

2016 Report of Rector's Warden

This has been a year of celebration and reminiscence. We have focused on the journey that brought the Thorndale Anglican mission to being the parish it is today - St. Michael and all Angels Anglican Church. It was a pleasure to learn of the process through memorabilia and stories shared. It was certainly not the readily accessible address it is today.

It was my job - as well as a delight - to contact as many parishioners as possible, drawing from our present community and those of the past, inviting them to join us at our Gala in October. I also tried to ensure that any and all dietary restrictions be accommodated. God blessed our time giving us joy and a deep sense of unity.

The same type of planning and anticipation is present in our ongoing plans for our final anniversary event on the weekend of February 17 - 19. This will be a Parish retreat lead by Rev. Murray Henderson on Friday and Saturday at L' Ermitage St. Croix and a service of Thanksgiving on Sunday. The retreat has been fondly named our 50 Year Tune Up and will hopefully serve to inspire us as we move forward to our next fifty years.

Interspersed with the fun, were the many meetings dealing with the everyday needs of our vital organism. St. Michael's is a "hive" of activity simply in serving the needs of our two main communities; us and the Living Waters Church. But numerous other groups utilize our premises. We are blessed by their presence, because the reality is we could not make it on our own. God has blessed us in our capacity to be the "little Church that could" but also with giving us a need to depend on the financial input from others.

Another area evolving with this kind of interdependence is our connection with Action Refugies Montreal and a group that has come to be known as LARAM (Lutheran-Anglican Refugee Alliance of Montreal). We have met faithfully, preparing ourselves to be ready to welcome a refugee family. The wheels move slowly at present but our impatience cannot be compared to the lengthy process our Rwandan family has been living through. Sadly it is not in our power to speed up the process. Our strength can be increased only through "prayer and supplication" on behalf of the family and its local contact family.

Rev. Michelle, I thank you for inviting me to serve as Rector's warden. Being available to serve you has been my duty. Being useful and used in that capacity has been my joy. Experiencing the intimate moments of prayer on behalf of this community has been the ultimate treasure!!! Would that they could have been more! I step down confident in God's new appointment for this job.

God has called us friends and proved it by sharing everything there is to be known about Himself through Jesus. May the Holy Spirit work to increase our desire and hunger, that God might be glorified by St. Michael and all Angels Church!!! Hallelujah!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Thoms Rector's Warden