



# THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2020

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MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

## Christian Community Called to an Extraordinarily Kind Response

The Rev. Kevin Kraglund, rector of St. Patrick's Anglican Church, welcomed Christians to the Edmonton and District Council of Churches (EDCC) 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Worship Service on Sunday, January 19.

Participating faith communities included the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada Synod of Alberta, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy, Christian Reformed Church of North America, United and Moravian churches. Members of the Edmonton Ecumenical Taizé Prayer group led the worship music.

"Throughout his early ministry Jesus and his disciples relied upon the kindness of strangers," said Bishop Jane Alexander, Diocese of Edmonton, reflecting upon the theme: "They showed us unusual kindness," from Acts 28:2.

Chosen by the Christian churches of Malta and Gozo, the theme recognises the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and our call as a Christian community to a greater generosity to those in need.

"Paul and those travelling with him had just spent 14 days on a stormy sea before being shipwrecked. Wet, cold and tired they were blessed with unusual kindness from the people on the island of Malta," Bishop Jane said. "The kindness of the Christian community in response to people at their most vulnerable should be extraordinary and exceed any reasonable expectation."

"Earlier this month we saw something of extraordinary kindness in our response in Edmonton to the families affected by the terrible plane crash in Iran. Suddenly all barriers were down and we were one," she said.

"Also this past week we



Christian leaders including, from left: Britt Aerhart, Salisbury United Church, Sherwood Park; Bishop Jane Alexander, Anglican Diocese of Edmonton; and Faith Nostbakken, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Alberta/Territories Synod; together proclaim the closing blessing for the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ecumenical service at St. Patrick's Anglican Church on January 19.

responded to people suffering in the extreme cold, opening our communities as warming stations, offering warm clothing and hot meals; donating to the Food Bank, Bissell Centre, Boyle Street Community Services, The Mustard Seed, Catholic Social Services and the like. Perhaps you stopped your car and gave a ride to someone waiting at a bus stop. But will our neighbourly kindness extend beyond the immediate danger of frostbite? What will we do to continue to show extraordinary kindness; to ensure, for example, there are more affordable housing options within our community by this time next year? To continue to be hospitable to migrants and refugees who today embark on journeys just as dangerous as those of St. Paul. What does the kindness and unity of our Christian community here in Edmonton look like to continue to welcome, to sponsor and advocate for the refugees?

"Our community must witness



"Gracious God, give us the truth with justice in love": during the Prayers of the People, Bishop David Motiuk, Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Edmonton, brings forth an oar for "Strength."

together to the outrageous love and care of God's holy children. And live in ways that no matter what, there is a recognisable and unshakable similarity amongst us in how we treat the poor, in how we reach out to a prisoner, heal the sick, welcome a stranger and in how we use our voices. We cannot rejoice in a blessed life if others are not blessed by ours. We cannot live

at the expense of others near or far. It is said that true kindness: Godly kindness, Christ-like kindness, blurs the lines between giving and receiving. This year's theme issues a very bold call. Let us commit to make this world a better place than we find it."

Affirming their commitment to Christian unity in face of the storms of life, faith leaders led the Prayers of the People, bringing forth rowing oars bearing the words Reconciliation, Enlightenment, Hope, Trust, Strength, Hospitality, Conversion and Generosity, and placing them next to a boat before the altar.

The offering collected during the ecumenical service was given in support of the EDCC's annual No Room in the Inn Campaign, which this year will help renovate the SAGE Seniors' Safe House, providing temporary housing and help for men and women over the age of 60 who are leaving abusive situations.



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# Bishop Jane Alexander to step down on July 31, 2020

In a letter read in parishes on Sunday, January 26, 2020, the Rt. Rev. Jane Alexander announced she is resigning as Bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton as of July 31, 2020.

**M**y dear brothers and sisters in Christ, This is a difficult letter for me to write but, as I prepare to enter my 13th year of Episcopal ministry I have, through prayerful discernment, realised it is time for me to leave. Therefore, with a great sense of both sadness and thanksgiving for my time with you, I will be stepping down as of July 31, 2020. I am deeply grateful for your love, your prayers and the ministry we have shared, but there is a season for everything and the season for a new Bishop to lead the diocese is now upon us.

During my time as your Bishop I have done my best to focus us on looking outward into the

world; concentrating on discipleship and the mission of Christ's church. I love you deeply and will miss you terribly. It has been my great joy to see us step out in faith into new areas of ministry, and to dive more deeply into our roles as Disciples of Christ. I will cherish the memories of my parish visits, the many confirmations, ordinations and synods that we have shared.

In the coming weeks we will circulate materials that explain the process of electing the 11th Bishop of Edmonton. There are so many things I would like to say and give thanks for, but for now, please know I have felt so blessed to be your Bishop and to play my part in the councils of the church on your behalf.

I do not know what God may have in store for me in the future, but I commit myself to serving



Bishop Jane Alexander in the Indigenous chapel at All Saints' Cathedral.

Photo: Bryan Girard

Him with a joyful heart whatever his plan may be. I will remember you in my daily prayers as we navigate this time of transition, and I ask that you might do the same for me and for my family.

*In Christ, +Jane*

# Windsor Park community grieves in plane crash aftermath

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

**O**n the morning of January 8, 2020, at around 7 o'clock, Carla Stewart, administrative director of the Windsor Park After School Care Program, read about the crash of Ukrainian Airlines International Flight PS752 in her Google news feed.

"At the time, I was away from the program attending to some additional work," she says. "I commented on social media to some peers about this tragic loss, along with the devastation in Australia regarding the bushfires."

