

Church of the Ascension

Annual Vestry Report 2016



Church of the Ascension
1476 Sparks St.
Sudbury Ontario



2016-05-13 - Games Night. It's the classic block-stacking, stack-crashing game of JENGA! In the photo from left to right:-Jen Ames, People's Warden, Pam Banks, Marie Vitone, Albert Vitone, Lizzie Walchuk & Caitlin Walchuk.

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2016-03-20 - The blessing of the Easter Garden prior to the Palm Sunday procession into the church. The garden & the figurines were given in thanksgiving to Godly Play by Kath Greenidge.

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.



2016-02-09 - Board members for 2016.

Church of the Ascension Annual Vestry Meeting

Agenda

Sunday, January 22nd, 2017 at 1pm.

Prayer before a meeting

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

Prayer for the Mission of the Church

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

Meeting called to order.

Election of Vestry Clerk.

Adoption of the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting held on January 24th, 2016

Matters arising from the minutes of the January 2016 meeting.

Motion for the adoption of all published committee reports.

Presentation and adoption of the 2016 Financial Statements by the Treasurer.

Presentation of the 2017 budget by the treasurer.

Motion for the appointment of a treasurer/auditor for the 2016/17 books.

Acceptance of the Nominating Committee's Report for the 2017 Board. Any new nominations should be entertained at this time.

Explanation of the roles and responsibilities of Synod delegate. This is a two year term and Synod delegates immediately become members of the board and also of Deanery Council, which meets twice a year in the spring and fall. The Synod of the Diocese of Algoma meets from May 3rd to 6th, 2017 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Article 3: Lay Delegates to Synod

qualifications:

1. (a) A Lay delegate shall be a person elected at the annual meeting or at any vestry meeting called for that purpose in the same year as a regularly scheduled synod, and who:

(i) has had the status of communicant at the time of the election; and

(ii) is at least 16 years old; (Amended 2011) and

(iii) does not hold the Bishop's licence as a deacon or priest. (Amended 1997) [formerly Article 3].

(b) All lay nominees, at the time of their nomination, shall signify their willingness to attend the Synod, if elected. No nomination shall be received without such signification. [formerly Article 6].

Voting

Vote of thanks to the Board members.

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

New business

Memorial Donations to the Church of the Ascension.

Suggestions for disbursement of funds from Christmas Outreach Offering.

Motion for the adjournment of the meeting.

Closing prayers

Rules concerning eligibility to vote at Vestry meeting

All persons shall be entitled to a seat and a vote when the

Are Baptized

Are full 16 years of age.

Are habitual attendees at divine worship

Have contributed in the year immediately prior to the working expenses of the church.

Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes January 24, 2016

Attendance: Carole Nooyens, Fr. Bob Derrenbacker, Luke Norton, Marie Vitone, Thelma Smith, Helen Wormington, Betty Bonas, Bob Corrigan, Megan Trimmer, Jennifer Ames, Beaumont Nelson, Irene Ginson-Fiss, Anne Trimmer, Noella Fowler, David Fowler, Philippa Howard, Roz Jones, Gladys Abigail, Harley Moulton, Marlene Moulton, Cathy Dionne, Cindy Caines, Erma Howe, Mr. Michael White, Maryann Kurchak, Ralph Mounter, Douglas Frozel, David Wells, Kath Greenidge, Peter Giblin, Marlene Giblin, Marjorie Morton, Patricia Gorham, Roger Gorham, Christopher Cawte, W. Brent Leigh, Marcia Leigh, Peter Marshall, Jeffery Hooper, Matt Walchuk, Sue Bate, Gary Bate, Jim Gibson, Rob Caines, Cathy Jewell, D.T. Gates, Cora Felbel, Anne Germond. (48 in attendance)

Father Bob Derrenbacker led those in attendance in prayer before the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was called to order by chair Rev. Anne Germond

Cathy Jewell was appointed as Vestry Clerk.

Moved by Pippa Howard, seconded by Gladys Abigail that the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of February 7th, 2015 be accepted as presented with correction: re: Synod Delegates, Kath Greenidge also as Synod Alternate. Carried.

It was suggested that the names of those in attendance be recorded in the minutes.

The Vestry report was sent to all those who receive church notifications via email this year. There were 125 copies of the booklet printed and all were not needed so therefore the number printed next year will be reduced.

Moved by Gary Bate, seconded by Peter Marshall that all published committee reports be accepted as presented with corrections as follows: pg. 54 – Memorial Donations should read Steven Moorehouse; pg. 54 – stained glass picture not as shown or written; pg. 24 – Eucharistic Assistants :add Lori Cameron; pg. 31 – Parish Life committee: add Lori Cameron; pg. 56 – clergy line unnecessary . Carried

The Financial Statement for 2015, which was audited by Dave Fowler was presented and explained by Treasurer Cathy Dionne:

Total income	\$181,295.30
Total expenditures	\$182,262.10
End of Year	\$ (966.80)
Opening Surplus	\$ 12,870.30
Actual End of Year	\$ 11,903.50
Proposed Budget for 2016	\$207,600.00

Memorial Account	\$ 4,990.26
Special Projects Account	\$ 5,060.43
Anne Germond Fund	\$ 5,822.93
Lockerby Taxi Fund	\$ 605.13

Moved by Cathy Dionne, seconded by Sue Bate that the Financial Statement and 2016 Budget be accepted as presented. Carried.

Cathy Dionne was given a vote of thanks for all her hard work and time spent managing the church finances.

Dave Fowler was appointed auditor for 2016.

Voting for the position of People's Warden took place. Nominated for the position were: Jennifer Ames, Kath Greenidge, Cathy Jewell, W. Brent Leigh with Jennifer Ames becoming the People's Warden.

Voting for the position of Deputy Warden took place. Nominated for the position were: W. Brent Leigh, Kath Greenidge, Cathy Jewell, Rob Caines with W. Brent Leigh becoming Deputy Warden.

Congratulations Jennifer and Brent.

A vote of thanks was given to retiring People's Warden Anne Trimmer and Deputy Warden Harley Moulton for all the time and expertise that they brought to their positions.

Moved by Beaumont Nelson, seconded by Gary Bate that the ballots be destroyed. Carried.

A vote of thanks was given to the retiring Board members who have given of their time and experience

Board Members at Large: moved by Roz Jones, seconded by Luke Norton that there be no caps on the number of Board Members for 2016; that all those who have been nominated and let their names stand for the Board be approved . Carried.

Appointments:

Rector's Warden – Erma Howe
Treasurer – Cathy Dionne
Envelope Secretary – Ralph Mounter
Vestry Clerk – Cathy Jewell

Nominations:

People's Warden – Jennifer Ames
Deputy Warden – W. Brent Leigh
Synod Lay Delegates (2nd year) Jennifer Ames and Cathy Jewell

Alternate Synod Lay Delegates: Catherine Bird-Heuft, Kath Greenidge.

Board Members at Large (Nominated): Dave Fowler, Noella Fowler, Doug Frozel, Pippa Howard, Michael Sheppard, Brend Leigh, Chris Cawte, Marie Vitone, Jim Gibson, Gary Bate, Anne Trimmer, Gladys Abigail, Loir Cameron, Cora Felbel, Beaumont Nelson, Rob Caines

A huge thank you to Gladys Abigail for her many many years as Envelope Secretary.

New Business:

Moved by Marie Vitone, seconded by Carol Nooyens that the seed money for the Out of The Cold Dinners be increased from \$200 to \$500 due to the increase in the food costs. Carried.

Erma Howe and Brent Leigh gave an update on the Rectory repairs. The repairs have been completed and the house is ready for new occupants. There is some outdoor yard work to be completed in the spring.

Discussion re: Outreach projects to be assisted with the money in the Outreach coffers. Some ideas were music, Syrian Refugees – ARK, Bishop Mwita Sewing School, Animals – Farley Fund. Luke Norton will check into others at his next Social Planning Council meeting.

Ralph reminded those in attendance about the heating and cooling of the church and which doors should be kept open and which ones should be closed when the church is not in use. He also mentioned that there is new lighting in the church proper.

Funerals and deaths were remembered from 2015.

Moved by Gary Bate that the meeting be adjourned.

Rector's Report for 2016



Dear friends in Christ,

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God." (1 John 4.7)

It is with a mixture of emotions that I write my annual report from the sanctuary of a convent in Ohio on a crisp January day. The silence and stillness of the convent has afforded me the time to contemplate and reflect on all that has been as I have served as your incumbent, and to offer some thoughts on life in the parish after my departure in February.

On the one hand there is a feeling of deep joy and pride in all that has taken place in the life and ministry in Christ that we have shared together, not only in the last year, but in the last 17 years. This place has been a spiritual home for me and my family since September 17th 2000. It seems like yesterday that I walked through the doors of the Ascension for the first time, a completely unknown quantity, not even ordained yet, and with two young children in tow. I was immediately welcomed and embraced by those who greeted me at the door - many of you who are still here today. I have watched as others who have joined our community have experienced that exact same sense of warmth and hospitality.

A spiritual home is a place where Christ is present at every meeting table; where souls are nurtured, are encouraged - and indeed challenged to grow strong in their faith. A true spiritual home is a place where the strong lead with love and gentleness; where the weary and the sick can find rest and refreshment; where the lost feel that they have been found; and where every wanderer is welcomed home. This is the spiritual home that I have been a part of over the years at the Ascension. What a blessing and a joy it has been for me to be part of this community for so long. I know it has been and will continue to be in the future for hundreds and hundreds of other people.

There is also a feeling of profound sadness in writing this to you as this will be my last Annual meeting with you. I am keenly aware that soon I will be leaving here to embark on a new ministry in the wider church. We have walked together through some very key moments in each others lives, and in the life of our community, and we have drawn strength from one another and from our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. This makes my departure very difficult, and I will always give thanks for the personal formation that has happened for me here, for the insights I have gained from you; from the sacred stories we have shared and through the painful and difficult times, which also form us in our Christian journey.

The Ascension is the place where I most clearly experienced a sense of calling to ordained ministry beyond my baptismal calling as a disciple of Christ, and where I know many of you have also heard the call of God in your lives to take up new forms of ministry, some of which have been quite out of your comfort zones. Over the years I have seen so many of you also saying "yes" to God with such conviction and have then had the privilege of watching a new ministry flourish under your care.

There were two distinct calls that I believe have altered who we are as a parish over the last decade and a half. The first was the decision to deepen our relationship with Christ and to hold Him at the centre of everything. This rootedness in Christ is what holds us together for in our own power or strength we can do nothing. Even though there were some challenging times in 2016, particularly with the Memorial Project and the hurts and disappointments and disagreements that came as a result of it, we always remembered who we belonged to, and that helped us stay together.

