Saskatchewan Anglican

The newspaper of the Dioceses of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon and Qu'Appelle • A Section of the Anglican Journal • **September 2026**

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Testing out a century-old pump organ

Christ Church at West Patience Lake, east of Saskatoon, held an open house and barbecue fundraiser over the summer, which welcomed over 90 people and netted nearly $4,000. Pictured above are youths testing out a fully functioning pump reed organ. For story, see page 12. Photo by Joan Vanderloos

Camp Okema parties like it's 1976

By Mary Brown

CAMP OKEMA (Skwn) — It was a perfect day to be at the lake to celebrate Camp Okema's 50th anniversary, as there were many people renewing past relationships and memories of their days at the camp and on the board.

An altar was set up outdoors and Bishop Rick Reed, assisted by Jonah Folkman, celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The readings were from 2 Chronicles vs. 7-14 and Malachi 3:1.

The bishop spoke of the purpose of the people of God: to bring glory to Him, while their weapon of choice is the word of God.

Continued on page 5

ESC quits union, becomes stand-alone theological college

By Bishop Helen Kennedy

SASKATOON — The Right Rev. Helen Kennedy, bishop of Qu'Appelle, the bishop of the Emmanuel and St. Chad (ESC) College council and the chancellor of the ESC senates, has written a letter discussing the future of the college in Saskatoon.

"Dear friends of Emmanuel & St. Chad, your generosity has sustained Emmanuel & St. Chad through more than a century of Anglican theological formation.

"I want to make sure you hear directly from me about a significant decision we have made — and what it means for the mission your giving supports," the bishop wrote.

"ESC has concluded its participation in the Saskatoon Theological Union. We are moving forward as an independent Anglican theological college, with a renewed and focused model of formation: robust online programming complemented by in-person intensive learning," she continued.

"I want to be transparent with you. The STU arrangement, entered in good faith, ultimately moved toward a one-school model that would have dissolved ESC's distinct Anglican identity into a broader institution," Kennedy said.

"After prayer and careful governance discernment, we concluded that our obligation — to you, to the Anglican Church of Canada, and to the students we serve — was to preserve that identity rather than surrender it.

"Your gifts to ESC were made in support of Anglican theological formation. That is precisely what they will continue to fund. ESC's endowment remains intact, our faculty committed, and our mission clear, she continued.

"The model we are building is not a retreat — it is a strategic advance. Online and intensive formation allows ESC to reach Anglican candidates for ministry across Canada, not just those who can relocate to Saskatoon.

"Your investment will do more good, not less.

"If you have questions about the stewardship of your gifts, or about ESC's financial position and plans, I would welcome a conversation at a future opportunity," Kennedy added.

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Be more than just a 'Sunday Christian'

How should my faith affect my work life?

By Rev. Deacon David Zulkoskey



The interpersonal relationships that one carries out with the public and one's fellow workers does provide an area where faith could be demonstrated, writes Rev. Deacon David Zulkoskey. Photo courtesy Vitaly Gariev/pexels.com

Are you a Sunday Christian? This may sound like a strange question, but in so many ways it reflects how many Christians conduct themselves.

Religion, or more importantly one's faith, is something demonstrated or practised only at church on Sundays. Perhaps, however, we should extend that parameter and include our life of prayer away from the formal church environment.

So, to rephrase the question, are you a Christian who only practices your faith at church and in the privacy of your own prayerful existence at home?

The primary question is, however, do you practice your faith in the work environment? Now, some people might state that they demonstrate a prayerful life at their place of employment. That sounds rather great, but is it actually practical? It would, of course, depend on their occupation.

The idea of a Bible study during a retail transaction is rather ridiculous. The key point, however, of the topic of the impact of one's faith on the workplace is not often applied to one's attitude and deportment.

Better still, the interpersonal relationships that one carries out with both the public and one's fellow workers does provide an area where faith could be demonstrated.

The Christian attitude is something that really needs examining. This is very present in a secular society that is quick to judge Christians on their conduct. This certainly holds true for those who preach to others in a confrontational manner.

So, let's rephrase the question: can we as Christians extend our faith to our work environment? The answer is most certainly yes!

But how do we do this in a way that does not thrust our faith into the face of others?

The answer to this lies in the fundamental practices and conduct of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The essence of the Gospels is respect, compassion and kindness. These traits, demonstrated sincerely and straightforwardly, go far to enhance relationships with others. Kindness conquers all and in fact builds a sense of community.

It is the Christian way. One does not have to overtly display their faith through obvious evangelism but rather through the simplest of human interactions, respect.

In my former life as a high school teacher for 35 years, I from time to time encountered individuals who would identify as Christians, yet their actions were selfish, self-righteous and downright mean.

I would call these people Sunday Christians. It does, however, make one theorize on how these people would conduct themselves in their place of worship.

If our hearts are truly directed towards God, then instinctively our actions will be a manifestation of kindness and compassion.

It often is the small things and little charitable actions that have the greatest impact on building a faith community — even in the workplace! God is love and our faith and actions must reflect this very essence of Christianity.

I invite you to try it and see for yourself how charity and kindness can change our world and just maybe bring others to the beauty of the Christian life.

Camp Harding raises $4K to support kids



Campers cook hot dogs over the fire while spending time at Camp Harding in Cypress Hills. Photo by Kate Berringer

By Michelle Hauser
Anglican Foundation of Canada

Thanks to the generosity of supporters across the Diocese of Qu'Appelle and beyond, Camp Harding raised $4,250 through the 2026 Say Yes! to Kids campaign.

This amount reached 85 per cent of the camp's $5,000 fundraising goal after Anglican Foundation of Canada matching funds and campaign bonuses were applied.

Kate Berringer was the team captain for the Camp Harding campaign.

The funds will help reduce financial barriers for families, making it possible for more children and youths to experience Christian camp in the beautiful Cypress Hills.

Every gift helps keep camp affordable while supporting programs that nurture faith, friendship, leadership and community.

Camp Harding continues to offer a variety of summer opportunities for young people, including Junior Camp, Teen Camp, and a South Sudanese community Dinka language camp.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada congratulates Camp Harding and the Diocese of Qu'Appelle on another successful Say Yes! to Kids campaign, and thanks everyone whose generosity is helping ensure that more young people can say "yes" to the life-changing experience of camp.

To apply to the Anglican Foundation, visit www.anglicanfoundation.org.

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CONTACT INFORMATION
Managing Editor:
Jason Antonio
SKAnglicanEditor@gmail.com
1501 College Ave
Regina, Sask., S4P 1B8
Phone: 306-737-4898

Qu'Appelle:
Joanne Shurvin-Martin
joannesm@myaccess.ca
6927 Farrell Bay
Regina, Sask., S4X 3V4
Phone: 306-775-2629

Saskatoon:
Rev. Peter Coolen
ptrcoolen@sasktel.net
820 Avenue I South,
Saskatoon, Sask., S7M 1Z3
Phone: 306-244-0935,

Saskatchewan:
Mary Brown
mary1949brown@gmail.com
Box 25, Shellbrook, Sask., S0J 2E0
306-922-5159

Advertising agent:
Angela Rush
saskatchewan.anglican.ads@gmail.com
905-630-0390

PUBLISHING DETAILS
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59 Roberts Place
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Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stanley Mission, the oldest building in Saskatchewan, serves as a modern-day reminder of ancient and present faith and as a guidepost to faith in the sustaining power of God.

Photo by Bishop Chad McCharles



Ancient pictographs remain along the Churchill River as signs and warnings for travellers by those who knew the land intimately and cared enough to guide those who came after them.

The Bishop's Corner

Signposts of faith and service

By Bishop Chad McCharles



There are some places where the landscape itself seems to invite prayer. My recent visit to Stanley Mission with Bishop Rick Reed and Archbishop Shane Parker, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, was one of those experiences.

