



Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Algoma Newsletter

Winter 2018

To All

Diocesan , Deanery & Anglican Church Women

As Well As Friends of the Community

submitted by May Seguin, Diocesan Social Chair



for your dedication, commitment and ministry.

It is the time of year when we think of others ----
a time to give rather than receive, a time when we look for
hope, peace, joy, and love!

**The Best
Christmas Gift**



Merry Christmas

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Diocese of Algoma



Dear ACW friends,

Christmas is different now that our children are all grown up.

For starters, there are 'significant others' on the scene which means that we just can't assume that they will be coming home for the holidays. We have to share with the other family. This has a huge impact on the good order and ritual around Christmas preparations in the Germond household.

Decorating the tree was always our daughter's job and it happened with a running commentary on the origin of each decoration, and a correction when one was placed too low or too close to another. I loved listening to them reminisce about the amount of time it took to make those cardboard decorations covered in glitter and sequins, and how we looked for unusual ones on our summer holidays.

Gift buying and giving is different too because their needs can be handled in the stroke of a pen and a signature on a cheque. How I miss those letters to Santa which were written in their own particular style. One always remembered to ask after Santa's entire menagerie before getting to the real point of the letter, while the other cut to the chase and did the 'ask' right away.

All of which has me thinking a lot about the upcoming Christmas holidays and what will be on my Christmas wish list. It isn't more stuff! I wish for those moments of quiet conversation with each of my precious ones whenever it happens; of sitting around a festive table with the Synod office staff and their families when they come for dinner; of singing Christmas carols in a darkened church; of welcoming our newborn King – Emmanuel – God- with- us; of the phone call to mom to wish her well and hear about her Christmas; and of praying that the words of the carols come true that peace will come on earth and that there will be goodwill among men and women.

Singer songwriter Natalie Cole wrote a song called, "Grown- up Christmas List". In the song she reminisces about how when she was young, she sat on Santa's knee

and told him about her childhood fantasies. And then she sings about how she's all grown up now, but she still has dreams... things she would like for Christmas, not just for herself but for our needy world. Then she sings her "Grown-up Christmas List." Here are the things she wants for Christmas now:

"Lives that won't be torn apart
And wars will never start,
And time will heal the heart.
Everyone will have a friend
And right will always win,
And love will never end.
This is my lifelong dream,
My Grown-up Christmas List."

Natalie Colie in that song has the same longing that many of us who have way too much 'stuff' want this Christmas. It is a longing to be home with Christ at our hearts for the holidays. It is the longing to know and experience the peace and joy that Christ brings– peace in our homes, in our hearts, and in our community. And it is the knowledge that we can bring that song of Christ to others. We don't ever have to wait for someone else to make it happen – we can start the singing right now and make sure the song continues right through the holidays and into the New Year.

With gratitude to each one of you for being "Christ bearers". May your Christmas be marked by precious moments, love and laughter.

Come Lord Jesus, Come.

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

From the President . . .

My dear friends,

Maybe the most asked question at this time of year is "Are you ready for Christmas?" I ask the same thing of you now, "Are you really ready? Are you ready for Christ to come, not just to Bethlehem, so long ago, but are you ready for Christ to come to you, to live in you, to fill your heart and your life? Are you ready to put His will and purposes before that of the world?"

As women, we tend to get bogged down in the busyness of the celebration. It just seems to fall into our laps and we feel it is our duty to make everyone happy and joyful and merry. That is an impossible task and NOT OUR JOB.

We need to take the time out of our "busy schedules" to remember the real reason for the season and to prepare ourselves to truly let Christ be in us and work through us in the world. Stand back and let Him do His job.

I wish for each of you a most blessed and Christ filled celebration of Christmas that will continue through the year ahead and into those to come.

Barbie

Note from the Diocese

For your information and for sharing across the diocese, we have named Sunday, June 23rd, 2019 as ACW Sunday on the Prayer Cycle.

Blessings,

Liz Hamel
Administrative Assistant
Diocese of Algoma



Greetings from the Chaplain

Advent/Christmas 2018

Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we begin our preparations for the wonder of Love, Light, and Word that has come into our world with the birth of Christ in a stable, and his second coming "in clouds" as we read on the first Sunday of Advent, we take note of the magnitude of what we are preparing for. The O Antiphons as written in our Advent Prayers of the People detail who we are actually expecting: O Wisdom; O Lord, and head of the house of Israel; O Branch of Jesse; O Key of David; O Morning Star; O King of the nations; O Emmanuel, hope and Saviour of the nations. What hope, joy and light, enveloped in Love, we call upon, - for which we **prepare**.

