



Julia Harrington, who was raised in an atheist family, chose to become a Christian and be baptised by full immersion at All Saint's Church, Regina, on Aug. 28, by Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson. Harrington's husband, Reiner Schaefer, was also confirmed during the service.

Photo – Bill Van Sickle

Why we are Christians

By Julia Harrington and Reiner Schaefer

REGINA – *Editor's note: Julia Harrington was baptized and confirmed, and Reiner Schaefer was confirmed at All Saints Anglican Church on Aug. 28. Previously, Rev. Trish McCarthy had invited the couple to speak during the*

sermon time and tell why they had decided to join the church. This is what they said.

Julia: When Trish asked us if we would like to speak to the congregation about why we wished to be baptized and confirmed, we were happy to agree. Reiner and I believe that all of us, as individual

Christians and as a Christian community, should be prepared to testify to our faith in Christ (1 Peter 3:15). We hope what we say may be meaningful to you, just as it certainly meaningful to us.

The question of "why we wish to be baptised and confirmed" is inextricably linked to the question of "why we are Christians". As a

result, our testimonies will delve significantly into this latter question.

The question, "Why am I a Christian?", brings to mind a justification. What reasons do I have for being a Christian? Why have I chosen to follow Christ? Such emphasis upon rationally justifying one's faith is actually quite misleading, perhaps even harmful.

I am not a Christian because of a logical argument. As many of you may know, I have a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy. I love theoretical arguments - always have.

But, while I have come to the conclusion that the traditional arguments against the existence of God actually originate in the limitations of the human mind, I do not have faith in Christ because I have logically concluded theism is a rationally consistent worldview. I have indeed come to this conclusion; I do believe theism is rationally consistent.

However, with William James in his "Will to Believe", I hold that faith to believe or disbelieve in God extends beyond the confines (Continued on page 5)



Youth and their councillors from Camp Okema in northern Saskatchewan gather for a group picture near the end of their summer camp in August. For the story about Camp Okema, see page 6.

Photo – contributed

Saskatchewan Synod to meet Oct. 21-22

By Canons Committee

PRINCE ALBERT – The fall meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Saskatchewan will be busy as it considers some significant revisions to the Constitution and Canons, its 2012 Budget and five year financial forecast.

However, Synod Arrangements Committee is keen on ensuring the priority of the Synod is the Mission of Christ and our share in that and that there is time and opportunity to be encouraged by our fellowship in the Gospel.

The Constitution and Canons Committee will be bringing several proposed changes to Synod. They will be proposing moving the deadline for Annual General Meetings to Tuesday, Feb. 28, revising the section of the Constitution on Archdeacons and Regional Deans, adding a section to Canons on parish-owned housing and making provision in the Constitution and Canons for Mamuwe Isi Miywachimowin ("Together in the Gospel") and the establishment of a General Assembly.

The Finance Committee would like to speak on the budget and forecast of Synod. While the first two years look positive, the diocese is facing significant and unsustainable projected deficits in 2014 and beyond.

The financial implications of a projected reduction in the grant the diocese receives from General Synod through the Council of the North, as well as slight increases in expenditures, will require addressing. The Committee hopes to hear from members as they consider increasing apportionment, finding other sources of regular funding or making some radical changes to Synod operations.

The Executive Committee had hoped and desired the meeting of the General Assembly and election of a Diocesan Indigenous Bishop could take place along with Synod, so Synod could join with indigenous members in prayer as we take this bold step forward together in the Gospel. The decision on whether to proceed with a General Assembly and election depends on raising the necessary \$20,000 for 2011.

While much of Synod's time will address finance and governance, Bishop Michael Hawkins pointed out these are only important as they assist or stand in the way of our Gospel Mission. "The purpose of this and every meeting of Synod is that the Gospel of Christ may be faithfully preached, the order of the Church maintained, and the Kingdom of Jesus our Lord and Saviour extended."

Bishops' Messages

We Give Thanks

**Bishop David Irving
Diocese of Saskatoon**

Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it"

SASKATOON – When you receive your newspaper for October, Thanksgiving weekend will be upon us. Some of you may be travelling to family or friends and others may be having a quiet weekend at home.

Our Canadian Thanksgiving is not connected to the American Thanksgiving, but is closely connected to the festivals of thanks and celebrations of harvest that took place in Europe during the month of October.

Our first Thanksgiving celebration took place 43 years before the pilgrims landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts. It took place in 1578 when Martin Frobisher, an English explorer, wanted to give thanks for his safe arrival to the

New World.

For the next couple of centuries Thanksgiving, in one form or another, was celebrated around late October or early November, before the government declared it to be a national holiday in 1879 to be celebrated on Nov. 6.

It remained this way until 1957, when the Canadian Parliament announced that the second Monday in October, Thanksgiving, would be "a day of general thanksgiving to almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed."

Another reason for our Thanksgiving being earlier than



the American Thanksgiving is that Canada is geographically further north, causing the Canadian harvest season to arrive earlier.

Also, since Thanksgiving for Canadians is more about giving thanks for the harvest gifts God has bestowed upon us than

the arrival of pilgrims, it makes sense to celebrate the holiday in October.

As Christians, do we truly give thanks for what God has bestowed upon us? We live in a culture that, perhaps more than any other human society since the beginning of time, puts the value of looking out for number one first.

Rugged individualism is the

creed of many – "look after yourself" – and that's it. In the midst of this cry you and I are called to be different.

Being followers of Christ means taking the risk of spending less of our time, energy and resources looking after ourselves and spending more looking after others, the least of our sisters and brothers. We are called to lives of radical generosity because our God has been radically generous to us and we give thanks.

We are called to look after one another, and to look after those who have no way of repaying us. Why? Because Christ is in each and every person around us.

We are to do unto others as we would do unto the one we claim as our Lord. We are to be radically generous with all we have been given and share God's bountiful harvest.

As you enjoy this Thanksgiving weekend, pause for a moment and thank God for all you have received and pray that God will guide you to be faithful stewards of that great bounty.



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Rooted and Grounded

**Bishop Michael Hawkins,
Diocese of Saskatchewan**

PRINCE ALBERT – Whether our roots are in our First Nations, in the immigrants who came to explore and farm this land, or in both, everyone in Saskatchewan has some direct connection to the land and to a particular part of it.

In Saskatchewan we are all rural; even those who live in our cities have their roots in the country, and the thousands who return to farms, reserves, lakes and bush over the summer season are a testament to these rural roots.

It can be so frustrating trying to set any kind of a meeting date in our diocese because even those who have no connection to farming will say, "you cannot meet then, that's seeding" or harvest, hunting, fishing, ice fishing trapping.

