



WHAT A PARTY!: Over 70 children, including Gregory and Ana Hill, enjoyed a hot dog or two as part of a corn roast and gourmet hot dog party held at St. John's, North Bay.

See New – p. 2

Prayer Shawl group active at St. Matthew's in the Sault

By the Rev. Patrick McManus

Prayer shawl knitting ministry had its beginning in Hartford Connecticut in 1998.

Since a group at St. Matthew's, Sault Ste. Marie was established in March of 2005, we have grown from eight members to 13, with four having been added in the last year. Meetings are held monthly on a rotational basis in members' homes with Christmas and year end gatherings taking the form of pot-luck lunches.

Our members knit shawls for women and lap blankets for men which are then given to parishioners and others outside the parish for a variety of life changing events such as births, baptisms, illness, recovery, bereavement, retirement, moving away and many other occasions. Since this ministry began,

342 garments have been created and besides going to individuals, multiple donations have been made available to nursing homes, group homes, day hospice facility and others.

Monthly meetings begin with soft music, a candle lighting and opening prayer. This is followed by a sharing of cards of thanks and grateful comments received from recipients of a shawl or lap blanket as the flow of 1.2.3. of the needles begins. Shawls that have been completed since the last meeting, are blessed around the circle as each person touches them all while the prayer of blessing is being said.

The completed shawls are placed in an accessible cupboard in the narthex of the church and

See Shawls – p. 6

Two special occasions celebrated in the Parish of Western Manitoulin

By Mary Buie

Sunday October 31, 2010 saw the first visit of Bishop Stephen Andrews to the Parish of Western Manitoulin. The parish celebrated 130 years of All Saints' here in Gore Bay and the eight year ministry of our priest the Rev. Beth Topps.

The history of the Anglican presence in this area has been traced by local historian and writer John McQuarrie. In 1880, All Saints', was established as a parish on All Saints Day, hence the church's name. There were about 500 people in the community, with about 1200 Anglicans in the area of Gore Bay, Silverwater, Shesheganing, Mills and Kagawong.

Rev. J.M. McLeod, the priest from 1889 to 1896, used to leave home on foot or horseback on Tuesday morning and not get home until after Sunday service. Early church services and Sunday School were held at the Ocean House Hotel.

The official opening of the actual church was on July 23, 1883, when Bishop Sullivan attended and confirmed Eliza and John Kinney. Members of the congregation told the story of All Saints' as part of the service. There were special Bible readings chosen by Rev. Beth Topps to go with the history.

Bishop Andrews gave us more history and put the present and

See Parish – p. 6



NEW LIFE BEGINS: Ardith Cull, left, and Vera Chatwell, right, present Rev. Beth Topps with a gift during celebrations marking her retirement and the 130th anniversary of All Saints', Gore Bay.

Inside

Next deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Algoma Anglican* is **Wednesday, December 15.**

Send items to:

Mail or courier:

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1148 Hwy 141

Rosseau POC 1J0

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Christ Church, Lively hosts Grandmothers Team

The ACW of Christ Church in Lively, and local grandmothers groups, welcomed a Grandmothers team from Malawi active in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa.

See p. 4



St. Thomas', Thunder Bay takes part in local fair

Parishioners from St. Thomas', Thunder Bay had their usual spot at the Westfort Street Fair held in Thunder Bay in August.

See p. 8



Diocese of Algoma Anglican Church Women DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER

Last month we considered our five senses from Dr. Paul Brand's book *In His Image*. This month we will study the brain as head of our physical body and Christ as the Head of our spiritual body or the Church.

The brain is our physical head. It does not, itself, have sensations of pain or touch, it does not see or hear, yet without the brain deciphering messages from our eyes, ears, skin and other sensory organs, we would not be able to enjoy these senses.

The brain is the most amazing organ. It can be likened to a giant telephone switchboard, with lights flashing on and off as messages weave their way through the brain. Actually only a very small part deals with our senses. Other parts deal with movement, speaking, things we control and things we have no control over, blood pressure, hunger, thirst, and breathing. More amazing than that, each nerve cell has its own private line. One cubic centimetre of brain tissue contains one billion connections among the cells travelling at lightning speed.

There is nothing on earth as wonderful as our brains. They contain imagination, morality, math, memory, humour, religion, an incredible amount of facts, common sense, the list goes on. Our brains contain the persons we are. The New Testament gives this title to Christ: "He is the head of the Church, His Body", being us. As the head He establishes His presence in the world through people like us. He has chosen to make our prayers, our actions,

our proclamation of His truth and justice, His chief means of communicating Himself to the world.