A few hours later, around 10:30 am, Carla was shocked and saddened to learn that among the 176 passengers and crew members on board the plane were 57 Canadians, 13 from Edmonton, and 10 of whom were students or faculty at the University of Alberta.

"I received a text and phone call from my colleagues and I realised the Mousavi family, members of our program, had been killed," she says.

University of Alberta (U of A) engineering professors Pedram Mousavi and Mojgan Daneshmand and their daughters Daria, 14, and her younger sister Dorina were flying home to Edmonton from Iran when their plane was shot down by a missile shortly after takeoff from Tehran's airport. Daria was a student at Allendale School and Dorina attended Windsor Park School. Both sisters had attended the Windsor Park After School Care Program.

Upon hearing the tragic news, Carla informed members of the program board, staff and parents, and contacted the Windsor Park School.

"My team was in shock and despair when I arrived that day," says Carla. "St. George's prayed with us and we have been able to use the church's extra rooms to create a space for our children to talk about this loss. We discussed the possibility of providing Art therapy as a way of helping them grieve," she says. "The Church has been very considerate and accommodating during this devastating time and we are truly grateful."

Situated on the edge of the U of A campus, the Parish of St. George's, Edmonton has leased its hall to the Windsor Park After School Care Program for more than 30 years. When the Rev. Madeleine (Maddie) Urion and the Ven. Alan Perry heard about the Ukrainian Airlines tragedy they reached out Carla and the members of her program, as well as the Windsor Park Community League and Windsor Park School. At the same time, Anglican Educational Chaplain the Rev. Heather Liddell and members of the U of A Interfaith Chaplains' Association were present for students and faculty on campus.

"Carla has done a phenomenal job of leading her staff through grief while still having to work," says Maddie. "It's something that a person can't really be prepared to do, and yet Carla has had to manage it, somehow."

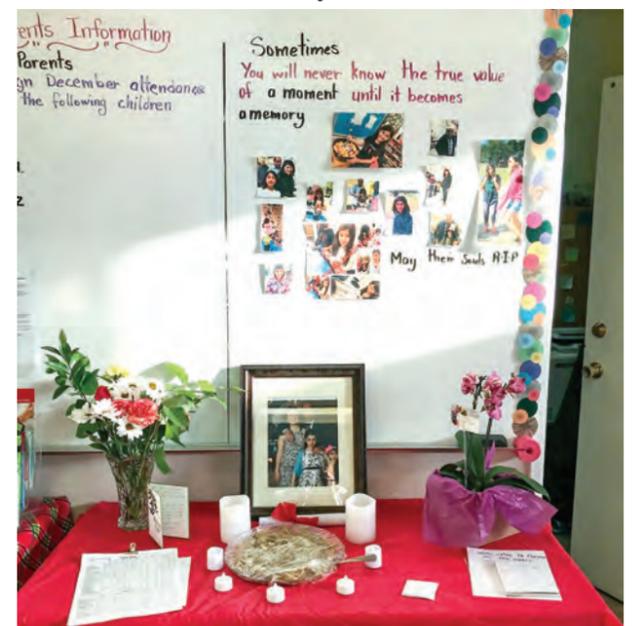
Shortly after the crash, Maddie wrote an email to St. George's congregation. "It can be difficult to know where to put our grief and shock in these times," she said. "Some members of St. George's are personally affected by this tragedy, or know and care for people who are. We invite you to pray with us as we hold space for the presence of God to quietly speak words of comfort to those who are grappling with grief and sorrow." Following the tragedy, the parish held Morning Prayer daily and provided quiet space for prayer and grief support.

In honour of the Mousavi family, the Windsor Park After School Care community created a memorial display that they shared with more than 2,300 people at a memorial service organised by the U of A on Sunday, January 12, at the Saville Community Sports Centre.

*Lord, have mercy upon our city of Edmonton. We ask for your Spirit to be in and around us, especially with those among us whose depth of grief defies words. Equip us to be instruments of your healing presence, that our hearts may be radiant with your love and compassion for the families and friends of those who have died. May we carry the strength and tenderness of your Spirit with us as we learn together how to sit in grief, to listen to those who are hurting, and to offer you our own grief. May all of our responses to the needs of our city for compassion, presence, and comfort be blessed through the power of your risen life. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

"It was important for us to do this," says Carla. "The Mousavi's were a huge part of our program and the staff and children were close to the family members. We will observe a moment of silence each year, on January 8, in remembrance of the Mousavi's and the others killed in the plane crash. We will also invite the children to help us plan a celebration of life, allowing them to grieve in a way that is supportive of their needs."

In addition to providing prayer and grief support to the Windsor Park and university communities, members of St. George's signed a card of condolences for their friends at the ISIA mosque in Mill Woods, expressing their sorrow to the Iranian community.



Staff and families of the Windsor Park After School Care Program created a memorial to the Mousavi family who lost their lives in the crash of Ukrainian Airlines International Flight PS752 on January 8, 2020.

