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The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL www.toronto.anglican.ca JUNE 2014



Janice Biehn (left) and Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, SSJD, enjoy a peaceful moment at St. John's Convent in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Spiritual spa

Harried moms find peace at St. John's Convent

BY JANICE BIEHN

BEING busy has become a badge of honour among parents. How many Christmas letters have you read that list everyone's daily comings and goings over the year, littered with words like "whirlwind," "breakneck" and "hectic"? As the editor of *ParentsCanada* magazine, I hear a lot about so-called competitive parenting, and a jam-packed schedule seems to have become another way to win.

I used to be one of those Christmas letter writers. I confess, I enjoy being busy, stacking jobs and tasks into my mental day timer like so many cords of wood. Want something done? As the saying goes, ask a busy person. And how about this chestnut: "Idle hands do the devil's work."

It's no surprise then that *Washington Post* reporter Brigid Schulte's recently published book, *Overwhelmed: Work, Love and Play When No One Has the Time*, has become an instant best-seller. That's where I read about the Christmas letter research. Ms. Schulte admits that she was struggling to live up to the standards of the "ideal mother" while working outside the home. Here's a typical scenario: mom volunteers to contribute to the school bake sale; mom realizes she doesn't have time to bake; mom buys something that looks homemade in order to save face among the fellow mothers. Ms. Schulte recounts asking her husband to make the bake sale treat run, but when he showed up to parents night with a box of Twinkies, she was mortified. (He didn't see the problem, nor did the kids who gobbled them up.)

So when a fellow St. Olave's parishioner suggested we attend a "Spiritual Spa for Mums" at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine's convent near Yonge and Finch, I was intrigued. "Rediscover, or discover for the first time, the true peace that passes all understanding," read the poster. "Join other harried mothers in learning how to create a frame of discipline for a deep spiritual peace that will lighten the burden of work, parenting and relationships."

Full disclosure: I have two wonderful teenage daughters and an extremely helpful and supportive husband, so I'm not crying Uncle. But I enjoy my job and my volunteer work and I find I can easily get absorbed in them, and soon there's no time for my family or me.

It was the same for Molly Finlay, an associate of the SSJD who spearheaded the event, one of several Quiet Days offered throughout the year. Ms. Finlay, 41, is married and a mother of two girls, ages five and seven. A communications consultant who has worked as a journalist, for the Ontario Liberal Party and for World Vision, she described her journey to a simpler life to the 25 moms in attendance.

A few years ago, she was so busy with work and kids that she was doing neither job particularly well, she said. "I was very steeped in my career, but I knew I wanted to give my kids the best part of my day, or the best part of me. That year was when I discovered the convent, and learned how to create a rhythm of life for myself that was more in line with my values."

After spending time with the sisters, Ms. Finlay learned to turn her office from what seemed like her prison cell into a monastic cell. "In the middle of the day, I'd close my office door and spend some time thinking about God and talking to God. It was very helpful to me."

Her enthusiasm for the convent is palpable. "The sisters show us it's absolutely acceptable and beneficial to set up boundaries

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Archbishop takes to Twitter

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

SOME people give up Facebook for Lent. Archbishop Colin Johnson went the other way this year: he added Twitter to his communications toolbox. "Some of the younger clergy had challenged me to take up this social medium as a way of communicating with a whole demographic for whom this is one of the primary means of communication," he says. "I decided that for Lent, I would begin to tweet."

His first tweet was on Shrove Tuesday and it was greeted with excitement by clergy and lay Anglicans. "That would be a great 'leading by example' for the clergy and laypeople of the diocese," tweeted the Rev. Warren Leibovitch, incumbent of St. Paul, Lindsay.

Archbishop Johnson's goal was to make his tweets substantial but also personal. "I am an introvert so the exercise of doing something that's so public was a challenge," he says. "What would I tweet about?" As it turns out, his tweets were a mix of theological commentary, observations on topics he was reading or praying about, and reports from his travels and meetings on behalf of the diocese. Occasionally, he tweeted about personal activities, such as taking his granddaughter to the Toronto Zoo or visiting the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo.

Many of his tweets got replies and retweets by Anglicans in the diocese and beyond. The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, incumbent of St. George on Yonge in Toronto, says he enjoyed the glimpse "into the life of our archbishop and the many venues where he finds himself, as well as his various reflections on his experiences. I personally appreciated the contact with

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A selfie of Archbishop Johnson and his daughter Rachel.

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS – SEE PAGE 5



Group members gather after reaffirming their faith at St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope. Joining them is Bishop Linda Nicholls. PHOTO BY ALISON KEENAN

Adults reboot their faith

Parishes work together on education program

BY THE REV. LESLEY BARCLAY

TWENTY-THREE adults chose to publicly affirm their faith at a service on April 27 at St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope. Four were confirmed, two were received from other denominations, and 17 reaffirmed their baptismal vows. The group was part of an education initiative called Confirmation Reboot. Bishop Linda Nicholls, the area bishop of Trent-Durham, presided at the service.

The idea for Confirmation Reboot grew out of discussions between Bishop Nicholls and representatives from the six parishes that compose the eastern end of Durham-Northumberland Deanery. They wanted to explore how the Anglican churches, big or small, could work together to strengthen mission in their area. They identified adult education as one area that could be undertaken more effectively together.

A small committee began to work on a joint education program that would draw participants from the six parishes. Since a large percentage of Anglicans were confirmed in their early teens, it was suggested that a confirmation reboot might appeal to those who would like an opportunity to explore their faith more deeply. The committee organized the eight sessions around the Baptismal Covenant as found in the BAS and the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada. Sessions were planned and leaders were recruited.

The committee was pleased with the response to this initiative. Attendance averaged 35 people over eight sessions. All six parishes were represented. The majority of the session leaders were lay people. It was clear from comments made by participants that they enjoyed being given a chance to explore and deepen their faith.

The Rev. Lesley Barclay is a member of the committee. She is the priest-in-charge of St. Paul, Perrytown.

