

## A Christmas message from Bishop-Elect Anne Germond



**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FROM THE GERMOND FAMILY:** From left are Catlin Germond, Colin Germond, Bishop-Elect Anne Germond and Richard Germond. The above photo was taken when the family gathered for Thanksgiving. (Photo by Amanda Thirkill Photography).

**By The Ven. Anne Germond  
Bishop-Elect**

"How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given."

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Dear friends in Christ,

Gifts, given and received are part of the great joy, wonder and delight of Christmas. Whether they are store bought or hand made, wrapped in paper and sealed with bows, or wrapped in love and sealed with kisses, much of the joy of giving and receiving is how it makes us feel inside.

Part of the fun of anticipating Christmas is choosing and selecting gifts, wrapping them, and then placing them under the tree for the time when they will be unwrapped. I remember when our children were small how they used to return to the Christmas tree over and over again to feel the gift and whether they could guess what was inside it.

Each gift is wrapped in a unique way, depending on who it's for or who it's from. When the moment of gift opening arrives there are some presents that beg to be torn into right away, but others that are opened slowly and with great

care. You don't want to tear or wrinkle the paper any more than necessary. Once opened, you carefully take the gift out of the box, admire it, and when you are ready hold it up for everyone to see.

Have you ever received a gift that was something you've wanted your whole life? When you receive such a gift you just want to hug it and hold it in your lap. Perhaps there was a gift that you received which came as a complete surprise. But it turned out to be the most wonderful, most beautiful gift you've ever received. You don't

*See May – p. 2*

### Inside Algoma

#### You just never know what hidden talents you have

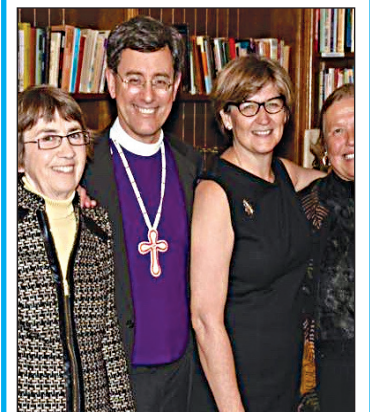
In his monthly column, Rev. Canon Bob Elkin discovered that once he fixed the refrigerator, there would be no stopping him. Read of how the washing machine was next.

*See p. 2*

#### This ancient tree can teach many lessons

Rev. Richard White has just returned from a locum in Kuwait, a nation in which there are many date palm trees; trees which are a Biblical symbol of righteousness.

*See p. 3*



#### Bishop Stephen Andrews lends his support

Former diocesan Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews writes of how blessed Algoma is to have Ven. Anne Germond as the new bishop and how blessed the archdeacon is to become bishop.

*See p. 4*

#### Next deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Algoma Anglican* is **Monday, January 2.**

Send items to:

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## A small Muskoka church with a big heart

*Fund raising goes to  
outreach and  
meeting need*

**By Barb Gibbs**

*Editor's note: In the following, Barb Gibbs writes of the experiences of giving and outreach of*

*her church, St. Mark's/St. John's in the Deanery of Muskoka*

We are a small church, who like every other church would like more seats in the pews. It would therefore not be unusual to put all our money into preserving our ministry and building, afraid of not having enough for tomorrow. Instead over the years, our

members made a conscious decision to look outward so we are not blind to the needs of those around. Much of our fundraising goes toward this outreach and we are always open to community suggestions of those in need of help.

In the last two years we have helped a family with the main wage earner suffering from cancer.

Winter ploughing has been arranged and paid for a long time member living on pensions, and Christmas grocery gift cards have been given to community members struggling in today's economy. We had a special fund raising to assist the family of an Olympian go to the Special Olympics in Vancouver. We support our

local community gardens, food bank and Christian children's programs. We donated \$5000.00 to partner in supporting a refugee family(s) with a combination of other Anglican churches, denominations and the Rotary Club in our locality.

