

## ***BILL BLACKBURN***

Bill Blackburn has been a very integral part of the small rural Parish of St. John, Pilot Mound all his life. He is presently a locally ordained Priest in the Pembina Hills Parishes, and has served as Church Treasurer, Vestry Member and as Chair of the Building Committee for Pembina Hills Parishes for many years.

Using his skills as a trained Carpenter, he has personally maintained the church plant of St. John, Pilot Mound in magnificent order and ensured it is fully equipped for all its worship and community activities. Bill was the volunteer foreman for the congregations of the Pembina Hills when additions to the rectories in Pilot Mound and Manitou were undertaken.

Bill has been a leading member of the Total Ministry (now Local Collaborative Ministry) Support Team since its inception in 1991. His role has been that of preacher, worship leader, encourager and mentor. The respect that the other Team members hold for Bill was affirmed by their call for Bill to be ordained Priest. This call was affirmed by the appropriate diocesan discernment processes and Bill was ordained in 2010, and commissioned as part of the LCM Team.

Bill has served as a Synod delegate, dating back to the mid-70's; He served on Diocesan Council for 13 terms; on the Diocesan Total Ministry Development Team; a lay delegate to the Living Stones Conference in 2007; Chair of the Local Organizing Committee of Diocesan Synod when it met in Pilot Mound in 1999. Bill has attended many workshops and special events in the Diocese. Note: In order to do this, it usually requires 200 km's and 2.5 hours of driving (each way), since most of the events, meetings, synods, etc. are held in the city of Winnipeg.

He has been an active member in his community by his volunteer involvement in: Meals on Wheels; supervisor for construction at the local Doctor's office; Tradesman for the Pilot Mound Recreational Complex, Member of the Royal Canadian Legion, and over the years was involved with the Kinsmen, Local Fire Fighters, Ambulance First Responders. Town Councilor in Pilot Mound in the early 70's and Mayor in the mid 70's.

Bill's service has been honoured with the Lt Governor's Volunteer of the Year Award, 2009; Awarded for outstanding community leadership; Pilot Mound Volunteer of the Year 2004, and commemorative medal in recognition of significant contribution to compatriot's community and Canada in 1992.

Bill is a warm and engaging, down to earth, man whose faith has been expressed in action all his life.