

## A Resurrection Story

From the deaths of two historic churches, God has created new life. On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church (146 years old) and St. Luke's (127 years old) both held their last services. It was a kind of death.

That, however, is not the end of the story. We are a resurrection people, after all, and so Gathering Table, a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada was born at 12:01 am June 4<sup>th</sup>. The joyful first worship of this new community was held in the parish hall at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.

The road to this end has been, as the song says, 'long, with many a winding turn' that seemed to lead 'to who knows where, who knows when?' Almost five years ago, the Deanery of Thunder Bay-North Shore began going through an intentional study and reflection called Together in Hope. The final report was published in January 2017, outlining potential directions for the Deanery.

July 2017 saw the forming of a three-church Discernment Committee to discern the potential for merging their congregations. The words of the poet Antonio Machado became a mantra for the group:

'We make the road by walking.' Though this group ended in January 2018 with one of the churches sensing God leading them in a different direction, it was an invaluable journey from which emerged a sense of values and the beginning of a vision.

In February 2018, the New Parish Team was formed to move ahead with the closing of the former St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church and St. Luke's congregations and the birthing of something new. Bishop Anne Germond, Diocese of Algoma approved the creation of Gathering Table in a Mandate Letter in April 2018.

This New Parish Team has worked diligently in the process of further discernment, sharpening our values, vision and mission, redesigning the worship space, and a thousand other details. Throughout the process we have been aware that, though rooted in Anglican tradition, God also seems to be leading us to a new expression of church, shaped by our values, our sense of mission, and the awareness that we are treaty people who share the traditional land of Fort William First Nation.

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*New Parish Team*

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# Ministry Opportunities at Gathering Table

Here at Gathering Table, there are many emerging opportunities to serve. Please contact the person below if you would like to know more, get some training, or roll up your sleeves and jump right in! If you have other gifts you wish to offer, please speak to George or one of the Wardens. Thanks!

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Contact</b>		
Altar/Chancel	Marg Boone	345-2184	mboone@tbaytel.net
Building Maintenance, Yard and Gardens	Dave and Erminie Reid	767-4566	dandereid@shaw.ca
Camp Gitchigomee	Roberta Wolfe	623-2230	wolfe428@shaw.ca
Care Home Worship	Gail Clifton George Porter	768-9865 626-9650	gailx2@shaw.ca porter.george@gmail.com
Coffee Hour	Sharon Sparkes Erminie Reid	767-9348 767-4566	sparkes@tbaytel.net dandereid@shaw.ca
Craft Group	Brenda Coopman	345 9324	b.coopman@shaw.ca
Food Cupboard	Sharon and Dale Sparkes	767-9348	sparkes@tbaytel.net
Green Team	Jim Sutton	622-6263	fsutton@tbaytel.net
Grace Place	George Porter	626-9650	porter.george@gmail.com
Liturgical Ministries (Acolytes, Eucharistic Assistants, Greeters, Lay Readers, Lectors, Prayers of the People, Sacred Dance)	Erminie Reid	767-4566	dandereid@shaw.ca
Men's Breakfast	Jim Sutton Dave Reid	622-6263 767-4566	fsutton@tbaytel.net dandereid@shaw.ca
Music	Jamie Philp Donna Hamill	621-0944 577-1794	jhphilp@gmail.com donnahamill@tbaytel.net
Offering Counters	Wardens Marg Boone Marjorie Tutkaluk Jim Sutton Jim Green	345-2184 622-2033 622-6263 767-5267	mboone@tbaytel.net tutkaluk@tbaytel.net fsutton@tbaytel.net jim@gatheringtable.ca
Parish Nursing	Michelle Proudfoot	623-8135	drmproudfoot@gmail.com
Production Team Audio/Video Power Point	Jim Green Sharon Corston	767-5267 355-1549	jim@gatheringtable.ca sjcorston@gmail.com
Sunday School	Audrey Love or Ellen Teahan	344-4955 473-8599	alove@tbaytel.net eteahan@shaw.ca

## Gathering Table Policy: Allergy Safety

We have a number of parishioners at Gathering Table who have severe allergies to nuts and nut products, fish, and hand sanitizer. Any minimal contact with these items and their derivatives may cause anaphylactic shock (severe allergic reaction) and unconsciousness within a matter of minutes. In such a case, the allergy may even cause death.



