

Youth from across the diocese gather for Youth Synod 2016



ENTHUSIASTIC GROUP: Participants in Youth Synod 2016 are pictured in the chapel at Camp Manitou where the gathering took place from Sunday, July 3 to Wednesday, July 6, 2016. The theme of the Synod was “Christians In Action”.

By Matthew Lacroix

Editor's note: In the following, Matthew Lacroix gives his impressions of Youth Synod 2016 held at Camp Manitou from Sunday, July 3 to Wednesday, July 6, 2016

This year of Youth Synod was the best one I've had. I learned a lot, met new people, and most of all, I had a lot of fun. For those of you who don't know, Youth Synod is a four day long camp at Camp Manitou on Manitouland Island, where we attend discussions, have worship sessions, and spend most of our time outside. Some of the activities included Capture

the Flag, a cabin leader hunt and swimming. However, I'm not saying these games were the best part. The discussions we shared were entertaining, relatable, and most important, informative.

These conversations covered many topics that are very important to Christian life. The first one was about trust, and how we should trust God even in times of trouble and worry, or if we don't see what he's planning for us ahead in life. One of the educators, whose nickname is Yoda, used two very perfect examples from her own life, that showed all of us listeners

how much it pays to trust the Lord, even if everything is pointing downwards. The first one, which seems the most influential and touching, was about her childhood.

When she was around six years old, she started to develop hearing loss. After multiple attempts with doctors, they finally came to a complete diagnosis: she was going deaf, and there was nothing the healers could do. As soon as the proclamation was made, Yoda's mother said to the doctor “We're done here” and she and her daughter drove off to their church. After telling

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Inside Algoma



St. Brice's, North Bay is a lively and active place

This church has a number of ministry and outreach programs underway including a joint service of worship with Christ Church and St. John's.

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Diocesan leaders participate in learning project

Over the past two and a half years, a group in leadership in the diocese joined in a process designed to foster mission-oriented cultural change on a diocesan level.

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Next deadline

The deadline for the next issue of *The Algoma Anglican* is **Thursday, September 1.**

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Changes coming in the Deanery of Muskoka

Fifteen churches are to be closed

throughout deanery

By the Rev. Peter Simmons

On Wednesday, June 8, 2016, the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Algoma unanimously

endorsed the *Bishop's Recommendations for the Reorganization of Ministry in Muskoka*. The recommendations, publicly released that evening, came after years of discussion and reflection as to how best to configure ministry in Muskoka. In his recommendations, Bishop Andrews outlined eight Principles of Reorganisa-

tion. These include:

1. The importance of geography
2. The fact we are not in competition with other Christian denominations; we are here to serve the community in Christ's name
3. Full-time clergy positions are to be preferred to part-time
4. Part-time ministries will

continue to exist, particularly as a venue for ministry delivered by retired clergy and in seasonal settings

5. Clergy gifts play an important role in the kind of ministry being offered in a place

6. Eucharist every Sunday will not always be available in every place, owing to the limitations of

priestly ministry

7. An indication that a church is being effective is numerical growth; and

8. We need some flexibility in the way deaneries are administered

Bishop Andrews went on to examine proposed Muskoka

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Diocese of Algoma
Anglican Church Women

DEVOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

As I write this the sun is shining, the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming. It truly is summer. The writer of Ecclesiastes, 3:1 in Eugene H. Peterson's *The Message*, makes things very clear:

"There's an opportune time to do things, a right time for everything on earth."

Certainly the birds, the flowers and the sun are behaving appropriately for the season of the year. What about us? Are we so stuck in a set routine that we miss many good opportunities that may never come again? In the introduction to Ecclesiastes, Eugene H. Peterson, says this:

"Unlike the animals, who seem quite content to simply be themselves, we humans are always looking for ways to be more than or other than what we find ourselves to be."

How true. We never seem to be content with what and who we are. We are always looking for new ways to thrill and excite us on one side and on the other we can get so stuck in the mud that we are upset if our routine is changed.

In the last few weeks we have experienced great heat. I wonder how many of you stuck to your routine and worked away as usual? I wonder how many of you took the time to just sit outside in the comparative cool of the morning. Perhaps we should follow more of God's creation and make the most of every opportunity. As Ecclesiastes continues we have that well known list of opposites, good/bad, both of which are declared to happen at the right time. That is God's time.

I am a morning person and like to get my work done in the mornings. I continued to do this for a while until I found that by afternoon it was too hot to enjoy anything but a nap.

I am not an evening person and frequently go to bed early. However when I realised what was happening, I began sitting outside on my balcony for most of the morning. It was so pleasant that I basked in the pleasure of Bible reading, colouring and writing. These activities allowed me to relax and most mornings I found turned to time of very

productive prayer. When I went in for lunch I found I could relax and have a nap without feeling guilty and then as the heat cooled down I could do any of the tasks I 'should' have completed in the morning.

As much as we can we should perhaps be more flexible with our time and activities. Perhaps we should learn to stop and appreciate the wonder of the world around us. Perhaps we should draw closer to God and listen to what he wants. Perhaps, perhaps, perhaps. Ecclesiastes makes it clear:

"I've decided that there's nothing better to do than go ahead and have a good time and get the most we can out of life. That's it – eat, drink, and make the most of your job. It's God's gift. (3:13).

