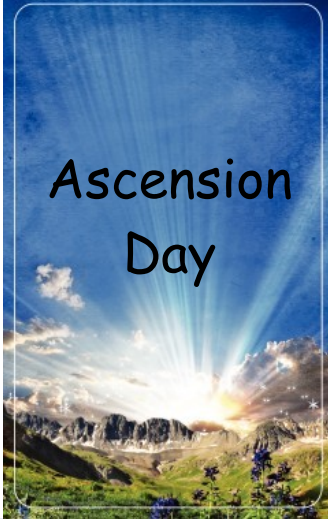


St. Thomas' Anglican Church

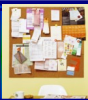
WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

May 19th & 20th, 2012

Ascension Day



Come and worship with us on:
Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion
Saturday—5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Communion
Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion



Weekly Notices



Please attend a special **VESTRY MEETING** after the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, May 20th. This is an important meeting for all parishioners regarding the renovations needed for the rectory.

Next meeting regarding '**Improvement of Church Property**' (Goal 3) will be Tuesday, May 22nd @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. All welcome.

The **Parish Office** will be **CLOSED** on Victoria Day—Monday, May 21st.

Volunteers, both men and women, are needed for setting-up, serving, and clean-up at **Fellowship Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. This is a crucial ministry for the health of St. Thomas by nurturing bonds of affection and unity in our church. Please prayerfully consider volunteering even one Sunday per month. Teams of 2-3 would be ideal. Training will be provided. Contact Pastor Doug if interested, 623-3608.

St. Thomas will host a **Celebration of New Ministry** between our parish and new Incumbent, **Rev. Doug McClure**, on Monday, June 18th @ 7:00 p.m. Archdeacon Deborah Kraft will be the Officiant and the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca will be the preacher. (*see photo of Bishop Fraser to the right*). Please be on hand as we, the people of St. Thomas, along with Pastor Doug, commit ourselves to a shared ministry in this parish.

St. Thomas will host a **Deanery of Thunder Bay special event** on Tuesday, June 19th from 7:00—9:00 p.m. Guest presenter will be the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of Athabasca (Northern Alberta), and includes an uplifting time of prayer and praise followed by refreshments and fellowship. No cost, no registration—just come as you are and bring a friend in need of encouragement.



Weekly Notices continued...

Thank you to all who contributed to and supported the **Women of Faith** bake sale last week.

Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, June 10th in the Rectory yard with BBQ, games, songs, and more. Invite your family and friends! Contact Ralph and Wendy Day.

Sunday, June 10th will be a special **CHILDREN'S SERVICE** featuring our IBM Sunday School children and teachers. A multi-media, multi-generational presentation will include action songs, videos, awards, etc. followed by our Parish picnic. You won't want your children and grand-children to miss it!

A summer course, '**The Books of Moses**' takes place July 9-13 at St. Luke's Church. Further information and registration details are on the bulletin boards.

Sunday, June 3rd is Trinity Sunday and we celebrate the **Holy Trinity**—God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We'll have a special **INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST**, designed to give a deeper understanding of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion). Each part of our Communion service will be explained to make it more meaningful. Don't miss it!

Please join Pastor Doug this Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m. in a friendly worship service of song and informal communion with the folks at **Isabella Retirement Home**. Volunteers always greatly appreciated. Come and worship with us.

St. Thomas has a goal for 2012 of '**Building Bridges with First Nations People.**' If you are interested to learn how this can happen, then please come to a special gathering on Saturday, June 2nd @ 10:00 a.m. in the Education Centre. Our First Nations brothers and sisters are especially welcome.

A.C.W. Corporate Communion will be next Sunday, May 27th.

Remember to wear **RED** next week as we celebrate **PENTECOST**—the birthday of the Christian Church by the power of the Holy Spirit!

Parish Goals for 2012:

- Feeding the Hungry
- Building Bridges with First Nations People
- Improvement in Church Property

*With God,
all things
are possible!*

Practicing Good Hygiene in Holy Communion

Please practice good hygiene when receiving Communion. In our Diocese, 'intinction' (dipping the wafer or bread into the wine) is not allowed. We encourage everyone to receive directly from the common cup (chalice) or to receive bread only. There is much less risk of contamination from lips than from hands. Your hands have touched many things—with intinction, the bread has touched your hands, the bread then touches the wine, and a virus can enter along with the bread. If you do not wish to receive the chalice, you can simply place your right hand over your heart while the words of administration are said, and respond with 'Amen' to signal the administrator to move on to the next person.



WHO?

This informal get-together welcomes anyone involved with **children** and **youth** services within in our parishes, or maybe you are interested in becoming involved!

(CLERGY, COORDINATORS, VOLUNTEER LEADERS, ETC...)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012 ~ 7PM

CHILD & YOUTH MINISTRY GATHERING

ST. THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

1400 EDWARD ST. S. AT FREDERICA ST. E.

OUR PURPOSE?

- ☺ Our children and youth are vital to our congregations.
- ☺ As people involved with child and youth ministry, it is important to gather together and support one another in prayer and through the sharing of ideas and resources!
- ☺ This informal meeting is aimed at developing relationships and communication among our deanery parishes, and is hopefully the beginning of an ongoing partnership to continue to build strong and healthy child and youth programs in the Thunder Bay Deanery.

