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The Mustard Seed.

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ST MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL SAYS FAREWELL TO DEAN BERNHARDT

By Karen Webb

St Matthew's Cathedral

On Sunday, January 26, The Venerable Don Bernhardt presided at his last service as the Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral. It was a day of both joy and sorrow, for the Dean, for his children and for the congregation. The Dean is retiring, which brings both him, Jennie and Josh, his adult children happiness but the congregation will miss him.

In December 2016, Bishop William Cliff appointed Don as Dean of the Cathedral. Dean Don left Virden and moved to Brandon after a

decade at St. Mary's, Virden.

He never regarded himself as anything more than a parish priest just trying to do his best. He had no ambition to rise in the ranks, but when the Bishop asked, he answered the call.

After the service, the congregation held a farewell lunch for him at the back of the Cathedral, which included a farewell cake. The congregation also presented him with gifts: a quilt to honour the Dean's Metis heritage, and a Scotty Cameron putter. Dean Don is an

avid golfer and said he was blown away by how generous the gifts were.

Bishop Rachael Parker said afterwards she has a "sincere appreciation and gratitude for his many years of service", both at the Cathedral and within the Diocese. She stated he had an impact on many families, and that for her, getting to know him was both gift and privilege. Bishop Rachael knows he will be missed, but was also clear that he is welcome to return.

Dean Don is looking forward to retirement, to more time to spend with his children and more time to golf. He has found the last year stressful, particularly because of the sudden death last March of his wife, Heather.

We wish Dean Don the best in retirement, and hope we will see him again. As for the bishop, she's looking forward to stories about holes-in-one. The Dean says he's never actually hit a hole-in-one, but he'll work on it.



A Word from the Bishop

Our Lenten Journey Walking In a Good Way Together

This month of March brings with it the beautiful promise of spring, the lengthening of days, crocuses blooming, new life emerging. Surrounding us will be opportunities to get outside for a little while and inhale those last winter cold blasts as we begin to plan gardens and think about Anglican Memorial Camp clean up, summer plans, and family get togethers. March is that mid-point between Christmas and summer break for students and teachers. It is that pivotal month when we recognize we are leaving behind what was and getting ready to embrace what is next.

This year the month of March also brings the season of Lent. The first Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and, while it feels late this year, it is a reminder to us that this Lenten season of penitence – turning away from the things that put distance between us and Jesus Christ – is at the same time, an invitation to turn and walk along a new path into the spring, a journey along which we can choose to walk in a “Good Way” together.

This month is a milestone month for our Diocese. It marks my first anniversary as a bishop – your bishop! On the 19th, the Feast of St. Joseph, our entire Diocese is invited to gather at 2 pm at the Cathedral as we induct Father Chris Everts as the Rector of the new Parish Grouping of St. Mary's, Brandon, St. Paul's, Wawanesa, and St. Matthew's Cathedral, and install him as Dean of the Diocese. As I was retitled from the “Venerable” to the “Right Reverend” a year ago, Chris will receive his new title as



“The Very Reverend” as he assumes the role of “senior priest” in the Diocese of Brandon.

This month also marks the earnest beginnings of seeking the new and Good Way that God is calling us to walk as a Diocese. As we wrap up our 100th Diocesan anniversary, and as I am beginning to feel that I have my feet under me as your Bishop, the time has come to intentionally pray about, discern, discuss, and plan what the next hundred years will look like for Anglicans in our Diocese. Some of the work we need to do is the foundational “church” work of reviewing our Canons and Constitutions, Policies and Procedures, to ensure that (1) we are truly focussing on sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and (2) our ways of “doing” the business of church are connecting and relevant to the world we live in. We also need to celebrate the ways in which our Parish structures are working, while acknowledging where they aren’t, so that we can best support ministry in every First Nation, city, town, village, hamlet, and the remotest of our communities.

We are coming to the realization as a national Church,

as well as local, that the ways things have always been, just aren’t working anymore. We need to adapt our expectations, and our resources, to ensure that we are reaching out to people with Christ and for Christ. It is a Gospel-imperative that we come back to the very teaching and expectation of Jesus with his disciples that we are all called to serve whether we are laity or clergy.

The next few years will need to be filled with opportunities for prayers and dreaming. Listening to the elders of every community as they share their wisdom will be essential, but it will need to be equally paired with opportunities to play and pray with our youngest and most vulnerable members as they share with us the dreams that God has sparked in the hearts and minds of those who God is raising up in our midst.