*See You– p. 2*



**Bishop-Elect's motto for 2017:**

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” (Isaiah 52.7)

**Who knew?**

**By the Rev. Canon Bob Elkin**  
‘Necessity is the mother of invention’ they say, but not long ago I saw a T shirt that put it more succinctly with ‘Necessity is a mother!’ Whatever the case I was recently introduced to this concept when the fridge overheated and created a small lake underneath which rolled out onto the kitchen floor. Turned out the fan that cools the condenser had died but it was an old fridge and so we went shopping for another. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A FRIDGE COSTS THESE DAYS????!! I’d expect to pay that for a Corvette or a summer place in the Poconos or something useful, but for a fridge? Never going to happen. So I went home and crawled under the beast and pondered. There was a bunch of wires and a motor and some nuts and bolts and a propeller thingy but it didn’t look impossible and the problem was obviously the motor. Screwing up my courage I went on line and found a place that sold them and ordered one. When it arrived I crawled back under, installed the motor, put the rest of the parts back on, threw away the leftovers and plugged it in. It worked! Fan turned, condenser hummed, no water fell and the fridge is still going strong. Now there was no stopping me!

I waited impatiently for something else to break, which doesn’t take long at our house, and was rewarded when my wife came upstairs one day and glumly announced that the washing machine had given up the ghost. Usually she adds something helpful like: “It goes boinka-boinka every now and then” which certainly gives you food for thought when it is the car she’s describing but this time it just didn’t work, it wouldn’t spin. “No problem”, I said, and arming myself with every wrench I own I went downstairs and had a look.

Well I could have saved myself the trouble. Who knew the mysteries that live under a washing machine? I snuck back upstairs and phoned a repairman who informed me it was two hundred dollars to come to my house and then it would cost whatever it took to fix it. So much for that. I remembered some advice I’d received from the first aid/defibrillator teacher down

at the fire hall who’d said: “Never be afraid to work on somebody who has stopped breathing and has no heartbeat because you’re not going to hurt them any worse”. That certainly described our washing machine.  
Once again I consulted the internet and spent fifteen minutes watching a terribly technical talker disassemble a washing machine to replace something called the ‘motor connector’ but just before turning off the computer in disgust I happened to spot a site which promised easy and

**Letter from Bob**

simple. I hit that button and up came the twin brother of Vince, the guy who sells *Slap Chop* and *Sham Wow* and other junk on TV who took two minutes to tip his washing machine up, reach under, replace a small plastic part and get the machine up and running again. I ordered the part, tipped up my machine, spent two hours replacing the plastic part. I can’t blame Vince’s brother because I’m a klutz. I did get the same result. It worked!  
Since then I’ve built a bunkie out back, hung new doors on my workshop, changed the oil on my motorcycle and annoyed the heck out of my mechanic when he was replacing a caliper on the car. And I’ve learned things! Never buy one of those big fat manuals that tell you how to fix your car or boat motor or whatever. You won’t know what they’re talking about and they always tell you to ‘torque the nuts to 17psi’ or some such ridiculousness which makes you think you’re doing it wrong if you don’t. I don’t own a torque wrench but I know a tight nut from a loose one and so will you. When in doubt go on line and always try and find Vince’s brother for a demonstration of what to do. He’s lazy and does things the easiest way. And when in doubt remember my teacher’s advice: “Never be afraid to work on something that has stopped breathing and has no heartbeat because you’re not going to hurt it any worse”. Who knows, you might just save yourself a fortune.