The beauty of northern Saskatchewan, the deep history of the land, and the stories shared by those who know it well combined to create a pilgrimage that I will not soon forget.

One of the highlights of our visit was travelling by boat to Nistowiak Falls. The falls themselves are breathtaking, with the rushing, clear water speaking of both power and beauty. Yet it was the journey itself that proved equally memorable.

As we made our way along the Churchill River, navigating rapids and unseen dangers beneath the surface of the water, our indigenous guides drew our attention to ancient pictographs painted high on the rock face.

These remarkable red-ochre images have endured for centuries.

They depict figures, animals and symbols left by indigenous peoples long before Europeans arrived in this land.

Our guides explained that these were not simply artistic expressions, but practical signs for those travelling the waterways. They served as ancient road maps, telling travellers what lay ahead: rapids to be navigated, moose to be found and other important features of the journey.

They were signs left by those who knew the land and who cared enough to guide those who would come after them.

I found myself reflecting on the generosity represented in those paintings. Someone took the time to leave markers that would help others travel safely.

They trusted that future generations would see them, understand them and benefit from them. What a profound act of care across time.

Our trip on the river also included a visit to Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Stanley Mission, the oldest standing building in Saskatchewan. Sitting on its commanding rise overlooking the Churchill River, it is impossible not to feel the weight of history.

The church has stood faithfully for well over a century and a half, witnessing countless baptisms, weddings, funerals, celebrations and prayers, which we added to with our Book of Common Prayer Communion service celebrated by our Primate.

Surrounding the church are hundreds of graves, each bordered by beautifully painted, colourful wooden fences.

Walking among them was a deeply spiritual and moving experience.

Every grave tells the story of a life lived, a family recalled, and a community shaped by generations of faith.

The quiet beauty of the cemetery reminded me that we are never the first to walk the path of discipleship. We are surrounded by the faithful witness of those who have gone before us.

As I stood overlooking the Churchill River, I was struck by the connection between the ancient pictographs and Holy Trinity Church. At first glance, they seem to belong to very different worlds.

One speaks through symbols painted on stone; the other through timber, stained glass, and the enduring witness of Christian worship. Yet both serve a remarkably similar purpose: both are signs for travellers.

The pictographs guided canoeists along the river. The church has guided generations of Christians along the journey of faith. Both point beyond themselves.

Both remind us that we do not make the journey alone, nor do we begin it from scratch. We inherit wisdom, stories and faith from those who came before us, and we are called to leave faithful markers for those who will follow us.

In every generation, Christians are invited to ask what signs we are leaving behind. Are our lives pointing others to Christ?

Are our churches places that help weary travellers find hope, direction and grace? Are we contributing something that future generations will receive with gratitude?

My time in Stanley Mission reminded me that faithful people have always left signs for the journey.

Some were painted with red ochre on ancient rock. Others were built from timber overlooking a northern river.

Today, the signs we leave may be less visible, but they are no less important.

Through lives of prayer, acts of compassion, faithful worship, and loving service, we too can help point others toward God who is our true guide on every journey.

For that reminder, and for the privilege of sharing this pilgrimage with Bishop Rick Reed, Archbishop Shane Parker, our indigenous guides, and the people of Stanley Mission, I give thanks to God.

Obituary

Remembering Alan Hustak, a gifted storyteller and writer

Submitted



FORT QU'APPELLE (Qu'a) — Alan Joseph Hustak, who was a generous contributor of articles and photos to the Saskatchewan Anglican, died on May 21, in Fort Qu'Appelle. He was 82.

His obituary records, "He leaves behind a profound legacy as a masterful journalist, a devoted historian, a sharp truth-seeker, and a cherished partner."

Hustak was born in Esterhazy, and moved between Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Washington, D.C., before attending high school at Campion College, Regina.

He worked for CBC radio and was the Quebec Bureau Chief for CTV National News, but was best known for his work in print journalism.

He worked for more than 20 years for the *Montreal Gazette*, and also wrote frequently for *The Globe and Mail*.

Hustak wrote more than a dozen books, including *Titanic: The Canadian Story*, and was also a noted photographer.

While living in Fort Qu'Appelle, he wrote for the local paper, *The Fort Qu'Appelle Times* (Grassland News) and was a dedicated volunteer at the local heritage museum.

His memorial service was held in front of the museum on May 30.

Friend's memories

In an article in *The FQ Times*, long-time friend Bonnie Schaffer said she first met Hustak in 1958 when they sang from the Sound of Music song book on a CKCK TV program.

"We sang 'You Are 16 Going On 17,'" Schaffer recalled with a laugh, adding Hustak could still sing the song to her decades later whenever they met.

"And he had a great singing voice," she remarked.

Schaffer remembered Hustak as charismatic and stylish in his youth, while he possessed uncanny instincts as a journalist.

Photo from Facebook

DIOCESE OF SASKATOON EVENTS

Announcements for September 2026

■ **Ways of getting the Saskatchewan Anglican online!** Did you know that you can also read current and past issues of the Saskatchewan Anglican online on the Diocese of Saskatoon website at www.anglicandioceseasaskatoon.com/saskanglican, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/saskatchewananglican, or on ISSUU.com and, the Saskatchewan Anglican is now available on the Anglican News Network at https://saskanglican.anglicannews.ca/.

You can also look at news from other dioceses across the country on the Anglican News Network.

■ **FLAG 2026**: FLAG stands for Fall Lutheran Anglican Gathering, hosted by the ELCIC SaskSynod and the Diocese of Qu'Appelle. FLAG 2026 will be somewhat different than previous years, hence this early "save the date" announcement.

The gathering will take place Oct. 13 to 15 at Temple Gardens Mineral Spa in Moose Jaw.

■ **Cathedral Restoration Project**: With the scaffolding now down, you can see the brick repointing and terracotta restoration that has been completed on the south and west faces of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Saskatoon.

"Buy a Brick … or a Bundle" continues as the parish raises the funds to complete this stage of the Cathedral Restoration Project.

Donations of any amount are gratefully received with tax receipts issued at year-end. Thank you for your continued support.

■ **Christ Church Anglican, Saskatoon**: Celtic Eucharist, Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.; Mid Week Mid Day Prayer, Wednesdays at 12:15 in the Chapel; Bible Study, Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.; Community Free Supper, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., (once per month, usually third Tuesday of the month, check church Facebook page or web page for dates and times).

Further, there is Community Coffee House, every Friday, 10 a.m. to noon; Nutflakes Videos (video lending library), Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Free Bread Program, Friday mornings, 10 a.m. to noon.

Also, Men's Shed meetings, Thursdays at 7 p.m.; it is now at the new Men's Shed location. Check the parish Facebook page or call for the location.

■ **St. Stephen's, Saskatoon**: *Book of Common Prayer* Eucharist Services are offered at St. Stephen's, Saskatoon, 10 Gravenor Cres., the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from noon to 1 p.m.

■ **St. Benedict's Chapter Meetings at All Saints', Saskatoon**: The Canon Communities of St. Benedict (OSBCn) provide a contemporary Anglican framework for the living out of Benedictine Christianity.

It is, in part, a recovery of the English tradition of canon communities that flourished before the English Reformation but is also an adaptation of St. Benedict's Rule suitable for Christian living in today's world.

The Brothers and Sisters interested in forming a community in Saskatoon for monthly study of the Rule of St. Benedict and a Service of Compline meet in chapter with Bishop Chad, the third Tuesday of each month, from September through May, at All Saint's Anglican Centre in Saskatoon.

They also worship together and come together spiritually several times a day in prayer by praying the Daily Office. All are most welcome to attend. For more information, contact Bishop Chad at bishopchad@sasktel.net www.benedictinecanons.org.

■ **Hospital Chaplaincy**: A friendly reminder to all Anglicans who find themselves being admitted to any hospital in Saskatchewan.