Jesus himself has invited us to come and walk in a Good Way together. What a perfect time to begin as we also begin our Lenten journey together. We are a Diocese only beginning to grow into the beautiful, powerful, intricate, unique Community God is envisioning us to become. The most faithful way we can answer God’s call is to say “yes” when we hear the question, “Will you come and follow me?” Join me as we answer as a Diocesan Family, “yes, Lord, we will indeed come and follow you.” Together we will begin our journey in a Good Way by observing and celebrating a good Lent.

+ Rachael

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Canada)

For Love

Create in me, gracious Lord, a spirit that is patient and kind. Keep me from all envy, boasting, arrogance or rudeness; give me true wisdom and understanding, that I may always rejoice in the truth and never in wrongdoing. Strengthen my trust in you, so that I can bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things. Through your strong leading and my feeble effort, let me mature and grow from the childish to the adult. You, Lord Jesus, are love; make me to be more like you. Grant that your love may be my word and my wisdom. My great offering and my one accomplishment; for of all things, love is the greatest, and it never comes to an end. Amen. *From Saint Augustine's Prayer Book, Forward Movement*

Join us by ZOOM on the third Monday of each month (some exceptions) at noon for Let Us Pray, an hour of prayer together. Information on how to connect is found on the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer webpage <https://anglicanprayer.org>

On Monday March 17 we will hear about Thy Kingdom Come, an intensive program of prayer for others that takes place from the Day of Ascension to the Day of Pentecost.

The Mustard Seed

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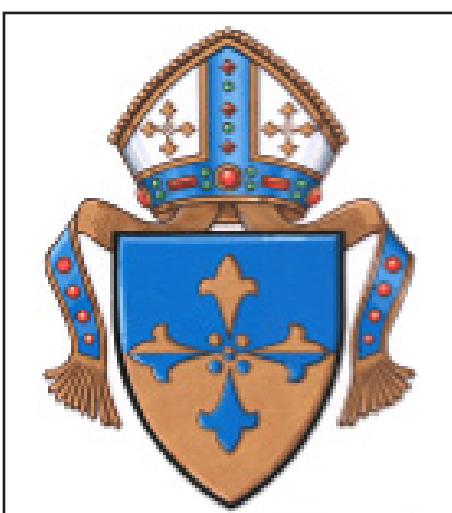
Deadline for submissions:

The first day of the month preceding publication.

2025 PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline
March 2025	February 1, 2025
April 2025	March 1, 2025
May 2025	April 1, 2025
June 2025	May 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

Creating a “Comfortable Pew” for the Camp Chapel

Last Thanksgiving weekend, the Diocesan Camp (AMC) hosted a gathering for Youth in the Diocese, inviting them to join together on a Sacred Journey. As part of that gathering and as a step forward in walking in a Good Way together, the young people participated in the creating and christening of a Sacred Fire. Right in front of the Camp Chapel there is now a Sacred Fire pit which will only be used for spiritual rites and ceremony. This visible sign is a reminder of the powerful and invisible work the Spirit has done, is doing, and will continue to do at our Camp. The Sacred Fire space is very much a sacramental space for all who will come to journey at AMC.

As part of our Gathering, Bishop Rachael invited the young

people to vision about what the Church is and what they need of the Church for their own futures. While she had anticipated that these young people would guide her in a vision for the future years of the Church in the Diocese, she was surprised and overwhelmed to realize that each of the young people were speaking not about the Church of their tomorrows but rather about “their” church of today – the Camp Chapel. The Bishop quickly recognized that the work that needs to be done, needs to be done now and right there – at the Camp.

In the near future, the Camp Committee will begin the work of reimaging the Camp Chapel and doing the work of having it consecrated, named, and recognized as a Parish Church within the Diocese of Brandon. We have already begun that work as Baptisms and Confirmations were celebrated in the Chapel on

Thanksgiving weekend. We know that there will be more Confirmations celebrated there in the future. It is anticipated that weddings of former campers will one day be officiated there. The Bishop is also entertaining the idea and praying about resources that would enable the Camp Community to sponsor a Summer Student as a permanent Chaplain as part of the staff.