# "A ministry so much more than I could have imagined"



Bishop JANE ALEXANDER  
Diocese of Edmonton

As I prepare to leave my position as Bishop of the Diocese of Edmonton I have had lots of time to reflect on how this ministry has shaped me and changed me. I think that, right from the start, it was a steep learning

curve, "What if I mess this up? What if I hurt this church I love so much?" These are still questions in my mind at every turn. And from the day of the election I think I have been saying the prayer we all say every day: "Lord I cannot do this by myself, please be with me and guide me." My daily prayer has been this one shared with the bishops by then Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams at the Lambeth Conference in 2008:

*God, we thank you that you have made us ministers of promise, and that you have entrusted us with the words and the actions that show to the world the reality of new creation: as we baptise, as we preside at the Lord's table, as we confirm and ordain, give us, we beg you, the courage we need both to be on the side of all people, and to be able to question and enlarge their perspectives. Above all, hold us close to yourself and give us the strength to hold on to you: to you that have taken hold of us in Jesus Christ, to you the love that will not let us go, to you bound to the world as if by nails driven into wood, to you the promise, the future, the beginning and the end. Amen.*

This continual throwing yourself back into the arms of Jesus is the only way any of us can minister, lay or ordained. Seeking His will above our own and trying to follow even if the path is difficult or not what we ourselves might have chosen. In episcopal ministry, just as in all walks of life, there is never a lack of people who will tell you what they think of the decisions you have made and whether they would have done it differently, so this anchoring of ourselves in Christ is vital.

As your bishop, my hope has always been that our faith will make a real difference in our lives, change our view of the world and give us all radical dreams for the future. I hope that we all look at the world and imagine a place where there is no room for prejudice of any kind, where we allow ourselves to be outraged by poverty, and inequality of access to medical care and to

education. Expressing this hope is not always easy, and I think I knew this from the beginning. At the Lambeth conference of 2008, Archbishop Rowan told us, at some point we would have to say to someone, 'I'm sorry to let you down in the name of Jesus.' Many of us had a Peter moment: 'Oh, no, not me, that doesn't even make sense.' But you know, Rowan Williams is very wise. He knew following Christ and looking out for the weakest and most vulnerable in community does not always make you popular. Speaking up when your friends want a particular course of action and you think it is the wrong one, doesn't always make you popular. Saying, 'no,' to a friend may be hard, but your faith may compel you to do so. All we can do is fix our eyes on Christ and try and go where he is going and align our lives with his.

As I look back, I am amazed at the sheer number of doors that God has opened into new spaces, new conversations with people who are searching for answers. The diocese has changed quite a lot in the last 12 years. We have not been immune from the challenges of decline that mainstream churches in society have faced. But we have not let fear define who we are. We have stepped out in faith and have been more and more a church that stands in the gap with those who are vulnerable or hurting. We have preached the incredible love of Jesus and witnessed to it across the diocese. Our new relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and the work we continue to do in reconciliation are a blessing. The opportunity to work with the city of Edmonton on End Poverty Edmonton was both an enormous honour and a blessing.

I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to learn so much about the Anglican Communion throughout the world and to serve our wider family through the Anglican Consultative Council and the Jesus Shaped Life initiative. The reminder that we are part of a much larger plan that belongs to God and not to any one piece of the family is really good. The opportunities to learn and grow bring new life to all parts of that family. One of the things, I think, that has blessed us here in Edmonton, is our partnership with the Diocese of Buyé in Burundi. It is my prayer that this relationship will continue in the years ahead.

When I was elected as your bishop, in 2008, I believed I was called to help shape the diocese in this way:

- To equip and strengthen our parishes to be bold in our faith;
- To encourage the discernment of spiritual gifts in both laity and clergy; building on the ministry of existing programs so that we may

all consider our call to vocation in Christ;

- To consider new models of ministry for some of our rural parishes and our seasonal churches to provide stability;
- To define and strengthen a focus on First Nations ministry in the diocese, and commit ourselves to listening and a ministry of presence;
- To help each parish plan for mission;
- To grow into God's vision of what is to be; to have the courage to reach for that which might seem impossible, for we know that nothing is impossible for Christ;
- To focus on our mission as the church of God, unity in worship, in acts of compassion and sharing the good news in Christ.

I unpacked some of this in my last report to Synod which you can read in the *66th Synod Circular*: <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/synod/66th-synod-2019>. I hope that in reading the report again, and perhaps the charge, you will see how far we have come together. If you feel I have let you down or that I have disappointed you, I ask your forgiveness.

We have all come to know each other very well, I think. You, as a diocese, know I have a passion for the inclusive love of Jesus; a love that leaves no one behind. When a person is in Christ they are a living, breathing extension of the Kingdom of God here on earth. When a person is in Christ they are entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and this message is not an optional extra of our faith. I am so thankful for this diocese and for the witness to Christ I see here, from person to person and parish to parish. Thank you so much for all you have done and all you will continue to do to transform this world in the name of Christ.

On a very personal note, I want to thank my absolutely beloved husband Tim, for all his love and support during this ministry and the sacrifices he has made. Thank you too to my whole family, for all their love and for always being there.

This past time of discernment has been difficult in so many ways but, as I said in my letter at the end of January, there is indeed a season for everything and the season for me being your bishop is drawing to a close. This, as you have seen, is a resignation not a retirement. I have no idea what God has in store for me in the future. All I know is I trust God completely, and I will be shown what comes next when it is God's time to show me. So I step out in faith and in thankfulness for all that has been.

*In Christ, +Jane*

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We welcome letters to the editor, news, stories and book reviews (max 500 words), event notices and high resolution photos (min 300 dpi).

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# Envisioning mission through eyes re-focused on Christ

Hello, and welcome back.

Over the past several articles we have looked at how, although Christendom is well past, it still has our churches in its vice-like grip. It may seem obvious to begin all we do with a focus on Jesus, which then shapes our mission and how we do church (Christology - missiology - ecclesiology), but we have locked ourselves into the reverse of that sequence. We are locked into a way of thinking about pretty much everything through an 'ecclesiological' lens.