The other call was the desire to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves. The result of this was to extend ministry beyond the walls of the church itself, and in the last several years we have participated in some very rewarding and life giving outreach projects in our neighbourhood and the wider church. Recently I was remembering our involvement with HIV/AIDS ministries in South Africa, and some 15 years later the Out of the Cold Dinners are still going strong. This year will be another exciting, and perhaps challenging year as we welcome a family from Syria and help them settle in their new land.

I look forward to being a 'follower' of the Ascension and to celebrating new efforts in ministry as your bishop.

How might the Ascension live into a new future?

The beauty of the home is ORDER

The blessing of the home is CONTENTMENT

The glory of the home is HOSPITALITY

The crown of the home is GODLINESS

The heart of the home is LOVE

(A German Home Welcome)

This is Christ's church, not ours. God has called each one of you by name to be his sons and daughters and to be a part of the Ascension family. Remain in Christ and remain in the community that is your spiritual home.

Pray for one another by name in the parish. Wear your new name tags; call each other by name and get to know each other. One of the greatest blessings of the last 17

years has been to hear the stories of the people in the parish. Each one is different and each one has its own joys and struggles.

Live actively into the time following my departure, even if there are moments of tension, or if you have doubts. It will be different, but it will also be an opportunity for new leaders to come forward and take on new roles in the church.

Do not withdraw your support from the parish out of fear. This is the time when the community needs your presence, it needs your encouragement and your ongoing involvement and sharing of time, talent and treasure. If anything it needs you to be more and not less generous. There will always be people who will reduce their givings, or withdraw their involvement in one aspect of ministry or another until they decide whether to remain or not, or how things are going in the interim time. As Christians we believe that each and every one of us has a vital role to play in the health and well-being of the parish. *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is part of it." (1 Cor. 12.27)* In the coming months continue to discern which part of the body of the Church of the Ascension you want to be more, not less involved in, and do it. In his letter John writes that *"Perfect love casts out fear."* (1 John 4.18) This perfect love is God's love and God will never let you down.

Support one other and different parish groups in their ministries. If you've never attended a Wednesday morning liturgy or Bible Study, a BCP Morning or Evening Prayer service - do that. It will enrich your spiritual life immensely. If you've wondered about what actually happens at Messy Church or an Out of the Cold dinner, find someone and invite yourself along. Either of these might put you completely out of your comfort zone, but you might also discover a whole new ministry for yourself.

Keep being a wholesome example of what it means to live in love and charity with your neighbour. Attend ecumenical services and community outreach events hosted by the NE Ministerial. Pray for your neighbouring churches and the clergy who lead them.

Continue to practice hospitality - but be even better at it. And by hospitality I mean more than just greeting someone at the front door of the church, or offering guests a loaf of bread at the end of the service. I mean helping them become engaged in the time of worship or in any of the ministries we share. At the convent one of the sisters sits next to me during prayer times and guides me through the liturgies. You'd think that by now I'd be able to figure it out, and I probably could. But having her there beside me is a reassurance that in this new environment I am not alone. We do not talk aside from the guidance of the liturgy, but in those moments I feel that my presence and voice is valued and that I belong to the community.

Notice who's not in the pews next to you on a Sunday morning. Give them a few weeks and if they don't return make a phone call to check up on them. They might be absent because they are away, but they might be ill or struggling with a very difficult issue. Your encouragement might be the one thing that brings them hope in a difficult time.

Don't be afraid to ask questions or raise concerns. There are strong leaders in the parish and honorary clergy who are eager to answer those questions, assist you and guide you.

Remain the diverse congregation that you are. There is often the temptation to be a people who are all of one mind, but this is not the church or the world we live in today. It is rather a question of how to listen respectfully and love those who have differing opinions and views.

Trust. This is Christ's church. This is not our church. Someone else is in charge. Therefore we have nothing to fear. The Church has been in the very best of hands for the last 2000 years. It has gone through times of plenty and times of drought; through good times and bad; through times of unity and times of schism; through times of joy and gladness and times of great sorrow and difficulty. But through all of those times, God has been faithful and never left God's people alone. Trust that as God has before that in the future, "The Lord your God will bring you into a good land - a land with brooks, streams, and deep springs gushing out into the valleys and hills." (Deut. 8.7)

Final Words.....

When it was time for Jesus to leave his disciples he took them to Galilee to the place where so much of his day to day ministry had happened. They went up a mountain where some worshipped and some doubted. Then he blessed them and he said to them - "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" Acts. 1.8

This remains Christ's charge to the church and to us in the Church of the Ascension today - to be His witnesses here in New Sudbury and the wider community, in Ontario, Canada and indeed to the furthest corners of the earth.

"Almighty God, watchful and caring, our source and our end, all that we are and all that we have are yours.

Accept us now, as we give thanks for the Church of the Ascension,

Where we have come to praise your name,

To ask your forgiveness,

To know your healing power,

To hear your word,

And to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son.

Be present always to guide and to judge,

To illumine and to bless your people.

This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

With gratitude for the love I have received from each of you. May you continue to flourish as Christ's disciples in the future.

Blessings always!

Anne

Honourary Associate Priest's Report

This past year, I assisted the ministry of our Rector by frequently presiding at Sunday Eucharist, preaching on occasion, taking services while the Rector was away, and engaging in some pastoral and hospital visitation. In addition, I led a four-week Bible study on Philippians, which I thoroughly enjoyed. My sense is that there is a healthy hunger for similar studies among our parish, and I do hope to lead another Bible study in the coming year.

But of course in the coming year, my ministry will take on a somewhat different role after February 11th, when Rev. Anne will be consecrated and installed as our new Bishop. As such, you will see me preaching more frequently and presiding at our Sunday and special services more often. Transitions such as these are never easy. But I do hope that my presence behind the altar and behind the pulpit will assist in the smoothest way possible to new ministry with new Rector, hopefully within the coming calendar year.

I would like to thank each and every member of the Ascension, its wardens, and of course Rev. Anne, for their support and encouragement of my ongoing ministry at the Church of the Ascension this past year. I appreciate your active Christian faith, your desire to learn, and your genuine affection for my family and me. I look forward to my ministry with you in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Robert Derrenbacher

Honorary Associate

Wardens' Report

It has been a tremendous year of challenge and transition. When Jennifer Ames (People's warden) and Brent Leigh (Deputy warden) were elected in January, they hit the ground running as big repairs were underway at the rectory. Shortly after that, our church roof began leaking in the kitchen, followed by a heavily debated memorial building project, and then our rector was voted as our next Bishop! (And then there were all the details in-between)!

We are pleased to report that much was accomplished this year thanks to the committed leadership and support of Ascension parishioners. The property report details more of our physical activities and accomplishments.

In the office, we hired a parish assistant in January. We have been blessed by Joanie Servent. She has been an anchor, working five hours a week, tending to a multitude of administrative tasks, and reducing the load that falls on our rector and wardens.

Our outreach to Barrydowne College, Out of the Cold, food to needy families and the Samaritan Centre continue. Christ's love and care that we extend to each other is extended to our neighbours and community.

We end 2016 with our finances in good order, keeping up with our bills and gradually paying down our debts. However, there is concern as we head into a year of big change. We are grateful to our treasurer, Cathy Dionne, who has prepared a careful budget, taking into account the financial uncertainties. We remain cautious and conscientious of our spending and will exercise fiscal restraint. Thank you all, for your financial contributions.

We have been blessed with sixteen years with a pastor who beautifully modelled Christ's love, compassion, grace, courage, forgiveness, hospitality, patience, and generosity. With Anne's departure comes anxiety. We are assured by what Anne has taught us through her words and example. We are assured by our deep faith and commitment as a community that worships God, abides in God, and lives its baptismal covenant. We will miss our rector deeply but Anne leaves behind a community of believers, strengthened by all we have learned and received and eager to continue our Christian service to our neighbours. The wardens would like to express deep love and gratitude to Venerable Anne. She has done more for our community than we will ever know.

We will take opportunities in the coming month to transition and discern what the parish of Ascension has become and what we hope to be in the near years to come. As we move into a year without a rector, please do not hesitate to talk to a warden for

any concerns, questions, or needs that you might have. Each parishioner is important to us.

We so appreciate all the love, help, and support that happens in our community. The Ascension is truly a place where we feel Christ's presence in our midst. Christ lives in the smiles, the loving acts, the hugs, and warmth that each of you offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erma Howe, (rector's warden) , *Jennifer Ames* (people's warden),
Brent Leigh (deputy warden)



2016-04-03 - Dedication of a burse, given by Brent Leigh. Others in photo from left to right - Erma Howe, Archdeacon Anne Germond, Thelma Smith & Brent's daughter Maggie Leigh.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral visitations remain an integral part of life at the Ascension and they are made possible by a committed group of parishioners who assist Rev. Anne in visiting 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.

In 2016 parishioners who were ill in Health Sciences North or resident at St. Gabriel's Villa in Chelmsford, the Westmount 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, Thelma Smith, Cathy Jewell, Irene Gilchrist and Shannon Hengen for being part of this team.

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 and Finlandia continued in 2016. 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, Elaine Brummer and the Rev. Charles Nolting. The participation of friends from the United and Lutheran Churches give it a real ecumenical flavour. We are thankful to Marjorie Morton for offering her gift of music, to Roz Jones, Betty Bonas, Thelma Smith, Kath Greenidge, Cathy Jewell, and Marie Vitone for their presence and participation.

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

ALTAR GUILD

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 go to the ladies who look after the Chapel for the services on Wednesday morning.

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

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

Thank you to all of the parishioners who have donated flowers or contributed money for flowers over the past year. We once again posted a Flower Request Chart on the bulletin board in the hallway. This has worked very well. We will continue to do this for the year 2017. Thank you for the Christmas and Easter flower donations.

A special thank you to Cathy Jewell who has come out to help with the Altar duties and for picking up the plants for Christmas.

The Altar Guild was very happy to receive two new embroidered burses from the Brent Leigh family. Thank you to Brent and Marcia for this gift.

Being part of the Altar Guild is a wonderful and extremely important ministry within our Parish. If anyone is interested in being part of this group, we would be most happy to have you join us. Please contact me and I will be delighted to explain what is involved.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Trimmer.

Children's Ministry

In 2016, Children's Ministry focused on training for the entire team of storytellers and helpers, expanding the collection of Godly Play stories, and redesigning the nursery, in addition to hosting annual events.

Training of the Children's Ministry is important to ensure that all teachers are prepared to support the children during their time of spiritual development. As such, all teachers had the opportunity to attend a workshop on Spirituality for Children's Ministry Leaders facilitated by Rev. Dr. Jay Koyle in the fall. In addition, door person training was held, and Jen Ames attended Godly Play training in Toronto and is now a certified storyteller! Starting in September, the Children's Ministry Team started meeting on a monthly basis, and bringing homemade soup to share during the meeting.



