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JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings were selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. See: www.jesusmafa.com and www.SocialTheology.com.

Church of the Ascension 1476 Sparks Street Sudbury, Ontario

# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA DIOCESE OF ALGOMA OUR MISSION

To share in the gathering work of Christ so that his newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes, churches and community.

# **OUR VISION**

We are joyful Anglicans, serving, growing, and proclaiming Christ's love in Algoma and beyond.

# **OUR VALUES**

A commitment to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

A commitment to prayer and spiritual growth.

A commitment to authentic and joyful Anglican worship.

A commitment to maintain and grown healthy churches

A commitment to spreading the good news through evangelism.

A commitment to caring, ongoing relationships encompassing the family of God through shared ministry.

A commitment to social justice through mission, seeking Christ in all persons, and living in harmony with the environment.

# A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE PAST YEAR

God of the turning seasons,

another year has come and gone and once again we gather for the Annual Meeting of this Congregation at the Church of the Ascension.

To this place we bring all the celebrations and hardships, the joys and the sorrows of the past 12 months.

Here we pause to remember those whose lives we have celebrated as we said the last farewell of death.

Here we remember the highlights of the year: Baptisms; Marriages, the Confirmation of our young people and adults, and the welcoming of new members into our parish family. We give thanks especially for those who joined us from St. Mark's in Garson.

We give thanks for the presence of children and youth in our midst, for the beginning of the Godly Play in our Sunday school, for those who teach and care for our young ones and for the special gift of the Christmas pageant and the reminder that Jesus is the real gift of Christmas.

We give thanks for opportunities for fellowship – the weekly gathering of women around quilts; the pancake dinner and the Evening of Story and Song. We give thanks for the growing fellowship we enjoy with the ecumenical faith communities in our neighbourhood.

We give thanks for our worship times and for the times we spent together learning and getting to know each other and sharing stories of our faith in our weekly Bible Studies. Thank you for the new beginning of 'Messy Church' and for those who attended.

We thank you for giving us so many willing volunteers to become involved with our outreach projects and to visit those who are no longer able to attend weekly services of worship.

We thank you for those who take care of the building and the upkeep of our property. We thank you for all those who served God faithfully in our church last year; who gave their time, their talent, and their gift of money and expected no reward for their efforts.

# A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR TO COME

Here also we gather to look forward to what the coming years have in store.

We know that they will not always be easy, that life will always have a mixture of easy and difficult.

As we meet and discuss the life and work of this part of your family we pray that you would be a part of our discussion.

May your Spirit move in our hearts, opening them to hear what each of us has to offer, bringing light to both possibilities and realities, drawing us always to consider what you would have us be and do in this time and place.

Remind us that we are called to be bearers of Christ's life, light, and love to all we meet.

Help us to live in such a way that we draw closer to your vision for us and journey faithfully in your Way.

In this time together we celebrate the many gifts we all have to offer.

Help us offer what we can to your service and your glory, mindful of our great giftedness in so many ways throughout our lives.

These things we pray in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the one we call Christ, in whose name and hope we gather together as a community.

Amen.

'You know the generosity of our Lord Jesus Christ: he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.'

(2 Corinthians 8.9, REB)

-Bishop's motto for 2014

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Prayer of Thanks for the Past Year	4
Agenda	7
Minutes of January 27, 2013 Vestry Meeting	8
The Rector's Message	10
Honourary Associate Priest's Report	12
Honourary Assistant Priest's Report	12
Wardens	14
Pastoral Care	15
Altar Guild	16
Child and Youth Ministry	17
Eucharistic Assistants	19
Property	19
Anglican Church Women	21
Outreach	22
Parish Life	<b>2</b> 3
Website	28
Worship	30
Visioning	32
A Teaching Parish	32
Green Team	33
Nominating Committee	34
From Our 2013 Registers	35



Christmas Pageant December 22 2013

# ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, February 2nd, 2014 at 1pm.

#### Prayer before a meeting

God our Creator, when you speak there is light and life; when you act there is justice and love. Grant that your love may be present in our meeting so that what we do and what we say may be filled with your Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Prayer for the Mission of the Church

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Him in His mission in the world, and together witnessing to His love on every continent and island.

#### Meeting called to order.

Election of Vestry Clerk.

Adoption of the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on January 27th 2013.

Matters arising from the minutes of the January 2013 meeting.

Motion for the adoption of all published committee reports.

Presentation and adoption of the 2013 Financial Statements by the Treasurer.

Presentation of the 2014 budget by the treasurer.

Motion for the appointment of a treasurer/auditor for the 2013/2014 books.

Acceptance of the Nominating Committee's Report for the 2014 Board. Any new nominations should be entertained at this time.

Voting

Vote of thanks to the Board members.

Renewal of Parochial Layreaders and Eucharistic Assistants (see Worship Report)

**New Business:** 

Discussion and presentation around possible building projects for the coming year – Brickwork on the front of the church and Storage Room.

Discussion around possible outreach projects for the Christmas 2013 Offering.

Presentation from a member of the Visioning Committee regarding four evenings this year for 'Youth and Family'.

#### Motion for the adjournment of the meeting.

Closing prayers

#### Rules concerning eligibility to vote at Vestry meeting

- All persons shall be entitled to a seat and a vote when the
- Are Baptized
- Are full 16 years of age.
- Are habitual attendees at divine worship
- Have contributed in the year immediately prior to the working expenses of the church.

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

January 27, 2013

There were 40 parishioners who attended.

Ven. Anne Germond opened the meeting with prayers, a welcome and a thank you for the reports.

Ralph Mounter will be Vestry Clerk. In his absence Marjorie Morton took the minutes.

The minutes from the 2012 vestry meeting were read, amended and adopted as read. Adopted by Fr. Bob Derrenbacker, seconded by Myrna Sheppard. Motion carried.

Reports were read and points made.

Cora Felbel gave a brief report for World Vision.

A motion for the adoption of all published committee reports was made by Betty McLeod and seconded by Roz Jones. Motion carried.

Treasurer Cathy Dionne then explained the 2013 budget of \$ 164,026.00 in detail.

Ven. Anne or Cathy will ask Mr. Balson if he will do the audit for 2012.

Cathy Dionne accepted the position of Treasurer for 2013.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report for 2013 was made by Cindy Caines and seconded by Bruce Heuft. Motion carried.

Acceptance of the Nominating Committee's report for the 2013 board.

Ven. Anne thanked Roz Jones, who is stepping down as a board member, for her years of service as a board member.

She also thanked Ken Winfield for his faithful service as Rector's Warden. Ken will remain on the board in 2013.

She also thanked Wayne Bonas for his services as Deputy Warden. Wayne will also remain on the board.

In 2013

Rector's Warden Erma Howe

People's Warden Anne Trimmer

Deputy Warden Harley Moulton

Ex-Officio (Appointed)

Treasurer Cathy Dionne

Envelope Secretary Gladys Abigail

Vestry Clerk Ralph Mounter

Motion to accept nominations moved by Harley Moulton, seconded by Bob Corrigan. Motion carried.

Lay Delegates to the Synod

Delegates have to be members of the board. 2013 is a Synod year. It takes place in Sault Ste. Marie from May  $9^{th}$  to  $11^{th}$ , 2013.

Don McLeod, Erma Howe, and Marie Vitone let their names stand as delegates. A vote was held and Don McLeod and Erma Howe will represent the Church of the Ascension. Marie Vitone and Ken Winfield will be alternates.

Youth Synod Delegates

The Youth Synod will be held the long weekend in July. Delegates will be chosen at a later date.

A list of representatives of church groups, members at large and other positions was acknowledged.

Renewal of Parish Layreaders and Eucharistic Assistants

Ven. Anne nominated Thelma Smith and Catherine Bird Heuft, seconded by Del Gates. Motion carried.

**New Business** 

Bob Corrigan reported on proposed changes for the coming year to the exterior of the front of the church, alterations to one wall of the Fellowship Hall to accommodate the quilt display and the television, and on a new sign to be placed at the front of the church. All plans have to be finalized at a board meeting.

Ven. Anne thanked Fr. Bob Derrenbacker for his work as Honorary Associate Priest.

Cindy Caines is compiling a list of parishioners who will be asked to obtain a Police Check.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Ven. Anne gave a presentation on the Electronic Offering program. At least five parishioners from the church will have to sign up before this can be implemented.

Fr. Bob Derrenbacker moved the meeting be adjourned.

A closing prayer, from the Australian Prayer Book, was given.



# THE RECTOR'S MESSAGE FOR THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY $2^{\text{ND}}$ 2014

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. Suddenly two men in white robes stood with them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts.1.8-11)"



#### Dear People of God,

The image of Jesus just prior to His ascension into heaven commissioning his followers for their mission and ministry - as His witnesses in their home town, their province, and to the very ends of the world, remains for me a powerful metaphor for our life together in 2013 at the Church of the Ascension here in Sudbury.

We have been commissioned to be Christ's witnesses in Sudbury, right across Manitoulin and down to Toronto, and then to the furthest corners of the world – not to recruit followers of a religion, and not to enter into competition with other organized religious denominations, but to make disciples, people who espouse the same vision and attitudes of Jesus – people who love as Jesus loved.