We also note the many Scripture references to be on guard against cultural and societal (not always synonymous) expectations for a 'perfect' Christmas season. Instead, we are called to prepare ourselves: body, mind, soul and heart for this second coming. Instead of cleaning our physical bricks and mortar houses, we prepare our very being, sweeping out the number of material things we have and making room for God's presence within us. Instead of allowing our own will to guide us, allow God to guide us through his Holy Spirit and Love to make decisions and live as Jesus lived on earth - forgiving, healing, helping, and teaching that God is a God of love and mercy to everyone. As we spend our time in prayer and allowing God to guide us in this way of life, we will truly be able to join in the joyful refrain, "Lord Jesus, come soon!"

As I meet more and more ACW members, I can see those preparations are already happening. I see love and hope abounding in the many acts of mercy and kindness you and your groups share within your parish, your wider communities, including world-wide communities. I see your faith in God's love and peace for this world, and your actions that work toward this. And I see your joy at being together as one at gathering time (meetings, services, and conventions). The laughter, prayers, and sharing stories certainly demonstrate that being part of the body of Christ is both enlivening and blessed!

May your Advent and Christmas be overflowing with the joy, the hope, the peace, and the love of God!

Your Sister in Christ,

Edna+



ACW The Quiet Corner

Welcome, come and rest awhile and take some time to reflect.

Read the word of God and allow it to fill your being let it say to you what God wants you to hear. Then if you wish read on, as I share with you what it said to me, for truly we are all different and he treats us that way.

Algoma ACW Devotional Chair, Sue Goodwin



She sat gazing with wonder at her new born child, he was perfect in every way. Tiny fingers reach up to explore his own lips his arms limited by the wraps that kept him warm and safe. The sweet scent of fresh hay filled the air and the soft light filtering in through the cave entrance heralded the dawn of a new day. The mule that had born Mary on her journey with Joseph brayed softly as if content that all had turned out well.

Startled by a commotion in the doorway Mary looked up to see Joseph talking to some shepherds, a dishevelled group of men and boys full of curiosity asking if they might visit mother and child. Joseph was reluctant at first but Mary signalled for them to approach and they entered hesitantly as if entering a holy place. They brought simple gifts, a lamb, a whistle, some soft wool to keep him snug, and they told of how angels had filled the night air with their halleluiahs bidding them come and pay their respects.

So it was that Jesus entered the world, a humble beginning to a humble and yet remarkable life. Mary knew that her baby was special, well every mother thinks that I suppose, but of course Mary had been told that he would be, and she had believed and trusted. Later, probably a year or so later, three travelers arrived to pay homage. These were very different from the raggle taggle shepherds, richly dressed they were ambassadors from foreign lands and the gifts they brought were expensive, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gifts fit for the king whose star they had followed for many months, their visit however heralds the flight

of the little family into Egypt and safety, ironically the very land that their forefathers had desperately wanted to escape so many years before.

These are the stories at the heart of our Christmas celebrations, stories of love and humility, courage and obedience, stories to ponder and emulate in our adoration and our generosity.



Luke 2: 1-20, Matthew 2: 1-12.

I invite you now to take a few moments to read through one of the above texts in your Bibles and place yourselves in the story. Notice what the surroundings are like, who else is there and how you feel. Allow the story to move you and write down or discuss what you have learnt or felt.

Heavenly Father thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus,

May we learn from the Shepherds and the Wise Men that we are never too poor nor too rich to approach the throne of grace.

That you love each one of us just the way we are.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year.

Sue



"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

Family Life

by Joy Stott

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace, in it's various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 NIV

When I read this bible verse, in a recent devotion, many thoughts came to mind.

Lately, we have had many changes happening in our Diocese. Many of you have had to make change. Changes within your deaneries, churches, locations, history, and a shuffle of positions of people within your Church Families.

Change brings about change.

As 1 Peter 4:10 reminds us, we are as stewards of God, ... to look within ourselves. When these changes take hold, we are to reflect, and praise Him for where we have come from. Open ourselves up to Him. We all have received God's grace.

Change causes us to look within at our "gifts" that we have received from God. We are to serve others.

We may have served others within our church family one way or in many ways, for years.

There is always room for change, new growth within us. Prayer can lead us in a new direction.

Open yourself, let the Holy Spirit lead you to seek out the will of God.

Perhaps a hidden gift ... a hidden gift you have received that you may not even know about!

I reflect on many experiences, from my past. It teaches us. Most often, to move on. Some changes that altered my life gradually, and many that happened rather, ... overnight.

I changed my profession, many times over the years. As many of us do. Some of those talents I discovered, I was able to help others with

or blended into my church life.