Godly Play set-up in the Fellowship Hall

We have been running Godly Play for three years (can you believe it?), and with every year, we continue to expand and enhance our collection of stories to share with the children! This past year, some of the new stories included the Epiphany, Story of Sarah, and The Falling Apart, a story about Adam and Eve. Both the Godly Play space and the nursery upstairs received the special touch of individuals in our church to make them beautiful for our children. Kath Greenidge created an Easter garden that was on display in the Fellowship Hall and received much admiration from the children. Much thanks goes to Sabrina Campbell, who created an amazing tree mural for the nursery. In addition, a smart TV was purchased for the nursery space, which allows for music and videos to be easily played.



The Easter Garden by Kath Greenidge



Nursery Tree Mural by Sabrina Campbell

Some changes from previous years include the offering of a new bible study on Sunday mornings which started in September and is facilitated by Jessica Walchuk. In addition, the year-end service and BBQ was not held this year as we celebrated confirmation and said goodbye to Bishop Stephen Andrews instead.

The pageant this year was a joint effort with the L'Arche community and the Ascension. Finally, a yard sale which raised \$1517.50, and a clothing swap were both held in the spring.

A big thank you to all families, grandparents, friends, and parishioners that continue to bring children to the Ascension! Without them, we would not be able to provide such amazing programs and learn from them and as much as they learn from us.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Caines

On behalf of Children's Ministry Team

Vacation Bible School

In the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin we had another successful year at Vacation Bible School that saw a number of new volunteers on board and new youth helping as crew leaders. Between Church of the Ascension and St. John the Divine we saw at least 45 children. We cannot express enough gratitude from all of the people who contributed whether of time, talent or treasures.

The theme was Cave Quest, "Following Jesus the Light of the World". It is helpful to share the costs and to promote fundraising throughout the Deanery. We had over 100 people show up for the fundraiser at Boston Pizza which raised enough money for the resource material. Another Boston Pizza night is being planned for 2017. We also initiated a program to adopt a child for VBS with a suggested donation of \$20.00 this went through the St. John the Divine Church for the purpose of issuing receipts but the funds were used for both parishes. These donations help to cover the costs for crafts, imagination station items and take home Bible Buddies. This will also take place this year and will be promoted more at Church of the Ascension since it was not widely publicized last year. We are hoping for suggestions for other fundraisers.

The investment continues to be costly but all you have to do is show one of the mornings to see the smiles on the faces of children and adults alike. It is such a fun way to learn about God; hear stories from the Bible; and discover how much Jesus Loves Us. As reported last year 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 is minimal. It costs \$25 to \$30 per child for the week works out to approximately \$5 to \$6 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.

The theme for the 2017 program is Maker Fun Factory, "Created by God, Built for a Purpose". Stay tuned for more information on dates and ways that you can help. In looking over the material we will be looking for creative people to help build props, save unique items for decorating, and to participate in a number of different ways because we are all Created by God and Built for a Purpose so all of our efforts together can help make VBS 2017 a blast.

Thank you so much for continuing to invest in the life of our church future leaders. I am so blessed that you have trusted me once again to help coordinate this event in the Deanery.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly van der Jagt

Youth Ministry

Being a part of the Church of the Ascension is truly extraordinary. The support earned, knowledge gained and relationships which are made here are ultimately a blessing. The youth in this Church are well aware and so thankful for the opportunities which are given to them and the experiences they have had this past year with everyone's help.

Here are some of the things in which the youth took part in this past year:

January-March:

The youth took part in watching the popular Christian video series Youth Alpha. Together we took part in a day retreat at the Ascension where we watched some of the videos which promoted and engaged the youth in discussion, played some games, ate food and molded Easter chocolates in celebration of Easter which was coming up soon. This was co-ordinated and brought to us from Rev. Jeff Hooper and Cora Felbel.

April-July:

A confirmation class was offered at the Church of the Ascension, a 9-week program which was led by Rev. Anne Germond and Megan Trimmer. This group had 12 youth who were enthusiastic and thoroughly enjoyed learning and growing in faith.

During the month of April it was suggested by one of the youth to gather for fellowship and fun on occasion rather than when we need to for a 'church event'. Hearing opinions and suggestions from the youth was always appreciated and taken into deep consideration. From here we started a monthly event, Youth Night: A gathering for fellowship and fun. In April a Movie night was held where together we ate snacks and watched the well-known film: Inside Out. This was co-ordinated by Megan Trimmer.

In May the youth were excited to take part in the Church-wide Family Board Game Night. Families came together to play our favourite board games and of course eat good food!

June 5th marked the day of Confirmation at Church of the Ascension. This day 17 youth were confirmed who came from all around our deanery! A great day at Ascension as we congratulated the youth and said farewell to Bishop Stephen Andrews, as this was one of the last times he would visit Ascension as Bishop of Algoma before his retirement which took place in August.

To start off the summer 5 youth from our deanery all from our church, headed to Camp Manitou for the annual Youth Synod. This week-end was filled with plenty of

fun, new friendships, and good food as we gathered to discuss, learn and celebrate our faith.

September-December:

After a busy summer the youth rekindled in September to begin a new journey together. Throughout the fall and continuing this month the youth have taken part in a new discussing based series Youth Emmaus. Youth Emmaus is a program which was broken into three main terms including: What Christians Believe, How Christians Grow and Living the Christian Life. Each Sunday evening the youth meet to share a meal together and engage in discussion which is coordinated and led by Megan Trimmer. The meals which are shared are generously donated by families or our parish. These meals are so meaningful, thank you so much for your kindness.

In October our Youth Night was an evening of Pumpkin Carving the week before Halloween.

In November our Youth Night was a Board Game Night at the Church of the Ascension.

In December a break was taken from Youth Emmaus during Advent. On the first weekend of December the Youth travelled to Manitoulin Island to engage in The Journey to Bethlehem, this event was coordinated by a group of multi-denominational churches on Manitoulin Island. This was a great experience for the youth to be involved in Christian activities outside our hometown. This trip was coordinated by Megan Trimmer, Cora Felbel and Fr. Aidan Armstrong.

What a conclusion to a fun-filled busy year! The youth are looking forward to what the future may bring us. Once again, a huge thank you comes from all of the youth involved at Church of the Ascension for everything you do for us, visible or not. Your thoughts, words and deeds do not go unnoticed and for that we are all exceptionally thankful.

Megan Trimmer

Eucharistic Assistants at the Church of the Ascension for 2017

These members usually attend at 9am

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

These members usually attend at 11am

Gladys Abigail, Betty Bonas, Erma Howe, Anne Trimmer, Doug Frozel, Donna Barnes, Rachel Barnes, Cindy Derrenbacker, Kathryn Greenidge, Jennifer Cawley Caruso, Audrey Penn, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh, Cathy Jewell, Connie Lee, Pippa Howard, Margaret Leigh

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

Layreaders at the Church of the Ascension for 2017

Dave Fowler; Erma Howe; Shannon Hengen, Cathy Jewell, Lori Cameron, Brent Leigh.

Layreaders in training

Thelma Smith

Home Communion

Marie Vitone, Shannon Hengen, Dave Fowler, Kathryn Greenidge, Cathy Jewell, Lori Cameron, Patti Brace (in her capacity as Student Intern) and Thelma Smith are licensed to bring the Reserved Sacrament to the sick and those living in nursing homes or retirement residences in our congregation.



2016-12-04 - Gifts of Story & Song
presenter Roz Jones reciting a
poem at our 5th Annual one.

Property

This year significant rectory renovations were completed with the help of a \$25,000 loan from the Archbishop Wright Fund. The rectory was rented this spring to a fine young family. In addition, landscaping and outdoor repairs were done to the rectory.

In our church building, our front sign was repaired and reinstalled. New railings adorn the sanctuary. A stained-glass picture from the Iburg family of St. Mark's Garson was framed and installed in the narthex. Our roof was repaired. Speakers were refurbished and other minor repairs were completed. Maintenance of our lawn, parking lot, furnace, walls, and floors were carried out. The Whole Nine Yards was awarded the tender to care for our snow plowing and removal needs. In addition, a data base is being created to keep track of all the work and maintenance of our parish properties.

We are hoping for no significant additional expenses in the coming year. There is a repair to the water damage done in the kitchen but otherwise, no major property work is anticipated.

Thank you, committee members for all the work you do. We are a very active group, meeting monthly, dividing tasks to share what can be a heavy load.

Respectfully submitted

Anglican Church Women

Once again the ladies of the ACW have had a busy, busy year. We hosted the Seniors Luncheon, Lay Readers Conference, Service of Remembrance for HSN, Strawberry Tea, Snowflake Tea and several funeral receptions.

The Teas were great successes being our main fund raising events. This allowed us to support our Foster Child, Sleeping Children Around the World, Barrydowne College Bursaries, Council of the North and our own children and youth within the Parish.

The ACW Annual was held May 30th –Jun 1st and hosted by the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin. There were approximately 90 ladies in attendance representing the five Deaneries across the Diocese (Algoma, Muskoka, Sudbury/Manitoulin, Temiskaming and Thunder Bay). Our theme for the conference was "Back to the Rock". Our guest speakers included Bishop Tom Corston who spoke on Moosonee and the Council of the North; Bishop Stephen Andrews and the Rt Rev Bob Derrenbacker presented slides on their "Pilgrimage to Israel"; and Roberta Wilson-Garrett spoke on Tarime. The main banquet had a 50s/60s vibe complete with soda shop décor, poodle skirts, hula

hoops and of course "Elvis" for entertainment. It was a wonderful 3 days of devotions, fun and fellowship.

In September, 11 ladies travelled to Gore Bay for the Fall Deanery Meeting and we closed out the year with 30 ladies attending our Christmas get together at MIC.

2016 was a very busy, successful and fulfilling year. A big thank you goes out to all those who continue to support the ladies in so many ways. The men for setting up tables, the youth for serving tea and all the ladies of the church, whether they attend our meetings or not, for their time, talent and resources in the love of Christ.

Respectfully submitted



2016-06-05 - Confirmation candidates & teachers

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN 2016 FINANCIAL REPORT

EXPENSES:	A.C.W. Diocesan Donation	\$ 735.00	
	Bishop's Discretionary Fund	200.00	
	Ven. Anne's Discretionary Fund	200.00	
	Christmas Gift	200.00	
	Strawberry Tea	233.00	
	Catering	989.44	
	Outreach: Foster Child	468.00	
	P.W.R.D.F.	200.00	
	Foster Child	468.00	
	Barrydowne College Bursaries	750.00	
	Seniors' Luncheon	200.00	
	Council of the North	200.00	
	A.C.W. Meeting Registration	165.00	
	Church: Toiletry Bags	150.00	
	Godly Play	300.00	
	Youth Synod	510.00	
	Kitchen	457.85	
	Care Bears	<u>120.00</u>	\$5,974.83
INCOME:	Snowflake Tea	\$2,541.30	
	Strawberry Tea	1,548.35	
	Catering	3,307.90	
	S.C.A.W.	88.25	
	Bank Interest	.10	
	Tarime Collection	240.00	
	Myrna Sheppard Memorial	25.00	
	Family Life	34.25	
	Sudbury Deanery A.C.W. Refund	<u>200.00</u>	\$8,095.15
	Bank balance January 1, 2016	\$ 5,725.67	
	2016 Income	<u>8,096.15</u>	
	Total	\$13,821.82	
	Less: 2016 Expenses	<u>5,974.83</u>	
	Bank Balance December 31, 2016	<u>\$7,846.99</u>	

Outreach

The outreach committee has returned to being part of Parish Life. Outreach is an ongoing thing with many dedicated parishioners trying to make life a little better for the less fortunate.