Let me give you some examples of what I mean. When clergy are inducted into their posts



The Ven. RICHARD KING  
Archdeacon for  
Mission and Discipleship  
Diocese of Edmonton

we use liturgy in which the words 'mission' or 'mission of God' are conspicuous by their absence. We give the new priest of the parish the keys of the church building and canons of the diocese, amongst other things. Let me be clear. It's important all priests uphold the canons and fulfill all that is symbolised by the giving of the keys. But when we present these symbols of the church as key to the rector's role, but omit the language of mission at such events, we are leading with our ecclesiology.

When we consider what we are looking for in new priests and testing a call to ordination, the criteria, and indeed the ordinal, tend to focus upon the life of prayer and the scriptures, being ministers of word and sacrament and "a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to serve..." (*Book of Alternative Services*, p. 647). Let me be clear again. These are vital functions for the health and wellbeing of all the Lord's people. It's crucial all priests uphold these charges. But where, also, is the Lord's calling to us all, lay and ordained, to be agents of His mission as Christ's body in the world? We tend to omit the language of mission

from our liturgy at such events. We lead with our ecclesiology. (For those who wish to explore the issue of the language of mission in our liturgy and worship, I wholeheartedly commend *Creating Missional Worship*, by Tim Lomax).

In our structures of Vestry and Corporation, accountable to both parish and Bishop, do our agendas reflect a Christology or Ecclesiology-first lens? Once again, let me be clear. Of course, we have to take care of our buildings and do all those things that are right and necessary as part of the Anglican Church and Diocese of Edmonton. But there also we tend to omit the language of mission. In such meetings, we often lead with our ecclesiology.

So how do we re-tool our lens to a Christological-missiological-ecclesiological focus? How do look with new eyes at all we already do and take for granted? That's where we will begin next time.

*May God bless you most richly as you live out your Jesus-shaped life, Richard*

## Surrendering Our Lives to the "Outside Truth"

There are at least two sides to The Truth: the outside and the inside.

The outside truth is that which is universally and eternally true. The outside truth is independent of our perceptions, opinions and interpretations. The outside truth is greater than our capacity to understand it.

The inside truth is that of the outside truth that we perceive as true. We experience the truth and make it part of the foundation of our being and our actions. It is the truth inside us.

Of course, the truth inside us will never encompass the whole of the truth outside us. It would be arrogant and dangerous to presume that any of us (even the Catholic Church) knew the whole of the outside truth. Heck, it is arrogant and dangerous to presume that our inside truth is an accurate representation of parts of the outside truth.

God, you see, is beyond our ability to perceive. In our limited humanity—limited by time, space and human experience—we can only approximate God in our understandings and perceptions.

So now, how are we to incorporate this into our demonstration of God through proclamation in word and deed? We have to proclaim the truth, and God as the source of all truth, to people who steadfastly believe there is no truth; that truth is



The Ven. TERRY LEER  
Archdeacon for  
Mission Development  
Diocese of Athabasca

"relative." The world says strongly there is no truth; there is only opinion and ideology, both of which are capable of ignoring anything even close to "fact." So, how are we to share our inside truth, which reflects the outside truth, with people who have little regard for any truth?

We start with the obligation to proclaim the truth in word and deed. It is part of our identity as disciples of the Christ.

We continue with our own experience and appropriation of the truth. That is, we work from our foundation in God. We know for ourselves how God has molded us and transformed us through our interaction with his truth.

Then, we make our proclamation of the truth in our words and in our deeds. "I understand God like this..." "In my experience, God works in this way..." "I know God has changed me through..." You get the point: we are not using our inside truth as a kind of blunt instrument with which to inflict spiritual or ethical wounds. We are not speaking or acting in order to coerce or convince others. We are testifying, bearing witness to God's work in and through us.

This proclamation occurs in our worship and in our workplaces. People experience our proclamation in our volunteer work and through our personal lives. We clearly and intentionally make the connections between who we are and who God is, so that others may witness the inside truth transforming us.

The goal is to surrender more and more of our lives and our proclamation to the outside truth. We allow others to witness this process of transformation as we more and more accurately embody the image of God.

That's what the outside truth does in and to the lives of Christ's disciples. At least, that's what we are supposed to allow as Christ's disciples.

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# Cursillo celebrates 30 Years with conference for everyone

VALERIE WILBUR  
Edmonton Anglican Cursillo

It is time to celebrate with great joy the gift of Cursillo with which God has blessed our diocese.

Since the first Cursillo Weekend was offered in the Edmonton diocese 30 years ago, approximately 1,000 people have attended. To commemorate this special anniversary, the Edmonton Cursillo community is offering a conference for everyone in the diocese.

The theme of the conference, "Going for Growth," has been developed under the guidance of Bishop Jane Alexander. The conference will be held at King's University, Edmonton on June 19-20, 2020.

Among the gifted speakers leading the program (which will include worship, music and all meals) will be Bishop Victoria Matthews and Bishop Jane Alexander, both of whom are Cursillistas and staunch supporters of the Edmonton Cursillo community. They will speak about how we are called to use our gifts and talents to serve our communities, and how we can grow in the gifts of the Spirit. Other featured speakers

will address Church Mission, Prison Ministry, Understanding Indigenous History and What We Can Do as We Move Forward.

Among the guests will be former weekend directors, members of the national Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat, and everyone who has supported the Cursillo movement during the past 30 years. We especially hope that all current and formerly active Cursillistas will come and celebrate with us. The conference will conclude with a Grand Ultreya to which, of course, all are invited, whether or not you have attended the conference or a Cursillo weekend.

