

Church of the Ascension

Sudbury, Ontario

Annual Vestry Report 2015

on-line edition

*Give us Today
our
Daily Bread*



“We offer you this loaf of bread as a sign of welcome and hospitality. We hope that you will experience the love and presence of Jesus in our midst.

Bread is meant to be shared.

We ask that you share this bread with someone and offer them the same gift that you have received.”



Church of the Ascension
1476 Sparks Street
Sudbury, Ontario

Prayer for the Church of the Ascension

2016

Almighty God, we pray for your blessing on all who share in the life and work of our Church and Parish:

In the ministry of word and sacrament,

in teaching and pastoral care,

in service to the Diocese and Deanery,

in reaching out to the community and those in need,

in ecumenical fellowship and co-operation.

We pray for all members of the congregation,

that in their life and work they may advance

your kingdom and bear witness to your love,

shown in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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SS - Dedication of BBQ purchased in memory of Dennis Dionne.



Children's time with Reverend Anne. Godly Play storyteller Jen Ames in the centre.

Prayers at the Start of the Vestry Meeting

Officiant: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to prayer and spiritual growth

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to authentic and joyful Anglican worship.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to maintain and grow healthy churches that care for all people and practice good stewardship.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to spreading the good news through evangelism.

People : **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to caring, ongoing relationships encompassing the family of God through shared ministry.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Deepen our commitment to social justice through mission, seeking Christ in all persons, and living in harmony with the environment.

People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Officiant: Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.



Prayer for Synod 2015 - From left to right...Erma Howe, Rector's Warden, Anne Germond, Rector, Don McLeod, Lay Steward, Jen Ames and Cathy Jewell, Synod Delegates, Kath Greenidge, Alternate, Anne Trimmer, People's Warden.



Synod 2015 - Sault Ste. Marie - Ascension's contingent - from left to right Kath Greenidge, Fr. Bob Derrenbacker, Cathy Jewell, Megan Trimmer, Archdeacon Anne Germond, Catherine Bird-Heuft, Don McLeod and Jen Ames

Church of the Ascension Annual Vestry Meeting

Agenda

Sunday, January 24th, 2016

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.

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Election of Vestry Clerk.
3. Adoption of the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on February 7th, 2015
4. Matters arising from the minutes of the February 2015 meeting.
5. Motion for the adoption of all published committee reports.
6. Presentation and adoption of the 2015 Financial Statements by the Treasurer.
7. Presentation of the 2016 budget by the treasurer.
8. Motion for the appointment of a treasurer/auditor for the 2015/2016 books.
9. Acceptance of the Nominating Committee's Report for the 2016 Board. Any new nominations should be entertained at this time. Movers and seconders for positions of wardens.
10. Voting
11. Vote of thanks to the Board members.
12. Renewal of Parochial Layreaders and Eucharistic Assistants
13. New business – update on rectory, and refugees
14. Motion for the adjournment of the meeting.
15. 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.



Layreaders with Rev. Anne - Left to right Erma Howe, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Cathy Jewell with Anne Missing: Dave Fowler, Shannon Hengen & Catherine Bird-Heuft



Installation of Servers/Crucifers, May 10th, 2015 Middle from left to right - Kath Greenidge, Bruce Heuft, Cathy Jewell Rev Anne far left & Fr. Bob far right

Church of the Ascension Annual Vestry Meeting

Minutes

February 8, 2015

There were 39 members present.

Chaired by the Ven. Anne Germond.

Some church members departed since last annual vestry:

Elizabeth Gates, Shirley Flemming, Stuart, Steel, McK, McDonald, Cec Hindman, May King, Ann Corrigan

Prayers

Ralph Mounter was acclaimed as vestry clerk.

Minutes of 2014 meeting were presented. Gary Bate moved acceptance. Seconded by Brent Leigh. Carried.

Matters

We have a new website which has a few small problems.

We joined Facebook.

Thanks to those who worked to make the 2014 Vestry report such an extensive and comprehensive document.

Roz Lones moved that the 2014 vestry reports be adopted as amended. Seconded by Michael Sheppard. Carried.

Cathy Dionne presented the 2014 financial statement.

Total income of	\$194,222.54
Total expenditure	\$198,505.82
End of Year	\$(4,283.58)
Opening surplus	\$17,153.58
Actual end of year	\$12,870.30
Memorial account Dec 31	\$5,631.18
Special Projects Account	\$8,394.38
Anne Germond fund	\$5,650.00
Total	\$19,675.56

There was a Vote of Thanks to Cathy Dionne for handling and managing our funds.

Cathy presented the 2015 budget with a figure of \$176,405.

Cathy moved acceptance of the 2014 actual and 2015 proposed budgets. Seconded by Myrna Sheppard...Carried.

Anne Germond moved acceptance of Dave Fowler as our auditor for 2014. Seconded by Erma... Carried.

Is anyone interested in shadowing Cathy Dionne with the finances?

Vote of thanks to Gladys Abigail for all her work as Envelope Secretary.

Appointments:

Rectors warden – Erma Howe

Treasurer – Cathy Dionne

Envelope Secretary – Gladys Abigail

Nominations:

Peoples warden – Anne Trimmer

Deputy warden – Harley Moulton

Vestry Clerk – Ralph Mounter

Synod Lay Delegates elected: Jen Ames, Cathy Jewell

Alternate: Catherine Bird-Heuft

Members at Large

Anne Trimmer moved that we recind the Board motion which recommended there be eight members at large, and accept the members who were nominated. Seconded by Betty McLeod...Carried.

New Board meeting times:

Parish life at 6:30

Finance at 7:00

Board at 7:30

Times to be revisited in the Spring.

The Rev. Anne nominated Cathy Jewell as a Layreader. Seconded by Erma. Carried.

New Business

Erma moved that we destroy the ballots. Seconded by Catherine Bird-Heuft...Carried.

Adjournment with prayer.

The Ven. Anne Germond's Report to Vestry

January 24th, 2016

Can we, as members of the Church of the Ascension in Sudbury, live the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada in 2016?

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

My dear friends in Christ –

It is with enormous pride and joy that I write my annual report to you as your pastor of 15 years. At the time of writing it is the season of Epiphany in the church year, a feast of revelation, of light in the darkness, and travellers who followed a star to seek out that light that would make a difference. Someone once said that the candle says to the darkness – “I beg to differ”. The Magi refused to give in to the world's darkness in Herod, but kept searching for the Light. They eventually found it in an infant child with his peasant parents. We're told when they found it they were 'overwhelmed with joy' and offered them precious gifts. (Matthew 2: 10).

As I reflect back on 2015, I can think of countless occasions when the Star of Bethlehem has hung over our church and has been a beacon of hope in the desert for those who are still seeking Christ today; to those who are restless wanderers, and even to those who are completely lost. Some stayed with us for but a service while others have remained and enriched the stable of the Ascension with their light. Perhaps in their encounter they discovered the Word made flesh in some act or moment of love here.

It was a special joy last year to welcome many parishioners from St. James parish who have joined our fellowship. It is so difficult to have to say goodbye to a church and fellow congregants when it closes, and we pray that you feel right at home in our midst. It is great to see you regularly and that some of you have already assumed leadership positions. In addition to newcomers from St. James parish we also welcomed 15 new families.

In Matthew's Gospel discipleship is often likened to a kind of shining, which recalls the light from the star that shined on the Christ Child. Later that child would become a man and say, “You are the Light of the World...let your light shine before others.” (Matt. 5:14, 15) We are the ones from whom the Light will shine forth in this season of the Epiphany and beyond.

Stock taking

The Annual Vestry meeting is the time of the year when we 'take stock' of all that happened in the past year. The weeks leading up to the Annual meeting are particularly busy as reports from the various committees are written listing all the good and worthwhile things that have happened

in the past year. Thank you to the Wardens, Treasurer, and each of the Committee Chairs for your work in preparing the reports for the Annual Meeting.

At this time I would like to give particular thanks to Anne Trimmer who is stepping down as People's warden, and to Harley Moulton who is stepping down as Deputy Warden. Their years of devoted and tireless efforts for the Ascension will never be forgotten. I would also like to thank Gladys Abigail and Ralph Mounter for their years of faithful service as the Envelope Secretary and Vestry Clerk.

This is the time when we finalise year end financials, and prepare the budget for the coming year. All kinds of counting takes place as statistics are prepared for the Diocese. Figures for church attendance on Sundays and through the week; at nursing care centres, as well as membership numbers, and the groups which are using our facilities. The number of baptisms, weddings, confirmations and funerals is also submitted so that the Diocese in turn can collate our figures and send them to the National Office of the Anglican Church.

There is always a collective sigh of relief in the parish when we end the year in the black and send off the final figures to the Diocese, and when the Annual meeting comes to an end and we have a full slate of officers for the church. As you peruse the pages of the Vestry booklet I hope that what you will see is the evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our midst.

In collating the lists for this year, I noted that 2015 was a difficult year as we said goodbye to several faithful members of the congregation, including founding member Bill May, long time and very active board member Don McLeod, and ACW member Aileen Haslam. Many of you said goodbye to loved ones – Marjorie Morton to Ross, Don Findlay to Pat, Sue Bate to mother Sonia Moorhouse, and Gwen Bonas to her sister Kelly Lapointe. These loved ones of our will be greatly missed. We pray that they will rest in peace and rise again in glory. We give thanks for their lives and the rich legacy they leave behind.

That which cannot be measured

Important as statistics and budgets, and having a full slate of officers are in the church, I believe that this is also an important time for us reflect on some of the things that are not always possible to measure, but which make the Ascension such a vital life giving and blessed place to minister in and to belong.

For while there has been an increase in membership and the weekly offering, and in attendance at worship in 2015, it is the richness and diversity of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that are given and shared daily at the Church of the Ascension that aren't ever tallied up but that count a great deal.

Here are just a few of them:

The hours that are spent by those who prepare the menu and the meals for the Out of the Cold dinners, as well as the numbers of volunteers who come out to help make the dinners a reality.

The number of people involved in our monthly Messy Church events and all the preparation that goes into the crafts and worship time.

The time spent shovelling the church walk ways after a big storm, or the hours given to repairing, renovating or upgrading the church or rectory.

The time spent by our 'lay weeders' in the church yard and at Twin Forks Community garden.

The time devoted to ensuring that the weekly offering is counted; that the monies are safely deposited into the bank and that these amounts are all accurately recorded and reported.

The faithful parishioners who participate in the monthly services of worship in Retirement residences and nursing homes, and those who regularly lead Morning and Evening Prayer services in our chapel.

The time given photocopying the weekly bulletin and news and announcements, and in getting items onto Facebook and the Website.

The time spent in preparation for Worship and Godly Play each week; in preparing the altar for worship; in choir or EK practices.

The ministry to our precious little ones in the Sunday School, Nursery and Youth programs.

The hours given to visiting our sick and shut in parishioners, and all the love that is given in those visits.

The offering of food items for Barrydowne College or the Food Bank, as well as the generous donations of clothing or money for Outreach.

The tremendous ecumenical efforts that happen between ourselves and our Christian neighbourhood churches.

These and countless other acts of generosity, result in hundreds and hundreds of ministry hours each week. Each one is given with great love, often sacrificially.

Of equal importance and impossible to measure is the encouragement someone offers to another – in quiet conversations where stories of faith or prayers are shared, or where baking is dropped off at a home following a death or some difficult news. I often hear about this kind of good news from those who are recipients of these acts of Christian love and kindness.