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Flash mob in TO

Christians sing, dance

BY STUART MANN





Dance instructor Laurence Lemieux (centre) leads a flash mob at Yonge and Dundas Square. At right, Jenna-Lynn Higgins grooves to the music at City Hall. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ANGLICANS from across the GTA joined other Christians in a flash mob at three locations in downtown Toronto on April 26. The group, which numbered about 30 in total, sang and danced about their faith in a heartfelt display of Christian unity.

"It was awesome," said the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, the incumbent of St. Peter, Carlton Street, and co-organizer of the event. "It was a great way to spread the faith."

Participants gathered at the Yonge Street Mission in the morning to learn the words to the song "We Are One Body" and to practice their dance routine. After lunch, they walked to Allan Gardens for their first performance. Some of the surprised spectators started dancing and clapping with them.

The second performance was held at Yonge and Dundas Square, in the heart of the city. A protest was going on, with people speaking into bullhorns and banging on a drum, but that didn't deter the performers. "As soon as we started the music, they stopped and almost everyone turned around to watch us," said Ms. Lewis. "People coming out of the Eaton Centre stopped and watched. Everyone was whipping out phones to take pictures and record it. A couple of hundred people were watching." Their final show was at City Hall.

Ms. Lewis said the performers were thrilled to share their faith in a new way. "It was something outside the box, something different for them to do," she said. "Several hundred people had witnessed Christians singing a song about their faith, and they're going to talk about that to others. We also had people coming up to us and asking questions."

The event was jointly sponsored by St. Peter, Carlton Street, Yonge Street Mission and St. Luke United, Toronto. The Rev. Matthew Parker, director of church at the Yonge Street Mission, was instrumental in the success of the event, said Ms. Lewis. A video of the flash mob will be posted at www.torontoflashmob.com.

Annual outreach conference to focus on healing rifts

BY MURRAY MACADAM

HEALING some of the rifts in society will be a major focus of the diocese's annual Outreach Networking Conference, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill. The conference theme is "Repairing the Breach," inspired by the vision of authentic faith outlined in Isaiah 58:12.

The outreach conference draws about 150 Anglicans from across the diocese for a day of learning, sharing ideas and information, inspiration and worship. It has been held every year since 2002.

The healing theme will be affirmed in conference workshops such as one on a restorative justice approach to crime and punishment, led by Eileen Henderson from the Mennonite Central Committee. The Rev. Riscylla Shaw, who has been heavily involved in the Anglican Church's reconciliation efforts with First Nations, will lead a workshop on that theme, including ideas for action by parishes.

Healing our broken relationship with God's creation will be discussed in two workshops. One, led by the Rev. Stephen Drakeford, will explore spirituality and environmental justice. Examples of how specific parishes are "going green" will be featured in another workshop.

Several workshops will cover topics never held at a previous outreach conference. These include Biblical storytelling by the Rev. Elizabeth Green; justice for low-wage workers by Deena Ladd from the Workers Action Centre; and ethical investing.

The Rev. Paul Hansen, a theologian and keynote speaker at a previous outreach conference, will lead a workshop provocatively entitled "Is the Gospel Political?" The conference's keynote speaker is Carol Goar, a veteran journalist who is highly respected for her longstanding column on social issues for *The Toronto Star.*

The conference is a highlight for Anglicans involved in outreach and social justice work. It is planned so that participants can share their own ideas and experiences, as well as hear from experts. "The Outreach Networking Conference offers a unique opportunity for learning new things and sharing perspectives with other Anglicans," says the Rev. Kyn Barker, a member of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. "I always come away from this event feeling spiritually re-energized and refreshed as well."

"I've gone home from every outreach conference I've attended having learned something I didn't know before," adds Elin Goulden, the parish outreach facilitator for York-Credit Valley. "The wisdom that emerges from sharing our experiences and insights together is phenomenal. But more than that, I am inspired and given fresh hope by seeing how God is working in our varied communities and contexts."

The conference takes place at Holy Trinity School, 11300 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in the issues facing society is welcome, not just those already involved in outreach efforts. The conference fee of $25 ($10 for students and unemployed individuals) includes lunch. Child care is provided. For further details and to register, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference. The conference webpage will be up and running by June 15.

Murray MacAdam is the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

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ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

Some years ago in my parish, we displayed a poster produced by the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) with the slogan: "JUSTICE, not Just-Us." It has stuck with me. It was meant to.

We are in the midst of an election campaign. In fact, if you are in some parts of the diocese, you might be in the midst of three – federal, provincial and municipal. Various parties' election platforms are pitched directly to a self-interested, "just us", emotion. "What's in it for me?" is a refrain that every candidate will hear as they knock on doors.

There is a much deeper call for us as Christians. As Anglicans, we understand that in building up our society we are also helping to prepare the way of God's kingdom. Our prophetic command has always been to seek the welfare of the communities where God has placed us (Jeremiah 29.7), and in baptism, we promise to "seek and serve Christ in all persons," and to "respect the dignity of every human being."

You have an opportunity to exert your influence. But let it not be "just about you" or "just us." Let your voice be used for "justice" for all. Pray for the candidates. When they come to your door to ask for your vote, speak to them about issues of poverty and hunger, about housing, about the well-being of children and the vulnerable in our society. Learn about the issues. Get out and VOTE!

I do not care who you vote for – well, actually, I do but I won't tell you that – but I believe you have an obligation as a Christian to exercise your franchise.

I do not understand those in a democratic society who can but do not vote. People have fought and lost their lives for that right. Women struggled for years to gain that responsibility. People have left their homeland to come here to gain the freedom to have a say in those who will govern them.

Too many people do not vote because they think it makes no difference. That's another version of what's-in-it-for-me. It does make a difference, even if the person or the party you vote for doesn't get elected. You are registering your interest in the life and the future of our community.

Politicians want to make a difference in their communities and they work hard at it. They want to do the right thing and they want to respond to their constituents. They listen and are influenced by the electorate – maybe not responding to your individual interest, but they do hear what groups of their constituents are saying – at the door, at political gatherings, in letters, on the phone, in the coffee hour when they visit your church event, and in the local restaurant or pub.