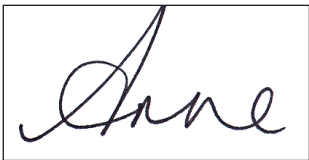
**The deadline for the February edition of the Algoma Anglican is Monday, January 2, 2017**

**May we continue to be people who yearn for Christ**

*Continued from Front*  
know it yet, but it’ll be one that you cherish all of your life. And the feeling you have now is one you’ll want to pass on and share with everyone you know and love.  
That’s what happened, that first Christmas morning. The most wonderful Gift of all, the Gift of Gifts, Jesus, was born and wrapped in swaddling clothes. And with Him came an abundance of gifts for all humankind: gifts of faith, peace, love and hope. Gifts of mercy and compassion and forgiveness. Gifts of healing and wholeness. Gifts of joy and laughter and friendship. These are the gifts that Emmanuel, God-is-with-us brought to us that first Christmas.  
God intended us to share those gifts with others. Not to hoard them or keep them to ourselves; but to give them away freely. None of these gifts come wrapped in paper or tied with a bow. They are mostly given in kind words, thoughtful deeds, and generous acts. Often they are given so quietly that no one even notices. We are reminded of this in the well loved hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem* that this is how Jesus came: ‘How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is

given. God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.”  
My hope for each one of you this Christmas is that you will receive this amazing Gift and that when you gaze at it and hold it in your hand you will know that this is the best, and the only gift you’ve ever wanted or needed. And then, I pray that you will take the Gift and give it away to someone else so that they may be blessed.  
After Christmas, when the tree is taken down and the crèche wrapped up in tissue paper and safely stored for another year, and the gifts are in good use I pray that you will not say to yourself, “Is that it? Is that all there was?” and return to life as before, living without Christmas Joy, or Advent Hope. Unsatisfied. My fervent wish for the New Year is that we will continue to be a people who yearn and long for Christ, and pattern our lives on His. That we will remember that we have been made for Christ. May our hearts always, “Be restless until it finds its rest in thee.” (St. Augustine)  
The poet and Anglican priest George Herbert in his poem, “The Pulley” imagined God with a glass of blessings, pouring them out on the created human person: strength,

beauty, wisdom, honour. But then God holds back ‘rest’. In typical Herbert style he plays with the double meaning saying that man may keep the ‘rest’ of the gifts,  
“Yet let him keep the rest,  
But keep them with repining restlessness;  
Let him be rich and weary, that at the last  
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness may toss him to my breast.”  
In 2017 may we answer those who ask, “No, that’s not all there is” by allowing the ‘uncontained God’ to fill us with gifts to share, and live each day as those who know Christ and then make Him known.  
Colin, Caitlin and Richard join me in wishing you every blessing of love, hope and joy this Christmas and in the New Year.



Anne

**You too can make a difference**

*Continued from Front*  
One of our former child parishioners now an adult, went to Ethiopia this summer on mission work among the poorest people of Africa. The church received special donations from members to help support this cause and buy supplies to be distributed among the villages. St. Mark’s/St. John’s was fortunate to receive a “pay it forward” donation from another small church to help us with our well problems four years ago. In return last year we were able to help another local church after their basement flooded and again this year to forward money to a church in Fort McMurray after the devastating fires.  
I am writing this article not to pat ourselves on the back but to exemplify that it does not take a large host of members and thousands of dollars to make a difference. I am sure many of the families and organisation we helped needed greater financial support. I also know that without our little church some would have

received no support. Our eighty plus year old senior would be out shovelling her own driveway after heavy snowfalls and the special Olympian would not have had her mother there to see her win two silver medals in swimming.  
Times are now changing and our little community church is looking at amalgamation. I know that we are not alone in having to make significant changes to survive and move forward in a missional fashion. Whatever changes come about, it becomes even more important to demonstrate our beliefs and values by exemplifying God’s love in these smaller communities that will no longer have a the Christian symbol of a church in their community. Over the years we have defined ourselves as the “Little Church with the Big Heart” May this continue to be as much about our future as our past.



**PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY:** On Tuesday, November 8, 2016, a number of members of St. Peter’s, Callander gathered for training in CPR and the use of a defibrillator. The defibrillator was a gift from James and Elaine Moore. Pictured are some of the participants in the training session. From left are pictured, Stephen Lister, Athena Minard, Eric Hyatt, John Lunn, Joanne Alkins, Morley Rogers, Joan Mote, Lauren Dashineau, Sharon Paris, Marie Rogers.