Extending the hand of friendship to our First Nation's brothers and sisters and refugees

During 2015 the final report of the Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission was made public. Details of what took place in many of the Residential Schools was shared and all Canadians were urged to commit to the work of reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sister. In his Charge to Synod in 2015 Bishop Stephen urged us do the same. We were invited to participate in the ringing of church bells in solidarity with the missing and murdered Aboriginal women, which we undertook in June last year.

Bishop Stephen wrote: "Finally, I would ask that we make prayer for our partnership a priority, that as we discern a path forward with our Indigenous brothers and sisters, the multiracial, multi-cultural, multi-lingual nature of our Gospel community would draw others to our fellowship, and so to Jesus Christ, before whom 'every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth' (Phil. 2.10). I can commend for this purpose and would now like to lead us in the prayer composed 20 years ago to accompany the Covenant. Let us pray.

Creator God, from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness. Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen."

The Ascension committed to that ongoing work of reconciliation and friendship last year as we invited conversation and dialogue between ourselves and First Nations' people. This will continue into 2016 and I hope that many of you will join us for the opportunity to 'get to know our neighbours'.

Last year we were all moved by the plight of the hundreds and thousands of Syrians fleeing their war torn homeland. We remembered that Jesus himself was a refugee as an infant. In August a number of parishioners expressed the desire to sponsor a refugee family as they made an application for a new home in Canada. In December 2016, with the permission of the Church Board, a Steering Committee known as ARK was formed by members of our congregation and the community. The enormous huge task of preparing a settlement plan for a family is underway at the time of writing. 2016 is going to be a very busy year for us in this respect. I wish to thank the members of ARK for their dedication and commitment in this regard, and to the nearly 50 members of the Ascension who have offered to lend a helping hand, or gifts of money, time, or goods when the time comes to resettle a family. I commend this to your prayers.

Roaming through Rome – and Assisi

My report would not be complete without mentioning the incredible opportunity I had to attend a Christian Leadership Course in Rome and Assisi, in September last year. Meeting people from around the Anglican Communion; learning about our forefathers in the faith where they lived, and discovering more about myself as a leader, was truly rewarding.

Gifts, Services and Activities

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in

everyone. *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)*

As I reflect on the year that has just gone by, the words of St. Paul's words in the above passage resonate with me. It is from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians is the chosen one for the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany. The Christian congregation in Corinth is often lifted up as a perfect example of the remarkable diversity that was often found in the early church. On any given Sunday you could find Jews and Greeks, slaves and free men and women, rich and poor, united only by their shared confession of Jesus Christ as Lord.

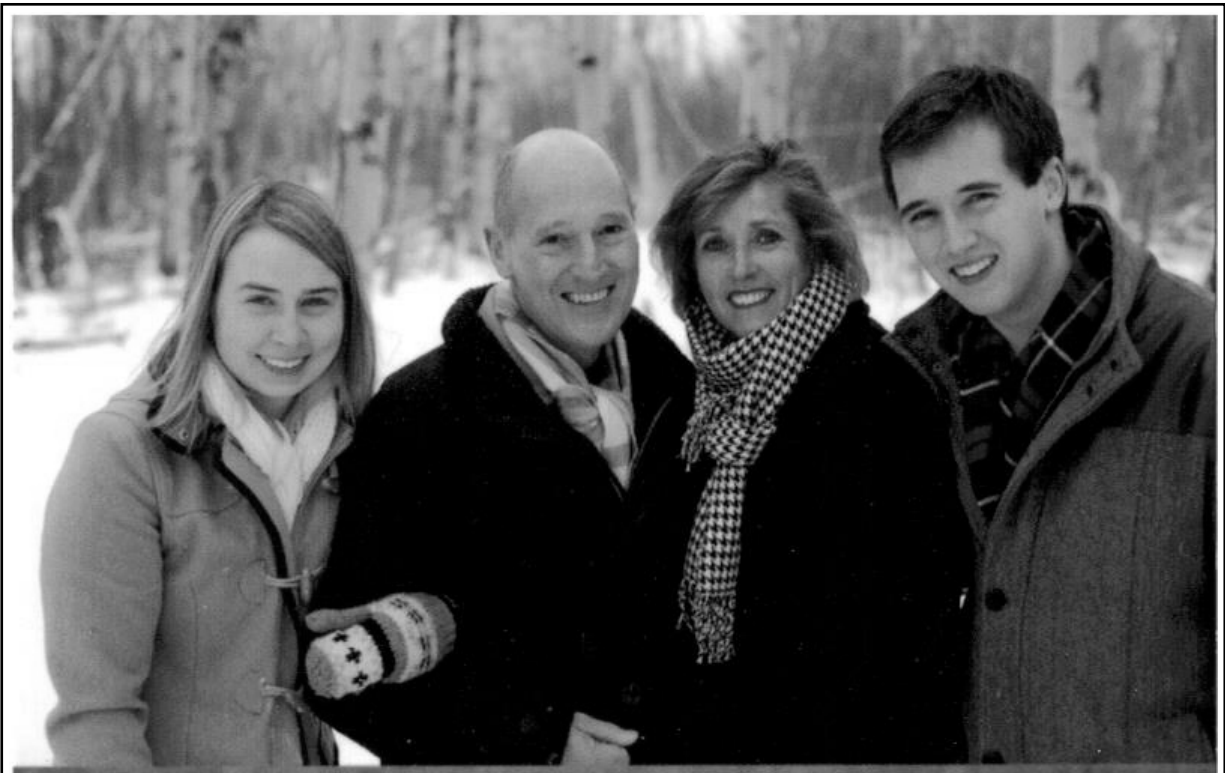
This resembles so much the Ascension which is varied in the number of different 'gifts', 'services' and 'activities' that take place in it every day of the week. Yet we are all inheritors of the Spirit of God, and this is evidenced in everything we do. To God be the Glory!

I give thanks for the privilege of serving such a diverse yet united church and I continue to count you as one of the many blessings in my life.

With gratitude for your faithfulness, and service to God in the church.

I remain your priest in Christ,

Anne



Report of the Honourary Associate Priest

The Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacher

Dear Ascension Friends,

It is a privilege once again to report on my activities over the past year as your Honorary Associate. As you all know, my "day-job" is working as President and Vice-Chancellor at Thorneloe University, a position that is quite busy and brings with it various stresses and challenges. As a result, I give thanks to God for the respite from this as your Honorary Associate. I find that celebrating the Eucharist, preaching, leading studies, and being engaged in pastoral care recharges my batteries and brings me into the Church in a deliberate and regular way. For this, I am thankful. Thank you Rev. Anne for giving me these opportunities and for your flexibility.

In addition to my regular celebration of the Eucharist, preaching, and filling in for Rev. Anne when she has been out of town, I led an Advent study on the RCL readings from Luke's Gospel. I thoroughly enjoy such endeavours, and do hope to have more opportunities such as this in the future.

Again, thank you for your support and love for my family and me. It is a privilege and pleasure to serve the people of the Church of the Ascension. I look forward to what is in store for us this year as we, as the People of God, model Christ and serve the various communities to which God has called us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacher

Honourary Associate Priest

Report of the Honourary Assistant Priest

The Rev. Rhonda Hirst

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Ascension,

Once again, I want to say that it has been an amazing year at Ascension as your Honorary Assistant. As I have watched all of you carry out your Christian ministries of feeding the hungry; visiting the sick; supporting the lonely (just to name a few), I am so thankful to be part of such a wonderful, caring and supportive community. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings for all of us and as always, I feel so blessed to be part of the ministry team at Ascension and thank all of you for your love, support and prayer.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Rev. Rhonda

Honourary Assistant Priest

Wardens Report

2015 has been another outstanding year at the Ascension. We are making new friends, and continuing a high level of involvement in community and parish life. Some new missional activities to highlight have been participation in a community garden, Indigenous gatherings, Youth Alpha, and aid to sponsor a Syrian refugee family.

Your financial givings have enabled the Ascension to be maintained and cared for in its physical form. Your generosity has made it possible to be the mission-minded community that we are, whether it is in investing in the youth at Barrydowne College, providing meals to those at the mission and Out of the Cold, and food hampers for those who would go without. You are the hands, the heart, the feet of Christ and we give thanks to God for you.

No words can express the appreciation for the devotion we have of so many of our members. As 2015 closes, we respectfully accept the retirement of some of our members from long-held positions. Gladys Abigail has been our envelope secretary for over 35 years. Gladys, we will never know the countless hours you have given to this essential service. Ralph Mounter has been the vestry clerk since the early 80s, faithfully recording the activities of meetings. Thank you.

People's warden, Anne Trimmer, and Deputy warden, Harley Moulton are also retiring. Your counsel and wisdom on church matters have meant so much to us all. Though you retire, we know you are around. Thank you.

Most of all, thanks be to God for all that is happening in our midst, as God's "power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."

Respectfully submitted by

Erma Howe

Rector's warden

Anne Trimmer

People's warden

Harley Moulton

Deputy warden

Pastoral Care Report

Pastoral visitations remain an integral part of life at the Ascension and they are made possible by a committed group of parishioners who visit those who live in nursing or retirement homes, or who are simply too frail to join us regularly for worship or other parish activities. Their visits are a blessing to these once active members of the congregation who feel connected with us through these visits. Prayers are always offered during these visits, and sometimes communion is given through the reserved sacrament. Often visitors bring homemade cookies, a magazine, or a card – and these small tokens of friendship are also greatly appreciated.

In 2015 parishioners at St. Gabriel's Villa in Chelmsford, the Westmount and Walford Retirement Residences, Finlandia, L'Arche Sudbury, as well as the Continuing Care Centre on South Bay Road, and Pioneer Manor were regularly visited. For some parishioners these were temporary residences as they recovered from illnesses, but for others these were their permanent homes.

Thank you to Marie Vitone, Paul and Sheila Murdock, Kath Greenidge, Dave and Noella Fowler, Jen Ames, Kay and Ken Winfield, Cathy Jewell, Irene Gilchrist and Shannon Hengen for being part of this team.

There are also many parishioners who are friends with those who don't make it to church regularly, or who are bereaved - and their calls, cards, prayers, emails and visits are also appreciated.

Each pastoral visitor follows the Screening in Faith guidelines as set out by the diocese and is asked to obtain a police record check before taking on this ministry.

In addition to visits, care and concern for seniors and shut ins happens through our weekly intercessions; as the weekly bulletin and announcements are mailed to each person to ensure they are kept updated on what is happening in the parish (thank you Thelma), through the delivery of a plant and homemade cookies at Christmas and Easter 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.

Another important part of pastoral care and concern are the weekly and monthly worship services in neighbourhood retirement residences and nursing homes. The monthly services at the Westmount Residence continue. Worship leaders for these services are Rev. Anne, Rev. Stewart Walker from St. Stephen's on the Hill, and Rev. Erin Todd from Trinity United Church. There is a growing number of parishioners at the Westmount, and we look forward to continuing these services in 2016. We are thankful to Marjorie Morton for offering her gift of music, to Roz Jones, Betty Bonas, Thelma Smith, and Hazel Edwards for their presence and participation.

