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The Mustard Seed.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRANDON • A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL • APRIL 2024

Brandon University Music at the Cathedral

text and photos submitted by Karen Webb
Diocesan Vice-Chancellor & Registrar

On Sunday, February 25, at 4:00 in the afternoon, St. Matthew's Cathedral hosted a benefit concert that had everyone in the pews clapping and whistling their approval. Cathedral organist Jia Zhang and choir soprano Lauren Shymanski organized the concert as a fundraiser for St. Matthews. The pews were full and for a full hour and a half, the sounds of the best the Brandon University (BU) School of Music has to offer were resounding off the vaulted ceiling.

Among the noted soloists were Carlos Castro, a cellist, Shelby English, soprano, and Lauren Shymanski. Shymanski wore two hats for the afternoon: she sang with the BU Chorale and did two pieces on the saxophone. She finished off the concert with a stirring rendition of Schubert's Ave Maria. All three are also students who sing in the choir at St. Matthew's.

Most of the concert was classical, but not the introduction to the selections from the Chorale. The students gathered in a circle, and to the drum, they chanted the Gratitude Song by Cody Cardinal. It was a moving display of the history of indigenous music, as well as being an active acknowledgment of the history of the area, which is situated on land obtained by the federal government through Treaty Two, signed in 1871.

Jia Zhang, St. Matthew's resident musician, was unable to play, as earlier that week, she fell on winter ice and hurt her shoulder. As Lauren put it, it was just one more thing to add to the stress of putting together a concert in six weeks.

Lauren also remarked on the benefits of doing any concert in a space such as St. Matthew's. "The sound doesn't get squished. There's room to move around and with the pews, lots of seats." When asked if she'd do it again, she replied, "In a heartbeat."

Now she's looking forward to organizing other concerts for the Cathedral, although not in the immediate future, and preferably, with more than six weeks to get the participants set, the program written and the advertising done.

When asked, those who watched said, "I had no idea those kids were that good" and "we should do this again in the fall, when the weather is better. That way I can get more of my friends to come."

Dean Don Bernhardt was gratified the student choir members were able to provide the concert and said, "They can do this anytime. I'm looking forward to the next one."



During the concert, the Brandon University Chorale sings Cody Cardinal's "Gratitude Song".



Jia Zhang and Lauren Shymanski gather for a photo in the Lady Chapel.



Lauren plays the saxophone, accompanied by Hannah Hiebert.

A Word from the Bishop-Elect

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" Easter is here again. The birds are beginning to chirp. Soon we will see flowers peeking their wee heads up toward the sun and the days will be longer and warmer. It always seems that with it, Easter brings a sense of freshness; the ability to take a deep breath; and invites us to sigh deeply as we exhale the fustiness of the winter and Lenten season past. So, I invite you to take your *Mustard Seed* and a cup of coffee outside onto the front porch, stretch your neck and shoulders as you look up to the sky and breathe out slowly those beautiful words: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

When we breathe out deeply, we allow our bodies to expel the heaviness that can get caught in our souls. When we stretch our necks and shoulders as we look up, we open our chests and stretch those muscles that hold tension and worry. The very acts of stretching and breathing deeply are actions we take that facilitate wholeness and health. The season of Easter is our season of wholeness and health. It is the springtime of our souls, and we should relish the gifts of newness and hope that come with it as we say, Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Over the past year our Diocese has lived what may have seemed like an exceedingly long Lenten



The Rt. Rev'd Rachael Parker
8th Bishop of Brandon

season. As a community of faith, you pulled together in a strength you may not have known you had but of which God was always aware. You elected this new Bishop who asked that you might wait for her as she prepared her own parishioners for her leave-taking. And then finally, she was here – in time to walk through Lent with you! It seems fitting that the consecration of your new Bishop would be smack dab in the middle of Lent, reminding all of us that hope, and new life, and divine possibilities are indeed coming ... in due season. The season in which we can sing out together: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Your due season is here. Jesus Christ is risen, and we have risen with him! The Diocese of Brandon is poised to begin a new Easter adventure with storytelling, faith-sharing, memory-making, family-expanding. Through our preparatory (and extended) season of Lent we have gained new perspectives, dreamed new dreams, and promised

the Creator that we will walk in gentleness and peace into this Easter future unfolding before us.

As a newly minted Bishop, I can tell you that there are times when the light of our Risen Christ is blinding. I am caught in my tracks as I consider the call that I share with you as we prepare to explore the Easter Garden that is our beautiful and expansive Diocese. I wonder if I can do this ... I wonder if we can do this ... and then I hear a quiet voice in my ear whispering, "Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!" As that insistent voice keeps whispering, I realize that I am being called to step out on my front porch – and into the parishes across the length and breadth of this Diocese, into AMC, north and south of this land Creator shares with us – and I am called to stretch out the fustiness of muscles tense with Lenten fears and breathe out the worries that come with new things, and I am called to yell out, "Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

This Easter Season brings with it all sorts of brand-new things, but it first brings with it the truth that we are walking together into a new thing that Christ himself has prepared for us. Right now, it is our call to stretch those muscles, take those deep breaths, and together cry out to the world, "Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

The Mustard Seed

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The Mustard Seed is circulated ten times a year (from September to June), as a section of the Anglican Journal, to all supporting households in the Diocese of Brandon.

Contributions to the expense of the paper are normally requested each March but donations are accepted anytime. Changes of address can be made directly with the Anglican Journal. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Bishop or of the editor.

Deadline for submissions: the first Sunday of the month preceding publication.