As a P.S.W. I saw change and new growth in many people, for many of my charges I cared for, change would come later in their lives.

One reflection that comes to mind, I often think of, (which encourages me) of a youthful client of 104 years old! When they were 80 years old, changed their interests to ones that no one would have ever have dreamed of!

From a more placid orderly lifestyle, ... to a more carefree life of taking up cross country skiing, (and some downhill skiing) that inspired and encouraged others to seek out new adventures and change!

Also, they learned that they had a remarkable hidden talent of realism painting that made flowers stand out and come alive on canvas, you could almost smell them! Local landscapes with brilliant sunrises, and sunsets that reminded everyone, including me, of God's beautiful creation. Those painting brought new life to others, the long-hidden talent, inspired my client at 85 years old, to open up an art studio for the community, they taught others, all with a message of God's creation and love. I truly believe this was a legacy of a God given talent that was meant to be.

God has gifted each and everyone of us different talents and skills, things that make us come alive when we do them. The real joy is in sharing that talent with others, knowing they will brighten someone's day, and bring awareness of God's love to whomever.

So let me ask you a question. What do you love to do? Garden, create, sing? Maybe you love to teach, cook, or you are great at organizing?

Whatever it is you love to do, maybe you don't see it as something special. Maybe you classify it just as a hobby. Well that little hobby could just be a blessing to someone else!

Although God wants you to enjoy them, He didn't bless you, just so you could keep your talents to yourself. God wants you to bless others with your talents, and give Him glory in the process. How can you be a faithful steward? Use your gifts to serve others and bring glory to God? By simple sharing your talents!

If you love to garden, take flowers or plants, to others in your parish, nursing home and hospice. If you love to cook, bake something for your pastoral care team to distribute or take a family or someone in need a casserole. It doesn't have to be elaborate.

If your hobby is photography, take pictures for your newsletter, Church School photos (children love to have their picture taken, to hang up in the school room, to keep or give away to family). Help out with organising with church records, church school room, altar guild, church kitchen; telephoning shut-ins, or young families that have

continued on next page

A Busy Season Will Soon Be Upon Us

by Joy Stott, Family Life Chair

Often, we end a conversation with, “Take care”; or “look after yourself “. We are truly sincere when we say these words. What does, “taking care of yourself “mean to you? What does it matter? Audre Lorde, a writer and feminist said, “caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation.”

God wants you to care for yourself as well. Self care means recognizing you matter, that your needs, wants and emotions matter, and responding to them. At its most basic, it involves ensuring we eat, drink fluids, brush our teeth, get enough sleep. These can all be difficult at different times, if someone is depressed for example. Christmas can present depression for those alone or have lost someone in the last years. When things are going well, we can sometimes forget the need for self-care, leading to burn out, because we ignored the warning signs to pause and look after ourselves. When we as women, are often the main caregivers, feel we are the ones who have to be always front line, caring for others, putting our whole energy into whatever we do. Stop, Gauge yourself, leave spaces and time in your schedule, ... for yourself.

People sometimes worry that self care is selfish, that to be a “good” person means putting others first. Yes, God wants us to love our neighbours, to do all the good we can, when and where ever He leads us. God also wants us to take time to reflect on Him; to love Him, praise and thanksgiving.

If you struggle with putting you first, the life jacket analogy helps. When you get the safety briefing on a plane, they tell you to see to your own oxygen and life-jacket before helping others. This is because if you are unable to breath, you won’t be able to help others. If may help you set aside time and space for self care if you view it this way. Or as this wonderful quote puts it, “Self Care is not selfish, you cannot serve from an empty vessel.”

So, self care, whether you do it so you can help others, or simply because you recognize it matters because you matter, should be part of every one’s lives. Different things help different people, it can be very personal. What will help you when you are anxious, depressed, stressed or triggered is an act of self care! Consider things that, relax you, distract you, make you smile, remind you of good times, encourages you and uplifts you!

Some suggestions are listed below: *presented at Huntsville Women’s Group Drop-In.* (consider it an idea prompting list you can use or explore with.)

Take time for yourself to read! Even if it is a 2 min. one-page devotional! A familiar passage from the Bible, or certain inspiring verse. Post it some where, where you can always read it.

Photos of people, places, pets, which make you feel loved, safe, wanted.

Having a notebook and a pen handy, to write down thoughts, gratitude’s; emptying one’s memory list onto paper, can be therapeutic.

Art, knitting, crocheting or sewing. Being absorbed in creative crafts, can lift moods for many.

silk material, velvet or satin cloth, humans are tactile. touching something can be very comforting

Pamper yourself, with whatever would make you feel good...go ahead and glow!

going for a walk, observing things around you. Saying hello to someone you meet.