In 2015 we also began regular services in Finlandia Nursing Home – in the little chapel. The number of attendees grew over the course of the year and it was wonderful to see family members bringing their loved ones to the worship services. At the end of the service where we dedicated items in memory of Wendy Kirby at, and at the Christmas service, we ended with a time of fellowship

provided by Tim Hortons and our volunteers. Thanks to Kath Greenidge, Jen Ames, Catherine Bird-Heuff, Cathy Jewell, Betty Bonas and Marie Vitone and Marjorie Morton for their regular participation in these services.

We are also very grateful to Rev. Rhonda, the Chaplain at Health Sciences North for the loving care she provides to so many parishioners who are hospitalized. She often drops by to visit, pray with, anoint, and offer wise counsel to family members as parishioners recover.

Visitations remain key to Rev. Anne's ministry and she brings communion to shut ins, and 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 time of prayer for anyone in need.

Faithfully submitted:

The Ven. Anne Germond



Bishop Mwita Akiri, Tarime, Tanzania being shown our Friendship Quilts by Anne Trimmer, People's Warden.

Altar Guild Report



Thanksgiving

Once more I wish to thank the ladies of the Altar Guild for the outstanding work that they do in preparing the altar and getting the Sanctuary ready for Sunday worship and many special events in our parish. My thanks also goes to the ladies who look after the Chapel for our Wednesday services.

These women are Betty Bonas, Betty McLeod, Irene Gilchrist, Connie Lee, Thelma Smith and myself. We are happy to welcome Carol Lennox as a new member of our group.

We especially thank Rev. Anne for all of her support and understanding that she gives to me and all the ladies.

Thank you to all of our parishioners who have donated money or contributed money for flowers over the past year. After the service these flowers are often taken to those in our congregation who are ill, bereaved, or who live in 'care homes'. This brightens up their room and brings great joy. Once again, for 2016, we have posted a Flower Request Chart on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you for the Christmas and Easter flower donations.

The Altar Guild was very happy to receive a new 'fair linen' altar cloth, a purple and white pulpit scarf and lectern scarf. These items were given to us in memory of Wendy Kirby from her mother, Velma Tansley, and Wendy's friends and family. They were dedicated at a service at Finlandia Village which is where Mrs. Tansley lives. We also received a beautiful sterling silver breadbox – a gift from the Altar Guild of St. Mark's in Garson, to the parish.

Being a member of the Altar Guild is a wonderful and sacred ministry in our parish.

Faithfully submitted,

Anne Trimmer

Altar Guild Chair

Children's Ministry Report

This year we focused our efforts on our growing nursery. We began a more structured, themed lesson similar to a Godly play story for the children aged infant to three years old. The children are having fun learning a bible story through hearing the story, singing and activities. We hosted a bake sale and the proceeds of over \$500 went to giving the nursery room a much needed facelift. Thank you to everyone who donated baked goodies, their time and to those that purchased delightful desserts. We are looking forward to hosting another sale in 2016.



We began 2015 with a tea for our tiny tots. There was seven wee ones in attendance along with parents and great grandparents. It was wonderful to see the different generations getting to know each other better. We are thinking this should be an annual event.

We had a very successful yard sale in the spring. We purchased a barbecue in memory of Dennis Dionne. The barbecue was used at our year end children's service and bbq, messy church and vbs. We will be sure to host another yard sale in 2016, so please hang on to those treasure for us. We enjoyed meeting people from the neighbourhood at our clothing swap, we were able to share information about messy church as people picked out free clothes. A few came out to our messy church in June.

At our year end children's service we shared the Godly Play lesson of the parable of the Leaven. We were pleased with the positive feedback as many told us they left feeling enriched.

The children contributed to the Lift Up Your Heart initiative by making beautiful paper hearts for a garden of love. We had the wonderful opportunity to present the Godly Play story, The Great Family, to the deanery clergy, Bishop Mwita, Bishop Stephen and Bishop Corston. From this Jennifer was invited to Kirkland Lake to share stories at their lay readers conference in the spring of 2016.

We enjoyed a family Thanksgiving service led by the children and had fun making and eating stone soup.

For our outreach during Advent, the children made 'blessing bags' for the homeless and went carolling for canned food for Barrydowne College. After many weeks of discussion, it was decided to divide the \$100 that Ven. Anne gave to the children between helping people and animals; donations were given to the Elgin Street Mission and Pet Save.

The Christmas pageant this year was done jointly with the Church of the Epiphany, with a morning service at the Epiphany and an evening performance following a potluck at the Ascension. The children were able to spend time at each other's parishes and while getting to know each other at practices their friendships blossomed. We will definitely need to plan more events to keep them connected.

As our children's ministry grew, so did our team, we welcomed Jen Stiller, Heather Mannella and Michelle Taylor. We give thanks to Robin Robillard and Pippa Howard for their help over the past year. Pippa is now coordinating our quarterly family services that we are all enjoying.

On behalf of the team, I want to thank the parents/grandparents and caregivers who regularly bring their children to church. We are blessed to have so many young families worshipping at the Ascension and truly enjoying seeing the children grow in their faith and friendships.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Caines

Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible School Report

We had another successful year at Vacation Bible School that saw an increase in the number attending from 2014 and new volunteers on board. Some days we had more than 30 children who attended. This did not include the number of young people who volunteered to be crew leaders. This year we even had a surprise visit from a bear in the back yard. We cannot express enough gratitude from all of the volunteers who came out and assisted, I am sure if we were to count all of the ways that we were assisted we would be well over 20 volunteers including some from other parishes in Sudbury.

The theme was Everest, "Conquering Challenges with God's Power". The program came from "Group" Ministries and we have found this a comprehensive product to use as it incorporates various activities which appeals to different learning styles and a variety of children's preferences such as crafts, games and even science projects.

Some of the costs of the resource material and decorating supplies were shared with St. John's in Copper Cliff who hosted their VBS prior to the Ascensions. Since St. John's is a smaller scale VBS it gives the director and station leaders an opportunity to try out the resource before presenting it at Church of the Ascension. It is hoped that one more congregation in our deanery will run a VBS program in 2016 so that we can not only share the program but also more of the costs for the kit and decorating supplies such as posters.



VBS - Gary Bate and Bev Vanderjagt demonstrating an experiment to a group of children.

One of the major costs is the VBS kit which contains manuals for each station activities, the bible stories, decorating ideas and an overview of how to run the program. It also includes DVD's of the music so that children can learn new songs quickly and follow the actions on the screen, the DVD includes key points as told through a lesson on the animal character for each day and the kid video which has real live stories from families about how has God impacted their life. The company

also provides us with an online registration sight which was used by half of the parents this year. We started promoting with an early registration so that we could get a sense of the quantity of products we needed to order.

There is a huge investment in the VBS programs that we ran in both 2014 and 2015, investments not only financially but also in time, resources and volunteers. This year we asked that families help pay for the camp T-shirts we purchased and for donations in in order to offset those costs for things such as craft materials, science projects for each child and activity pages. The majority of the snacks and food where donated by generous individuals.

When one looks at the overall cost of the program it seems expensive however if you divide the number of children who developed a relationship both with the volunteers and with Christ the investment of \$20 to \$25 per child for the week works out to approximately \$4 to \$5 a day in the life of a child. This seems inexpensive when you consider that most families spends more than this for their child's birthday party. The high impact of the VBS program that we offer provides memories and experiences that will influence children's faith formation for years.

As we look at running VBS in 2016 we may need to be creative in the way that we raise funds so that we can provide the same service as in the past without having a negative effect on the church budget. The theme for the 2016 program is Cave Quest, "Following Jesus the Light of the World". Stay tuned for more information on dates and ways that you can help.

Once again I would like to say thank you to Church of the Ascension for caring enough to invest in the life of our future leaders in the God's earthly kingdom. With declining church membership and low attendance of children on Sunday's it is always rewarding and promising to see these young people attending VBS and participating in their own journey with Christ. I invite you if you have never checked it out to drop in some time over the week in the summer of 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly van der Jagt

Child and Youth Ministry Facilitator,
Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin



An unexpected visitor to VBS! Too close for comfort! Doors were locked down. Children had a perfect view through the Fellowship Hall windows.

Eucharistic Assistants at the Church of the Ascension for 2016

These members usually attend at 9am

Dave Fowler
Chris Cawte
Thelma Smith.

Marie Vitone
Shannon Hengen

These members usually attend at 11am

Gladys Abigail
Erma Howe
Doug Frozel
Rachel Barnes
Kathryn Greenidge
Audrey Penn
Catherine Bird Heuft
Cathy Jewell
Pippa Howard

Betty Bonas
Anne Trimmer
Donna Barnes
Cindy Derrenbacker
Jennifer Cawley Caruso
Bruce Ward
Brent Leigh
Connie Lee
Margaret Leigh

Honourary life members who are no longer active:

Del Gates

Roz Jones.

Layreaders at the Church of the Ascension for 2015

Dave Fowler
Shannon Hengen
Cathy Jewell

Erma Howe
Catherine Bird-Heuft
Lori Cameron
Brent Leigh.

Layreaders in training

Thelma Smith

Home Communion

Marie Vitone
Shannon Hengen
Kathryn Greenidge
Betty Bonas
and Thelma Smith

Catherine Bird Heuft
Dave Fowler
Cathy Jewell
Lori Cameron

are licensed to bring the Reserved Sacrament to the sick and those living in nursing homes or retirement residences in our congregation.

Property Committee Report

Rectory

We rent our rectory and as our tenants left at the end of November, we were faced with the decision to do a major face-lift to the rectory before renting it again. A special vestry was called in December for permission to proceed with this work and apply to the Diocese for a loan so this could be feasible. Parish members approved. A loan of \$25,000 for renovations was requested from and approved by the Diocese.

What follows is a list of work done to the rectory in 2015:

Outdoor care: repair and maintenance included weeping tile replacement, eaves trough repair and tree removal.

Indoor care: repair and maintenance included an upgrade of the electrical panel, and replacement of electrical outlets and fixtures; new kitchen cupboards; replacement of flooring in most of the house; replacement of doors and baseboards in most of the house; and painting of the entire house.

Thank you for the tremendous work of Wayne, Andy and Ralph. Thank you for the special work done by Brent and Marcia, Harley, Beaumont, Rick, Michael, Dave, Paul, Emily and Joanie.

We hope to have a new tenant by February 1, 2016.

Church

Our church is in good working order, meeting safety and inspection standards. A new culvert was installed at one entrance, a new storage shed was erected, and a storage box built. Maintenance and care continued on indoor and outdoor essentials.

A new photocopier was purchased in June to take care of our rising printing needs. Our church lighting was changed to LED bulbs. A ventilation fan was installed in the women's washroom.

Deanery officials did an inspection of the rectory and church buildings and property. No major problems were identified.

We very much appreciate the dedication of all those who lend a helping hand to keep our church and rectory property in good condition. A special heaping amount of thanks goes to Harley, who is retiring from property leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Erma Howe

Property Committee
(with help from Harley)

Anglican Church Women

It has been another busy year for the ACW and I have enjoyed my first year as President. I would like to thank our executive Cathy Jewell-Secretary, Gladys Abigail-Treasurer, Betty Bonas-Devotions, Myrna Sheppard-Family Life and all the ladies of the Church for their guidance and encouragement in making 2015 a very successful year.

Our Mission Statement "is to unite all women in promoting the love of Christ with their time, talent and resources". This was very evident when our ladies were called upon to help with sandwiches and squares for our teas, luncheons and special occasions, to participate with readings at the World Day of Prayer, and to travel to Thunder Bay for the ACW Annual.