Upon being admitted you are supposed to be asked if you wish to be identified according to your denominational affiliation.

Up until recently, this information was permanently kept on your personal hospital record. But due to changes with the SHA, this is no longer so.

Unless this information is registered every time you are admitted, the local hospital chaplaincy may not know that you are in hospital.

Of course, you can ask your nurse or family to contact your local chaplain at any time; that is the surest way to get a visit during your stay in the hospital. A team of clergy and lay-pastoral visitors are currently carrying out the duties of hospital chaplain.

To reach the Anglican Hospital Chaplain, call or text 1-639-470-7732.

■ **STU Convocation**: The 2026 Spring Convocation of the Saskatoon Theological Union occurred at Augustana Lutheran Church, Saskatoon, on May 29 (see captioned group photo in this issue).

■ **Diaconal Ordinations**: The Right Rev. Chad McCharles, 14th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, ordained to the sacred order of deacons Anastasia Gheyssen, Elliot Lou, and Judith Herbert on May 30 at The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Evangelist in Saskatoon (please see photos in this issue).

■ **Diocesan Council:** The next meeting of diocesan council will take place at the Anglican Diocesan Centre on Saturday, Sept. 12.

■ **Diocesan Synod**: The 77th Synod of the Diocese of Saskatoon will take place at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Saskatoon on Saturday, Oct. 24. Registered delegates to synod should have received their packages of information for this upcoming synod either by mail or e-mail by now.

If you are a registered delegate and have not received your information package, please contact the synod office.

Appointments:

■ The Right Rev. Chad McCharles, 14th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, has appointed the **Rev. Anastasia Gheyssen** as the next incumbent of St. Andrew's Anglican Parish, Humboldt, effective Sept. 1.

The service of induction for Anastasia will take place at St. Andrew's on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 7:00 p.m.

■ The Right Rev. Chad McCharles, 14th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, has appointed the **Rev. Elliot Lau** as the next incumbent of St. John's Minister, Lloydminster, effective Sept. 1. The service of induction for Elliot will take place at St. John's Minster on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 7:00 p.m.

■ On July 28, the Right Rev. Chad McCharles, 14th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon, announced the appointment of the **Rev. Judith Herbert** as secretary of Synod.

■ To be included in a timely manner, notices should be supplied to the associate editor by fax, email or "snail mail" by the end of the month, one month before the month in which the insertion is desired (i.e. February entries will be in the April issue).

Detailed and longer texts will not be included here, but should space allow, could be the subject of articles and notices elsewhere in the *Saskatchewan Anglican*.



Camp Okema gave its canteen a new paint job to help celebrate the organization's 50th birthday. **Photos by Mary Brown**

… Volunteers have helped shape Camp Okema over its 50 years

Continued from page 1

Christians are a living stone in God's temple. Okema is a temple, a place that screams of God's existence. You leave the world's distractions and you come to Okema.

We need to pray for a place like this where people experience love and Christ and memories that last forever and for 50 more years.

Some of the original members of the society were in attendance. Bishop Tom Morgan, Yvonne and Steven Mitchel, the Ven. Don and Donna Byrt, and Dave and Janice Kerr. They were invited to say a few words, beginning with Bishop Morgan.

Morgan spoke of the dilemma facing the diocese in 1976.

Unable to maintain the responsibility of keeping the camp going, with only two or three camps held each summer but still repairing buildings, recruiting staff, finding a cook, ordering food, preparing the property for summer use and many other duties, the diocese was considering selling the property.

Tom Morgan and others from the diocese recognized what would be lost, so they resolved that it could not simply be let go and that once gone it could never be reclaimed.

Their vision was of a truly Christian camp, one where God would be lifted up and where children, youths and adults could receive meaningful, grounded teaching.

Bishop Morgan referred to three Bible verses in Genesis 1, Revelation 22 and the Book of John. All specific messages in the power of God. When forming the camp, they had to learn a lesson: "We are not in charge of everything."

God has taught us how to trust people. One event Morgan recalled was when a camper got sprayed by a skunk, so he was washed with tomato juice, which worked somewhat.

Don Byrt recalled one young boy at camp who said he didn't believe in God and prayer, but by the end of camp he told him he did believe. Through God's presence from the very beginning, the camp has endured.

Even in its earliest days in the 1930s, it was God who guided the building of something lasting that continues to serve and shape lives today.

As board members, Steven and Yvonne Mitchell were responsible for direction and planning, but were also deeply engaged in the hands-on work of camp life, supporting food and kitchen services, overseeing venue improvements and construction and participating in camp programming.

Property development was a strong priority in the early years and many dedicated volunteers contributed to this important work.

Janice Kerr spoke of her time on the board, noting that a lot of time was spent on financing the property, but also developing the programs.

The success of the camps, small fry, teen camps and, importantly, camps to develop leadership skills for the older youth.

Cathy Rogers remembered coming out to the camp in the beginning with her father, Archdeacon Bill Rowe.

There were about 80 people at the celebration, and a banquet was enjoyed by all after the speeches.

The rest of the day, guests could participate in activities such as swimming, crafts, tours with a walkthrough history and ending with a wiener roast and campfire.



Bishop Tom Morgan



Janice and David Kerr



Kathy Rogers



Steven and Yvonne Mitchell

Walking together in faith with friends from Lichfield

By Archdeacon Jonathan Bauer



Visitors from Lichfield diocese visited churches around the Diocese of Qu'Appelle this spring. Here they pose with their hosts in St. John, Fort Qu'Appelle. Seated, from left, are Mike McKinnon and Sarah Parker. Standing, from left, are Vicky Paus, Bishop Matthew Parker, Julie Ipgrave, Bishop Michael Ipgrave, Diane Morris, Rev. Ed Dunfield, Joanne Morris, Jeremy Lowe, Archdeacon Jonathan Bauer, Rev. Prep. Cath Brumfitt.
Photo submitted

REGINA — At the end of May, and arriving in time for the celebration of the birthday of the Church, at Pentecost, the Diocese of Qu'Appelle was delighted to welcome a delegation from our companion Diocese of Lichfield in the Church of England.

The visit was an opportunity to renew long-standing friendships, deepen our companion diocesan relationship, and share in one another's ministry, worship and mission.

Bishop Adelbert Anson was a priest from the Diocese of Lichfield, called to be the first bishop of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in 1884.

Our links go back right to our beginnings!

The delegation this year was made up of Bishop Michael Ipgrave (the 99th diocesan bishop of Lichfield) and his wife Julia; Bishop Matthew Parker (the suffragan bishop of Stafford) and his wife Sarah; Jeremey Lowe (an agricultural chaplain) and Rev. Prebendary (canon) Cath Brumfitt (a parish priest from Lichfield).

Throughout their time in our part of Saskatchewan, our friends from Lichfield experienced both the richness and diversity of ministry across the Diocese of Qu'Appelle while sharing stories of God's work in their own communities.

The delegation spent time in a variety of parish and diocesan settings, meeting clergy and lay leaders, worshipping with congregations, and learning about the unique challenges and opportunities of ministry across our vast rural and urban landscape.

They experienced the warmth and generosity for which the Diocese of Qu'Appelle is so well known, enjoying fellowship at dinners, parish visits, and community and diocesan events — including a clergy day at the cathedral.

Talks ranged across many aspects of church life: discipleship, leadership development, indigenous issues awareness and reconciliation, ministry in rural communities, evangelism, stewardship, and the changing role of the Church and ministry in contemporary society.

While our contexts differ in many ways, it was striking how many of our hopes and challenges are shared.

The visit also provided opportunities for prayer and worship together.

Whether gathered around the Lord's Table, sharing Morning Prayer, or simply praying in conversation, we were reminded that our unity is rooted not in geography but in our common calling as members of the Body of Christ.

One of the greatest gifts of companion links is the opportunity to listen. We often discover fresh perspectives simply by seeing our own ministry through the eyes of others.