I once joked that spring for many of our folks is that unfortunate interval between curling and golf, but for many it's the break between ice fishing and boat fishing.

The seasons of the year are not some artificial thing for us; they are the seasons of blueberries or moose hunting, of barley harvest or trapping, of ice roads or mosquitoes.

We are now, we hope, in the season of harvest, as this is an important time in the Church to give thanks for the provision of our daily bread and to be recalled to the good and faithful stewardship of God's creation and the generous sharing of his gifts, especially

with the poor and hungry.

This is also a season for rural pride. We need to recall in the Church the rural roots of our congregations.

Our country and reserve churches have served as "farm teams" for our urban and suburban congregations over the last 60 years, and the growth of many city churches has been a part of rural depopulation and migration to our cities.



faith in ways that never matched models from cities and elsewhere.

Instead of feeling like second-class citizens in a culture that is predominantly and arrogantly urban, western and white, we should thank God for the

gifts which we enjoy in our rural environments.

I grew up in a city but until I moved to Prince Albert, I had

bishop is the opportunity to travel in the quiet, open and breathtaking spaces of northern Saskatchewan. Whether it is a field of canola in full bloom, the taste of wild blueberries or a sighting of a bear, every trip confirms my faith in the goodness of God our Creator.

There are more atheists in the city and the assumption is they are more intelligent and more sophisticated than poor rural folk.

It might be instead they have become disconnected and uprooted from their natural connection to creation and to the Creator of all.

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD (Ps. 19.1 and Ps. 33.5). Those who get a clear view of the skies and their hands in the dirt know this best.

We should thank God for our connectedness to this good land, for its fields and hills, lakes and streams, rocks and woods. Rural people often have the gift of being grounded and connected to the ground, while our First Nations hold out the virtue of humility which comes from the word humus for earth. When I think of the people of northern Saskatchewan, those two words come to mind, rooted and grounded.

Paul uses those same two words to describe our fundamental and undeniable relationship to the love of God in Jesus Christ. He prays that we might be 'rooted and grounded in love.'

Let us thank God for our roots in His good creation but above all for our spiritual roots in His love.

"Too often we look on our rural congregations as small, outdated and unsustainable, without recognizing how much of the real life and worship and worship of the Church has been grounded there."

Too often we look on our rural congregations as small, outdated and unsustainable, without recognizing how much of the real life, worship and work of the Church has been grounded there.

While new ways need to be found for Christians in rural areas and in small and remote reserves to gather for teaching, fellowship and the breaking of bread and prayers, we have in our history wonderful examples of people's commitment to live out their

spent all my time in ordained ministry in rural congregations.

I remember adjusting to and then looking forward to the faint but sweet smell of manure carried forward to the altar by farmers in those rural congregations just as I now recognize with appreciation the rich and woody scent of hides worn by our elders as they come to communion.

The land, and our connection with it, is always there.

One of the gifts of serving as

Saskatoon's Station 20 West spring Festival of Thanks

By Peter R. Coolen

SASKATOON – On May 12, at the future site of Station 20 West (20th Street and Avenue L) in Saskatoon, a barbecue, varied entertainment and an announcement of the amounts Saskatoon churches have raised to date for Station 20 West's Good Food Junction Co-operative Grocery Store was held.

Cheques were presented to representatives of Station 20 West. A cheque for \$10,000 was presented by The Venerable Henry Comerford, executive archdeacon of the Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan. Another cheque was presented for \$135,000 by Ron McConnell (United Church of Canada) and Bishop Cindy Halmanson (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), representing the efforts of the interchurch consortium of faith groups.

These faith groups included: Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon; Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon; Mennonite Church, Saskatchewan;



The Venerable Henry M. Comerford (left), executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Saskatchewan, presents a cheque for \$10,000 to Station 20 West, represented by Sheila Pocha, chair of Station 20 West, and Janice Sanford-Beck, president of Good Food Junction Co-operative, at the Station West spring Festival of Thanks in Saskatoon on May 12.

Photo – Staff of Quint Development Corporation

Saskatoon Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers); Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan, Presbyterian Church in Canada; Mennonite Central Committee;

Saskatchewan Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Anglican Diocese of Saskatchewan; Riverbend Presbytery, United Church of Canada; and Saskatoon Evangelical Ministers Fellowship.

This latter cheque represented the results of the group's fundraising efforts since they had begun their joint fundraising efforts on behalf of Station 20 in November 2010.

Children's angelic voices ring out during VBS

By Tracy Harper

Mark 10:14 "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

PRINCE ALBERT – Vacation Bible School is finished for another year. Some of the fondest memories are of hearing the children sing as loud as their angelic voices could.

Watching them play games, and repeating their favorite ones.

Even though the mosquitoes were out in full force and the heat was almost intolerable, it did not stop any of the activities and you knew God was at work when the lessons of the week are repeated back to you.

I was blessed to work with a wonderful group of young adults from Crosstalk Ministries. For the first three weeks, the four of us travelled to Spiritwood, Melfort and then to Cumberland House.

Looking back on that time, I noted the Lord brought just the right amount of children each week, never more than we could handle. He brought us smiles, hugs, a couple tears and a warmth and peace that is hard to explain.

It was wonderful to see His work in the children, where prayer would calm spirits and stick figures would tell an amazing story of Saul.

In the last week, we added three more young adults to our team. After we packed the van we left for La Ronge, where God's blessing continued to pour out. We stayed along the lake and had beautiful scenery to wake up to. In La Ronge the two teams taught children in Hall Lake, Sucker River and at All Saints, La Ronge.

Before finishing our time there, the community arranged for us to see the historical site of Holy Trinity at Stanley Mission. The next day we packed the van and headed back to home base Birch Hills.

The Diocese of Saskatchewan sponsors four weeks of Vacation Bible School, which consists of a team from Crosstalk Ministries and a co-ordinator from within the diocese.

The Crosstalk's teams include young adults who have given their summer to spread the Good News to children across Canada. This year's team had two people from Ontario, three from Quebec and one from Manitoba.

DIOCESE OF SASKATOON Announcements for October

To be included in a timely manner, notices for events should be supplied to the Associate Editor by fax, e-mail or "snail mail" by the last week of the month, two months before the month in which the insertion is desired (for example, October submissions will be in the December issue). Detailed and longer texts of events will not be included in this section but, should space allow, could be the subject of additional articles or notices elsewhere in the newspaper.

Outreach Project: The Diocese of Saskatchewan is actively seeking an outreach project Anglicans can work on to meet a real need in the diocese. The project should facilitate Anglicans looking outside of their parish boundaries, meeting together without being overwhelmed by the commitment. What ideas and suggestions do you have, perhaps on a need you have encountered?