We continue to support the Elgin Mission. We donate loaves of bread, lunch meat, and fixings every second Sunday of each month. Half of the money brought in from Songs and Stories is donated to the mission. We have sent extra food and clothing to them.

We have once again participated in the Shoe boxes at Christmas time for Operation Christmas Child. You have been generous to fill these. Thank you!

We support families in need. We delivered 10 hampers before Christmas. This includes a full Christmas dinner. Thank for your food donations, money donations, and food card donations.

We are still part of the Our of Cold Program. We cater 4 hot meals for the needy during the winter months. Luke Norton and Marie Vitone are responsible for this. These meals become a reality because of all the volunteers who help to prepare and serve them. A great thank you to all volunteers!

We remain a tremendous help and support for Barrydowne College. Thanks to parishioners donations , supplying boxes of food is an ongoing process. We have donated clothes, kitchen utensils and baby supplies. Thanks to your generosity, we supplied 25 gift bags for Christmas. We supplied the school with a hot meal last January. This was well received! We have supplied the school with pizza lunches and two lunches of sandwiches and fixings. Two awards were handed out by Del Gates at the graduation. The ACW also handed out awards for the graduation in June. Trish Hennessey donated and presented an award. Half of the money raised from Songs and Stories will be donated to the school. Thank you Song and Stories Volunteers!

Some money was donated to an orphanage.

Thank you to all the parishioners here at the Ascension for all your donations of time, food, grocery cards, clothing, understanding, love. We thank for the money and help from the Anne Germond Fund. We thank you for the support from the ACW. We are indeed a loving, caring, and considerate parish! Have a great New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Vitone

Refugee Sponsorship

Through 2016, the ARK New Sudbury Refugee Sponsorship Steering Committee has continued the long journey to welcome a Syrian Refugee family to our community. Beginning in fall of 2015, in response to the tragedy of the refugee crisis in Syria, many individuals in our congregation and in our community came together to sponsor a family and give them an opportunity to find a safe and peaceful future.

In February, a Syrian refugee family was selected for us to welcome to Canada. Many parishioners and community members attended a potluck volunteer fair to become involved in the new family's settlement. As we prepared for arrival, we were advised that for reasons not shared, the family chose not to come to Canada. We can only imagine the challenges faced by families who must navigate very difficult circumstances and hope they found safety with another caring community.

In March we submitted a new application to the government to support a new family. We chose a young woman and her four young children, a daughter and three sons, who have been living in Lebanon for three years. In August, the Canadian government approved the refugee application. The Canadian Embassy in Lebanon has since completed medical and criminality screenings and we await a final eligibility determination. We hope for imminent approval and travel to Canada.

Our community has continued its support in our setting up a home for the family, with generous use of a house for only out of pocket costs, and donations of furniture and household articles. The home is now ready to welcome the newcomers.

As sponsors, we are responsible for the successful settlement of the newcomer family for a one-year period. The financial responsibility is secured through the generous financial donations from so many caring individuals. Thank you to you all! The needs of the family for their first year are assured.

Sponsors must also provide assistance to the newcomers in accessing services and adjusting to our community, learning the skills to be successful in Canada. Volunteers will work closely with the family providing support to learn English, to shop and manage budgets, and to educate and engage the children. Some parishioners have identified themselves to us as wanting to assist in different ways to help support the family. Those who expressed interest have been contacted and work plans are developing.

We are challenged by not knowing the exact arrival time of the family we will welcome. With the help of a local volunteer translator we have enjoyed video calls with the mother and the children and are learning more about her family. The relationship we are building will form an important foundation for a successful transition to a new life in Sudbury.

You have heard on the news of several Syrian refugee families already arrived in our community. These families provide tremendous support to each other in adapting to the new life in Sudbury. They will play a key role in the welcoming of our new family. Their sponsoring groups are sharing resources and information with us to assist in our efforts.

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

Respectfully submitted,
the ARK New Sudbury Refugee Sponsorship Committee

*Gwen Bonas, Co-Chair, Jane Cox, Co-Chair,
Jennifer Cawley Caruso, Rev. Anne Germond, Erma
Howe, Heather Jeramaz, Carolyn Thain*

Indigenous Reconciliation

Meeting our Neighbours: Gathering Together in a living process of reconciliation

In 2015, the parish embarked on a journey to get to know our Indigenous neighbours, to help us get to know their history, their everyday reality, their dreams and their aspirations.

We were motivated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action#48 which asks faith communities to commit to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada. The Anglican Church of Canada has declared their commitment to this Call. Our response to this is to host gathering, to listen and to speak with our Indigenous neighbours.

As you may recall in 2015, we met with Brock Pitawanakwat, professor at the University of Sudbury and Elders Julie and Frank Ozawagosh from Atikameksheng Anishnabek.

We have continued activities in 2016. In January, Ghislaine Goudreau from the Sudbury and District Health Unit visited us. She was raised in New Sudbury, very close to our parish, by her Indigenous father and non-Indigenous mother. It was only during her university years that she began learning about her Indigenous culture and traditions. She is passionate about Indigenous rights, empowerment, and identity and is a role model for Indigenous youth. She completed her Master's thesis in Health promotion on hand drumming and its role in promoting women's health. We were blessed by Ghislaine's voice and drum during her presentation.

Over ten years ago, Ghislaine brought the Water Walk to Sudbury, which brings together Anishinabe youth and women's groups in a walk around Ramsey Lake. During the walk, there are ceremonies and teachings about water, the relationship of the Anishinabe people to the water and the special role of women as caretakers of the water. The walk is followed by a community feast. A few of parishioners participated in the walk in September 2016.

We were very honoured when acclaimed artist Leland Bell visited us in May 2016. He is a member of the Wikwemikong First Nation but lives much of the time in walking distance from the parish. Leland talked about his experiences growing up in Wikwemikong, and in Toronto, of going to an art school with Anishinabe people and making his art, including depictions of the Last Supper and a commissioned work for Catholic Churches of the Ten Commandments. He depicts people in ceremony and in relationships that reference the four directions of the medicine wheel. Leland is a student of Midewin, and very learned in ceremony and sacred teachings of the Anishinabe people. Leland ended his session with a song he wrote and a prayer, in his own language. Many parishioners who attended were familiar with his work. A reproduction of his Last Supper piece hangs in our sacristy.

To each of our guests, we offered tobacco and asked for a teaching. We also gave them a gift of bread, our symbol of hospitality and welcome. The tobacco, a sacred medicine, is given to symbolize our questions, and our emotional and spiritual need to learn. The offering of tobacco is a powerful expression of gratitude, humility and sacrifice as the learner's time is given to receive the teaching. In receiving the tobacco, the receiver binds their commitment to share a teaching. We are bound together through this exchange and we say "miigwetch" (thanks).

Generally we had 35-40 people attend each of these evening gatherings. We believe that the exchanges between our guests and parishioners have opened minds and hearts. Maybe individuals will be inspired to nurture these relationships or develop their own relationships with our Indigenous neighbours.

As a parish, we also hope to take more steps, inviting more guests and asking them to give us teachings, providing opportunities for parishioners to connect with and establish their own respectful relationships. Ultimately we hope we can establish a new and respectful foundation with our neighbours, individually and as a community.

In September, we submitted an article to the Algoma Anglican summarizing our activities.

Erma Howe attended facilitator training for the Blanket Exercise in November, a powerful teaching tool developed by KAIROS to teach Indigenous history that most of us have never learned. Rev Anne and Trish H have also participated in the blanket exercise and we hope to offer this to the parish sometime in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted

Irish Hennessy
Erma Howe

Parish Life

Parish Life's Committee in 2016 consisted of the following members:-

Kath Greenidge – Chair, Jane Cox - Interim Chair & secretary.

Other members - Anne Germond, Anne Trimmer, Cathy Jewell, Marie Vitone, Shannon Hengen, Thelma Smith & Lori Cameron. We welcomed Carole Nooyens in October. Jen Ames, often joined us in her role as People's Warden.

*Heavenly Father,
We give you thanks
That you have allowed
Us to work together
As a parish family
Inspired by your love.*

We give thanks for the Christ light which guided us in 2016.

We ask your blessing upon all our endeavors past, present and in the future.

We ask your blessings on all who supported us in many ways at the Ascension.

May your love and grace continue to guide us in the months and years ahead?

May our hearts be filled always with your compassion and comfort.

As we walk in your ways.

Direct us as we seek

To reach outward,

Upward and inward!

Help us to share all

Your Heavenly gifts

Given, that we may

Grow in our faith.

May we find ways

To share your love

Peace, joy and hope

Each and every day.

May your everlasting

Praises lift us up to

Serve you all the days

Of our lives with thanksgiving.

We pray this in Jesus name, Amen.

January

Barrydowne College Lunch for students - Wednesday, January 20th

This is an annual event hosted by Parish Life for our neighbouring school, Barrydowne College. Our continued support with them extends far beyond their doors in providing them with an in-house hot lunch just prior to their exams. Tacos please and thank you! So once again we went with a Mexican theme for lunch obliging their request for this. After our 'Ice Breaker' game that the Fellowship Hall was a buzz of fun and laughter! It was not just a time of providing them with a meal; it was a time of fellowship, listening and sharing! A true sense of warmth & happiness was all around. The gratitude received in return was in itself 'pure joy', joy seen and felt in that wondrous 'gift of giving'!

February

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper – Tuesday, February 9th

There were approximately 100 in attendance through the evening. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this another successful & fun evening. The free will offering netted \$500.00 after expenses. This went to The Samaritan Centre/ Coldest Night of the Year Walk which Paul Murdock participates in. This was our second year supporting this worthy cause. The Elgin Street Mission also benefitted as the leftover sausages, pancakes, syrup etc. were dropped off & were welcomed with grateful thanks. Several thank you cards were received in appreciation.

March

Easter Plants – Delivered March 23rd

During Holy Week we delivered Easter plants to our Seniors/Shut-ins. Some of us had the pleasure of visiting with our recipients who were thrilled to receive a potted tulip. Grateful thanks to our delivery volunteers & to Anne T. for 'spearheading' this once again.