Our visitors were encouraged by the resilience, faithfulness, and missional imagination they encountered throughout Qu'Appelle.

In turn, they shared inspiring examples of ministry and outreach from the Diocese of Lichfield that will continue to inform our own thinking and strategic planning for mission and ministry.

The visit concluded with a renewed commitment to continue praying for one another and to strengthen the bonds between our dioceses.

Relationships such as these remind us that the Anglican Communion is at its best when we learn from one another, encourage one another, and seek together the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As Bishop Helen Kennedy reflected during the visit, companion links are not simply about exchanging visits; they are about discovering how God is calling us to walk together in faith, hope, and love.

There will be many opportunities ahead to continue to strengthen these ongoing bonds of affection between our two dioceses.

This includes Archdeacon Jonathan Bauer attending the final service of Bishop Michael in Lichfield this September, and as we prepare to send representatives from Qu'Appelle to Lichfield, when the time comes, for the enthronement of the 100th Bishop of Lichfield.

DIOCESE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Diocese nears goal in Say Yes! to Kids campaign

By Michelle Hauser
Anglican Foundation of Canada

Thanks to the generosity of supporters across the Diocese of Saskatchewan and beyond, this year's Say Yes! to Kids campaign raised $5,600, including Anglican Foundation of Canada matching funds and campaign bonuses.

This amount achieved 80 per cent of the diocese's $7,000 fundraising goal.

The funds will support the diocese's travelling Vacation Bible School ministry, which brings faith-filled programming directly to children and youth in communities across northern Saskatchewan.

Through prayer, Scripture, music, worship and joyful learning, the program helps young people grow in faith, confidence, and belonging while strengthening local congregations throughout the North.

Now in its third year participating in Say Yes! to Kids, the Diocese of Saskatchewan has continued to build momentum for this important ministry.

Combined with the success of its previous two campaigns, the diocese has raised approximately $16,600 through Say Yes! to Kids, helping ensure that children and youths across northern Saskatchewan continue to experience the love of Christ through this unique outreach ministry.

Priest leaves AFC board

During a recent board meeting, executive director Dr. Scott Brubacher thanked two departing members whose faithful service helped guide the AFC: Archdeacon Brody Albers of Saskatchewan and Peter Irish of Fredericton.

Albers joined the board in 2022, shortly after completing his studies at Wycliffe College. He served on the grants committee and the governance & nominating committee, contributing thoughtful insight shaped by his experience in northern ministry, youth ministry, and ministry alongside Métis and Indigenous communities.



Bishop Chad McCharles (left) reads the Order of Consecration outside the entrance doors of St. Augustine's, assisted by Etta Marie Green and Pastor Chad Moir.
Photos by Diocese of Saskatoon



Bishop Chad McCharles writes the date above the entrance doors of St. Augustine's.

Rosthern church re-consecrated after four-year closure

Submitted

ROSTHERN (S'toon) — May 3 was a great day to consecrate a church! That morning, the congregation of Trinity Lutheran and Anglican was present for the re-consecration of St. Augustine's Anglican Church, Rosthern.

The Anglican congregation moved out of this building and into Trinity Lutheran Church, Rosthern, in 2022, to become a shared Anglican/Lutheran congregation.

St. Augustine's was deconsecrated on Dec. 14, 2022, by Bishop Chris Harper and subsequently rented out to the Netherlands Reformed Church by the Anglican diocese.

Earlier this year, however, the Trinity Lutheran Church building was sold to the Netherlands Reformed Church (who had been renting St. Augustine's), and the now combined Anglican/Lutheran congregation moved from the Trinity Lutheran building into St. Augustine's Anglican Church.

In today's service, St. Augustine's was re-consecrated by the Right Rev. Chad McCharles, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon. Also at the service, Etta-Marie Green was presented with a certificate by Bishop Chad, re-licensing her as a lay reader in the diocese.

With this move and re-consecration, we have truly lived into our identity as a resurrection Easter people who always have hope in Jesus, the source of new and eternal life!

No one imagined a few short years ago that this beautiful old church would ever be consecrated again. Many thanks to Pastor Chad Moir and this congregation for their ministry. Thanks be to God for blessing us in ways beyond our asking or imagining. Hallelujah!



Bishop Chad McCharles reads the Order of Consecration from the pulpit while being assisting by Pastor Chad Moir.



Bishop Chad McCharles presents Etta-Marie Green with her certificate licensing her as a lay reader in the diocese.

Two new priests announced for parishes in Qu'Appelle

By Joanne Shurvin-Martin

REGINA — Bishop Helen Kennedy has announced the appointment of two priests — Rev. Michael Lyons as incumbent of St. Mary the Virgin, Regina, and Rev. Louis Harris as incumbent of St. Aidan, Moose Jaw.

Rev. Michael Lyons was inducted at St. Mary on Aug. 13. Lyons was ordained a priest in 2022.

He had served the parish of St. John, Nipawin, Diocese of Saskatchewan, for almost four years, and before that was at Christopher Lake.

Lyons, who has limited sight and can read braille, was instrumental in the creation of a braille version of the Book of Common Prayer.

With a $5,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation, he contacted an embossing company in New Brunswick in 2020.



Rev. Michael Lyons has been appointed to St. Mary the Virgin, Regina.

Photo submitted

The braille prayer book includes services of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Holy Communion, Baptism, Burial and Matrimony.



Rev. Louis Harris and his wife, Natasha, with their children Lottie (two years old) and Eli (five months old), at the occasion of Eli's baptism in June.

Photo submitted

Meanwhile, Rev. Louis Harris will begin his ministry in St. Aidan in November. He is currently serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas (Texas) and had previously served in the Diocese of Saskatchewan. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2024.

He comes to the Diocese of Qu'Appelle with gifts for priestly ministry, parish leadership, preaching, education and formation, pastoral care, and the building up of Christian community.

Harris was raised in Shellbrook and is the son of an Anglican priest. The family moved to Charlottetown, PEI when he was 11 and to Reading, UK, when he was 15.

As an adult he has spent time back in Charlottetown, in Toronto, and at Pusey House in Oxford, UK.

Harris has been serving as Curate for the last two years at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas.

He looks forward to returning home to Canada.

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CENTERING PRAYER



Sask. Anglican wins four national awards

By staff

The *Saskatchewan Anglican* won four awards recently in the newspaper division of the Canadian Christian Communicators' Association competition for work published in 2025.

The designer for the Saskatchewan Anglican is the managing editor, Jason G. Antonio.

The four-page photo essay about Camp Harding's summer camps in the October issue received **2nd Place – Photo Essay**.

The front page for October featured a dramatic photo of a restored steeple being put into position on the roof of St. Mary, Maple Creek, and an article about St. Mary, Prince Albert celebrating 150 years. It received **3rd Place – Front Page**.

First Place for **Feature Layout & Design** went to Bishop Helen Kennedy's article with photos, describing her trip to Kenya to see Alongside Hope's activities. It was in the May issue.

In the category for **General Excellence**, the Saskatchewan Anglican was awarded **3rd Place** for the May, September, and October issues.

Correction

Ironically, two editors did a story on an event in Leask entitled "One night, One Community, Infinite Kindness in small and simple acts." Both newspapers, this one and the Shellbrook Chronicle, reported the event as a "fundraiser."

The primary purpose of the get-together in the Leask Legion Hall was to promote community.

They did receive donations from the Anglican Foundation and from SUMA, which enabled them to put on a night of fun and camaraderie, inviting the whole community for a potluck meal and a dance and door prizes.

There was no admission charge for anything; everything was FREE, which is unusual in this day and age. It was a great success and they plan something similar in the fall.

We apologize for the confusion.

Obituary

Rev. Brian Buydens, a renaissance man, dies aged 63

Submitted

WEYBURN (Qu'A) — On July 4, Rev. Brian David Paul Buydens was commended to God by his family, his parish and diocesan families, and the community.

