

Endings and Beginnings

We received a painting last week. A gift from Bishop Allan; a painting he no longer has room for, in his care home. It's a painting of the Kenora downtown, and it's quite lovely, and it was a gift to him on his retirement many years ago. An ending of sorts, when you no longer have room for those treasured mementos, of past accomplishments and people. We are in a season of endings. The fall is fading to cold misery, in preparation for winter. And as the rain falls and the world grows greyer, we find ourselves in a time when we are being tested. How safe can we be from each other, and still be a community of Christ? How are we to meet the challenges of being a Christ-centred community in an alienated world? How do we give the life of Christ to those around us?

The only answer is to live in hope, to act hopefully, and watch how God overcomes depression and alienation.

And so here, for your edification, are our signs of hope. The painting given by Bishop Allan is wonderful and bright, reds and yellows and our Cathedral spire rising above the town. The fall heralds the coming of Christmas, when we celebrate God's coming into our alienated world. The Parish met last Sunday and made some determinations about the future. (see article) The Watts Cathedral Hall has been painted, and the roof fixed, and the floor will be done before the Christmas Tea. There are eight new deacons in this part of our Diocese, including the Rev. Deacon Penny Cummine, who will bring new skills to our outreach in to the town.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

Luke 21:28

Hugh+
Dean



We're moving to a new format to try to make TAN more economical and informative. We hope to do a mini-TAN more often and then a biannual TAN for Christmas and Easter. We hope that many parishioners will allow us to send the publications by e-mail thus saving on postage. Please e-mail the office at stalbans@shaw.ca so that we can put you on our e-mail list. Also, check out our little website at www.dioceseofkeewatin.ca/cathedral

Because the produce from our gardens wasn't as plentiful this year, the focus for the Harvest Thanksgiving service was moved to the bounty we received in other ways. The congregation was asked to think of what their family would eat at the big meal of the day and to bring enough non-perishable food to feed a family of the same size. We filled a wheelbarrow to overflowing, having a point of reference for our own gratitude, and a tangible blessing for those who were hungry at the same time.

It was a very special Sunday service when St. Alban's was visited by the Eastern Manitoba Youth Choir under the direction of Rick Heppner. This is a choir that meets in Manitoba for two intensive week-end practices and then performs in small communities in Southern Manitoba and North-West Ontario. This year, four teens from Kenora joined the group: Brendan Matheson, Gavin Bowerman, Erica Rasmussen and Erin McIntosh.



Penny Cummine thanks Rev. Sandra Tankard for her dedication in serving St. Alban's while Dean Matheson was away.



The Inukshuk, Symbol of the Council of the North, a co-operative effort of Dioceses in the North of Canada. September 6th was Inukshuk Sunday and we built this one to remind us in our worship of being part of the larger Body of Christ.

Penny Cummine is shown with Teaghan Cameron after Teaghan completed her work in the nursery at St. Alban's. Thank you for your commitment, Teaghan.



Watts' Hall Renovation

Doreen Belair , Anthony Sharp and the Dean help to paint the Watts Hall on Saturday Oct. 17th. The youngest volunteer was Campbell Mitchell who is shown busily painting the floor with water while his Mom and Dad, Stephen and Dawn Michell painted the walls. Other volunteers missing from the photo were Sandra Bland, Lee Morris, and Sandra Horbaty. Dulcie Richards provided much-appreciated treats and coffee for the workers.

**A Great Congregational Meeting
Oct. 25, 2009.**

On Sunday, Oct. 25th, the congregation came together to finalize some issues arising from the Annual General Meeting of Sunday March 29, 2009. A second issue was on the agenda regarding the financial situation at the cathedral.

The first concern was the approval for roof work for the Watt's Hall. A renovation was badly needed. With roofers ready to start on Tuesday, with a favourable quote of \$27,000.00, the congregation voted unanimously in favour.

The second issue was the proposal to reduce the amount of time to release funds for specific concerns in the church building. The vote was in favour to reduce the time to 60 days from the current 180 days.

To finish the meeting, the important topic of financial sustainability was raised. It is evident that our parish is having trouble meeting its monthly commitments. We currently have bills totalling \$15,000.00 that need to be paid. There was a motion to continue an ongoing conversation on the sustainability of this parish, particularly highlighting relevancy and relationship. Why are people not coming? Many comments were made. The atmosphere was positive and constructive, albeit concerned. In short, the words to remember from the meeting were:

Relevancy Forgiveness Forward Vision Christian Values Hope

A very important quote that was presented at the beginning of the discussion is aptly used to end this article.

“We do not inherit the planet from our parents, we borrow it from our children.”

Will our church be there for our children?

~ Article submitted by Stephanie Kennedy



Are you a candle-maker? The Altar Guild has candle pieces for anyone in the parish who is interested.