

From the Bishop's Desk...

Are We There Yet?

Anyone who has travelled with family will know the inevitable question that comes after a few hours on the road. *Are we there yet?* I'm sure we drove my mother crazy as we made our way every year to my grandparent's home for Christmas.

It was always an ordeal getting ready to travel just before Christmas. My mother worked hard to make sure all the Christmas gifts were ready, wrapped and safely hidden in the car without us knowing. She would have had stocking stuffer things organized in bags. She would have spent days baking Christmas goodies, packing and freezing them for the trip, and then had to make sure the rest of us had packed a suitcase because we would be away for about a week.

When the day finally arrived, we would start out early in the darkness, often on a very cold and crisp December morning. It took us about 12 hours to get to our destination. The car was filled to the brim, and my sister and I stuffed into the back seat with various things wedged between us. You can imagine how my mother felt, when we started to ask questions long before we arrived.

In a way, Advent is a lot like a road trip that seems to go on forever. We know that it's only four weeks before we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas (yes, it's 12 days not just one day!), and yet we want to rush straight to Christmas.

Advent is more than a count-down calendar. It is a reminder that we continue to wait and long for the fulfillment of what Christ promised long ago. It is an opportunity to reflect and consider where we are at in our journey of faith. What is our relationship with Jesus? How does his birth long ago inspire us as we wait for his coming again?

Some days, we want to cry out, longing for a new heaven and a new earth. We agonize over how our world seems to be increasingly in a state of chaos. We want to say, are we there yet?? Advent provides us with a much-needed pause, giving us space for Christ to come into our hearts. We light a candle each week, shining light into the darkness of our world. We wait, we watch and we hope, knowing that Christ has come, Christ is here, and Christ will come again.

In Christ's Service,

+Clara

Bishop's Schedule Mid-November/December

Mid-November

Nov 18 – Clericus 3 pm (Zoom)

Nov 24 – Bishop's Advent Bible Study 3pm Mondays (Zoom)

Nov 25 – 30 – Council of General Synod – Toronto

December

Dec 1, 8, 15 – Bishop's Advent Bible Study 3pm Mondays (Zoom)

Dec 9 – Clericus 3 pm (Zoom)

Dec 11 – Provincial House of Bishop's (Zoom)

Dec 18 – Friends of St. George Eucharist Christmas Lunch & Hymn Sing

Dec 23 – 25 – Parish Visits (Christmas Services) Prince George

Prayer Corner



- * We pray for our neighbours, families, and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
 - * We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline, and Ernie Michell.
 - * We pray for the Council of the North dioceses and their bishops.
 - * We pray for the communities in the Lower Nicola Valley, the Lower Nicola Band, and Scw'exmx Parish.
 - * We pray for leaders around the globe that their hearts will be softened and willing to work for the common good.
 - * We pray for wisdom and courage as people of faith that we will seek hope and practice hope wherever we are.
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- * We pray for all who are confined by illness or isolation, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others.
 - * We pray for those who are discerning a call to a vocation in the church.
 - * We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East (Gaza, Israel), Ukraine, Russia, and South Sudan.
 - * We pray for those who suffer through environmental disasters such as earthquakes, fire and floods.
 - * We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

News Around the Territory

Good News for Birthing Moms in Mozambique and Madagascar!