We can never find true satisfaction, meaning and completion in our own strength. We need to be more flexible so that God gets our full attention.

Pam Abraham Diocesan ACW
Devotions Chair



FAREWELL: On Sunday, July 17, 2016 people from the Deanery of Muskoka gathered for a reception at the Church of the Redeemer, Rosseau to say farewell to Bishop Stephen Andrews and his wife Fawna. Bishop Andrews has been appointed the new Principal of Wycliffe College, Toronto.

Deanery to be
divided into four
regions

Continued from Front

models, two of which were considered by a restructuring committee composed of clergy and laity from Muskoka. This group had studied and proposed possible configurations of ministry in Muskoka and presented them to Deanery Council on a number of occasions. These models included a 'Team Ministry' approach, with full time incumbents directing the work of retired clergy and lay readers and a 'Critical Mass' model wherein each church, or point would be evaluated for its mission potential, and then resources focused in these places. The Bishop also outlined a regulated status quo. This would involve identifying strategic points and concentrating available resources there. It would also deny requests to support non-strategic parishes and rationalisation by attrition. The recommended approach by Bishop Andrews is a hybrid of 'Team' and 'Cluster' Models. This is as follows:

- a) Divide into four regions with 6 full-time priests serving 19 churches
 - i) **Region One**
 - (1) Focus ministry on Huntsville, Emsdale, South River and Port Sydney
 - (2) Close Falkenberg, Grassmere, Beatrice, Aspdin
 - (3) Evaluate remaining parishes (Ravenscliffe, Eagle Lake, Magnetawan, Ilfracombe) as chapels or seasonal ministries
 - (4) Two full-time clergy based in Emsdale or Port Sydney and Huntsville
 - (5) 12 churches reduced to 8
 - ii) **Region Two**
 - (1) Focus ministry on Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Baysville
 - (2) Close Dorset, Fox Point, Port Cunningham, Roxborough, Barkway
 - (3) Evaluate Vankoughnet as a seasonal chapel
 - (4) Two full-time clergy based in Bracebridge and Gravenhurst or Baysville
 - (5) 9 churches reduced to 4
 - iii) **Region Three**
 - (1) Focus ministry on Parry Sound and Rosseau
 - (2) Close Orrville, Ullswater/Bent River
 - (3) Evaluate Windermere as a

- seasonal ministry
 - (4) One full-time cleric
 - (5) 5 churches reduced to 3
 - iv) **Region Four**
 - (1) Focus ministry on Bala, Milford Bay and Port Carling
 - (2) Close Mactier, Beaumaris, Mortimer's Point, Port Sandfield
 - (3) Evaluate Gregory as seasonal ministry
 - (4) One full-time cleric
 - (5) 8 churches reduced to 4
- The Executive Committee, in approving the 'Principles of Reorganisation' asked the Bishop to appoint a Muskoka Change Team. The Team has been announced, the members being: Rev. Kelly Baetz, Chair: Muskoka Deanery, Rev. Dr. Robert Darrenbacker, Sudbury-Manitoulin Deanery, Rev. Joan Locke, Temiskaming Deanery, Ms. Annette Procunier, Muskoka Deanery and Rev. Jim Schell, Muskoka Deanery.
- The team's mandate is to implement the approved recommendations in a way that is pastorally sensitive and honours the values and mission of the diocese. The process is to be over a three year period, reporting to either the Executive Committee, or the Bishop. The Congregational Development Officer will be a resource, while the team will involve the deanery officials in the implementation under their direction. Bishop Andrews also recommended the diocese give consideration to hiring a change architect, to be financed from monies reserved for the Strategic Plan.
- The team is to engage the entire deanery in the process and communicate in ways that highlight values, goals and principles leading to change, making use of technology to reach a wider audience. Finally, the Strategic Plan Reference group, is to consult with the bishop and Congregational Development Officer to develop to form and train other ministries of leadership and discipleship moving to a less clerical model of ministry in Muskoka. Of importance to the entire process of reorganisation will be Canon H-6: Establishment and Dissolutions of Congregations and Parishes. For more information on the canon go to dioceseofalgoma.com.

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EDITORIAL

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The Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Andrews, Bishop
Peter Simmons, Editor

Letter from the Episcopal Election Process Committee

August 2016

TO: MEMBERS OF SYNOD:
CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES

We are thankful that you are called to serve as a member of Synod, and will be participating in the upcoming election for the **11th Bishop of Algoma** on October 14 and 15, 2016.

The information in the Episcopal Electoral Synod Handbook will be available to all the nominees as well as to you. We believe that this material will help the nominees understand what makes the Diocese of Algoma so special, and will help you appreciate the depth of the commitment required to be the next shepherd of Algoma.

As an elected Synod delegate or clergyperson, you are welcome to nominate a person for Bishop of Algoma. The nomination forms are included in the Handbook. Also included in the Handbook is a list of all Synod delegates and the Diocesan prayer we have been using for the upcoming election.

We encourage you to share the information in the Handbook as well as the profiles and responses to the questions given by each nominee. These responses will be available on the Diocesan website by September 20, 2016. As well, a short video made by each nominee will be available on YouTube and accessed through the Diocesan website.

