

# Rice Lake Thoughts

by Rev. Bryce Sangster

## An Agreement to Enter a Pilot Regional Ministry Between the Parishes of

**Christ Church Campbellford**  
**Christ Church Norwood (inactive)**  
**St George Hastings,**  
**St James Roseneath**  
**St John's Peterborough**  
**St John the Evangelist Havelock**  
**St Michael Westwood**

There is a lot of detail on this, supporting the idea of the regional ministry. And COVID has made it impossible for us to meet fully to discuss this proposal and the way of moving forward.

It was unfortunate that the virus and isolation occurred when it did. At the end of March 2020, we were all set to have Bishop Andrew come for a 5th Sunday combined service, with Belmont invited to participate as well. This was to be the public start of the moving forward towards team ministry, and the parishes working together in support of one another. Unfortunately, that didn't happen, so we were unable to communicate all the details and the possibilities of this endeavor.

That being said: You had representatives meeting with those of the other parishes - Grace Budgell, Larry Ricciardelli, Allan McCracken, Ross Stephenson, Helen Lee, Barry Surerus, Ann Chambers, Reg Gordon, Shirley Warr.

Two ideas come to mind, this is a two-year pilot project that has been voted on and not a permanent situation. And that myself and the members of the team working on this have done so believing it to be the best way to go for the future. This is not only an exciting and encouraging way to perform ministry, but working as a team offers more possibilities and opportunities of supporting one another.

It's more than just clergy getting along, it's also lay people in parishes working together in two ways: by supporting and attending each other's events when we can actually have any, and working together to have combined events, thus be less likely to burnout our people.

At the present time, we've already started combining in an informal way. Some of you know that I have been going to Belmont on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Added to that, the Reverend Brad Smith and I get along very well and have no problems working as a team. So, let us build on what has already begun informally and move forward together in ways that can be both uplifting and creative, with new forms of ministry.

There follows an excerpt from the **document circulated explaining the Work of the Group.**

### WHY **REGIONAL MINISTRY?**

*It is only through coming together as a Regional Ministry that we will have the resources and energy to continue our beloved traditional ministries and diversify to revitalize and offer programs and ministries that can reach new people through worship, care, and outreach. As a region we will be able to have:*

- *Better programming with more options;*
- *More priests, lay leaders and volunteers to support programs and ministries;*
- *More creativity, more energy, and more resources to do ministry and mission in creative ways. Way which can focus on connecting with new people and people are not being attracted to our traditional ministries;*
- *We can do more effective outreach ministries and have a larger impact on making positive changes in people's lives;*
- *We can have a stronger pastoral care program, connecting especially with people who are isolated, in care, or homebound;*

- *COVID has shown us that we now need to be able to provide ministry in different ways including online. As a region we will have the capacity to diversify and strengthen ways we can offer worship and other ministry programs;*
- *We would have a team ministry giving our congregations and communities a broader range of gifts and skills for ministry and mission and opportunities for collaboration and collegiality for the clergy;*
- *The team could be specialized to best grow ministry in the area.*
- *It would be easier to recruit priests into a Regional ministry team.*
- *It is evident that the only way we will be able to sustain ministry in the area is to work together as a region, supporting each other, working together to build a sustainable Anglican ministry in our congregations and communities. Let's wake up and let's get at it. The consequence of not regionalizing is that we lose Anglican ministry in the central-eastern area of the Diocese.*

*My closing thoughts:*

I am glad we were able to pass this motion to move forward with the 2-year pilot project. Some of the already discussed aspects will form a basis for further consideration and decision. Throughout, there will be a determination to make it work for all of us. And ministry is about relationships. This gives us the opportunity to encourage and support one another in our relationship with God and the community around us.

Bryce

## Thelma Doris Surerus

By Allan McCracken

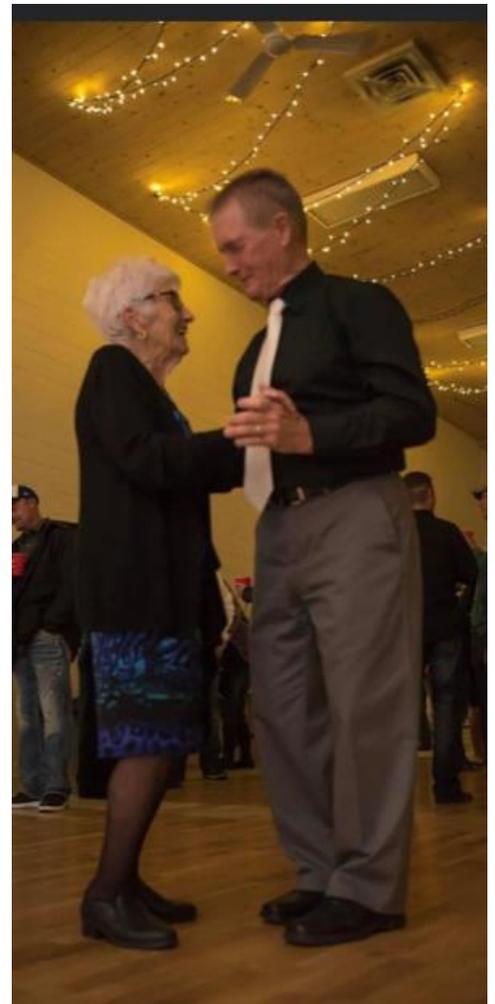
A funeral will be held on the St. James church property at 21 Church Road, Roseneath on May 7 at 11 a.m. for our oldest member Thelma, who passed away November 27<sup>th</sup> at the age of 102. Thelma had an amazing life story from being adopted by farmers in Warkworth, to raising 8 kids in Burnley (4 of whom stayed in Ontario and 4 who moved out west). A book has been made called "Our Queen for the past 100 years". Everyone is invited to the celebration as many of the Surerus clan (who are still very active at St. James) will be there and home for the occasion. A sneak preview of some of the highlights of Thelma's life are given by her daughter Kate:

### **Kate writes:**

Not sure when mom started to go to St. James church, but in 1958 she was confirmed. I believe she did retire at the age of 65 (1984) as a nurse. She went to work at Ontario hospital on University Street in Cobourg in 1960 and later D'Arcy Place on Darcy Street.

In retirement in her seventies, she volunteered to go to Haiti to nurse at Hôpital Lumière at Bon Fin. She went to Haiti as a member of the World Team missionary group leaving Canada on Feb 10, 1988, taking with her a new typewriter (but never typed me any letters which might have been easier to read) a short-wave radio and portable Elena sewing machine as her accessories. She studied the language and the culture for a good two months before being allowed to work surgery. Her work was scrub nurse in the O.R. and Central Supply doing inventory and catalogue, as well as ordering and costing for hospital equipment for the surgery unit. The two most important things to the people of Haiti were religion and education as she stressed when she wrote to me. Her last visit to Haiti was for three weeks during

March/ April in 1999 when she was 80 years old. **Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you.** (Quote from The Life Story of Thelma Surerus, published 2019)



*Thelma with son Barry Surerus, a St. James Warden.*