We, like Jesus and those first followers of his, were the recipients of the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. It is that Spirit that is working in us and through us and it is all a gift from God. On many occasions last year I was a firsthand witness to the Spirit's as I watched ministries of caring, sharing, teaching, loving, helping, healing, happening in every corner of our building.

Whether it was how we worshipped together on Sundays, or me arriving at church to find someone working quietly in the kitchen or the hall, to seeing the care with which the altar or church is prepared for worship, your commitment to being a witness for Jesus was present. I saw evidence of the Holy Spirit as I was part of a meeting with new ideas being generated, welcoming a newcomer, watching the enthusiasm for the Messy Church initiative, or observing our Sunday school teachers interacting with the children in their care.

As you read through the pages of the Annual Vestry Booklet and read all of the reports of our activities over the last year, I know that you will experience the same thing that I did – evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst. The truth is that we are being witnesses in our neighbourhood, country and around the world. Thank you for the part you have played in making the Ascension the life giving, vibrant place of worship and ministry that it is today. We have dedicated wardens and honouraries; committed board and committee members, and a wonderfully active congregation. You make my job so easy! I feel blessed and privileged to be your priest and pastor and look forward to all that lies before us in the coming year.

I used to wonder when the work of ministry would end because I never seem to get to the end of my 'to do' list. There is always or something waiting to be attended to and I am never short of people to visit or meet. There are not enough hours in the day to do everything I would like to do. I am sure you feel the same. So when will we our work be complete?

I have come to the realization that it might never be complete! Here's an illustration:

There is a beautiful but unfinished Cathedral in Barcelona called, "The Holy Family". In 2010 it was declared a World Heritage site. The Architect Antoni Gaudi began working on it in 1883, but at his death in 1926, less than a quarter of the project was complete. Gaudi is said to have remarked shortly before his death, "My Client is not in a hurry." Apparently completion of the Cathedral is planned for the centenary of Gaudi's death, but that remains to be seen.



This remarkable Cathedral has much to teach us as a people of faith.

First, Gaudi is right about God's leisurely style. God seems not to be worried about a definite completion date for the Cathedral or anything else in history. God does not share same preoccupation with time that we do because God marks time differently, and it is not the 'clock ticking time' we know.

God's leisurely time allows each one of us to play our part in the building up of great things like Cathedrals. Enough of the design is available to enable us to have a hand in the final masterpiece. Over the years many different architects have taken their turn at working on the Cathedral, giving them the opportunity to use their amazing gifts. So it is with us as we continue the work God is calling us to at the Ascension. Each one of us, through the gifts we have been given, can make our contribution, however great, however small.

This year we have seen the idea of 'succession' at work as new leaders for the Out of the Cold Dinners have forward to continue this important outreach ministry, and as we have undertaken to teach our children using Godly Play. There are often new voices reading the Scripture and leading prayers on Sundays, new faces on the Board, and the Parish Life Committee and Visioning Group is continually evolving and coming up with new initiatives and ideas for how we can continue to be Jesus's witnesses in the world.

Like the Cathedral in Barcelona, work on our building will never be complete as we continue to plan and think of ways to enhance our space to make it more functional and structurally sound.

The beautiful thing is that because our work is never complete, each one of us is invited to contribute to shaping God's project for us. And strangely enough, God trusts us enough not to make a total mess of it!

Jesus' commissioning of his disciples and his use of the word, 'world' reminds us of another truth. Our mission and ministry takes place not in some imaginary realm but in the real world of time, and space and matter. This is where real people live, where real communities happen, where difficult decisions are taken. As Christians we must go to work in that space because the whole world belongs to God and we must not rest as long as that space is spoiled of defaced.

Archbishop Wright, in the closing chapter of his book "Surprised By Hope" says this:" One of the things I have enjoyed most about being a Bishop is watching ordinary Christians going straight from worshipping Jesus in church to making a radical difference in the material lives of people down the street by running playgroups for children of single working moms; by organizing credit unions to help people at the bottom of the ladder find their way to responsible solvency; by campaigning for better housing, against dangerous roads, for wise laws relating to alcohol, for decent library and sporting facilities, for a thousand other things in which God's sovereign hand extends to hard, concrete reality. All this is not an extra to the mission and witness of the

church, it is central."

These five Marks of Mission are a framework used to describe and encourage ministry throughout the worldwide Anglican Communion:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize, and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Let us this year, and every year, commit ourselves to the ongoing work of ministry to which each one of us has been called and live the Marks of Mission wherever we find ourselves.

When you....love God with all your heart......praise God in good times and in bad......welcome the stranger.....open doors for people......encourage a young leader.....'friend' people for real, not just online.......volunteer your time.....tell the truth.....seek right answers, not easy answers......help your dad with housework.....visit a friend in hospital....buy less and give more.....are generous with your praise......respect the dignity of every human being.....give until it hurts....feed the hungry.....include the outsider.....pray as you listen to the news...share a meal with an elderly person.....tend a garden.....say "WOW, that's an amazing sunset"......SHARE AND READ GOD'S WORD.....

You are living the Marks of Mission!

Go for it Ascension, and God bless!

Faithfully Submitted,

The Ven. Anne Germond

Rector

# HONOURARY ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

It is a pleasure once again to reflect on my year of ministry as the Honorary Associate Priest at the Church of the Ascension. Despite my busy work as President of Thorneloe University, I am very happy to serve the people, parish and clergy of the Church of the Ascension. In many ways, this appointment keeps me grounded in regular Christian ministry (which I need), and rounds out my role in the Diocese very nicely.

I remain impressed with the generous spirit of Christian love and charity that I see so often and so regularly at the Church of the Ascension. I am blessed to be part of such a vibrant and giving community, one that welcomes me, my family, and my ministry unconditionally and liberally.

I look forward to the coming year and continuing my regular ministry at the Parish. I remain committed to assisting wherever I can and continuing to travel with the people of the Ascension on our Christian pilgrimage together.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Robert Derreubacker, Ph.D.

Honorary Associate

# HONOURARY ASSISTANT'S REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so delighted to once again be the Honorary Assistant at Church of the Ascension. I must admit that when I returned to my role it was with mixed feelings. I was sad to be leaving the good folks of St. Mark's in Garson, but also happy to be returning to the Ascension family. Indeed, I was even a little worried how I would be received as I returned to my role at Ascension. Yet, I need not have worried for, once again, not only was I welcomed with love and compassion but I also saw that the same was true for the folks of St. Mark's, Garson, who decided to join the Church of Ascension. I am so proud, and privileged, to be a part of such a loving, and caring, parish.

As I have this opportunity to offer my thanks, I also want to express my gratitude to Anne, and yourselves, that shortly after my return, to Ascension, that you, the good people of Ascension, were willing, to allow me to go and assist with All Saints in Coniston while the Rev. Genny Rollins recovered from surgery. The permission given to serve at Coniston; the prayers, and the kind words, will never be forgotten not only by myself, but I'm sure neither will they be forgotten by the folks at All Saints, Coniston. It is by your selfless actions such as these that I, and others, truly see the face of Christ

So, as I close, please allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude for all of you at Ascension. I am so blessed to have all of you as part of my life and I look forward to spending 2014 with you as your Honorary Assistant.

Submitted with love, prayers, and heartfelt thanksgiving,

The Rev. Rhonda Hirst Honourary Assistant

# WARDENS' REPORT

2013 has been another year of many blessings. We continue to be a vibrant community rich in love for God, for each other and for our community and beyond.

We see this in the tremendous outpouring of generosity that has been shown throughout the year. Thank you for your financial support of international concerns such as a Kenyan orphanage, the support of the Diocese of Tarime in Tanzania, and disasters through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. In our country, we thank you for the support of the Council of the North, and St. John's Anglican Church in Sault Ste Marie. In our local community, there has been generous support of the Samaritan Centre, Elgin Street Mission, and Barrydowne College. Thank you. Then, there is our spiritual home, our parish. Thanks to your faithful giving, our bills are paid, our urgent need for a new roof was financed, and there is money in the bank for upcoming needs. Thank you.

We have been blessed in 2013 with hard workers and strong leadership. We saw the change in leadership of our Out of the Cold ministry with many helpers to aid in this transition. Our relationship with Barrydowne College continues to deepen and we see neighbouring organizations pitching in to help. We supported neighbouring churches in their struggles by our connection with them and by being there at their times of hardship.

New initiatives were undertaken in 2013 which include Godly Play for our children, Messy Church for our families and neighbours, and environmental stewardship activities. We welcomed parishioners from St. Mark's Garson. We had our first evacuation drill during a church service.

We are thrilled with the increased participation. There are more helping hands and willing hearts in every area of parish life and worship. As we are fed spiritually as we regularly experience the sacraments of baptism and eucharist, in hearing the lessons, bible study and worship, may Christ's "newness of life [continue to] overflow into our hearts, homes, churches, and community" (Diocese of Algoma and church of the Ascension Mission statement).

Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted by

Aune Trimmer Erma Howe Harley Moulton



Anne Trimmer, Noella Fowler & Gladys Abigail sewing bags for Messy Church. June 4, 2013

# PASTORAL CARE



Baptism of Benjamin Ciccone with The Venerable Anne Germond. April 14, 2013

A number of parishioners at the Church of the Ascension are unable to attend services of worship regularly, or to participate as actively as they once did in the life of the parish. Yet, they continue to be an integral part of our congregation and we want them to stay and feel connected. There are a number of ways we reach out to them:

Every Sunday morning we remember them in our intercessions.

The weekly bulletin and announcements are mailed to each person to ensure they are kept updated on what is happening in the parish.

At Easter and Christmas we deliver a plant and homemade cookies to each of our seniors, along with a note of greeting. Thank you to the Outreach team and Parish Life for organising these and to parishioners for your generous donation of cookies and treats.

Throughout the year our shut ins who are resident in Nursing or Retirement Homes are visited by parishioners who have been trained for this important ministry. During these visits prayers or readings from the Scriptures are offered. On occasion our pastoral visitors share a meal with the person they are visiting, go out for a walk or to watch a movie. One of our parishioners enjoys the visit of dogs by her visitor! Thank you to Marie Vitone, Catherine Bird-Heuft and Bruce Heuft, Paul and Sheila Murdock, Dave and Noella Fowler, Ken and Kay Winfield, Irene

Gilchrist, Shannon Hengen, and Kathryn Greenidge for your regular visits to seniors and shut ins. During 2013 our student intern, Ms. Beth Hewson made regular visits to seniors, and in the fall Thelma Smith, on field placement also made home visits accompanied by another member of the pastoral care team. Other parishioners visit their friends on an informal basis, send greeting cards, or make phone calls. All of these are greatly appreciated by those who live alone.

Rev. Anne and members of the Ascension offered themselves for weekly and monthly worship services in neighbourhood retirement residences and nursing homes. Every Thursday morning a team of volunteers assists with the service at Falconbridge Extendicare, and once a month volunteers assist at the Westmount Residence for their service. These services are lead by clergy or laity from different denominations. Shannon Hengen, Betty Bonas and Dave Fowler offer the Service of the Word at Pioneer Manor or Falconbridge Extendicare. Marjorie Morton plays the piano at these services. To all of these leaders – thanks.

Rev. Anne makes regular home and hospital visits to our seniors and the sick throughout the year. Her office door is always open for a visit and a chat.

Faithfully submitted,

The Ven. Anne Germond

# ALTAR GUILD

Being part of the Altar Guild is a wonderful Ministry within our Parish. We have a dedicated group of ladies who do an outstanding job in preparing the Altar and preparing the Sanctuary for Sunday Worship. This group of ladies also look after the Altar in the chapel for Wednesday morning services. These same ladies look after setting up the Altar for weddings, baptisms and for funerals.

We have welcomed Thelma Smith to our group of ladies doing this wonderful work. They are Betty Bonas, Betty McLeod, Daryl Keen, Irene Gilchrist, Connie Lee as well as myself. Thank you very much for all that you do. I greatly appreciate it.

We are currently looking for additional ladies to join in this Ministry. Please contact me and I will be happy to explain what is involved, how to do it and add your name to our schedule.

Once again we give a special thank you to Rev. Anne for all of her guidance and support that she gives to all the ladies.

Thank you so much to all of the parishioners who have donated money for flowers during the past year. We have once again put up a flower chart in the hallway to the fellowship hall. This will enable you to fill in the section for the Sunday that you would like to place flowers on the Altar for special occasions.

Thank you to Don McLeod who has picked up plants for us at Christmas and Easter. We greatly appreciate it. Thank you also to Rob Caines for his help at Christmas with the Nativity Manger and a special thank you to Harley Moulton for helping hang all the wall hangings at the back of the Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Trimmer



2013-08-05 Welcome signage for one of our Summer Messy Church times of Fun, Faith, Fellowship & Food. August 5th 2013

## CHILD AND YOUTH MINISTRY

2013 was a big year of exciting changes for the Sunday School. We kicked off the year with a highly successful Potluck Games night in February. It was a fun evening of sharing food and provided a good opportunity to get to know some new families who had recently joined the Ascension. The addition of these new members has swelled the numbers in Sunday School, including the addition of several babies in our nursery. The nursery itself has a dedicated space in the upstairs room where the babies and preschoolers can be cared for and entertained with songs, books and simple lessons. This provides them with an introduction and an easy transition to Sunday School.

In the spring, several S.S. teachers attended a workshop on Godly Play, a method of teaching which excited them very much. Jennifer Ames and Cindy Caines presented the other teachers with a sample Godly Play lesson and it was decided that Godly Play would be introduced as the regular curriculum in September.

The season wrapped up with a very beautiful Children's Service and Sunday School Picnic in June. The kids led the service delightfully, doing the readings, prayers of the people and assisting with the sermon and Eucharist. The Sermon was the Godly Play Story of Creation told by Jennifer Ames, which introduced the congregation to Godly Play. The service was followed by the traditional BBQ and games on the front lawn.

In June, Pippa Howard stepped down as SS Superintendent and Cindy Caines stepped back into the role!

#### **Godly Play**

In this past year, the Sunday School has implemented a Montessori-based teaching method for Christian learning called Godly Play. It is non-coercive and allows the children to use their creativity, curiosity and imagination to discover the joy of God. It is not just about entertaining the children during church but providing the resources to prepare them for a God-filled life.

This year, the children learned about The Holy Family, The Flood and the Ark, the Exile and Return and many other stories. Sunday School begins with the story followed by an open-ended response time when the children can choose the best way to express their feelings or response to the story. The stations include painting, play-doh, quiet reflection, retelling the story to other children or playing with materials from a previously told story. As the program progresses, more details of each story are revealed to the children.

Since Godly Play began in September, the teachers have noticed growth in the children's knowledge of the stories and a desire to listen to them again during the response time. Since this method requires many props and materials that can be expensive, the Sunday School is grateful for the contributions of many parish members and for supporting our fundraisers: Sunday Sundays and our successful yard sale, which brought in over \$1000.

We are excited about Godly Play and are extending an invitation to everyone to attend a Godly Play Open House in the coming months and experience it for themselves!

Just before Christmas we had an evening of outreach with our youth and their families. We had a fun filled evening of singing Christmas carols in the church neighbourhood collecting non- perishables for Barrydowne College.

This year we decided to have an intergenerational Christmas pageant and we saw many young people keen on taking on speaking and singing parts. This made for a very heartfelt and fun pageant.

A bowling event is being planned for January and another potluck games night in February.

#### **Messy Church**

Another initiative that began this past summer is called Messy Church. Three Messy Churches were held in conjunction with the United Churches in the area and were centred on three themes: Love God based on the story of the Prodigal Son; Love Your Neighbour based on the Good Samaritan; and Love Your World based on the Creation Story. At the Love Your World Messy Church in August, we hosted a BBQ and invited local businesses and neighbours to attend.

In the fall, we made turkey centrepieces at the Messy Harvest which had a key focus on giving thanks for

God's blessings. A Messy Family Christmas was held in early December; however, the poor weather conditions kept some people away, however, the service was very touching.

Overall, all of the Messy Churches were well attended and successful, especially the August Messy Church because of a large group from Blind River. With every Messy Church, the Ascension witnessed new visitors. A key component of any Messy Church is the meal that follows an informal time to craft and complete activities and listening to the story. Messy Church would not have been such a success without the immense time commitment of planning and food preparation from church members.

In the new year, we aim to continue with Messy Church beginning with a celebration of Passover.

This year we began a Mom's group, to offer a time for fellowship and to build relationships with other SS moms. We enjoyed a luncheon, coffee at Starbucks, making pumpkin bread and a BBQ.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming yard sale on Saturday April 26, 2014.

We are blessed to be a part of the exciting things that are happening with our young families at the Church of the Ascension.

Submitted by

Pippa Howard Cindy Caines



201Sunday School's new program "Godly Play". Jen Ames as she tells the story using the desert box which was made & donated by Jen's father-in-law, Brian Ames. October 27, 2013

## **EUCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS**

# AT THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION FOR 2014

These members usually attend at 9am

Dave Fowler, Marie Vitone, Chris Cawte, Shannon Hengen.

These members usually attend at 11am

Gladys Abigail, Betty Bonas, Erma Howe, Anne Trimmer, Doug Frozel, Donna Barnes, Rachel Barnes, Cindy Derrenbacker, Kathryn Greenidge, Jennifer Cawley Caruso, Audrey Penn, Bruce Ward, Catherine Bird Heuft.

Honourary life members who are no longer active: Del Gates, Roz Jones.

Connie Lee and Gerry Lougheed Jr. both confirmed in 2013 by Bishop Andrews have offered themselves as Eucharistic Assistants at the Ascension for the coming year.

#### Layreaders at the Church of the Ascension for 2014

Dave Fowler; Erma Howe; Shannon Hengen.

#### Layreaders in training

Catherine Bird Heuft; Thelma Smith

#### **Home Communion**

Marie Vitone, Catherine Bird Heuft, Shannon Hengen and Dave Fowler are licensed to bring the Reserved Sacrament to the sick and those living in nursing homes or retirement residences in our congregation.

# **PROPERTY**

#### Rectory

The furnace and chimney were cleaned and inspected. Both are in good order.

Larger air louvres were cut into the furnace room doors, making more air available to the furnace and allowing it to operate more efficiently.