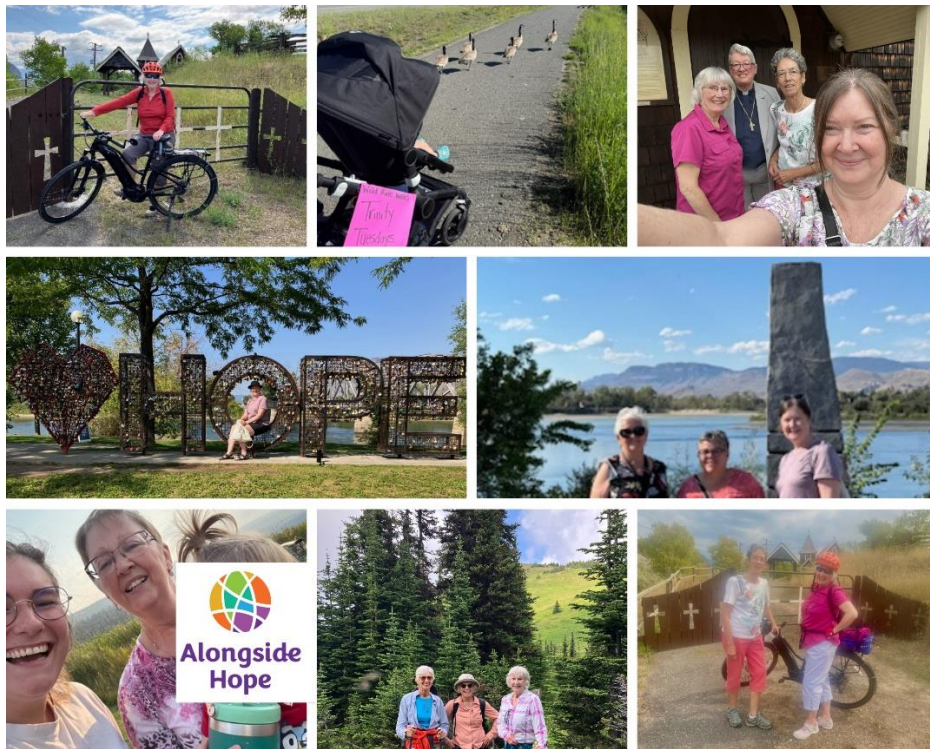
It is with much gratitude for the energy and enthusiasm of Territory of the People Champions for this year's Alongside Hope Wild Ride for Solar Suitcases: Anita Bourassa, Shelby Byer, Joy Gothard and Bishop Clara. We have had much fun as we walked, cycled, and stitched. Along the way we shared stories about the work of the many Alongside Hope partner projects. Bishop Clara spoke at Kamloops Daybreak Rotary club and Joy spoke at services at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Peter's Monte Creek.

To date, donations from the Territory of the People contributed \$10,553 to support the distribution of 49 Solar Suitcases in Mozambique and Madagascar! With the matching funds that will provide 4 solar suitcases.

Thank you for being part of a wildly successful Wild Ride. Alongside Hope donors have raised just over \$61,000 with a few more offline donations to enter. That is \$9,000 over our goal. Wild Ride has raised enough for 9 solar suitcases, 18 with the match. The news gets even better as I can confirm donors have raised the \$170,000 for the complete solar suitcase campaign and with the match the \$320,000 was reached. So, all 49 solar suitcases have been covered. We couldn't have done it without all your hard work and support!

On November 12, Will Postma, Executive director of Alongside Hope visited folks at St. Paul's Cathedral to share news of the work of Alongside Hope and to hear about our stories in the Territory.

TOTP – Wild Ride



Visit with Will Postma – Alongside Hope



Valemount Anglican/United Church has a new roof

With thanks to the **Anglican Foundation of Canada** and the **United Church Foundation**, who we received grants from, along with income from our Blessings Thrift Store, we were able to put a new roof on our entire complex - the sanctuary and the church hall. ~ The Rev. Kim McNaughton, Minister of Robson Valley Shared Ministry (Valemount and McBride)



St. Paul Cathedral Sunday School Take Over!

St. Paul's Cathedral had a Sunday School takeover this past Sunday (Nov 16th). Instead of a regular service, the children and youth of the parish lead the service. They picked the hymns, asked for an extended time of praise and worship, gave reflections on the gospel reading, led the prayers, and even distributed communion. Everyone in the Cathedral felt incredibly blessed by the ministry and leadership of these young people.

A special word of thanks needs to be given to Melissa Green, who works tirelessly behind the scenes with the Sunday school and the youth group of the parish.



Other News



To register for the annual Advent learning series with Alongside hope: [Subscribe to Advent 2025](#) (or go to the website at: alongsidehope.org for the link to sign up for the weekly email reflection.

Around the Territory

Bishop Clara at the House of Bishop's Meeting



Bishop Riscylla Shaw (Toronto), Bishop Sandra Fyfe (Halifax/PEI) and Bishop Clara – Colleagues from coast to coast!

At the Autumn House of Bishops meeting, five new bishops from the Arctic, Montreal and Rupert's Land were welcomed into the house. It has become a bit of tradition to have a "purple party" with a few fun gifts and treats to celebrate new colleagues.

Rev Linda LaGroix



All Saint's Cranbrook

Thank you to Rev. Kevin Arndt, who shared these photos and message: At Sunday worship service (November 2), we enjoyed siblings, the Rev. Cindy Corrigan (Kootenay) and the Rev. Linda LaGroix (Territory of the People), concelebrating Holy Eucharist with us. It was wonderful to have sisters who are ordained priests presiding together at Holy Eucharist that day. Their mom is a member of Christ Church, Cranbrook.

Parish Visit in Shulus – November 16, 2025



For more news check our website out at <https://www.territoryofthepeople.ca/>