You might consider holding an **Information Meeting** with your congregation before the election. Listen carefully to what the people in your parish believe are the important attributes that the next Bishop of Algoma should have. If you decide to hold a meeting, it needs to be prayerful and respectful and not turn into a campaign for a particular candidate. As a voting member of Synod, you need to respect the opinions of the people who elected you, and then

prayerfully and carefully vote with your heart and conscience.

Clergy members of the Episcopal Election Process Committee are not allowed to be nominees, unless the election becomes deadlocked. Clergy and laity vote separately and a person must receive two-thirds of the votes cast by clergy and laity in order to be elected as our next bishop.

We ask for your prayers for the del-



egates, that they may select the right nominee to the glory of God. We ask for your prayers for the nominees that they

may all walk in grace and in humility, and we ask for your prayers for the Election Process Committee that all our decisions may be made in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, and that all of Algoma will be blessed.

Please bring your laptop or a hard copy of the Electoral Synod Handbook to the electoral Synod. Come with an open heart, an open mind, and a desire to be filled with the Spirit of God.

We look forward to seeing you at Synod.

Faithfully in the risen Christ,

Deborah Kraft and Hugh Mackenzie, Co-Chairs on behalf of the Episcopal Election Process Committee

1 Peter 5:1-11 "God gives grace to the humble."

"The water-in-the-wine controversy"

By the Rev. Richard White

It's a ritual that happens in most of our churches whenever we celebrate the Eucharist. A small amount of water is added to wine before the Eucharistic Prayer. This seemingly insignificant ritual is both ancient and controversial.

Its origins are both cultural and symbolic.

a. Culturally, Jesus probably added water to the wine at the Last Supper. In his day, much of the wine was gritty or thick. So, although our wine is probably superior, we maintain this tradition.

b. It is also tied to a Biblical event. After Jesus died, a centurion thrust a spear into Jesus' side (John 19:34) causing a sudden flow of blood and water. Water and wine are commingled in the sacrament to recall that event.

c. Others see the commingling as illustrating the Incarnation. The water is symbol of humanity, and the wine his divinity. The commingling symbolizes Christ's true nature: fully human, fully divine.

d. One of the most cited reasons for the practice is this. The water symbolizes the people of God, and the wine symbolizes Christ. Together we form the mystical Body of Christ.

In the mid 200s, St. Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage, used that argument to solve a problem. One of his churches was celebrating Holy Communion with water, rather than wine. Cyprian wrote: "The water is understood (to be) the people, but in the wine is showed the blood of Christ. When the water is mingled in the cup with wine, the people (are) made one with Christ." He then laid out an argument for using wine.

The Church of England was founded by the Roman Catholic missionary, Augustine of Canterbury in the year 597, and a host of rituals came with that. When there was a break from Rome and

the our first Prayer Book (1549) was written, many of those rituals remained, including the mixing of water into the wine. The fine print, or "rubrics," were clear. The priest was to mix the wine with "a little pure and clean water" during the Offertory, a practice most follow today.

Politics have a way of interfering with religion in England. Subsequent revisions of the Prayer Book were born after periods of political upheaval when pro and anti ritualists sat on opposite sides

History Byte

of the political fence. The Prayer Book that survived the longest was the 1662 Prayer Book, still in use in corners of the Anglican Communion. It was born after the English Civil War; a war that pitted the anti-ritual Puritans against the pro-ritual monarchy and the upper class. The Puritans won. In spite of their short hold over England, the Puritans had an effect. When the 1662 Prayer Book eventually appeared under a new king, there was no rubric on mixing water in with the wine. Rubrics on ritual were scarce.

The 19th century brought ritual, and the commingling of water and wine, back into the spot-light. Two ritual-loving movements were born. The Oxford-based Tractarians wrote tracts calling for a return to older liturgies. The Cambridge Camden Society wanted rituals back in our liturgies. This created a stir.

Such "High Churchmen" became the target of the Church Association formed in 1865 whose supporters penned and passed The Public Worship Regulation Act 1874. The Act made it unlawful to

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Unlike water and wine, politics and ritual often don't mix

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add rituals to Communion liturgy. Over five years, four clergymen were imprisoned for ritualism. Ritualists were challenged in other ways too. The Rt. Rev. Edward King, the Bishop of Lincoln, was charged and tried before a court presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The judgment for his case surprised many on both sides.

King had added several rituals during services he conducted in December 1887. When he faced the Archbishop of Canterbury the following June, he denied none of the charges against him, including two involving the mixing water and wine. He simply argued that tradition was on his side. The case

dragged on for over a year. Then In November 1890, the Court made a surprising judgment. It partially agreed with King that the practice of the mixed chalice was ancient. It even said that using wine alone was unlawful! However it instructed the bishop to do such mixing before the service, and not during the Offertory hymn, which he agreed to.

On March 1, 1965, the Public Worship Act was finally repealed. Clergy in Algoma join in performing an ancient rite every time they mix water in with the wine at the Eucharist service.

This History Byte first appeared in the October 2010 edition of the Algoma Anglican

New appointment in Almaguin/Emsdale and a resignation in Port Sydney

Bishop Stephen Andrews is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Christopher Davis as Incumbent of the combined parish of Almaguin and Emsdale, as of 1 September 2016.