This project could mean working with another organization that is in need of volunteers. A subcommittee of the Diocesan Outreach Committee has been asked by the bishop for your input to identify a project and to initiate more detailed planning. Please contact Christine Bennett at pigeon3@shaw.ca or Mary Tyler at dave.tyler@shaw.ca.

Happenings at St. James' with the Refinery: Redefining Church is a regular 7 p.m. Sun. evening informal gathering of 15

to 25 people in the church, sitting in a candlelit circle, with music led by our youth band, reading, group reflection on the day's Gospel and a time of prayer. People of all ages come, with youth and young adults especially well represented.

The St. James' Farmers' Market and International Bazaar brings people and energy into the church every Wed. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Delicious food is available for sit-down lunch or to take home. We are delighted vendors have organized a monthly drop-in for international students. International Drop-Ins are held on the second Sun. every month, 2-5 p.m., in the lower level.

Volunteers Needed: Saskatoon Anglican Youth (SAY) is calling all cooks, kitchen helpers and other adults to help in its retreats and camps. Volunteer cooks do not need their chef's licence; a heart of service and a desire to nourish is all that is needed. If interested, please contact Emily Carr, diocesan youth co-ordinator, at (306) 653-1668 or by e-mail at sayouth@sasktel.net.

Do The Famine: "The worst drought to hit the Horn of Africa in [60 years] is currently affecting up to 10 million people...the United Nations describes the situation in the region as the most severe food security emergency in the world today." You can help!

The 30 Hour Famine is the world's biggest youth fundraiser and SAY is involved. Go hungry

for a day and help save lives around the world! SAY will hold a 30-hour famine beginning at 9 a.m., Sat., Oct. 15, and ending at 3 p.m., Sun., Oct. 16.

The 30-hour, all-night event will include a field trip, special guests, movie marathon and of course YOU! Contact Emily Carr.

Winter ADVENTure Weekend: Saskatoon Anglican Youth (SAY) is holding a Winter ADVENTure Weekend at Redberry Bible Camp (90 km from Saskatoon) on Dec. 2-4. The camp will include skating, hockey, snow forts, indoor gym, arts and crafts, music and "maxing" and relaxing.

The cost: \$115, registration deadline: Mon., Oct. 24. If interested, contact Emily Carr, diocesan youth co-ordinator. Parishes are encouraged to sponsor their youth. If financial assistance is needed please contact Emily Carr.

East Meets West: A series of potluck suppers at 6 p.m. is followed by services of contemporary Evening Worship and "Drawing on the Gospel" Wednesdays in October, at St. Matthew's, Sutherland.

St. Mark's, Saskatoon cookbook: The St. Mark's cookbook, assembled as part of the parish's centennial celebrations, is ready for sale. It contains recipes, history of the church and of those who submitted the recipes. \$15 ea. plus shipping. To order, contact Beverly Martin at (306) 242-7180,

bwmartin@shaw.ca or write St. Mark's at 1406-8th Avenue North Saskatoon, Sask., S7K 2X7.

Integrity/Saskatoon: Meetings held at St. George's, Saskatoon, on the third Wed. of each month at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact Tom and Rose Rogers at (306) 373-5165 or Reverend Ann Marie Nicklin at (306) 381-9780 or benjie60@gmail.com. For information visit www.integritysaskatoon.blogspot.com.

Seniors' Lunch, St. George's, Battleford: The Friendship Committee of St. George's, Battleford, invites all seniors to join them for lunch on the first Mon. of each month.

A Healing Service with Anointing and Laying On Of Hands is held on an alternating basis monthly in the two Battle River Parishes. Contact Rev. Peter Norman at (306) 445-4155 or e-mail at stpaulnb@sasktel.net for dates and times.

Men's Breakfast, St. George's, Saskatoon: The men of St. George's, Saskatoon invite everyone (not just men!) to their hot breakfast, held the second Sun. every month, from 9-10 a.m. in the parish hall at 624 Ave I South Saskatoon, (306) 242-7973.

St. George's, Saskatoon, Community Coffee House: All are welcome to join St. George's on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for coffee, muffins and fellowship. 624 Ave I South Saskatoon, (306) 242-7973.

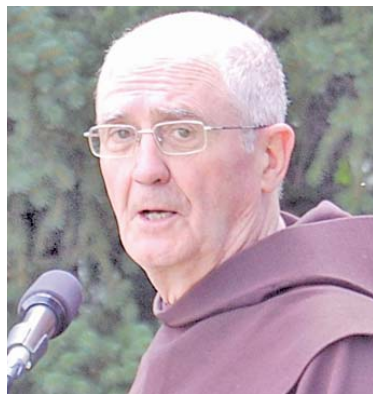
Spirit of the Valley event raises money for St. Michael's Retreat Centre

By Frank Flegel

LUMSDEN (Qu'A) – The number of participants was down at the annual St. Michael's fundraising bike-run-walk-a-thon held here Aug. 6, but the money raised was about the same as in previous years.

"Counting everything, we raised a little over \$15,000," said St. Michael's administrator Cindy Seiferling. The "Spirit of the Valley" event is one of the major fundraisers for St. Michael's Ministries.

The day was changed from Sunday to Saturday this year, as some people complained that holding the event on Sunday interfered



Friar Kevin Lynch

with church attendance.

"But our numbers are down again so we'll have to look at what we're going to do for next year," said Seiferling.

It was a good day for partici-

pants, with bright sunshine, a light breeze and not too warm. Bikers had an easy time of it.

With a tail wind they made the approximately 30-kilometre route from the Evraz Steel plant just north of Regina to St. Michael's Retreat in 1.5 hours. Four bikers rode down from Davidson Aug. 5.

"That was a tough ride," said Friar Kevin Lynch (pictured). "We had a head wind all the way." In past years, a group would ride down from Saskatoon and overnight in Davidson before the final run into St. Michael's.

Walkers started out the seven kilometre walk through town from the Lumsden Park in the valley. The last part of the walk was uphill.

"That last bit was a killer," said one person whose physical shape indicated walking uphill was not a regular physical activity.

Walkers stopped at five churches: St. Peter's Roman Catholic, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Rock of the Valley Community, Plain and Valley Anglican, and finally St. Andrew's United. Each church provided walkers with liquid refreshments. Fruit, yogurt, bagels, juice and coffee awaited participants when they arrived at St. Michael's.

An outdoor inter-church service was held in a tree-shaded area just east of the building, led by Rev. Ken Koep representing Regina Archbishop Daniel Bohan. Bohan

was in Madrid, Spain, with Regina youth for the international Youth Day gathering.

