

Volume 11 Issue 1

September, 2011

The View From The Pew

The Rev Doug McClure—Interim Rector

At the end of June we said farewell to Archdeacon Andrew and Mary Lou Hoskin. They left Thunder Bay moving to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan to take up a new position with the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

With the departure of Archdeacon Hoskin, Bishop Stephen Andrews

announced the appointment of the Reverend Deborah Kraft as Archdeacon of Thunder Bay effective July 1, 2011. Made a Deacon in 2001 and ordained a Priest the following year, Deborah has served the parishes of West Thunder Bay (2000 – 2005) and St. Paul's, Thunder Bay (2000 to present). A service of Collation will take place in Thunder Bay sometime this month.

On July 31st our new Archdeacon, The Ven. Deborah Kraft, joined us for the latter part of the 10:30 am service presenting Pastor Doug McClure with his license as Interim Rector of St. Thomas'.

Pastor Doug has been serving St. Thomas' as Associate Pastor since July, 2010. He has already been very busy with his broom (along with a number of volunteers) making a clean sweep throughout the Church. The Vestibule has been de-cluttered and reorganized; bulletin boards have been tidied up; carpets, throughout the entire church, have been cleaned. These are just some of the more 'visible' signs of activity going on.

At a Special Vestry Meeting held Sunday, June 19th, St. Thomas' elected a Concurrence Committee with the responsibility of searching for and hiring a new Rector. Elected were Glen Craig (Chair), John DeGiacomo (Vice-Chair), Janice Koza, Tracy Kennedy, Garry Barker, Rick Carson and Walter Reszitnyk. Peggy Garriock was elected as an alternate, as needed. Please keep our concurrence committee in your prayers as they undertake this important work on behalf of the parish.



Ven. D. Kraft presenting Pastor Doug with his Interim License.

FROM THE EDITOR: *With the onset of September, we enter a new season and a time of new beginnings for our many groups. Upon evaluation, however, we may find it necessary to make the difficult decision of discontinuing our involvement in certain areas and channeling our energies into new ministries. That being said, Rob and Gail Brooks have made the decision to discontinue the Frances Street Home Group this year. Also, this will be my last Newsletter. I have been blessed by the opportunity to serve you through this ministry but sense that I am being called to direct my energies into other areas. I thank you for your support and encouragement over the past year. Blessings, Carolyn Napierala*

THANK YOU!

To **Paul Erickson** for his craftsmanship in constructing a 'trolley' to store the dishwasher trays in our kitchen. Most ingenious and useful!

To **Becky Winnett-Day**, our parish custodian, along with **Janis and Garry Barker**, for steam-cleaning the church carpets throughout the entire sanctuary and entranceway, & Sunday School/Education Centre. They look great!

To Doug Gould for blessing our 8:30 am service with lovely, pre-service music played on the piano. A very welcome addition to the 8:30 am services.

The **Rev. Judie Cooper**, Rector of St. Luke's, has announced her retirement. Her last Sunday in the Parish will be on October 9th.

New Address for Ven. Andrew and Mary Lou Hoskin:

1102 4th St., E.,
Prince Albert. Sask. S6V 0L2

DONNA MCCORMICK RETIRING

Our Parish Secretary, Donna McCormick, has decided to retire after 33 years of dedicated service to the parish of St. Thomas'. A luncheon to honour Donna and acknowledge her many years of service will be held after a Sunday, 10:30 am service sometime in October.

NOW HIRING – PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

With the retirement of Donna McCormick, a newly created position of Administrative Assistant has been created. Copies of the job description for the position of Administrative Assistant can be obtained from the Church Office or Pastor Doug. Applications should be submitted to the Rector's Warden, Garry Barker, gbarker@tbaytel.net.

THANK YOU to Sheila Tucker who will continue as our relief secretary until the new position has been filled.

PARISH PROFILE – VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The Concurrence Committee is looking for a volunteer to help facilitate the writing/editing of the Parish Profile. Writing and computer skills necessary. Please contact Glen Craig 475-5717.

Good friends are like

Stars.....

You don't always see them,
but you know they are always there.



Back to Church Sunday

September 25, 2011

Who will you invite back to church with you?