2024 PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline
May 2024	April 7, 2024
June 2024	May 5, 2024
September 2024	August 4, 2024
October 2024	September 8, 2024
November 2024	October 6, 2024
December 2024	November 3, 2024

Please note: All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, timeliness, appropriateness, or length. Submit writing to the Editor in Microsoft Word file format or in the body of an email. Photographs must be large, high resolution jpg files. Please ensure you have permission from parents or guardians of all minors who have their photos or names published in The Mustard Seed. If including a photo, please send a name of who took the photo along with it, so the Editor can give proper credit!



On February 18 & 19, during the annual "Trappers Festival", members of Christ Church, The Pas put on a tea for the entire community, which included a raffle of a quilt made by Sue Harper (photo at left).
Shirley Dickens

News from the Pews

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, OPASKWAYAK CREE NATION *photo and text submitted by the Ven. Dr. Kara Mandryk*

On February 22, Harry McGillvary was honoured by the Church of the Redeemer, Big Eddy (OCN) for his 45 years of service to the church and the community. Harry serves as vestry member, choir leader, and lay reader. He faithfully supports the work of the church and is especially present for families during wakes and funerals.

Harry's story of service is one of remarkable transformation and faithfulness. He was honoured with a dinner and blanketed by the Rev'd Flora Young and warden Ingar Constant.

Well done, Harry!



ST. PETER & ST. JAMES, FLIN FLON *photo and text submitted by Shelley Andres*

Once again, many churches in Flin Flon came together on March 1st to participate in the 2024 World Day of Prayer. Participating churches include members from St. Peter & St. James Anglican Church as well as members from the Evangelical Lutheran, United, Baptist, Alliance, Salvation Army, Roman Catholic, Mennonite and Faith Light churches.

This year the writing committee were women of Palestine using St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, "I beg you...bear with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

For over 50 years, the local churches have shared Host/CoHost responsibilities amongst each other.





ANGLICAN MEMORIAL CAMP NEWS

2024 CAMPING SEASON: CAMP DATES!

JUNIOR CAMP (AGES 8-10): Saturday, June 29 – Friday, July 5
INTERMEDIATE CAMP (AGES 10-12): Sunday, July 7 – Saturday, July 13
FAMILY CAMP: Tuesday, July 16 – Thursday, July 18
TEEN CAMP (GRADES 7 & UP): Sunday, July 21 – Saturday, July 27

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CHECK OUT
[HTTPS://ANGLICANMEMORIALCAMP.COM](https://anglicanmemorialcamp.com)

2024 CAMPING SEASON: REGISTRATION DEADLINES

EARLY BIRD DATE: May 31, 2024 (fees: \$300)
CUT-OFF DATE: June 17, 2024 (fees: \$350)

2024 CAMPING SEASON: WE'RE HIRING!

We are looking for enthusiastic and inspiring people for the following positions:

PAID POSITIONS: Administrator, Cooks, a Kitchen Helper and a Maintenance Person

All paid positions are full-time and have a good wage with board and room provided. Secondary students encouraged.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS: Camp leaders, chaplains, health officers, counsellors

2024 CAMPING SEASON: CAMP CLEAN-UP

Camp Clean-up is May 18, 2024. We will need some help to clean up the camp for the upcoming summer!



Kay Addison and Val-Jean Dixon wait for pancakes at St. George's/Redeemer Lutheran's pancake supper on February 13.



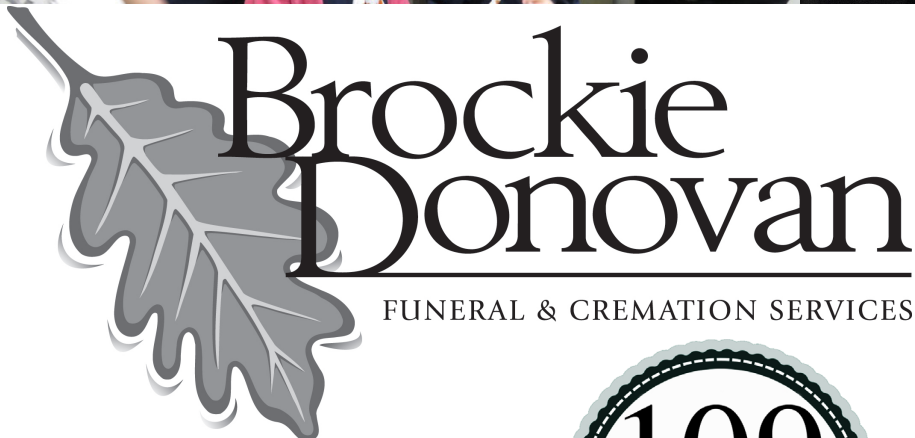
On February 11 at the Cathedral, Jia Zhang and her daughter Mila were baptized. In this photo, Jia is joined by her sponsors, Barb Laluk and Sue Smallwood. Photo Credit: the Rev'd Cheryl Kukurudz



Newly baptised, Jia and Mila, are joined by husband and father, Zhenjun Li, who was visiting from China. Photo Credit: the Rev'd Cheryl Kukurudz



Embers and Sparks wait to help clear tables on Feb. 13. Photo Credit: the Rev'd Cheryl Kukurudz



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Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Upcoming Events

To conclude the 2023-2024 season, this Rule of Life series will examine from multiple perspectives the creation of a "Rule of Life".

- April 15: An SSJD Sister's Perspective
- May 27: An SSJD Oblate's Perspective
- June 17: An SSJD Associate's Perspective

For more information, check out their website at <http://www.anglicanprayer.org> or contact the Rev'd Barry Nadolny at barrykn@zoho.com or via phone at 204-638-8141.