"We come here to find God not because He is here more than anywhere else, but because we come with an open mind and open hearts," said Koep in his greeting. "God is everywhere and always with us."

Bishops of the Anglican, Lutheran and Roman Catholic traditions take turns leading the service each year.

St. Michael's, owned by the Franciscan Friars, is governed by an inter-faith board representing Anglican, Lutheran (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada) and Roman Catholic faiths.



Executive Committee members of the Diocese of Saskatchewan

Members of the Diocese of Saskatchewan's Executive Committee gather for a group picture after their meeting last May, where they discussed a variety of issues important to the diocese. In the back, from left, are: Jeff Boldt, Norbert Haukenfrers and Don Code. In the middle, from left, are: Theresa Halkett, Marie Callbeck, Dean Kenneth Davis, Sheila Reimer, Bishop Michael Hawkins, Rae Benson, Terry Loehr, Chris Harper and Bob Hryniuk. In the front, from left, are: Front: Archdeacon Adam, Adam, Dixie Bird, Priscilla Joseph, Clifford Ahenakew and Ruth Ross.

Photo - Mary Brown

Mamuwe receives Rupert's Land approval

By Diocesan Exec. Committee

PRINCE ALBERT – At its May 2011 meeting, the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Saskatchewan unanimously resolved to adopt the proposal Mamuwe Isi Miywachimowin ("Together in the Gospel"), and to request the approval of the Provincial Executive and Metropolitan of Rupert's Land to proceed with the election of a Diocesan Indigenous Bishop.

The proposal itself requires that \$20,000 be raised by the Diocesan Indigenous Council before proceeding with an election. By mid-August, \$ 7,121.58 had been received.

The resolution was the fruit of more than two years of discussion within the diocese, while the proposal was a large part of the agenda of our 2009 Synod and our 2010 Parish Visitations.

Archbishop David Ashdown informed the bishop and Executive Committee of the decision of the Provincial Executive Committee and of his concurrence pending the raising of the required funds in a very encouraging letter.

He wrote, "I agree whole-heartedly with your view that 'this proposal will allow us a new beginning, as we seek to walk together in faith as equals and to preach and reach out to people with the Gospel of

salvation and healing in new ways that are both culturally sensitive and locally appropriate'. Please be assured of my prayers and whole-hearted support as you enter this exciting new phase of your journey."

As of press time a decision had not yet been made whether to call for a General Assembly to elect a Diocesan Indigenous Bishop in conjunction with the Diocesan Synod in October.

Please keep this work in your prayers. Anyone wishing to make a donation towards this initiative should send their gift to the Diocese of Saskatchewan (for Mamuwe) 1308 Fifth Avenue East Prince Albert, Sask., S6V 2H7.

Lectures focus on Paul's vision for community

Editor's Note: This is the most recent in a series of contributions to the Saskatchewan Anglican from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. These articles cover a broad range of theological and general interest issues as well as College news.



By Lisa McInnis

SASKATOON – **What:** Martin Memorial Lectures: "Leading Locally, Linking Globally: Paul's Vision for Christian Community" **When:** Tuesday evening, Nov. 1: *Paul's Leadership Practice*; Wednesday evening, Nov. 2: *Paul's Leadership Principles*; Thursday morning, Nov. 3: *Paul's Leadership Legacy* **Where:** Tuesday, Nov 1 to Thursday, Nov. 3, College of Emmanuel & St. Chad, 114 Seminary Crescent, Saskatoon.

The apostle Paul presents a particularly challenging study in leadership. All that remains from his thirty-some years of ministry are a short collection of letters and a brief outline of his travels around the eastern Mediterranean Sea. From this scant evidence, however, it is possible to catch a glimpse of a person who was passionately committed to the success of the communities founded in Jesus' name.

His letters suggest that, despite modern perception to the contrary, Paul was not a top-down manager of his communities. Rather, Paul encouraged and cajoled local members to take responsibility for the formation and development of their corporate spiritual lives.

These talks will explore Paul's leadership practices among his

communities and investigate the principles that were the basis not only for his own leadership, but

also for recognizing the leadership potential for members of the local Jesus-associations.

These lectures are open to all and free of charge. We hope to see you there!

Richard S. Ascough (pictured), PhD, is associate

professor of New Testament at Queen's University, School of Religion in Kingston, Ont., where he teaches in the Department of Religious Studies and the Theological Studies programs.

He is the author of numerous articles and essays on the texts and contexts of the early Jesus-believers, and has published six books, including: "What Are They Saying About the Formation of Pauline Churches?" (1998); "Paul's Macedonian Associations" (2003); "Passionate Visionary: Leadership Lessons from the Apostle Paul" (with Sandy Cotton, 2005); and "Lydia: Paul's Cosmopolitan Hostess" (2009).

He has been recognized for his innovative teaching in a number of ways, including both of the top two university wide teaching awards at Queen's University (2002 and 2009).

For more information, please visit www.usask.ca/stu/emmanuel, e-mail emmanuel.stchad@usask.ca or telephone Lisa McInnis at (306) 975-1550.



Richard Ascough

Crosstalk day camp draws crowd at All Saints', Melfort

By Traci Loftus

MELFORT (SKWN) – Children from All Saints', as well as other churches in Melfort, attended a four-day summer camp put on by Crosstalk Ministries.

Crosstalk Ministries, now in its 32nd year, began as an Anglican organization but is now non-denominational. It is based in Montreal and sends teams out to

put on day camps in communities from Alberta to the Maritimes.

Our team of Brenda, Jill and Everett spent two weeks at a training session in Montreal before setting out for Saskatchewan. This year's theme, "ON FIRE!", was based on stories from the Book of Acts. Campers enjoyed learning about these stories and their messages through songs, dance, plays, devotions,

crafts and games.

The camp finished July 21 with a closing service. Campers performed a liturgical dance and the songs they had practiced during the week for their families.

This was Melfort's first year hosting summer day camp. We had a very successful week. Brenda, Jill and Everett left us for Cumberland House and LaRonge.

Couple discusses why they are Christians

(Continued from page 1)

of human reason. So, no – no logical argument is bringing me to God.

I am not a Christian because being one has great benefits. Besides a statistically longer life, Christians have God to sustain them, comfort them and direct them to adopt wise and loving practices that will (in most cases) lead to more harmonious relations with others and the environment.

I am thankful Jesus has shown us how to love, that God provided us with the Scriptures to direct us in holy and humble living, because He took what could have been a self-oriented jerk and directed me on a better course for humility, sacrifice and love.