A list of people you can contact, just knowing there are people you can reach out to can make a huge difference.

scents - smell is an incredible sense, smells make us feel good, or remind us of good times.

Singing a familiar cheerful song to oneself, can bring smiles and laughter ... oh yes, laughter lifts your spirits!

Smile at yourself in the mirror, no one is looking but you! (and God)

Take care, ... God loves you and so do I.

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attended occasionally.

Sing. (God loves singing!) If not in a choir, rocking and singing to a child in the nursery!

Whatever it is - just do something.

Things do not change: we change. Henry David Thoreau

Sometimes the things she can’t change,
... end up changing her.



I can’t wait to see what he has in store for you!

Joy

“PLASTIC --- is a huge problem”

The Third week of October is proclaimed Canada's Waste Reduction Week

Submitted by May Seguin, Diocesan Social Action Chair

All facts are supported by Canada's Environmental Minister & Waste Reduction Canada (2018)



Plastic pollution, as we all know, is a major challenge for every-day living and also for the health of our oceans, our lakes, and our rivers. Canada is attempting to be a leader in curbing humanity's plastic addiction. During the G7 (2018) Leaders' Summit seven biggest developed economies in the world signed a plastics charter, **pledging that by 2040 all plastic produced in those countries will be reused, recycled or burned to produce energy**. However, the United States and Japan did not enter this charter planning.

The proliferation of single-use plastic packaging like water bottles, drinking straws, and food wrappings is sending massive amounts of plastic to landfills,

and more is blown into the waterways and drifts into the sea. Giant reefs of plastic are showing up in the oceans while fish and sea mammals are eating plastic objects thinking it is food.

Canadians are not great at recycling despite the curbside recycling systems in our neighbourhoods and cities----“only 10 % of the plastic Canadians buy gets recycled”, (North Bay Nugget, November 24, 2018). Yet, in 2014 the average Canadian threw away 706 kilograms of garbage. That is not a good batting average!

World statistics

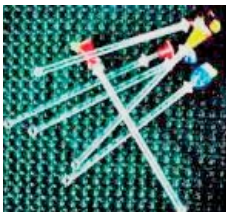
- since 1950 – 8.3 billion tons of plastic has been generated and 23 % has been recycled
- by 2050 - estimate that an additional 12 billion tonnes will be disposed of to land and water sites

Canada plastic facts

- 1 billion single-use plastic bags are handed out each year
- approximately 2.5 billion litres of bottled water per year are used by Canadians
- 57 million single-use plastic straws are thrown out every day ----that's more than 2 billion each year
- 8 million of plastic enters the earth's oceans annually
- 40% of plastic is generated for packaging

What is happening in the world?

- **Europe** has banned single-use plastics entirely----such as straws, plates, cutlery, cotton swab sticks, oxo-degradable plastics, such as bags, and fast-food container packaging
- **United Kingdom** is in the planning stages of banning plastic straws, stir sticks, single-use plastics along with cotton swabs
- **France** is planning on banning plastic plates and utensils as they can not be composted.
- **Canada**----has not banned a particular product but had great discussions at the G7 Summit, 2018, on single-use plastics.



How can **YOU** prevent this pollution?



A Note from the Treasurer

It is with some concern I write this note. President Barbie at our Fall teleconference asked: Asked the question: What is the future of ACW ?” We are aware, we are an aging group, and becoming small in numbers. In addition, the closing or combining of many of our Churches has created a loss of many ACW units. In some churches ACW has changed to “worker Groups/teams” This has worked well as many men are also involved. Several of these groups wishing to maintain the Diocesan ACW contact have become Associate members.

Our donation income has now drop significantly due to all of the above.

The donation budget has decreased yearly for the last 5 years and we have managed to make our budget. Unfortunately, this year we have a major deficit on budget. Budget is \$11,000.00 -Receipts to date are just \$ 8,100.00.

I ask that you check with your church groups and try to assist financially. Most importantly I ask that you pray for all Anglican Church women and their fellowship together across this Diocese.

Offer suggestions to President Barbie Garvin or any member of the Diocesan Executive/Board. What is the future?

As we travel this ADVENTure, give thought to the Diocesan ACW.