The gift of the Spirit at Pentecost was poured out on the disciples so that they proclaimed to everyone, in a language that each could understand, the Good News of Jesus, "opening to every race and nation the way of eternal life." The gift is extended to all, not some. Those who listened and responded to the invitation created a commonwealth of life so that "each person's need was met" (Acts 2).

Part of the Anglican ethos is to engage actively in the wider society around us. We have an enviable history of that, and hospitals, schools and universities, libraries, social service agencies, businesses and public service are the tangible results. We elect people to serve as our representatives to build, maintain and develop the structures and infrastructure that create healthy and sustainable civil life where all can find a secure place – ALL, not just a few, not just many, but ALL!

When the election is over, pray for our government, politicians and civil service; continue to learn about the issues; keep in touch with your elected representative to express your hopes and concerns for a better society; do your part in working actively for the inclusion of all in the abundant life God offers us.

Electoral resources, produced by the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, are available at www.province-ontario.anglican.ca.

Prepare for the unexpected



BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP PHILIP POOLE

It was an ordinary Friday. Morning rush hour in this town just north of Toronto was abating. Traffic on Yonge Street was steady and the lineups for mid-morning coffee at Tim Hortons were significant. Nothing out of the ordinary.

It all changed in a moment.

Someone noticed smoke coming from a roof where workers had been making repairs. Something was wrong, terribly wrong. An alarm was sent to Central York Fire, which responded with their usual speed and professionalism. But the fire had already taken hold in an iconic and historic church. Aurora United Church was ablaze.

Within a few hours, all that would remain was the front façade. The roof had caved in. The sanctuary, the beautiful windows, the offices, the meeting rooms and the halls were rubble. My wife was in town that day for an appointment and witnessed firefighters doing all they could to drown the fire, pouring water from the giant hook and ladder trucks onto the roof of the increasingly unstable structure. Eventually the quantity of water filled the basement, exited out the front door, down the front steps and back onto the street. The members of Aurora United Church, which was so important to the fabric of the community, were devastated. It was a Friday that will live in infamy in the annals of Aurora.

Something also happened that morning. While the fire was still raging, the Anglican Church in Bishop Peter Fenty's area did more than watch the devastation. It acted. Immediately, parishioners offered to share space in their church with their United Church brothers and sisters. They offered to host an event that very night to allow members of Aurora United Church (AUC) to gather for support and for their leaders to hold an emergency meeting of their parish council to begin to plot the future. For years, AUC has held a weekly sunrise Saturday breakfast. It was held at Trinity Anglican. As I understand it, the two churches worshipped together the following Sunday. There were a lot of tears. I also understand that plans are afoot to share the worship and hospitality space into the foreseeable future – not easy but absolutely the right thing to do. Bravo, Trinity.

My heart goes out to Aurora United Church. I have witnessed a number of church fires in my day first-hand and they are devastating. So much history and so many memories are tied up in our buildings, which serve as a tangible and visible reminder of the presence of Christian people worshipping God and serving the community. The Good News is that the church, the body of Christ, remains intact. God bless Aurora United Church.

Christmas this past December brought with it extremes in cold and weather. The building at St. David, Lawrence Avenue, in Toronto, was overwhelmed on the Sunday of the ice storm. St. David's was in the first community to lose power in the city. As a result, there was no heat. Frantically, they phoned everyone on their parish list to cancel services for the day. The entranceways to the church were unsafe. As the power stayed off and the buildings became colder and colder, there was some thought of cancelling Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Cancelling those services was the right idea. We are committed to providing safe places for worship and spiritual growth. With no electricity and no heat, the building was not safe. But it was hard to think about cancelling Christmas at a church. The neighbouring parish of St. John, Weston, heard about this and acted. They had planned services at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 24, and St. David's had planned services at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. In an act of Christian hospitality, St. John's threw open its doors and welcomed the people of St. David's with open arms. They shared the 7 p.m. service and held the 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. services as each congregation originally planned. As the incumbent of St. David's, the Rev. Joyce Barnett, put it, "No cold stable for us. We were invited into the warmth and light of friends." Bravo, St. John's.

I tell you these stories in the hope of encouraging you and your parish to be quick to respond to needs as they arise in your communities. Emergencies give little advance warning. They just happen. The church is uniquely placed to be able to assist the wider community in a time of need. What if there was a hurricane in your community or a fire in a group of houses or an ice storm or some other disaster? How might your church respond? Could your church be a "safe place" as a back-up to a nursing home or a school that has to be evacuated? Could you think through an emergency plan in consultation with the mayor and town officials where the church might help? Could your advisory board or local ministerial usefully discuss this? In what ways might your membership be mustered into planned action in the event such a need arises?

What if, God forbid, there was an emergency situation at a local school. How might the church help? What kind of support response might you give?

I pray that none of these scenarios ever come to fruition, but sadly, I know something will happen somewhere that the church might help. Get a plan in place. Work with local authorities to determine the appropriateness of a response. Think about it.

We are called as a church to offer in tangible ways expressions of love to all God's world precisely because God first loved us. Too often we get our great ideas after something has taken place. Let's get out in front of this and plan for our most useful response. Easter is a perfect season to think about how we might reflect God's love to our communities.

One day it might be an ordinary Friday in your community.

TheAnglican

The Anglican is published under the authority of the Bishop of Toronto and the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Opinions expressed in The Anglican are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

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Circulation: For all circulation inquiries, including address changes, new subscriptions and cancellations, call the Circulation Department at (416) 924-9199, ext. 259/245, or email circulation@national.anglican.ca. You can also make changes online: visit www.anglicanjournal.com and click Subscription Centre.

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The Rev. Jason McKinney enjoys the moment.



Bishop Linda Nicholls takes a photo of the Rev. Simon Davis.



The cathedral is filled for the service.



The Rev. Jacqueline Daley hugs a friend, Abdurahman Abubaker, after being ordained to the sacred order of deacons at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, on May 4. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Friends and family take photos.



Bishop Peter Fenty preaches.



Newly ordained deacons gather on the steps of the cathedral with Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre), bishops, clergy and laity. The new deacons are, from left, the Rev. Megan Jull, the Rev. Jacqueline Daley, the Rev. Simon Davis, the Rev. Jason McKinney, the Rev. Graham McCaffrey, the Rev. Jeff Stone and the Rev. Andrew MacDonald.