While all of that will take some significant work, one of the “dreams” of the campers which could be realized for this summer’s camping season is that of more “comfortable pews.” To put it bluntly, the campers find the pews rather harsh on their boney butts and they would love to have some pew cushions! So, that is call the Bishop is challenging all the “stitchers and sewers” of the Diocese to take on for Lent. Whip out the needle and thread. Find some funky,

colourful, kid-friendly materials and make us enough individual “teenage butt-sized” cushions that every Camper will have a comfortable seat at Camp this summer. When you have your cushions ready, email the Camp Coordinator, Mackenzie Kukurudz at camp@brandon.anglican.ca and we will arrange to have them delivered to the Camp in time for the first week of Camp in July.

Thank you in advance for these cushions. When the Campers see them, they will begin to understand what it means to trust that when you ask God for something, God answers prayers. Many of our Campers don’t easily see God’s hands at work in their everyday lives until they come to camp. You can have a hand in being God’s hands, answering prayers, and helping these amazing young people know that they are loved by God, and they are loved by you!

7 “Provocative” Hypotheses

In 2023 the Primate commissioned a group of people from across the Anglican Church of Canada to begin looking at the structures of the General Synod of the Anglican Church to better align with the Mission and Goals of our national structure. This group was asked to become the Primate’s Commission, with the mandate of “Reimagining the Church: Proclaiming the Gospel in the 21st Century.” The original group consisted of clergy and laity from different dioceses. It was later noted (October 2024) that two significant stakeholders had been overlooked in the appointments of individuals to the Commission: Indigenous Peoples (ACIP/Sacred Circle) and The Council of the North. Subsequent to that realization, two Indigenous members were invited to join the Primate’s Commission, and our Bishop Rachael was invited to participate on behalf of The Council of the North.

The Commission’s work was structured in such a way as to address concerns raised at General Synod 2023 with emphasis on the calls for decolonialization, removing barriers for participation, particularly with respect to discrimination on many cultural levels, the role of the Primate, and the ongoing concerns about financial constraints on the National Church level. The Commission decided to consult widely throughout the Church and arrived at seven statements crafted to engage conversation and invite deeper thought. These statements were titled “Provocative Hypotheses.” They were not meant to indicate a formal and proposed course of action but rather to ignite people’s passions and imaginations in such a

way that broad participation in the national conversation might occur.

Through direct conversations with staff at the General Synod Church House, gatherings with Provincial and Diocesan Councils, House of Bishops, and other face to face interactions, the Commission spoke to over 200 Anglicans from across the country. An online survey was also made widely available and well over 200 other participants took the time to share their ideas, concerns, hopes, and frustrations as well.

The 7 Provocative Hypotheses were as follows:

Hypothesis #1 – It is time to dismantle the colonial foundations of the Council of the North to fully “Embrace mutual interdependence with the Indigenous church” (Sacred Circle). Representatives of General Synod, Sacred Circle, and the Council of the North will explore the goals, intent, limitations, processes and reporting policies around the collection and redistribution of financial and non-financial resources and recommend changes. The largest expenditure within the budget of General Synod is Council of the North. We need to ensure that this expense is accomplishing the work we need it to accomplish.

Hypothesis #2 – It is time to dismantle the racism and colonialism that is built into our governance structures in order to diversify participation.

General Synod’s Governance Working Group will create ways to enable participation regardless of factors such as age, cultural background, language, family situation, employment status. Barriers to engagement and leadership opportunities are to be removed and proactive supports are

to be developed.

Hypothesis #3 – It is time to eliminate one level of structure—either General Synod or the Ecclesiastical Provinces.

The Primate, with the Metropolitans in consultation with national and provincial councils, will consider the elimination of either the Ecclesiastical Provinces or General Synod and/or a restructuring of responsibilities and resources between the two levels in order to more effectively support dioceses. Consideration will also be given to the possibility of amalgamating dioceses or otherwise increasing inter-diocesan collaboration in administration and governance.

Hypothesis #4 – It is time to examine returning to a model where the Primate is also a diocesan bishop.

General Synod Officers will appoint a task force that gives serious consideration for the office of the primate to be held by a diocesan bishop, including the possibility for some of the responsibilities of the primate to be adapted and redistributed and for General Synod to provide financial support to that diocese for an assisting bishop.

Hypothesis #5 – It is time to (further) reduce travel and meeting costs, both financial and environmental.