Pastor Doug is looking for volunteers to do "Saturday Walk-a-bouts" in Westfort Village. The idea is to invite 'people on the street' to our Back to Church Sunday service on September 25th. Volunteers will hand out invitation cards in a warm and friendly manner for one hour. Training provided. Inviters' are needed for Saturday, September 10th 17th and 24th



Sunday school

New this fall – I.B.M. Sunday School
Inter-active, Bible-based, multi-media program.
Begins, Sunday, September 18th at 10:30 a.m.



Songs, puppet shows, video Bible lessons, crafts, Scripture proclamation and more. Make sure your children don't miss this unique opportunity to learn about and experience God's wonderful love and kindness.

IN THE MIDST OF SILENCE

"So long as we imagine it is we who have to look for God, we must often lose heart. But it is the other way about—He is looking for us."

...Simon Tugwell

Afraid, alone, worried, lost, empty, confused, needing answers...we all feel this way at times. Wrapped in our cloak of emotions, we go in search of God's answers to our most demanding questions. Where do you search for your answers? Elijah, God's mighty prophet went looking for his answers in wind, earthquake and fire, in other words, in all the wrong places. Elijah didn't find his answers in any of the places he expected to find them.

MEDITATION: 1 KINGS 19:1-15

After winning a mighty battle for God against the false prophets of Baal, Elijah was on the run from the wrath of Jezebel feeling frightened, tired, and alone. Exhausted, he took refuge in the wilderness, he ^{vs 4} "...sat down under a lone broom or juniper tree and asked that he might die." Elijah fell asleep and while he slept the Lord was looking after him and making provision for him. The Bible tells us that an angel of the Lord came twice to him **while he slept**, giving him food and water, enough to strengthen and revive him. In other words, Elijah in the midst of his fear and depression was not aware that God was right there with him, looking after him. Feeling strengthened enough to run, he took off again, traveling forty days and nights and found a cave to hide out in. In the loneliness of Elijah's cave, God breaks through his despair and asks him the big question, ^{vs. 9} "...What are you doing here, Elijah?" Elijah, himself, was probably wondering what he was doing there. He realized that running away wasn't the answer to his problem. He went out looking for his answers, searching in wind, earthquake and fire but the guidance Elijah was looking for wasn't found in any of them. Where did he finally hear God's voice and get the guidance he needed? The Amplified Bible explains it as "[a sound of gentle stillness] and a still small voice." To get the answer to his

questions, Elijah had to quiet himself and ignore the raging wind, earthquake and fire surrounding his life. God couldn't be found in any of them. God, and the answers Elijah was searching for, could only be found in the stillness and in the quiet contemplation of God's awesome presence.

What questions do you have for God? Where do you go to find your answers? As quietness and trusting confidence [in the midst of tumultuous circumstances] was what Elijah needed, so also it is what we need to find the answers to, not only those big questions, but also the little questions in our life. God loves and cares for us. Even when we are not aware of His loving presence, He is looking after us. The Lord is not allusive, living in a far off land somewhere, unaware of our needs and circumstances. We do not need to go in search of Him. He is right beside us, just waiting for us to invite Him into our every moment.

Can we be still and quiet long enough for God's voice to break through the wind, earthquake and fire of the circumstances that challenge us? Let us make the daily practice of quiet contemplation; prayer and the reading of God's Word become an indispensable necessity to our life.

"In the midst of silence, I am still here.

In the midst of confusion, I am still here,

I am from everlasting to everlasting. I have not forsaken you."

...Words by Lianna Klassen from her song titled "I Am".

Submitted by Carolyn Napierala

God's Post-it Notes

- ** Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- **Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.
- **When you get to your wits end, you'll find God lives there.
- **Peace starts with a smile.
- **If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!
- **God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
- **The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

Submitted by Dorothy Glenn

THE CHRISTMAS CARD

There is a list of folks I know
All written in a book.
And every year at Christmas time
I go and take a look.
And that is when I realize that
Those names are a part,
Not of the book they're written in
But of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone
Who has touched my life sometime.
And in that meeting they've become
The "Rhythm of the Rhyme".
I really feel I am composed
Of each remembered name,
And while you may not be aware
Of feeling quite the same,
My life is so much better
Than it was before you came.