God planned for His body and His Name to be carried by people like us; ordinary, imperfect human beings. A brain expresses itself through cells obedient to its commands. God expresses Himself through His body, His Church, us, in which He serves as head. In the gospels we observe how Jesus prepared His disciples for this phase of His Headship. He, at first, did all the healing ministry and evangelising. Then He gradually concentrated on training those who would be left behind, sending out the group of seventy-two for instance. He also instituted the last supper, the commemoration of His Body and His blood.

God welcomes sinful, human beings as His children and depends on us to accomplish the work of His Body. For the human brain and body to function well, there has to be unimpeded communication from above and obedient response from below. In our spiritual lives, it is the same. Sin in disobedience impedes communication between our head Christ, and His Body the Church. We can build proper communication with our Head, Christ by prayer, meditation, and worship. Our instinctive responsibility to God can be nurtured by discipline and faith. God's commands required love, sacrifice, compassion and purity.

As the one hundred, trillion cells in our bodies have access our brains, so do each one of us have access to our spiritual head, Christ. Amazingly, He listens to our "in-

put", He considers our requests and quite literally uses that information to influence His direction of activities in the world. "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:14. As astonishing as it sounds, God wants fellowship with us. He longs for communication from His Body.

In the incarnation, at His birth, which we celebrate at this time of year, Jesus assumed human form. He took on the role of a "cell" stepping into His own creation, Throughout His time on earth, He felt the need to commune with His Father. By His example, Jesus showed us the initial pattern of communicating and praying to the Father. May you all have a blessed, holy Christmas and a healthy, happy new year.

"He came down to earth from Heaven,
Who is God and Lord of All.....
...Christian Children, all must be, mild, obedient, good as He."

Excerpt from *Once in Royal David's City* by C.F. Alexander

Bibliography: *In His Image* Dr. Paul Brand

By Ingrid Koropeski, Diocesan ACW Devotions Secretary

New church school curriculum introduced at event

By Stephen Kitzul

St. John's, North Bay knows that the way to a person's heart is through the stomach! When it came time to think about Church School and programming and registration, one member suggested a week-night Corn Roast and Gourmet Hot Dog Party, and indeed, what a party it turned out to be. It may have been raining cats and dogs outside that mid-September supper hour, but inside, it was a veritable harvest hoedown. Over seventy children, moms, dads, grandparents, students, and friends husked corn, boiled them up, boiled hot dogs and feasted. It was impossible to tell what was more popular, the cobs of corn dripping with butter, the gourmet hotdogs slathered with cheese and all sorts of condiments, the Kid's Juice Bar, the play stations, or the Shriner Klowns making balloon hats, flowers, and dogs for each and all of the children, and for some grown-up children too.

The songs, games and food soon led to the other purpose than just getting together and having fun:

Church School. St. John's has decided to use the *Spark* Curriculum and used this opportunity to present this exciting Bible-based program to all. Judging from the number of people signing up that night to be involved in the *Spark* Sunday School course, students, teachers and helpers, it is very apparent that this year's program will be a success.

Also introduced was the Crossways Adult Education course *Divine Drama* being offered at St. John's, and, the special Ministry Mutiny Educational Program for Youth designed to guide teens and college-aged students into a deeper examination of their faith.

And the bonus? It only took an hour, all got bunches of homemade cookies, and, the Corn Roast/Gourmet Hot Dog Party was an excellent vehicle with which to introduce the newly-appointed Incumbent to St. John's, Father Andrew Nussey, and his wife Christine and their children, Rebekah and John. They will fit in quite well here. They can eat as much as any of the parishioners!



HUSK AWAY: From left, Colin and Carson Cleator help husk corn during the church school party held at St. John the Divine, North Bay in September.



SPRING FLING: Last May over 40 women gathered at St. Mary's, Sturgeon Falls for the deanery of Temiskaming ACW annual meeting. Representatives from Restoule, Powassan, Haileybury, North Bay and Sturgeon Falls were in attendance for some fun and fellowship.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: Rev. Joan Cavanaugh-Clark presents this pet with a little treat at a service of the Blessing of the Animals held at St. Peter's, Callander on Sunday, October 3, 2010.

EDITORIAL

The Algoma Anglican is the Official Voice of the Diocese of Algoma.
Address: P.O. Box 1168, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. P6A 5N7
The Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Andrews, Bishop
Peter Simmons, Editor

Letter from the Bishop

Divine physics were at work in the virgin birth

Dear Friends,

The Christmas part of our Nicene Creed comes when we say that Jesus was 'conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary'. Now I know that these words can be dry for some. My confirmation candidates managed to stay awake long enough to recite the creeds, but as soon as we began to discuss what they meant their eyes glazed over. This is understandable. If I were a physicist, I could describe the workings of a nuclear bomb using sterile mathematical formulas and achieve the same effect. But let them catch a glimpse of the fireball and mushroom cloud of a Marshall Island blast, and then you would get their attention! So what are the implications of the virgin birth? Well, they are at least as dramatic as a nuclear explosion, except that where nuclear fission brings destruction of life, the virgin birth is the source of life. How does this divine physics work?