April

Senior Luncheon - April 27th - Hosted by Parish Life and ACW

Every year we take great pleasure in hosting our senior luncheon in the Parish. Beside an 'Open Invitation', invitations were mailed out or delivered to our shut-ins as well as our friends at Westmount and Finlandia. It was wonderful to welcome some new faces. We were blessed to serve 40 guests. The décor was very Spring-like. On each table there were small potted plants, these were takeaways by one guest at the end. Additionally each guest received a 'Little Book of Psalms, Poems & Prayers' created especially for the occasion along with chocolates and a few other goodies. This year it was decided that we would skip having entertainment and instead we played the 'Purse & Pocket' game. The laughter echoed in the Fellowship Hall as each table team tried to outdo the other by bending the rules somewhat!!! On behalf of Parish Life and ACW we wish to express sincere thanks to the organizers, the kitchen crew, the servers and all others who came out to assist in some way to make this a 'fantabulistic' event in the 'Life of the Parish'. (BTW – Just take 'fantastic' & 'fabulous' and join them together as one word and you get 'fantabulistic'! No it is not a word yet in the dictionary but maybe if used often enough it might make it there one day!) Lol!

May

Parish Life Ministry of Hospitality

It was with great pleasure to have hosted 3 events in one week. It was no more than we could handle! As the saying goes 'no fuss, no muss'!

Wednesday, May 11th – Fr. Bob's pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Thursday, May 12th – An evening with Artist Leland Bell

Friday, May 13th – Ascension's Games Night

Visit to Barrydowne College for Elevate 2016 - Wednesday, May 25th

(This may be reported also under Outreach, sorry if there is duplication.)

This year our NE Ministerial Ecumenical community made up of 4 churches, St. Andrew the Apostle (Catholic), St. Stephen's on the Hill (United), Holy Redeemer (Catholic) & the Ascension (Anglican) visited Barrydowne College to plant flowers in pots with the students.

The goal of Elevate is for the churches to work together on projects within our communities & neighbourhoods to show the love of God. It is love through action. This

year's theme was around 'gardening in our community'. A pizza lunch was provided which the students totally enjoyed. However, we did also include 'healthy foods' of a veggie & fruit tray! A 'getting to know you game' laid the foundation to a wonderful & meaningful visit. We were entertained by a young indigenous man who played the drums & sang. What talent! A gift he willingly shared with us! The ecumenical community & especially us, the Ascension has formed such a bond with BDC. Our 'giving' in so many ways, & then our 'receiving' through a warm smile, or grateful words of thanks! When we left BDC that afternoon that beautiful feeling of inner joy consumed us; we pray that God's light continues to work through us to 'light up their lives'! To just know that 'YOU' have made a difference in someone's life is a wonderful heartwarming experience! (Have YOU heard the saying... 'Try it, you might like it'! It is so true.)

June

Confirmation/Farewell BBQ for Bishop Stephen - Sunday, June 5th

Immediately following the Confirmation service we joined together in the Fellowship Hall to bid farewell to Bishop Stephen & Fawna Andrews & in celebration of all those who were confirmed. For the occasion we had 2 beautifully decorated cakes with messages to the recipients. "God be with you Stephen & Fawna" & "Come Holy Spirit Come" for the confirmation candidates. We presented Bishop Stephen & Fawna with a small gift of thanks & wished him well in his 'new' journey as President of Wycliffe College in Toronto.

July/August – Parish Life was 'on call'! Nothing overly important to report.

September

September 15th – Farewell potluck for Gladys Taylor

It's always sad to say 'farewell' to long time parishioner friends when they move out of town. A lovely afternoon was spent together. Gladys was presented with a beautiful shawl gift from the Ascension as well as a small gift from the ACW. May our blessings & love be with her!

Golf Tournament at Cedar Green - September 18th

Our Annual Parish Golf Tournament at Cedar Green went off well, thanks to Terry & Jen Ames for organizing it & to Kay Currie-Windfield for ensuring there were prizes for everyone. It was a wonderful time shared within our church community & a way to get to know others from the parish, more in a social light. We were all 'winners' at the end of the evening as the fellowship shared with 'golfing buddies' brought out the best in us all.

October

'New' Name Badges

We are proud to say that Ascension has its own Logo now, one specially created for our church. After tossing around several ideas in updating our name badges (which had gone by the wayside somewhat) the board agreed that the idea of plastic permanent ones with a magnetic back was the perfect answer. During November parishioners signed up for these at a cost to them of \$7.00 per person. Our vision is that one day soon we will all know each other by name & not face! How exciting is this especially in our close knit church community! So please wear them & let's get to know YOU, the person behind or in front & even next to you!

(FYI – These were ordered early January 2017 & we will have them before our Vestry meeting.)

November - Seems very strange 'Life in the Parish' is always busy! What happened in November that has been forgotten? Too good to be true, but found nothing specifically that was attributed to the efforts of PL, not that 'Life in the Parish' did not go on!

December

5th Annual "Gifts of Story & Song"- Sunday, December 4th

What a joy-filled evening! The story tellers & reciters; the gifts of song or music; the attentive audience, these all made our 5th Annual GSS the most successful one. Many compliments were received during our Fellowship time that followed in regard to what a beautiful evening it was. The décor; the social interaction of joining together in song in between performances; but most of all our MC, who like always was outstanding with her welcoming words, hilarious jokes & corny puns. One person said – "Anne is perfect in this role, what a delight she is to listen to. Love her accent! She always has a special way in expressing her warmth & welcome." The person went on to say... "She was the 'icing on the cake' to a wonderful evening which I look forward to every year. For me, GSS is how I start my Christmas off on a joyful note!" Thank you Anne (Germond), GSS is truly blessed by your presence.

On the occasion of our 5th Annual GSS we were blessed by a 'surprise' presentation from 6 harmonious voices from the Nickel City Sound group. Our special thanks to these ladies for keeping this a secret & then sharing with us an outstanding 'Flash Mob' performance. It was so exciting to plan, but hard not to share! Just watching the expressions on the faces of Anne & everyone else was in itself pure pleasure!

Lastly, we give thanks to all the volunteer help received in so many ways. Because of you & our amazing audience, this was another successful event in the 'Life of the Parish' & will be marked as a memorable occasion given through 'gifts' of time & talent.

We raised \$1210.00 before expenses. These funds will be distributed between the Elgin Street Mission (30%) & Barrydowne College. (70%)

Christmas Cookie Drop – Wednesday, December 14th

Parish Life would like to express sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to our annual cookie drop. The bakers, the packers, the wrappers, the card writers, the star makers, the delivers & let's not forget our 'social butterflies'! What team work! Each one of you is a blessing in some way to our recipients. Without you many of them would not taste a specially home baked Christmas cookie. In all we delivered 25 large cookie boxes, 9 small ones, & a few poinsettia plants. What a lovely way to share in the Christmas spirit of giving. More so, what a 'Christ like' way to make a difference in someone's life!

"Do things for people not because of who they are or what they do in return, but because of who you are."— Harold S. Kushner

Remember – Church is not something you go to, but a family you belong to!

Faithfully submitted

Kath Greenidge

Parish Life Chair

Website

www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.ca

By reports & feedback our church website continues to be the first place that visitors to Sudbury seek to find a church suitable to their needs. Do you Google when you are looking for something? Googling is an everyday part of life. The internet is a tool used all over the world to find answers! Technology has advanced beyond comprehension, but there are still a few out there that for this is not an option. But yes the majority in 2016 are definitely onboard.

What would be some of the things a 'church seeker' or a visitor to Sudbury be looking for? First and foremost religion, so an Anglican church; secondly location followed by service times! They might want to know who the incumbent is, & some background information of him or her! Maybe they are a family & are interested in knowing what programs are offered for their children, youth & for themselves too! They might wonder if our church offers a nursery during worship time! They might be a past ACW member from their previous church so they wish to find out our church has an active ACW as maybe they are mission driven! Maybe they are avid Anglicans who wish to find out our mission, & whether we are big or small church, or if we are and active & friendly church! Or, what outreach projects do we do? Do we have a Bible Study group weekly?

So much information can be learned from a church website so it is important, or better said, it is imperative that our church website be kept up to date. A website needs to be attractive, & even more so 'user' friendly. Hear this before..."Can't find the calendar, why is it not in a dropdown box!" That actually is an issue we need to rectify on our website as it is not clearly visible. How about... what does Ascension have to offer that they have not yet found in a church?

Our Ascension website needs a 'facelift', hence the pre-amble to point out how important it plays a role in identifying who we are what we are all about! A few attempts were made in 2016 to try to update information that was outdated. Some headway was made, but to be truthful, very little.

An active website has to be updated on a regular basis. This does require constant attention & dedication from sources. Those sources are you the Church Community, it is not the webmaster! The webmaster will take your info provided & upload it removing anything outdated or obsolete! Some of the sources are:-Clergy, Lay Readers, all committees, Sunday School, Youth and the list goes on.

In the website report for 2015 it was requested then & it is being requested now again to please take responsibility & do your part to turn things around for us. Let us make our website 'the talk of the town'! Take the initiative to review your page; then provide your revision for uploading. A word document will be perfect to make this happen! Can you be the first to update your page? Our vision for 2017 hinges on you & this is an attainable goal.

Also if you think you are interested in assisting with our website please speak with Kath Greenidge or Joanie Servent as sharing the work makes it easier & who knows maybe you are that expert we are looking for?

A new page was added to the website in March 2016 titled - 'Faith Stories'.

Our writer & interviewer Shannon Hengnen spoke with 2 parishioners in our church in regard to their 'faith journeys' which is the result of 2 uplifting stories to this page since its inception.

If you have not already done so please go on to our website using this link <http://churchoftheascensionsudbury.com/parishlife/faithstories/> or if you are on the website & you would like to read about Gladys Abigail & Jen Ames faith journeys just go up to the Parish Life drop down menu & click on 'Faith Stories'. Their inspiring stories told of their faith experiences will be part of

the history in our church in later years.

For this we wish to convey our sincere thanks to Shannon Hengen for interviewing & writing their words, & to Gladys Abigail & Jen Ames for sharing their stories with us. We are truly blessed to have these ladies in our church who have given (& still give) of their time & talents as they journey in His Love.

We wish to welcome YOU, anyone who might be interested in sharing their 'faith journey' with us. Please speak with Kath Greenidge or Shannon Hengen as we would love to hear from you to share more wonderful stories on our website in 2017.

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 2015 now into 2017. Yes we did lapse a year without taking action but this is here & now so let's make it happen... Remember a website tells a story to many in the internet world far and wide.

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

Facebook

Yes if you do not already know & you are on Facebook, then do make a point of going on to 'like' & follow our page. There are 2 of us who keep our Facebook page active. FYI - Ascension's Facebook page since creation in 2015 steadily increases its followers. At the time of writing this report are followers numbered 253. This means they have liked our page. However some may visit just as a 'friend' so would not be included in those statistics.

Ascension's adapting to the fast moving world of the internet by joining this social media networking made us more visible. As soon as something is posted it reaches far & wide. Facebook is used as a tool for us to 'spread' the word quickly! Our posters for events i.e. teas, Messy Church, VBS, Yard Sales, worship services, Ascension Witness, news & announcements as well as 'spreading the Gospel' are an 'active' & 'fast' way in which we share our faith with many others. There are possibly even some who will likely never walk through our doors but they will 'friend' us & be our 'friend' on Facebook!