I am by no means perfect, but I am a happier and better person because of God. However, while I greatly appreciate and glorify God for richly blessing my life, I am not a Christian because of the benefits I have received and continue to receive.

Let's face it - they are nice, but it would be a false and sad thing indeed if I decided to attend the bridegroom's feast just because of the delicious food.

Finally, I am not a Christian because I was raised in a Christian home. I love my family. I love my mother, father and sisters for the people they are and the love that they, in turn, reciprocate.

But I did not grow up attending Sunday school, learning about Jesus, or being modelled Christian ideals by faithful Christian believers. For the most part, I grew up among Atheists, often vocal ones, who taught me to ridicule

belief in God and would intentionally take me away from situations in which children were being taught the Gospel.

So no, I am certainly not here because I was nurtured in a Christian society at a young age.

But God had other plans. And this is where I come to answer the question of why I am a Christian. I am a Christian because God intervened. I cannot provide you with a Paul-esque story, where a terrible sinner is dramatically converted, but God knew this sheep was a member of His fold.

As the Great Shepherd He is, He was with me always, ensuring that faithful and courageous Christians laid and nurtured the seeds that grew to become my faith and love in Christ.

I could go on and on, but I'll give you a few highlights. God intervened when He created me to marvel at the spiritual beauty of His creation. He whispered His presence to me and instilled the



Reiner Schaefer (kneeling) is confirmed by Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson on Aug. 28 at All Saints', Regina. They are flanked by Reiner's wife, Julia Harrington, and server Andrew Ballantyne. Harrington was baptised earlier in the service.

Photo – Bill Van Sickle

awe He so deserves.

When my after-school babysitter courageously began to include Bible studies in her after-school program, God introduced the person of Jesus to me. Needless to say, when I asked one of my parents to talk to me about Jesus, they immediately took me from that program.

But, while I was subsequently raised to be a virulent Atheist, the tiny seed she planted did not die. It was taken up by another courageous and loving family, the Rogers, who sacrificially gave their time, money and home to

a youth group for their daughters (one of whom was a good friend) and for their daughters' friends

and acquaintances.

Malcolm and Sheila Rogers were patient and happy to argue theology with me. They knew my need to reason through theism. They nurtured reasoned belief, just as they sacrificially nurtured belief in all the youth who attended their studies.

And God continued to intervene and be present with me in times of joy and great grief, whether in private or through His many faithful servants. God has been with me, has shown His continued love and support of me, and that is why I am a Christian.

I am a Christian because God knows me and I know Him. Nothing can take me from Him.

In other words, I am not attending the bridegroom's feast because I have deduced it is the best place in town for me to be

or because I want to enjoy the delicious food and admittedly spectacular party favours.

And I am not attending the bridegroom's feast because my parents know God and I am continuing their tradition, although I am sure there are many children who have come to know Christ through the loving dedication of their parents.

I am attending the bridegroom's feast because I know and love the bridegroom and He knows and loves me. Through God's amazing grace, my name is on a wedding invitation. Why else would you attend a wedding, anyway?

So what has this to do with baptism? Well, baptism is a kind of response to, and enactment of, our faith in our Lord and acceptance of His authority in our lives.

In baptism we die with Jesus on the cross to our old selves and we rise with Him to new life, our sins forgiven (Colossians 2:11 - 14).

I love God; I accept His authority in my life; and I follow Him to die and be reborn anew, to take up my cross and follow Him. Following Him may require living on a more modest income, or even significant hardship, but I trust Him to guide me as the Good Shepherd He has always been.

Reiner Schaefer: Those who know a bit about me know I am doing my PhD in Philosophy.

From studying and teaching Philosophy I have learned about all kinds of arguments for and against God's existence, but in my mind these arguments are largely irrelevant. I honestly don't know of anyone who became a Christian

because of arguments of this sort.

This is not so much because the arguments in favour of God's existence are weak, but because they miss the point of what it means to be a Christian.

That is, I believe being a Christian consists of much more than one's willingness to say "Jesus is Lord," or one's willingness

to recite the Apostles' Creed. Being a Christian is (at least in part)

adopting a certain sort of perspective or worldview we use to make sense of our lives and how they should be lived.

In my own case, I did not rationally choose to become a Christian in the same way I have chosen to become an aspiring philosopher or an avid board game player. I am thankful I was baptised at a very young age, but it was not my choice.

It was not my choice to be in a family that occasionally attended the local Catholic church. Neither was it my choice to live in a small community that had many Christians who were very supportive of my family when my mother died, which happened when I was five years old.

My perspective on life was, and still is, largely shaped through various Bible stories and rituals I was taught, and by the examples of Christian love I experienced.

Here is the important bit: while I did not choose to become a Christian, I have chosen to remain a Christian - to continue on in the faith I was taught as a youth. Why have I continued in this faith?

Again, it's not because I have

good philosophical arguments for the core doctrines of Christianity. It is more because I find myself continually drawn on a deeper level to the amazing examples of love and mercy Jesus set for us.

For me, one of the chief ways in which I understand God as being good is that, through His incarnation in Jesus, He has

"I have chosen to remain a Christian simply because I am drawn to living a life of worshipping God by following the example Jesus has given us."

- Reiner Schaefer

provided us with an example of how we can worship Him.

Written rules about

how we should live can be easily fudged to say whatever we like, but as Christians we have Jesus as a living example. By Jesus's example we are not simply called to avoid bothering other people (i.e. living and letting live), we are instead called to make sacrifices in our own lives to better the lives of others.

Even when we fail to meet this standard, which is very often, we are forgiven because of Jesus' own sacrifice for us on the cross. The overall message being that we are to love and forgive others just as God loves and forgives us.

In conclusion, I have chosen to remain a Christian simply because I am drawn to living a life of worshipping God by following the example Jesus has given us.

The difference, I think, is as an adult I am now more aware of the alternative perspectives on life, but have nonetheless decided to continue following Jesus.

Borden, River Valley Parishes say adieu to Rev. Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard

By Lorraine Olinyk

BORDEN (S'TOON) – Borden bid farewell on Aug. 28 to the Bigland-Pritchard Family of Mark, Reverend Dr. Jan and Anna, with a program and lunch in the Borden Community Centre.

Emcee was John Buswell, who welcomed everyone to this sad and happy event and reflected that when Jan had her first service at the River Valley Anglican Parish on Jan. 16, 2005, she related how she got lost coming from Rosthern to River Valley and was 40 minutes late, but they all stayed and waited for her.

While at River Valley Parish, Jan also worked for the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatoon half-time. On behalf of the youth group, George Hembery thanked Jan for all her involvement while Gayle Wensley, co-founder of the group, said they would all miss her at their weekly events.