Allergy Alert!!!  
Please, no nuts...  
(Almonds, Brazil nuts, Cashews, Chestnuts, Hazelnuts, Macadamia nuts, Peanuts, Pecans, Pine nuts, Pistachios, Walnuts)

In order to make our gathering space safe and welcoming for all who may have allergies, we need to ensure that these items are not brought into the church building altogether. This is because even the slightest residue on hands and common surfaces (e.g. door fixtures, tables, milk jugs handles) and in some cases even the odor of these allergens may trigger a life-threatening reaction.

***For these reasons, Gathering Table will be nut, fish and hand sanitizer-free.***

Everyone is strongly encouraged to take the following measures to ensure this is achieved:

- Check the ingredients of any food items to be shared at coffee hour or any social function; *do not bring any item if it contains nuts, nut products or derivatives, or fish of any kind*
- Wash your hands before coming to church
- Use hand sanitizer only after leaving the buildings

If you have any questions, or become aware of persons with severe allergies to other substances, please discuss with the Wardens.



Thank you to everyone for helping make the Harvest Lunch the successful feast it was.

To all who worked, served, prepared, set-up, baked and cleaned — Thank You!

### Tai Chi Classes Starting Soon



Weekly Tai Chi classes to start Wednesday, October 17th, from 1:30-2:30 pm.

All interested are asked to attend. There will be no monetary charge.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing. This class will be held in the church hall. Hope to see you there. This is great for people with arthritis, fibromyalgia, or balancing issues. let's have fun together, and get healthy at the same time!



### Games Night

**Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

6 pm for group/family games

(bring your own, or join in with someone else)

Group Survivor Game

with Nancy & Crew At 7:30 pm.

Please bring your favourite Snack to share,  
Coffee & Tea provided

## Gathering Table Food Cupboard

For some people gathering and worship are linked together only in special places (church) and in special events (liturgical services). Philip Kenneson, in *Blackwell's Companion to Christian Ethics*, rejects these assumptions. All human gatherings shape the human imagination and are formative of our disposition towards God's people and our political and ethical horizons. Under this definition Gathering Table's Food Cupboard is a time of worship. Worship is an activity that unlearns human prejudices of class, race, gender, and orientation.

From inception, a purpose of the Food Cupboard has been to reconcile relations between the *ekklesia*, the gathered body of Christ, and the least where Christ is found (Mt.25:31-46). In gathering for Food Cupboard and in shared fellowship an action of praise, prayer, fellowship, and thanksgiving occurs. At a spiritual level there is a recognition of the unity of God's creation, of all people whatever their diversity and story. Gathering Table's Food Cupboard is deliberately scheduled to follow the Eucharist and to share fellowship and blessings as an act of reconciliation. It is both the "us" of Eucharistic liturgy and the "us" of Food Cupboard who, in God's own story, are called beyond self into one body. Recognizing worship beyond the "church space" is a movement towards integrating worship as a way of life.

From Gathering Table's quarterly statistics, the conditions of life are not improving for many of God's people. Clients have increased about 3% over last year. Nevertheless, there is good news. More clients are gathering for Eucharist and assisting in Food Cupboard work.

Donations to the Cupboard have been stable; however, there are periodic shortfalls. Lutheran congregations at Our Saviour's and at Hilldale contribute regularly with goods and cash as does Gathering Table. RDFA provides a broad supply of requisitioned goods, not necessarily what is ordered or as needed. There are supply challenges that are met by having goods purchased when on sale. This necessitates having cash reserves on hand, so the purchasers can take advantage of opportunities.

Gathering Table is becoming a lively *ekklesia*. The Food Cupboard is but one activity that aids in moving us as Christians beyond boundaries of class, race, gender, and orientation. God's people are many, but they are one body. We meet in worship, in gatherings.

## Thursday, September 27, 2018: Gone is the Light.....Perhaps

This afternoon, we took down the perpetual light from the former St. Luke's sanctuary. It looked ornate and elegant up there, shining for many a decade above the altar at St. Luke's. It was of course, a symbol of the presence of God in that place, a reminder and comfort for all of us who worshipped there. It was worship in its whole breadth and depth: we prayed, sang, laughed, mourned, wept, hugged, lifted hands and bowed down. We were challenged, imparted with water, ashes and oil, and we served, played, acted, spoke, listened, loved and were loved. But most particularly, we received bread and wine, and we remembered.