A new lock/latch was installed on the front entrance door.

Repairs were made to a blocked drain line between the kitchen sink, the bath tub, and the sewer line. A leaking drain P-trap was replaced on the kitchen sink.

The storage shed was repaired and new siding installed.

#### Church

The small hot-water tank was raised off the floor, and both hot- and cold-water lines were insulated to prevent freezing.

The hot-water boiler was cleaned and inspected, as well as the chimney. Both are in good order.

A new circulating pump motor was installed in the hot-water heating system on November 27, 2013.

The boiler room sump pump line was relocated, and a new sump pump was installed.

A roof leak and resulting wall damage in the Fellowship Hall were repaired.

Both kitchen taps were replaced.

A cabinet was installed around the TV in the Fellowship Hall, and the guilt was mounted to the cabinet door.

A lighted sign, given as a memorial of Ed and Lillian Nixon, was installed on the outside front corner of the church.

A new cooling water-fountain, given as a memorial of George Trimmer, was installed.

A gate was installed at the top of the nursery stairs, and a cabinet fastened to the wall. Another cabinet was fastened to the wall in the Sunday School room.

Weekly cleaning of the church and Fellowship Hall is ongoing. In addition, the chairs in the church and Fellowship Hall were cleaned.

Miscellaneous maintenance repairs were carried out, such as: a battery was replaced in an exit light, a new exit light was installed, light switches were replaced, a kitchen sink drain was unclogged, small holes in walls were repaired.

The kitchen ceiling was repaired and painted, after being damaged by leaks from upper windows in the Fellowship Hall during a heavy rainstorm. The windows were also caulked.

The flat roof was replaced on May 31, 2013, at a cost of \$ 13,100, due to a number of leaks in the office and in the hall by the handicap washroom. The ceilings and walls were also repaired and painted.

A wider door was installed in the handicap washroom to meet code. The washroom windows were repaired, and both they and the office windows were caulked.

A section of aluminum fascia on the Fellowship Hall, damaged by strong winds, was replaced.

Trees were trimmed as required at front and back of the lot. Contracts were awarded to CJ's Services for grass cutting, snow plowing and sanding work.

Additional lawn maintenance involved one cinch bug treatment, two weed treatments, pulling of chickweed and reseeding. Flower beds and shrubs were maintained.

The NIM bin contract was cancelled on June 14, 2013, due to a change in the contract which allowed NIM to charge by the month, not by each dumping of the bin.

The checklist form was simplified for groups renting the Fellowship Hall on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday nights.

A maintenance form was developed to meet a requirement by risk management. This is to be completed every time the parking lot and sidewalks are snow-plowed and/or sanded.

An accident and witness report form, to be completed as required, was developed to meet a risk management requirement.

A green audit of the church and Fellowship Hall was completed in October, 2013, resulting in production of a 37-page report.

An evacuation drill was completed on October 6, 2013, at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services, and recorded, as required by law.

All smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, exit lights, emergency lights, and emergency exit doors were inspected and/or tested monthly and the results recorded. A yearly burn-down test of all emergency lights was done and recorded.

The annual fire extinguisher inspection and hydrostatic test was completed by Firechek Protection Services.

We extend a great "Thank You" to the many parishioners who volunteered their time and talents for making all of the above projects and repairs possible.

Respectfully submitted

Harley Moulton Ralph Mounter

# ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

As you can see from our financial report, our A.C.W. group has been very busy again in 2013, not just the ladies who come out to our meetings, but all the ladies who gladly help out when called upon.

World Day of Prayer was held at the Church of the Ascension with a very good attendance.

Our Deanery Meeting was hosted by Capreol with our new President, Beverley van der Jagt, presiding. It was a day of fellowship and fun. The toonie table was a great success, with the monies donated to Mary Buie's cancer run the next day. Mary was also our guest speaker.

Although A.C.W. and Parish Life are two separate groups, we work together on many events in the Church: Seniors' Luncheon, Fashion Show, and Barrydowne College to name just a few.

Our only money-raising events, the Snowflake and Strawberry Teas, allow us to continue supporting our foster child, Sleeping Children Around the World, Primate's World relief and Development Fund, and Youth Synod.

Respectfully submitted

Betty McLeod President



Shut-ins/Senior Cookie Drop. Our packers, wrappers & delivers! From left to right - Joan Brinson (sister of Gladys visiting) Gladys Abigail, Jane Cox, Henrietta Paul, Irene Gilchrist, Anne Germond, Nora Roy, Mickey McRae, Carol Lennox, Dave Fowler, Noella Fowler, Ken Paul & Anne Trimmer. December 17, 2013

Missing - Marie Vitone, Stephanie Doveton & Kath Greenidge. (See Parish Life report)

# OUTREACH

As I have looked over the amount of Outreach that the Church of the Ascension has been involved in and with over the past year 2013, I am happy, amazed and joyed at trying to make life a little better for those not quite as fortunate as others.

One of our large contributions does to the Elgin Mission in assisting them in staying open for longer periods of time and in feeding the countless guests that go through their facility daily. We have provided the Elgin Mission with a sum of money to get them started in the Fall as well as providing them with amounts of ham, veggies and ground beef to assist them in their feeding of their many guests. Our church is still providing 35 to 40 loaves of sandwich bread and fixings for the sandwiches once a month. This is known as Sandwich Sunday in our church and occurs on the second Sunday of the month. We have earned money for the Elgin Mission through fundraisers such as the Story and Song event held at Christmas and the Walk in the Cold, organized by Paul Murdock.

Our ACW continued to make Friendship Quilts during 2013. This year the quilts were sent to an organization in North Bay, who greatly appreciated getting them from us. The ACW are still collecting money for the Sleeping Children around the World. This project supplies bedrolls, clothing and hygiene products for children in Third World Countries.

Our Parish has once again participated in the Shoeboxes at Christmas for Operations Christmas Child.

We continue to support families in need, both in our Parish and in the neighbourhood. We are grateful to be able to assist these families with food from our food bank and with food cards from the grocery stores. At Christmas we were able to pack and deliver seven wonderful baskets, consisting of a full Christmas dinner as well as numerous boxes of food for weeks later. All of this is possible as a result of your kind donations to this cause.

We are still part of the Out of the Cold program, which provides a hot meal on a Friday evening from the beginning of November to the end of April. We cater to four dinners over the season. Thank you for all your help in making this project a worthwhile and greatly appreciated one.

This past year we have had two very successful fundraisers, The Old Bag Tea and the Fashion Show. The profits from both of these events were given to Outreach. The profit from the Old Bag Tea was given to the Tarime project as well as half of the profit from the Fashion Show. (Please see report under Parish Life). The other half of the profit from the Fashion Show was given to Barrydowne College.

We have been a tremendous help to the students at Barrydowne College. We have provided numerous boxes of food to the students on an ongoing process. Along with the food we have sent many containers of clothing. We have provided cash donations to assist the college in providing a graduation for the students as well as gifts for the graduates. At Christmas, we provided Christmas stockings for the students and a financial donation for a Christmas dinner. We have provided lunch for the students throughout the school year as well as pizza days at the school and are constantly aware of their needs.

Thank you to all of the parishioners here at the Ascension for all of the donations of food, grocery cards and money to the Anne Germond Fund, as that does enable us to carry out all of the above. A special thank you to Rev. Anne for overseeing all that we do, and for her contributions through the Anne Germond Fund. I sincerely thank you for all that you have done. We are certainly a very loving, caring and considerate Parish.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Trimmer

### PARISH LIFE

"Everyone has dreams, but it is what YOU do with these dreams that is important.

Dreams, once you make the decision to act on them, can become reality."

- Glynis Nunn -

Parish Life – "Life in the Parish" in 2013 was fun filled & jam packed...

We shared OUR Hopes & Dreams,

Through Plans & Schemes! Imagine if we did not have HOPES & DREAMS how boring our lives would be?

In 2013 at the Ascension we came together as 'ONE body in Christ'. As a FAITH community we acted on every PLAN & SCHEME & made each become reality! 2013 was another eventful & busy year. Each one of us served God in so many 'life giving' ways. Life giving, not only within our own Church Community, but most of all as we reached out to others in need far beyond our Church doors! Through our many & different 'God given gifts', we made it possible for others to see & feel that welcomed 'Light of Christ' in their own HOPES & DREAMS! Overall each one of us contributed in some wonderful way to 'Life in the Parish'! Think of it... We welcomed growth; we saw change; we uplifted others through kindness; we shared goodness; we gave generously; we reached out in faithfulness, fellowship & more. Weren't each one of these done with the most important gift God gave to us...the gift of LOVE?

Parish Life thanks each one of you for your time & talents shared. As you read about how Life in the Parish unfolded in 2013, it will present to you a clear vision of God working in our midst!

#### January

Christian Unity Service Tuesday, January 22nd, 2013

This was held at St. Stephen's on the Hill & was well attended. Ascension was well represented by several of our parishioners, most of which were ACW members. It is one of the times we worship with our Ecumenical neighbours giving a joyful sense of 'togetherness as Christians'!