Our page is linked to the Diocese of Algoma, The Anglican Church of Canada, the Deanery of Sudbury/Manitoulin, Camp Manitou and many others. There is no better or simpler way to keep up with the news around the Anglican Community.

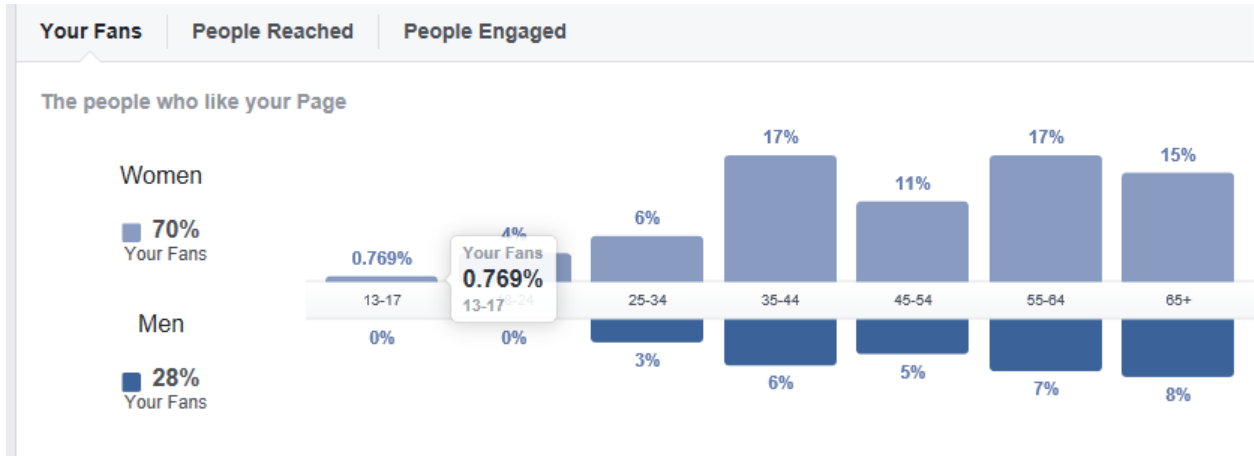
Have a look at these...



This post was from the news of Rev. Anne being elected the next Bishop of Algoma. We reached over 1300 people, received 363 post clicks (this means they went in to view it closer) & 142 reactions, comments & shares. This post topped all others previously posted since our we joined.

This other post was our poster for Gifts of Story & Song. 611 people reached 94 post clicks, & 46 reactions, comments & shares. Isn't this amazing how the world seems so small in today's internet society?

Here are more statistics for you to have a look at...very interesting, but not exactly surprising...



As stated at the beginning of this report, our Facebook page has 253 friends / followers. This includes the following countries: - Canada, various parts of the USA, United Kingdom, Ghana, India, Barbados, Australia, South Africa, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan & Papua New Guinea.

Unbelievable, well no not exactly. We live in a world where technology has grown leaps & bounds. Have a look around you next time you are in the mall food court & see if there are very many without cell phones?

So here is how you can find us... <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.

Respectfully submitted,

Kath Greenidge

Webmaster



2016-02-03 - Story teller Rev. Anne at our February Valentine Messy Church.

Worship

Liturgy

Liturgy is the backbone of the Church's physical and spiritual identity, where Christians' bounden duty to show thanks and praise to God reinforces our commitment to Him, to each other; it promotes challenge and discovery, and serves to refresh the strength needed to answer our individual and collective callings.

The 9.00 and 11.00 AM Sunday morning services remain the core of the Ascension's liturgical life, with the sacraments of Holy Communion and Holy Baptism comprising the key part of our worship narrative. Sunday morning services most usually use the forms provided by the Book of Alternative Services, except where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, when the Lord's Supper is celebrated according to the Book of Common Prayer.

Mid-week services continue on Wednesday mornings, most usually with the Eucharist, but also with an occasional service of Morning Prayer, or time of spiritual discernment and reflexion, and these are frequently followed by a fellowship gathering and Bible study.

Bi-weekly services of Morning and Evening Prayer are offered on Fridays and Sundays (respectively), both according to the Book of Common Prayer, and these frequently find opportunity to incorporate the Litany and other prayers and canticles otherwise less-frequently used than in Sunday's Communion services.

Ministry

Laities comprise Ascension's largest worship component, filling roles across the liturgical spectrum, as Choir members, Cantors, Lectors, Intercessors, Eucharistic Assistants, Servers, Crucifers, Lay Readers, Home Communion providers, and Pastoral Care visitors. Rosters largely remained stable in these positions this year, though the Choir continues its call for persons interested in joining its ranks. The Server initiative begun a year ago, incorporating younger members of the congregation into the ministry, continues to unfold slowly, but steadily, with increasingly encouraging results. Also, a Youth and Young Persons Bible Study programme was established this fall, providing a transitional forum for younger congregants discerning their way between Children's Ministry and full-time participation in Sunday morning worship.

In these roles our lay (and ordained!) ministers are supported by the careful and dedicated work of the Rector, Parish Assistant, Altar Guild, and numerous fellow laity who co-ordinate schedules and rosters, prepare the Sanctuary, Altar, and Communion elements, organise and print bulletins, and keep everyone in constant contact with each other to ensure things go as smoothly, and reverently, as they do.

Please note, none of these ministries have reached their full capacity, and persons interested in becoming involved in serving the Church through these or other means are invited and encouraged to speak to one or more members of the Worship Committee.

After many years of attentive and steadfast service, Roz Jones has stepped back from overseeing and preparing the Lesson passages for Lectors, and warmest thanks and appreciation are extended to her for these many years of dedication and diligence. Thelma Smith has taken over the task of preparing the Readings for Sunday

morning services, and we also extend our gratitude to Thelma taking this on this ministry.

Use of the projection screen increased this year to include services other than BCP liturgy and EK music, and now it is a weekly component of 11 AM worship; we are grateful for the expertise and donation of time from those overseeing this equipment, especially Erma, Ralph, and Ashley, and the Committee are especially anxious to hear from the congregation whether they would like to see this initiative continue, prefer a return to a "from-the-book" format, or develop some blend of the two styles. Phillip Balson maintains his association with the Ascension, directing the Choir and playing piano and organ at the 11.00 AM service and for chief festivals; we remain grateful for his gifts, dedication, and leadership. Music in worship is provided also by Eleanor Connors at the 9.00 AM Sunday service, on a biweekly schedule, and Electric Kazoo, who incorporate contemporary music into our worship, and also play for special occasions on a regular basis. Dr Colin Germond manages to find frequent occasion to contribute to our worship with his tremendous talent on the violin, as well.

The Ascension gives thanks for the continuing presence and support of the Honorary Associate, the Reverend Dr Robert Derrenbacher, and Honorary Assistants, the Reverend Rhonda Hirst and the Reverend Jeff Hooper. In October, Rev Rhonda conducted Health Sciences North's Memorial Service at the Ascension, and both she, Fr Bob, and Rev Jeff found many opportunities to celebrate and preach at Sunday Eucharist, on Holy Days, and for other special occasions, all while maintaining their other full-time responsibilities in the Church and greater community. We further appreciate their commitment to continue in their roles in 2017, helping to ensure the spiritual and liturgical needs of the parish are looked after as, we begin our Concurrence process and search for a new Rector.

Special mention must be made of our Rector and Priest, the Venerable Anne Germond, who has served as our pastor, spiritual director, chief liturgical officer, friend, and companion-in-Christ these 16 years past. It should be no surprise to anyone reading this report that our Rector, by God's grace and wisdom, and the prudent and prayerful discernment and decision of October's Electoral Synod, has become our next Bishop. While this implies much change for our Church and parish, we can but trust that the same God Who saw fit to lend us His servant for this time is with us still, and that Rev Anne's gifts, which have helped the Ascension grow in faith (and as a parish), will now foster in the Diocese, National Church, and Anglican Communion those same qualities of reverence and conviction she has helped us learn to embody. Rev Anne's contributions, insights, leadership and counsel will continue to be found in how we approach worship, for they have become part of the fabric of our parish; if we humbly reflect on our model, and continue to foster the seeds she has planted on God's behalf, then we must only look to the future with a sense of faithful confidence and joyful optimism. We give thanks to God for the opportunity He has afforded us to worship with Anne in this parish, and thank Him for the opportunity to worship with her still, in this Diocese.

On behalf of the parish, the Worship Committee extends a sincere note of thankfulness to the families of all our clergy and lay ministers, for their patience, understand-

ing, and support of loved ones whose service is to Christ's church, and we pray the Spirit continue to uphold them all in steadfastness and love.

Worship Highlights

"Becoming the Story We Tell" was the Diocesan mission in 2016, and this initiative was reflected in our worship, beginning in Lent and with echoes all through the year. Lessons, seminars, and devotions reflected the narrative of a Spirit-filled life centred on Christ's example and were used to frame the Lenten liturgy. As part of our Lenten exercise, a parish retreat was held at Villa Loyola, with services of Evening and Morning Prayer led by the Lay Readers and featuring contemplative studies of select Psalms.

The Church of the Ascension extended a Deanery-wide invitation for the customary crafting of palm crosses, and Palm/Passion Sunday was observed with the Liturgy of the Palms, multi-player reading of the Passion of Our Lord (the 11.00 AM rendition orchestrated by Luke Norton), and "Erbarme Dich" from Bach's St Matthew Passion, as arranged by Phillip Balson, Clare Andrews, and Colin Germond. The Triduum of Holy Week began with a fierce winter storm, commencing in the evening on Maundy Thursday, as the Rector and the Honorary Associate hosted a soup supper and afterwards lead a (consequently) small congregation through the traditional commemoration of the Last Supper, foot washing, and stripping of the altar. The all-night Chapel Vigil was held again this year, to mark time with Christ during His Agony, and the Rector and Honorary Associate led the Good Friday BAS Liturgy, with the sermon provided by Lay Reader Brent Leigh. Easter Day commemorated the Resurrection and Great Victory of Our Lord with two services.

On June 5, our Church hosted an afternoon service for the Sacrament of Confirmation by the Right Reverend Dr Stephen Andrews, Bishop of Algoma, with candidates standing from the Church of the Ascension, the Church of the Epiphany, St James Church (Massey), and St Alban the Martyr (Capreol). 20 young people and adults were Confirmed, Received, or Reaffirmed by the Bishop (with one additional adult candidate from our parish Received a week later at All Saints Church, in Coniston). The service provided an opportunity also to hold a Farewell Celebration in honour Bishop Stephen and Mrs Fawna Andrews, in the wake of the Bishop taking up the calling of an appointment as Principal of Wycliffe College, and gifts and sentiments of gratitude and well-wishes were given by and on behalf of the Ascension. The Andrews family would be present with us again in December, however, with Bishop Stephen administering the Sacrament of Baptism for his grandson, Elliot Andrews-Norton, and giving the sermon as guest Preacher.