It's not meant to be easy



BY HELEN ROBINSON

It was a slow trip from Toronto Island to the city on that first Sunday in March. The ferry inched its way through the channels in the frozen harbour. I looked through the window of the cabin at the slabs of ice below me and could feel their resistance to the boat. My eyes rose to take in the expanse of white between me and the dock. "I'm not sure about this," I thought. "This could be tricky."

I was on my way home from church, a usually predictable journey that I took every Sunday. Now, for the moment, I felt uncertain. The boat could collide with one of the slabs of ice — then what would happen? This wasn't a safe situation.

This past winter gave me the opportunity to discover that journeying with Jesus can take me places where I am not comfortable. Ice on the lake, strong winds, temperatures that were often colder than in the city — I encountered a very different landscape from the one I experienced in the summer.

I practice Gospel meditation. One morning, as I questioned Jesus, the phrase, "It's not meant to be easy," came into my mind. I realized how often I expected my pilgrimage to continue through constant summer scenery. Then there would be a change in the weather and my expectations would not be met. I became like the boat, thrusting its way through the ice that was resisting it.

This past winter, there were times when I stayed home from church. On the surface, it appeared the sensible thing to do. I didn't want to risk falling and breaking a hip on my way to the bus stop. However, I found that I missed the people at St. Andrew's. It felt like I was going through withdrawal. The Sundays I confronted my anxiety and joined everyone on the island, I returned home feeling nourished and empowered.

Five years ago, I responded to an inner nudging to leave a church in which I had felt secure for many years. I joined St. Andrew's and Contemplative Fire. Crossing into a new territory changed me. As I changed, some relationships altered or were lost. This was painful and I struggled with it. I am learning that to become who Jesus wants me to be, some parts of my former life must be left behind.

One Saturday, I stood in a church cemetery. I was struck by the mystery of all the people buried there. They had all had lives that were shaped, in part, by the decisions they had made. I, too, have a life shaped by the decisions I have made. If I hadn't responded to an invitation to come to Canada and see how I liked it here, my faith journey would not have taken the same direction.

There were times this past winter, as I woke to another day of frigid temperatures and slippery conditions, that I was gripped by frustration. I felt the season containing me and needed to push through its restraint. There have been other times in my life where feelings of irritation or restlessness have signaled a change for me. "Behold, I make all things new," says the writer of Revelation. Jesus is continually extending an invitation to me to be created anew. I am free to turn down that offer. If I do, I know I will always regret that I haven't lived to my full potential.

On Palm Sunday, the harbour was free of ice. A brisk breeze ruffled the water. I watched a windsurfer as he struggled to keep his craft upright. Every so often he wobbled and his sail tilted toward the lake. Then he regained his balance and continued on.

Sometimes, on my journey with Jesus, I am like the windsurfer who meets the challenge of keeping her craft upright with exhilaration. At other times, I am more like the boat that pushes its way through the ice. In each case, I am moving forward. I am becoming the person who Jesus wants me to be.

Helen Robinson is a member of St. Andrew by-the-Lake on Toronto Island.

New card honours donations



THE diocese's Stewardship Development department has created a card to honour memorial and tribute donations. "The diocese is grateful to be the recipient of gifts made in memory of loved ones," says Peter Misiaszek, the director of Stewardship Development. "We wanted to find a way to let family members and friends know of the generosity of the donors who have made these gifts."

The design is an abstract depiction of an architectural feature in St. James Cathedral, Toronto. "We were looking for an image that would be representative of the diversity and unity of the diocese," said Stephen Boake of Smith-Boake Designwerke, designers of the card.

The card is designed to include a personal message and can be used to notify a family member, friend, or co-worker that a tribute gift has been made in recognition of a birthday, anniversary or other special event. For information on making a donation or gift to FaithWorks or any program of the Diocese of Toronto, contact Minda Antonio, Donor Relations and Information Management Assistant at mantonio@toronto.anglican.ca.

‘The call to simplicity can raise eyebrows’

Continued from Page 1

and take care of ourselves so we don’t get burnt out. I learned you don’t have to white-knuckle it through life.”

The call to simplicity can raise eyebrows from others. “Even a little bit is going against the culture,” Ms. Finlay says. “That means with your kids, too, not having them going 24/7 in a million different programs.” This is tricky for parents. Experts say extra-curricular activities can help prevent everything from bullying to obesity, but they can also be major time-suckers. “It’s also about saying no, our family is not going to three birthday parties this Sunday, we’re going to have some real Sabbath time together.”

After Ms. Finlay’s warm opening remarks, Sr. Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas outlined the convent’s “spa-like” qualities for anyone who was expecting white towels and pan flutes: “Here you can relax in a quiet, peaceful atmosphere; have all your meals provided for you; enjoy the gardens in the spring, summer and fall, perhaps walk the labyrinth.”

After a lively discussion on the merits of simplifying, it was time for the first of two quiet hours: time to reflect, meditate, read or even nap. I wondered, “Do the sisters have WiFi?” but then realized I was probably missing the point. Be alone with my thoughts? For an hour? Wow, that was going to be hard. After wandering the light-filled hallways and cozy library, I was drawn to a book with a piano on its cover. I had been moonlighting as a piano teacher for the last eight years and finally retired last spring in an effort to be less busy, so this seemed fitting.

The minutes passed quickly, and soon a small crowd was heading toward the pale-wood sanctuary for the noon Eucharist. Lunch followed, and I had worked up an appetite. I had paid the extra $15 (Quiet Days are usually $25) so I wouldn’t have to bring my lunch, and the beef stroganoff did not disappoint. But here was the catch. We were to eat monastic-style – in silence. How would I ever manage that?



Janice Biehn relaxes in the library at St. John's Convent. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Slowly, it turns out. My friends and family know I am a fast eater. But here, without social distractions, I was mindful and present. Focusing only on the food in front of me, I was able to chew and taste it.

