



*a Faith Community in the  
Anglican Church of Canada*

**September 22, 2022**

# You are Invited!

## **Archbishop Ann announces the upcoming ordination of Rev Ann**

*God willing, on October 15th at 2pm in the afternoon the Rev. Ann Camber, Incumbent of Gathering Table in Thunder Bay, will be ordained to the sacred order of priests.*

*The celebration will take place on the day the church remembers St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.*

*Archbishop Anne will be presiding and Archdeacon Deborah will be the preacher. Clergy and lay readers are invited to vest.*

*The liturgical colour will be red. We uphold Rev Ann, her family and the parish in our prayers as they prepare for this celebration service which will form part of Gathering Table's 150th anniversary.*

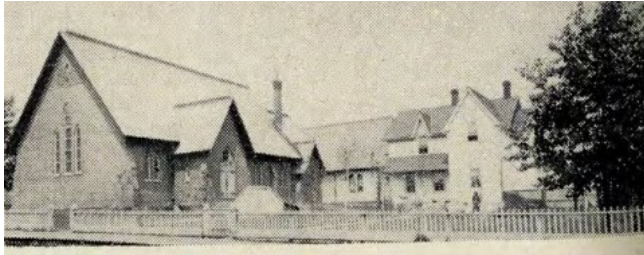


*Following the ordination there will be a reception in Gathering Table's Hall.*

*The special offering from the Ordination will go to the Diocesan Divinity Theological Education Fund.*

# Biographical History

Originally a mission established in 1872, the Church is the oldest operating church or 'mother church' in Thunder Bay (Deanery of Thunder Bay-North Shore, Diocese of Algoma). The original church and rectory were frame construction and destroyed by fire in April, 1881.



The present church was rebuilt on the same site in 1884 in the early Gothic Style, with heavy buttresses using brick veneer. Mr. Thomas Marks, the first Mayor of Port Arthur, donated 800 bricks. On July 27, 1884 Right Rev. Edward Sullivan, Bishop of Algoma, consecrated the new church building.



Architect, R. J. Edwards of Port Arthur, designed the church and contractor, William Fryer of Collingwood, built the church. The building is 92 feet in length with a 66-foot nave and 26-foot chancel with seating for 250 people.

Changes and renovations to the exterior of the church consisted of a new entrance facing Pearl Street, replacing the south side entrance, which is now used as a baptistry. An addition was built onto the back of the church and contains a new sacristy, nursery, meeting room and stained glass window of St. John. More recently, an accessible door was installed off the main driveway. All changes and renovations are sympathetic to the early Gothic style.

The Church has a number of ornate windows, including small double lancets without tracery in the nave, ten stained glass windows, donated and installed between 1947 and 1951, and seven memorial stained glass windows, many of which were donated by parishioners as memorials for deceased infant children.

A tour of the inside of the Church will reveal many beautiful and unique features, such as the arched oak double front doors.

In 1887 the church relinquished its missions in Oliver, Fort William, and West Fort, becoming a self-supporting parish.

In 1894, Mrs. H. Lyke generously donated a new furnace to the parsonage. 1894 was also the year the church's Women's Auxiliary was formed.

In 1934 the church was completely renovated and refurnished. The Parochial Guild and the Women's Auxiliary came together as one organization in 1935 (these no longer exist today).

In 1940 the parish hall was enlarged and a rectory was built. A new entrance for the church was constructed in 1954. During the summer of 1961 a new ventilation system was installed, electrical wiring was renewed, and the church interior was refinished. In January of 1967 a new rectory was opened at 131 Blanchard St., Port Arthur (now sold). The former rectory on the lot next to the church hall was remodeled to provide additional office and education space.

The church celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Auxiliary in 1944, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church just three years later, complete with burning the parish hall and rectory mortgages.

Other items of historical interest are the 1896 brass eagle lectern, cast by Chadwill Brothers of Hamilton, the 1915 ornately carved oak pulpit which was converted to the altar, the working pipe organ with 848 pipes, and the original granite font for the baptistry. The Church was designated the regimental church of the Lakehead Scottish Regiment. Accordingly, displayed prominently in the balcony, are the regimental colours. Tradition requires that the colours are never to be cleaned or repaired, even if in tatters.



# You are Invited!

*On Sunday, October 16th at 10:00 am, we will celebrate the first official service with newly ordained Rev Ann Camber.*

*It will be a double celebration as 2022 marks 150 years of worship at 228 Pearl Street.*

*Following the service, our Hospitality Team will provide us with a sit down lunch in the Church Hall.*

*Come, meet and congratulate our newly ordained Rev Ann and make her feel welcome at our table!.*

*Come celebrate as we continue to worship at this church now called Gathering Table!*

## Sources:

- Diocesan Heritage Centre Parish History collection, Algoma University Archives.
- 2012 Open Doors tour pamphlet.