A gift of a sun catcher and plaque was presented to Jan. Alan Hosegood told of a funny story that happened at church and how they were all sorry to see her go.

On behalf of the Lions Club of Borden, Bob Wardhaugh spoke about Mark's work with the Lions, his service to the community and his great piano playing for Archies' Angels, and thanked him for his efforts and friendship.

Helen Sutherland spoke on behalf of the community about: Mark's, Jan's and Anna's willingness to get involved to work with the Lions, Youth and school; Jan's friendly smile and listening ear; and how she was always willing to put her money where her mouth was. Helen closed with an Irish blessing and she and Jean Hryniuk presented



As part of the celebration held for the departure of Rev. Dr. Jan Bigland-Pritchard from River Valley Parish, John Buswell (left), Delbert Enns and Clive Wensley presented Bigland-Pritchard (far right) with a gift on behalf of the parish. They presented a collection of five sketches, in one frame, of the five churches she had served at in the River Valley Parish.

Photo – Lorraine Olinyk

the family with a gift of money.

Delbert Enns and Clive Wensley spoke on behalf of St. John's Anglican Church, saying Jan always kept tabs on what was going on in the community; started to bring younger people into the church by way of the youth group; and that it had been a wonderful six-plus years to have had her wisdom and pleasing way of bringing everyone the words of the Lord.

On behalf of the parish they presented a collection of five sketches in one frame of the five churches she served in the River Valley Parish. The Anglican Church Choir sang two selections: "Thank You Lord" (to Edelweiss tune) and "Our Best to You".

Anna thanked everyone for making her feel so welcome when they arrived from England in 2005. She had enjoyed her years at school in Borden and going to Redberry Bible Camp. Mark thanked everyone for their welcome and for attending; for the care and support they had found living in a small town; and ended by saying he hoped not to lose touch with the community.

Finally, Jan (getting the last word in) told of her adventures on some of her trips to and from Rosthern and how the first person that dropped in and invited her out to eat was Nora Borgeson of the United Church, who lived in Maymont at the time.

Jan reflected that she had

wanted to be a priest for many years and that this parish had allowed her to fulfill her dream and blessed her richly.

The Right Reverend David Irving, bishop of Saskatoon, who lives in Borden, thanked Jan for all her work in the parish on behalf of the diocese.

He noted it must have been difficult working at two jobs each half-time, which probably did not always give her much time with her family. He also noted that Jan, Anna and Mark will be missed in the parish, and even more so in Borden, where they had lived.

Irving closed with a prayer for Jan and for her continuing work in her new church, St. Stephen's, Saskatoon.

Qu'Appelle News and Events

St. Mary's, Regina is having a Harvest Bake Sale on Saturday, Oct. 29, 1-3:30 p.m., corner of 15th Avenue and Montague Street (please use the Montague Street entrance).

The highlight of the sale will be home baking of all kinds and homemade jams, jellies and preserves. There is no admission charge. Enjoy a snack in the tea room or browse through the extensive collection of second-hand books.

A limited number of "treasures" and collectibles will also be on offer. For more information, please call Sharon at (306) 352-1837.

The ordination to deacon of Anne Marie MacNeil, of St. James', Regina, is taking place on Friday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral at 1861 McIntyre Street. There will be light refreshments following the service.



Huang appointed Qu'Appelle finance officer

REGINA – Daniel Huang has been appointed finance officer for the Diocese of Qu'Appelle, replacing Diane Foley, who retired Sept. 30 after serving the diocese for 14 years.

Daniel obtained a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master's degree in Economics (specializing in finance and banking) from Zhongnan University of Finance and Economics in China. After immigrating to Canada in 2001, he studied finance and accounting at Vancouver Community College.

Daniel travelled to Regina to visit a relative, and while there he took the opportunity to study at the University of Regina, making Regina his home.

He has worked as finance officer in non-profit organizations such as SaskCulture, but the desire of his heart is to serve charities and contribute to fight poverty, inequity and social injustice. He also wants to bring more people to faith in God.

Exciting times had this summer at Camp Okema

Staff

OKEMA (SKWN) – Cameras were busy this summer capturing images of fun, friendship and faith at Camp Okema, while preserving memories until the campers return again.

We'd love to be able show you all of the photos of 2011, but that's not possible. Instead here are some word pictures to give you a flavor of this summer.

A view through the wide-angle lens takes in the months of May through early September. John Wikstrom, our facilities manager, along with his wife Dorothy, readied the camp in May, kept the grounds looking attractive and the equipment in good working order. Four rentals were held in June and then beginning on July 1, the camp season was launched.

There were eight camps during the summer including Family,

Small Fry (7-9 years), Junior (10 – 12 years), Jr. Teen (13 -15 years), Teen (13 – 17), and Adult. The season wrapped up with a rental by the Diocese of Saskatchewan. From beginning to end, it was another

great season at Okema!

A collage of close-ups provides a

more detailed look at the summer of 2011. The sheer beauty of lake and forest called many to pull out their cameras to record the red hued sunsets over Emma Lake, or to watch in awe as a mother deer and her two fawns skirted the shore and then ambled off into the trees.

Picture the Small Fry campers acquiring archery skills, ex-

cited not so much by the fact they might hit the target, but that they were able to shoot over the target.

Imagine the challenges faced by Small Fry 1 campers and staff as a major storm knocked out

power for three days. Patience, resourcefulness, teamwork and a positive and

prayerful attitude made it a great camp, despite the challenges!

During Teen Camp the hot water heater died, meaning there was no hot water for showers. Picture the complaining...only there was none, but rather the positive attitude that we could get through this with a smile, too!

Imagine campfire on the beach as darkness approaches:

Campers pray with cabin leaders and staff, some seeking to know God better, some seeking help for specific issues, and some simply responding to the love of God.



From camper to councillor to director

Contributed

KINDERSLEY (Qu'A) – Pamela Kelley-Westman, originally from St. Mary's, Kindersley, attended Camp Harding in the Cypress Hills for the first time in 1991.

After 20 years of life experiences she feels it is time to give back. Pamela, who now

attends St. Leonard's in Red Deer, Alta, has been directing the camp for the past few years, and is shown here with the next generation of campers from Kindersley – Madylene McPhee and Julie Annis, both of whom just finished an exciting time at Camp Harding this summer.

Photo taken by Lee Perrin.

A return to ancient traditions at All Saints', Regina

Contributed

REGINA – Baptism as practiced in the 1st century New Testament Church is attracting renewed interest at All Saints', Regina. The last three baptisms at All Saints – of twin babies and a young adult – have been by full body immersion.