# 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 Venerable Anne Germond, Bishop-Elect  
Peter Simmons, Editor

## Invitation to the Consecration of Bishop-Elect



Most High, glorious God,  
enlighten the darkness of my heart  
and give me true faith, certain  
hope, and perfect charity, sense  
and knowledge, Lord, that I may  
carry out Your holy and true  
command. Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi

*Your presence and prayers would be  
appreciated by*  
**ANNE GERMOND**

*Who is to be consecrated, God willing,  
as a Bishop of the Anglican Church of  
Canada and Installed as the Eleventh  
Bishop of the Diocese of Algoma by  
Colin, Metropolitan of Ontario*

*On  
Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
9:30 a.m.*

*In the Cathedral Church of Saint Luke  
160 Brock Street*

*Sault Ste Marie, Ontario*

*A reception will follow . . .*



## Lessons from an ancient tree



**By the Rev. Richard White**

*Editor's note: Rev. Richard White recently returned from Kuwait after a locum at St. Paul's, Ahmadi, Kuwait. In the Following, he writes of the date palm tree and the lessons to be taken from it.*

It's been called an "evergreen." It's Kuwait's national tree, the Date Palm, *Phoenix dactylifera*. Most houses have their own palm tree; the rectory here has two. Its fruit is sold in endless varieties at shops and sooks, and supermarkets feature a "date bar," akin to our deli bars where an attendant lets you sample the fruit before filling your container. And while Kuwait is a largely Muslim land, the date palm is a Biblical symbol of righteousness.

The first time we hear about the date palm in the Bible is at the start of the Exodus. Moses had led the people of Israel out of Egypt, and in that first week they arrived at an oasis. The name of that oasis was Elim, meaning probably "strong trees" because there were seventy palm trees there clustered round twelve natural wells of fresh water. Seventy was widely regarded as the symbolic number for "righteousness," or "goodness." The twelve springs pointed to the twelve tribes of Israel, and prophetically to the disciples. Later, in our sacred texts, the author of Psalm 92:12 God says "The righteous will prosper like the palm tree."

This begs the question, what lessons can we take from the palm tree?

First, consider its stature. As I cycle or take a taxi around this land, I am struck by how upright and straight this tree is. Deciduous

trees can become twisted and bent as they withstand the brutality of extreme climates. However, the palm tree is unique. The harshest desert storm, or violent winter thunderstorm will not compromise its straightness. In the same way, a righteous person isn't twisted. They don't lie. They tell the truth. They keep their word and keep their promises. They stand up for what is good, what is right, what is true. The palm tree is a daily reminder of the uprightness of the righteous person.

Second, consider its leaves, or "fronds." They're tough, resilient, and reach skyward. They resemble the biblical posture for praise, and they became a staple addition in numerous biblical pictures of liturgical worship (see Ps 118:27; John 12:31; Rev. 7:9). The palm tree is a picture of godly praise.

Third, consider its fruit. The fruitfulness of this oriental tree is legendary. The date palm starts producing fruit when it's eight years old and will produce thousands of dates in its life time. It's widely believed that when God promised to bring Moses and the People of Israel into a land of milk and honey, the honey referred to was date honey, perhaps another reminder of the importance of righteousness. The link between righteousness and fruit is picked up by Paul who says the righteous person bears the fruit of love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22). The date palm can be seen as a visible reminder of the fruitfulness of the righteous person.

Fourth, consider the hidden

*See Attributes – p. 4*



**QUIET REFLECTION:** Bishop-Elect Anne Germond is pictured presenting her reflection entitled "Images and Insights in a Time of Waiting". The reflection was given at an Advent Retreat Day held at Glenwood Chapel, Glen Orchard on Saturday, December 3, 2016 in the Deanery of Muskoka.

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**NEW PRINCIPAL:** On Friday, November 4, 2016, Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews was installed as the 10th Principal of Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. A number of people from the Diocese of Algoma were in attendance. Pictured from left are, Hugh MacKenzie, Anne MacKenzie, Bishop Andrews, Fawna Andrews, Ven. Dawn Henderson, Ven. Anne Germond and Dr. Colin Germond.