The Strawberry and Snowflake teas were financially very successful this year which enabled us to continue supporting our foster child, Sleeping Children Around the World, Youth Synod, Godly Play, Barrydowne College Bursaries, beds for Cambrian College exchange students and PWRDF.

Our meetings are a time of devotions, planning, fun and fellowship. We look forward to another busy year ahead as we assist the Deanery of Sudbury Manitoulin prepare for the 2016 ACW Annual being held in Sudbury in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Dionne



Marjorie Morton in her famed 'elf' attire at the onset of our ACW Snowflake Tea - November 26,



Ladies from the bake table at our annual ACW Snowflake Tea
Left to right - Helen Wormington, Gladys Taylor, Henri Paul & Hazel Edwards

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES:	Diocesan Apportionment	\$ 700.00	
	Bishop's Discretionary Fund	200.00	
	Ven. Anne Germond's Discretionary Fund	200.00	
	Christmas Gift	200.00	
	Strawberry Tea	191.51	
	Snowflake Tea	183.00	
	Catering	207.36	
	Calendars	156.78	
	Deanery Dues 2015	10.00	
	Outreach:P.W.R.D.F.	200.00	
	Foster Child	468.00	
	Barrydowne College Bursaries	500.00	
	Seniors' Luncheon	144.96	
	Council of the North	200.00	
	Cambrian College Beds	200.00	
	S.C.A.W. Bed Kits	210.00	
	Mission to Seafarers	400.00	
	Church: Godly Play	300.00	
	Youth Synod	160.00	
	Family Life	100.00	
	Kitchen	156.52	
	Care Bears	120.00	
	2016 Sudbury Annual Meeting Advance	200.00	\$5,408.13
INCOME;	Annual Meeting Thank Offering	\$ 265.50	
	Snoflake Tea	3,054.55	
	Strawberry Tea	1,421.25	
	Catering		700.00
	S.C.A.W.		135.60
	Church Calendars	160.00	
	General		207.60
	Bank Interest	.03	5,944.53
	Bank Balance, January 1, 2015	\$ 5,189.27	
	2015 Income	5,944.53	
	Total \$11,133.80		
	2015 Expenses	5,408.13	
	Bank Balance, December 31, 2015	\$5,725.67	

Respectfully Submitted,

Gladys Abigail

Treasurer

Outreach Committee Report

Last January an outreach committee was formed. It's an ongoing thing with many dedicated parishioners trying to make life a little better for the less fortunate.

We continue to support the Elgin St Mission. We have donated a sum of cash. We have donated many cans of coffee. Fifty pounds of ground beef was delivered there in December. About forty loaves of bread, lunch meat and the fixings are provided for the Mission every second Sunday of the month.

We have once again participated in the Shoeboxes at Christmas for Operation Christmas Child. You have all been most generous.

We continue to support families in need. We delivered 12 hampers before Christmas. These baskets consist of a full Christmas dinner as well as numerous boxes of food for weeks later and food cards. Thank you for your food donations, your money donations and the food cards!

We are still part of the Out of Cold Program, which provides a hot meal for the needy on Friday nights during the winter months. We cater to four of these meals. Stephanie Doveton and Matt Walchuk organized this dinners. In December, Luke Norton and Marie Vitone, with the wise guidance and help of Stephanie, took over this responsibility. [Matt and Stephanie had stepped down from this.] We thank you Stephanie and Matt for the wonderful job you did with these dinners. These meals become reality because of the volunteers helping to prepare and serve these meals. A great thank you to all!

We remain a tremendous help and support for Barrydowne College. Supplying food boxes is an ongoing process. We have sent clothing, shoes, kitchen supplies, and baby needs for some young mothers there. We filled 25 Christmas socks. A parishioner donated three boxes of Christmas gifts; this was shared between the College and the Christmas hampers. We have supplied the school with pizza lunches and donated 2 meals of sandwiches [with fixings]. The students were invited to the Ascension for a hot meal last January; about forty students ate well and were very pleased. In June, we donated scholarships for some graduating students. Two awards were donated by the ACW, there was the Elizabeth Gates award presented by Del Gates, and a special award was donated and presented .by Trish Hennessey We thanks The Songs and Story organizers for their generous donation to Barrydowne College. Bishop Mwita and Bishop Stevens toured the Elgin St Mission and BC. A generous donation was made to Bishop Mwita for his school.

We participated with the planting and the watering of a garden at Twin Forks. We are planning to help again in the summer of 2016. The food grown is used for the needy.

It's been a busy year.

Thank you to all the parishioners here at the Ascension for all the donations of food, grocery cards, money to the Anne Germond Fund that enable us to carry out all the above. We say thank you to Anne Germond for overseeing all that we have done. We are certainly a very loving, caring, and considerate parish!

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Vitone

Refugee Sponsorship

In September 2015 the tragedy of the refugee crisis in Syria was brought to our attention by profound media coverage. A group of concerned individuals discussed how we could help and the ARK New Sudbury Refugee Sponsorship group was born. Many individuals in our congregation and in our community have come together to sponsor a family and give them an opportunity to find a safe and peaceful future. To date our group has formed a steering committee to fill out forms and deal with the government agencies as required. We have attended webinars and educated ourselves as to what our responsibilities to the refugees will be. The fundraising has been tremendously successful and we are grateful for the generous donations of our community. We are well on our way to raising approximately \$30,000 which will be required to support our family for the first 12 months of their stay in Canada. This is the commitment required of the sponsoring group, to support the family financially for 12 months. We will also provide assistance in accessing services and adjusting to our community.

We have a list of about 45 people who have identified themselves to us as wanting to assist in different ways to help support our family. This is a tremendous response and we are confident that we will be able to provide the necessary assistance to our family when they arrive. We are at the point in the process where we have access to the profiles of the families who are ready to travel. Once we are matched with a family we have been told it typically takes anywhere from 1 to 4 months for their arrival. Two families have already arrived to our community and those sponsoring groups are sharing resources and information with us to assist in the process.

Refugee Fund Fundraising Donations Report

as at December 31, 2015

Donations received by cheque or cash \$21,885.00

Pledges committed for additional amounts in 2016 \$4,000.00

Post dated cheques received \$200.00

Total raised to December 31, 2015 **\$26,085.00**

We thank you all for your prayers, we are truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and compassionate community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cox,

Gwen Bonas,

Jennifer Cawley-Caruso, Paul Murdock

the ARK New Sudbury Refugee Sponsorship Committee
(community members Carolyn Thain, Darlene Lennox, Heather Jeramaz)

The Church of the Ascension Journey towards Reconciliation Getting to know our Neighbours

The Anglican Church has committed to responding to the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As part of that commitment, Archbishop Hiltz called for us to join hands with indigenous peoples. At the Ascension, we realized that we did not know our Indigenous neighbours very well and we were interested in gathering with them to get to know them better. We planned to invite members of the indigenous community in and around Sudbury to gather with interested members of the parish to share our understanding of our shared history. To each of our guests, we have given a gift of tobacco as we asked for a teaching from them.

We first gathered on June 23, 2015 with Brock Pitawanakwat, Anishinaabe, Whitefish River First Nation, professor of Indigenous governance at University of Sudbury, Laurentian University and former researcher at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Brock spoke to about 30 parishioners about the historical context in which the residential schools were established and his own family's experience in the residential schools. Brock spoke about the consequences of colonialization and the recent moves toward reconciliation which were now on the agenda of the various governments and institutions. The question period which followed Brock's remarks showed a deep interest in the history of both the residential schools and in the relationship between settlers of the area and the indigenous community.

Our next guest was Elder Julie Ozawagosh, Anishinaabe from

Atikameksheng Anishnawbek (Whitefish Lake First Nation). Julie and her husband Frank spoke to a group of approximately 30 people on October 2, 2015, after a smudge ceremony on the front lawn. Julie worked for over 20 years at the N'Swakamok Friendship Centre, an organization that supports Native interests and issues in Sudbury. Elder Ozawagosh attended St. Joseph's Residential School for girls in Spanish, Ontario described her life path and the cultural perspectives of her Anishinaabe family. People in attendance were moved with her understanding and compassion for the spiritual and educational needs of her people.

On January 27, 2016 we will gather with Ghislaine Goudreau, a member of the Algonquin of Pikwàkanagàn. Ghislaine's Master's thesis was about Aboriginal women's hand drumming in relation to health promotion. Ghislaine believes in building on the strengths in the Aboriginal community, which she does in her work as a member of the Waabishki Mkwaa Singers, the Anishnaabe-Kweg Water Journey and in her work as a Health Promoter with the Sudbury and District Health Unit.

We plan to invite others from the indigenous community to gather with us throughout the coming year. We have been encouraged by the interest shown by members of the Ascension parish and other community members.

Gchi'Miigwech to all of our guests and to those with whom we journey on this path to reconciliation.

Erma Howe

Jan. 11, 2015

Irish Hennessy

Parish Life Report

“Ascension’s Parish Life committee’s main focus is to provide gracious hospitality. Our purpose is in nurturing and supporting an ambience that is welcoming, inviting and engaging. An important responsibility of our committee is to ensure positive interaction among parishioners and to strengthen the parish community; to provide a warm welcome to visitors, and that newcomers find comfort in our midst as they integrate into the life and ministries of our parish.”

Serving Well - Pleasing to God

“Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:1-2 NRSV

Parish Life's Committee in 2015 consists of the following members:-

Kath Greenidge – Chair.

Jane Cox - Interim Chair & secretary.

Anne Germond, Anne Trimmer, Dave and Noella Fowler, Cathy Jewell, Marie Vitone, Shannon Hengen, Stephanie Doveton, Doris Koski and Thelma Smith.

On behalf of the Church of the Ascension we give thanks for our dedicated members who gave their time, talents and support throughout the year in all aspects of ‘life in the parish’.

January

Barrydowne College Lunch for students - Wednesday, January 14th

This was our second annual lunch for the students just before their exams. We had a good turnout of both students and teachers. After an 'icebreaker' game our Fellowship Hall was filled with much laughter, it was a time of getting to know our neighbours and making them feel comfortable. Our theme was Latino and we served Tacos, which was a big hit, and a delicious chocolate cake desert. Any leftovers went back with them. There were 15 Ascensionites on hand to greet and welcome the students. Many of us were able to connect with several students with hope of helping them achieve their volunteer hours. There was a precious ‘gift of a child’ in our midst and (Rev) Anne bestowed a blessing upon her which was very uplifting to the parents. (FYI – This child received the sacrament of Baptism at the Ascension later in the year.) Thanks to all who helped prepare, serve, mingle, and especially for your interest in the students wellbeing.

February

Pancake Supper - Shrove Tuesday, February 17th

This has been an annual tradition at the Ascension for many years now. Many volunteers came out to help cook, set up, serve, clean up & more. The kitchen was a busy place, however the ‘social yakking’ was a sign of hearts filled with joy in serving our Lord on this Festive day before Lent. Our free will offering was designated to The Coldest Night of the Year walk. A cheque in the

amount of \$500.00 went to the Samaritan Centre via Paul Murdock.