Brian was a bit of a renaissance man. In addition to his careers in education and IT, he played several musical instruments; his funeral featured a clip of him playing the cello, but he also played various types of flutes and whistles, the guitar, and other stringed instruments.

He was extremely gifted with his hands, and enjoyed tinkering with cars — which led to an entertaining story at the funeral involving the unexpected use of a fire extinguisher — and, besides speaking English and Dutch, he could make quips in several languages, including Old English.



Rev. Brian Buydens on his ordination day on Nov. 30, 2023. Photo by Ken Jones

Buydens was born on Oct. 27, 1962, in Russell, Man., and completed high school in Manitoba. He came to Saskatoon to attend the University of Saskatchewan.

There, he received degrees in mathematics, computer science and education.

From then on, Saskatchewan became his home.

While at university, he met his future wife, Norma, with whom he shared a birthday.

They were married in 1984, and were committed partners through parenthood, foster parenthood and further education.

Brian was teaching high school when he and Norma had their first child, Stephanie Marie, in 1989. Shortly thereafter, he and Norma took in and fostered some abused teenagers who were related to him.

It was working through their issues that prompted Norma to consider studying law.

In the meantime, they became parents to Adrien Paul, born in 1997.

The family returned to Saskatoon so Norma could study law part-time. She completed law school, as well as her master's in history.

Eventually she articled for the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench, in Regina, caring for Adrien, while Brian remained in Saskatoon, caring for and home-schooling Stephanie, who had been struggling with the standard school system and was later diagnosed as autistic.

By this time, he was working in Information Technology.

Brian and Norma moved to Weyburn in 2011.

There, he worked in IT for the school board and became active in All Saints Anglican Church, where he soon became a warden.

It was All Saints that recognized his call to ordained ministry. After taking courses through the Qu'Appelle School for Ministry and Mission, he was ordained a transitional deacon in 2022.

He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul's Cathedral, Regina, by Bishop Helen Kennedy on Nov. 30, 2023, the feast of St. Andrew.

He was assigned to All Saints, Weyburn and was known for his thoughtful and humorous sermons.

Shortly thereafter, Brian started to experience health difficulties.

It took some time before he was diagnosed with liver disease, a less common complication of Type II diabetes, which had been part of his life for several years.

While seeking a diagnosis, Brian was frequently in and out of the Weyburn hospital. He lived his ministry, even while in hospital, where he would visit and pray with other patients.

He was deeply committed to the ministry of prayer, and prayed for all who asked, and many others, unasked.

Brian faced death several times before he ultimately died.

Each time, he said he would be disappointed to go, especially because it meant he wouldn't be able to attend the high school graduation of his beloved granddaughter, Kai, born in 2022 (Stephanie); but he was not afraid to go, because he knew he would be in the arms of Jesus.

As Brian's disease progressed, he was put on the list for a liver transplant, eventually being airlifted to Edmonton, the Prairie centre of expertise for liver transplants.

In the several weeks he was there awaiting a suitable liver, it became apparent that he was no longer a good candidate for transplant, and that it would be unsafe to move him back to Saskatchewan.

After lengthy visits with family and friends, he returned to God on June 10.

Brian rose out of childhood poverty through intellect, heart and hard work.

He was a gift to the people of All Saints, Weyburn and to the Anglican Church of Canada.

Rest in peace and rise in glory, good and faithful servant.



Primate visits Saskatoon's Western Deanery

The Primate, the Most Rev. Shane Parker (right), cuts a cake with Bishop Chad McCharles (left), celebrating the Primate's visit to St. Paul's, North Battleford and the Western Deanery on July 19. The primate visited several parishes in the dioceses of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan. Photos by Dawn McCharles



The cake that the primate cut, after the July 19 service.



The Primate, Archbishop Shane Parker (rear, left), with Bishop Chad McCharles (rear, right), and clergy of the Western Deanery.

Feeling the Holy Spirit

Prayers for occasions and goings-on

By Rev. Gene Packwood



In her novel, *Middlemarch*, George Eliot had one of her delightful cast of characters and eccentrics, Mrs. Dollop, the redoubtable landlady of The Tankard, an hostelry in Slaughter Lane, exclaim, "There's been more going on than the Prayer Book's got a service for!"

It made me chuckle during a recent re-reading of the book, and it turned my thoughts to our own Prayer Books and the excellent services and prayers they provide for at least many, if not most, of the significant and important things that go on in our lives.

For example, I'd like to draw your attention again to that delightfully fulsome resource on page 37 of our *Book of Common Prayer* — PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS Upon Several Occasions — of which there are 46 prayers and nine thanksgivings to cover a good selection of the goings on in our lives. Here are two of them.

7. For General, Provincial or Diocesan Synods

Our next General Synod will be in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador in 2028. However, many, if not most of us, will also be having Diocesan Synods before that.

This prayer number seven (page 42), is another excellent BCP Holy Ghost prayer for such gatherings:

Save its members from all error, ignorance, pride, and prejudice; and of thy great mercy vouchsafe so to direct, govern, and sanctify them in their deliberations by thy Holy Spirit, that through thy blessing the Gospel of Christ may be faithfully preached and obeyed, the order and discipline of thy Church maintained, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour enlarged and extended.

Amen!

As you pray this prayer, consider how and where the Holy Spirit always directs God's people, whatever the occasion and whatever is going on in our lives, to the Truth that is found in Jesus (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13, 17:17, and Eph. 4:21).

The Holy Spirit never directs us away from Jesus, His teaching and example. Ask the Holy Spirit to direct synod members ever and only to Jesus and His teaching.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will "direct, govern and sanctify" all of us — the synod members in their deliberations and us in our behaviour and response to their decisions. Examples of the Holy Spirit's governance are the commandments Jesus made through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2).

It's also worth noting that, on occasion, St. Paul was prevented from doing certain things by the Holy Spirit. For example, he was forbidden to speak in Asia and not allowed to go to Bithynia (Acts 16:6-7), and he was "constrained by the Spirit" to go to Jerusalem even when he was anxious as to what might happen to him there (Acts 20:22-23).

The Holy Spirit guides and governs by saying go ahead, go here or go there, and by saying don't go.

Pray also that the Holy Spirit will sanctify — set apart as holy — the synod members for their task.

That their motives and decisions will be holy and pure and "sanctified in the truth" of God's word (John 17:17), which is, of course, the work of "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13) and that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we do not "ordain" in our "Rites or Ceremonies" any thing that is "contrary to God's Word written" (Article XX. Of the Authority of the Church, BCP p706).

9. For the Parish

Prayer Number 9, For the Parish, is also an evocative and beautifully crafted prayer to the Holy Ghost asking, among other things, that our

Continued next page



The three new deacons cut — and later share — their celebratory cake at the reception after the service of ordination on May 30. Pictured cutting the cake are, from left, Anastasia Gheyssen, Elliot Lou and Judith Herbert. **Photo by Rev. Peter Coolen**

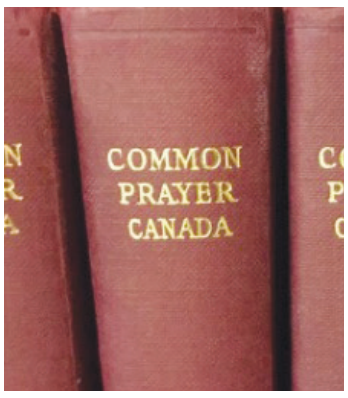
Three new deacons ordained in Saskatoon

By Rev. Peter Coolen

SASKATOON — On May 30, three new deacons were ordained at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Saskatoon, by the Right Rev. Chad McCharles, 14th Bishop of the Diocese of Saskatoon.

Ordained to the sacred order of deacons were Anastasia Gheyssen, Elliot Lou and Judith Herbert.