#### **February**

Shrove Tuesday, February 12th, 2013 – Pancake Supper 5:00pm-6:30pm

Our pancake tossers could not keep up with the ongoing flow of dinner guest! It was a great time of fellowship. Our 'Free Will' offering after expenses \$615.00. These funds went to Sudbury Samaritan Centre in conjunction with their Coldest Night of the Year Walk. (Sat. Feb. 23rd, 2013)

Ash Wednesday, February 13th, 2013 @ 7:00pm

St. Stephen's on the Hill & St. Marks Garson were invited to join us. Approximately 60 were in attendance. A time of fellowship followed & was hosted by Parish Life & ACW jointly.

#### March

Reflecting on Easter Icons Friday, March 15th, 2013 from 7:00-9:00pm

Dr. Bruce Ward from Thorneloe University presented a very interesting evening for our parishioners on the Theology of Icons. (FYI - The icon, from the Greek word image, is a particular type of church art which has always been central to Eastern Christian spiritual practice, & they have been described as "theology in line & colour." At the same time they are intended to be an invitation to prayer.) Many who attended expressed how intrigued they were in learning & understanding better the history & theological stories that each icon portrayed. We had the opportunity to discuss our own insights based on our own interpretation of each icon. Rev. Anne thanked Bruce for sharing his knowledge & wisdom with us.

Parish Life provided coffee, tea & loaves.

Easter Plants to Shut-ins/Seniors Wednesday, March 27th, 2013 @ 11:30am

Once again we delivered 28 Easter plants to our shut-ins/seniors. Attached was an Easter greeting card written by Reverend Anne. We give thanks to Anne Trimmer for placing the order & also to Anne T. & Don

McLeod for picking them up. Thanks to our many volunteers, who came out to deliver, especially to Beth Hewson who ensured all plants reached their respective recipients prior to Easter.

#### **April**

Potluck in honour of Beth Hewson, Student Intern - Thursday, April 4th, 2013 @ noon

Many Parishioners gathered together to give Beth a fond farewell as her placement at the Ascension came to an end. Beth reached out to our Parishioners so warmly, touching so many lives through her caring ways, her enthusiasm, as well as her excellent leadership in Bible Studies & exercise class. A poem reflecting Beth's wonderful personable qualities, her numerous attributes, her God given gifts all of which she brought & shared with our Ascension community was written & read by Kath Greenidge. The poem also spoke of Beth's testimony which was clearly visible through her calling to serve our Lord. We wished her well as she continued her road to ministry & presented her with a gift of appreciation.

Earth Day at the Ascension was recognized on Sunday, April 22nd, 2013

Soap nuts were handed out by Thelma Smith after each service. She had carefully wrapped 3 inside a rag cloth tied together & attached washing instructions. It is just another way we can work towards saving our environment not only at home but also in our church. You can read more on this in our Green Report & how we are moving towards 'Greening our Sacred Space'. Check www.simplysoapnuts.ca if interested in more information.

#### May

Senior Luncheon - Thursday, May 23rd, 2013 from 12:00pm - 2:00pm

This has become an annual event at the Ascension & it is always a truly wonderful time of fellowship. It gives us the opportunity to show & express to our seniors & shut-ins that they are & always will be a vital part of our church community. This past year we chose to have an open invitation & this was posted in the foyer with a sign-up sheet. We invited our neighbours St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church to join us. As our guest arrived they were given a digitally personalized name tag with a Bible verse. The Fellowship Hall was set up for 60, & all 10 tables were adorned with a geranium plant with 6 decorative coloured plant markers each reflecting a different 'Fruit of the Spirit' as centre pieces. We welcomed 42 from the Ascension & 15 from St. Stephen's on the Hill. The lunch opened with a prayer by Rev. Anne. A lovely meal of ham, scalloped potatoes, coleslaw, jellied salad & cake were prepared & served by our ACW & Parish Life members. We give thanks to Anne Trimmer, team lead & to all volunteers who helped, including some of our guys who came out to help set up the tables in the hall. Musical entertainment was provided by Fr. Peter from Holy Redeemer who also shared a few jokes in between. He was certainly a big hit & many of our guest's immediately expressed their desire to have him return for a repeat performance at our next Seniors Luncheon! One lucky senior took home the centre piece by an elimination draw however every senior received a plant marker as well as a Bible Word Find booklet & pencil as a take away gift. At the end Fr. Peter was thanked & presented with an honorarium of \$50.00 by Anne Trimmer, People's Warden. Please note that our ACW covered the expense for the luncheon & Fr. Peter's honorarium by the church.

Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

#### June, July & August

These months were the total opposite to our usual quiet 'summer' in our church. Parish Life at the Ascension was a constant BUZZ with the introduction of Messy Church! Messy Church was held 3 times; June 26th, July 31st, & August 21st. Many of our faithful Vacation Bible Study volunteers willingly gave of their time & talents to this new venture assisting Cindy Caines our MC co-ordinator in planning each one of them. Please read Cindy's report on MC & their success over the summer & how we as a 'welcoming church' will continue to host these so we can reach out & share our faith with others including those who are still 'seekers'!

On behalf of Parish Life we would like to give a 'BIG Thank You' to Cindy for her enthusiasm & passion in this ministry. Organizing & planning each one of these events takes time & energy, something that Cindy always

seems to have. Her positive efforts to reach out beyond our church community have not gone unnoticed. At the same time we wish to make it known to her that she can continue to call upon our Ascension Parish Life team for support in this endeavour.

#### **August**

'Old Bag Tea'/Raise the Roof for Tarime – Sunday, August 18th - 2:00pm-4:00pm

As the title indicates this Deanery event hosted at the Ascension was to raise funds for the Diocese of Tarime, Tanzania. FYI - Tarime is a new Diocese & their Bishop Mwita promised his people that if they would build the churches he would raise the money from overseas for the roofs. In July 2014 a group of Anglicans from across Algoma including our Bishop Stephen & his wife Fawna will be travelling to Tarime for a work vacation & as a Deanery we wanted to send funds to support this endeavor. (We pray for their safe travels.)

The Venerable Anne Germond our very own rector, with her open heartedness for 'outreach' put her thoughts to action, for as we all know with Anne, once she lights that bright spark it turns into a flame! Kay Winfield with her great enthusiasm & organizational skills was on it in a flash & "The Old Bag Tea" became reality! Tickets were \$10.00 & a great variety of gently used & new bags were donated. With help from a few Ascension parishioners & others from our Deanery the evening went without a hitch & the church was filled with much laughter. The bags had been nicely displayed on tables down the centre aisle of the church & for just a 'toonie' bid most of us took home an 'old bag'! Thanks to Colin Germond & Philip Balson who entertained us with their beautiful music & to Rev. Roberta Wilson-Garrett who enlightened us a bit about Bishop Mwita's vision for the future & his promise to his people, The Diocese of Tarime. Special thanks to Kay Winfield, Gladys Abigail, Lynne & Connie Burgess, the latter two who made all the cakes served, & to Kath Greenidge & Helen Wormington for the 'intricate' work put into 'building those small churches with their wooden roofs' as table centre pieces!

A total of \$1200.00 was raised for Tarime. On behalf of the Sudbury/Manitoulin Deanery we express our sincere thanks for your generous contributions in helping "Raise a Roof for Tarime"! Please keep Bishop Mwita & his vision for the Diocese of Tarime in your prayers, & may we at the Ascension as part of the Algoma Diocese continue to support this mission.

#### September

Golf Tournament – Sunday, September 15th, 2013 tee-off 1:30pm

We give thanks to Terry Ames & Kay Winfield as being the 'driving' force in organizing this event for us at Cedar Green. Cost \$40.00 included 9-holes of golf, dinner & chances to win prizes. 28 golfers played 'best ball'. It was a miserable day with lots of rain & at times players could not see the greens from the 'T' off area, but that did not dampen the spirits of our winners. Congratulations to Ralph Mounter, Fred Teolis, David Caines & Ray Landry. Some teams did not complete the course due to the weather, however they had lots of fun stories to tell, true or not, we might never know! Thanks too to all who donated prizes!

B2CS - Back to Church Sunday - September 29th, 2013 - 9:00am & 11:00am Services

Back to Church Sunday is not just an annual event in Canada, it is a worldwide event. It started in 2004 in England, by layperson Michael Harvey, & it has quickly spread to 17 countries across the globe & more than 50 Christian denominations. It is a time when we invite our friends, neighbours & community to join us at Church. In 2013 Parish Life once again created B2CS invitations which were not only distributed to Parishioners in the Parish for them to pass on to their family, friends or neighbours, but a minimum of 120 invitational flyers were hand delivered to neighbourhood homes by members of our PL team. Michael Harvey's book "Unlocking the Growth" - "is about making disciples". The practice of invitation is about spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. John 1:46 "Come & see", & that same Bible quotation was used on our invitations. On Sunday September 29th to give that warm feeling of "WELCOME', colourful helium balloons decorated the sanctuary & the entrance for this our 6th Annual B2CS. Parish Life members as well as all Church Committee members wore their names tags with a 'green ribbon' for identification & we encouraged others as they entered to wear name tags so they could be made known to us in reverse. Reverend Anne expressed a warm welcome to our visitors after which we joined together in a meaningful time of worship. In

continuing with the theme of 'growth' Parish Life packaged out 'fall planting/spring blossoming' Lily bulbs, & these were handed out after each service. The following words of encouragement decorated the hand out..."Come grow with us in Your Faith", & a quotation by Lady Bird Johnson - "Where flowers bloom so does hope." Rev. Anne mailed thank you cards to The Home Depot, Home Hardware 2nd Avenue, & Lowes in appreciation for their contributions towards the Lily bulbs.

