

## Pastoral Letter #63 – February 26, 2009

Dear Friends:

As we begin Lent, the Psalmist offers a prayer and a reflection:

“Examine me O God and know my heart, test me and discover my thoughts . . . and lead me in the way everlasting”.

Psalm 139:23, 24

1. Theological students, Brian and Wilma Woods, from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, will serve as lay pastors in the Good Shepherd Parish from February 1 to September 30, 2009 and as Lay Hospital Chaplains from May 1 to September 30, 2009.
2. The Rev. Caroline Pinchbeck will be visiting our Diocese from April 14 to May 27. Caroline serves the Diocese of Canterbury and Rochester in England as Rural Life Advisor. As well she is Priest in Charge of the Parish of Eastling in the Diocese of Canterbury. This partnership visit will enable Caroline to learn about rural ministry as she serves in the Parish of Lintlaw/Endeavour.
3. The Rev. Gordon Lines is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Saskatoon. I have received Letters of Bene Decessit from the Metropolitan of British Columbia and the Yukon. Welcome to on our clergy roster, Gordon.
4. Reminder: Clergy who are not canonically resident in the Diocese of Saskatoon require my permission to officiate in the Diocese. Please consult me before issuing invitations to clergy to officiate in one of our churches.
5. The Rev. Joe Ponc is serving a six month appointment as Interim Priest of St. Peter’s Church, Revelstoke, B.C. in the Diocese of Kootenay.
6. The Rev. Canon Jim Halmarson has been appointed Chair of the Stewardship Working Group of the Diocese.  
  
Jim has resigned as a member of the Bishop’s Committee on Postulancy for Ordination in order to free up more time for the Stewardship Working Group. Thank you, Jim, for your service on the Committee.
7. The Rev. Canon Colin Clay has been appointed to the Bishop’s Advisory Committee on Postulancy for Ordination.
8. Canon Lorea Eufemia has been appointed representative from the Diocese to the Saskatoon Native Ministry Board of Directors.
9. Congratulations to the Rev. Amy Bunce who has created a very attractive Youth Bible Study published by L’Arche.

10. Please keep the Rev. Joanne Beacon, who previous served the Humboldt/Watson parishes, and the Anglican/Lutheran Parish of Ridgeway (Diocese of Niagara) in your prayers.

The St. Luke's Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada) caught fire last Saturday night and completely burned to the ground.

11. Congratulations to Katie Nichol-Harmon and Jason Harmon of Humboldt on the birth of their son Darius on February 12, 2009. Katie is the Music Director of St. Andrew's Church, Humboldt. Many people know Katie from her musical contributions at St. James Church, Saskatoon and at the Diocesan Synod and a past member of Diocesan Council.
12. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Milton Harvey (past member of Diocesan Council) on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Marie Harvey, in Wynyard.
13. Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Pat Skinner, Honorary Lay Secretary of our Synod, on the death of her mother, Mrs. Edna Silvester, in Lloydminster
14. The Right Rev. Randolph George, Bishop of Guyana, retired at the end of December 2008. Please continue to pray for Bishop George and his wife Sheila as well as our Companion Diocese of Guyana as they seek a new Bishop.
15. The Renewal of Baptismal and Ordination Vows and the Blessing of Oils will take place **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2009** at St. John's Cathedral. Clergy are invited to robe. The liturgical colour will be red.

Lunch will be served following the service. Please RSVP to Shauna Milner before Thursday, April 2 at 306-244-5651 or by e-mail at [anglicansynod1@sasktel.net](mailto:anglicansynod1@sasktel.net)

Note : Parking at the Cathedral will be at a premium that day. A few spaces will be available along the north side of the Cathedral Hall. Clergy are encouraged to car pool or to use public transit.

16. The semi-annual Diocesan Clergy Conference will be held May 5-7 at Jackfish Lodge on Jackfish Lake, north of North Battleford. All clergy are expected to attend. Conference registration will be at 2 pm and the conference will begin at 3 pm. The Right Rev. Patrick Yu, Bishop of York-Scarborough in the Diocese of Toronto, will facilitate. A letter of invitation will be sent out to all clergy during the week of March 5, 2009.

Thank you to the clergy of the Western Deanery who have taken responsibility for organizing the Conference.

17. Delegates to Provincial Synod will be receiving information about the forthcoming Synod. Synod will be held Thursday, June 11 to Sunday June 14, 2009 at the University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta. Elected delegates are encouraged to note the dates and begin planning for their travel and attendance.
18. The Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, Georgia is from May 18 to 22. Several of our clergy, and one clergy spouse, will be attending this premier event that attracts around 2000 preachers from mainline churches in North America. The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu and the Rev. Barbara Brown Taylor will be speakers on the opening night. Registrations are still open – check <http://www.goodpreacher.com/festival/>.
19. Five of our clergy have been selected to attend the St. Clement's College for Excellence in Preaching in Toronto Ontario from November 2 to 9, 2009. Each year St. Clement's Church, Toronto invites participants

from two dioceses to join the priests selected from the Diocese of Toronto. We are grateful to them for this opportunity for our clergy.

## 20. **The 50 Refugee Families Project**

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is encouraging settlement of at least 50 refugee families in Canada as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of the Fund. At our Diocesan Council meeting February 7, 2009, we agreed to sponsor one, and possibly two, families in our Diocese this year. This is an opportunity for each parish to become involved in refugee sponsorship by assisting families to become established in Canada. Many people have been waiting in refugee camps for years for this opportunity.

Some parishes and individuals have already committed themselves, financially and as volunteers, to this project. Members of Diocesan Council are familiar with the plan and would welcome the opportunity to share this project with your parish.