The Edmonton Cursillo Movement began under the direction of Bishop Ken Genge when a group of dedicated Anglicans met for several years with the mission of bringing Cursillo to the Diocese of Edmonton. Over the first few years these members attended Cursillo weekends outside the diocese. A working secretariat was then formed and its members began to plan just how to begin. They met as a community at monthly Ultreyas and began a Servant Community in order to teach people about Cursillo.

In 1990, the bishop and secretariat decided

it was time to bring the first weekends to Edmonton. With the help of the Cursillistas from the Diocese of Calgary, the Diocese of Montreal, and the Edmonton Roman Catholic Diocese, team preparation began and the first weekends were offered in November of 1990 under the leadership of Ray Canton, lay director of the first men's weekend, and Ruth Genge, lay director of the first women's weekend. (A Cursillo weekend consists of separate men's and women's weekends, but they are considered as one weekend offered in two parts).

In order to be able to sustain successful local weekends and post-Cursillo activities, the Cursillo community needed to grow quickly. Thus, in the earliest years of the Edmonton movement, two weekends per year were offered to both a men's group and a separate women's group. Now only one weekend is offered annually and Edmonton has moved to having co-educational weekends.

Please mark your calendars and look for registration brochures and posters coming to your parishes very soon. We look forward to welcoming both Cursillistas and the wider diocesan Christian family to celebrate this special time with us.

## Anglican Archives' Volunteers Recognised for Dedication

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

With a gentle hand, discerning eye and loads of patience, Jeanette Flesher, Beth-Anne Exham and Diane Morgan have dedicated several hours each week to helping preserve the rich heritage of Anglicans in Alberta. Guided by Diocese of Edmonton Archivist Kathryn Ivany, the team processes (prepares) historical records for the Anglican Church of Canada collection at the Provincial Archives of Alberta, located at 8555 Roper Rd NW in Edmonton.

"Your time and contributions are invaluable to us here at the archives," said Jaclyn Landry, program and volunteer coordinator for the Provincial Archives of Alberta. "As a team you have great comradery."

Archives' staff and volunteers hosted a volunteer recognition tea on Tuesday, January 28. Also in attendance were members of the Edmonton diocese including Kathryn Ivany, Dr. Jane Samson, associate ecumenical and interfaith officer, and Margaret Glidden, communications director.

Jaclyn expressed gratitude to Jeanette and Beth-Anne, both members of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Edmonton, and Diane, a member of St. Matthias, for their dedication. She noted that Jeanette who has had to step back from her role, and Beth-Anne who will continue to help as she is able, have achieved gold-level status at the archives, together amassing more than 3,000 hours of volunteer service since 2004.

Beth-Anne recalled being recruited to help Jeanette and Evelyn Capps in the archives, when they were still housed in the "old museum building" (Provincial Museum building in Glenora).

Diane also began volunteering in the archives

when they were in the Provincial Museum building. She was working in the office at St. Peter's and compiling short histories of the parishes when she was told "there are two ladies who sort all this out." She has been an active volunteer since 2012.

Jeanette, a former school teacher with a natural curiosity about people, was particularly intrigued by records from the Athabasca diocese.

"Their correspondence, written in the margins and both ways to economise space, paints a picture of what life was like. I found it quite fascinating," she said.

Beth-Anne shares Jeanette's affinity for the north, having served with her late-husband Kenah Exham, an Anglican priest, in Old Crow in the Diocese of Yukon, from 1965 to 1969. She also has a special interest in the Anglican Church Women (ACW) collection.

"The work you have done has been amazing and the synod really does appreciate it," said Kathryn Ivany. "I know you spend hours removing staples, clips and coils to get the papers into the folders so that we can use them and researchers can access to them."

"To be able to feel like I'm doing something worthwhile and to do it with good companions has been very satisfying," said Jeanette.

Records covering roughly the northern two-thirds of the province from the Anglican Dioceses of Athabasca and Edmonton, including registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, are stored in vault #1, "God's Vault," as the ladies call it. The records can be accessed online at <https://>



Anglican Archives' volunteers Jeanette Flesher, left, Beth-Anne Exham and Diane Morgan, right, were recently honoured at an appreciation tea hosted by Provincial Archives' staff.

[provincialarchives.alberta.ca/](http://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/) or by calling the Provincial Archives Reading Room: 780-427-1056.

Volunteers are needed to help care for Anglican Church records at the Provincial Archives. If you would like assist the diocesan archivist by processing records on site as they come into the collection, please send a letter of interest to Kathryn Ivany: [ivak2arch4hist@hotmail.com](mailto:ivak2arch4hist@hotmail.com), or call 780-903-7993 for more information.

### History Buffs Take Note

Conscientious individuals are needed to volunteer to help in the Anglican Archives collection at the Provincial Archives, 8555 Roper Rd NW, Edmonton, for about three hours a week. If interested, please email Diocese of Edmonton Archivist Kathryn Ivany: [ivak2arch4hist@hotmail.com](mailto:ivak2arch4hist@hotmail.com)

## PWRDF valuing Indigenous knowledge and customs



I am looking out at a beautiful Alberta winter day; clear blue sky reflecting off a sea of snow blanketing the fields and resting on the boughs of the evergreens. I am continuously thankful that God has “planted” me in this place, especially when I contrast it to the tremendous struggle the people of Australia have recently be dealing with during the devastating wildfires in that region. In the news we read of the destruction of entire communities and of thousands of people finding refuge on the beaches as they wait for the fires to travel through their land.