Parish Life wishes to extend sincere thanks to Jane Cox & Stephanie Doveton for providing a light snack after the 9:00am & to Gladys Abigail & her team, with help from some of our PL members, for the lunch after the 11:00am service. These two teams with their 'many helping hands' was a clear vision of "God working in our midst' as they served our Lord.

The time of Fellowship that followed each service, was a time of 'hospitality'! It was a time of working together so that we may become more 'open' in reaching out as 'Ascension disciples'.

#### October

Green Audit of our Church Property - October 22nd, 2013

Ascension moves towards being a 'Creation Friendly Church!'

Parish Life thanks you for all the ways you show you care for God's creation at The Ascension. Help us continue to work towards 'Greening Our Sacred Space!' On behalf of the Ascension we would also like to thank Jane Cox for her initiative in acting & moving forward in regard to the Ascension applying for the grant for a green audit through the Anglican Church of Canada. We were one of 10 churches to receive the grant.

Please see Green Team report by Jane, our Green Team lead found also in this Vestry booklet.

Fall Fashion Show by Exclusive Look – Sunday, October 27th, 2013 - 2:00-4:00pm

This was a fundraiser for Barrydowne College & the Diocese of Tarime, Tanzania.

For the second year Kay Winfield spearheaded this Fashion Show with Exclusive look. Kay's motivation comes naturally & we give grateful thanks for her time & talents in making this another successful event. Tickets were \$15.00. Our church worship area was transformed into a fashion show stage area with seating for 120+. Our thanks certainly goes out to Fran & her staff from Exclusive Look for their co-ordination in this event. They so fabulously & quite uniquely mixed & matched fashions to our 'parishioner' models that best suited each one of them. Throughout the event numerous prizes were given out & one exquisite door prize. The many recipients of these were in awe of Exclusive Look's generosity. During a short intermission our models mingled with the audience & at that time light refreshments were served. As our models changed for the 2nd half of the show, Rev. Anne gave a short presentation on the Diocese of Tarime, Tanzania (see info on 'Raising a Roof for Tarime' earlier in this report.) & then she introduced Maureen McNamara Principal of Barrydowne College to say a few words. Besides Maureen telling us more about the school, its goals & achievements, she only had kind words to say about our Rev. & the Ascension community. Many were touched by both these endeavours for which the afternoon was all about. After expenses a total of \$1500.00 was raised.

Recapping our Fashion Show fundraiser would not be complete without sharing with you the 'HIGHLIGHT' of the afternoon! Yes, just one more model, a 'SURPRISE GUEST', made an appearance! An 'Old Woman in Purple'! As she made her entrance we were intrigued from the top, with her 'punky violet' hair, to the bottom, with her 'striking red' socks! A gorgeous 'amethyst' ribbon scarf was draped around her neck & over her right shoulder she carried a boring navy blue handbag. Her '50 shades of purple' ruffled cotton print skirt was worn over 'mauve' pants. Under her 'Mardi Gras' gilet jacket she wore an 'orchid' short sleeves sweater! Even though she walked with a cane, she carried off her outfit with much charisma for fashion & flare! As she meandered along the catwalk she joyfully read a poem that had us all in stitches, with 'one spoken word' that we thought would be 'one un-spoken word' in her vocabulary! Thanks Venerable Anne for making our afternoon a delightful one!

#### November

Confirmation – Sunday, November 17th, 2013 @ 10:00am (one service only)

This day in our church comes under Worship however in the 'life of our parish' it was a joyous occasion! Following the service a time of fellowship was hosted by the parish. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Anne Trimmer for organizing this. Thanks too to the many helping hands especially the parents of the candidates, our Parish Life committee members & all others who prepared, served or cleaned up. Congratulations & blessings to our 13 candidates!

#### December

Gifts of Story & Song – Sunday, December 8th, 2013 @ 7:00pm

Our 2nd Annual "Gifts of Story & Song" proved to be another exciting & joy filled time in our Church! If you were not among those who came out to be entertained by dramatic story tellers & innate musicians then you



'Tactful Trusty Trio' - our decorator, organizer & planner for 'Gifts of Story & Song' fundraiser event. From left to right - Kath Greenidge, Gerry Lougheed Jr. & The Venerable Anne Germond. December 8, 2013 sure missed out big time! Did you at least see how our worship space was transformed for just that one night into a 'Magnificent Winter Wonderland'? Again if you were not part of this amazingly stunning transformation that took place in a few hours then you missed out even bigger! Do take some time & have a look at the photos on our website www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.ca for you will be awestruck!

We give thanks to the 'tactful trusty trio' of Gerry Lougheed Jr., Anne Germond & Kath Greenidge, as they were the backbone of this event. This year our funds raised went to our Music Ministry & the Elgin Street Mission.

Tickets were a mere \$10.00, & if you ask those who attended you got your monies worth, while supporting the needs of others! Thank You, Thank You, Thank you!!!

Our Thank You list is looooooooong!!!

Grateful thanks to the following:-

To our sponsors who contributed funds to this event. To our story tellers & musicians, we thank our Lord for their time & talents shared especially to our invited guest Sandra Boyd & the Musicians, Dan Lessard, Erkki Kinos & Frank Elsner. From our own Church community we give thanks to Gerry Jr., Anne, Bob Derrenbacker, Michael White, Trish Hennessey, Eleanor Connors, Matt Walchuk, Jeremy Mannella, Philip Balson, & Colin Germond. In appreciation each of our performing artist were presented by Parish Life with a small bag of 'Home Made' candy bark which was decorated with a 'Hand Crafted' spiral beaded Christmas tree. It was with great pleasure & with deep appreciation that each one of our volunteers who helped in some small way received one of these also.

Our Thank You list continues....

To all who donated cookies, squares etc. for our time of

Fellowship Hall following the show.

To Anne Trimmer & her team, who set up the Fellowship Hall.

To Marie Vitone, kitchen team lead & all others who helped serve & clean up afterwards.

To Ralph Mounter, Harley Moulton a special thanks & to Rob Caines, Burgess & Brian Hawkins for helping with the hoisting up of our 12ft x 18ft backdrop! To Bob Corrigan for arranging, obtaining & assembling the lighted lamppost! Speaking of which...we were lost for words when Bob was informed by Larry from Lighting Showcase that they had given us the lamppost! What a generous gift! Rev Anne took time to send a card of

sincere thanks on behalf of us all.

To Ralph, Erma & Michael for their help with the audio equipment, power point, spotlight etc. without these the show could not go on!!! To my decorating team of Betty McLeod, Anne Trimmer, Teresa Kernan, Marlene Moulton, & Nancy Turner. To our photographer Colin Germond who captured some great & memorable shots!

And finally a HUGE THANKS to all who helped dismantle after the show.

Total intake from sponsors & tickets \$1880.00 less expenses (360.00) Net Profit 1520.00.

wow!!!

Clearly God was right in our midst as we worked hand in hand together?

The evening brought laughter & song into our hearts!

To quote our Rev. "it was a wonderful way to enter the spirit of the season".

Colossians 3:23 (NRSV)

"Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters..."

'Shut-ins' Senior Cookie Drop – Wednesday, December 18th packaging @ 10:30am

This year we packaged 28 boxes filled with cookies, fruit, cake, jam & chocolates for our 'shut-ins'. Thanks to Noella & Dave who took the lead role here to ensure we had all the necessary materials for putting these together. We were generously blessed this year with your many donations of home baked cookies & for this we express our since thanks as our volunteers in return 'generously' filled the boxes. Packing & wrapping went smoothly & quickly as 'many hands made light work' & again thanks to all who came out to be part of this outreach. Attached to the beautifully wrapped boxes was a Christmas card written by Rev. Anne along with a Christmas Prayer Booklet created by Kath Greenidge (c'est moi!). Here I wish to quote...

Acts 20:35 (NRSV)

"In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Just to add, the most heart-warming part of this outreach to our 'shut-ins' is in the delight seen on their faces. Some of us who did have the opportunity to visit & pray with them received back 'the gift of joy'! Joy experienced through a time of togetherness, a time in making them feel special & loved! It is said that it far easier to give than to receive, however the following inspiring words came to mind...

"For it is in giving that we receive." (St. Francis of Assisi)

# WEBSITE

www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.com

Still not so sure of this position I hold as Webmaster at the Ascension! It dropped in my lap half way through 2012 & I have been trying to keep abreast & pray that I can stay afloat & not sink! It is still quite a struggle for me, even though I do like challenge, however my lack of knowledge as a 'tech savvy person' makes it somewhat frustrating at times, especially when we no longer have the support of Web Architect as they no longer create websites. So often I am on my own, so it is a matter of trial & error with many prayers answered in that I have not yet crashed the website!

Since August I have not been able to load photos on our website for 2 reasons (1) the inability to keep up, as photos are loaded one at time, so it is a tedious task, & (2) technology continues to advance quickly & our Church website is 'old' (created in 2009) & so it is unable to handle the 'new' versions of updates etc.

