

SAYING THANK YOU

Nov 2nd 2008

By The Rev. Anne Germond



I wonder how many of us would respond to a "Volunteer Help Wanted" ad that read like this:

"Help needed to build and grow a new Anglican Church in New Sudbury. For the last few years we have been meeting in Carl Nesbitt Public School, but we have acquired some land on Sparks Street and hope to begin construction on a new church soon.

Come and join us and sign up for one, or two, or three, or more of these great volunteer job opportunities. We need construction help of any kind. We realize

that you all have day jobs, so come down to the site after work so that we can get this important job done.

Once the church is built, we need you to fill the following positions -:

Board members, Wardens, Treasurer, Altar Guild members, ACW and Men's club members, church cleaners.

On Sundays we will need your assistance as sidespeople, greeters, Sunday School teachers, readers, Eucharistic Assistants, servers and, choir members.

If you still have some time to spare we'd appreciate your help with some of our special fundraisers each year - there are two teas and a turkey dinner.

Don't forget that we're counting on your generous financial support to keep ministry alive.

Finally, we'd ask you to consider committing to this worthwhile endeavour for the next thirty to fifty years.

Thank you!"

Believe it or not, many parishioners at the Church of the Ascension did just that some fifty years ago, and many of them are still actively involved in all kinds of ministry at the Church.

On November 2nd 2008, "All Saints Day", we honoured fifteen of the founding members of the parish for their vision, hard work, generosity, and commitment to growing God's kingdom in New Sudbury for the last fifty years.

Each person was thanked and given a photograph of the church as well as a Certificate of Appreciation. Many of our founding members are now resting in God's eternal kingdom, but we said "thank - you" to Cecil (RIP) and Edna Bailey, Betty and Ron (RIP) Bonas, Jim and Doreen Burns, Lila (RIP Jim) Gaughan, Del and Elizabeth Gates, Bill and Bernice May, Don and Betty McLeod, Bessie (RIP Clarence) Morgan, Jean (RIP Keith) Munro, Dorreen (RIP George Netzke) Treitz, Mary (RIP Norval) Skinner. In our eyes they are all 'saints' for having blessed us with their gifts of time, talent, money, and presence.

All Saints day is an occasion for us to remember that on our own our faith, our hope, and our love are all incomplete. All Saints Day is the feast day of support, one for the other. It reminds us of our faith family, that we belong to a vast community of time and space, and it tells us a mighty truth that together we do everything better than when we do it alone.

So "thank you" also to all of you across Algoma who also heard God's call and have helped to build up God's kingdom in your corner of the Diocese.