March

Talk by Jacqueline Villeneuve, Zawadi La Tumaini Orphanage – Sunday, March 8th

On Sunday, Mar 8th, Sudbury's Jacqueline Villeneuve returned to the Ascension to talk about her work and home in Kenya. She and hired local workers, care for her 20 children in "their/her home". The children's lives have been reborn to love, education, yoga, good nutrition and general health. Jacqueline invited us all to visit. The Ascension gave \$500 to Zawadi La Tumaini for ongoing operating costs. zawadilatumaini@gmail.com

April

Easter Plants for Seniors/Shut-ins – Wednesday April 1st

Reach out and touch someone! This saying is so forthcoming at the Ascension. During Holy Week we delivered 29 Easter plants to our Seniors/Shut-ins. At that time some of us were able to visit and we took the opportunity to include our invitation to our annual Seniors Luncheon. Each year we do receive several 'thank-you' cards filled with such humbling and caring words of appreciation, and this year was no different. A personal visit, a time of small talk; a small Easter Plant, these are both symbols of `life`. Two simple reminders that provide reassurance to them that as members of the Ascension`s church community they have not been forgotten. God bless them all and grateful thanks to the many parishioners who visit our `shut-ins`. Know that YOU too are appreciated!

Earth Day – Celebrated at Ascension Sunday, April 26th

After both services many of our parishioners enjoyed partaking in the planting of seeds in peat pots, labelling them and then carried them home to nurture and `Watch our Community Garden Grow` in readiness for replanting at Twin Forks. A pamphlet was provided with growing and caring instructions. (Read more on this project in May activities in the Parish.)

Seniors Luncheon - Wednesday, April 29th

This is another annual event in our Parish and is organized by Parish Life in together with ACW. What a great turnout! There were 56 in attendance and 2 regrets. We were however pleased to be able to accommodate them with take-out. The meal prepared by our ACW received many compliments. ACW also provided small plant centre pieces for the tables which one person took home. The butterfly facecloth table place setting decorations put the feeling of Spring in the air! This added touch in presentation beautified the tables and had our guest in awe! Those along with the inspirational cards each guest took home. A door prize was donated. Entertainment by the Rising Stars brought lots of laughter that echoed through the Fellowship Hall. A \$50.00 honorarium was presented to The Rising Stars by Jane our Parish Life interim Chair. All their presenters were invited to stay for desert. Truly this was yet another wonderful and memorable occasion in the life of the parish.

May

Twin Forks Community Garden - 2015 Elevate project Building of garden boxes - Sue Bate, Gary Bota and Gary Bate.

Seedlings - Twin Forks Community Garden, Planting May 20th and 21st

Help our Community Garden Grow - In our efforts to continue to 'Go Green' a few members of Parish Life and others from the congregation along with our Rector participated in this endeavour. Ascension and 4 other churches associated with the North Eastern Ministerial contributed to this Elevate project. The seedlings planted by parishioners on April 26th were returned to the church for replanting at Twin Forks. Our beautiful community garden took shape with vegetables and flowers. A weekly roster was set up for weeding and watering on a daily basis which included a few Ascension parishioners and other willing hands from neighbouring churches. The harvest might not have been plentiful, but whatever we reaped was taken on a regular basis to the Elgin Street Mission.

Elevate 2015 - "Love in Motion" Sunday, May 24th

Although this comes under worship, in Fellowship with our neighbouring churches, members of our Parish Life Team under the North Eastern Ministerial Committee participated, so a brief note is included in PL report. Our project for Elevate 2015 was our Twin Forks Community Garden where the combined efforts of Ward 8 as a community who came together to build garden boxes, fill with wheel barrels of soil, and then plant and care for the garden throughout the summer.

Elevate 2015 - "Love in Motion" Sunday, May 24th

June

EK Coffee House, Friday June 26th (brief mention only as will be reported by EK)

This was 'orchestrated' (well not exactly!!!) by our in-house band the Electric Kazoo! It was a fun evening of great music and fellowship. There was a free will offering taken in for Nepal Earthquake relief. A total of \$425.00 was raised. Tea, coffee, popcorn and cookies were served by some wonderfully willing volunteers of the PL committee...and for that we give grateful thanks. What would we do without 'volunteers' at the Ascension?

Talk by Prof. Brock Pitwanakwat - TRC Evening #22 Days - Tuesday, June 23rd

This was a Deanery event held at The Ascension. Professor Brock Pitwanakwat helped guide a powerful evening on June 23rd concerning the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission). He focused on the TRC's recommendations. This was indeed "A Step on the Road to Healing and Rec-

conciliation." A reception supported by PL created an atmosphere for lingering and reflective conversations.

60th Wedding Anniversary, Sunday, June 28th

Congratulations to Canon Michael and Muriel Hankinson! Canon Michael served as rector of the Ascension from 1975 to 1987. It was indeed an honour and a privilege to host receptions in their honour between services. Many parishioners who worshipped during Canon Michael's time as rector were delighted in having this opportunity to express their well wishes to them. Thanks to Noella Fowler and Kath Greenidge for arranging, and to other PL members who assisted.

July and August

As we all know committees do not continue to meet in July and August, and yes it can be said that we do get a bit of a 'breather' to enjoy the summer weather! Parish Life's role does continue as we welcome visitors/guest in our midst each and every Sunday – spring summer fall or winter! Our team are always there to greet you with a smile and share a story or two or listen to yours!

September

A Celebration for Queen Elizabeth II's Longest Reign – Sunday, September 13th

Once again the Parish celebrated a memorable occasion in the life of our Queen Elizabeth II. After both services, PL handed out beautiful bookmarks in recognition of Her Majesty's longest reign. Following the 11:00am service a reception hosted by Kay Winfield, who, in her skilled ways of 'paying attention to detail', along with her team of helpers showed us how a 'tea fit for a Queen' is served! The tables in the Fellowship Hall were covered in red and white table cloths; the hanging Union Jack streamers, and the Royal memorabilia displayed were in honour of 63 + years reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. With grace and grandeur our men 'waited' on tables, some even dressed in their tuxedos! To top it off a delicious Union Jack slab cake was our desert. Thanks to Kay and her team for making this another memorable occasion in the parish.

Sponsorship Syrian Refugees – PL Meeting, Wednesday, September 16th

PL made the following motion to the Board which passed.

"Parish Life would like to recommend to the Board of the Ascension, that the entire congregation of the Church of the Ascension, study, pray and evaluate the possibility of sponsoring or co-



June 28, 2015 - 60th Anniversary reception for Canon Michael and Muriel Hankinson Bishop Stephen looks on.

sponsoring a refugee family. Parish Life is willing to organize event(s) with knowledgeable speakers."

October

Meet our Anishinaabe Neighbours – Thursday, October 1st

Trish Hennessy and Erma Howe organized this gathering. This Sacred Circle allowed Ascension parishioners to work/reflect with our neighbours after the "22 days" and the TRC. PL provided refreshments.

Sponsorship in Refugees Webinar – Wednesday, October 21st

About 20 people from different faith groups participated in a Sponsorship of Refugees Webinar. PL supplied sandwiches. Note: Thank you Ralph for your IT help!

Bishop Mwita Akiri visit - Tuesday, October 27th

We were fortunate to be visited by Bishop Mwita Akiri from the Diocese of Tarime in Tanzania. Besides visiting the Elgin Street Mission and Barrydowne College to share with him our local outreach projects, he heard a Godly Play Story told, and spoke with our Friendship quilters. Members of the PL committee hosted a delicious soup and sandwich lunch for the Deanery clergy immediately following their Clericus worship service. In the evening Ascension was host to a Deanery potluck supper. What a great turnout, there were 60 in attendance. Sharing in a meal together as a deanery, our Fellowship Hall lived up to its name as joyous conversations echoed between its walls. Following dinner Bishop Mwita spoke about his visions and his goals for his Diocese of Tarime, and how he hopes to attain them. Donations for



Presentation to Bishop Mwita Akiri, Tarime, Tanzania

his Girls School were given and overall Bishop Mwita went home with \$11,000.00 from the churches and events that he attended that week. Ascension presented a cheque for \$700.00. Thank you Del Gates for your continued support through our recycling!

Reverend Anne shared a note of thanks she received from Tom and Ruth Anne Link, of Christ Church, Lively, which PL would like to reference...

Quote - "We just want to say a big 'Thank You' for the last evening's dinner and presentation. The welcoming ways and careful organization by the leader and members of the Parish of the Ascension were so evident in everything. A very special thank you to all the tireless workers who helped in the kitchen facilitating two events in so short a time frame." Unquote.

November

Wednesday, November 18th

PL in their role as hostesses once again were pleased to serve light refreshments after Fr. Bob's presentation on 'Preparing for Year C – Luke's Gospel'.

December

Gifts of Story and Song - Sunday, December 6th

Our 4th annual GSS certainly could be classified as a 'blockbuster'! However when we look at the true meaning of the word 'blockbuster' - one that is notably expensive, effective, successful, large, or extravagant, maybe re-phrasing it to a 'howling success' still speaks volumes! It is said that success in life is often found in helping others succeed! GSS 2015 is a prime example of this. PL does not do this alone! Wonderfully willing help comes from all around. There are those in the fore-front, and those behind the scenes. PL gives thanks to God for the tremendous support from so many who contributed in some way to make this our most successful GSS, especially those notable 'elves', and you know who you are!

Once again our sanctuary was transformed into a 'winter wonderland'. It was an evening of fellowship as we prepared for the Christmas. This year the majority of our presenters were from our parish. We welcomed Luc Norton and Clare Andrews-Norton as new storytellers and musicians to our 'cast'. Additionally we were delighted to have Kristina Rivard-Gobbo, Principal of Barrydowne College join us as a storyteller. We were also privileged to hear a story written and read by Dan Lessard, Media and Public Relations Officer of HSN. His story was surreal and captivating. Our rector, stand-up comedian and hostess, the Venerable Anne Germond, had the audience in stitches, so rest assured PL will never have to take 'auditions' for this important role!!! In appreciation our presenters received a small gift bag of homemade candy bark decorated with a home crafted beaded wreath. Our evening ended with light refreshments and fellowship.

Sincere thanks to Gerry Lougheed Jr., not only for his role as a storyteller, and organizer of this annual event, but for his kind donation of a gorgeous red poinsettia from Lougheeds Flowers as our door prize. This was a last minute request by the organizer, who had no doubt in her mind that he would be none other than graciously accommodating!

A total of 137 guests filled the sanctuary. Our intake for ticket sales of \$1220.00 topped all previous years. It was voted by the Board that the proceeds would be split 70% Barrydowne College and 30% Elgin Street Mission. After expenses paid BDC received \$700.00 and Elgin Street Mission \$300.00.

Just to share with you...Kristina Rivard-Gobbo, Principal of Barrydowne College wrote:-

"I attended the evening with my mother and a family friend and we were all touched by the stories, welcoming environment and supportive atmosphere. We are truly blessed at Barrydowne to have all of your support. We look forward to joining you for your 5th anniversary."

This note was from a couple who attended the evening for the first time:-

The Gifts of Stories and Song...

What an event

What beautiful decorations

What meaningful stories

What great music

What good jokes (and comedian)

What glorious voices

What a church

What a congregation

What Fun!

Thank You!

Seniors Cookie Drop – Wednesday, December 16th

As many of you know this has continued in our church now for many years and our senior recipients are mostly our shut-ins, the sick and those that are unable to make it to church on a regular basis. This is made possible every year because of the kind donations from you, the parishioners in sharing your Christmas baking with us. Several PL members as well as some willing parishioners joined together and packed, wrapped and delivered 25 cookie boxes as well as a few poinsettia plants. Some of us had the opportunity to visit with our seniors as we spread the joy of the Christmas season. PL gives thanks to all who baked or helped in anyway.