On an earlier occasion, a young adult stood in a plastic swimming pool while the water was poured over him.

Baptism, whether of adults or infants, is the recognized sacrament of initiation into Christian faith and life and admission to Holy Communion – a stance recently re-affirmed by the House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada.

In the early church, new converts were baptized in nearby rivers or lakes. Later, as the practice of baptizing infant children of Christian parents became more common, baptisms came to take place within the

church building itself, using a special tank or font.

The 17th century and following brought renewed interest in the symbolism of baptism by immersion with mission efforts, which followed the expansion of Empire and the need to provide for initiation of adult converts in the "colonies."

The *Canadian Book of Common Prayer* and the *Book of Alternative Services* allow for baptism either by full immersion or pouring the water over the head of the candidate.

At All Saints, given the choice, the recent candidates – or their sponsors in the case of infants – opted for immersion.

On Aug. 28, Bishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson presided at the most recent baptism by immersion of a young woman, Julia Harrington. It was followed immediately by Confirmation of her and her husband, Reiner Schaefer. Julia holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy, and Reiner is a doctoral candidate in Philosophy.

Beyond Words – A retreat about grief and loss

By Rev. Catherine A. Harper

LUMSDEN (Qu'A) – Beyond Words was a weekend retreat held Aug. 19-21 at St. Michael's Retreat and Ministries Centre for persons dealing with grief or loss.

The retreat was conducted by Rev. Hazel Arbon (United Church) and Rev. Catherine A. Harper (Anglican), who were also active participants in the events. Retreatants arrived on Aug. 19, and after the introductory session, time was given for the participants to talk about the source of their grief.

It was emphasized that participation should be as one was able or comfortable, but there was great openness and willingness to share. Friday was the day of words. On Saturday retreatants went "beyond words", the title of the retreat. This was done through the medium of the collage.

The morning session dealt with creating a collage expressing grief, while later, participants developed a collage of hope expressing dreams and aspirations for their future.

Through shared experiences of loss, community developed quickly in the small group. The time together ended with the service of Morning Prayer. Beyond Words will be held again at St. Michael's Retreat from Feb. 3-5, 2012.



Graduate to pursue Theology degree

By Alice Tataryn

CHRISTOPHER LAKE (SKWN) – In this picture, our pastoral associate, Patricia Martin, is presenting a scholarship to a member of our congregation, Jeremy Boehr. Jeremy will be attending Wycliffe College in Toronto to earn a Theology Degree and has decided to pursue training for ordained ministry. It was with great pleasure that the congregation of St. Christopher support Jeremy, both spiritually and financially.

Jeremy is presently a licensed lay reader in our parish and has been very active in many activities since returning from the University of Saskatchewan. While there he earned a degree in Political Science with Honours.

Lichfield priest revisits Qu'Appelle

By Peter Walley

Editor's note: The following article is from excerpts from the report Rev. Peter Walley of the Diocese of Lichfield made to the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf (FML), thanking them for their subsidy of his two-week trip to the Diocese of Qu'Appelle in July.

LICHFIELD, ENGLAND – In 2010 we [Peter and his wife] visited churches right across the diocese, including the First Nations reserves of Gordon's and Daystar, as well as teaching at the Diocesan Summer School held at the Lumsden Retreat Centre. One specific result of that visit was the adoption of the Daystar First Nations Reserve to be a recipient of part of the money to be raised by the Bishop of Lichfield's 2011 Lent Appeal.

Following our visit in 2010, the Archdeacon [Rob Hardwick] and the Bishop of Qu'Appelle, The Right Rev. Greg Kerr-Wilson, discussed with me whether, as part of my sabbatical, I would like to come back in 2011 and teach at the same residential summer school for ordained local ministers, readers and others considering ordained ministry.

This I was very happy to do and the grant from FML enabled me to travel to Regina, where I was hosted by the archdeacon and bishop. The program for the 2011 conference was different from previous years, as the bishop was using it to launch the new Qu'Appelle School for Mission and Ministry.

Little Church on the Prairie

On the first Sunday of my visit, before summer school started, I went with Hardwick to a farewell service for Rev. Michael Last in the Parish of Saskatchewan Gateway (based in Moosomin).

I had known Michael in his previous role as vicar of Alton in Lichfield Diocese prior to moving to Canada in 2009. The service wasn't held in Moosomin but instead at St Peter's, Spring Creek, one of the outlying churches about 20 minutes south (driving on grid roads).

Michael was leaving Canada to return to Lichfield as rector of Adderley, Ash, Calverhall, Ightfield and Moreton Say in north Shropshire.

In conversation with parishioners, it was clear that Michael's previous UK rural experience, together with his capacity for listening, had endeared him to the parishes.

On arrival in Canada Michael had learned that state schools in Canada are closed to visits by clerics so instead he started a soccer team for teenagers.

Very soon he built up a group of teenagers who not only wanted to learn soccer outside school hours but also were willing to learn about the Gospel.

I was given a strong message they would like someone to come and serve them from the UK with

"The story of the Residential Schools where children were forcibly taken from reserves in order to 'Europeanise' them is heart-breaking."

- Peter Walley

a similar love for people and understanding of rural life.

The next day Rob dropped me off at St Michael's Retreat Centre in Lumsden, which is a short drive from Regina, just off the road from Regina to Saskatoon.

West to east, the diocese covers 340 miles (544 km), which is only 50 miles shorter than

the length of England. The three course tutors were Bishop Greg, myself and Rev. Catherine Harper (who had recently joined the staff at the Retreat Centre as the Anglican Chaplain).

First Nations Experience

Conversely, in 2010 Helen and I learned of the experience of the First Nations peoples over the last 100 years when we met with the Diocesan Elder, Arthur Anderson, at Gordon's First Nation Reserve near the town of Punnichy.

The story of the Residential Schools where children were forcibly taken from reserves in order to 'Europeanise' them is heartbreaking.

Due to the emotional and sexual abuse some children suffered, for example at the Residential School at Gordon's Reserve (run by the Anglican Church on behalf of the Government of Canada), the Diocese of Qu'Appelle was sued and almost became bankrupt in settling the claims.

Daystar First Nation Reserve is much poorer financially than Gordon's Reserve. Rev. Vicky Young is currently the priest pastorally caring for them.

Having met her in 2010, when Helen and I had the privilege of visiting the children's Bible Week, I was pleased she was at the summer school.

She reported that not much had changed between our visit and now. The church building was very much in need of renovations to replace broken windows and repair leaks. Also, there is no money to replace broken equipment and support materials for Bible Weeks in the future. I'm pleased to say the amount that will be going to this project is £5000 [about \$7,950 CAD].