Rev. Davis was ordained in Montreal in 1985, having studied at Regent College and Wycliffe College. He served a curacy in the Eastern Townships of Quebec before going to Kasechewan to minister on the Cree Reserve on the James Bay. He subsequently spent time in rural parishes in Ontario before going back to the

north where he has spent time in the dioceses of Moosonee, Yukon and the Arctic.

At the same time, we are sad to say that Rev. Paul Walmsley has submitted his resignation as Incumbent of Christ Church, Port Sydney, effective September 14, 2016. He and his wife Dianne will be moving to Ingersoll, where they will be closer to family.

We pray for Chris and his wife Winsome, and for Paul and Dianne as ministries are concluded and begun.



CONVERSATION AND FUN: Pictured are a number of young people who attended Youth Synod 2016 held at Camp Manitou from Sunday, July 3 to Wednesday, July 6, 2016.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews and Fawna Andrews are pictured with Susan Higgins at All Saints', Huntsville on Sunday, July 17, 2016. Ms. Higgins presented Bishop Andrews and Mrs. Andrews with her creation fusion glass representing the Holy Spirit in the shape of a mitre to wish them well as they begin a new chapter in life. Gifts were also presented to Mrs. Andrews and their new grandson, Thomas.



NEWLY CONFIRMED: On Sunday, July 17, 2016 a Service of Confirmation was held at All Saints', Huntsville. At a reception following the service are pictured, with Bishop Andrews, from left Ravyn Houdie, Mason Hetherington, Geri Keays, Bishop Stephen Andrews, Samuel Topps, Alexis Marten-Smith, Emily Christensen and Susan Higgins, behind. Each person received a signed Bible, the Bishop's leather Algoma bookmark, a certificate and a silver cross engraved with the date of their confirmation.

New faith community takes shape in Sault Ste. Marie

The Diocese of Algoma is pleased to announce the formation of a new Anglican Church community in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

The Anglican congregations of St. John the Evangelist and St. Matthew, Sault Ste. Marie, are joining together to form a new faith community, Emmaus Anglican Church, effective September 2016.

The decision comes after a year-long process in which some area congregations imagined and investigated fresh possibilities for the future shape of their ministry in the city. The process resulted in a proposal that was approved by an overwhelming majority of parishioners at both St. John's Church and St. Matthew's Church in February 2016.

Emmaus will support a team ministry model, something new for

both congregations, with deliberate attention given to enhancing and expanding upon current outreach initiatives within the city. The new church will look to opportunities for collaboration with other Anglican congregations, ecumenical partners, and various organizations in the Sault area.

Initially, the new faith community will be based at 1643 Wellington St. East, the current location of St. Matthew's Church, with a launch date of Sunday, September 11, 2016. Plans for renovating the current facility or moving to a new location will be determined as ministry needs and opportunities emerge.

This is an exciting time for the people of both congregations. The merger reflects a strong desire to engage in ministry in new ways,

redirecting more resources away from matters such as building upkeep toward addressing the needs of people in light of the Christian gospel.

For further information please contact:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, The Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle, Bishop/Congregational Development Officer

The Diocese of Algoma
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The Rev. Pamela Rayment, The Rev. Patrick McManus, Pastor/Pastor
St. John the Evangelist St. Matthew's Anglican
705.206.6982/705-759-2545

St. Brice's, North Bay is lively and active

By Wendy Richard

There is lots of ministry and outreach at St. Brice's, North Bay.

Last winter, St. Brice's decided to sponsor a refugee family. They expect them to arrive around the end of this year. Everyone is so thankful and excited about surpassing the fund raising goal of \$25,000 towards the sponsorship of a refugee family. The church continues to maintain a sense of patience and anticipation as everyone waits for them to arrive. St. Brice's have acquired, through very generous donations, an abundance of new and gently used home furnishings and household items that are awaiting the family. The Refugee Resettlement Committee has been very busy speaking with the parties involved in this process and communicating information back to the parish, and all are so thankful for all their hard work, prayer and commitment.

The Teen Lunch Program (TLP) has wrapped up another busy, enjoyable and blessed school year with the local high school students, and members are looking forward to a new school year beginning in September. On average 80 to 100 teens were fed a nutritious and homemade meal consisting of Sloppy Joe's, their favorite, or pasta and the occasional soup and sandwich lunch every Friday through the school year.

Time is of the essence as they are only with us for about 20 minutes. A school teacher's bell is rung and the room quiets quickly, you can hear a pin drop, and many in the room hold hands as a short prayer is offered. Students have volunteered to say the grace over the food, which is very exciting as it shows they are very comfortable with parishioners and their peers! This is the tenth year for TLP and every week begins with joy filled hugs and chatter as all gather together to prepare the food for lunch.

After all the prep work and things are bubbling away in the roaster ovens, all sit together and have a time of spiritual reflection and sharing how God has been working in our lives since we last met. This Scriptural reflection and discussion time coupled with prayer truly puts God in the center of this amazing ministry, and has formed very strong relationships between members of the team. Ev-

everyone is looking forward with joy and anticipation to the 2016/2017 school year, and learn where God will take St. Brice's with the teens.

