unified as one under Christ. Amen.

We apologize to all who had prepared to hear the April presentation by Bishop Rachael. Unfortunately it did not take place. We look forward to rescheduling the presentation and will let everyone know of the new date and time.

Join us for our next presentation on May 26th - Prayer in the Midst of Crisis: Bishop William Cliff joins us. Bishop William is a pastor, musician and liturgist who has served in the Dioceses of Huron, Brandon and Ontario. He was elected Bishop of Ontario and installed in 2023. In the midst of a crisis, prayer can offer solace, strength, and guidance by allowing individuals to connect with a higher power, express their needs, and find hope amidst uncertainty. It provides an opportunity to acknowledge, and acknowledge the challenges, while seeking support and direction from a source of comfort.

The 2025 Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89192823143

Zoom Meeting ID: 891 9282 3143

Continued from Pg. 2

made in concert with their staff, the Council of General Synod, the House of Bishops, and many other entities. They will be asked to step away from the joys of Diocesan ministry, no longer having the opportunities to ordain, confirm, baptize, or even celebrate in their own Cathedral. The person whom the Holy Spirit calls to be our next Primate will need to walk a new path along an unseen road and they will need all of us to support and pray for them. Please do pray.

O God, you led your holy apostles to ordain ministers in every place. Grant that your Church, under the guidance of your Holy Spirit, may choose a bishop suitable for the ministry of the Primacy in your Church – a bishop who will model through ministries of word and sacrament your love for your Church, and will uphold all who work for the extension of your kingdom; through him who is the shepherd and bishop of our souls, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Cathedral Cloister

Last month the Dean shared with you the vision of Restoring Hope and bringing a new sense of life and presence to St. Matthew's Cathedral. Since his first moments in the role as Rector of the Cathedral on the first of February, Dean Chris has been praying, dreaming, making phone calls, working with the Vestry, negotiating with the Bishop, and generally throwing open windows ands doors to make room for a giant breeze of fresh air.

While much still looks the same on the surface, changes are happening, and hope is indeed beginning to be restored. While some would argue that God creates the big things, we could also make the argument that God is invested in the smaller things as well. Some of the small things happening around here are plans to buy chairs to replace the pews, which will allow for flexibility in worship, study, gatherings, and inviting the wider community to join us. Other changes are much more practical but necessary.

The Cathedral congregation and Vestry have had the washroom in the women's choir room fixed, allowing us to have two basement washrooms available as an even bigger change occurs. Work is underway for an accessible washroom in the Crypt (beneath the nave and pews) which will allow us to get closer to using our chair lift. Our congregation has been dreaming of becoming an "accessible" community for a long time. Well, the work has begun, and we are getting there! Thanks be to God. (By the way, if you would like to help us realize this work and assist in restoring hope just a little bit quicker, please feel free to contact Dean Chris about sponsoring or supporting some of our ongoing work.)

Pastoral Progressions

Consecration and Installation
of The Reverend Chad McCharles
as the 14th Bishop of Saskatoon

Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of The Northern Lights, will officiate the 11am service on June 14th, 2025, at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist in Saskatoon

Pastoral Progressions is a monthly feature of the Mustard Seed and will highlight the progression and moves for the clergy and parishes of the Diocese.

Anglican Memorial Camp Opprtunities

Do you know a child, young person or teenager that might enjoy a week of making friends, swimming, and hanging out with nature? Then The Brandon Anglican Memorial Camp may be just for them.

Simply scan the QR code of the right and fill out the registration form and send it along with the registration fee to the Camp Coordinator, Mackenzie Kukurudz.

If you are interested in being Camp Volunteer, please contact the Camp Coordinator.

Summer Camp Weeks:

Teen Camp:
July 4 to 10, 2025
Ages 13 - 18

Intermediate Camp:
July 12 to 18, 2025
Ages 10 - 12

Junior Camp:
July 20 to 26, 2025
Ages 8 - 10

AMC Camp contact is: Mackenzie Kukurudz, Camp Coordinator:

Camp@brandon.anglican.ca

204-730-7600

2025 Camp Registration QR Code:

Scan ththe above QR Code to register for the 2025 camp season.
The AMC Raffle is happening.

Contact Mackenzie Kukurydz