**THUNDER BAY
DEANERY**

Erin Ezack, *CHILD AND YOUTH MINISTRY FACILITATOR*
edmead27@hotmail.com 807-473-7309

What is the greatest gift that we as a church can offer a hurting world? I believe it's HOPE. We can offer hope to the poor, the needy, the sick, the depressed, the lonely, the unemployed, the homeless, the lost, the abused, the grieving, the misunderstood and any others that God allows to cross our paths. We can help. You'll notice that I didn't say you can help or I can help, but we can help bring hope. It's called the 'we factor' or teamwork.

The challenges that face us as a congregation demand teamwork. "None of us can do what all of us can do." ~ *Max Lucado*. Let me repeat that: None of us can do what all of us can do. Jesus' commission to the disciples was: "You [all of you collectively] will be witnesses." ~ *Acts 1:8*. Jesus works in community. We are in this together. With our three goals of: 1) Feeding the Hungry, 2) Building Bridges with First Nations People, and 3) Improvement in Church Property, we have a huge challenge. But together we can accomplish our goals.

I don't think there's a week that goes by that Pastor Doug and I don't remark about how we would never have gotten through some particular task without 'so-and-so'. The task would have been too daunting, too overwhelming, had we tried to tackle it alone, but with 'his help' or 'her help' we brought it to a successful completion. We see it time and time again as brothers and sisters work together to bring love and hope to those around us. 'Many hands make light work' is what we often say, and it's so true. We have a common concern and we sing a common song. We are one body with many parts.

Max Lucado asks the question: "What if the missing ingredient for changing the world is teamwork?" Matthew 18: 19-20 says, "When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there." (*Message Bible*). The Jerusalem church worked together—they found common ground. And because of that, lives were changed. We too at St. Thomas have an opportunity to do the same. We can change lives. These past few weeks as we've been meeting together to plan our goals for this year, there is such an excitement about the possibilities that we can achieve. Things are happening, lives are being changed, hope is in the air. But we do at times feel a bit overwhelmed because it takes more than a handful of core people to do everything. Remember, 'no one can do everything, but everyone can do something.' One of the best ways that I know of to take your mind off your own problems is to help others. Suddenly, the things that we may struggle with seem less dramatic when we see what others are going through. We are all God's children and we need to work together and be available for those in need.

I would like to conclude with a story. It's about a reporter some years back who was covering the conflict in Sarajevo. He saw a little girl shot by a sniper. The back of her head had been torn away by the bullet. The reporter threw down his pad and pencil and stopped being a reporter for a few minutes. He rushed to the man who was holding the child and helped them both into his car. As the reporter stepped on the accelerator, racing to the hospital, the man holding the bleeding child said, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still alive." A moment or two later he pleaded, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still breathing." A moment later, "Hurry, my friend. My child is still warm." Finally, "Hurry. Oh my God, my child is getting cold."

By the time they arrived at the hospital, the little girl had died. As the two men were in the lavatory, washing the blood off their hands and clothes, the man turned to the reporter and said, "This is a terrible task for me. I must go tell her father that his child is dead. He will be heartbroken." The reporter was amazed. He looked at the grieving man and said, "I thought she was your child." The man looked back and said, "No, but aren't they all our children?"

Indeed. Those who suffer belong to all of us. And if all of us respond, there is HOPE.

~ *Lesley Joy McClure*



A Texan died and ascended into Heaven. St. Peter met him and welcomed him, saying "You will certainly enjoy Paradise." The Texan shook his head sadly and said "I always thought that TEXAS was Paradise." St. Peter said, "Well, let me show you what we have to offer."

He took the Texan to an area that had a beautiful river flowing through it with wildlife and flowers everywhere. "Isn't this beautiful?" said St. Peter. The Texan replied, "Yes, but not as pretty as the area around SAN ANTONIO."

Somewhat ruffled, St. Peter took him to another area where there were rolling hills, white tail deer and bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush everywhere. "Now," said St. Peter, "Have you ever seen anything so wonderful?" The Texan paused and said, "Yes, it is beautiful but it does not hold a candle to the TEXAS HILL COUNTRY in the springtime."

Becoming more upset, St. Peter then took the Texan to a beautiful white beach, with gentle waves, and an azure sky. "Now have you seen anything this beautiful in Texas?" said St. Peter. The Texan smiled and said "I guess you've never been to SOUTH PADRE ISLAND".

At this point, St. Peter took the Texan to a large rock. On the side of the rock was a huge iron door. St. Peter opened the door and they stepped into an elevator and started going down. As they descended, it grew more and more hot. When the elevator door opened, it revealed the fires of damnation – Hell. St. Peter said "Now, have you got anything in Texas that can top that?" The Texan thought a moment and shook his head. "No, but I know a couple of old boys from HOUSTON that can put that thing out for you."

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"The last thing she said to me was,
'Would it kill you to apologize?'"

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"Ever since they invented cloud computing,
I keep getting data stuck between my toes!"

Two vicars arrived at the local pub and ordered a couple of beers. Then they bowed their heads, said a few words of thanksgiving, and took their sandwiches from their briefcases and began to eat. Seeing this, the angry publican approached them and said, "You two may think you have special privileges knowing God and all that, but you can't eat your own sandwiches in here!" The two vicars looked at each other, shrugged, and then exchanged sandwiches.