After lunch and all that quiet, the group was energized to talk about prayer. Ms. Finlay described how she listened to Gregorian chant on her iPod while riding the subway to work and prayed for herself and her family and friends. She also sticks to a routine of praying early in the morning, before her children are even awake. “If I don’t do that, I feel something is amiss in my day.”

Sr. Elizabeth combines her prayer ritual with walking. During better weather, she walks up to an hour a day, often repeating phrases or words to the rhythm of her gait. “I recall one time walking and these three phrases came to my mind out of nowhere: loving intent, deep listening and compassionate action. I wondered, where did that come from? I didn’t have a pen and paper with me so I had to keep repeating them over and over so I would remember them.” She emphasizes to not be afraid to adapt a prayer or method to what works well for you.

We still had one more hour of quiet time to observe. This time I had my eye on the comfy couches in the lobby to take a nap. With my eyes closed and my brain starting to relax, words of thanks bubbled up. Early that morning, I was sitting at Toronto Western Hospital while my husband underwent laser eye surgery to correct a torn retina. How thankful I was to have an eye surgeon so skilled that it took all of 10 minutes to fix the problem. Sure, it wasn’t a life-or-death situation, but on the other hand, it was a big deal and I needed to mark that. Here, I had created space to do it.

After our 3 p.m. coffee and tea break, we gathered to share our thoughts about the day. The discussion turned to self-care, and how mothers often feed their kids first, or go without a shower to avoid leaving the baby alone for a few minutes. “Just as the flight attendant tells you to put your mask on before your child,” said Sr. Elizabeth, “so does Jesus tell us to love ourselves and take care of ourselves first.” Another mom chimed in: “The first and greatest commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself.”

Everyone needs to be reminded of this, and sometimes it takes a personal day to do so. It’s not that I am lacking alone time, it’s that when I get it, I quickly fill it up with tasks and emails and projects and chores. The spiritual spa day had taught me not only how to slow down and reflect, but why to do it.

Janice Biehn is a member of St. Olave, Toronto.

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CANADIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
set sail for Europe.
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KINGSTON PERFORMANCE
Saturday, June 7th, 2014 - 3 pm
Sydenham Street United Church, 82 Sydenham St., Kingston, Ontario
Ian Juby & Judy Scott-Jacobs, Music Directors
Featuring the Kingston Choral Society with Clare Gordon on piano
and the Communications and Electronics Vimy Band
Warrant Officer Sylvain Gagnon, Music Director

Tickets $20 Adults and $10 for children 12 and under
available at RENAISSANCE MUSIC, TARA NATURAL FOODS
Call 613 389 7465 for more information and tickets

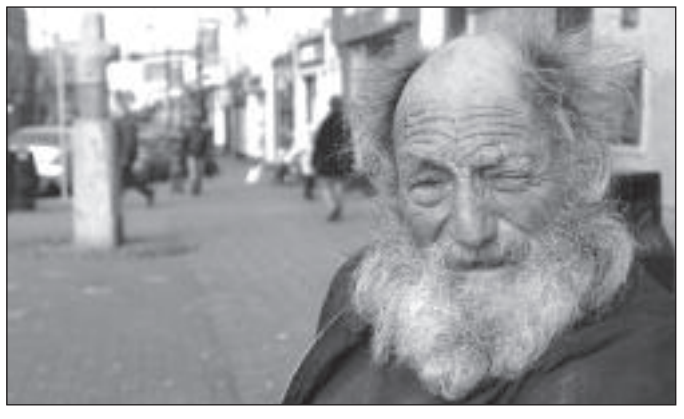
COBOURG PERFORMANCE
Saturday, June 14th, 2014 - 3 pm & 7:30 pm
Trinity United Church, 284 Division St. Cobourg, Ontario
Debbie Fingas, Ian Juby & Judy Scott-Jacobs, Music Directors
with The Concert Band of Cobourg,
Paul Storms, Music Director

Tickets $22 Adults and $12 for children 12 and under
available at Victoria Hall Box Office, 55 King St.
Call 905 372 2210 - Toll Free 1-855 372 2210

TORONTO PERFORMANCE
Saturday, June 21st, 2014 - 3 pm
St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto (King and Church Streets)
Debbie Fingas, Ian Juby & Judy Scott-Jacobs, Music Directors
Featuring the Band of the Royal Regiment of Canada
Capt. Bill Mighton CD, Director of Music

TICKETS $25 & $10 for children 12 and under
Call 416 282 0427 for more information and tickets

Is he waiting for the Priest,
the Levite or the Samaritan?
(Luke 10:25)



Or is he waiting for us? It's easy to give him a wide berth or think, "Why doesn't he just get a job?" But what do we know of him? Put yourself in his shoes, sitting on cold concrete, your dignity leaching away, and see if you can think of one reason he might have chosen this. Then think of LOFT, reaching out to help this man and others like him, just as they have helped thousands over the years. Then think about what you can do.

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Tweeting to continue

Continued from Page 1

him using a new and advanced medium.”

Archbishop Johnson says it was a “real discipline” to tweet every day and to edit his tweets to meet the 140-character limit. “Over a period of time, I learned about hashtags, which I use occasionally, and I also learned that I could take and send photos.” After the Easter Sunday Eucharist at St. James Cathedral, he even performed that quintessential digital native rite: he posted a selfie. He plans to continue tweeting. “I think it’s an interesting way of alerting people because it’s short and pithy.”

Anglicans remember Jim Flaherty

State funeral held at cathedral

BY STUART MANN

IN addition to looking after Canada's finances, former finance minister Jim Flaherty helped to save his local church.

When Mr. Flaherty was a churchwarden at All Saints, Whitby, from 1992 to 1996, he and the other churchwarden, the late Ross Johnson, took out an extensive insurance policy for the parish. When the church was gutted by a fire in 2009, the coverage helped the congregation rebuild and stay out of debt.

"It was a brilliant decision," said Eleanor Stevenson, the current churchwarden and a longtime member of All Saints. "I think the church would have had to be completely torn down without it. It was a very good policy and we were well protected."

It was also during Mr. Flaherty's term as churchwarden that the church installed an accessible wheelchair lift, capable of taking people from street level up to the church hall. "He championed the lift long before it became mandatory for buildings," said Ms. Stevenson. "He was so interested in enabling people with disabilities."