Recently I learned of a work around in signing on though my home computer, so in the not so distant future I will 'clean up' & load new & interesting stuff, especially photos since I am so backlogged there. I do apologize for this.

Now with habit comes ease & perfection & I now credit myself as an 'expert' in loading our weekly bulletins, news & announcements, Deanery Digest etc. Posters & other updates for Sunday School I have also

mastered. But there is a lot more to a website than these mundane duties. We need 'new'! We need 'fresh' & an intriguing look! None of this is happening. A website is really a full time job. I am sure many of you know that I wear many 'hats' at the Ascension (& that is not a complaint as I love all that I do & give for my church) but in this role as your Webmaster I feel I have let you down. This is mostly due to lack of knowledge & time. If you feel you are in anyway at all 'tech savvy' or maybe you are just keen on learning & helping with our website, do speak with me. Cindy Caines offered her help last year but we all know Cindy's calling is to her ministry as Sunday School Superintendent. This is just a reminder that any position like this at our church is voluntary. In this world of technology I have no doubt that we do have that ideal & perfect person willing to give of their time & talents to make this work better in our Parish! So I will continue to pray & remain positive in hearing from you. Unfortunately once again like my report stated in 2012 I am unable to provide statistics to the number of visits to our website, this is due to lack of knowledge, so my apologies.

As I continue to grow & acquire 'new' skills to become Ascension's 'savvy' webmaster I ask your patience. Like anything else in our lives we set goals & I do hope that I can, with help, achieve some of them in 2014.

One of my goals in 2013 for our website did not come to fruition. The need for an active calendar is important. The calendar would cover an entire year at a time. Once this is created we would edit it on a regular basis with any 'new' & exciting up-coming events in our church. This would give you the opportunity to check our website any time of day, for an entire year as to all that is happening in the Parish. Hopefully in the not so distant future this will take effect.

One of my goals for 2014 is to add a subpage under Parish Life for 'Faith Stories' in our church community. Shannon Hengen has agreed to interview parishioners & write the articles for me, so it would only be a matter of loading them on the website & that is a simple task. I will continue to update pages in due time with 'fresh' material even if it is just 'baby steps' I take! One last note...maybe Ascension needs to look into & consider creating a 'new' website that will be more in line with technology of today! If you have suggestions or know how or who might be able to help us in a reasonable & cost effective way then please speak with me. New ideas bring change, but they are valuable & they give vigor & vitality to our vision for growth! Thank you for listening & I do hope to talk to some of you interested persons in 2014 so that we at the Ascension can 'grow' with & in the times of this fast moving world of technology!

1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV)

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

Respectfully submitted

Kath Greenidge Parish Life Chair/Webmaster



Parable of the Ten Lepers Godly Play Biblical wooden characters donated by Rev. Anne & decorated by ACW ladies. This is one of many wooden kits our Sunday School teachers will be using to teach Godly Play.

# WORSHIP

Liturgy is the 'work of the people' and at the Church of the Ascension our worship on Sunday mornings, and during the week is clearly the work of many in our parish. We have very active participation in our services through our laity those who prepare the bulletins, prepare the altar for worship, read the Scriptures, lead the Prayers of the People, sing in the choir, lead contemporary music, serve as Eucharistic assistants, servers, crucifers, and as Lay Readers. It does not end there – as newcomers or regular attendees come though our doors we have greeters and sides people who are warm and welcoming. Thank you, one and all, for making our weekly worship Spirit filled.

The ministry of serving continues during the week as many of our Lay Readers help out Nursing home and Retirement Residence services, or to bring communion to those who are not able to come to church for our weekly Sunday service. Those who are the recipients of this type of pastoral ministry often express their deep gratitude for the time those who visit spend with them. Thank you, one and all!

#### **Honourary Associate and Honourary Assistant and Guest Preachers**

We are very fortunate at the Ascension to have two active clergy in our midst, who offer us their time and gifts so freely. Fr. Bob Derrenbacker and the Rev. Rhonda Hirst are frequent celebrants at the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. They preach occasionally and are always available for pastoral emergencies when Rev. Anne is away. In the spring of 2013 Fr. Bob lead a tutorial for lay readers in preparing the altar for communion. It was well received and our lay readers are doing this each week. Rev. Rhonda, in her capacity as a Chaplain at HSN is always willing to visit one of our parishioners when they are ill in hospital. For this we are most grateful. Both Fr. Bob and Rev. Rhonda have offered themselves to other congregations in the deanery as the need arises. In 2013 Rev. Rhonda assisted at St. Mark's in Garson, and at All Saint's in Coniston. Fr. Bob lead services of worship at the Church of the Epiphany.

In 2013 Gerry Lougheed Jr., an active lay preacher in our community preached one Sunday morning. His message was very well received.

During Lent 2013, Dr. Bruce Ward lead us in a meaningful evening on some of the Icons in the Orthodox Church, helping us to deepen our understanding of how they can become for us windows into the heart of God.

#### **Ecumenical services**

Our good relationships with our Roman Catholic and United Church neighbours continued in 2013. The clergy of St. Stephen's on the Hill (UC), St. Andrew the Apostle (RC), St. John's Garson (RC) and Holy Redeemer (RC), formed the 'North Eastern Ministerial Association' in 2012 and they meet regularly to plan joint services of worship and outreach projects. Worshipping together is an important expression and sign of the unity we share in Christ. And because we love to eat and visit, the time of fellowship following our joint services of worship is also important.

In 2013 we shared in a few joint services. A prayer service was held for the Week of Christian Unity at St. Stephen's on the Hill United Church on the 22nd January, and we began Lent with a shared liturgy with St. Stephen's folk at the Ascension on 13th February. Beth Hewson, our student intern preached at that service. The women of the ACW planned the annual World Day of Prayer service with women of other denominations and it took place on March 1st at the Ascension.

During Lent, on March 6th, we offered our first joint 'Service of Healing' at St. Andrew the Apostle. It was a service of the word with hymns and the laying on of hands and prayer for anyone wishing to receive prayers for healing.

Our Holy Week services were shared with St. Stephen's on the Hill, and the dramatic presentation on Good Friday was a truly memorable one.

In the fall we had a joint Blessing of Pets service for St. Francis of Assisi Day in October. It was held outdoors near the grotto in downtown Sudbury, and a number of pets and their owners attended and received a special blessing.

The Ecumenical Services ended in November with a service of remembering our dearly departed loved ones. It was held at the Ascension on the Eve of All Soul's Day. Once again, the congregation was invited to share stories and memories of departed loved ones; hymns were sung and prayers offered. At the end of the

service we all lit taper candles and placed them in the sand of the Baptismal Font as a reminder that we become children of God's kingdom at Baptism. The result was a beautiful fire of candles shining in the darkness reminding us that the light of Christ is always stronger than any darkness we experience in our personal lives.

We give thanks for our good relationships with our friends in other denominations and look forward to what 2014 will bring us.

#### Celebrations

Throughout the church year, in addition to the two great festivals of Easter and Christmas, there are a number of other occasions for us to celebrate, and in 2013 we had a bumper year! We welcomed several babies into our fellowship in the Sacrament of Baptism. The ACW chose to give each candidate for Baptism a 'Hope Bear' as a gift of welcome into our faith community. The Hope Bear is purchased through the Anglican Foundation and arrives wearing a baptismal gown. The proceeds from the sale of the Hope Bear is given to children in Canada's north for outreach needs. Thank you to the women of the church for this great gift to our children.

Two couples chose to exchange their marriage vows at the Ascension in 2013, and we congratulate Brenda Finnila and Kari Kankaanpaa (June) and Danielle Larocque and Don May (October) on their marriages. Rev. Anne also officiated at two other weddings outside the Ascension last year. Congratulations to Megan Pawlowicz and Ryan Mackay and Meghan Williams and Kris Desjardins on their marriages.

In June we said goodbye to a number of students who were graduating from High School and heading off to College or University. Each of these young people was presented with a 'Graduation Hope Bear' purchased by the church. It has been great to see these young people returning at Thanksgiving and during the Christmas break. We continue to remember them in our prayers.

One of the highlights of the year was the celebration of Confirmation on November 17th, 2013. Nine youth and four adults came forward for this sacrament. Rev. Anne was the teacher this year and she was ably assisted by Brent Leigh who did classes with the adult candidates. Congratulations to Heather Ames, Maggie Leigh, Tyler Linton, Laura Cummings, Maxine Trimmer, John Howard, William Filliter, Robyn Chmilar, and Jack Derrenbacker, Gerry Lougheed Jr., Connie Lee, Bruce Heuft, and Thelma Smith on your Confirmation. The church was full to overflowing on the 17th November when Bishop Stephen came to lay hands on each of these individuals and the there was no doubting the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

#### **Messy Church Worship**

During 2013 we offered 'Messy Church' at the Ascension as a way of reaching out to young families, and individuals who enjoy a different expression of their faith from the regular Sunday service. We held five Messy Church events at the Ascension over the course of the summer/ fall/ winter of 2013 and we welcomed many visitors – some from out of town – to each of them.