The Ascension was privileged to host the Annual Diocesan Lay Readers' Conference over the weekend of September 29-October 1, which opened with a Taizé Worship service on the Friday evening, held a service of Eucharist on Saturday, followed by workshops and seminars, and ended Sunday with the weekly Communion liturgy, the sermon being given by the Reverend Dr Jay Koyle.

The traditional Advent Lessons and Carols service was in the second week of Advent, with many Lectors and Intercessors participating; at the 11.00 AM service, Clare Andrews, Phillip Balson, and Colin Germond again provided the anthem, this year it being "Jesu, der du meine Seele".

The third week of Advent featured the annual Christmas pageant, jointly presented by children and young people from the Church of the Ascension, the Church of the Epiphany, and members of the L'Arche Community of Sudbury, who played the principle roles in a very familiar story that was made altogether new again.

Christmas Eve services were again scheduled at 4.00 PM and 8.00 PM. The "all-ages"-oriented 4.00 PM service included many young families, and built the story and themes through a lens of the "A-B-Cs" of Christmas, as narrated by children and young people from the parish. The 8.00 PM Christmas Eve service offered the more traditional celebration, but one no less wonderful. Christmas Day fell on the Sunday this year, and the service of Eucharist also featured a Baptism (Rev Anne's great-niece!), with the congregation of 35 celebrating the Sacraments and the Nativity of Our Lord on a sunny and bright winter's morning.

2016 By the Numbers

Aggregate Weekly Average Attendance: 115 (111 in 2015)

Total 2016 Attendance:	6013	(5796 in 2015)
Easter Sunday 9.00 AM:	53	(51 in 2015; 52 in 2014)
Easter Sunday 11.00 AM:	123	(155 in 2015; 152 in 2014)
Christmas Eve 4.00 PM:	115	(115 in 2015; 188 at 7.00 PM in 2014)
Christmas Eve 8.00 PM:	131	(130 in 2015; 48 at 9.30 in 2014)

Submitted In Faithful Service to God and the Church of the Ascension, on behalf of the Worship Committee

W. Brent Leigh

Messy Church

This past year we continued to run a monthly Messy Church, with themes including The Bread and the Fish, Lent, and Jonah and the Whale. Each Messy Church saw many returning families and some new faces. Everyone attended enjoyed the meal, fellowship, crafts and hearing more of God's word.

Messy Church is a wonderful new way to worship.

This year we were able to make a donation of \$50.00 to Messy Church Canada.

Thank you to everyone that has helped and continues to help make Messy Church possible at the Ascension.

Respectfully submitted

Cindy

Excerpts from Rev. Anne's Funeral Sermons for Parishioners –

Myrna Sheppard

Without any effort at all I can still remember the first time I met her – that was nearly 16 years ago. She came up to me with Mike by her side and said, “You’ll have a hard time remembering all of our names, but when you look at me and Mike, just think of M and M candies and you’ll never forget who we are.” And you know, I never did. I see her all over the place – working year after year at the summer Vacation Bible School – always the first to arrive on her bike so she could welcome the early birds; for many years she helped in the nursery taking care of little ones; and she was an active member of the ACW, sending out birthday cards to the newly baptised for years.

And I can see her too with her bright energy and wit and her chatter – the reporter of news from far and wide. Sonesh told me this week that when someone from the church called the house and asked who he was, that when he said his name the person replied that she knew all about Sonesh- such was the detail and such the delight with which Myrna relayed stories of her family and loved ones.

But Myrna was also the pray –er in the pews; the sister who grieved for years following the death of her brother; who made sure that there were flowers in the church several times a year in memory of Rodney, and her parents Dorothy and Gilbert and in thanksgiving for blessings received. This was the woman who never gave up believing that God would hear her prayer for the healing of Sonesh's mother Naina, or her own. This was the determined mother who lived for the trips she made out west to be present at her son's and her daughter's wedding. This was the generous person who supported a child through World Vision for years because this is what Jesus would want his friends to do.

Eddie Gudbranson

There was no prouder man at the Church of the Ascension Remembrance Day liturgy than Eddie Gudbranson. He stood tall and proud in front of the congregation with the other veterans as we made our way through the short service – prayers, act of remembrance, names of fallen comrades, silence Last Post, Reveille. Eddie's part came last – he read McRae's poem, In Flanders Fields. Over the years we had it pretty well down pat and I never worried that things would be done out of order – Eddie was always there to guide us. This year was different though, Eddie was not well and another of our veterans unable to join us. On one of my visits to Eddie's home I suggested that we have our own Remembrance Day service with Eddie there, a practice run for the real thing. Eddie agreed and just three weeks ago Donna and Sandra, Bryan and



Remembrance Day—Rev. Anne at home with Eddie Gudbranson

Derek gathered in Eddie's room. Bryan and Derek had downloaded the music and I had the prayers and readings. Eddie wore his blue beret and when the time came for the salute, he gave one of the best. It was a prayer service like no other and I thought we all did very well. Later though, when Sandra asked him what he thought, Eddie said – "You all looked like fools – you'll need a lot more practice if you're ever going to get it right for Remembrance Day."

Floyd Laking

But the Floyd I came to know in the last five years was very different. As Joyce's illness progressed Floyd's role in their lives changed and he was the one to take the lead, the one who became the good (little g) and gentle shepherd (little s) for her. And what a good shepherd he was, guiding her, guarding her, ensuring that every one of her needs was met when she could not do that for herself. We witnessed this at the Ascension Sunday after Sunday as they attended worship together. Their faith was so important to them both and they were an integral part of this community. Floyd's actions were better than any sermon I ever preached and although he never sat on a board or committee he gave us all an example of servant leadership.

I want to tell you just one of many stories of Floyd's extraordinary love and devotion for Joyce. It happened in the spring of 2015 just a few months before Floyd would begin his first radiation treatment. Floyd called me at home to say that he had a favour to ask me. Joyce had trouble falling asleep at night and so he would sing to her and that seemed to settle her down. But his voice was tired and he was a hopeless singer – so he wondered if he brought over a tape recorder if I would sing the song he sang to her into it and he would play that for Joyce instead. And so I did....you are my sunshine my only sunshine you make me happy when skies are grey....

Floyd embodied the words of the passage we just listened to from Paul's letter to the Corinthians – love is patient and kind but more than that...it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things endures all things...love never ends.

The kind of love that St. Paul is writing about isn't a human love but the love of God – agape love. It's the ultimate kind of love that is unconditional and that asks nothing in return for itself.

Jean Aceti

In the years since then, I came to know Jean as a woman who lived out her faith in the way she knew best – by using the gifts that God had given her to enhance the mission of our church. This usually involved food of some description which she was giving away. The Ascension is committed to feeding the hungry and Jean played her part by loading her trunk with non perishable food items which we then distributed to the students at an alternative high school, or to the Elgin Street Mission.

Twice a year Jean would arrive at the church heavy laden with her beautiful baking, and knitted goods for the bi annual church tea. They would be sold out within a very short order. In spite of declining health Jean continued to bake and prepare her red pepper jelly – I believe we even had a small batch last year.

And when we planned and built the Fellowship Hall in 2004 and completed it in 2006, the same year that Jean turned 80, she wanted to do something to give thanks for



The "Dove of Peace" stained glass window in the Fellowship Hall, given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the time and talents of those who built the hall, was rededicated in loving memory of Jean Aceti .

the talented men and women who had offered their time to build the hall. She donated the two stunning stained glass windows, created by her nephew Dale and Alice Ford, and we dedicated them at a party in her honour. The Dove of Peace window will be rededicated in Jean's name during the reception today.

Perhaps the most precious time I spent with Jean were the quiet moments of prayer and communion that we shared together. I know that Dave and Noella Fowler who also took communion to Jean will attest to how much they meant to Jean. No longer able to attend church regularly, we brought church and the sacrament to Jean thus

reminding her that the community she had been a part of for so long were holding her in prayer. On those occasions I saw the tender side of Jean as she wept as she received the body of Christ.

Isabel Smith

The writer of Ecclesiastes in the passage read today describes life so perfectly, doesn't it? ... "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to speak and a time to keep silence." (Ecc.3)

Life is full of different moments, and when they come together they look something like a multi coloured quilt – the light and colourful moments of joy and happiness of ease and success, sewn in there with the dark times of sadness, sickness, sorrow and loss.

Isabel's life was filled with many beautiful moments and colours – happy times in her early childhood, and teenage years with friends, having a career she enjoyed at the Globe and Mail, and then creating a home for her husband Ross and daughter Cindy. They loved their trailer at Dry Pine Camp in the French River area, and Cindy remembers how her mum loved being around people, entertaining friends, volunteering at the local school helping children with reading and enjoying a game of bridge or bowling with friends. I believe that some of her card playing friends are here today.

Rob has a very special memory of Isabel and her sweet tooth. One night at their trailer when he found Isabel opening Tupperware containers and eating candy out of them!

The strong thread that wound its way through Isabel's life was the thread of God's love for her and her love for and faith in God. Isabel knew without any doubt that she was a beloved child of God, and that God's love for her was there for her before she was born, and that it would still be there after she died.

While her world was falling down around her, Isabel held onto the certain knowledge that God was holding her safely and that he had nothing to fear. Her dependence on God made her spiritually free and she knew that, "neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, would be able to come between her and the love of God, known to her in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:38-39)

Envelope Secretary.

In January of 2016 we started with a new envelope secretary and a computerized 'Donations' program. It has been working quite well.

The accompanying print-out shows our donations by the Dollar Ranges. After this year it will show a comparison between the two previous years.

Note: The \$0.01 - \$50 and the \$50 - \$100 figures are inflated by donations given by guests.