I have also read of the voice of the Australian Aboriginal people saying “Want to stop Australian fires? Listen to our people.” According to Indigenous Elder Murradoo Yanner, their knowledge of caring for the land is largely



DOROTHY MARSHALL  
PWRDF Representative  
Diocese of Edmonton

ignored. As leader of the Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program, he recognizes the depth and value of Aboriginal knowledge and skills in hazard management. One program they teach is cool-fire burning, which involves lighting small patches of low-intensity fires during the cool season, burning off bush undergrowth, thereby reducing the amount of flammable materials. This

prevents fires from developing, as they have now, to catastrophic levels.

In Canada, we also tend to ignore the value of Indigenous knowledge and customs, and by our ignoring we are devaluing the traditional identity of our Indigenous neighbours. One example is the loss of Indigenous languages; languages tied irrevocably to Indigenous culture. Recognizing this shortcoming, the strategic plan of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund includes “accompany and support First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, guided by both the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the priorities of the Indigenous communities and organizations in Canada.” On your

behalf, PWRDF is sponsoring many Indigenous initiatives, including the support of threatened Indigenous languages and cultural knowledge in First Nation's Communities in Canada.

A few years ago, in the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, near Montreal, only 100 of the local 8,000 residents could speak their language. A two-year Mohawk immersion course, supported by PWRDF, is making a difference, enabling students of all ages to learn the language. As graduates teach Mohawk to their families and community there has been steady progress in sustaining the language. PWRDF also supports a creative initiative in which a Kahnawake puppeteer uses puppets she has made in a local TV show. Immersion program graduates are vital in making this very successful show happen, and it is helping spark interest in the language in local children.

Another cultural Initiative PWRDF supports in Canada is the training of Indigenous midwives through a partnership with Ryerson University. With the use of traditional knowledge integrated with modern medicine, their practice has developed in order to meet the realities of families in the

north, their cultural and community context, and the state of healthcare in remote areas. Studies show that when a woman gives birth within her cultural context, the outcomes for both her and baby are better.

Closer to home, PWRDF has partnered with The First Nation Adult & Higher Education Consortium on the Sisiska Blackfoot Nation near Calgary. They have developed courses on traditional Blackfoot Knowledge for online delivery. These courses contribute to understanding among the Blackfoot people of their origins, culture, and language. People are developing positive self-concepts as a result of these courses and a reawakening is happening among Blackfoot youth. Many of these courses are transferable to Athabasca University and the University of Calgary.

Supporting the preservation and transfer of traditional Indigenous knowledge is an important part of the work of PWRDF in Canada. To learn more about these projects, or PWRDF's response to the wildfires in Australia, visit [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org).

If you would like to be part of the team that promotes PWRDF in your parish, please email Dorothy Marshall at [pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca](mailto:pwrdf@edmonton.anglican.ca).

## Warm parishes provide refuge from frigid January cold

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

Edmontonians woke up to a low temperature of minus 37.8 degrees on January 15, 2020, the coldest morning in two decades. Arctic air began flowing into Alberta on January 5 chilling the province for more than a week. The cold was extreme even for those who began and ended each day in a warm home. But for the approximately 1,600 Edmonton residents without a place to call home (source: Homeward Trust), the frigid weather was life-threatening.

The City of Edmonton's emergency response included opening shelter space at the Commonwealth Recreation Centre to house some of the homeless who were seeking a warm place to sleep. During the day, Anglican churches in the downtown and university areas, and in Spruce Grove, opened as warming stations; providing warm clothing and refuge from the cold.

Canon Chelsy Bouwman and the Rev. Susan Oliver decided

the hall at Christ Church, which is not ordinarily used during the day, could provide much needed warmth in the community of Oliver, Edmonton's most densely populated neighbourhood. They thought of the people who attended the church's community dinners, an average of 180 guests every month, and hoped they been able to find warm shelter.

Chelsy sent an email to the parish list and, within minutes, 30 people had offered to make a pot of soup, or to welcome people in from the cold by spending time at the church chatting and playing games.

“The response from parishioners was very positive,” said Chelsy. “When people weren't able to volunteer they offered donations of toques, mitts, scarves and money.”

She also contacted inner city social agencies and asked the Rev. Quinn Strikwerda, vicar at All Saints' Cathedral, to pass on the word. All Saints' was also open as a warm-up station for several hours each day during the cold snap, in addition to welcoming community members for Manna Market on Wednesday

afternoon and breakfast on Friday morning.

Christ Church provides its neighbours with nourishing meals year-round. In the summer, members of the Oliver community, including Ward 6 Councillor Scott McKeen and his office staff, Edmonton Anglican Cursillo, and friends and colleagues of parishioners team up to serve hamburgers and hotdogs on the church's front lawn. Last year, the community dinner fell on Easter Vigil Saturday and dinner guests were invited to worship with the congregation.

“We had the help of the Ven. Travis Enright and the Rev. Nick Trussell to plan the service and it worked really well and was incredibly beautiful,” said Chelsy. “The Easter story was interwoven with the meal, breaking for song or a play, and ending

with a “Make-Your-Own Sundae Resurrection Party” hosted by parishioners. About 60 people stayed for the eucharist.”

“I think this is what Jesus has taught us and calls us to do,” she said. “Building community the way we do gives us a clearer understanding of what the Kingdom of God is; what it is to look like and our role in that. It also helps us to see there are no limits, or requirements, to belonging to the Kingdom.”



Warm-up stations, like this one at All Saints' Cathedral, provided shelter and warm clothing when temperatures plunged below -30 degrees for more than a week in January.

# Moving Send-off for Long-time St. John the Evangelist Rector

The Rev. SHELLY KING  
Messenger Staff

Sunday, January 5, 2020 marked the end of an era at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Edmonton.