'Messy worship' is different from the very structured liturgy to which we are accustomed. It is less formal and the clergy do not wear vestments. Messy worship is theme based and the readings and songs chosen for the day are relevant to the Messy Church theme. Each one was meaningful and we want to thank EK for coming to help with the singing and Brittany Caines with the projection of the words on the screen.

#### By the numbers:

Total attendance in 2013 was 5846 in 52 weeks of services	
Average attendance on Sunday services	112
Average attendance for 9am services	38
Average attendance at 11am services	87
Average attendance during summer months	67.
Attendance on Easter Sunday morning	239
Attendance on Pentecost Sunday	145
Attendance on Christmas Eve	262
Average attendance at mid week services	13

Respectfully Submitted
The Ven. Anne Germond

# VISIONING COMMITTEE

2013 began with a meeting with Jay Koyle, our Diocesan Congregational Development Officer, to discuss the results of the parish assessment which we completed in 2012. He provided the following feedback:

- The words "connect and extend" resonated for Jay, describing the parish's work within the
  congregation, between churches, and in the community. This action promotes an atmosphere of
  healing and forgiveness.
- He sees that we are deliberate and intentional in our activities, striving to follow our baptismal covenant.
- Our space is a strength: He encouraged us to ask 'how does our space form us'? Because it is flexible, he invited us to try different configurations and incorporate bodily involvement. Worship can reflect how we are in regular life. Our space has high potential.
- Hospitality is important so let's keep on reflecting on it; think of it as mutuality--we receive as much as we give.
- Consider paid staff positions such as for pastoral care.

The Visioning committee is continuing to focus on three areas: youth, children, and families; seniors; and, spiritual growth activities. We look at these areas focusing on the promotion of a healthy and vibrant spiritual community while keeping our mission statement close at hand: *To share in the gathering work of Christ so that His newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes, churches, and community.* 

In this endeavour, we are looking to 2014 to have tutorials for the specific functions in worship (e.g. altar preparation, lay reading, prayers of the people, etc.). We would like to have a leadership formation retreat. We are planning a "Let's Talk" series for parents and youth on special topics such as addiction, depression and anxiety, sexuality, and cyberbullying.

We close 2013 with this beautiful image and reflection:

"Love flies, runs and leaps for joy. It is free and unrestrained." Thomas a Kempis

Respectfully submitted,

Erma Howe

# A TEACHING PARISH

In January 2013, at the request of Bishop Stephen, Ms. Beth Hewson, a second year student of Divinity at Trinity College in Toronto came to the Ascension to do her Field Placement. The Ascension became a 'teaching parish' for the winter semester, but we learned a great deal during the term from Beth. The placement lasted for 12 weeks and during this time Beth was asked to preach and be actively involved in our liturgy; to take on various pastoral responsibilities such as home and nursing home visits. Beth also lead our Wednesday morning Bible Studies, and another one on a Thursday evening and was a great teacher – always well prepared. Beth also participated in our many Outreach Projects and attended the North Eastern Ministerial meetings and Deanery Clericus meetings with Rev. Anne.

Beth fitted in so well at the Ascension with her outgoing personality, her engaging manner and her caring nature. When Beth arrived there was snow on the ground, and it seemed that in the blink of an eye spring was here and she had flown the coop! We all wish Beth God's richest blessings as she discerns God's call in her life and look forward to seeing her at the Ascension again.

Thank you to Ken and Kay Winfield for opening their home to Beth during her placement, and to everyone at the Ascension for your openness to being part of a teaching moment in our lives.

Submitted by

The Ven. Anne Germond

# GREEN TEAM

In the summer of 2013, our Church of the Ascension applied for a financial grant through an Anglican Church of Canada national initiative. This grant was to help pay for a visit by a green auditor and a report about our church and our sacred spaces. Stephen Collette, an accredited auditor, completed a walk around the church and environs with 8 members of our Parish Life committee and 2 Church Wardens. (Stephen represents Greening Sacred Spaces, which is a practical program developed by an organization called Faith and the Common Good, to assist faith communities in taking concrete actions to create more energy efficient place of worship and to educate members of the community about ecological issues.) The overview of the Church of the Ascension included: Details of Inspection (Energy Efficiency, Water Efficiency, Kitchen/ Washrooms, Air Quality and Property), Renovations/Construction and Activities. The full 36 page report is accessible from



Green Audit - Jane Cox our Green Team lead with Stephen Collette the Green Audit Manager for the organization 'Greening our Sacred Spaces'. (See Jane's Green report.) June 22, 2013

Reverend Anne, Parish Life Chairperson Kathryn Greenidge, Warden Harley Moulton and Green Team lead Jane Cox. (As yet, the report is not available on the Church's website.) For this Vestry report, I will only quote Stephen's overview and conclusions. Overview of Church of the Ascension: "Overall, we feel that the Church is in good operating condition as a result of the care and foresight taken in the day to day operations of the building, yet still has an excellent opportunity to reduce electricity, natural gas and water consumption..." Conclusions: "There are many opportunities within this faith community to make both small changes and to look at long-term suggestions. This is the beginning of a process that I hope you embrace and undertake to the best of your abilities, as it will ultimately benefit the bottom line of the Church, and have dramatic impacts upon the environment as well. As Stewards of Creation, the lessons that you will share with others, will leave positive impacts for generations." Since the audit, a boiler has been replaced and cocking enhanced around the building. How to best utilize the contents of this green audit report will be determined in the coming weeks, months and years. Our cost of the audit will be approximately \$330.00. The lion's share of the cost will be funded by the Anglican Church of Canada. Some ongoing paper work must be submitted to the ACC in order to compare energy costs spent pre-audit and each year post-audit.

Two articles about the green audit process have been submitted to the Algoma Anglican. A third article is planned in the late spring. As Stephen phrased it; "Share Success".

The Green Team is now a subgroup under Parish Life.

Tips on how to 'green' our personal homes/activities will be submitted to the Church's monthly calendar.

We are considering hosting a non toxic cleaning product workshop in the near future.

The Out of the Cold dinners have been using real china/cutlery and limiting the use of plastic and disposable products.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cox

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION BOARD 2013/14

Rector's Warden (Appointed)

Peoples' Warden

Deputy Warden

Erma Howe

Anne Trimmer

Harley Moulton

Ex- Officio (Appointed)

Treasurer Cathy Dionne
Envelope Secretary Gladys Abigail
Vestry Clerk Ralph Mounter
Parish Auditor Dave Fowler

#### Lay Delegates to Synod

2013 was a Synod year. 2014 is a non Synod Year and so the delegates to Synod remain as they were last year.

Erma Howe Don McLeod

Marie Vitone (alternate)

#### **Youth Synod Delegate**

Youth Synod is always held on the long weekend in August.

Leah Kernan Megan Trimmer

**Maxine Trimmer** 

#### **Representatives of Church Groups**

ACW Anne Trimmer representing ACW members
Mission and Outreach Anne Trimmer
Property Harley Moulton
Child and Youth Ministry Cindy Caines
Worship and Spiritual Formation Anne Germond
Parish Life Kathryn Greenidge
Pastoral Care Ken and Kay Winfield; Marie Vitone

Youth Rep David Caines

#### Members at Large (Nominated)

Marlene Moulton Dave Fowler
Matt Walchuk Doug Frozel
Pippa Howard Michael Sheppard
Noella Fowler Chris Cawte

#### Other positions that do not require attendance at meetings

Bulletin Editor Glenn Lloyd
PWRDF Rep. Pippa Howard
Webmaster Kath Greenidge

# From our 2013 Registers

#### **BAPTISMS**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (BAS pg. 160)

Benjamin Anthony Wayne Ciccone Ryan Scott MacKay Sophia Ann Leigh Gavin Carson Renaud Addison Shaye Moore Kiran Singh Kalsi

CONFIRMATIONS: NOVEMBER 17TH 2013

"Strengthen your servant, O Lord, with your Holy Spirit; empower him/her for your service, and sustain her/him all the days of his/her life" (BAS pg. 161)

Heather Leigh Ames Robyn Gwendolyn Chmilar Laura Elizabeth Anna Cummings John Robert 'Jack'

DerrenbackerGeorge William Filliter

John Jason Philip Howard

Margaret Elizabeth Leigh Tyler Evan Linton
Maxine Danica Trimmer George Bruce Heuft
Constance Anne 'Connie' Lee Gerald Malcolm Lougheed Jr.

Thelma Jean Smith

#### MARRIAGES

"By the power of the Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon these men and women." (BAS pg. 534)

Kari Hermanni Kankaanpaa and Brenda Lynn Finnila Ryan Scott Mackay and Megan Caroline Pawlowicz Kristopher Alzor Desjardins and Meghan Leslee Williams Donald Wilfred May and Danielle Germaine Larocque

#### **FUNERALS**

"Grant us grace to entrust them to your never failing love which sustained them in this life. Receive them into the arms of your mercy and remember them according to the favour you bear for your people." (BAS pg. 594)

Elizabeth Thain Eric Thomas Moore
Doreen Burns Joyce Daniels

Donald Mark Filliter (record at the Church of the Epiphany)

Crystal Wendy Lavigne Margaret Eileen Arkilander Lillian Mabel Lambert Gertrude Yagnych

Miriam Louise Jackson