Rewards

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” Matthew 10:40

WE LOVE – because HE LOVED

WE WELCOME – because HE WELCOMED

WE INVITE – because HE INVITED

Faithfully submitted

Kath Greenidge

PL Chair

Jane Cox,

Interim PL Chair

Website and Facebook Report



Website – www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.ca

Have you ever been on our Church website?

If you have, ask yourself these other questions about our church website:-

Is it helping visitors find our church?

Does it have the functions our church needs? (An up to-date calendar, the news and announcements, the church bulletin, rosters for easy reference day or night etc.)

Do our church members actually use it?

Does it have room for improvement?

Is it an asset to us in this world of modern technology to have a website?

They are but a few of the questions that came to mind when preparing this report.

Let us start by providing you with a bit of the history on our present website. In June 2014 it was deemed necessary for us to have a 'new' website created, and in a matter of two weeks we were up and running! The quick turnaround was made possible by contracting Kerry Dickson from Web Design to build it for us. All information from our previous website was simply incorporated on to the new one with very few changes in the 'general' info.

Ascension had a 'new and refreshed look' on the internet; the site was pleasing to the eye; the basic information was in place (having been transferred); an easier and more modern program to work with when uploading; an added active calendar and more. We were out there in cyberspace and our connection to the outside world 'didn't skip a beat' and for that we were very grateful to Kerry Dickson.

With a 'new website' came 'new ideas'! Our dreams were to include more – e.g. Parishioner Faith Story page (FYI - Page is now in and says "Coming Soon"...and it is being worked on.) Our hope was to move forward and take a more active interest in our website; add more photos on a regular basis; include church rosters for quick reference any time of day or night, **but that vision has not yet become reality.**

An active website and one that receives many visits needs to stay updated, not stale dated! Any information on a website needs to have a source from where it comes, and those sources are you the church community – Clergy, Lay Readers, all committees, Sunday School, Youth and the list goes on. The information YOU provide is vital in keeping our website interesting, refreshed and up to date.

Our Rector, The Venerable Anne Germond in her business made an inspiring leap that I hope the rest of us will follow. She made/took time, and in her wisdom she revised several of our website pages working with Kerry Dickson to achieve this. Presently some others in the parish are working on updating their pages as well, and the HOPE is to accomplish this within the next few months. Remember the quote..."Without hope we have nothing!"

Let us turn things around for ourselves here and make our website 'the talk of the town'! Take the imitative to review your page on the website and provide an updated version to myself or Anne. Plans will be made for website training in the very near future for those of us who will be updating the website on a regular basis. Updating will be a slow process but with confidence, interest and willingness no vision is unattainable!

Lastly I wish to encourage everyone to visit our website so that YOU may provide feedback and suggestions as we work towards achieving our vision from 2014 in 2016. Remember a website tells a story to many in the internet world far and wide.

"Let **OUR** website be who **WE** are!"

Facebook

By now most of you are aware that Ascension joined the social media network when we created a Facebook page in September 2014. This was in part one of the suggested requirements of the visioning and strategic plan for the Diocese of Algoma.

Adapting to the fast moving world of the internet plays an important role in our church being more visible! It is truly amazing how fast the word gets around on a social media network like Facebook, so yes Facebook is a tool for us to 'spread' the word! Through posters for events, teas, Messy Church, VBS, worship services, any news or announcements as well as 'spreading the Gospel' and sharing our faith with many others who will likely never walk through our doors but will 'be -friend' us on Facebook!

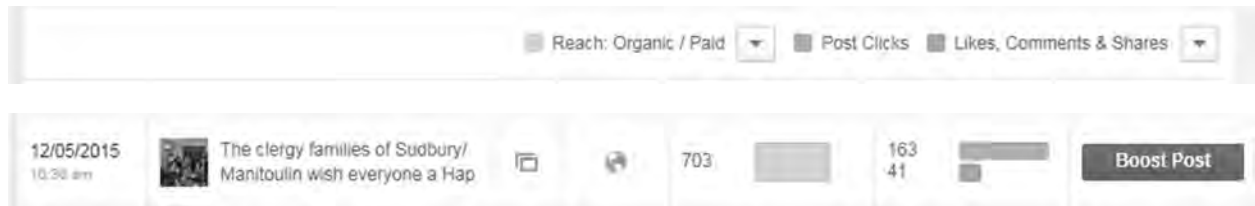
Our page is linked to Bishop Stephen Andrews, the Diocese of Algoma, The Anglican Church of

Church of the Ascension

Canada, the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin, Camp Manitou and many more. There is no better or simpler way to keep up with the news around the Anglican Community.

Have a look at this...

This post was a photo of the clergy and their families who attended the annual Christmas party at the Germonds. It reached 703 people, received 163 post clicks (that is to view it closer) and 41 likes. This post topped any other previously or even to date. (January 2016)



Unbelievable!

Please 'like' us on Facebook and let us continue to grow in reaching many that use this social media networking.

You can find us here... <https://www.facebook.com/ascensionsudbury/?fref=ts>

Or search for us under – The Church of the Ascension – Anglican

Note: Ascension's Facebook page is actively managed by – Kath Greenidge and Jen Ames.

Faithfully submitted

Kath Greenidge

Webmaster



Results of planting our seedlings
at Twin Forks Community Garden.

Worship Report

Liturgy

The Ascension's liturgical life is an active and vibrant one, where the Christian's call to show love, thanks, and praise to God is met with joyful enthusiasm, finding expression through distinct forms that reflect the mosaic identity of our parish.

The Eucharistic sacrament continues to be the focus of our 9.00 and 11.00 AM Sunday services, most regularly under the arrangement provided by the Book of Alternative Services; where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, Holy Communion is celebrated with the venerable Book of Common Prayer. Attendance is strong for all services, and the 9.00 AM congregation, markedly, continues its recent trend towards steady increase.

Outside of Sunday morning worship, Wednesdays continue to see services of Eucharist, Morning Prayer, or a period of reflection, sharing, and intercession, followed by fellowship and a Bible study. Generally, Wednesday services are held in the morning, with 10 to 20 attending, but for the summer months a Communion service was offered in the evenings in order to accommodate mercurial seasonal schedules.

A Friday service of Morning Prayer and Sunday service of Evening Prayer were added to the calendar, initially monthly and then progressing to bi-weekly, using the forms provided by the Book of Common Prayer. Around a small nucleus of 5 or 6 regular attendants, as many as 20 individuals have dropped in from time-to-time to take part in either of Anglicanism's most distinct liturgical expressions. Several services have also incorporated the Litany.



Prayer for Synod 2015

From left to right. Erma Howe, Rector's Warden, Anne Germond, Rector, Don McLeod, Lay Steward, Jen Ames and Cathy Jewell,

Ministry

The ministerial body that composes and conducts the principle liturgies of our parish is diverse and gifted, and the Church is blessed to have so many people dedicated and called to God's service. Much is done by lay ministers, and they comprise the Ascension's largest ministerial component: as choir members, as cantors, as lectors for the Readings and Lessons, as intercessors for the Prayers of the People, as Eucharistic Assistants, as servers, crucifers, and as Lay Readers. They, in turn, are supported by fellow laity, who organise and print bulletins, prepare the altar, arrange and change the seasonal hangings before and after services, and serve as Sidespersons and greeters.

Many of these ministries gained new members. Carol Lennox was a welcome addition to the Altar Guild. Clare Andrews-Norton has lent her immense talent to canting and the singing of anthems, and Matt Walchuk sings the canticles at Morning and Evening Prayer. Jeremy Mannella, Matt and Clare now regularly lead the sung Psalms. New Eucharistic Assistants were added, as Pippa Howard and Maggie Leigh received their licences from the Bishop. Cathy Jewell, Lori Cameron, and Brent Leigh were installed as Lay Readers, joining a roster that includes Erma Howe, Dave Fowler, Shannon Hengen, and Catherine Bird-Heuft. Several Lay Readers attended a conference-retreat in North Bay this Fall, Shannon Hengen hosted workshops on storytelling and listening, and Dave Fowler took part in an inmate spiritual outreach weekend at Sudbury Jail, along with Rev Genny Rollins. Erma Howe worked with Atikameksheng First Nation Elder Julie Ozawagosh in orchestrating a traditional Anishnaabe Sharing Circle, a mutually responsive new step forward in the journey towards understanding, reconciliation, and healing between the Church and Canada's Indigenous Peoples.

Challenges continue to be felt in establishing a broad roster for Sidespeople, and it is hoped there will be individuals in the new year who feel called to this ministry. New guidelines and instructions for this position were developed by Harley Moulton and Erma Howe, with an aim toward orienting newcomers. Considerable discussion surrounded the importance of our greeters; while members of the General Board took on this function during the year, as with the year prior, there is fervent hope others may be moved to manifest the welcoming Spirit. The choir, as well, hopes there will be those looking to join them in 2016.



Philip Balson honoured for over 30 years as our organist seen here with our rector, The Venerable

Phillip Balson continues his long ministry at the Ascension, working with the choir, and playing the piano and organ for the 11.00 AM service and chief festivals; we were pleased to take the opportunity this Fall to recognise his significant contributions over the years, to thank him for his dedication and leadership, and to present him with a token of our gratitude. Eleanor Connors again joins us twice a month to play piano for the 9.00 AM Sunday service, and Electric Kazoo offers their ministry of contemporary music on a regular basis throughout the year. The advance of the Digital Age lends itself to God's worship, as computerised projection technology is used during EK services and the BCP liturgy to help the congregation follow along, and a new audio system was arrayed and installed; we are grateful for the donation of expertise and time from those overseeing this equipment.

Children regularly feature in our services, but this year they played an important role in our liturgy in three principle seasons (Trinity Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas), leading us in our Lessons, Collects, and hymns, and being present for and taking part in the consecration of the Eucharist. We delight in their service to the Lord, and

stand more than a bit in awe of their leadership; we are especially thankful for the patience and direction of those who guided and prepared them for sharing their ministry.

Beyond the physical space of our Church, the Rector has been assisted by a number of licenced lay ministers who deliver Communion to persons in hospital, in nursing homes, or who are otherwise unable to come to Church on a regular basis.

We are much blessed by the tireless and loving service given to God and His people by our presbyter, rector, and archdeacon, the Venerable Anne Germond, and we pray He continues to uphold her in her work. We are most grateful for the spiritual support provided by the Ascension's Honorary Associate, the Reverend Doctor Robert Derrenbacher, and Honorary Assistant, the Reverend Rhonda Hirst, and we thank them particularly for their direction and care during the Rector's travels and studies abroad this summer. In November, Fr Bob gave a lecture on the Gospel of St Luke, to mark the beginning of the corresponding Revised Lectionary Calendar cycle, and both Fr Bob and Rev Rhonda found many opportunities to join with and lead our Sunday Eucharist celebrations. We further welcomed the appointment of the Reverend Jeff Hooper as Honorary Assistant, and his special interest in Youth Ministry, already providing leadership and direction for 2015/16's Deanery Youth Alpha programme.

A note of special appreciation is afforded to the families of all our clergy, for their patience, understanding, and support of loved ones whose service is to Christ's church.