St. John's Anglican Church, Borden, Sask. St. John's is one of the parishes of the River Valley Parish.

Photo – Heather Punshon

A Commemorative Gift

Thanksgiving weekend is a good time to consider a Commemorative Gift in memory or honour of a loved one

Edited by Peter R. Coolen

BORDEN (S'TOON) – One of the greatest satisfactions in making a charitable gift is the opportunity to pay tribute to someone who has touched you in a significant way.

That's why commemorative gifts, in memory of someone deceased or in honour of one who is still living, are perennially popular and appropriate.

Through such a gift, you may honour a relative and perpetuate your family name, or you may recognize a mentor or friend who has greatly shaped your life.

At the same time, your gift expresses your own commitment to the future of your parish family and provides valuable support for the charitable purposes you believe in.

Various giving techniques may be used in making a commemorative gift and each yields certain tax benefits. If you have available resources and would like to see your gift go to work at once, consider an "outright gift". **Here's an example:**

Hannah's mother recently passed away and she wants to do something special to pay tribute to her memory. She contacts the church where her mother worshipped and volunteered for many years, and learns it is seeking funding to renovate the Sunday School

and youth rooms attached to the parish hall.

In memory of her mother, Hannah contributes \$25,000 to pay for the project. The useful and attractive rooms will perpetuate her mother's memory and Hannah will receive a donation receipt for the full amount of her gift.

Assuming a federal/provincial tax credit of 48 per cent, that can yield income tax savings of as much as \$12,000.

In the example above, Hannah designated an immediate use for her gift. Other donors may prefer to direct their commemorative gifts to the parishes or diocesan endowment, where the gift principals remains intact and only the interest earned is used, either for a purpose designated by the donor or for the church's general purposes.

A "named endowment" is a particularly appropriate way to ensure the name of the person honoured will be remembered far into the future.

Another way to make a commemorative gift is the "life income gift", which provides lifetime payments to the donor as well as a gift to the church. Examples of life income gifts are the charitable gift annuity and the charitable remainder trust. **For example:**

John, a 74-year-old retired priest, wants very much to endow an annual grant for a seniors training program in the diocese in honour of his long time mentor and friend. Since he depends on the income from his assets, John contributes \$75,000 for a charitable gift annuity.

For the rest of his life, he will receive payments of \$5,916

per year and 84 per cent of this amount will be received tax-free.

John is also entitled to a donation receipt of \$18,750, reflecting the gift portion of his contribution that will be used to establish the (named) fund.

A third technique for making a commemorative gift is the bequest. **For example:**

Michael's wife died last year, but he is deeply grateful to the parish where she found wonderful pastoral care and support from the clergy and lay leaders. As he updates his will, Michael includes a bequest to his parish church, where it will be used to establish an endowed fund in his wife's name.

Income distributions from the fund will honour her memory and enhance an already effective pastoral ministry program. At Michael's death, his estate will receive a donation receipt for the full amount of the gift. The tax credit will offset taxes on other income, including capital gains, which must be reported on his final return.

If you would like further information on the various ways of making a commemorative gift please do not hesitate to call. We would be pleased to discuss with you possible uses for your gift and appropriate recognition for the one in whose name it is given.

Through your church, your tribute to one person will touch the lives of many others.

For more information on Commemorative Gifts please contact your diocesan office: Saskatoon (306) 244-5651; Saskatchewan (306) 763-2455; or Qu'Appelle (306) 522-1608.

Three-church barbecue party held in Arborfield

By Reverend Steven Page

ARBORFIELD (SKWN) The Mission Parish of Arborfield and Hudson Bay, in the Diocese of Saskatchewan, consists of two churches. Those two points are separated by more than 120 kilometres of bush and scattered farms, but have faithfully worked together for more than 20 years.

On a fine summer day this July, they held their annual parish Sunday barbecue. The churches alternate as hosts of the event. This year, it was Church of the Ascension's turn, in Arborfield. But the 2011 edition had a new twist.

This year, neighbouring parish of St John's Church, Nipawin was invited to join. They are currently without a resident priest; however there are many connections between the two parishes.

There is a natural geographic connection between Arborfield and Nipawin; it's not even a long-distance call between the two places. And for much of the past year all three churches have had a ministry connection, with the Rev. Steven Page splitting his time between Hudson Bay, Arborfield and Nipawin on an interim basis.

By the time 10 people from Hudson Bay, 15 from Nipawin, and two dozen from Arborfield all squeezed into the building, little Church of the Ascension was bursting at the seams.

The crowds, the music, the worship, and the fellowship of meeting old friends and making new ones all contributed to a party atmosphere.

As the service of Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services unfolded, repre-

sentatives from each of the three churches took turns leading. Marion Mochoruk of Nipawin read the first lesson, from 2 Chronicles, the story of the conversion of King Manasseh.

Rae Granberg of Hudson Bay read the Epistle lesson, from 1 Peter, reminding the hearers to "cast your anxieties on the Lord, for he cares for you." Betty Burningham of Arborfield led the Prayers of the People.

And "Country Jam" – a six-person mix of guitars, banjo, singers and percussion, all of whom attend Church of the Ascension – led us in singing "We Have Come into His House", "Amazing Grace", "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" and "Peace is Flowing like a River."

Page began his sermon with a quiz, challenging his hearers to identify whether well-known English phrases came from the Bible, Shakespeare or another source.

He noted that God is not about giving us only what we can handle, but only what God can handle, and that God is eagerly seeking us out.

The festive mood of the day is one way we reflect the joy and celebration when one who was lost is found by God, as described by Jesus in the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin.

After the worship service, lunch was served: salads from Nipawin, desserts from Hudson Bay and meat and drinks from Arborfield. Some scattered show-ers soaked the barbecue chefs and drove the crowd into a very packed church hall.

The close quarters meant more chances to meet our Anglican brothers and sisters in Christ.



The Church Hall was packed for the lunch after the annual Parish Sunday communion service. The three parishes included Arborfield, Hudson Bay and Nipawin.

Photo – Glen Gray

A shower of baby clothes for the North

NIAGARA – After learning that newborn babies at hospitals in Iqaluit, Nunavut, often need clothing, the evangelism committee at St. John the Divine, Cayuga, Diocese of Niagara, hosted a community-wide baby shower. Held last Feb-

28, the shower collected 170 blankets, 160 hats, 130 sleepers, 37 socks and 50 bibs, undershirts and other garments.

The items were boxed and driven by car to Ottawa, then flown to Iqaluit by First Air airlines.