The service of ordination was followed by a reception and lunch in the cathedral's parish hall, where the three new deacons cut and distributed cake in celebration of their ordinations.



The Book of Common Prayer. Photo courtesy anglican.ca.

... BCP has many good prayers to use for life

Continued from page 10

parishes be sanctified by the Holy Spirit's "abiding presence," that "those who minister in holy things" would be blessed, the minds of the people enlightened, "erring souls" corrected, those "walking in the way of life" kept "steadfast to the end," and those who are sick and afflicted given patience and renewed.

All excellent benefits and blessings about the occasions and goings-on in parish life of which to be reminded and to be earnestly sought in prayer.

It is also permissible to add petitions to those already in the Prayer Book prayers for other occasions and goings-on.

Obituary

Don Code, former diocesan treasurer, dead at 73

By Mary Brown

PRINCE ALBERT — If you have attended a diocesan synod or been on executive or finance committees in the diocese, you will know who Don Code was.

He was the person who presented the financial statements to the delegates who attended synods, which would be about eight synods.

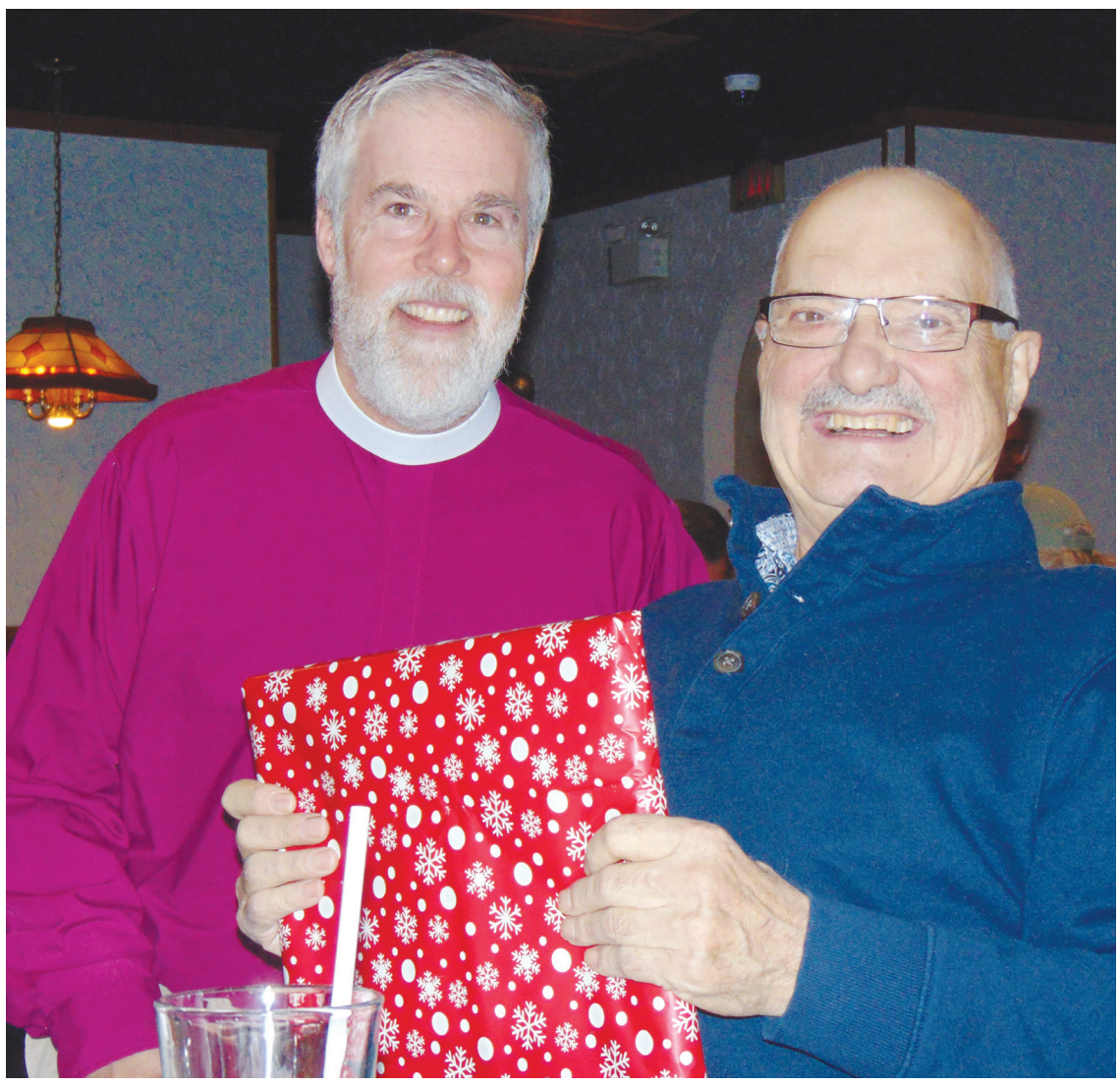
Don passed away on July 24 at age 73 with his faithful wife Colleen by his side, after an illness of cancer.

Don had done a lot of work for the diocese since 1993, when he first became the treasurer for the diocese under Bishop Tony Burton.

He was the chairman of the selection committee when Michael Hawkins was elected.

Even though he was beginning the journey that ended his life, he still came in once a week to help the archdeacon with the financial side of running the diocese when Bishop Hawkins had to retire due to his illness.

Code belonged to St. David's Church in Prince Albert and was chairman of their vestry for 10 years. He received the Order of Saskatchewan in 2014 for his duty to his Church and the diocese.



Don Code (right), a former treasurer in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, receives a retirement gift in December 2025 from Bishop Rick Reed; Code provided financial advice starting in 1993. He also received the diocese's Order of Saskatchewan in 2014. Code died in July at age 73. **Photo by Mary Brown**

Anyone who knew Don will remember a kind and thoughtful man who was always there when you needed him.

He will be sadly missed by all who experienced his dry sense of humour and devotion to his wife and family.

Please pray for his wife Colleen, son Paget, daughter Jillian and their children in their sad time.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Anglicans preserve church heritage at West Patience Lake

By Bonnie Lawrence and Deanna Gruending-Hallman



The Open House and BBQ at Christ Church West Patience Lake was held partly under canvas on the lawn of the church beside the cemetery. Those who attended enjoyed the shelter from the heat and the abundant food and refreshments, as well as a tour of the church and the cemetery. Photo by Rev. Peter Coolen

WEST PATIENCE LAKE (S'toon) — A landmark heritage Bishop Lloyd Church, Christ Church West Patience Lake, welcomed over 90 visitors to an open church and barbecue Fundraiser on July 18, where $3,800 was raised.

This event brought the community and the church together for the cause of the little heritage church and attests to the generosity of those who attended.

Special for the open church event was a display of posters, photographs and other documentation that showed the life of the church over the decades and the history of the original gifts from England to this mission church.

People came to the open church and barbecue from the local RM of Blucher, nearby RM of Aberdeen, and Saskatoon, with special visitors from Saskatoon's sister church of St. Matthew's and the Rev. Peter Coolen, archivist for the Diocese of Saskatoon and honorary assistant at Christ Church, Saskatoon.

The attendees were a wide range of ages, with many young people curious about this pioneer church built in 1908.

Rich in documented history

Christ Church West Patience Lake was originally part of a three-point charge along with St. Helen's East Patience Lake and St. Matthew's, Sutherland. Sutherland was then a town near, and to the east of, Saskatoon and west of Patience Lake.

Christ Church, West Patience Lake was the smallest of the three sizes of Anglican "ready to build" wooden churches.

A generous British sponsor, Mrs. Jesse Roberts, paid for the church materials, organ, and complete furnishings, dedicating the church to her late husband as the Walsham Memorial Church.