Merry Christmas to All

Jacquie

Looking Ahead

If I can remember to use this inspiring story, saved in my ideas folder, for an article in the Spring Edition of ACW Algoma Newsletter (many women may reminisce on Mr. Rodger’s Neighbourhood) or if I can take from this article an idea somehow to use for our Maundy Thursday children’s activity. For now, enjoy hearing the story of how Mr. Rogers came about, to again express to the TV listeners how to ‘love thy neighbour’: <https://christandpopculture.com/wont-you-be-my-neighbor-mister-rogers/>

Mister Rogers washing of the feet: <https://youtu.be/zpm1AS9VkSM>

Joy Stott, Family Life

Vice-President’s message

Greetings to all. As vice president of the ACW Algoma Diocesan Board, I was privileged to attend, the ACW National President’s Meeting from September 25-29, 2018 on Prince Edward Island. Sally Goddard and her team provided a wonderful welcome on our arrival, and headed an excellent island tour, as well as facilitating our return to the airport. They saw us safely to a lovely retreat, Our Lady of Hope, overlooking London Bay, for our sessions of working, worshipping, and fellowship. We as members of a parish reach out, sharing our energy and missions with our sisters in our deaneries, dioceses, and national groups: keeping the importance of a sense of belonging, weaving with fellowship, prayer, learning, caring, and joy, and expressing these in music and laughter until the fabric of our organization is strong, bright and united; reaching out to those in physical and emotional need of being able to trust the offers of hope, security, and peace, inherent in the all- encompassing love of our Lord.

May you find Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in this season of Advent, and have a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Blessings,

Darla McMeeken



Stained Glass window from St. Mark’s, Rustico, which closed Oct. 2016. Happy results of congregats joining St. John’s, Milton, window now installed and was dedicated Oct.

16, 2018 on the second anniversary of the closing of St. Mark’s.



Lesson at North Rustico Harbour--how the lobster ‘backs’ into the trap.

We watched the setting of lobster traps on London Bay from the deck of ourretreat at Our Lady of Hope.

Around the Diocese

Muskoka

Taking a break from ACW books to serving with Bishop Danby Smith at Celebration service for our new priest at St Alfred's Palm Harbor.

Jacquie Howell



Thunder Bay-North Shore

Today is already the first Sunday of Advent and because Christmas is on Tuesday, Advent is really only three weeks and two days long, oops!

This fall there have been five teas, one fish-fry, one turkey supper and a two-day bake sale. There was also the Two-Bit Auction which we hosted with the Lutheran Ladies to raise funds for a bursary. Many of our ladies are also involved in the work of the Mission to Seafarers, especially with the knitting for the Christmas gift bags, of which they are now preparing two hundred and twenty.

The Fall Deanery Meeting was held at St. Mary's Church in Nipigon on September 15th. They don't have an ACW, but they were happy to graciously host our meeting. Twenty women travelled from Thunder Bay to Nipigon. Rev. Nancy Ringham, who is now with the Lutheran Church, came from Thunder Bay and brought a group of the youth with her and they spoke to us about the CLAY Conference which was held in Thunder Bay in August. Rev. Diane Hilpert-McIlroy officiated at the closing Eucharist.

St. Stephen's Church will celebrate their 90th Anniversary on December 7th with a dinner and we congratulate them.

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS and

A HEALTHY & HAPPY 2019 Ruth Merkley

Temiskaming

Am sure by now everyone is seeing the same winter picture through their windows - the coniferous trees are heavy with snow, migrating birds have gone south - both feathered and otherwise. However, some birds have come down from the north to spend winter with us beautiful Evening and Pine Grosbeaks. Bears and chipmunks have gone to bed but squirrels continue to forage for food.

Squirrels are not the only ones on the lookout for a good meal as we all visit the fall/winter teas and bazaars throughout our deanery. Had the good fortune to visit both St. Brice's and Christ Church in North Bay for their annual events. Think these two churches may be unconsciously competing to see who can cook up the best soups - had potato and leek (my favourite) at one and squash at the other. And what treasures I found I didn't know I needed. And this year St. John's came up with a Beatrix Potter theme for our event.

But more importantly many of us recently attended the Fall Fling of the Temiskaming Deanery at St. Mary Magdalene's in Sturgeon Falls where they had the most delicious luncheon in their newly renovated bright and cheerful kitchen and meeting room downstairs. And what joy it was to first gather upstairs for the opening Eucharist. I always look forward to this service when ladies from across the deanery blend their voices in our favourite hymns and to hear the words of challenge and comfort from the Bible and from Rev. Marie Loewen.

Now to the business part where retiring president Anne Burton invited Committee Chairs to give their reports including May Seguin who brought us up date of what she is gathering to help better so many communities: those precious milk bags to be made into mattresses for developing countries, postage stamps, egg cartons, eye glasses etc. The Family Life Chair, Lynda Hughes, also gave her report about different cards that are still available. Next came the election of officers as all the current ones were retiring.