Some other fun community building that has been undertaken are the weekly community bike rides as cyclists of all ages and ability gather Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., weather permitting. A favorite destination is the ice cream shop in downtown Callander. It's a great way to meet new people and continue to build friendships through fresh air and exercise. There is also the monthly Saturday Games Night through most of the year, which builds fellowship, healthy competition and good sportsmanship as all enjoy board games and snacks.

Earlier in the year the *Alpha* course ran and was quite successful. Participants included people who were exploring the Christian faith, and those who wanted a "refresher." *Alpha* will be offered again soon.

Messy Church is also a fairly new initiative at St. Brice's that is gaining popularity and a faithful group of attendees, who gather Friday night once a month. *Messy Church* at St. Brice's is a largely lay-led program for people, offered for people who do not attend a traditional church format and for those who want to engage in a relaxed, fairly informal community setting with informal worship, learning about a Christian theme, generally with an activity or craft, and sharing a light meal together.

St. Brice's also has a faithful team of parishioners who spend three Tuesdays a month preparing, from scratch, "Take Home Meals" to sell each month at a very reasonable prices. They are intended particularly for shut-ins and singles. Often they sell out or nearly sell out. The menu varies from turkey dinners with all the trimmings, to meat pies, and shepherd's pie, roast beef dinner and assorted biscuits and desserts. It is a tremendous ministry available to the parish family as well as being open for the community to enjoy. All meals come in freezable containers for future use, so you can stock up on these tasty dishes!

Everyone is thrilled how God is moving at St. Brice's and look forward to seeing where God leads the church next.

New appointment in Thunder Bay

Bishop Stephen Andrews is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Jonathan Blanchard as Incumbent of St. Thomas Anglican Church, Thunder Bay, effective September 1, 2016.

Rev. Blanchard comes to the Diocese of Algoma from St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Winnipeg. He has provided ministry over the last 20 years in the Dioceses of

Moosonee and Rupert's Land. He holds a B.A. (Philosophy/Sociology) from the University of Manitoba and an M.Div. from Wycliffe College.

We welcome Jonathan and his wife, Deanna, to the Diocese of Algoma and request that you uphold them in prayer as they prepare to commence this new ministry with the people of St. Thomas.



TOGETHER IN WORSHIP: On Sunday, May 29, 2016, parishioners from Christ Church, St. John's and St. Brice's, North Bay gathered together with other friends for a joint "Picnic in the Park" on the waterfront in North Bay. Children and adults played games, chatted and enjoyed refreshments while a number talented musicians played in the background. Pictured, from left are Max Edwards, Rev. Richard White, Andrea Campbell, Rev. John Stennett, Lisa North, Diane Warner-Dion and Rick Dion. Also in attendance were two families from Syria who had been displaced by war in that country having arrived in North Bay earlier this year.

Touching and inspirational stories told at Youth Synod

Continued from Front

the minister what the doctor had told them, the minister took the mother and daughter and prayed with them. This continued for 30 days, and on that last day, her hearing was down to about 20 percent. After that last prayer, she woke up, and was miraculously cured. They left to visit the doctor to make sure

everything was alright and they had absolutely no explanation for the perfect recovery and she has never had any trouble since.

As this being only one of the touching stories, I can tell you now that every other tale is about as inspirational, with about as much woe and rejoicing, all of them showing that faith in the Lord truly

pays off, and although this account didn't emphasise it, how amazing the deep connection between us and you really is. I highly suggest attending Youth Synod if you or your family members are of the right age and that you picked up as much as I have from this amazing narrative.



HEADING HOME: After a great time at Youth Synod 2016, young people were making their way home throughout the diocese. Heading home to the Deanery of Muskoka are from front to back Paige MacLaughlin, Grace Christensen, Matt Lacroix and Victoria Russell.

On the road again

By the Rev. Canon Bob Elkin

An old joke: A fellow goes into a country general store and finds that every shelf in the place is loaded with bags of salt. There's hardly anything else in the store except salt. He looks over at the owner standing behind the counter and says: "Wow, you sure must be good at selling salt!" The owner shakes his head and says: "Naw, I can't sell salt at all but the guy who sells me stuff boy is he good at selling salt!"

I first remembered that joke when we moved to our house in Little Rapids and got to know some of the neighbours and visited them in their homes. Somebody around this township sure has the gift of selling dark, dated paneling let me tell you! I hadn't seen so much of the stuff since my parents moved to The Old Fogey Trailer Court in their senior years. At least whoever did it saved me some trouble as I don't have to move to the trailer court now in my senior years to get exactly the same effect. Win, win, sort of. Anyway, I thought of the joke again this summer.

My brother in law and I made a trip to Nova Scotia on our motorcycles and camped all the way there and back. We saw a lot of beautiful country but were struck by somebody's ability to sell lawn ornaments to people who park big travel trailers for the season at the RV parks. I've never seen so many fountains and wooden flowers and little cement kids fishing off bridges in my life.

My favorite though was found throughout Quebec and certainly gave us food for thought. Somebody is sure good at selling metal frogs on bicycles where the wheels are brightly coloured and spin in the wind. Every trailer in Quebec seems to have one: metal frogs. Being from Ontario and speaking no French I'd have cut my arm off before I'd have put one up but feeling obliged to enter into the spirit of the display thing we put a Quebec flag and a big sign saying: "Vive le Quebec libre!" in front of our tents and tried to act like scary bikers if any French speaking person looked like they might talk to us. It worked really well as nobody speaking any language at all spoke to us. Quebec was a sort of silent retreat on motorcycles for us and I'd like to recommend it to our new bishop when they get on scene. It sure beats sitting cross-legged on the lawn saying "Ommmmmmmmmm" all day.