For once that you have known someone
The years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word
Or of a friendly face.
So never think my Christmas cards
Are just a mere routine
Of names upon a list,
Forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card
That is addressed to you
It is because you're on that list
Of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I've known you
For many years or few,
In some way you have had a part
In shaping things I do.
So every year when Christmas comes
I just realize a new
The biggest gift that GOD can give
Is knowing folks like you!

Submitted by Margaret Napierala

God's Wings

After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. Then the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast...because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

*"He will cover you with His feathers, and
under His wings you will find refuge."*

(Psalm 91:4)



Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening', and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.



NATION AT PRAYER

Calling Christian Leaders to Pray
Calling Christians to Pray For Leaders

Charlie and Margie Wilson were Guest Speakers at the Sunday, August 21st, 10:30 am service. Charlie and Margie are Regional Directors for 'NATION AT PRAYER'. They recently organized the very successful **MAYOR'S PRAYER BREAKFAST** in May and were very encouraged with the overwhelming response.

"What If – every elected official was prayed for, everyday, throughout every district, city and province in Canada."

What to pray for elected representatives

- That Canada will be a Country whose Elected Leaders are:
 - Individuals of integrity, grace, & conviction
 - Willing servants
 - People of vision, perseverance & character
- Wisdom and discernment
- Endurance, health and protection
- Strong, healthy family life
- Physical, emotional and spiritual well being
- That the Holy Spirit will guide and guard their thoughts and speech
- Courage to do what is right and grace in doing it.

LOOKING AHEAD

A.C.W. Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 13th at 1:30 p.m.

All ladies of the Parish are welcome.

For more information contact

Joyce Fossum, 577-7381

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BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW

Meet at 8:00 am every 2nd Saturday

In Haddon Hall for breakfast

Bible study and fellowship.

Meeting Saturday, Sept. 10th

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CHOIR PRACTICE

Meeting Thursday evenings at 7:45 p.m.

Beginning Thursday, Sept. 8th

[Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!]

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Mother's Union

[Meet 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm]

Collecting this Month to fill 2012 Conference Bags

This month it would be great if you can donate:

***** PENCILS, PACKS OF GUM, KLEENEX, *****

Please put them in the Mother's Union box under the table in the Narthex.

THANK YOU!!

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LAYREADERS-IN-TRAINING

Please encourage and pray for:

Tracy Kennedy

Gail Brooks

Janice Koza



Our newest Layreaders-in-Training

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

Submitted by Jack & Sheila Tucker

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

1400 Edward Street, South

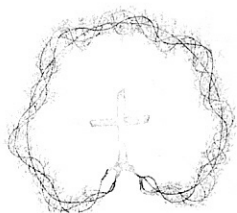
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Handicap Accessible

*"I am the vine,
you are the branches"
St. John 15:5*

Rooted in Jesus

INTERIM RECTOR: The Rev. Doug McClure

OFFICE SECRETARIES: Mrs. Donna McCormick

Mrs. Sheila Tucker

Bishops Motto for 2011

"For surely I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord,
plans for your welfare and not for harm,
to give you a future with hope."
(NRSV) Jeremiah 29:11

Parish Vision Statement

St. Thomas' is a growing family of faith in Jesus,
seeking to empower its members to use their
gifts to extend the Kingdom of Christ.

STEPS TO BECOMING AN INVITING CHURCH

**'Back to Church Sunday'
September 25th**

SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR INVITE

NOTE: There are invitations and prayer cards at
the church for you to give the person you are
inviting.

1. Pray, asking God who He has prepared
for you to invite.
2. Practice the question – 'Would you like to
come to church with me?'
3. Pray for courage to invite, and pray for
those being invited.
4. Make the invitation.
5. If possible, go and pick up your invited
guest from their home.
6. Introduce them to friends during the
Fellowship Time after the service.
7. Assume they are coming the following
Sunday and invite them to come again.

*Remember, it's O.K. if the person you invite
says "no". Our task is simply to invite. God
alone can move their hearts to say "yes".*

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Thanks to Brian Piklaart

02-23-2001

"AHH, THE WAVE", THOUGHT PASTOR DOUG ...
"I KNEW THIS SERMON HAD POTENTIAL"