The following is taken from the Temiskaming Deanery Minutes of Oct. 24, 2018 recorded by retiring secretary by Enid Bastien:

"Rev. Marie very efficiently expedited the election of officers. As nobody is willing to take on any position, it was suggested (and unanimously approved) that the duties of secretary and treasurer be handled by one person. Pam Handley, currently Diocesan secretary and Lynda Hughes, currently Deanery Family Life chair, volunteered to oversee the deanery as joint co-ordinators. The specific

roles & duties were not spelled out however Rev. Marie went ahead and pronounced a blessing on this new board".

As a result a meeting of the retiring executive and still working committee members and new co-ordinators for the Temiskaming Deanery will be held Friday, Dec. 7 at St. John's Church in North Bay at 1.30 p.m. (Changed from Nov. 29) to hand over duties, books etc.

As was discussed at the last Annual ACW in Bracebridge, it seems many of the ACW's in the Algoma Diocese are in a state of change and looking for ways to help make their groups more effective. One suggestion came from the Algoma Diocesan President Barbara Garvin, who said she knows ACW's in Nova Scotia are using Deanery co-ordinators instead of a regular executives. So have Googled and found in the Fall Newsletter of the Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island ACW the following "We will have co-ordinators instead of the usual positions of President etc. so that the work load is spread more evenly". Hence will be in touch with them for more information as the Temiskaming Deanery attempts to move forward in this direction.

Heard from Barb Proctor, president of St. Alban's who said "Our ACW executive has not changed this year. Everyone is the same as last year. Thanks for the update. Barb".

St. Johns ACW (over a 100 years old) will be holding their wind up meeting for the year at a member's home with a pot luck luncheon. Monies accumulated throughout the year will be distributed to our Church and missions and plans for the New Year. We are all looking forward to the Temiskaming Deanery's Spring Fling and of course the Annual in Sault Ste. Marie

May 29th to 31st.

The following great item came in from St. Brice's in North Bay entitled:

"A Trip Into The W.A. of The Past"

by Enid Bastien, North Bay

A copy of an "antique" W.A. guide, called 'In Thy Name', recently landed on my desk. What an interesting find. It's half the size of our current ACW Handbook but probably four times fatter since it covers different topics, and as it's dated 1955, it is likely a new and up-dated version of an older booklet. You'll remember that Roberta

continued on page 12

Tilton and her supporters in Ottawa received permission to form the first Women's Auxiliary to the Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada 'way back on Apr. 21st, 1885. No doubt there were many different guides during those intervening 60 years.

This booklet is broken down into 8 parts, contents of each often right out of the Book of Common Prayer: ... Litany of Intercessions ... Mid-day Prayers for Missionaries ... Thanksgivings ... Special Prayers and Intercessions ... The Women's Auxiliary Prayers ... An Order of Service ... Closing of Meetings ... and Hymns.

Part 5 is headed The Women's Auxiliary, underneath is "The Love of Christ Constraining Us" and then the Member's Prayer. Read it – consider how different it is from today's version.

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who in the days of Thy flesh didst vouchsafe to accept the services of faithful women, we beseech Thee to grant Thy blessing upon our endeavours to aid and encourage Missionaries, and to serve Thy Church at home and abroad. Grant us the true missionary spirit and put into our hearts the things we should do and say to glorify Thee in the work which Thou givest us to do. May we and all whom Thou hast called into Thy service hear and obey Thy voice. Grant that we may never be discouraged under difficulties, but go forward in faith and hope, looking unto Thee. Have pity on those who know Thee not, on those who have forgotten Thee, on those who are far from the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, and from fellowship in corporate worship. Visit them with Thy salvation. Hasten, we pray Thee, Thy kingdom that all may come to the knowledge of Thee and Thy saving truth. Hear and answer us, O Lord our strength and our Redeemer, Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

One question comes to mind – is "The Love of Christ Constraining Us" the motto of the ACW? Certainly the hymn with this title has become known as The ACW Hymn. But our current guide, the diocesan ACW Handbook, which includes the Constitution & By-Laws as well as the Mission Statement, shows no motto.

Now we wish everyone across the Algoma Diocese a very Blessed Christmas and Good Health and Happiness in the New Year. Pam Handley, A Temiskaming Deanery Co-ordinator



Communications

by Sharon Corston

I have mentioned on a couple of occasions that I enjoy getting feedback on the newsletter. It sure does keep one going when you are drumming your fingers on the desktop wondering when the balance of the articles will arrive so the newsletter can get out in a timely fashion. I'd like to share a couple with you now.