My brother in law is a great guy to travel with who basically just gets his bike behind mine and is always there. He's willing to do whatever I want to do and you've got to appreciate someone like that. He does have a few habits that I'd like him to work on though. Every morning when

he wakes us he lays in his tent and sings *Oh What A Beautiful Morning* at the top of his lungs in a terrible Dutch accent.

Since he usually wakes up at about 6:00 a.m. surrounded by trailers and tents filled with sleeping campers, this custom ensured that we packed up quickly and got off to a real early start each day, especially in Quebec. He also likes to prey on the gullible, quietly mocking them and getting them to believe stupid things. For example, he and I were sitting in downtown Merrickville one evening admiring the old buildings and watching the town roll up the streets for the night, it was

Letter from Bob

eight o'clock after all, when he pointed out a rather large pipe-like thing that was jutting out of the wall of the hotel across the street and asked if I knew what it was. I didn't so he explained that it was a bee trap and back in the days before electricity they built such things into the buildings to keep bees from building hives behind the shutters where they would annoy the guests.

I found that interesting and was thinking of the vast fund of strange knowledge that he knows when he went on to explain how the bees would be attracted by the hive like structures inside the pipe and would settle in there which enabled the hotel owner to cap the pipe and extract and get rid of the bees. I could picture it and commented something about how those old technologies certainly did the trick and it was a shame that we stopped using them in modern times. He agreed and went on to tell me how when electricity was introduced they built a vacuum unit into the trap that would actually pull bees that were passing into the pipe where they were held until disposed of. "To this day" he concluded, "Those things are known as bee suckers!"

Now it isn't every day that you get to travel with someone who knows stuff like that and I was admiring the ingenuity of the inventor of the bee sucker when I heard him snicker and it dawned on me that the only sucker for miles around was me! Using scatological imagery I accused him of leading me astray which caused him to fall off his chair and laugh for half an hour. He spent the rest of our trip pointing out bee suckers on every old building we encountered. I can't wait to see what he comes up with next year. We're aiming for BC on that trip.

So summer was fun, interesting and strangely educational as it taught me, once again that I'm a sap! I hope your summer was good too.

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General Synod 2016: optimism in the face of change



WELL REPRESENTED: Diocesan delegates to General Synod took time out for a group photo. Pictured from left are Rev. Chris Harper, Rev. Pamela Rayment, James Mesich, Bishop Stephen Andrews, Gilles Tessier, Ven. Harry Huskins and Jacquie Howell. General Synod was held in Richmond Hill, Ontario from Thursday, July 7 to Tuesday, July 12, 2016.

By Jacquie Howell

General Synod Delegate 2016

Editor's note: In the following, Jacquie Howell gives her impressions of General Synod held from Thursday, July 7 to Tuesday, July 12, 2016 in Richmond Hill, Ontario

These are a few of the emotions I felt as I spent five days, which really seemed like ten, in Richmond Hill at the Sheraton Convention Center attending the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Many of you watched it live streamed and many have read the *Anglican Journal* on line and of course, the major stories in the secular newspapers and most television reports. With this in mind, I will express some of my impressions.

There was the wonderful opportunity to meet dedicated people from across our country, I felt all where there with concern for our church, concern for our neighbours and respect for each other. We had opportunities to sit in open sitting, just find a space at a table and join with others, this happened at Eucharist and all meals. In regular sessions we sat in pre assigned seating. I was at a table with clergy from Vancouver, laity from Ontario and Toronto, a youth from Newfoundland and the Bishop of Nova Scotia and PEI. We were a mixture of a gay bachelor, long-term marriages and shorter marriages after death or divorce and of course our youth. We had neighbourhood sitting that joined three mixed tables together for discussion on the mar-

riage canon. In these sessions, we sat in a sacred circle and each member could speak to the question asked by the facilitator. Our group was diverse and respectful of each other's opinions. For motions related to canon law, we sat with Bishop Andrews as a Diocesan group.

Much has been said about the balloting and like all technology, it is only as good as the information it is given. Normally it works. This time it had flaws. A recorded vote had been moved, seconded, and carried, prior to the commencement of balloting. Once the balloting had occurred, a request was made, for transparency of who had voted. This then triggered some concerns. Much to everyone surprise it became apparent that the General Synod officer's ballots had been registered but not tallied in the count as the information received by the Data Company had indicated they were non-voting. Old information as 2010 synod had given them the vote.

This change was the one ballot that changed the motion from rejection to acceptance of the marriage canon. Much has been said, much has been written, unfortunately, the entire process brought hurt and disappointment to all. In our frail humanity, it was a great lesson for all to share. This motion will require a further vote in 2019 in New Westminster B.C.

The joy that I experienced was the opening and closing Eucharist. The opening Eucharist was under the leadership of our First Nation people and was very moving. This

was followed by a Gospel jambo-ree that was great fun. The closing Eucharist was lead by Bishop Susan our partner from the Lutheran Church.

