

August 30, 2016

Dear friends in Christ,

This past Sunday was my last regular Sunday with the people of St James Mosinee. They had a picnic outside before the service, and then we had a joyous celebration of the Eucharist. I was reminded why I had stayed 8 years as a supply priest - I had been fed by them, as much as them by me.

A couple of things that I want to reflect on from the day:

First, I am not retiring! It was time for me to step back from Tomahawk and Mosinee. Conditions in both congregations as well as in the diocese made it right for me to let them map the course of the future together. I was not going to be part of the future of either congregation, but I had helped create a bridge that brought them to this point.

Second, I felt like I was attending my own funeral...what with all the nice things being said and the tears being shed amidst the goodbyes. What made it special was the appreciation of people who are my friends for things done as part of just being together.

Finally, there was the memories of my walk from Wausau to Mosinee on their 125th anniversary. Specifically, of getting to the river just before the bridge in Mosinee (which was out at the time), and being ferried over in canoe. It was memorable because after walking however many miles, the body did not want to bend down and get into the canoe and told me so, nor did it want to unbend at the end of the trip and go from canoe to land to resume the walk, blocks though it was. It was then that age, body condition and reality met together!

Now back to life and ministry with St John's, and the Wausau area. I am excited for the time and energy that I will have once more, and what we can do together with God's love working amongst us. And thank you all, for supporting my efforts with Tomahawk and Mosinee, and being part of the bridge that brings them to the place they are in.

In Christ,
Fr David