Many thanks for your most interesting newsletter which I have forwarded to our current President, Bonnie Rees.

Expect you are busy with harvest (Thanksgiving) and all the other activities which you included in newsletter.

Thank you again and God Bless

Barbara Wicks, recording secretary, Diocese of Huron ACW

Oct. 14.2018

Dear Sharon - I have read your Fall Newsletter cover to cover, thank you for sending it when my subscription had run out! I very much enjoy this publication - **THE PRINTED VERSION** - have subscribed for a number of years, but have only once attended an Annual, when it was held in Huntsville a few years back. I enjoy reading all the articles and viewing the photos, especially those of Huntsville area. We lived in Huntsville for 23 years, and attended All Saints', changing to Parish of the Good Shepherd in Emsdale during Dawn Henderson's incumbency, when many parishioners left the parish. We were welcomed with open arms, especially by parishioners Lois Clark, Marguerite Gilpin, and Barbara Sowrey (now deceased). We moved back to St. Catharines 2-112 years ago when my husband was terminal, to be near family during his final days. Nancy Ringham and her family were All Saints' parishioners during our time there.

Reading of your financial difficulties, I am enclosing a cheque for \$100, which I hope will cover a two year subscription, the remainder to be used at your discretion.

Church closings are prevalent in Niagara Diocese also. St. George's which I attend is one of the largest in the city, celebrated its 225th anniversary last year, with a full year of celebrations, including a number of guest preachers - our Primate Fred Hiltz, and the new Bishop of Toronto, Andrew Asbil, whose father Walter Asbil was a former

rector of the parish, and former Bishop of Niagara. He and Mavis are still active parishioners of St. George's. We are blessed with a dedicated host of lay people who assist in keeping the parish running smoothly, plus we have one of the finest rectors on the face of the earth, Martha Tatarnic with a full time assistant curate, a part time assistant, plus 4 honorary assistants. When Grace Church joined St. George's last year, it was preceded by a year of monthly meetings between a Dream Team from each church, when the hopes and finances of each parish were ironed out, and it appears to be working well. Their parishioners are eucharistic assistants, sidespersons, greeters, working wherever needed.

Algoma Diocese will always be dear to my heart. St. George's is by far the largest church I have ever attended. You don't meet people the same in such a large parish, but on the other hand, there are people available to take on the various tasks, they are very involved in outreach, and have the funds to afford good clergy. With all good wishes for the continued success of your Algoma Newsletter! Blessings,

Betty Fulton

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PS: all Saints' was a vibrant parish when Eric Peterson and Pat there! We know Eric is with you in Thunder Bay.

Aren't they great? And we are so very thankful for Betty's donation. The newsletter needs a minimum of 45 to keep its publication status. The truth be told we are at less than that number at this point and I am mailing to a few to just to keep the number up. The publication mail is cost effective enough for me to do it.

The Anglican Lutheran Group continues to thrive in Thunder Bay. You will note that we have dropped the Evangelical from the name. In September, after seven years, we decided to become official, we held our first Annual meeting and adopted a constitution. Our focus continues to be on poverty, homelessness and our annual bursary. Our meetings will feature more education on these topics. We endeavour to develop relationships with other groups in the community with regards to poverty issues.

And now I get to fill the last few pages with some 'fillers that have been around for a while.

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once Talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the Contest was to find the most caring child.

The winner was:

1. A four-year-old child, whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman, who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old Gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy just said, 'Nothing, I just Helped him cry.'

2. Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted. A little girl said, 'I know all about Adoption, I was adopted..'

'What does it mean to be adopted?', asked another child.

'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

3. On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League base ball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first- base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was 'We're behind 14 to nothing,' he answered With a smile.

'Really,' I said. 'I have to say you don't look very discouraged.'

'Discouraged?', the boy asked with a Puzzled look on his face...

'Why should we be discouraged? We haven't Been up to bat yet.'

4. Whenever I'm disappointed with my spot in life, I stop and think about little Jamie Scott.

Jamie was trying out for a part in the school play. His mother told me that he'd set his heart on being in it, though she feared he would not be chosen.