Except for the light, the building was empty. The final worship service took place on June 3, and the Deconsecration service on August 1. The altar, lectern, pulpit and many pews have found a new home at St. Matthew's church in the community of Kingfisher Lake. Most of the remaining pews now reside at Camp Gitchigomee. Five stained glass windows have been repurposed: two will adorn private homes, two will be hung at St. Thomas church, and one will be built into the chapel wall at the new Salvation Army Men's residence on Cumberland Street. The organ and chimes have been sold to our family in Christ at Broadway United church. The bell has been removed from the steeple, awaiting a new stand and place at Gathering Table. Celebration hymnals now have a new home in Nipigon. The parish hall was empty as well. Tables and coffee pots have gone to the Scouts. Books, small chairs and tables and many items were donated to Twice as Nice, Grace Place and Habitat for Humanity. Various pieces of furniture have been or will be re-purposed in homes. A disking group at West Thunder community centre now has a rejuvenated set of disks.

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# October 2018

Monday	1	
Tuesday	2	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	3	10:00am Board of Directors meeting (if required); 12:10pm Eucharist and Lunch; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	4	
Friday	5	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	6	
Sunday	7	10:00am Service
Monday	8	
Tuesday	9	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	10	2:00 pm Corporate meeting; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	11	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	12	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	13	
Sunday	14	10:00am Service; 11:30am Food Cupboard
Monday	15	7:00pm Advisory Council meeting
Tuesday	16	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	17	1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	18	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	19	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	20	9:00am-12:00pm Deanery Council meeting; 6:00pm Games Night
Sunday	21	10:00am Service
Monday	22	
Tuesday	23	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	24	1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	25	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	26	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	27	
Sunday	28	10:00am Service; 11:30am Food Cupboard
Monday	29	
Tuesday	30	9:00am Clericus; 6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	31	1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study

# November 2018

Thursday	1	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	2	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	3	The Thunder Bay Weavers & Spinners Guild (Francis Bennett-Sutton)
Sunday	4	10:00am Service
Monday	5	
Tuesday	6	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	7	Mission to Seafarers 10:00am Board of Directors meeting (if required); 12:10pm Eucharist and Lunch; 1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	8	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	9	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	10	
Sunday	11	10:00am Service; 11:30am Food Cupboard
Monday	12	
Tuesday	13	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	14	1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 2:00pm Corporate meeting; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	15	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	16	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	17	2nd Annual Christmas Village
Sunday	18	10:00am Service; Mission to Seafarers Christmas gift bags are due
Monday	19	7:00pm Advisory Council meeting
Tuesday	20	1:00-4:00pm Painting with Peter H (Ellen Teahan); 6:00pm Choir prac- tice
Wednesday	21	1:30-2:00pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Thunder Bay Scouts; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	22	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	23	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group
Saturday	24	
Sunday	25	10:00am Service; 11:30am Food Cupboard
Monday	26	
Tuesday	27	6:00pm Choir practice
Wednesday	28	1:30-2:30pm Tai Chi classes; 7:00pm Man's Alive Men's Bible Study
Thursday	29	7:00pm Table Talk with Pastor George
Friday	30	9:00am-1:00pm Craft Group

Note: November 12-16: hall is booked all week for setup of the Christmas Village

# Pictures from the Grand Opening, September 30th



Preparing for Communion



Rev Jay Koyle during the Sermon



Bishop Anne talking to the children



Pastor George being ReLicenced overseen by Chancellor Garth O'Neill







The Primate's  
World Relief and  
Development Fund

As an instrument of faith, PWRDF (Primates World Relief Development Fund) connects Anglicans in Canada to communities around the world in dynamic partnerships, to **advance** development, **respond** to emergencies, **assist** refugees and **act** for positive change.

PWRDF announced August 9<sup>th</sup> that it was sending emergency relief funds to Telegraph Creek, B.C., (Yukon Diocese). Wildfires have torn through the northern part of B.C., forcing the residents of Telegraph Creek to evacuate. At least 27 buildings have been destroyed including the Roman Catholic Church of St. Theresa and its rectory. Please keep the people of Telegraph Creek in your prayers. To donate to this emergency response, there are envelopes for PWRDF or go to [pwrdf.org/donate](http://pwrdf.org/donate) and indicate Telegraph Creek in the message box.

Read the stories at [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org) and see how PWRDF is making a difference around the world:

Eg. breastfeeding training in Rwanda supports vulnerable babies; how PWRDF supports South Sudanese peace builders.

Yes, it is time to think of Christmas cards! To view the selection of cards available from PWRDF and to order go to the website at [www.pwrdf.org](http://www.pwrdf.org)

Linda Rintamaki (rep)

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On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the New Parish Team concluded its official ministry, handing off leadership to the interim Parish Advisory Council. Members of this group will serve through the first annual vestry meeting in February 2019.

On Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 2:00 pm, Gathering Table celebrated their opening with elder Isobel Mercier leading a smudging ceremony outside, followed by a procession in to the newly renovated church space with the Right Rev'd Anne Germond, Bishop of Algoma, presiding and the Rev Dr D Jay Koyle preaching.

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The remaining useful items have been taken to Gathering Table; the broken, worn out items now reside in the John Street landfill site.

This act of removing the light – involving the ordinary and technical, with a ladder, electrician, tools and rope was my personal, final farewell to this place. It was a poignant moment, especially having finished the work, closing and locking the door, and exiting the doorway for the last time. Tomorrow, we hand over the keys to the purchaser's lawyer, and barring anything unforeseen, the buildings will no longer be owned by the Diocese.

The light, now down, more clearly showed its intricate brass patterns and workmanship, but also its covering of dust, and its frail wiring. It will most certainly require a master electrician to bring the worn-out appliance up to current standards and make it shine once again. But it has been spoken for, and I am confident the master will do his work. It will "live" in one of our local church buildings once again. Looks like resurrection to me!



Sunday School has started and all children are welcome.

We will begin in church and leave to go into the hall for our lesson and time together.

Audrey and Ellen





Caring for seafarers  
around the world

# Mission to Seafarers

## Calendar of Events

- *Events at the Seafarers' Centre, Keefer Terminal, 100 Main St. unless otherwise noted.*
- *Scheduling of events subject to change.*

### October

- 3 10:00 am **Board of Directors meeting**  
(if required)
- 3 12:10 pm **Eucharist and Lunch**

### November

- 7 10:00 am **Board of Directors meeting**
- 7 12:10 pm **Eucharist and Lunch**
- 19 Items for Christmas Gift Bags due

Seafarers may not get home for Christmas and may not even be in a port during Christmas. They are one of our "Lifelines", bringing to the Thunder Bay goods we need and improve our economy by taking away goods being exported to foreign countries. Seafarers on ocean-going ships are away from home for six to twelve months to a year.

One way to express our appreciation to these dedicated individuals is by sharing a little of our Christmas Spirit with them through the tradition of gift giving. This may help to make it a little less lonely for them. Due to the generosity of many Friends of the Mission to Seafarers, approximately 50 gift bags have distributed to seafarers visiting the Seafarers Centre.



Starting in 2016, we deliver Christmas Gift Bags to ships in port in December. The 5 year average for ships in December is 10. Crew size varies from 9 to 22 and an average is 20. This means we ought to prepare for 11 ships, so our target is 220 Gift Bags. There are a few women crew or passengers each year, so we will prepare 5 Gift Bags for women.

Once again we are appealing to you for donations so that this outreach program can be continued.

Suggested items you might choose to donate are:

- mittens/gloves;
- toque;
- socks;
- scarf;
- neck warmer
- playing cards, hand-held games/puzzles;
- small tool: flashlight, screwdriver;
- tooth brush;
- tooth paste;
- shaving supplies (other toiletries are not needed);
- small unbreakable Christmas ornament; or
  - wrapped candy or gum.

Money donations also accepted that will be used to purchase additional items for the gift bags.

Donations may be given to your **MtS Congregational representative** or brought to the Seafarer's Centre (Keefer Intermodal, 100 Main St.) no later than the **second last Monday in November**.

Your contributions will be gratefully accepted; for additional information contact the Seafarers' Centre (807) 344-8241.

Contacts :

The Revd Canon Ed Swayze

Seafarers' Centre, Suite 450

100 Main Street

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6R9

Telephone: +1 807 344 8241

Mobile: +1 807 626 2571

Local website :

[www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay](http://www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay) | |

Opening times :

Mon 1330-1430; Wed 1000-1200 and by appointment.



228 Pearl Street  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Phone: 807-345-6898  
E-mail: [office@gatheringtable.ca](mailto:office@gatheringtable.ca)  
Facebook: Gathering Table

Hall: 807-345-6088  
Web: [gatheringtable.ca](http://gatheringtable.ca)

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

Pastor: The Rev. Canon George M. Porter, D.Phil.  
Phone: 626-9650  
Mobile: 355-5454  
Email: [porter.george@gmail.com](mailto:porter.george@gmail.com)

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

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. David Knudson, M.Div.  
Phone: 473-0994  
Mobile: 633-4761

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

Rector's Warden: Marg Boone  
Deputy Rector's Warden: Marjorie Tutkaluk  
People's Warden: Jim Sutton  
Deputy People's Warden: Jim Green

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