# Attributes of the date palm remind us of a righteous person

*Continued from p. 3*  
qualities of this amazing tree. In most trees the roots seem to go off on their own as they negotiate the hidden obstacles in their search for water. Palm tree roots form a huge ball and work together to penetrate the sand in search for nutrients. And then there's the trunk itself. Most of our trees can be felled by a well-placed chain saw or a determined beaver. Not so with a palm tree. The trunk isn't solid wood. The interior is a bundle of arteries, like very large blades of grass, that each carry nutrients from the roots to the leaves and the dates. The unique bundle-like qualities of its root and trunk systems enable the tree to bend rather than break in storms. It also makes the tree notoriously difficult to cut down. It reminds

us that the righteous person is connected to their Church, to their Christian community, a network that both feeds and sustains the person regardless of what life throws at them.  
Jesus is quoted as saying, "Look at the flowers of the field," as he went on to outline a series of spiritual lessons from nature. The palm tree is offered to us by the biblical writers as a symbol of the righteous person. In my present assignment as the interim of St. Paul's Church, Ahmadi, Kuwait, I can almost hear God say "look at the palm tree." The date palm holds a rich group of characteristics, reminders of the attributes of the truly righteous person.  
Footnote: Kuwait and the off-shore island nation of Bahrain are distinctive in the Arabian Gulf/

Persian Gulf region. Together they claim to be the location for the fabled Garden of Eden with its symbolic tree "of life," and the "knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2). Somewhere not far north of here came the first two men in Scripture called "righteous," Noah and Abram (Gen. 6:9, 15:6). In the first four centuries CE there was a Christian presence here and especially north into Mesopotamia that rivaled Rome in its cultural and political influence. Today, Kuwait and Bahrain are the only Arab nations in the Gulf region with indigenous Christian populations whose rights are protected under their constitutions. Kuwait has an estimated 450,000 Christian foreign workers, mainly from India, Sri Lanka and the Philip-pines.

# Bishop Andrews pleased with election of Ven. Anne Germond

Dear Friends,  
On the eve of the consecration of your new bishop, I wanted to take this opportunity to say a couple of things.  
The first is that you are blessed in the choice of Anne Germond as your next bishop. We have known her and her family since our arrival in Sudbury in 2001, when they were amongst the first to show us hospitality and friendship. It has been wonderful since that time to see her grow as a pastor and priest. In her capacities as a chaplain to the police force, as board member for Thorneloe University and Camp Maintou, as a member of the group facilitating and implementing the Strategic Plan, and, of course, as Archdeacon, Anne has shown herself to be a loyal colleague with remarkable gifts of compassion, industry and vision. She is a woman of study, prayer, and, perhaps most importantly, humility. And the news of her election adds to my personal delight, for it continues a pattern of divine grace in my life. For, whenever I have left a position, God has always seen to it that the vacancy is filled by someone more capable than I!  
The second thing I wish to say is that Anne Germond is blessed to become a shepherd to you. The Diocese of Algoma is among the most beautiful dioceses in the whole of the Canadian Church, and here I am not thinking just of geography or buildings. You are some of the most generous and authentic

folk I have encountered anywhere in the Church. Fawna and I are still a-blush from the farewells we received this past summer, and not a day goes by when we do not think longingly of you all. There are great challenges ahead for the church in every place, but I am confident that God will use your faith in Jesus Christ and your devotion to his mission to accomplish great things for the kingdom.  
Finally, I simply want to report that things are going well for us at Wycliffe College. I was moved that a number of people from the diocese came to my Installation in November, and I continue to be overwhelmed by the privilege of serving such a strategic institution. Working daily among many keen and devout students, and alongside a skilled staff and thoughtful and dedicated faculty, I have great hope for the future of the Anglican Church.  
Please know that you remain in my daily prayers, and that we look forward to the next chance of seeing you – in Algoma or Toronto!  
With deep affection, Fawna and I remain,  
Yours in Christ,

