



*a Faith Community in the  
Anglican Church of Canada*

October 22, 2021

228 Pearl Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

---

*Dear Sisters and Brothers*

When I was just a boy, J R R Tolkien became one of my favorite authors. In his stories about the hobbits, he wrote: ‘Few can foresee whither their road will lead them, till they come to its end.’

When Nancy and I first moved to Thunder Bay nearly 8 years ago, we thought we had arrived at such an end. We found a place we love, among people that we love, and we thought this would be the place we retire.

There is a popular, trite-but-true, quip that says something along the lines of: ‘If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans..’ We didn’t expect our children and grandchildren to move to New England. We didn’t anticipate that God might have something else – another ‘one more time’ for us.

Our time here has been very rich in the things that we treasure. ‘Conventional wisdom’ says that as people age, making new, good friends gets harder. That ‘conventional wisdom’ didn’t originate in Thunder Bay. We have made amazing friends and have been privileged to be part of truly wonderful communities of life and faith.

It has not been a journey without ‘the shadow of death’, as we saw the ‘death’ of both St Luke’s and St John the Evangelist Churches. Both of these parishes had long histories and important ministries. Nevertheless, the Good Shepherd has been at our side – at our ‘very elbow’ – through it all, bringing life out of death in the Easter story of how Gathering Table came into being.

Even then, our life together as part of Gathering Table hasn’t been without the shadow of what C S Lewis called ‘lenten lands’. The shadow of COVID and pandemic protocols has been deep, dark and long. Nevertheless, once again, we have found our Good Shepherd walking at our very elbow. We know that the ‘lenten lands’ will give way to the new resurrection life of another Easter experience, even if we, like the first disciples, will undoubtedly be surprised at what that ‘new life’ may look like.

We have laughed together so much. We have cried together so much. We have worshipped together, shared ministry together, studied together and cared for one another. I hope and pray, that as our time together draws to a close, that all those things will continue. I hope and pray that each of you will continue to discover, and live into, your belovedness. I hope and pray that you as a ‘faith community’ will continue to discover, and live into, your belovedness.

I don’t know what lies ahead for you. I am confident, however, that whatever the road looks like, the Good Shepherd will be there with you all the way.

I can’t begin to thank everyone who has shared this amazing journey with us. This letter would run into a book. Please know that whatever your part has been, whether clearly visible or ‘in the background’, I have seen you. To say ‘thank you’ feels quite inadequate, but I find myself at the limit of what language expresses.

When I come to try to speak of what this land means to me, I am again beyond the limits of language. On occasion, I have shared with you that the Anishinaabe name that was given to me in ceremony in the current Fort William First Nation, means something like ‘Man Walking Down a Road’. There are many layers to a name, but now it is time for me to walk a different road – a road that leads away.

Because this land owns me, I can never fully leave. I carry it in my heart, as I will carry you always in my heart, walking down this other road. Thank you – chi miigwech – for allowing us into your lives and hearts. Thank you for the privilege of having shared this part of our journeys. I have spoken so much about the great need for us to know our belovedness as children of God. Please know that you are beloved as well by us. Mitakuye-Oyasin. **Indinawe maaganidog** We are all related.

Godspeed.

George+

---

### ***Saying ‘So Long’ to Pastor George***

This Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, will be Pastor George’s last Sunday with us. It has all happened so very quickly. We cannot hold any special coffee or this type of event. There will be a card for you to write on when you arrive to sign-in. There will be a basket in the event you want to give a special card.

If you would like to make a monetary gift to Pastor George and Nancy to help them with their travel and moving expenses, you can put it in an envelope in the basket; you can drop it in to the church mail box; or you can send an e-transfer indicating that it is for Pastor George and Nancy. Use the security question “What is the first name of our Pastor?” (answer: George). Even though Pastor George will be leaving shortly, and you would like to send a gift, we will gather them together and make sure George and Nancy receive them.

