



### **Connie Cyster**

Connie was born in Manitoba on a farm near Pettapiece. She was the older of twin girls and she had a younger brother. They attended a country school which was three miles away, until grade eight, then went to Minnedosa for three years until grade eleven. Her family left the farm and moved to Oak River. She took grade twelve there and worked in a telephone office and then in the Bank of Montreal. In 1949 she got married to Al Cyster and they had three children, two girls and one boy. Their daughter Norma, has a greenhouse in the Millet area. Daughter Lynn and her husband Jim recently relocated to

Medicine Hat. Their son Ron lives in Edmonton. When Connie's children were in school, she returned to work at Boyd Wholesale which was later sold to Hudson Bay where she stayed for twenty years, Connie lived on 11<sup>th</sup> St SW from 1949 until she moved to Chinook Village in Dec 20, 2006 where she resides happily. She is enjoying it very much. She plays crib once or twice a week, and she is even learning to play pool.

She bowls at Connaught Lanes and was on a team that won the league championship. In the spring she misses her garden, but not the work that it took. She took her famous African violets along with her.

In 1981 she took a trip to England with her mother and had a relaxing holiday. Connie's history with the church goes back to the early beginning of All Saints Church. In 1959 Percy Dodd was the curate at the Hill Mission. She started playing the organ/piano with a junior choir. They had to learn Morning Prayer Service, the Venite, the Te Deum, and the Benedictus.

In 1960 the mission became a parish with Herb Morrow as the priest. They had three services, Communion Service at 8:00, Morning Prayer at 11:00 and Evensong at 7:00. Eventually a pump organ was donated. Sunday School teachers met once a month.

G.G. Taylor, Cannon Crowther, Cannon Hill, Terry Dunn, Rod Adamson, Jim Heald, George Pell, Keith Nethery, Jeannine Friesen, and Ronda are the clergy she remembers.

Connie was a guide leader at church and became district and division commissioner. She remembers the summer camps and weekend camps. She had her camper's license and her quarter masters papers.

Thank you Connie for a look at how this all started.

Submitted by Linda Stickel

From the Rector's desk ....

### **Pilgrimage to Israel**

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, I will be leaving the parish for a three week pilgrimage to Israel along with approximately 35 other people, including the bishop, other clergy and their spouses, as well as some laity from the diocese of Calgary. Our own Kay Purcell from St. Ambrose and her sister, Reita will be joining our group on the trip.

Since about the 4<sup>th</sup> century, pilgrims have been traveling to the Holy Land seeking to visit the places where Christ walked; to encounter God in the wilderness of the prophets, to visit the places where the apostles preached and where the great evangelizer Paul had his world transforming conversion experience.

Although Israel is in the news a lot these days due to the seemingly never ending conflict, travel today is nothing compared to what it once was. Most pilgrims traveled by foot, never making it all the way to the Holy Land due to illness, starvation, exposure to the elements as well as the dangers of being attacked by any number of people who would take advantage of them. If they did make it there, many did not make it back home. These pilgrimages took years and years, and few of us today would have the faith, resources or bravery to face the pitfalls those early travelers did.

Some people make the mistake of thinking of this as vacation time, but it's not. Few people take vacations with their bishop, while leaving their friends and family home! Rather, pilgrimage is about a spiritual journey and seeking God in the wilderness of our lives. It can be done anywhere, at any time, by anyone, but I am told there is something particularly transformative about actually going to the Holy Land and being immersed in it as the birthplace of our faith.

Most pilgrimages to Israel last a week or ten days. This particular trip is designed to allow us to fully absorb the experience of being in the Holy Land, to visit the sites, to meet the people, to worship together, yet with some free time to relax and prayerfully meditate on the experience while still there, rather than rushing home and trying to remember it all.

I will be posting an itinerary on the bulletin board of the different places we will be visiting each day and like my fellow pilgrims, will be snapping a lot of pictures and doing a lot of journaling. One visit in particular will take us out to the Sinai desert where we will spend the night sleeping in the open under the stars. We will get up at 2:00 a.m. and take a camel ride partway up (*what is reputed to be*) Mt. Sinai where we will celebrate eucharist with the rising of the sun. The trip down is about four hours on foot in the beating sun, but well worth it I would imagine!

Besides the famous holy sites and places of the bible, we will be interacting with the people of the land – the Christians, Jews and Muslims – all of them with their own stories to tell. We will have an opportunity to worship in Anglican and Orthodox Churches, where Christianity evolved a different identity apart from the influence of the West. We will stay in hospices with dirty windows, along other pilgrims from around the world as well as staying in first class hotels. We will eat picnic lunches on some occasions, be fed a traditional feast by the Bedouin (desert people of the Sinai) on another and eat in different ethnic restaurants at other times.

We will walk the Via Dolorosa (the way of the Cross) one day, while shopping in the old city on another, while visiting Bethsaida and Gethsemane on still another. The religious character of the pilgrimage will meet the political reality of the Holy Land when we visit the Holocaust Memorial and witness a land divided by a wall.

From the Rector's Desk cont.

On this journey, I expect to experience great joy and profound pain, renewed energy and periods of great exhaustion, moments of affirmation and others of deep transformation, laughter and surprise. In all I fully expect to encounter the sacred and the unexpected and to be changed because of it. A pilgrimage is always about the work of the soul and as Christians, we should all be willing to undertake such a call when it comes, trusting that God is journeying with us, guiding us and helping us. Please keep our group and all pilgrims in your prayers.