The first thing to understand is that the virgin birth is a way of describing the fact that Jesus is truly sinless. Now, Christians have always tossed around a concept they call original sin. This is a term used to describe the universal human tendency towards selfishness and the ambiguity of human motives. It certainly is true that you do not have to spend a lot of time teaching children to do wrong. It comes quite naturally to them, as any parent can testify. Indeed, human beings are faulty in God's sight even before they choose to sin, just as a cracked vase from the factory is flawed even before somebody tries to use it. Only one person of the human race has ever been free of that universal spiritual blemish, and that is Jesus (Hebrews 4.15). By virtue of his unique conception by the Holy Spirit, he was himself 'holy', unlike any other human ever born.

Secondly, this unique conception affirms that Jesus is truly divine. Because he was 'incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary', St. Matthew calls him 'Emmanuel', 'God with us' (1.23). St. Paul wrote that 'in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily' (Colossians 2.9). I wonder if we can even begin to grasp what this signifies. It means that the little foetus embedded in the wall of that young girl's womb was at the same time holding the planet Saturn together with its magnificent rings. It means that the one who later lay in the wooden manger was also the one whose genius and power brought into being the mighty cedars of which that little box was made. It means that as a young man pinned helplessly to a cross, it was only by his sovereign will as the Ruler of the Universe that those nails remained in place doing their worst. 'Heaven cannot hold him',

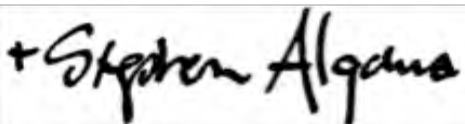
wrote Christina Rossetti, and yet the miracle of Christmas is that he chose to confine himself in human flesh.

This brings us thirdly, and finally, to the truth that the virgin birth guarantees that Jesus was truly human: one of us. Has it ever crossed your mind that the divine Jesus could have arrived in our world in other ways? Maybe beaming down from heaven like Captain Kirk from the star ship 'Enterprise'? Or perhaps by manifesting himself in the natural world as a storm god or talking tree? Why choose this method, so messy, so base? It was to ensure the authenticity of his humanity. For if God was to share our pains, our worries and our struggles, then he must become human from the very point we all become human: at conception.

This is one of the most astounding and yet most comforting dimensions of the Christmas gospel. In Christ, God has felt the adrenaline coursing through his veins. He has known passion for the truth, and compassion for the poor. He has known the thrill of the miraculous, the conviviality of a party and the joy of friendship. But he has also known the disappointment of betrayal and anger at hypocrisy and exploitation. Most of all, he has known the anguish of abandonment and the weight of the crippling burden that sin and guilt wreaks upon the human soul. 'Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.'

My friends, Christ still comes to us, wherever we are, whoever we are. He does not come just at Christmas or on Sunday mornings. He does not come on a tourist visa. He does not come to inhabit dark and cold buildings, but dark and cold hearts. And he comes bringing the light and warmth of divine perfection. This is the glory of the virgin birth, that in becoming who we are he has enabled us to become who he is.

Fawna, Clare and Ellen join me in wishing you a most blessed Christmas,



Stephen Andrews
Bishop of Algoma

The making of Handel's Messiah

By the Rev. Richard White

George Frideric Handel was born in Halle, Germany in 1685. The musician settled in London in 1712 as a music teacher to the royals. He had a round face, high forehead, heavy eyebrows, and a tremendous white wig that fell across his shoulders. He was witty, charitable, a linguist, a great lover of food and above all, a practising Anglican with strong Lutheran roots.

Handel enjoyed composition. He wrote concertos, operas, and oratorios. He wrote a string of them with his collaborator, Charles Jennens, celebrating the lives of Biblical characters. Jennens took his inspiration from the *King James Bible*, and the *Book of Common Prayer*, but unfortunately, the Church didn't receive these compositions very well.

The Biblical oratorios irritated the established Church. Handel was preached against. Promotional posters were torn down. Finally, in 1737 Handel's opera company went bankrupt. Handel's future as a composer looked bleak.

By then he was in his late 50s. He had had a minor stroke. Depression dogged him. Miraculously, in 1741 two events coincided. First, he got a letter from his old friend Charles Jennens suggesting they compose a new oratorio on the divinity of Christ. Jennens included a compilation of Old and New Testament texts. Then, around that same time, Handel was asked to compose something to raise money for Dublin's debtor prison and two hospitals. He accepted.

For 24 days he buried himself in the Scriptures, prayed, and

composed. It would be a spiritual epiphany for him. His servant brought him his meals. After completing the "Hallelujah Chorus", a teary Handel told him "I did think

History Byte

I did see all Heaven before me, and the great God Himself!"