After 20 years of faithful service, St. John's rector the Rev. Don Aellen retired from his post. In honour of the occasion, St. John's combined its usual three Sunday morning services into one.

Three hundred-and-sixty people attended to say farewell. Both the junior and senior choirs participated in leading worship, two children of the parish Stephanie Okolo and Soren Hendricks read the scriptures and incoming rector the Ven. Richard King preached the sermon.

A key part of the service was a piece of liturgy titled 'The Ending of a Pastoral Relationship.' It included a statement by Rev. Don that: "On the first day of July, 1999, I was inducted by Bishop Victoria Matthews as rector of St. John the Evangelist. I have, with God's help and to the best of my abilities, exercised this trust, accepting its privileges and responsibilities. After prayer and careful consideration, it now seems to me that I should leave this charge, and I publicly state that my tenure as rector of St. John the Evangelist ends this day."



Archdeacon Richard then asked the congregation, "Do you, the people of St. John the Evangelist, recognise and accept the conclusion of this pastoral relationship?" to which they responded, "We do."

The reason for this liturgy was to provide an opportunity for rector and parish to say a clear and intentional 'good-bye;' to mark an important point in the journey of St. John's.

Rev. Don then shared some of his reflections on a 20-year ministry. Being an avid hunter and having worked as a parks warden before entering ministry, he joked that the biggest difference between the two lines of work is that a priest can't "shoot his problems." On the more serious side, he shared what the love and support of the congregation has meant to him and his wife Carolyn over the years; how St. John's has been "a place of discovery and intense spiritual growth, learning to live relying on the grace of Christ and



St. John the Evangelist, Edmonton held a moving farewell service for Don and Carolyn Aellen on January 5, 2020. Pictured, clockwise from left, are: Don Aellen and rector's warden Catherine Rostron; Soren Hendricks reading the Scriptures; Richard King, incoming rector of St. John's, preaching the sermon.

the church." Where words failed, two scriptures summed up his sentiments: 2 Corinthians 4:1 - "Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God..." and 2 Corinthians 3:2 - "You yourselves are our letter (of recommendation), written on our hearts..."

Wardens Toby Ramsden and Catherine Rostron offered reflections on behalf of the parish and Delia Kariwo sang a blessing.

No parish event is complete without lots of great food! So all who could stay enjoyed a lunch together, followed by a program in which more members and former members of the congregation had the chance to share stories and make tributes to their outgoing priest. Even the previous St. John's rector, the Rev. Canon Dr. Barry Parker, was able to participate via recorded message from his home in Toronto.

Rev. Don and Carolyn responded to this moving send-off in a written

message for the church newsletter: "We both feel undone—but in the best possible way: your being present in such numbers; your love for us so unreservedly expressed; your heartfelt thanksgivings for the life we shared; and by the munificent generosity of the communal gifts you gave us. What you did and spoke Sunday was a synopsis and confirmation of the richness of our over 20 years of doing life in Christ with you. And why you have been, and

will remain so dear to us." As incoming rector, Archdeacon Richard found it to be "a profoundly meaningful day and a privilege to be there; an honouring of Don and Carolyn's ministry and an acknowledgement of the need we all have to say a proper 'farewell;' to grieve the losses we feel before we can truly embrace whatever it is that Jesus has for us next. I echo the words of one parishioner who said the whole event was like calling the past, present and future together in one moment: a true blessing."

*"You yourselves are our letter (of recommendation), written on our hearts..."*  
2 Corinthians 3:2



The congregation gives Don and Carolyn Aellen a moving send-off.

# Michael Williamson expresses gratitude for 32 years of ministry

The Rev. Michael Williamson will retire, on March 31, 2020, after 32 years of ministry in the Diocese of Edmonton.

Williamson was ordained deacon at Christ Church, Edmonton by Bishop Ken Genge in 1988, and ordained priest at All Saints' Cathedral the following year. He served as assistant priest at Christ Church, Edmonton.

In September, 1990, he became the youth pastor at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Edmonton. In 1993, he became associate priest at St. Paul's, Edmonton, and in 1995 was appointed rector, a position he held for 23 years until September, 2018. In recent years, Williamson has served as part-time interim rector at St. Paul's, Leduc and St. George's, Fort Saskatchewan.

Throughout his time in

Edmonton, he has served the diocese in many ways on Executive Council, Administration and Finance, the Diocesan Property and Planning Committee, as Regional Dean and, most recently, on the Rural Strategy team.

Williamson would like to express his heartfelt gratitude to the parishes and colleagues he has worked with over the years. It truly has been a privilege,

and a pleasure, to share in ministry and contribute to the Kingdom of God through the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton.

*Editor's note: Michael will reflect on more than three decades of ministry in the April issue of The Messenger.*



Michael Williamson

# Online giving apps, cloud-based accounting programs and narrative budgets useful tools for managing parish finances

MARGARET GLIDDEN  
Edmonton Editor

Representatives from more than 20 rural and urban parishes attended a workshop on parish finances at All Saints' Cathedral on January 18.

Hosted by the Rev. John Gee, diocesan treasurer, the training day provided an opportunity for people involved in parish financial management to come together to share ideas and resources.

Put simply, the role of parish treasurer, an invaluable member of vestry, is to assist church wardens in the handling of offerings and contributions, and to keep the parish accounts. But, as John Gee observed, a treasurer should be well versed in areas such as methods of receiving and receipting for donations and accounting methods.