Rev. Ronda Ploughman

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Do you have a theological question you would like addressed as part of a sermon? Perhaps you have a question about something in the bible that has always made you wonder or you have heard competing views and want clarity. Whatever it is, if you would like to hear a talk on it, just write out your question on the line below and leave it in an envelope in the offering.

<p><b>Spring Services</b></p> <p>Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> – Lay led service of Morning Prayer/Praise Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> – Holy Eucharist Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lay led service of Morning Prayer/Praise Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> – Lay led service of Morning Prayer/Praise Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup> – Holy Eucharist with Rev. Dr. David Carter Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> – Holy Eucharist Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> – Holy Eucharist</p>
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Mary Ann's Gasoline

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency was out making her rounds, visiting home bound patients, when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it a Texaco Station was just a block away. She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that the only gas can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned.

Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, so she decided not to wait and walked back to her car. She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan back to the station, filled it with gasoline and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said, "If it starts, I'm turning Catholic!"

Thanks to Margaret Hobson for the submission

Members of our congregation were able to share in a special occasion when June Thompson and Charlene Veale were married. The ceremony took place at Fifth Avenue United Church. After the ceremony a special service of Eucharist was held at All Saints followed by a reception in the hall. We wish June and Charlene every happiness in their future together.



*ACW Ladies New Year's Dinner*

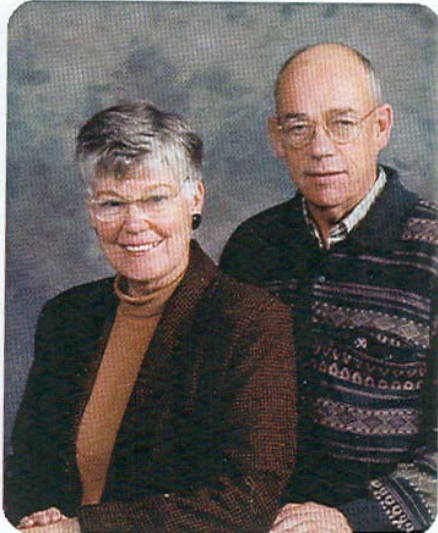
On January 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 the ladies of All Saints Church went to ABC restaurant for our annual winter dining out evening. There were 18 ladies in attendance to enjoy our gay repast. We were hosted in a private area with warm fireplace aglow and great ambience.

The food was bountiful, the conversation plentiful, the laughter delightful and the fellowship wonderful. Thank you to all who attended and helped make the evening the success it was.



Sincerely  
Peggy Kelly  
ACW President





### Wil and Corinne Wikjord

An hour slipped by very quickly as we visited with Wil and Corinne. It was fun to hear them reminisce about the early days. Corinne was born in Winnipeg and lived in Kenville, Manitoba, where her father was the school principal. Later, Corinne, her parents, one brother and one sister moved to Dauphin.

She began her studies at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She spent a year working for the Anglican Church on reservations in the Interlake Area. After a year she returned to the University of Brandon, completed her Education degree and began her teaching career in Flin Flon. Wil was born in Flin Flon and lived at Cranberry Portage. He attended school there until grade ten and then did grade eleven and twelve at Hapnot Collegiate in Flin Flon. He attended Manitoba

Teacher's College in Winnipeg and began teaching in Cranberry Portage. He moved to Flin Flon where he met Corinne while they were curling and bowling. After one year Corinne began teaching at West Kildonan Collegiate in Winnipeg and Wil attended United College which is now U of Winnipeg. On July 23, 1966 Corinne and Wil were married and moved to Edmonton for three years. Corinne taught and Wil attended U of A. Their next move was to Medicine Hat and Corinne taught for one year at Alexandra Junior High School before they began to raise their children Brenda and Brett. Corinne remained at home until Brett was in junior high.

In Medicine Hat they began to look for a church and the day they tried All Saints, Cannon Hill and his wife Frances invited them to their home after church. They spent the day visiting with them and have attended All Saints ever since. Wil calls himself the gypsy of Medicine Hat School District 76 because he enjoyed teaching and being an administrator at eight different schools in the city. Corinne has been involved in P.E.O, an organization which promotes the education of woman. She served as local and provincial president. She is an avid golfer and a member of the Connaught golf club since 1969. She was involved in the Alberta Ladies Golf association as junior girls president and vice president. She served as ACW president at All Saints and president of the diocesan ACW. She served as treasurer for the All Saints vestry. Wil and Corinne are very proud of their children. Brenda is a doctor in Calgary and Brett is a pharmacist in Red Deer. They are blessed with four grandchildren, three girls and one boy. Since retiring Wil and Corinne have done lots of traveling to places like Australia, New Zealand, Europe, England, Scotland, Denmark, Egypt, the Mediterranean, Greece, Alaska and maybe a few more. They both curl and golf and Wil plays senior slow pitch. Wil is always joking around and teasing people and even though Corinne shakes her head and pretends to be annoyed, their love for each other is most evident and a joy to behold. Thanks for sharing your past. I'm so glad we met in 1975 and that you are our friends and members of our All Saints family. God bless you both.

By Gloria Schirok

#### St. Ambrose Events for March

Mar. 1, Bishop's Visit 10:00 Pot Luck lunch after the service  
Mar. 6 World Day of Prayer at Gordon Memorial 7:30 PM  
Mar. 8 Coffee House at 7:00 St. Patrick's Day songs  
Mar.15 Men's Club Ham Supper 5 PM

St. Ambrose will supply buns and ham. Please take something else for pot luck.