The church has affirmed the wishes of our Aboriginal brothers and sister to seek a different form of leadership and self-determination. This will be a long journey due to the multitude of First Nations, language and geography. With God's blessing and direction, may they move forward.

There was the usual business of reports and I must say that the Anglican Foundation did a wonderful skit that held our attention and convey a great message. It provided a little humour in a long day. We had many guests who the Anglican Church of Canada is in partnership with or dialogue. The newest ecumenical dialogue will commence with the Mennonite Church. There faithfulness to prayer is something we can learn.

I left the conference exhausted but as the days have passed and I have been able to receive spiritual support from so many, I remain optimistic for our Anglican Church. YES, it must change and it will change. We will become more ecumenical and mission orientated. Social justice and our environment will be our guide as God created our world and we are responsible for its care.

I was proud to be one of the representatives of the Diocese of Algoma and share with others from across the nation. Thank you for this opportunity.



FEEDING BODY AND SOUL: On Thursday, May 12, 2016 a “Free Community Chili Supper” was held at St. Mary Magdalene, Sturgeon Falls. Some of the people who helped are pictured from left Valerie Dixon, Carole Anne Friedrich, Eileen Fraser, Candice Rapp, Deborah Samson, Joyce Gregory, Linda Lamarche and Maria McAdam. Approximately 85 people were served.



NEW KITCHEN: St. Mary Magdalene, Sturgeon Falls has recently had new kitchen facilities installed allowing for events such as the recent “Free Community Chili Supper” held at the church.



LEARNING TOGETHER: The Inter-Diocesan Learning Community (IDLC) was a collaborative learning network involving the Diocese of Algoma, Toronto, Edmonton and Nova Scotia-PEI. Pictured from left are Bishop Stephen Andrews, Ven. Anne Germond, Rev. Pamela Rayment and Jane Mesich and Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle who were involved throughout the process which ran from February 2014 until June of this year.

Ministry Outside the Church Walls

2016 Lay Readers
Conference

September 30 - October 2

Hosted by the Deanery of
Sudbury-Manitoulin
at The Church of the Ascension
1476 Sparks St. Sudbury

See www.dioceseofalgoma.com or ask
your incumbent for more info.

Diocesan leaders complete years long process focused on mission

Leadership from Algoma has completed a two and a half year process designed to foster mission-oriented cultural change on a diocesan level. The Inter-Diocesan Learning Community (IDLC) was a collaborative learning network involving the Dioceses of Algoma, Toronto, Edmonton, and Nova Scotia-PEI.

The IDLC initiative involved senior leaders from each diocese coming together for four two-day events. It provided a forum for mutual support and the sharing of experience between participants. Dioceses already involved in a deliberate undertaking of missional change and having significant insights to share were approached and invited to participate in the project.

From February 2014 until June of this year, participants met every nine months, set goals and strategies for the period between meetings, and then gathered again to engage in feedback, evaluation, reflection, and further goal-setting to build on progress to date.

Bishop Stephen Andrews, Diocesan Treasurer Jane Mesich, and Algoma's Congregational Development Officer, The Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle, were involved throughout the process and participated in every gathering. The Rev. Kelly Baetz as Communications Committee chair, Archdeacon Anne Germond as chair of the Strategic Plan Reference Group, and The Rev. Pamela Rayment, who assisted in many congregational development efforts associated with the

Strategic Plan, also participated in some of the gatherings.

The project served the emphasis on discipleship and mission increasingly evident in the Diocese. As a result of IDLC, diocesan leadership set and acted upon objectives in a number of areas, including a focus on discipleship by Synod, review of administrative practices to better serve mission, revision work to canons and policies, the enhancement of partnerships between Indigenous communities and the wider Diocese, and fostering collegiality and accountability amongst clergy and other leaders. Much of the work identified through IDLC will be ongoing.

Algoma's activity was featured at various points throughout IDLC. During the initial gathering, Bishop Andrews and Dr. Koyle were part of an interview panel addressing how Algoma is responding to the need for change, and the importance of permission giving in furthering effective change. In the final session, Dr. Koyle was part of a question and answer session, speaking about Algoma's emerging approach to maximizing resources, including risks taken, best developments, and the learning that has arisen from challenges and disappointments. He will serve with Dave Robinson, Director of Congregational Development in the Diocese of Toronto, and Janet Marshall, Director of the Centre for Church Development and Leadership of the Toronto United Church Council, in exploring possibilities

See Dioceses – p. 8

Dioceses are managing change and fostering vitality

Continued from p. 7

for follow-up to the recently completed IDLC and making the process available for engagement by other dioceses.

IDLC is modeled after a successful approach engaged previously by seven English dioceses and one Canadian diocese. It is based on the conviction that, in the rapidly changing environment and mission field of the twenty-first century, dioceses face critical challenges to managing change and fostering vitality. Dioceses that are addressing these challenges in significant ways can benefit from sharing insights and mutual accountability, with the assistance of facilitators and coaches.

Throughout the IDLC process, five emphases were given constant

attention:

- Strategy: moving from ideas to intentional planning;
- Structures: moving from isolated projects to joined up policy;
- Authority: permission giving to release energy and allow initiative for exploring new directions;
- Deployment, development and training: fresh models and best practice;
- Finance: releasing resources in a challenging economic climate.