The opening performance of *Handel's Messiah* was scheduled to coincide with Easter, not Christmas which is the season we associate with it today. The place was the public music hall in Dublin. Handel courageously asked to use the Cathedral Choir. The dean of cathedral was Jonathan Swift, author of *Gulliver's Travels*, he was old, unwell, and cantankerous. He reluctantly agreed and loaned Handel his choir. So, on April 13, 1742, *Handel's Messiah* opened to sold-out crowds.

Newspaper ads asked ladies not to wear hoop skirts, or men to wear their swords to provide more room in the hall. In one performance a man was so moved by the soloist's singing of *He was Despised*, that he stood and shouted, "Woman, for this thy sins be forgiven thee!" The profits from the Dublin performances were used to buy 142 men out of debtors prison. And its years of popularity raised thousands of pounds for charities.

Handel died in London on April 14, 1759. It was Good Friday. The words, "I know that my Redeemer liveth" are on his grave-marker in Westminster Abbey. Handel had conducted *The Messiah* a week before his death.

Letters to the Editor & Submissions Policy

Letter writers and authors of unsolicited submissions are reminded to include a signature and phone number for verification purposes. Letters will be reviewed and may be edited for length and content. While letters expressing opinion are welcome, all letters and other submissions are subject to approval before publication.

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Allan Wright thankful for tribute to wife Christine Wright

Dear Editor
Thank you for the tribute to my wife Christine Wright in the latest edition of the Algoma Anglican. Your article captured my wife's devotion to serving her bishops, clergy and lay people in the Diocese of Algoma. There were many weekends and evenings when Chris would gladly be working on her laptop computer or on the telephone to meet some deadline that often she had imposed on herself and this was after a full workweek or workday in the Synod office. Her position as Administrative Assistant fulfilled her experience, education, and need to serve. Both of our families were long time Anglicans whose faith was from cradle to grave and so perhaps Chris' commitment was not surprising. In the sixteen years that Chris had been employed in

the Synod office she had never taken a sick day. She was just two years away from when she was expecting to retire. We were looking forward to when we could travel and explore new opportunities.

Letter to the Editor

I am both saddened and disappointed by what has happened but your article was an important and positive testament to my wife. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,
E. Allan Wright

Rev. GailMarie Henderson grateful for financial support

It is with warm and grateful thanks that I write this note. It was such a wonderful surprise to have a cheque, for \$300.00 arrive in the mail to help support and encourage me in my academic pursuits.
I'm mid-way through my Doctor of Ministry Program at the University of Toronto's, Toronto School of Theology, with Wycliffe, my college of registration. My general area of interest is rural ministry, with my particular focus being the small family size church: its vitality and sustainability, for mission. The family size church has had little research done on its particular uniqueness, so sits waiting among us, like a yet to be discovered treasure. Academic studies are expensive.

I sometimes wonder how tuition and books have been paid to date; except to say, it's been by Grace. The encouragement which your financial gift carried was most welcome and appreciated, academic work can be a lonely journey.
We are God's people; and together we are called to God's work; what an exciting privilege we share.
May all be to God's glory and to God's glory alone.
Blessings Reverend GailMarie Henderson M.Div.
Incumbent of North Muskoka Pioneer Parish
northmuskokaparrish@vianet.ca



GIFT OF A PRAYER SHAWL: The prayer shawl ministry group at Christ Church, Lively presented Afri-Grand Caravan members from left Rosemary Makan-danji, Maness Kamwaga and Ruth Maulana with prayer shawls during their visit to Lively. This group is sponsored by the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Grandmothers team visits Christ Church, Lively

By Donna Beaudoin

At the beginning of August, the ACW of Christ Church, Lively were asked if they could host a Grandmothers Team from Malawi that was sponsored by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This Team was named the AfriGrand Caravan, and was making a trip from coast to coast in Canada, stopping in 40 places in 65 days. Lively was to be one of those places.
A sponsoring team was gathered together, consisting of ACW members and local grandmother groups. These groups were already active in supporting the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. Their work has been undertaken through the Stephen Lewis Foundation projects presently existing in Malawi.

The events in Lively took place on October 4. There was a presentation to students at Lively High School, and an open information afternoon at the Kinsmen Hall in Lively. The Caravan was cared for from the time they arrived from North Bay, which was their previous stop, until left to go to Sault Ste. Marie on the October 5.
The host committee was delighted to have these welcome visitors, and to learn of their lives in Malawi. The final event on October 4, was a sit down dinner for the organising committee and the Caravan members which was prepared by St. John the Divine in Copper Cliff, the best of the best food for a busy group and highlighted by the youngest member of the Caravan's favourite food: ICE CREAM.



