

The title 'Grace Notes from Rev Ann' is displayed in large, blue, outlined letters. The text is overlaid on a background of autumn leaves in various colors (green, yellow, orange, red) arranged in a horizontal line across a rustic, blue-painted wooden plank surface.

Hi Gathering Table family! Now that Archbishop Anne has announced my appointment as incumbent, I am getting my first chance to check in with you. I will begin with a short bio and then give you an idea of what the wardens and I have been discussing about our vision for the early days of my time with you. Some of you likely know me from deanery activities over the past ten years. Here is a background of my life and ministry.

I was born and raised in Toronto in the Anglican tradition. My father was high Anglican and attended St. Mary Magdalene and St. Bartholomew's church in Toronto – lots of chanting, incense, and ritual. My mom was more comfortable in a less high church. I attended All Soul's Anglican as a child and as a teen when we moved to Scarborough, I attended St. Simon's Highland Creek. I was active in choir at both churches and youth group. I attended Anglican Church Camp, and it was there I learned to serve and also first felt called to priestly ministry at the age of 12. I attended university earning a BA and did some checking into possibly going to seminary but ended up studying education at Queen's. I became a



teacher/counsellor and moved out to Saskatchewan and became active in the Midlakes Parish. I was married for 21 years and raised two children Kimberley and Steven. While working in the counselling, education field, I was active in lay ministry. I attended seminary from 1997-2000 and graduated with my M.Div. I then was offered a pastorate in a Baptist church in Manitoba 2000-2004 which I served for three years and then a nondenominational church in Calgary which I served as associate pastor of pastoral care from 2005-2010. I was ordained in both those traditions, but I always felt my DNA was Anglican and I didn't quite fit. When I moved to Thunder Bay, I started to feel the desire to return to the Anglican fold and started to attend St. Paul's. Over the past ten years I have preached in numerous churches in town as pulpit supply, been a diocesan lay reader and leader of the St. Paul's praise band called The Ambassadors. I embarked on the postulancy process and took many Anglican studies classes. I have been helping with the shared ministry of St. Thomas and West Thunder Bay parish since April 2021, presiding at worship twice a month while continuing my roles at St. Paul's. I was ordained as a deacon Jan 15, 2022. I love Thunder Bay and plan to stay here long term. My adult children both live in Regina and I have 4 grandchildren, Josie 19 who lives with me while she attends LU nursing, Davey 15, Cameron 13, and Preston 11 who are in Regina. My older brother Bob is an Anglican priest who specializes in interim ministry in the Diocese of Toronto, and I have a younger sister Barb who lives in Kent, England. My favourite pastimes other than church are travel especially cruising, going to the gym, spending time with my friends and music: singing, playing guitar, attending symphony concerts etc.

I had a sense in 2020, while still early in the steps toward postulancy, that Gathering Table may be where God calls me. I sensed this when Rev George announced his upcoming departure. I began to pray for God to prepare the ground for wherever he would call me. I shared this with Archbishop Anne last November. Everything since then has confirmed God's hand in this appointment: my meeting with the great concurrence committee, the wardens and discussions with Archbishop Anne, Archdeacon Jay, and Archdeacon Deborah. I am excited about the opportunity to serve and minister with Gathering Table parish and I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Planning and Vision for the first weeks/months at Gathering Table.

The wardens and I have met twice and at our first meeting we talked about our vision for when I start. I am contracted for 80% time. This is good for both the parish and for me. I will be keeping several of my therapy clients at Sullivan and Associates. I am working with residential school survivors and these folks need stability in their therapy. My therapy day will be Monday unless there is a holiday in which case it will be a Tuesday. Those days I will only be available in case of emergency.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays will be Gathering Table pastoral days, Saturday morning will be for final service planning details and deanery meetings and Sunday morning will be for services.

Our priorities from the warden's meeting are:

1. Relationships – visiting people, meet with PAC, ministry groups such as the lay readers and EA's, food cupboard volunteers, children's ministry folks, music and worship leaders, etc. with consistent office hours at the church. Get to know the parish people and I commit to listen, listen and listen.
2. Getting people back to in person worship while being alert to covid considerations. We recognize the great value of our online ministry AND we also recognize the very great need for the family of Gathering Table to do just that...Gather. As a side note, I plan to do daily office morning prayer at 10am on Weds and Thursday in the church (Tuesday 9am I have clericus) and if anyone would like to join me, we can do that together.
3. Pastoral Care: hospital visits, nursing home visits and visits to those more confined to home. Bringing communion to those who are unable to attend in person.
4. Discipleship: restart the training up children, youth and offering adult learning opportunities, spiritual formation to enable people to walk out their baptismal calling in the church and in their community.

Sounds optimistic right? One thing you will notice about me when you meet me is I am an optimistic person. I think in possibility not limitation. The concurrence committee and wardens have shown the same vision. So, let's get to it!!!

Fall Harvest

The time of harvesting crops is upon us and the Altar Guild is calling on you to help with the **Harvest Sunday celebration - Sunday September 25th.**

With the relaxation of restrictions, we will once again enjoy a fully decorated church this year using your donations of fruits and vegetables, given in thanksgiving, for what has been grown and provided by farmers near and far.

Donated items may be dropped off at the church Friday 23rd before 11:30 or brought on Saturday 24th morning at 10:00 while members of the Guild are decorating. The produce will be given to our food clients following the service.

The Altar Guild has only 4 members at this time. We invite you to come and assist us with the filling of the wicker baskets. It would be a tremendous help. We are usually finished by 11:30.



Don't Miss Out on these Important Dates

September 1 to October 2	Season of Creation	
Sunday, September 18	Rev Ann Camber	1st Service
Saturday, September 24	Decorating the church for Harvest Sunday	Starting at 9:30 am (time to be confirmed)
Sunday, September 25	Harvest Sunday	Communion Service with Clergy officiating
Friday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Deanery and Diocesan service details tba
Sunday, October 2	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Sunday School begins tentatively Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service
Sunday, October 16	Celebrating 150 Years of Church Services at 228 Pearl St	Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service Possible Parish Event
Sunday, October 30		Photo directory pictures in the hall after the service



At the present time our numbers are low but with few Eucharistic services, this has been manageable. Like many, we are looking forward to a time with an incumbent and regular Eucharist. We are actively seeking people to join the Altar Guild to work along with us. You will not be carrying out the duties on your own, we do hands-on training and team sharing.

Please speak to Marg Boone, Rose Jardine, Audrey Love or Erminie Reid if you are curious about what this "behind the scenes" group accomplishes.

Margaret Boone—mboone@tbaytel.net
807-345-2184

Rose Jardine—roseanew@tbaytel.net
807-625-5515

Ermine Reid— dandereid@shaw.ca
807-767-4566



228 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Phone: 807-345-6898
E-mail: office@gatheringtable.ca
Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088
Web: gatheringtable.ca

Service Time: Sunday at 10:00 am
Food Bank Open: 2nd and 4th Sundays starting at 11:30 am

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 2:00 pm
Friday 8:00 am to noon

Pastor: Rev Ann Camber
Phone: 807-285-9446
Mobile: tba
Email: rector@gatheringtable.ca

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.
Phone: 768-9865

Lay Readers: Kim Bienvenue, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill , Richard Pepper, Frances Bennett-Sutton, Jim Sutton

Rector's Warden: David Reid
Deputy Rector's Warden: vacant
People's Warden: Jim Sutton
Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Co – Music Directors: Vacant (Organist) and Donna Hamill (Pianist)