The Griffiths family homesteaded in the Patience Lake area. The father contributed to the building of both of the Patience Lake churches and young 'Joe' Griffiths, namesake of Griffiths' Stadium and first professor of athletics at the U of S, organized races and ball games for the church picnics of the joint St. Helen's and Christ Church's congregations. Scratch the surface and there is a story.



People escape from the heat of the day, examine the poster displays and listen to the pump reed organ in the cool nave of Christ Church during the Open Church and BBQ.

Photo by Deanna Gruending-Hallman

An early minister to this church was Rev. Hedley Holmes, later the rector of St. George's, Saskatoon.

He was one of the first 40 student ministers (the so-called "Fifty") recruited in England by Rev. G.E. Lloyd, (the namesake of Lloydminster, minister to the Barr colonists and principal of the College of Emmanuel; later the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad).

The Rev. Holmes and his son, the Rev. Arthur Holmes, maintained an active interest in the little rural church and its early history. This is where the Rev. Hedley met and later married his wife, Elsie Lawley.

Elsie's brother Alan, a young apprentice who worked on St. John's Cathedral, added the distinctive chancel to this, his home church, in 1913.

Hands-on heritage

As soon as you enter the oversized wooden door, the original wood-panelled interior lit by natural light streaming through the side and chancel windows, lined with coloured glass, past the hand-carved sets of dark wood pews, sets a scene from over 100 years ago.

There is no electricity here, but the pump reed organ still plays hymns. The lectern with a special large-print Bible, the minister's prayer kneeler, the wooden altar decked in heavy green liturgical cloth and the carved wooden bishop's chair all contribute to the ambience.

A new foundation and more needed

Located at a very prominent location at the crossroads of highways 5 and 316 resulted in the church having to be moved off its original stone foundation to make way for a service road in 1969. Now, the replacement concrete blocks of that newer foundation are cracking and the repair work required has a modern price tag.

The committee that oversees this designated heritage property (partly composed of members of St. Matthew's Parish) hopes to raise funds to make sure the old church once again has not only a firm foundation, but also a repaired turret, fixed leaks from the weather and some outside restorative carpentry and paint on the siding and turret.

It was originally estimated that this repair work would cost $57,000 and exterior painting an additional $5,700.

Since this estimate was completed, the committee has found that an engineering plan for the work is required before foundation work can begin; the cost of this

Continued next page



The Christ Church West Patience Lake Open House and BBQ fundraiser was advertised prominently with a large roadside sign. Photo by Rev. Peter Coolen

… West Patience Lake church needs renos

Continued from page 12
is estimated at $4,000. The delay caused by getting the engineering plan done has meant getting the foundation work accomplished this year is increasingly unlikely.

Interior repair, which was to begin in year 2, was estimated at $29,000.

With the setback for the foundation work, the committee has decided to go ahead in 2026 with the turret repair, siding and leak repair and the painting of the exterior while the church remains on its old foundation

The quest goes on as the committee attempts to get as much work done this year, grateful for this initial response.

Anyone wishing to give to this cause will be issued a charitable tax receipt for their donation as long as name and address are clearly spelled with the contribution.

Donations can be received by either cheque to Christ Church Patience Lake mailed to Box 285, RR9 Saskatoon, SK S7K 1P3 or e-transfer using the email 5and3 6 1 H e r i t a g e C h u r c h @gmail.com. Or to the Canada Helps website at https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/148384.

A GoFundMe Community Heritage Building page also exists.

All donations are gratefully received in the cause of preserving this landmark church.

Compassionate by nature. Committed by choice.

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Where now for visible unity? And how?

By The Rev. Canon Marie-Louise Ternier



Editor's note: The Rev. Canon Marie-Louise Ternier serves as the ecumenical officer for the Diocese of Saskatoon and is one of two Anglican members on the board of directors for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon. She was recently appointed to the newly formed Ecumenical and Interfaith Advisory Committee to the National Church as recommended by GS2025. This article was written as part of a master's thesis on ecumenism by the Rev. Jakob Palm from the Holy Covenant Evangelical Orthodox Church in Saskatoon.

The Blind Men and the Elephant is a parable from India that has been adopted by many religions in various versions.

The story is about a group of blind men who attempt to learn what an elephant is, each touching a different part, and disagreeing on their findings. It is only by considering and embracing each observation as collective wisdom that reveals the complete truth.

A lot was made in 2025 about the 1,700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. Seminars and workshops, presentations, and ecumenical prayer services of all kinds offered rich opportunities to refresh our historical and theological understanding of this Creed and the first ecumenical council that gave rise to its creation.

The World Council itself hosted its Faith and Order Conference in Egypt (Oct. 24-28, 2025) carrying the theme: Where now for visible unity, 1,700 years after Nicaea?

While the ecumenical movement of the 20th Century has made enormous strides in bringing some Christian traditions closer together, it seems that the goalposts on unity keep moving further ahead.

New challenges in the culture at large continue to diminish the visibility, witness and relevance of the Gospel, resulting in waning religious and church involvement.

Acutely feeling declining numbers and resources, churches impulsively move into a siege mentality, consciously or unconsciously, circling the denominational wagons to preserve whatever is left.

The ecumenical vision and yearning for unity risks dying in the face of overworked clergy and of a new cohort of pastoral leaders who equate the entire Gospel with their own denominational/institutional beliefs and practices — reflecting the blind men in the parable with the elephant.

Add to this a world that is breaking apart at the seams caused by climate change and the viciously polarizing and acrimonious effects of social media, and the task looks downright impossible.

But Jesus' words in John 1:21-27 keep haunting us, nudging us, pestering us, fuelling stubborn dreams and hopes that God is not done with us yet. And so we keep on keeping on.

Where then for visible unity indeed? Several factors need to be tended to before milestone ecumenical agreements and dialogue documents will be actively engaged with zeal and passion, resulting in regular ecumenical shared prayer and worship.

Vision and motivation

First, fostering in church leaders, bishops and clergy a personal desire, vision and motivation is the first order of business. Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, an ecumenical veteran, wrote in an online reflection:

"The significance of friendship with members of other churches holds important implications for the way we do our ecumenical tasks together. For example, ecumenical gatherings need to build into the schedule time that encourages social interaction between people.

"The coffee break or cocktail hour before dinner may be more important, practically speaking, than the long theological discussions that went on during the afternoon dialogue consultation.

"The last fifty years have seen a wonderful array of formal

Continued on page 15

Two deacons ordained at St. Aidan, Moose Jaw

By Rachel Runnalls

MOOSE JAW (Qu'A) — "Is it your will that Michelle and Nathan be ordained as deacons? Will you uphold them in this ministry?" Bishop Helen Kennedy asked the gathered congregation of St. Aidan's on an otherwise unremarkable Saturday afternoon on June 27.

"We will!" The response resounded through the nave. The people of St. Aidan joyfully stood up for Nathan McLean and Michelle Josefson as they were ordained as transitional deacons.

Ninety-seven laypeople and clergy came to celebrate the ordinands. Bishop Helen spoke for all when she said, warmly, "You are a gift to the church, both of you."

McLean and Josefson were presented by Carla Hoffmann and John Langford, and Rev. Dr. Cal Macfarlane, the priest-in-charge at St. Aidan. Bishop Kennedy presided and preached during the ordination service.

To begin the road to ordination, in April 2024, they were confirmed by Bishop Helen Kennedy. In July and August 2024, they met with parish discernment groups who, with the vestry of St. Aidan, recommended them to the Committee on Ordained Ministry for the ongoing discernment process.

Following their assessment with the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO), they were recommended for postulancy to the bishop, which she affirmed in November 2024.

Placements in other parishes are part of the ongoing spiritual formation and continued discernment process. Josefson served a three-month placement in the diocese's companion diocese of Lichfield, England, from Lent through Pentecost 2025, while McLean served a short placement in Calgary, from Advent through Epiphany 2025-26.