General Synod Officers will initiate a thorough exploration of purpose, need, and cost-recovery/cost-sharing for in-person meetings. This includes a review of House of Bishops Meetings and the travel expectations of the Primate and other General Synod staff.

Hypothesis #6 – It is time to re-vision

Church House.

General Synod Officers and Council, in consultation with national staff representatives will explore new models for the Office of the General Synod, including possibilities such as job-sharing, part-time staffing, and a move away from a central headquarters toward a fully remote and dispersed workforce with the necessary technical support.

Hypothesis #7 – It is time to end independent editorial journalism funded by General Synod.

While the General Synod does have an important role in creating and disseminating information and stories about the church, an editorially independent journalistic platform can no longer be a ministry of General Synod.

The Commission has been working diligently for many months to collect, consolidate, and comprehend the many responses to these Hypotheses. They were provocative in nature and the responses elicited were passionate and compelling. Since the closing date for the survey, the Commission members have come to the recognition that the 7 Hypotheses were simply conversation starters which have focussed the further work of the Commission, and indeed is calling the General Synod to look forward in an effort of determining “Pathways” that the entire Church might learn to intentionally walk in good ways together. The Primate’s Commission is currently preparing its Final Report to share with the Council of General Synod later this month, and anticipates that challenging and life-giving motions will be raised up from the work being done.

A "Resourceful" Opportunity

The Diocese has maintained a Ministry Resource Room in the Cathedral. For many years this has been the centralized space for books and learnings about Bible Studies, group dynamics, Church doctrine and dogma, sermon preparation, Children's ministry aids, and so much more. The Resource Room has become under-utilized, and indeed, some resources have become outdated.

The Bishop has asked that an Ad Hoc Committee put their heads together to study and discern what kinds of resources are appropriate and needed today. Archdeacons Kara Mandryk (The Henry Budd College for Ministry) and Jonathan Hoskin have volunteered to spearhead this working group. If you have an interest in assisting them, or if you share gifts in seeking out resources in many forms and might have some imagination to lend to the discernment process of "The Future of Ministry Resources Within the Diocese," please let us know at the Diocese and we will ensure that you get connected.

The Cathedral Cloister

*By The Rt Rev'd Rachael Parker
Eighth Bishop of Brandon*

Over the past weeks much has been going on at the Cathedral. Dean Don Bernhardt bid the Cathedral farewell on the 26th of January as he began his new ministry of retirement. Father Chris Evertts took on his new role as Rector of the Cathedral and the new Parish Grouping including St. Matthew's, St. Mary's, Brandon, and St. Paul's, Wawanesa came into being on the first of February. The Cathedral Centre and the Diocesan offices have welcomed Jia Zhang as our receptionist extraordinaire and her energy has been revitalizing both space and personnel in every corner of the Cathedral building.

In addition to the new personnel wandering the halls and ministering to souls everywhere, the physical spaces have been getting an overhaul. As you may be aware, the Cathedral is in the process of negotiating a long-term lease with WIS (Westman Immigration Services) which will see the new partners using all the "south wing" of the Cathedral building, including the kitchen, parish hall, and the basement hall and offices. The Cathedral proper and the Crypt below the worship space will still be solely in the care of St. Matthew's.

As WIS will be incorporating a Child Care facility, they will need to make extensive changes to the spaces they are leasing, including the current Diocesan offices for the Bishop and Greig Scott, our Diocesan Financial Officer. This has called upon the Diocese and Cathedral to make some difficult logistical decisions with respect to office space.

The Diocese did investigate setting up a Diocesan Centre in the crypt, below the nave of the Cathedral. However, the rehab work and need to make egress windows, etc. available in that space was cost prohibitive. Investigated were also the possibilities of leasing a storefront or commercial site or purchasing a purpose-built building. These options were also costly and would have removed the revenue source of Diocesan rent from the Cathedral as well.

In moments of divine imagination and recognition that we need to think smart and not large, the Diocesan staff determined that we should be designing something more along the "tiny home" mindset, and a plan emerged! It was decided that the new Dean would relocate back into the traditional Dean's office across the hall from the receptionist's office. The staff breakroom was relocated into the south end of the Sacristy and with a new electrical outlet installed, a coffee bar and seating area were born. (The staff would like to thank the Cathedral Altar Guild for their generosity of heart and patience as this all came together.) Once the breakroom was relocated, the new Dean's office got a coat of paint, new blinds and was ready to welcome the Dean to his Cathedral home.