The Church of the Ascension continues to grow in faith under the pastoral guidance of our Bishop, the Right Reverend Doctor Stephen Andrews, and we were honoured and delighted to have the Bishop and Mrs Fawna Andrews with us this June, for a Sunday of services and fellowship-time following. Bishop Tom Corston continues his association with the Ascension, celebrating a Common Prayer Eucharist service in March and afterward delivering a presentation on the evolution of the Anglican Church in Canada's northern dioceses. Bishop Tom also joined with other Deanery clergy for our celebration of the Easter Vigil.

A Community in Worship

Newcomers and visitors to our parish on Sunday mornings were greeted this year with a letter of welcome and a loaf of homemade bread, in the hopes they might share it with someone in the spirit of God's boundless love and hospitality. Where last year we saw an influx of individuals and families from St Mark's Church in Garson, in 2015 we were similarly pleased to welcome many new parishioners from St James' Church, in the South End, following their difficult decision to close that parish. Ride-sharing and stand-by cab service was arranged by the Rector and the General Board to assist those congregants from the South End needing assistance with the Sunday morning trip across town to New Sudbury.

Lent brought new opportunities for devotional expression. In addition to the customary and solemn services marking Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, this year three instances were offered to experience the Gospel of St Mark in a single sitting, reading aloud from one of three different Gos-

pel translations (the Jerusalem Bible, the New Revised Standard Version, and King James' Authorised Version). The Church of the Ascension extended a Deanery-wide invitation for the customary crafting of palm crosses, and Palm/Passion Sunday was observed with a multi-player reading of the Passion of Our Lord. Following Maundy Thursday's commemoration of the Last Supper, foot washing, and stripping of the altar, an all-night vigil was held in a darkened chapel and church nave, and not an hour of the night passed that someone was not awake with Christ during His Agony.

With sunset bringing the close of Holy Saturday, the celebration of the Great Vigil of Easter began, as clergy, lay ministers, and congregants from across Greater Sudbury joined with the Deanery Choir here at the Ascension to offer worthy praise and worship to God on the anniversary of Jesus' tremendous victory of fulfilment and redemption. A cup of Jesus Tea capped off the principle festival of the Church year. Resurrection Sunday was observed with two morning Communion services and an Easter egg hunt afterward. A great many people lent their gifts of talent and time to these Easter commemorations, and their endeavours bore witness to the strength and presence of the Holy Spirit in our community. Special mention should be made of Mr Norm Blanchard, and his enthusiasm, direction, and dedication to the Deanery Choir.

"Lift Up Your Hearts" was Bishop Stephen's charge to the Diocesan Synod in 2015, and his initiative was reflected in our worship, beginning in October and carrying through into November. Homilies and prayers focussed on a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving for God's generosity, and these themes were further examined in the Wednesday morning Bible study, as well as a Bible study held following Evening Prayer on Sundays.

As part of the mystery and anticipation of Advent, services on the third Sunday of the season incorporated a meditative Lessons and Carols liturgy, with all of our lectors and intercessors participating. For the 11.00 service, Clare Andrews-Norton, Phillip Balson, and Colin Germond performed the anthem "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion" and Jeremy Manilla sang "O Holy Night" as the Gradual Hymn.

Christmas Eve services saw a change of schedule that was well-received, going by attendance and feedback. The "family-friendly" 4.00 PM service had 115 congregants, many of them young children, with a format focussed on the "A-B-Cs" of Christmas, as narrated by children and young people from our parish. Thanks to everyone who helped make this new service a great success and a worship befitting the Nativity of Our Lord, and special mention, also, of Kylie Moulton, Jayna Martin, Maggie Leigh, Mary Leigh, Victoria Leigh, and Gary Bate, for their narration and direction, and of all the children who ensured everyone got to the manger safely and on time. The 8.00 PM Christmas Eve service offered a more traditional celebration, but one no less wonderful, with 130 people in attendance. The choir led the hymns and carols, Jeremy Manilla and James Wilson splendidly delivered David Bowie and Bing Crosby's "Little Drummer Boy/Peace on Earth", and Philip Balson and Colin Germond provided a beautiful Christmas medley. Despite the unusually

fair weather for Sudbury, there was no doubting Christmas' arrival nor Jesus' incarnation as EM-MANUEL, God With Us.

Ecumenism

As part of the Anglican commitment to restoring the unity of Christ's Church militant here on Earth, the Church of the Ascension joined with Christians from other traditions, locally and on a national and international level, hosting January 25th's Service of Christian Unity, taking part in the March 11 Service of Healing, at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the annual Pentecostal ELEVATE service, held this year at Glad Tidings Church on May 24 (Whitsunday), where the Most Reverend Jean-Louis Plouffe, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste Marie, delivered a key address. Electric Kazoo was invited to be a part of the music ministry.

Observances and Celebrations

The Church of the Ascension held a Memorial service on April 6, in solidarity with several northern parishes and the people of Mistissini, Quebec, following the tragic deaths of Charlie Gunner, Kevin Loon, David Jimmykin, Emmett Coonishish, and Chiwettin Coonishish.

Following the closing ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in May, the Church of the Ascension met the Primate's call to the #22 Days initiative, hearing and reflecting on the stories of Residential School survivors, and praying for understanding and direction in addressing the Commission's findings and recommendations. The Ascension hosted an evening of listening, sharing, and discussion on June 23, and Professor Brock Pitawanakwaf was invited to speak and share his insights. During the #22 Days, attention was called to the plight of thousands of missing and murdered First Nations women across the country by a ceremonial ringing of the Eucharist gong.

This June, prayers of thanksgiving, a reception, and special congratulations were extended to Reverend Canon Michael and Mrs Muriel Hankinson, along with their family, on the happy occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

On September 9, the Ascension marked the remarkable milestone of Canada's sovereign, Queen Elizabeth, as she surpassed her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria, for the length of her reign. A special service was offered, with a collect of thanksgiving for Her Majesty's many years of faithful service, and for the peace and stability our Dominion has enjoyed under her reign. Hymns were chosen recalling those of 1953's Coronation Service, a commemorative bookmark keepsake was created by Kath Greenidge, and an exquisite formal luncheon was arranged by Kay Winfield for the fellowship-time following, with a display of memorabilia.

Submitted In Faithful Service to God, and the Church of the Ascension

W. Brent Leigh, Et al

Messy Church

Hats off to the messy church team! We organized a full year of messy church, worshiping the first Wednesday of each month except for July, August and September and enjoying every minute. We have seen new people come each and every month and others returning each month faithfully. Some even came to see how to host messy church in their own parish.

Read what a mother who attends has to say about messy church,

Messy Church has become a favourite activity that my children look forward to every month. The children love that they are engaged in Christian stories, crafts, and games with other kids, and the adults enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing a meal in a relaxed atmosphere. At Messy Church worries about young children misbehaving or babies crying are forgotten, and we are able to worship in an informal yet meaningful way.

If you want to hear more or want to be a part of this fun way to worship please speak to Cindy Caines 705 524-5394.



2015 Board Installed at 11:00 am service.
Missing are board members who attend the 9:00 am service.

Church of the Ascension Statistics – 2015

Attendance during the Christmas season – 296. This includes Christmas Eve services (115 at 4pm and 130 at 8pm), and all retirement/nursing home services.

Communicants in the Easter Octave – 470. This includes the Easter Vigil service, Easter morning services, Retirement/Nursing home services, and 'Low' Sunday.

Average total attendance at Sunday Service – 111 (108 in 2015 and 103 in 2010)

Average attendance at regular mid week services - 13

Average attendance at 'care home' services – 20.

Excerpts from Rev. Anne's funeral sermons on members who died in 2015

William "Bill" May



A founding member of the Ascension, Bill was always concerned for the welfare of the church. Together with the other men, Bill worked hard at raising funds to support various building projects. Recently, when Bob Corrigan and I were chatting about Bill – Bob said – That man did a lot for our church. I could see that!

I have one particular memory of Bill that still makes me smile. It has to do with the fundraising turkey dinner that was held each year. The Ascension's turkey dinners were literally the talk of the town, and believe it or not, but at that time, all we had to use was this space. There were two sittings and we had three of them....with 90 people at a sitting. I can honestly tell you that I could get more stressed at that dinner than at anything else in the church year! Bill's job was to be in charge of ticket sales. Being a bit of a control freak I tried to change the way Bill handled the tickets. We would give him a pile of 270 tickets and he would hand them out to people – sometimes in piles of 10 or twenty, without writing down any names, and without asking for any cash up front. Then when the tickets had run out, he would tell people to show up and hope they could get in. Bill, I remember saying to him – you shouldn't do that – what if it's a stormy evening and no one comes and we're left with food for 270 and no one to eat it; What if too many people show up and we run out of food...what if, what if, what if. Bill would just give me that look – the one that says – Anne – this is my turf, and you just keep out of it. And you know, every year that Bill handled the ticket sales, we ended up with between 250- 270 guests. He had some many contacts and managed it perfectly!

Card games that he and Bernice managed on Wednesday afternoons were a wonderful time of fellowship for the seniors who attended, and there was no prouder man than the Bill who donned his uniform for the Annual Remembrance Day service at the church – in fact it was Bill who kept the tradition alive – and it extends to this day.

Aileen Haslam



At the Ascension we remember Aileen's involvement in the Women's group - the ACW and how she regularly attended meetings and helped at teas. Aileen often had the responsibility of selling the tickets ahead of time for the teas, and would then sit at the entrance table welcoming guests to the church. She loved a good conversation and a joke, so this was the perfect place and role for her.

Aileen loved her life, and lived it to the fullest. She once gave me an article called, "Growing old" which, she said, described the way she felt about herself.

Old age is a gift. I am now probably for the first time the person I have always wanted to be. Oh not my body! I sometimes despair over my body. But I don't agonize over it for long. I would never trade my friends, my wonderful life, my amazing friends for less grey hair or a flatter belly. As I've aged, I've become more kind to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend. I don't chide myself for eating that extra cookie, or being extravagant. Whose business is it if I choose to read until 4am, and sleep until noon. And if I, at the same time wish to weep over a lost love, I will. I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here I will not waste time lamenting what could have been or worrying what will be. I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turn grey, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, so so many have died before their hair could turn silver. (from an article given by Aileen)

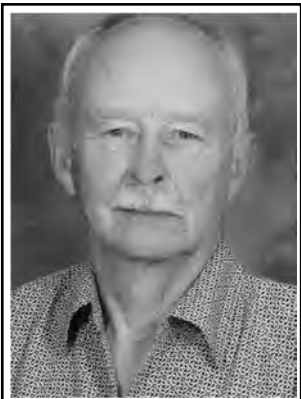
What I loved about Aileen is that she was real – what you saw was what you got.

Sonia Moorhouse

I only had the privilege of meeting her in the last seven years as Sonia became a member of the Westmount family. She worshipped with us regularly. These are different from the regular Sunday service in that they are more intimate and I often ask the residents to share stories related to their faith and where they saw God working in their lives. Sonia was very quiet but would sometimes share a time when she experienced the love and presence of God.

As Sue has described her in her eulogy, I also knew that she was a woman of deep faith, and in the very short time I spent with her I found her to be a woman who was finally at peace within herself, and ready to let go of her life on earth and meet God.

Don McLeod



A man of faith, Don and Betty seldom missed a Sunday, favouring the aisle seat in the third row from the front on the right hand side. Over the years Don had many questions about his faith, which he was never afraid to ask, and which I did not always have the answers to.