The original picture in this space has been removed at the request of the subject in the photograph. The photo of the outside of the church is its replacement. **File photo**



During the "laying on of hands" in the ordination service, Bishop Helen Kennedy prays over Michelle Josefson, while Archdeacon Jonathan Bauer holds the service book. Nathan McLean kneels beside Josefson.



Bishop Helen Kennedy (left) and Deacon Nathan McLean (middle) vest Deacon Michelle Josefson in her deacon's robes. Also shown beside McLean are Archdeacon Leonard Botchway and Archdeacon Lauren Miller.

During their diaconal year, both deacons will experience a variety of ministry settings to help them engage with the wider expressions of the Anglican Church.

St. Aidan's congregation is proud of Josefson and McLean, and was overjoyed to throw them a party, complete with cake and flowers, following their ordination service.

The congregation celebrates the God-given gifts they both bring for the church and for the world.

These two new deacons join six other active deacons in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, four of whom hold a licence and two of whom have permission to officiate.

Out of the 30 congregations in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, St. Aidan has the rare privilege of being served by a team of ministers, including Deacon Arleen Champion and Rev. Dr. Cal MacFarlane.

The parish and its clergy and lay leaders are very excited to be welcoming the incoming incumbent, Rev. Louis Harris, in November.

Josefson continues as St Aidan's parish administrator, where her gifts for spiritual direction and pastoral communication shine. McLean is on paternity leave following the birth of his second child, Lucy, and will return to his role with Hope Ministries, serving the homeless and hungry of Moose Jaw, in September.

We pray God's blessing on them and we are eager to see what God has in store for them both.

See more pictures next page.

... In pictures: More activity from the ordination in Moose Jaw



New deacons Nathan McLean (left) and Michelle Josefson flank Bishop Helen Kennedy following their ordination at St. Aidan, Moose Jaw, on June 27. Photo by Dr. Brandon Thorpe



Both new deacons assist with the distribution of communion at the Ordination Eucharist in St. Aidan Church. Deacon Nathan McLean is at left, while Deacon Michelle Josefson is at right. Photo by Rachel Runnalls

... Embracing all facets of the proverbial 'divine elephant'

Continued from page 13

statements of agreements between churches. But like so many seeds, they will be effective only if the ground has been prepared. That ground is the people in the pews.

"The various churches have sponsored the process leading to the agreed statements. Now that the theologians have done their work, the baton is passed to the churches' membership at large.

"They must have the opportunity to come to the same conclusions as did those who officially represented them in the official church dialogues."

(Source: https://paulist.org/the-conversation/some-thoughts-on-our-relations-with-one-another-as-christians/)

Overcoming divisions

Second, keep in mind that divisions, differences and conflicts are equally challenging within, as between, denominations.

Anglican meetings where divisions and differences are painfully present, threatening to unravel the cherished bonds of Gospel love, challenge participants into costly discipleship in response to Christ's demanding call to love, reconciliation and communion, all of which are experienced viscerally by all who engage the disagreements.

Why stick together when the journey is rigged with such potent ammunition?

And if Anglicans cannot muster the will and courage to keep walking together, is there even hope for visible unity among the various church traditions?

Third, our hope for visible unity among Christ's followers lies in the Nicene Creed.

Still shining as one of the earliest ecumenical efforts in articulating the mystery of God as manifest in Christ Jesus, the Nicene Creed professes faith in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, the God we profess is a holy communion of persons, united and differentiated by the mysterious power of Love.

Pope Francis said as much in his exchange with the atheist editor of a prominent Italian publication in 2018. Truth is a relationship of love patterned on the Trinity.

The test of our faith lies in our capacity to make space for another with respect and affection, especially towards those we dislike, disagree with or whose favourite songs irritate us.

As the renowned RC priest and paleontologist Fr. Teilhard de Chardin discovered, unity/union differentiates. The animating principle of divine love creates the conditions for each particular creature to grow into its own fullness and beauty.

Mini-laboratories of unity

Fourth, inter-church and interfaith marriages are, in many ways, mini laboratories of unity. I live inside such a laboratory with my Roman Catholic husband.

Such marriages demand humility, deep listening and the conviction that love does not require literal agreement on all matters. Each day, partners navigate difference with respect and curiosity.

The skills that sustain such marriages — empathy, compromise, a belief in embracing difference as a gift — are the same virtues that will advance the visible unity among Christians.

Inter-church families already live the visible unity that Christ calls the churches to.

For inter-church and interfaith families, transformation looks qualitatively different than conversion of one partner to the other's religious tradition.

Transformation lies in the broadening/deepening of the heart and mind, not the narrowing of belief.

It is learning to worship next to someone who prays differently, whose faith journey looks and sounds different, and discovering that grace is big enough to hold us all.

In conclusion, the only way for blind church leaders and members to "see" the entire Gospel radiance of God's infinite love and mercy as manifest in our Lord Jesus Christ is to embrace together all facets of this multi-shaped, divine, proverbial elephant.

A meditation on "Where now for visible unity? And How?"

By Fr. Thomas Ryan

"When God puts us back together again / (with the aid of our willingness to co-operate), / this great church will be marked / by the dignity and scholarship of the Anglicans, / the order and sacraments of the Roman Catholics, / the warm fellowship of the Methodists,/ the Presbyterian desire for good preaching / and the Lutheran respect for sound theology.

There will be the Baptist concern for individual salvation, / the Congregational respect for the rights of lay members, /the Pentecostal reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit / and the Quaker appreciation for silence.

We will find there the Mennonite sense of community, /the social action of the Salvation Army, / and the Reformed love of the Bible — / all wrapped in Orthodox reverence before the mystery of God."

Ladies' retreat focuses on characters in the Book of Esther

By Rev. Kathleen Stewart

CAMP OKEMA (Skwn) — The ACW Ladies' Day Out was held at Camp Okema from June 8 to 11. Noreen Hareuther was the speaker, continuing with her series of Women in the Bible. This year's topic was 10 chapters on Esther.

The sessions were done in the "discipleship" style. Noreen introduced herself and gave a bio and began each session with a prayer from the Advent 2 Collect in the BCP. Each person read and had a turn to say what stood out and then discuss or ask questions.

The retreat started on Monday afternoon, giving the ladies an opportunity to come and relax or do a craft, join in evening and compline prayer, or enjoy the peaceful nature.

The Rev. Kathleen Stewart led Morning Prayer with Tuesday readings: remembering Columba, Abbot of Iona, Ireland and Scotland in AD 597.

In 1 Peter 2:5-9 it says you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a royal priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Also, Ephesians 2:20 says to be built on the foundation of the precious cornerstone of the apostles and prophets to become a dwelling where the Spirit lives.

In between the sessions on Esther, the women had time for music or different crafts of making cards, wreaths and painted "garden" signs, or designing structures with plant pots.

Louise, Marge, Violet (Goodfellow), Betty Lynn, Mae Audit, president Opal Harris, Eva, and Sharon Chesley all gathered around the tables discussing Vashti.

Did you know Vashti was banished and the king held a "beauty pageant" for a new queen?

Everyone always enjoys the bonfire, toasting large marshmallows.

At camp, there is potluck, food, dish duty, and other chores that need attention. It is so wonderful to have conversation while you work! Some shared crafts.

The Rev. Pat Martin celebrated Holy Communion on Thursday.

There were 10, including Noreen. To make it viable, 15 is the ideal number. The cost was $60 this year but may go up next year.

June 1, 2027 is the next Ladies' Day Camp. Bring a friend!



Kathleen Stewart shows off a craft she made during the retreat at Camp Okema.



With Bibles, Books of Common Prayer, and other materials in hand, attendees at this year's Ladies' Day Out at Camp Okema listen to a discussion about the Book of Esther. Photos by Rev. Kathleen Stewart



Opal Harris and Sharon Chelsey inspect different cards that were created as crafts.