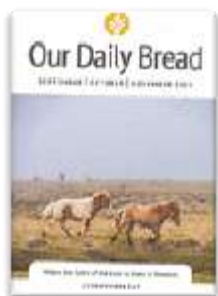
Note that these gifts are not eligible as charitable donations.

---

### ***Reminder about Visitations***

Pastoral care visits will continue to be restricted to emergency situations – please call the office if such a situation arises or The Rev. Gail M. Clifton at 768-9865 or email: [gailx2@shaw.ca](mailto:gailx2@shaw.ca).

***Available at the Office – please call the office to make arrangements to pick them up.***



Our Daily Bread for  
September to November and  
December to February  
2022 Church Calendars are  
available for \$5.00 each  
2022 Offering Envelopes will  
be available shortly



***Seeking Volunteers to work on the Technology Production Team***

The Sunday broadcasts are an integral part of our services and church life. We are in need of volunteers to make the experience an even better one. The Goal is to have a minimum of 2 teams of 3 persons per Sunday with 3 teams being optimal.

The roles are: **Camera and Media** using Vmix; **Projection Media Visuals** using Powerpoint; and **Sound** using an Allen & Heath QU Chrome Edition Mixer via an iPad.

Training is available. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Sharon at [sjcorston@gmail.com](mailto:sjcorston@gmail.com) or 807-355-1549.

I look forward to hearing from you.

***Annual Christmas Bag Gift Bags For Seafarers***



**They need to be at the Seafarers' Centre by November 22.**

**Items that we would welcome include:** toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, razors, small shower gel and shampoo, socks, gloves, toques (home made or bought), chocolate. No scarfs as they are dangerous onboard.

An income tax receipt will be given for any cash/cheque donations. You can also donate online by going to 'Donate' on this website and choosing 'Christmas Appeal'.

Please call ahead if donations are to be left at the Mission to Seafarers located at 401 E. Waterfront Rd (over the flyover on Main St and turn left and to the end)

*Suggested donations include mittens, gloves, writing paper, and wrapped candy, or cash donations to purchase items need to complete the bags.*

In Christ's service **Canon Ed Swayze Chaplain**

For more information, including to volunteer, visit [www.missiontoseafarers.ca](http://www.missiontoseafarers.ca)



***Mission to Seafarers – Thunder Bay***

MTS-Thunder Bay is celebrating its 60th anniversary on Dec. 6, 2021. It will be holding a special Holy Communion service on that date at Our Saviour's. The Chair of the board of MTS-TB for 2021-2022: Pastor Matthew

Although the pandemic greatly affected operations in 2020, it was able to continue its ministry:

- -providing ministry to seafarers and port personnel who request its services (Chaplain: Canon Ed Swayze + 23 volunteers)
- **Mid-day Prayers:** Mid-Day Prayers and Coffee are being offered on a monthly basis on the first Wednesday of the month at noon: Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. We will continue it until we are able to resume holding the Eucharist. To join Zoom Prayers click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89162986646?pwd=T3A4aTVqZzVvYk5lQoE1Vm1RNTMvZz09>

**Gathering Table Prayer Chain**

During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to pray for one another. If you would like to be a part of the Gathering Table prayer chain or you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the prayer chain please contact

Sheila Chisholm at [chisholmsheilak@gmail.com](mailto:chisholmsheilak@gmail.com) or text /phone 306-240-0771.

**Office Hours:** 10:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
08:00am to noon, Fridays

**Honorary Assistant:** The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.  
Phone: 768-9865  
email: [gailx2@shaw.ca](mailto:gailx2@shaw.ca)

**Lay Readers:** Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill and Jim Sutton, **On Leave:** Kim Bienvenue, **Lay Reader in Training:** Richard Pepper

**Rector's Warden:** Marg Boone  
**Deputy Rector's Warden:** Dr. Michelle Proudfoot  
**People's Warden:** Jim Sutton  
**Deputy People's Warden:** Sheila Chisholm

**Co-Music Directors -** Pianist Donna Hamill  
Organist (Vacant)