Gee shared a few best practices for parish treasurers', such as keeping personal information secure, regularly backing up data and reconciling the parish account once a month, ensuring expense payouts are authorised by two people, never signing a blank cheque and ensuring one trusted person in addition to yourself has access to the parish account. He also noted that each parish is responsible for appointing an accounts examiner, a financially knowledgeable volunteer who is not directly involved with parish financial administration, to review the financial statements before the parish annual general meeting.

Parishes are required to submit a monthly remittance to the diocese by the 20th of each month as payroll goes out on the 28th. Should an issue with finances arise, such as a budget deficit, it is the parish's responsibility to inform the diocese immediately. The Parish Remittance Form and items pertaining to parish finances including the *Treasurer's Handbook* can all be found in the Treasurer's Toolbox on the diocesan website: <https://edmonton.anglican.ca/parish-info/pages/treasurers-toolbox>.

Parishes should note that there are legal requirements for handling "restricted" donations designated for a specific purpose. While not complying with a donation's restriction is a criminal breach, parishes do have a right to refuse a donation if they do not agree with the conditions. Parishes should also note the deadline for filing a T3010 Charitable Information Return is June 30.

With many things to keep track of, Margaret Glidden, diocesan communications director, told workshop

participants about possible time-saving measures such as pre-authorized Giving (PAG) and online giving. Noting a trend toward online giving, she said 20.5 per cent of charitable donations are made online ([Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org)). To make it easier for people to give when they don't carry cash, parishes can provide a "click and give" option on their website's home page. Through a new partnership between church website provider Ascend and online giving provider **Tithe.ly**, parishes of the Edmonton diocese can register for a free account and be eligible for a lower transaction fee. Donors have the option of a one-time contribution or monthly giving. Parishes can contact Margaret at the Synod Office for the registration link.

Additionally, parishes with an Ascend or **Tithe.ly** website are eligible for a lower monthly hosting and technical support fee which includes access to digital communication tools, such as e-newsletters, sermon podcasting and online event registration.

Toby Ramsden, chair of the diocesan administration and finance committee and



More than 20 parishes were represented at the Parish Finances Training Day in January.

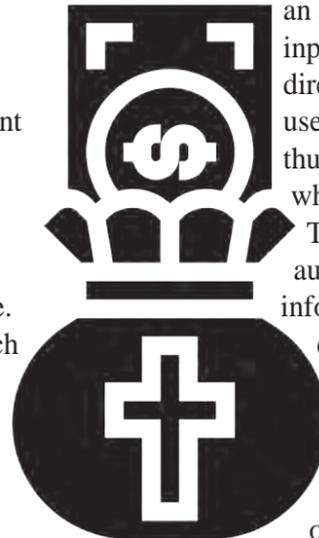
**You budget expenditures so you can fund your parish mission.**

The Ven. Alan Perry



Toby Ramsden, chair of the diocesan administration and finance committee and people's warden for St. John the Evangelist, Edmonton, presents on cloud-based accounting.

people's warden for St. John the Evangelist in Edmonton, presented on yet another potential time and cost saving measure, a cloud-based accounting system. Storing financial data in the cloud, which can then be accessed electronically via wifi from anywhere in the world, improves efficiency and accuracy, he said. Cloud-based bookkeeping can generate accurate and up-to-the-minute reporting. Authorised users can use a program like QuickBooks to retrieve bank statements electronically and download the data into the user's program in a matter of minutes. Using



an app like Receipt Bank users can input utility bills and expense receipts directly. The WayPay app then enables users to make payments electronically, thus eliminating the need for cheques which are quickly becoming obsolete. The process can be set up to require authorization by two people. For more information on cloud-based accounting, email [tobyramsden@gmail.com](mailto:tobyramsden@gmail.com).

In addition to keeping track of parish finances, treasurers have the responsibility of presenting financial information in a format others will understand. Alan Perry noted that traditional line-by-line budgets are useful for showing the amount of money coming in and how much is being spent. Canonical requirements for a parish financial plan are that it includes revenue and expenditure, apportionment, salary and benefits, debt payments (if any) and operational expenses (Canon 5.111). A parish must submit its budget to the diocese within 14 days of adoption and by the March 15 deadline.

Signs of a healthy parish, said Perry, include: income revenue which is comprised of 80 per cent giving; giving that is growing year by year (at least at the rate of inflation); 50 per cent of giving from Pre-authorized Giving (PAG); starting the year with a surplus; having enough to get through the lean summer months (or not having lean summer months); ending the year with a small surplus (or a large one). On the other hand, signs for concern may include: dependence on fundraising, investment income or rental income (greater than 20 per cent of income), year-end panic appeals, frequent or chronic deficits, shrinking reserves, and/or "deferred maintenance."

But what does parish giving and spending say about our mission priorities? Perry shared how narrative budgets are useful tools for painting a broader picture of parish life and good works and supporting the parish stewardship program.

"You don't budget expenditures so you can pay the bills," he said. "You budget expenditures so you can fund your parish mission."

He outlined the process for creating a narrative budget which begins with grouping budget items into categories, such as ministry, worship, pastoral care, Christian education, fellowship, community outreach, etc, then determining what percentage of the budget is allocated to each focus area. It is important to refresh categories and recalculate allocations every year. The next step is to invite parishioners to share experiences which can be woven into short stories for each category.

He also encouraged parishes to consider various ways to package and present a narrative budget, whether it be included in an AGM report, presented as a PowerPoint slideshow, or displayed as a YouTube video on the parish website.

"Be sure to enlist the help of creative parishioners with a knack for storytelling and include lots of colourful photos. As with everything else, narrative budgets get better with practice," he said.