I liked him from the start– he was direct, pragmatic and sensible. And Don, the engineer was a planner. He always, always wanted to know what the plan was.

Eventually we had a plan in place for the next five years and for more outreach into the community Don was on board, serving dinner at the Out of the Cold suppers, arriving at church with his loaf of bread and fixings for the mission, and urging us on in our next venture. He believed the church played an important role in the community and encouraged us to let the community use it. Today the Ascension is in use every day of the week by one community group or another.

Never a huggy sort of a guy, and seldom one to smile in photos, Don allowed him and me one

hug a year, on Christmas Eve. But he had a soft heart. One Mother's Day I found a tiny Crab apple tree in the corner of my yard, a gift for the Rev. from Don. It has grown so big that this fall it easily held a 100 pound black bear as she searched for crab apples to tide her over the winter. He was happiest, I think, in nature- his hands deep in the earth planting, weeding, dividing, re-planting – planning for next year's garden. His yardwork was his time for meditation and reflection and on the next plan for the church.



EK Coffee House - June 26, 2015 Proceeds went to Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund Sally O'Connor, Erma Howe and Cora Felbel.

Envelope Secretary's Report

A comparative statement for 2014 and 2015 is as follows:

	2014	2015
0 - 100	20	21
101 - 200	13	8
201 - 300	11	15
301 - 400	5	8
401 - 500	9	9
501 - 600	8	8
601- 700	5	3
701 - 800	6	9
801 - 900	6	3
901 - 1000	10	5
1001 - 1500	10	17
1501 - 2000	14	14
2001 - 2500	8	5
2501 - 3000	2	4
3001 - 3500	0	1
3501 - 4000	2	1
4001 - 6000	3	2
Over6001	2	6
Total	136	139
Envelope Holders	70	75
Equal Donation Program	15	32
Electronic Offering Program	29	32
Occasional over \$100.00	22	16
Total	136	155

190 official receipts were issued in 2015, but we have not received all of the Memorial Fund money, which has to be receipted for 2015. These receipts covered donations for Envelope Holders, Equal Donation Program, Electronic Donation Program, Christmas and Easter special offerings, the Rev. Anne Germond Fund, the Memorial Fund, Messy Church and Godly Play.

Respectfully Submitted

Gladys Abigail,
Envelope Secretary.

Nominating Committee
The Church of the Ascension Board 2016

Rector's Warden (Appointed)

Erma Howe

Peoples' Warden:

Jennifer Ames

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Kath Greenidge

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Cathy Jewell

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Deputy Warden:

Brent Leigh

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Nominated by:

Seconded by:

Ex- Officio (Appointed)

Treasurer

Cathy Dionne

Envelope Secretary

Ralph Mounter

Vestry Clerk

Cathy Jewell

Lay Delegates to Synod: .

2016 is a non-Synod Year. 2015 voted lay delegates remain delegates for this year in case there is a special Synod called.

Lay Delegates:

Jen Ames,

Cathy Jewell

Alternates:

Catherine Bird-Heuft,

Kath Greenidge

Representatives of Church Groups

ACW

Cathy Dionne

Mission and Outreach

Marie Vitone

Anne Trimmer

Property

Erma Howe

Child and Youth Ministry

Cindy Caines

Worship and Pastoral Care

Brent Leigh

Rev. Anne

Parish Life

Kathryn Greenidge

(Continued on page 52)

(Continued from page 51)

Youth Rep

Megan Trimmer

ARK Rep

Gwen Bonas

Jennifer Cawley-Carusio

Jane Cox

Members at Large (Nominated)

Dave Fowler

Noella Fowler

Doug Frozel

Pippa Howard

Michael Sheppard

Brent Leigh

Chris Cawte

Marie Vitone

Jim Gibson

Gary Bate

Anne Trimmer

Gladys Abigail

Lori Cameron

Cora Felbel

Beaumont Nelson

Other positions that do not require attendance at meetings

Bulletin Editor

Glenn Lloyd

PWRDF Rep.

Pippa Howard

Webmaster

Kath Greenidge

Parish Auditor

Dave Fowler

The Nominations Committee consisting of Erma Howe, Cathy Jewell, Jennifer Ames and Gary Bate met on Tuesday January 5th, 2016 to go over the slate of church officers for the coming year. Rev. Anne was present. She reminded us that while the Nominations Committee may make recommendations, that it is the Vestry who decides who will sit on the Board for the coming year.

The positions of People's Warden and Deputy Warden will be decided at the Vestry meeting on January 24th. Further nominations may come from the floor. Each person allowing their name to stand will need a mover and a seconder to go forward for election. For further information on the positions of warden, please consult the Diocese of Algoma Website under Canons and also the Parish Leaders Handbook.

It was decided that at the Vestry meeting, that Vestry will once again make the decision to limit the number of "Members at large" on the Church Board, or not. The Ascension Board meets on the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. It is a working Board and members are asked to join one of the many committees in the church, or to offer themselves for service in the church. We are pleased to see new names coming forward this year and welcome those who will be new to the board.

From our Vestry Books 2015

Funerals

"Receive them into the arms of your mercy" (BAS pg. 580)

William May (Founding member of the Church of the Ascension)

Renee Cholette

Gordon Cecil Gilroy

Henrietta Mary Adela "Nita" Clark (Founding member of St. James Anglican Church)

Ross Clifford Morton (Dear husband of Marjorie Morton)

Sherry Jolette

Patricia "Pat" Frances Findlay (Dear wife of Don Findlay)

William Allen Fleming

Elizabeth "Betty" Depencier

Winnifred Dorey

Kathleen "Kelly" Lynne Lapointe (Dear sister of Gwen Bonas)

Sonia Moorhouse (Dear mother of Sue Bate)

Aileen Haslam (Dear mother of Glenn, Scott, Tom, and Craig)

Kenneth Gordon Jacklin (Dear son of Dorothy Jacklin of St. James Parish)

James Donald "Don" McLeod (Dear husband of Betty, and father of Jamie, Tanis, Sheridan)

Richard "Dick" Drysdale

Baptisms

"Give them an inquiring and discerning heart." (BAS pg. 160)

Kylie Rebecca Moulton

Eli Roland Stanley Ciccone

Delilah Rosella Trudeau

Paisley Caroline Helena Mackay

Kohl Robert Earl Cunning

Marriages

Rev. Anne married Alexandria Nicholl and Michael Asunmaa at the Church of the Epiphany. It will be reported in their Vestry Booklet. Congratulations Lexi and Michael.

Memorial Donations and other gifts – and the stories behind them

A "Lord's Prayer" woodcut hanging from St. Mark's in Garson was brought to the Ascension in loving memory of Joe Lee (snr), the Layreader from the Church of the Good Shepherd on Skead Rd, and then St. Mark's Garson. When St. Mark's closed it was brought to the Ascension and rededicated in memory of Joe Lee (Snr.) and Joe Lee (Jr.) by the Lee family.

Two wall hangings, now in the Ascension Chapel, came from St. Mark's, Garson. These are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Jean and Tom Armstrong, dear parents of Sandra Paquette; by Vince and Sandra Paquette.



The "Christus Rex" Cross hanging at the back of the church, which formerly hung in St. Mark's Garson, was given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Steven Moore, dear son of Sonia, and brother of Sue Bate.

A sterling silver breadbox, given to St. Mark's Garson, by the Altar Guild there, was given in thanks for St. Mark's Garson.

We received the gift of a beautiful 'fair linen' altar cloth, an Ascension banner, and a reversible hanging. These were given in loving memory of Wendy Kirby (a member of St. Mark's, Garson)

A stained glass window, depicting Revelation 3:20 (*Behold I stand at the door and knock*) which hung at St. Mark's in Garson has been brought to the Ascension and will be hung in our entrance in 2016 and rededicated in memory of memory of Isabelle and Bill Rockwood by their daughters.



The story behind this stained glass window is that Mr. Rockwood, Mr. Armstrong (Sandra Paquette's dad) and many other men went door to door trying to raise funds to build the Church in Garson many years ago. Unfortunately, Mr. Rockwood was picked up by the police because you were not allowed to solicit funds. This is why the family chose this particular picture.

We received altar linens from St. James Anglican Church following its closure and we give thanks for these gifts.

Diocese of Algoma

Screening in Faith Parish Participation Report

Our parishes are sacred spaces in which volunteers can develop their leadership gifts and vulnerable people can be part of a safe and loving family. Appropriate screening of volunteers is an essential part of maintaining that ministry, so that we can ensure the safety of our volunteers and their ministries. This "Parish Participation Report" serves as an *annual record* of the process developed by your parish to screen its volunteer leaders.

Complete the following report and provide a copy to the **parish Vestry, your Territorial Archdeacon, and the Synod Office**. This report is due the last day in February for the year preceding. Thank you for continuing to make the safety of your volunteers and ministries a priority.

I. Contact Information

PARISH: Church of the Ascension

INCUMBENT: Ven. Anne Germond

If a person in the parish is assisting the Incumbent with the Screening in Faith process then please give their:

NAME: Cindy Caines TELEPHONE: 705-524-5394

ADDRESS: 121 Plumtree Cres
Sudbury ON P3B4G7

E-MAIL: cindycaines@hotmail.com.

YOUR FEEDBACK: What kind of help, if any, does your parish need to develop its Screening in Faith Process?

II. Parish Position List:

Please list all the positions in your parish, along with their Level of Risk, and the Screening Requirements set by your parish. This includes wardens, advisory board members, treasurers, lay readers, and all other parish ministry positions. (Incumbents are screened at the Diocesan level.) Photocopy this page if more space is needed.

Useful Resources:

The requirements of a parish screening process are outlined in Canon H-5 of our Diocese. This model is based on the 'Screening in Faith' manual produced by Volunteer Canada, and the Parish Screening and Program Management Kit for the Diocese of Algoma, available online at www.dioceseofalgoma.com.

Level of Risk (check one box only)

- L = low
- M = medium
- H = high

Screening Requirements (check all that apply)

- INT = Interview/application form
- REF = Reference check
- PRC = Police Record check
- TFU = Training/follow-up

(See examples of possible positions and job descriptions on the Diocesan [website](#))

Parish Position	Level of Risk			Screening Requirements			
	L	M	H	INT	REF	PRC	TFU
Wardens			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Board members	✓			✓			✓
Treasurer, Offering counters		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Childrens ministry teachers			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastoral visitors			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay readers		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outreach team members		✓		✓			✓
Clergy							

Police Record Checks are required for all High Risk Ministries and must be renewed every three years. They are optional for Mid and Low Risk ministries.

III. Declaration

We declare that the information contained in this report is accurate and complete.

Date 10/01/2016

Incumbent *Deemough*

Warden *C. D.*

Warden *Paul Simmer*



Ascension celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II longest reign with a lunch 'fit for a Queen' following the 11:00 am service on September 9, 2015
Two of our men that donned their tuxedos to 'wait' on tables with our hostess. Brue Heuft, Kay Winfield and Beaumont Nelson



Seniors Cookie Drop - December 16, 2015 -Some of our helpers, from left to right Carole Lennox, Dave Fowler (with gran-daughter) Gladys Abigail, Nora Roy, Mickey McRae, Anne Trimmer, Noella Fowler Missing - Cathy Jewell, Marie Vitone and Kath Greenidge