MEETING THE PRIMATE: The Thunder Bay Deanery Youth Unit met with the primate, archbishop Fred Hiltz on the evening of Saturday, September 25, 2010. Archbishop Hiltz, who was in the city from Friday, September 24 to Sunday, September 26, spent a few hours in casual conversation with the group and gave an overview of the primate's role in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Making submissions for publication in the Algoma Anglican?

- 1) Articles: If you're sending articles, we prefer to receive digital files. Our first choice is to receive attachments in Microsoft Word. Our second choice is for material to be pasted into the body of the E-mail message. Do not send WordPerfect attachments. We do not use WordPerfect in our production department.
- 2) Photos: If you're using a 35 MM camera, we prefer to receive

negatives and we'll do the scanning in our production department. However, we can use prints, if negatives are not available. If you're using a digital camera, we prefer to receive as large a file as possible. Most digital cameras produce files at 72 dpi and up to 24 inches or larger in width. Please save the file as jpeg and do not reduce the size.

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Summer of fun at St. Mary's, Sturgeon Falls

By Carol Anne Friedrich

After weeks of gardening, swimming, canoeing, summer visitors and finally just plain procrastination, the author of this article sat down at the computer to document an equally busy summer at St. Mary Magdelene, Sturgeon Falls. It wasn't really a chore, because viewing the pictures and creating the document brought back fond memories of what was a truly beautiful, warm and friendly summer for old and new church members and visiting family and friends.

In May, the ACW of St. Mary Magdelene hosted the Temiskaming Deanery ACW Annual Spring Fling. Over 40 women from Restoule, Powassan, Haileybury, North Bay and Sturgeon Falls were welcomed to a morning service led by interim pastor, Rev. John Stennett, supported by guest organist Marg Butler.

Following a lunch provided by the ACW, the entire group moved to the Legion Hall where they were joined by other women from the community for an afternoon of entertainment. The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by "North Bay Rising Stars". This group humorously address, in song, the safety issues for people as they age. A free will offering collected during the afternoon ceremony was equally shared between the Rising Stars and West Nipissing Community Living. The ACW of St. Mary Magdelene and the organizing committee is grateful for the generous hearts that helped to raise \$145 for each recipient.

In August, the seventh annual Summer Sprouts program was once again offered free to any school-aged child in the community. This week-long church camp consists of outdoor activities, singing, crafts, religious teaching, great food, and other activities. The theme this year was based on the commandment to "Love God and Love Your

Neighbour". It proved to be a popular theme as the eighteen children attending spent the week cooperating and building strong relationships in fellowship and friendship with one another and the eighteen volunteers present.

On the last day, family and friends gathered at the church hall for a luncheon meal and final concert. At the conclusion of the week, some participants asked for a repeat of the Church Camp for next year, and were assured that the eighth annual Summer Sprouts week is already in the preliminary planning stage.

September, which as a local buckwheat farmer informed the author, was famous for the start of five continuous weeks of rain, welcomed the St. Mary Magdelene Annual Church Picnic. Yes, it did rain some, during the barbecue, the singing and the meal. The meal enjoyed several trips back and forth into and out of the home of Richard and Debbie Samson, this year's hosts, but it was noticed that it didn't dampen any appetites.

For some reason still unknown to the author, as the rain had passed by then, a "Hat Fashion Show" developed where by everyone, including babies present donned some form of head cover. The predominant theme appeared to be "western" hats with all vying for a favorite that both fit and appeared fashionable. This was achieved by some, but also provided great moments of laughter in recognition of complete failure in regard to the efforts of others.

Bill Heathcote, who stuck by his tried and true ball cap, provided guitar accompaniment to the many songs and hymns sung by all. The church picnic has become an annual event over the years, and judging by the large turn out will continue to be a favorite end of summer event.



SUMMER SPROUTS PROGRAM: Eighteen children attended the seventh annual Summer Sprouts held in August at St. Mary's, Sturgeon Falls. The program is offered to Sunday school aged children in the community. This years theme was 'Love God and Love Your Neighbour'. Rev. John Stennett, interim priest, far left, is pictured with the participants.



IS THE BARBECUE HOT? : A little rain didn't dampen the appetites of those who attended the annual picnic of St. Mary Magdelene, Sturgeon Falls. The gathering was hosted by parishioners Richard and Debbie Samson.



MURDER, MYSTERY AND, MAYHEM: The Book of Samuel has this and much more as a group of students found out this past summer. Members of the one week intensive study class are pictured with professor, Rev. John Harvey of Thorneloe University. Professor Harvey will be offering a class titled 'Spiritual Autobiography' in the summer of 2011. Father Harvey can be contacted directly at jharvey@laurentian.ca.



FUN WAS HAD BY ALL: Pictured are two of the people who were in attendance at the annual picnic of St. Mary Magdelene, Sturgeon Falls.

How’s that again?