Still needing accessible space to host the Diocesan offices, it was decided that the Diocesan Finance office will relocate into Archdeacon Kukurudz' office, adjacent to the receptionist's office. Archdeacon Cheryl and the Bishop will relocate to the second floor of the Cathedral, in what was Dean Bernhardt's office. The music room on this floor will have one wall removed and a door added to create a proper office for the Bishop. The larger space will be adapted to create the workspace for the Archdeacon with a small meeting/reception area for Diocesan business. This work will entail the following: removal of flooring, installation of two new windows, upgrade

to electrical, installation of HVAC, new flooring, and paint. The stairs, the hall between the glass Cathedral entry doors and the Sanctuary, and the breakroom will also need new flooring. There will also be a small waiting area created at the bottom of the stairs.

At the time of writing, the renovations to the upstairs Diocesan offices had not yet begun. Work is first required to create a proper music room to store the Cathedral's vast and magnificent Music Library. It is hoped that by the time of publication, work will be well underway on the upstairs offices. Once all the Diocesan renovations have been completed, the Cathedral and Diocesan staff will host an Open House to share with you our new beginnings. It feels like a good and faithful way to kick off the next 100 years for ministry in the Diocese of Brandon!

Editor's note: "The Cathedral Cloister" column is intended to highlight thoughts, ideas, and perspectives of clergy from the Cathedral, and the Diocese, parishioners and stakeholders of the Cathedral Church. Submissions or article ideas are always welcome.

Pastoral Progressions

The Rev'd Christopher Evertts will move into the role of Dean of the Diocese and Rector of the new Parish being formed consisting of St. Paul's, Wawanesa; St. Mary's, Brandon; and St. Matthew's Cathedral. A service of Induction as Rector and Installation as Dean of the Cathedral will take place on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th, 2025 at 2 pm. Lay Readers and Clergy are invited to vest, the colour being white.

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 Employment Opportunities

All jobs come with free room and board. If you are 18 or older you will need to get a satisfactory Criminal Record / Vulnerable Sector / Child Abuse Registry Check.

Summer Jobs we are hiring for:

Cook 1 (Full time) - Can You keep a kitchen clean, functional and

organized? Think about sharing your gifts at the summer camp. We need someone who can also supervise kitchen staff, create menus, monitor supplies and be an effective member of a team. You'll need a current Food Safe or Food Handler's License and CPR-C, Standard First Aid. Don't let a missing certification stop you – we might be able to help with that.

Cook 2 (Full time)- You will Assist our Cook 1. If you have refined taste buds and a flair for the delicious, and you're also enthusiastic, patient and fun. You'll need a current Food Safe or Food Handler's License. Don't let a missing certification stop you – we might be able to help with that.

Kitchen Helper (Full/Part time)
You'll need a current Food Safe or Food Handler's License. Don't let a missing certification stop you – we might be able to help with that.

Lifeguard (Full time) If your credentials are up to date with NLS Certification (or equivalent) and you'll already have CPR-C and Standard First Aid as part of your NLS. Last, you'll need a medical certificate of health.

The salary is competitive, we throw in room and board and the job is full-time for three to four months (negotiable).

It's helpful if you have a boat license and WHMIS, but you can get that by your start date. A driver's license would be nice. Don't let a missing certification stop you – we might be able to help with that.

AMC Camp contact is: Mackenzie Kukurudz, Camp Coordinator, Camp@brandon.anglican.ca, 204-730-7600

Important camp dates:

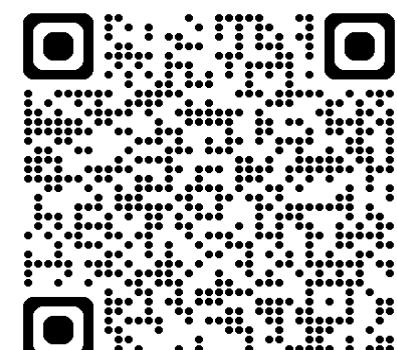
May 17, 2025:

Camp Clean Up Day

May 29, 2025:

Blessing of the Wheels (Fundraiser)

2025 Camp Registration QR Code:



Scan the above QR Code to register for the 2025 camp season.