+Stephen

# Let us be a caring neighbour to all

**By Charlotte Haldenby**  
So did you survive Black Thursday and Black Friday which seemed to last two whole weeks? And how much in the Red are you? Ouch! But wasn't the Grey Cup totally exciting! And the RedBlacks won. The quarterback that Calgary let go, maybe too old, showed he still has IT! Yeah Burris!  
And as I write, the houses on my street are sporting red and green decorations and sparkling lights! And friends are making travel arrangements too! How can we get the whole family together for one meal? And fit in the hour at church and the Christmas pageant? Such colourful and noisy lives we lead with all the grandchildren going full tilt?  
And the next week of insanity is again "Shop 'til you drop". Or maybe there'll be enough snow for snowmen or forts, or skiing and snowmobiling? Will we have a chance to relax before it's back to work and school again? Then things get back to normal, and life is a lot quieter. Then a friend asks about your New Year's Resolutions.  
On January 15, 2017 in the Sault, and probably other centres, people of all faiths are invited

**Looking at the World**  
to meet together on the theme "The world is my neighbourhood". There will be music all the way through, and at the first, a member of each faith will say a prayer on that theme, and later, another member will speak very briefly, three minutes maybe, on how their religion sees and practices that theme. There will be good food afterwards so you can meet people. Check your church bulletin board for details.  
As Anglicans, we have an easy time with this theme, for there it is in our Communion service in the *Book of Common Prayer*:  
"Our Lord Jesus Christ said: Hear O Israel. The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the

Prophets".  
The lawyer did ask "Who is my neighbour?" And I'm sure we all remember that parable. The poor man lying injured in the ditch, and the religious leader and the rich merchant walking by, and that despised Samaritan, saying "How can I help?", doing that and even checking back later. THAT's the good neighbour! We are called to go beyond talking the talk to walking the walk beside all of the world's people and all of creation.  
We must first reach out to our family and friends, those joyful and fun people who have just been here for Christmas. Well, of course! But even the ones who drove us crazy or made us mad. Why were they feeling like that? Could we help?  
Then the people on our street, the neighbour who needs the driveway shovelled, or a ride to the doctor, or a back-up if their child misses the bus. It's good on

my small drive to feel you "have family" right around the circle. Remember *Neighbourhood Watch* and *Block Parents*.  
We must then let us spread our definition to the people at work and at school. It's easy to be with them when the projects are just going along perfectly, but are we sensitive to their dismay if something just didn't come through properly, or if there's trouble at home? Maybe that kid who's in the back corner needs a friend, to smile and share cookies at lunch, or maybe listen after they've served a time out. Just having someone on your side when things aren't going well or someone's bullying you can get you through another day. It maybe we can help them to get further help.  
Then let us spread our definition to the whole town. Some of you volunteer as drivers and hospital guides. When I spent a few days in a retirement home recovering from surgery, it was good to see the bulletin board filled with activities run by churches and community groups. Sometimes residents or people on home care just need someone to stop by to chat or to read a fa-

vorite book or even sing the old songs. There are so many groups doing good work for people in crisis. How can you volunteer?  
Let us then spread to all of Canada and beyond to the whole world. You all remember the Fort McMurray fires and the disastrous hurricane in Haiti this year. There are many ways we can contribute. The Primate's Fund works with local church people who know exactly what is needed for their people to recover from disasters and rebuild. Its full name includes a D for development, meaning we are helping with projects to bring schooling to children, and health care to whole families, that we take for granted here. And when you add in Kairos and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, we're helping even more.  
I remember a long time ago, inscribing one of my books, "Charlotte Haldenby, Little Current, Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada, North America, the Western Hemisphere, Planet Earth, the Solar System, the Milky Way, Creation". We are all members of God's creation, and as we resolve to do better in 2017, let us make one aim to be a caring neighbour, who is ready to do our best for all.

*"We must then let us spread our definition to the people at work and at school."*