By the Rev. Bob Elkin

I was getting a prescription filled at the drug store one time when the assistant pharmacist looked over at the druggist and asked: “Do I put the water in first and then add the powder or do it the other way round?” The druggist smiled and said: “Never say ‘Do I put the water in first’ when the customer can hear you. Instead say ‘Should the life giving elixir be added before the healing ingredients are present or after?’ He then went on to finish: “Yeah, put the water in first.” As my sainted mother used to say: “He who would enjoy his meal should stay out of the kitchen!” Thinking back on mom’s trademark Tuna Surprise all I can say is I couldn’t agree more. I wouldn’t have been able to sleep nights if I’d have seen that puppy being made! What’s good for food is also good for Church I’ve discovered. You may not want to know what’s really going on up there at the front!

Having discovered long ago that good worship is often good theatre I’ve learned to spread myself around a bit when I’m up at the altar. When working with a server I like to do the bowing and arm waving that give it a bit of pomp and ceremony and help to set the mood. The server doesn’t always agree and unfortunately I’ve encouraged them to overcome their natural awe of working around the priest at the front. Boy have they overcome that awe! “Get on with it!” hissed the teen assisting me not long ago. “I’ve got a date after church. Move it!” I smiled benevolently and made sure I slopped water over the edge of the bowl she held for me as I washed my hands.

She examined her wet hands, looked intently into my face and gave an evil little smile. “You’re going to pay!” was all she said and I did pay too, at the ablutions. With a beatific look on her face she filled the chalice to the brim with water and then did it twice more while I consumed it. Then the race was on! Would it be blessing before bathroom or the other way round? Never mess with a server who’s got a date after church!

Sometimes the readings provide food for thought although not always in the way they are

supposed to. I’m not going to elaborate about a pronunciation of “Hittites” that I once heard read. I will just note that it made me sweat bullets trying to make my facial muscles not twitch for the rest of the service.

And then there are distractions that take over and blot out everything else. The discreet throat clearing that comes from somewhere in the congregation and steadily escalates into a full-blown attack of the whooping cough. The massive run on the washroom that sometimes occurs just as the sermon reaches its climax. The everlasting cacophony of sound as a hard candy is slowly unwrapped from its cocoon of ten decibel

Letter from Bob

cellophane. Sometimes ignorance is bliss and what you don’t know can’t hurt you.

The most potentially troublesome example of that I ever had was caused by a friend and parishioner who observed: “I admire your ability to stay focussed! If that young lady in the low cut sundress who sits near the front knelt at the rail in front of me I wouldn’t know where to look!” Well after that I didn’t know where to look either! I really hadn’t noticed before but now it was the elephant in the room and I soon took to staring at her forehead, thrusting out the paten and saying: “Self-serve today, help yourself!”

The first time I knew that there was more than religion and holiness at work during church worship happened at the United Church in Red Lake. I’d met the minister the night before at a late night party and accepted his challenge to attend service that next morning. Pulling me close as he shook hands at the door of the church he lowered his voice and whispered: “How you feeling?” ‘Pretty rough’ I honestly replied. He smiled and responded: “Suffer baby, suffer!” and pushed me out the door. It wasn’t quite the “May the Lord be with you!” that I’d been expecting but it was real and honest and funny and it brought me back to church next Sunday, and for the next forty years too!

Shawls offer love and support

Continued from Front

are available for anyone to take for any person in need of a “Hug from God”.

Meetings are held on a weekday afternoon, are about 2 hours long and usually conclude with tasty treats, tea and coffee and then a

closing prayer. As everyone bids each other adieu, members depart with feeling of closeness and contemplate this enjoyable and meaningful ministry. The love and support given to one another is prayerfully passed on through the shawls.

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Parish wishes Rev. Topps God’s blessings on new journey

Continued from Front

future ministry into context. The forefathers were faithful to their church as present members must be as the parish enters a period of transition in Ministry.

A delicious potluck lunch was

served including a special cake made by Ina Fedsin. Rev. Topps was presented with farewell gifts. Although Rev. Topps has had to retire because of health problems, all are excited for her as she prepares for her forthcoming wedding with

Rev. Henk Willems. Godspeed Beth Topps.

Parishioners are looking forward to more challenges and adventures in our future ministry in the parish of Western Manitoulin.



GO WITH GOD’S BLESSING: From left, Ina Fedsin, Bishop Stephen Andrews and Robert Johnson are pictured with Rev. Beth Topps during celebrations marking her retirement and upcoming marriage to Rev. Henk Willems.



MADE WITH LOVE: Two members of the prayer shawl group at St. Matthew’s, Sault Ste. Marie work on their creations.



DEDICATED GROUP: The prayer shawl group was founded in March of 2005. It has grown from eight to thirteen members since that time. Members knit shawls for women and lap blankets for men. They are given to parishioners and others on occasions such as births, baptisms, illness, recovery, bereavement, retirement and other life changing events. Since the ministry began 342 garments have been made.