Our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, says "Sponsoring refugees provides us with a tangible opportunity to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless". The Primate points out that refugee sponsorship conveys many benefits for parishes. "It provides opportunities to grow and transform, to discover untapped resources, to learn about social justice and advocacy, and to look outside of ourselves".

Please promote the work of the Primate's Fund during Lent. Please implement the suggestions I made in my letter to the parishes on January 26 such as the use of PWRDF boxes and designating a Sunday during Lent as PWRDF Sunday.

21. The Diocese of Rupert's Land is considering sponsoring a three day workshop on *The Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry (Interim Ministry)* in Winnipeg September 15 to 17, 2009. They are seeking expressions of interest. If you would be interested in attending such a conference please contact Susan Suppes at [ssupes@rupertsland.anglican.ca](mailto:ssupes@rupertsland.anglican.ca).
22. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon wishes to initiate a new stage of dialogue with the Anglican Diocese of Saskatoon. Their hope is to focus on the work of the International Anglican – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and Mission. They would like to consider the implementation of practical measures that reflect the growing communion between our two churches. Bishop LeGatt has given his approval to proceed. Mr. Nic Jesson is leading this project. If you are interested in being an Anglican participant, please contact me.
23. Most of our churches participated in the Amazing Grace project last November – "sing Amazing Grace and contribute a loonie". Thank you for your contributions. \$ 73,000 was contributed from across the country to support the work of the Council of the North in our missionary dioceses.

Congratulations to those parishes who submitted a video of their congregation singing Amazing Grace. Anglican video sent each of them a copy of the composite video.

24. ***"To Strive to Safeguard the Integrity of Creation, and Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth"*** is the fifth Mark of Mission of the Anglican Communion.

In this vein the Ukrainian and Roman Catholic Bishops of Saskatchewan, together with the Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran Bishops, issued a joint statement:

*“BISHOPS CALL FOR CRITICAL REFLECTION ON URANIUM MINING AND A PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN SASKATCHEWAN.”*

The statement is attached. I am forwarding to you with the hope that it will help our parishioners approach this timely question in light of our responsibility as stewards of creation and as responsible Christian citizens.

25. The dates of the Annual Clergy Retreat will be February 8 to 11, 2010. Clergy are asked to mark their calendars now.

26. Please note that the Pension Office of the Anglican Church of Canada has moved to a new location near Church House. Their new address is: 625 Church Street, Suite 401, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2G1. Their toll free number is 1-800-265-1070 or direct at 416-968-7689.

Kevin Martin, in his book “5 Keys for Church Leaders: Building a Strong, Vibrant and Growing Church” examines the five aspects of congregational life that are key to the development and growth of a strong congregation:

- Build the Team
- Pay Attention to the Generations
- Tend the Two Doors
- Keep Healthy
- Raise the Stewardship Level

“God of the desert, as we follow Jesus into the unknown, may we recognise the tempter when he comes; let it be your bread we eat, your world we serve and you alone we worship”. *A New Zealand Prayer Book p. 573.*

Yours sincerely,

+ Rodney

Rodney Andrews  
Bishop of Saskatoon

## BISHOPS CALL FOR CRITICAL REFLECTION ON URANIUM MINING AND A PROPOSED NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN SASKATCHEWAN

The Bishops of the Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Ukrainian Catholic churches in Saskatchewan call on their members and all Saskatchewan citizens to consider with care the issues surrounding the proposed expansion of the uranium industry in Saskatchewan and make their views known to the Government of Saskatchewan.

The Government of Saskatchewan is exploring “value-added” initiatives to expand the uranium industry in our province, including the possibility of a nuclear power plant being built in Saskatchewan. Bruce Power, the country’s only private nuclear generating company, has deemed an area of Saskatchewan (roughly from Lloydminster to Prince Albert) to be a potentially suitable site for such a development. In March 2009 a government-appointed panel is expected to make recommendations regarding such initiatives. It is critical that any recommendations be made only after full and open consultation with the people of this province.

Christian churches affirm that God created the earth and that God continues to establish and preserve a just and ordered life for all creation. Human beings are part of the vast ecosystem of the planet. Choices made by human beings must respect God’s creation in its careful interrelationship of earth, water, air and all living things. Exploiting the earth’s resources without regard for the consequences is sinful against God and God’s creation, according to Christian belief. Technology and economic development, including mining and power generation, must be subject to critical reflection in light of the impact that such actions have on people and the environment in the present and into the future.

The Bishops recognize the global need for urgent action on climate change and the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-burning power plants in Saskatchewan. They appreciate the intention of the Government in proposing nuclear power to reduce emissions. At the same time, they see the necessity for careful examination of the costs and benefits of a range of energy options and encourage the Government to invite public participation in developing a new energy strategy for Saskatchewan.

The Bishops call on Premier Brad Wall, Crown Corporations Minister Ken Cheveldayoff, Environment Minister Nancy Heppner, Energy and Resources Minister Bill Boyd, First Nations Minister June Draude, Enterprise Saskatchewan Minister Lyle Stewart, and the Government of Saskatchewan to provide adequate opportunities for Saskatchewan citizens to engage in open, informed discussion based on unbiased and complete information before the Government acts on recommendations from the nuclear industry or the government-appointed panel.

- +Rodney Andrews, Anglican Bishop of Saskatoon
- +Bryan Bayda, CSsR, Ukrainian Eparchial Bishop of Saskatoon
- +Cynthia G Halmarson, Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
- +Daniel Bohan, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Regina
- +Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Anglican Bishop of Qu’Appelle
- +Albert Legatt, Roman Catholic Bishop of Saskatoon
- +Albert Thévenot, M. Afr., Roman Catholic Bishop of Prince Albert