Another Canadian diocese and one American diocese also started, but did not finish the process.

The initiative was sponsored and organized administratively by the Congregational Development Team of the Diocese of Toronto.

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A MOMENT TO CHAT: Rev. Mal Binks and Phil Gunyon were able to speak for a few moments at a farewell reception held for Bishop Stephen Andrews and Fawna Andrews on Sunday, July 17, 2016 at the Church of the Redeemer, Rosseau.

Algoma Anglican E-mail Address

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We need to know our children and their needs

By Charlotte Haldenby

What a summer! Less than two weeks after Americans demonstrated on National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 2, 49 people were killed and more than 50 injured at a gay social club in Orlando Florida, by a young man called Omar Maneet, with legally obtained high capacity weapons. And since then, haven't we all been a bit hesitant at turning on the TV for the morning news, and not just because *Canada AM* has gone, to hear about the latest what "they" have done to "them". For whoever is "they" "one day, may turn into "them" two days later. And has the infection crossed the border as I write in the last week of July, with two Ottawa police involved in and incident with a mentally ill black immigrant from Somalia.

And yet the Monday night after the mass murder in Orlando, I attended the City Council meeting here in Sault Ste. Marie as part of New Beginnings, our refugee committee, as the mayor was going to declare World Refugee Day, and there was another Omar, probably not even a teenager yet, right up there beside the mayor in his best suit, all smiles, who gives us hope. He had won the essay contest to be mayor for the day.

Now he read it to us. "Ladies and gentlemen, when I was growing up in Libya, I wanted to be President of the United States but now I think I'd like to be mayor

Looking at the World

of Sault Ste. Marie. You only have to work five hours a week." That got a good laugh. Continuing, "My proposal for Sault Ste. Marie, is that there be a centre for kids to play in during the winter. Where I came from in Libya, we could play outside all year, but you can't in Canada, and kids need to play."

After he finished his essay, he read the first two council resolutions, counted hands, and declared them passed. Then he was awarded his mayor's certificate and prizes and went home with his very proud father, mother, little brother and baby sibling asleep in a carriage who probably didn't realise what a hit Omar was. The mayor told us that Omar had been with him all day, and now knew that there was a bit more than five hours a week in the mayor's job, to our laughter. How do we in all our communities keep our young children open to experience, ready to learn, safe, and responsible, and most days joyful, like this young Omar, and less troubled and angry than that Omar in Orlando?

It was obvious that Omar has a strong family, on his side. However we are related to children, they must realise this, even if

we only visit two weeks out of a year. If parents have issues with each other, or even divorce, the children should still know both parents totally care what happens to them. Lawyers and judges, if it goes that far, should see the children as real people with so much at stake in their decisions, not just pawns in an "I'll get you!" game!

When I asked around if this nice family in the audience were refugees, I was told "No, he's a doctor, they're regular immigrants!" So yes, this Omar must be in good health. But, even though we do have a great health

"Do all our children grow up with enough or access to enough to keep that good health going?"

plan, do all of us have good access to doctors and hospitals, especially once you're outside our major cities?

The family seemed well-fed. Do all our children grow up with enough or access to enough to keep that good health going? Through the media we learn of all the food elements we need to stay healthy, but even when we carefully examine the food flyers, can we afford that food?

Do little kids, as Omar said, get enough exercise and enough time outdoors in nature? I don't know how most families can afford

organised sports, especially with all the equipment required, and as rural schools shut down, there go those play areas for pick-up sports. But my neighbours at the corner are already walking their two year old around the circle. And there's our basketball net at the street edge.

Are there libraries both for books and computer access close to home, even if they're just in a small room at the township offices, or a shelf at the back of the church? I'd say the community halls, but in some of our communities those are disappearing too.

And these last two are bringing up another issue. If we just see money issues, maybe amalgamated schools look good. But do we consider the hour before and after school on the bus, the effect of having so many kids around and most bigger than you, and can your parents get to you easily? How do you feel secure, and sure that somebody knows you're even there?

With the stories of youth suicide this summer, we have got to take a look at how children feel about themselves and their future. Keep that family support going, yes, but the school community has to be on board too. Teachers do know those kids who are always answering, and the kids who are acting up to get attention, but what about those quiet ones, who never say anything,

and sometimes look as if they are carrying the whole world on their shoulders?

In the playground, there can be lots of fun running around and teasing, but when does it get too much, or too personal about something you can't change, and you just walk away to the back corner of the building and sit, so sad? My niece-in-law Estelle, who teaches English in a high school in Mississauga, says that computers and other devices in the classroom are changing things so much at a personal level. Are kids really accessing the online material you want, or are they sending bullying messages or checking out some weird site with no relevance at all to class? After school hours what are they up to on the "social" media? Do they see and appreciate the real life friends they could have right there three feet away? Teachers, administration, secretaries, coaches, and care staff, all of you, be observant and caring, and help kids get what they need.

Let's all sit down once a day and talk with our kids about their day. Let's pray together, even just as a thank you grace, or a bedtime concern for the future. As Maggie Muggins used to end her radio program when I was growing up, "I don't know what will happen tomorrow!", but by being there for all our children with our whole hearts, we can all be safe and not sorry!