Like many in the congregation, she remembered Mr. Flaherty with fondness. "He was funny, low-key in his worship and witty," she said. "He was a member of the congregation and most of us treated him as such."

The Rev. Stephen Vail, who became the incumbent of All Saints last year, echoed her words. "I only met him once, at Christmas Eve this past year, and I was a little intimidated," he said. "Everyone at All Saints was quite proud of their connection to the finance minister, but the man I met was nice, genuine and humble."

The Very Rev. Kenneth Davis, who was the incumbent of All Saints from 1998 to 2010, recalled Mr. Flaherty attending the 8 a.m. Sunday services when he was home from Ottawa. "Any time he was home, he was in church," he said. "He wanted to be just one of the congregation. He didn't want to be singled out, and I think that was a real blessing for him. He could just come to church and be Jim.

"We sometimes talked at the back of the church about his vocation as a husband and a father and a public servant and a Christian," he said. "I know that all of those were hugely important to him. He was a man of integrity and somebody who believed what he said on Sunday morning and lived it out in public life."





Clockwise from above: Jim Flaherty takes part in a dedication ceremony at St. Thomas, Brooklin, in 2009; Mounties carry Mr. Flaherty's casket into St. James Cathedral in Toronto as Archbishop Colin Johnson and the Rev. Stephen Vail look on; All Saints, Whitby; Christine Elliott and her three sons (to her right and behind) leave the cathedral after the state funeral. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON





Mr. Flaherty was honoured with a state funeral at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on April 16. He died of a heart attack in Ottawa on April 10, less than a month after resigning from cabinet. He was 64. He was the federal finance minister from 2006 to 2014 and Ontario's finance minister from 2001 to 2002.

The state funeral was attended by more than 1,500 people, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau. Many wore green ties or scarves in honour of Mr. Flaherty's Irish heritage. The streets around the cathedral were closed to traffic and many sat in an enclosure on the church grounds, watching the service on large screens.

A bell tolled mournfully and a bagpiper played as eight Mounties carried Mr. Flaherty's flag-draped coffin into the cathedral and up to the front of the church. The columns inside the cathedral were lit with green light at the beginning and end of the service.

Mr. Harper praised his longtime finance minister for steering the economy through the global recession of 2008 and 2009 and working hard to get the country on a sound financial footing in the years afterward. "It is his legacy," he said, adding that he thought Mr. Flaherty had been the best finance minister in Canada's history. He said his decision to appoint Mr. Flaherty as finance minister "had been one of the best political decisions of my career, one of the most important for this government and one of the most meaningful ever for this country."

In a moving tribute, Mr. Flaherty's widow, Christine Elliott, and the couple's three sons spoke of him as a loving husband and father who put his family first. Ms. Elliott, who is the member of provincial parliament for Whitby-Oshawa, said her husband was a proud Canadian who entered public life to make a difference in people's lives. "He wanted to make sure that everyone, regardless of their varying abilities, had the chance to live happy lives of purpose and dignity," she said. "Inclusion in every respect was his ultimate goal, and he worked hard in both his public and private life to achieve it."

Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Elliott were instrumental in creating the Abilities Centre, a fully accessible recreational and community facility in Whitby. The centre's mission is to "enrich the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities through an inclusive environment." Their son John has a learning disability.

A tireless advocate on behalf of disabled people, Mr. Flaherty was a supporter of the Special Olympics and many other initiatives that helped integrate disabled people into the workplace and everyday life. As federal finance minister, he introduced the Registered Disability Savings Plan, which helps parents of special-needs children put savings aside to care for their kids after the mother and father die.

In his homily, the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, said Mr. Flaherty's deep faith influenced his actions. "Jim Flaherty knew about unfairness. He knew life could be unfair and he knew systems could be unfair. As a man of faith, he used that awareness to inform and energize his service to the public."

Dean Stoute spoke about Mr. Flaherty's Roman Catholic upbringing in Lachine, Quebec, and how he had found a spiritual home at All Saints, Whitby, where Mr. Flaherty and Ms. Elliott were married in 1986. "His faith sustained him, informed his policies and carried him through the sacrifices that he had to make in the service of our province, our country and the wider world."

Archbishop Colin Johnson, who presided at the two-hour service, offered words of hope to the Flaherty family, to those who attended the funeral and the many who watched on television. "St. Paul says to us that we are not to weep as those without hope," he said. "Amidst grief, we have the comfort that God is present with us. Easter is God's last word, not Good Friday."

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Priest on front line of Canadian socialism