Ralph Mounter

Totals by Dollar Ranges for the Last Two Years

Dollar Range	2015				2016			
	Count	%	Total	%	Count	%	Total	%
\$0.01 - \$50	0		\$0.00		51	25.8	\$1,606.25	1.1
\$50.01 - \$100	0		\$0.00		22	11.1	\$1,969.70	1.3
\$100.01 - \$200	0		\$0.00		16	8.1	\$2,743.00	1.8
\$200.01 - \$300	0		\$0.00		19	9.6	\$5,065.00	3.4
\$300.01 - \$400	0		\$0.00		11	5.6	\$4,063.00	2.7
\$400.01 - \$500	0		\$0.00		3	1.5	\$1,400.00	0.9
\$500.01 - \$600	0		\$0.00		8	4.0	\$4,490.00	3.0
\$600.01 - \$700	0		\$0.00		3	1.5	\$1,926.00	1.3
\$700.01 - \$800	0		\$0.00		5	2.5	\$3,713.00	2.5
\$800.01 - \$900	0		\$0.00		2	1.0	\$1,740.00	1.2
\$900.01 - \$1000	0		\$0.00		6	3.0	\$5,704.48	3.8
\$1,000.01 - \$1500	0		\$0.00		21	10.6	\$25,530.61	17.2
\$1,500.01 - \$2000	0		\$0.00		15	7.6	\$25,473.05	17.2
\$2,000.01 - \$3000	0		\$0.00		7	3.5	\$16,865.00	11.4
\$3,000.01 - \$4000	0		\$0.00		3	1.5	\$11,195.00	7.5
\$4,000.01 - \$5000	0		\$0.00		3	1.5	\$12,770.00	8.6
\$6,000.01 - \$7000	0		\$0.00		1	0.5	\$6,420.00	4.3
\$7,000.01 - \$8000	0		\$0.00		2	1.0	\$15,705.00	10.6
Totals:	0		\$0.00		198		\$148,379.09	

Nominating Committee

Rector's Warden (Appointed)	Erma Howe
Peoples' Warden (to be elected)	Jennifer Ames (willing to stand)
Deputy Warden (to be elected)	Brent Leigh (willing to stand)
Ex- Officio (Appointed)	
Treasurer	Cathy Dionne
Envelope Secretary	Ralph Mounter
Vestry Clerk	Cathy Jewell

Lay Delegates to Synod:

2 lay delegates and 2 alternates to be elected at Vestry

Representatives of Church Groups

ACW	Cathy Dionne
Altar Guild	Anne Trimmer
Property	Wardens
Child and Youth Ministry	Cindy Caines
Worship	Brent Leigh
Pastoral Care/Visiting	Rev. Anne
Parish Life/Outreach inc. OOTC	Kathryn Greenidge/Marie Vitone
Youth Rep	Megan Trimmer
Indigenous Activities	Erma Howe
ARK Rep	Jane Cox
Memorial	Pippa Howard

Members at Large (Listed below are those members from 2016 who are willing to let their name stand on the Board)

At December's Board meeting, we voted to cap Members at Large to 10 members. If this number exceeds 10, we will need to have an election at Vestry.

Gary Bate
Lori Cameron
Doug Frozel
Beaumont Nelson
Michael Sheppard

Other positions that do not require attendance at meetings

Bulletin Editor	Glenn Lloyd
PWRDF Rep.	Pippa Howard
Webmaster	Kath Greenidge
Parish Auditor	Dave Fowler

From our Vestry Books - 2016

Baptisms in 2016

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." (BAS Baptism service)

Ellen Elizabeth Hooper May 16th

Elliot Thomas Norton December 18th

Owen Alexander Asunmaa November
13th

Scarlett Juliet Germond - Philips Decem-
ber 25th.

Confirmations

"Strengthen your servants O Lord in the power of the Holy Spirit"

Tucker Theodore Barry Belanger

Ty James Parsons

Mia Grace Buttarella

Owen Charles Parsons

Jillian Leah Kadwell

Ashton Currie Roy

Sarah Cheyanne Jacobs

Avery Nolan Roy

Sky Autumn Jacobs

Priscilla Allurut

Sierra Rain Jacobs

Robert Ian Caines

Jayna Elsie Lynne Martin

Nancy Jane Nauss- Belanger

Nathan Willian Nicholas Linton

Shannon Anne McNichol Parsons

Howard Beaumont Wefflen Nelson

Jane Elizabeth Cox (June 18th)

Joan Mary Servent

June 5th, 2016. Bishop Stephen Andrews

Received into the Anglican Church of Canada

Marriages

"Love is patient and kind."

Christopher Charles Cawte and Malveon Joycelin Roberts - 11th June

Devin Weber and Maija Hirvi - 17th September

Justin David Cooper and Justin Danielle Gelinis 24th September

(Continued on page 51)

(Continued from page 50)

Funerals

"May they rest in peace and rise again in glory."

Theodore Grichen Lawrence

Mary Isabel Smith

Elizabeth Anne McCrea

Richard Gerald "Gerry" Lloyd

Douglas Winston Fielding

Myrna Sheppard

Jean Isabelle Aceti

Henri Charles Corcoran

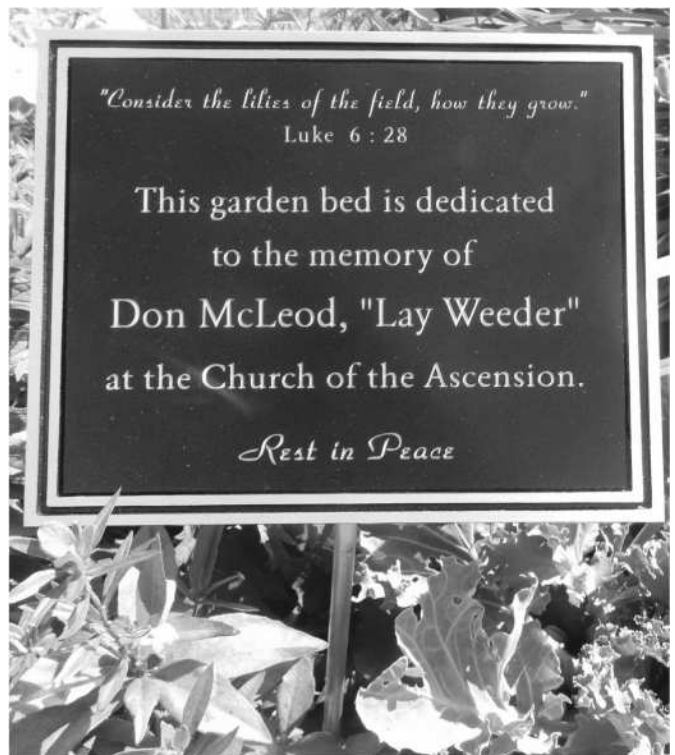
Floyd Allen Laking

Gerald Stanley Roberts

Nettie Darroch

Eddie Gudbranson

Lillian Ellen McCourt



2016-08-07 - Dedication of Garden Plaque in memory of Don McLeod

Church of the Ascension Memorials

Memorial gifts are often given at the time of a person's death in lieu of flowers. It is a way to say that the person was important, and it gives the family and their friends the opportunity to honour that person's life. Memorial gifts do not always have to come when a person dies. Some may be given on the anniversary of a death, or at other times in the year.

At the Church of the Ascension there are a number of avenues for memorial gifts to be made.

To the 'Memorial Fund' (the bank account is held at RBC). Traditionally the funds are used for items for the altar such as holy hardware, banners, altar linen, communion sets, or gowns.

Funds can be given to the 'Special Project Fund' (RBC Bank account) which can be used for any special project eg. A special building project or another project which the parish considers worthwhile.

In recent years families have also requested that memorial donations be made to the Rev. Anne Germond Fund (Rector's discretionary fund used for outreach purposes held at RBC).

Memorials may also be made to the General Operating Fund, the Outreach Fund, or to the Building Fund (Funds held in CIBC).

Procedure for Memorial donations.

Families are asked to consult with the parish following the death of a loved one in selecting which avenue they wish the memorial funds to be directions. Once the family has decided on the avenue, donations are made through the funeral home or through the weekly offering.

The offering Counters ensure that the donations are deposited into the correct place (Memorial, Special Project, Rev. Anne Germond, Operating, or Building)

The Envelope Secretary keeps track of donations given in memory of a particular person and ensures that the parish treasurer is aware of this. The Envelope Secretary ensures that tax receipts are issued to the donors and that the family of the deceased is made aware of the donations so that they can send out thank you cards. A memorial record is kept so that regular reports can be given to the Rector and Memorial Committee members, and an annual report made at the Vestry meeting. Action – Ascension Memorial Card?

The Rector of the parish or a member of the Memorial Committee communicates with the family of the deceased to notify them of the amount that has been given and to begin a discussion about what is to become of the money.

The leaders of the church should decide the purpose for which gifts may be used, and maintain a list of desired gifts. The leadership should be aware of the various memorial avenues available to families. They should include gifts that are costly as well as gifts of lesser amounts. Each group within the parish should be encouraged to prepare a 'wish list' for their particular group. Eg. The Sunday school might need items for Godly Play, the nursery or the parish youth, and the property committee might have suggestions for upgrades to the building (including regular upkeep) that should be included. Church leaders should also include program gifts such as purchasing a Bible Study program, VBS curriculum. There are also the potential outreach gifts such as donations to the local Mission or scholarships at Barrydowne College. The list should be revised annually and updated whenever a particular gift has been designated. The rector or members of the Memorial Committee meet with family members to discuss selection of memorial items. Once the item is chosen it will be purchased. If there is insufficient money for the item in the particular fund the family should be given the opportunity to come up with additional funds to fulfill their gift selection, or asked to choose an item of lesser value.

If the item requires a plaque, this is ordered by the Memorial Committee in conjunction with the family. Appropriate wording is important.

A date for the dedication of the item is arranged with family members and they are invited to church to attend the dedication service which happens during regular worship after the Prayers of the People. Following the service of dedication the family of the deceased should be thanked for their gift.

The Sunday closest to All Saints Day is designated as Memorial Sunday when the names of the deceased are read out in church.

Parishioners are given the opportunity to make regular memorial or thank offerings through the placing of flowers in the church.

The Church of the Ascension Memorial Committee and leaders should consider inviting parishioners to consider legacy gifts. Don McLeod suggested the formation of an Endowment Fund.

The Memorial Committee, in consultation with the rector of the parish and wardens, decides what to do with memorials that are worn or used beyond repair. Memorials that no longer reflect the purpose for which they were intended should be disposed of in a respectful manner. If the item is required it should be added to the list of memorials for replacement.

Church of the Ascension Memorial Committee members (2016) - The incumbent – The Ven. Anne Germond; Anne Trimmer, Gladys Abigail, Pippa Howard, Cora Felbel. Ralph Mounter is the Envelope Secretary and should be in on Memorial discussions, and so should the treasurer, Cathy Dionne.

Memorial Donations in 2016

The "Dove of Peace" stained glass window in the Fellowship Hall, given to the glory of God and in gratitude for the time and talents of those who built the hall, was rededicated in loving memory of Jean Aceti.

Burses (photo on page 18) given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of women – God mothers and grandmothers – Margaret E. Leigh, and Claudette Carroll, the Rev. Sharon Murdoch and the Ven. Anne Germond; by Brent and Marcia Leigh .

Memorial Garden dedicated to the memory of Don McLeod



2016-12-18 - Baptism of Elliot Norton with grandparents, Bishop Stephen Andrews, Fawna Andrews, Anne Germond, & with Mom, Clare Andrews & Dad, Luke Norton.

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 ONT P3B-4G7

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		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Children's ministry teachers			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pastoral visitors			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lay readers			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Outreach team members		✓		✓	✓		✓

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 January 10th, 2014

Incumbent Germond

Warden [Signature]

Warden [Signature]



Honouring Del Gate



2016-08-08 – VBS Cave Quest vacationers with leader Beverley van der Jagt enjoying one of the action songs learned during the VBS week.
