

Three legacy projects from 150th anniversary

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Three legacy projects emerged from the 150th anniversary year celebrations at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville.

The celebrations ended with a banquet on Saturday, Oct. 29 which featured an address by Archbishop Fred Hiltz who is the Anglican Primate for Canada, followed by a Sunday morning service on Oct. 30 attended by the Primate which featured the unveiling of

two of the legacy projects.

A wall hanging quilted by Susan Lomas and called "Seasons of the Church" was one of the legacy projects unveiled at this Oct. 30 service.

Also unveiled was a framed montage of three paintings done by Warren Blackburn showing each of the three church buildings which have served the Parish of St. Thomas over the past 150 years.

Both of these legacy projects were dedicated at the service and now hang in the church.

At the service, Primate Archbishop Fred Hiltz presented a certificate to the parish honouring it on its 150th anniversary.

In comments afterwards, Archbishop Hiltz said that he senses that there is a good spirit at

St. Thomas Anglican Church.

"It doesn't live unto itself, it lives for the good and the betterment of the community," he said about St. Thomas Anglican Church.

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Rev. Jane McCaig and Rector's Warden Pat McNally (right) look up at the "Seasons of the Church" wall hanging quilted by Susan Lomas as a 150th anniversary legacy project as the wall hanging is dedicated at the Oct. 30 worship service which marked the conclusion of the church's year-long 150th anniversary celebrations.

Book on history of St. Thomas Anglican Church is 150th anniversary legacy project

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He pointed to the music in the Oct. 30 morning liturgy as an indication of the parish's spirit.

"I loved the fact that the music this morning was just a

wonderful mix of the old, old favourites and some lovely contemporary songs that are easy for everybody to sing and in the midst of all that just a wonderful anthem with many parts," he said. "Just

that alone is an indicator of the kind of community this is."

At a gathering in the downstairs hall of the church following the Oct. 30 service, city of Ottawa Stittsville ward

councillor presented a certificate from city of Ottawa mayor Jim Watson congratulating St. Thomas Anglican Church on its 150th anniversary.

On display at the downstairs gathering were items that had been stored in a wooden box "time capsule" which had been sealed up 25 years earlier when the current St. Thomas church building was opened. These items included photographs, newspapers, plans and documents pertaining to the building of the current church.

The third legacy project arising from the 150th anniversary celebration of St. Thomas Anglican Church is a book "The History of St. Thomas Anglican Church: Stanley's Corners - Stittsville" which was researched, compiled and written by Barbara Bottriell.

Copies of this book are now on sale for \$20 each. The 116 page book tells the story of St. Thomas Anglican Church from its beginnings in 1866 to the present day. The book includes historic as well as full colour contemporary photographs of church activities and events.

Barbara Bottriell, who is a St. Thomas parishioner, has authored two books: "The Story of Mowoo" and "Stittsville A Sense of Place." She spent one and a half years working on this church 150th anniversary project, researching and writing the history, collecting appropriate photographs, gathering information such as memo-

ries and reminiscences and organizing messages from various contributors.

The book tells the story of St. Thomas Anglican Church from its establishment in 1866 at Stanley's Corners through its destructive fire in 1964 to the opening of a new church building in Stittsville in 1970 to the opening of the current church building in 1990. There is even an account in the book of the first service in the Stanley's Corners church on Oct. 25, 1866.

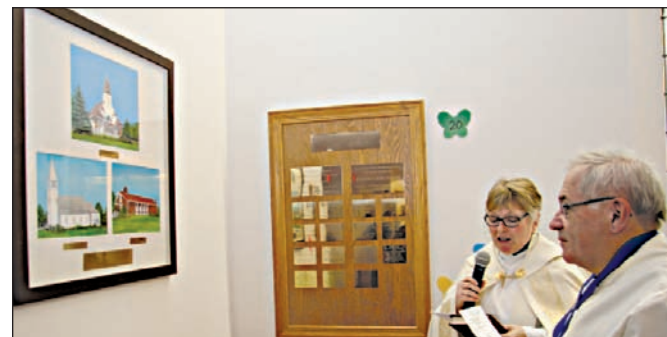
The book presents the stories behind various St. Thomas Church organizations such as the Anglican Church Women, the Altar Guild, the Cemetery Committee, the Sunday School and the Youth Group. There is a listing of the various clergy who have served at St. Thomas over the years and also a list of the various church wardens over the years.

The various memorials which exist throughout the church are itemized in the book as are the church's memorial windows.

This is the first comprehensive written account of the history of St. Thomas Anglican Church from 1866 to the present. On the occasion of the church's 130th anniversary, a pamphlet dealing with the history of the church was published. It was also written by Barbara Bottriell.

Copies of this book outlining the 150 year history of St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville is available after church service on Sundays or from the church office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (phone 613-836-5741).

The 150th anniversary organizing committee for St. Thomas Anglican Church was chaired by William Passmore. Members included Rev. Jane McCaig, who has been the incumbent at St. Thomas for 11 years, Barbara Cordukes, Barbara Bottriell and Susan Lomas. The committee began its work in May 2014. Rev. Sharron Reykdal-Bradley also contributed to the early work of the committee.



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Rev. Jane McCaig (second from right) dedicates the framed montage of three paintings done by Warren Blackburn showing the three churches which have served as home for St. Thomas Anglican Church over the past 150 years as Rector's Warden Pat McNally (far right) looks on.