Couple sold home to provide housing

BY THE REV. MAGGIE HELWIG

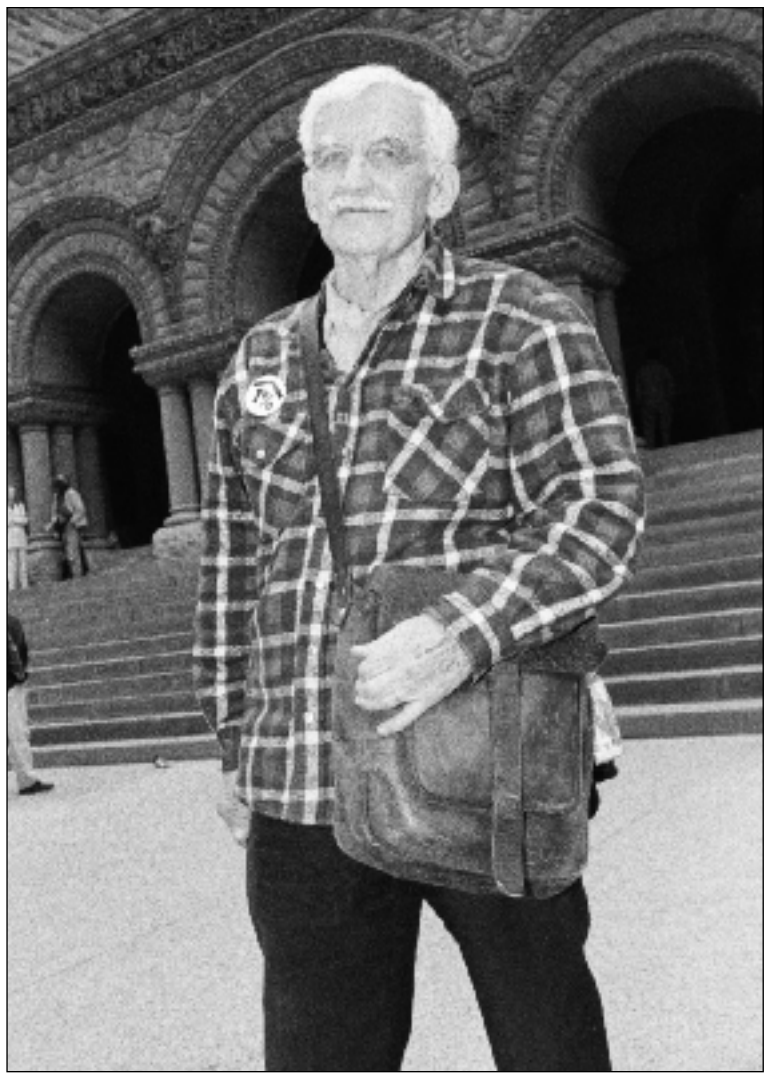
THE Rev. Daniel James Macdonnell Heap – more familiarly known as either Dan or Don, depending on when you knew him and how – was a part of the fabric of social justice work in Toronto, and an important figure in the history of Canadian socialism. He was a lifelong activist, agitator and organizer, an NDP MP for Trinity-Spadina from 1981 to 1993, and always on the front lines of every struggle, not infrequently placing himself at risk of arrest. Less well known, he was an Anglican priest, one whose vocation remained central to his personal and political identity.

Mr. Heap was formed by his engagement with the Society of the Catholic Commonwealth, a Marxist Anglican group that saw socialist economic principles as the necessary working-out in practice of an incarnational and eucharistic theology. Ordained in 1950, he served for a short time as a parish priest in Quebec, but moved to Toronto to become a worker-priest. This was, in fact, his longest single engagement – for 18 years, while serving as an honorary parish assistant, he went to work in a Toronto cardboard box factory wearing his clerical collar, something he saw as an integral part both of his faith practice and his commitment to bringing socialism to Canadian workers.

His calling as a priest continued to shape his political vocation when he moved on to work as an elected official. As long-time colleague Ellie Kirzner perceptively pointed out in her obituary of him in NOW magazine, "He and Alice (his late wife and lifelong political comrade) built the riding association along parish lines – in the best sense. It was each according to their needs. If anyone needed consolation after a loss, care for a sick loved one, baby-sitting or baby clothes, the Heaps took to their prodigious Rolodex to find a communal solution."

As the Housing and Immigration critic, he concentrated especially on refugee rights, peace and disarmament, housing as a human right, solidarity with Latin America, and redress for Chinese-Canadians. When, much later, the Heaps were no longer well enough to stay in their family home, they sold it to Homes First for a fraction of its market price (after some argument with the organization, which wouldn't let them give the building away for free) to become housing for recently arrived refugees.

Mr. Heap's commitments, whether to his large and deeply loved family, or to his political and theological principles, were absolute and unwavering, and brooked no compromise. After his retirement, he engaged consistently with street-level protests, especially for peace and disarmament, and economic justice. Never entirely at home in the church as an institution, he was willing to take action as he saw necessary to call it back to its own better self. I was there when he, along with Len Desroches and Fr. Bob Holmes, scaled the fence at St. Paul, Bloor Street, carrying crowbars and chisels, determined to remove the sword that sits in the centre of the cross on the war monument there, a symbol he saw as representing the church's use of just war theory "for the justification of every war that Caesar chooses to wage." They were arrested as soon as they crossed the fence into the church grounds.



The Rev. Don Heap outside Toronto's Old City Hall courthouse in 2000.
PHOTO BY DAVID LAURENCE

His longest parish engagement was with Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Toronto, where he and his wife Alice continued to attend the weekly vigil for the homeless almost until the end of Alice's life.

The Rev. Maggie Helwig is the priest-in-charge of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto.

CANADA BRIEFS



People of faith build houses 1

On March 24, a snowy first day of spring, members of the Diocese of Edmonton and representatives from more than 15 different faith communities met on the grounds of the largest Habitat for Humanity build in Canada. In the next few months, upwards of 400 interfaith volunteers contributed labour, food and goodwill to help construct the Leufeld Landing condominium complex in south Edmonton. By the end of the summer, the 62-unit development will be home to 16 families. "Safe and affordable housing is essential to human dignity," said Executive Archdeacon Alan Perry, representing the diocese at the kick-off.
The Messenger

Lay readers licensed 2

The Diocese of Qu'Appelle plans to re-introduce a licensed lay reader program by the beginning of September, possibly commissioning the first lay readers in the fall.

The Diocese of Ottawa recently amended its lay reader program and shared its materials with Qu'Appelle. Drawing from those materials, Qu'Appelle has produced its second draft of a manual for the program. "This is a ministry that will complement and enrich the ministries of the diocese offered by clergy and laity alike," said Bishop Rob Hardwick.
Saskatchewan Anglican

Huron, Amazonia to be companions 3

In March, Bishop Bob Bennett and his wife, Kathie, as well as Stephanie Donaldson of St. John, Grand Bend, travelled to the Diocese of Amazonia, in the heart of the Amazon River delta, to attend its synod, where the bishop signed a covenant to create a companion relationship between the dioceses of Huron and Amazonia.
Huron Church News

New organ first in Canada 4

Late last year, thanks to generous contributors, St. Cuthbert, Oakville, installed a new Heritage Edition RL-58 organ, made in Pennsylvania. It is the first instrument of its kind in Canada and only the fourth installed worldwide. The organ was made possible after Andrew Stephens of Calgary, the son of a former organist at the church, donated $50,000 in stock, to be matched by donations from parishioners. The church raised the matching funds, allowing it to purchase and install the organ without going into debt.
Niagara Anglican