Algoma Cycle of Prayer

Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent
St. Mark's, Garson

Mr. Robert Lewis - Lay {astor
Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
St. James', Gravenhurst

Church of the Holy Manger, Barkway
The Rev. Tom Cunningham
The Rev. Canon Tom James (Hon.)

Saturday, December 25 - The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day

Pray for Christian vocations and for candidates for ordained ministry

Sunday, December 26 - 1st Sunday after Christmas
All Diocesan Committees and Social Service Projects
The Algoma Anglican

The Rev. Peter Simmons, Editor
Sunday, January 2 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas
Church of the Epiphany, Sudbury

The Rev. Lyn Fisher (Interim)
The Rev. Canon Michael Hankinson (Hon.)
St. Thomas', French River
The Rev. Lyn Fisher (Interim)
Mr. Robert Lewis, Pastoral Worker

Sunday, January 9- 1st Sunday after Epiphany
The Baptism of the Lord

St. John the Evangelist, Thunder Bay
The Rev. Mary Lucas

Sunday, January 16 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
(Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins)
St. John the Evangelist, Sault Ste. Marie
The Rev. Mal Binks, Interim Priest-in-Charge
Ecumenism throughout Algoma

The Bishop has started a blog!
It is called
'beneditus benedicat'
You can find it
at
<http://stephenalgoma.typepad.com/beneditus-benedicat/>

FREE
20 choir gowns
blue cassocks
and
white surplices
call
George Kadwell
at
(705) 687-5463
e-mail:
llewdak@sympatico.ca



From the Anchorhold



By Sister Mary Cartwright

Happy New Year! No, I have not lost a month. The new Church year begins with Advent. I hope you have an Advent log or wreath in your house. Prayers are said each night as the candles are lit; one for each week; one, two, three, four and on Christmas Eve, the Christ candle. If this is part of your childhood, it sticks!

What is Advent for? To prepare for the Beloved Guest, who is coming. We must inspect our mental, physical and spiritual property, dusting and cleaning and the things we don't want Him to see. It is a time for prayer and study (most churches provide an Advent book for daily readings). We look back, way back to two thousand years ago, and see a young couple making a weary journey from Galilee to Bethlehem, Joseph's home, to be taxed. Mary, very pregnant, is led on a donkey by Joseph; and you know the rest. When I had my retreat house, children used to appear regularly to see the Creche, which in the last two weeks was set up, stable empty, shepherds in the field with their sheep, Joseph with Mary riding the donkey on the way and at the other end of the large room, the Wise Men starting out. Lots of questions to answer: "When is the baby coming?"; Christmas Eve at midnight. "We'll come in the morning!" "No, you come on Boxing Day." And they did come too and we talked about God's tremendous love.

We also celebrate St. Nicholas, the Patron of our society, Patron Saint of sailors, children, those in danger and pawn brokers (their sign of three gold balls represents the three gold coins which the good saint gave to girls to prevent them from being sold into slavery). The day after Christmas, we have Stephen, the first martyr, a reminder that it costs to follow this babe. Saint John is next, never far from Jesus. Then we have the Holy Innocents, the little Jewish boys who died when Herod tried to finish Jesus before He began. They represent all innocent suffering from earthquake, wind, fire, war, diseases and famine: we have seen them all this year. **Help**, as gift to the Christmas Child and don't forget those closer to home.

I wish a Blessed and Christ filled Christmas to all in Algoma.

Agnus Dei



Nicholas



Stephen



HOLY INNOCENTS



"Sanctus - Sanctus - Sanctus - Blessed is He who comes
In God's name" Hear cold and darkness riven by His cry-
And Mary dries her eyes and wraps Him close
Then lays Him in the cattle-breath warmed manger
And Joseph mops his brow and stands on guard
How strange a place and way for God to come.
But is it?
He said of old "His ways are not like ours."
He comes for all - the poor, the homeless, those
With naught for food, who never dreamt of love.
But here He is! - Love come down, God come down.
The angels watch, caught between awe and laughter.
The shepherds crowd in looking for this small lamb
With what poor gifts they have among them found-
REJOICE! This infant King will love us all.
Call those who look for pardon, healing, peace.
Even to death, He loves - and far beyond-
He comes to bring all to His Father's realm.