On the day the parts were awarded, I went with her to collect him after school. Jamie rushed up to her, eyes shining with pride and excitement.. 'Guess what, Mom,' he shouted, and then said those words that will remain a lesson to me....'I've been chosen to clap and cheer.'

continued on next page

5. An eye witness account from New York City , on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering With cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

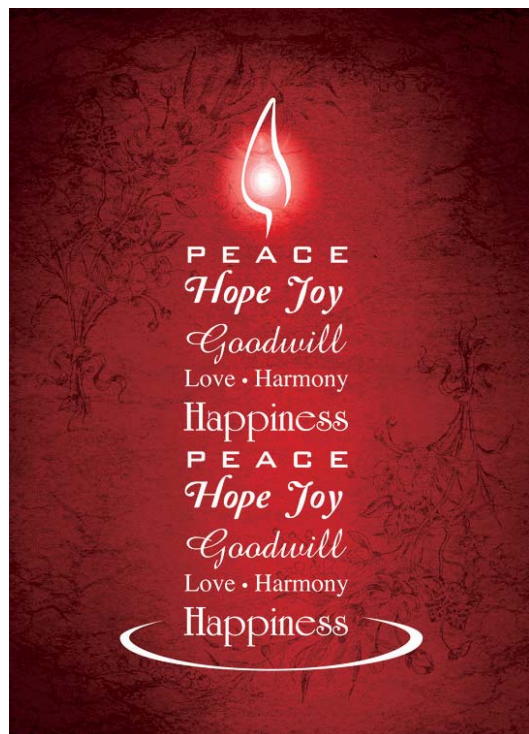
She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks.. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes..

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more comfortable now..'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand, and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her:

'Are you God's wife?'



As we are coming to the season where will be making New Year's resolutions, this is a must read. Submitted by a Lutheran friend of mine, Diana Pallen.

Most seniors never get enough exercise.

In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach & stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Nine Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older

- 9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- 8 Life is sexually transmitted.
- 7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- 6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- 5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- 4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- 3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- 2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- 1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

Please share this wisdom with others while I go to the bathroom.

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Editorial Assistants for the Winter Edition - Temiskaming

Deadline for the next issue is ... **March 1st, 2019**

Subscription Rate is \$12.00/year for 4 printed issues. Make cheques payable to: **Agloma Newsletter.**

Mail to: Sharon Corston, Communications Chair, 165 Clarkson Street North Thunder Bay, ON P7A 6G1

Prayer

submitted by Fran Faubert and Michelle Proudfoot

There is nothing better than other people praying for you. We're not getting older, just getting closer to home! This prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. Let's always pray for one another.

The prayer:

Father, Thank You for each and every day You have blessed us here on earth. Thank You for Your tender mercies. Thank You for giving us friends and family to share these Internet joys with. I ask You to bless my friends, relatives and those I care deeply for, who are reading this right now. Where there is joy, give them continued joy, Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. In Jesus' name,

Amen.

"It can not be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great country was founded not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religion, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Patrick Henry

"From the fullness of His Grace we have all received one blessing after another." John [1:16](#)





The Algoma Newsletter is published quarterly by the Executive of the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of Algoma. Material is solicited from the executive board, committee chairpersons, the Deaneries, parishes, missions ... in fact any Anglican Church Woman may submit an article she wishes to share. This is your newsletter!

A New Year's Blessing

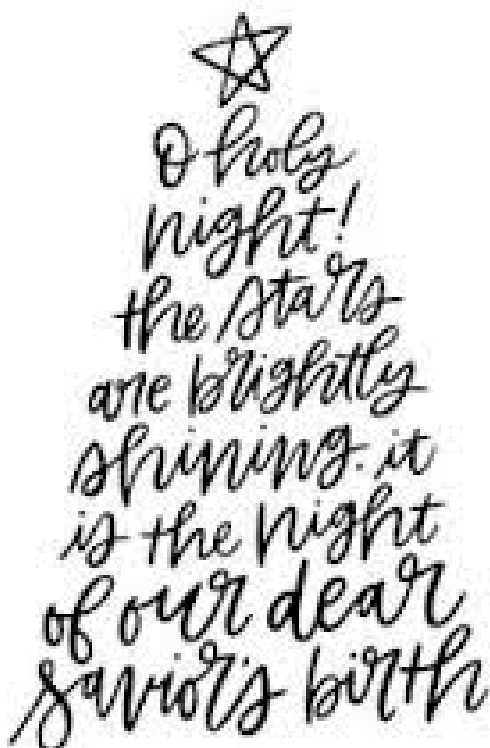
May God bless us as we wait
with candles and watchnight vigils,
with anxieties and fears, with hopes and plans;
May God bless us as we wait.

There is a season for everything
even this, the end of the world
coming as it does at the end of every year.
The end is nigh; a new heaven and a new earth
waiting in the wings with the New Year.
May God bless us one and all.

May he wipe away our tears,
may their season be passed,
may they, like the sea they have filled, be no more.

May he say to us who wait,
"Come, come you who are blessed,
come into the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the
world."

May he welcome us in this New Year.



Ableton Live, Freesound Project