Sanctus - Sanctus - Sanctus - Agnus Dei



CARING YOUNG LADY: Jessica Gervais, centre, is pictured with her grandmother, June Daniher and her mother Jennifer Gervais at the pre-Christmas bazaar held by the ACW of St. Peter's, Callander. Ms. Gervais' hand sewn pillows sold out. Ms. Gervais' has chosen to support the charity Feed the Hungry with the proceeds from the sale.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church active in Thunder Bay

By Carolyn Napierala

The Westfort Street Fair in Thunder Bay was held on August 28, 2010. The Fair is a one day, annual event sponsored by the city of Thunder Bay and businesses in the Westfort area of the city. St. Thomas', Thunder Bay had their usual spot at the north-east corner of Edward and Frederica streets. Helene Crawford coordinated St. Thomas' participation, organising events and volunteers. Praxir supplied helium balloons and member

of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew helped by setting and taking down the canopy, tables and chairs. St. Thomas' handed out balloons, stickers, church information leaflets and did some face painting. The community was encouraged to bring their animals to a special service of the Blessing of the Animals at 2:00 p.m., officiated by the Ven. Andrew Hoskin. Participating in this annual event is one way St. Thomas' strives to keep itself visible in the community.



SUMMER FUN: Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin, 3rd from left, is pictured with some of the volunteers from St. Thomas's, Thunder Bay who helped at the Westfort Street Fair held on Saturday, August 28, 2010. The event, which is sponsored by the city of Thunder Bay, allows St. Thomas' to remain visible in the community.



GOD'S CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL: Many pets were brought to be blessed at a special service held at St. Peter's, Callander on Sunday, October 3, 2010.



FURY FRIENDS: Archdeacon Andrew Hoskin welcomed parishioners and their pets to a special service of the Blessing of the Animals held at St. Thomas', Thunder Bay on Saturday, August 28, 2010.

Where would Jesus be and will we be with Him?

By Charlotte Haldenby

Where would Jesus be?

A few years ago many people wore bracelets saying "What would Jesus do?" as something to consider when in new situations. This was sometimes a great challenge, to follow in His footsteps.

But now I'm asking, "Where would Jesus be?"

Would he be invited to Rideau Hall to the Governor General's New Year's reception, meeting and greeting with all the movers and shakers? Isn't it great to have a Sudbury/Sault Ste. Marie boy there! Our English teacher at Sault Collegiate predicted that Davey Johnson, two years ahead of me, would one day be Prime Minister; and this is even better!

Or would he be one of the helping hands at a parish community dinner for the neighbourhood, with takeouts for tomorrow (no fee) for those who need them.

Would he belong to a curling club with a \$1000 fee, or would he be playing a pick-up game of hockey at the community open air rink with whoever's around.

Looking at the World

Would he be off with his family to Disney World for the holidays, fulfilling his little girl's dream? I'm sure you've seen the ads.

Or, because his church runs an after school program for kids in the downtown area, would he be encouraging his own kids to help him buy some special presents for those kids?

Or sitting down with his family and going through the Acts of Faith booklet, and figuring out what they could do for other people around the world for \$100. Haven't got a copy? Please check www.pwdrf.org

Would he take his wife on a cruise? Or would she be busy with her friends knitting prayer shawls, or mitts for the church, while he is off at Christmas Cheer, reminiscing with the guys,

and repairing toys or making them from scratch, and delivering food baskets around the community.

Would he be the CEO of a chain of retailers, insisting that his stores stay open on Boxing Day, so he can make as much profit at this peak time of year as possible? Or would he be the

"It might just make the news once and be passed over for wars or gang killings or earthquakes!."

same CEO, realizing that this year it's the other grandparents who have the little guys on Christmas, and he and his wife get them on Boxing Day, and maybe other people are in the same boat, even his employees, so he stays closed on Boxing Day. Sometimes the customers notice things like that, right! Boxing Day shopping was voted down in the Sault, but not enough

people showed up to vote to make it binding!

Would we even recognize Jesus if he was here now?

Would we be scandalized by the people he hung out with? Would we be there listening if it meant having to be with "them?" Do we have so much invested in the latest and the best of everything for ourselves that we wouldn't even notice?

Would word get out on YouTube, and the social networks that something really neat was happening, maybe not in Times Square or on Parliament Hill, but over in Harlem or down with the street people, that could change the world!

It might just make the news once and be passed over for wars or gang killings or earthquakes!

It might be that nice little closing item, to show that the news isn't all bad! Perhaps you like a few friends of mine, who just can no longer watch the evening news because they can't sleep after seeing what we are making of our

world?

This week as I write, the Gospel was Luke 6:20-31, which has the Beatitudes AND the Woes. Today as I write, it is Remembrance Day. Did you remember?

One of my Dad's favourite artists, William Kurelek wrote and drew *A Northern Nativity, Christmas Dreams of a Prairie Boy*. The twenty paintings and the text of his dreams put the Christmas story down home, right across Canada. A boy during the Depression, he dreamed of how people in his time would respond to a young couple coming to the door, in the middle of winter, asking for help, whether at a lumber camp, at the town garage, at the grain elevator or out at a fishing station.

Will we get to the things that really matter in the midst of the Christmas rush? Will we express our gratitude for the gift of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, by reaching out to the poor and humble in love?

Will we be there with Jesus?