More funding for Syrian crisis needed 5

Before the civil war, Syria had a population of 21 million, but about nine million have since left their homes, and about two million are now refugees in countries such as Lebanon, Jordan Turkey and Iraq, David Mayberry of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank said in a presentation hosted by the Ottawa Primate's World Relief and Development Fund diocesan working group. Of the $13 million the bank has provided for the Syria crisis, a little more than half "has already been used up," he said. He encouraged Canadians to write letters to their MPs, urging the federal government to make a new commitment of funding.
Crosstalk

Walk for refugees set for June 6

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) has launched a campaign with the slogan "Proud to Protect Refugees" to counter myths and misconceptions about refugees coming to Canada and to emphasize the positive contributions refugees often make to their new country if given the opportunity. The council is organizing a Canada-wide event, "Walk with refugees for a stronger Canada," June 16 to 22, with local marches across the country. Pia Zambelli, a leading refugee lawyer in Montreal, said important Canadian legal precedents that granted refugees many of the same rights as other residents of Canada are now being undermined and "garbled" by the current federal government's rhetoric about "bogus" refugees and by restrictions and clampdowns.
Montreal Anglican





NEW HALL

The Rev. Margaret Tandy cuts the ribbon to open the renovated parish hall at St. Mark, Port Hope. From left are general contractor Stephen Fisher, churchwarden Peter Kedwell, architect Reno Piccini and churchwarden Gwen Duck. The hall includes meeting rooms, a professional kitchen, a mezzanine and an elevator. Ms. Tandy says St. Mark's is grateful for the generous gifts from parishioners and the support of the diocese, which provided a Ministry Allocation Fund grant towards the renovation. PHOTO BY ANNE ORAM

Artists depict stations in new ways

St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea, held its first Stations of the Cross Art Show on April 19. The project was put forward by parishioner Paula Lyn and the response was immediate and enthusiastic. Last fall, a group of 12 artists, ranging in age from 16 to 80, met at St. Joseph's to discuss how they might depict the Stations of the Cross in new and creative ways. Each artist selected one station, and in the months leading up to Holy Week, they allowed the biblical passage to guide them to produce a piece of art that represented their feelings about that station. The result was a magnificent diversity of art in various forms: watercolour, pastels, mixed media, pencil, flower arranging, quilting, abstract, photography, sculpture and stained glass. On the day of the exhibition, guests were invited to mingle freely and read the comments provided by the artists and to experience the Stations of the Cross in a new way.





A man looks at a station of the cross at St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea. Artists also created paintings.

Church's 'gift profile' a first for NCD

St. Timothy, North Toronto, was the first church in the world to have a group "gift profile" produced online by Natural Church Development (NCD). NCD is a process that helps churches with their health and growth. At the church's annual Parish Breakaway weekend, parishioners focused on their personal gifts.

After completing NCD's 3 Colour Gift Test, each participant received a personal profile describing their spiritual gifts, suggestions on how to apply their gifts, dangers to watch for and tips for training the gifts. The consolidated parish profile assisted the congregation in mapping gifts to current activities and to consider which ministries fit with the parish strategic plan.

Bill Bickle, NCD's Canadian national partner and an Anglican lay person in the Diocese of Toronto, was an excellent facilitator, working closely with the organizing team to construct a series of talks and break-out sessions on the subject of gifts.

"It was very exciting to see my gifts clearly written out with detailed explanations," said a participant. "I felt some validation and really thrilled to be able to see what I could work towards going forward. Who wouldn't want to find out more about themselves spiritually in order to help our church as well as ourselves grow?"

Exhibit pays tribute to military chaplains

As the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War draws near, St. James Cathedral's Archives and Museum will host a multi-faith exhibit to honour the service of all Canadian military chaplains through the years, up to the present day. "In celebrating the contribution of these chaplains, the exhibit will afford insights into the critical role they have played at home and abroad," says Nancy Mallett, curator. The exhibit will be open to the public from Nov. 6 to 16. If you or someone you know has been a military chaplain of any faith, or if you have been touched in some way by the kindness or bravery of such a chaplain and wish to share your special memories, please contact Nancy Mallett at 416-364-7865, ext. 233 or archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca.





Bill Bickle talks about NCD to members of St. Timothy, North Toronto.



WELL TOLD

Storytellers gather for a photo after telling the Gospel of Mark on April 14 at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough. About 200 people attended the event.





A need might be your call



BY THE REV. CANON DR. REGINALD STACKHOUSE

What do people mean when they tell us they have been "called" by God to serve him? Does it mean seeing a blinding light, the way St. Paul did on the road to Damascus? Or can it mean something less dramatic but no less personal when a man or a woman becomes sure that God wants him or her to sign up for service?

One of the best definitions of being "called" that I can remember came from one of the 20th century's greatest missionary leaders, who defined vocation this way: "The need is the call!"

That does not demand a dramatic confrontation between the Almighty and an ordinary human being. Nor does it involve individuals wrestling with their souls about what it means to serve the Lord in some distant place. It simply means that a person becomes aware that other people need the talents or skill or knowledge or "something" that that person has to give.

It may not be an obvious service. It wasn't for the most impressive example of vocation in the 20th century, when Albert Schweitzer offered himself as a medical missionary in Africa. He was not responding to a dynamic sermon by a famous church leader; he was simply responding to a notice he had read in a Christian magazine about a small hospital that was unable to serve sick people in its part of Africa because it lacked a doctor.

Nor was it because he recognized he had just the right medical knowledge those people needed. The fact was that not only was he not a doctor, but he had no relevant qualifications at all. He was a New Testament scholar, a world class academic whose interpretations commanded the attention of professors and clergy on every continent. If he was to offer himself for that assignment, he would have to put all his biblical expertise to one side and become a first-year medical student.

It did not make sense. But that is just what he did. For him, the need was the call, and he answered it. He not only became a medical doctor who staffed that tiny hospital for years, but he inspired a host of others to offer themselves, too.

Is his experience limited to superhuman individuals? No. For many years, an Anglican mission in the Arctic was served by a priest who initially went there with his bishop and a year's supply of provisions so he could start a Christian ministry in a community that did not have a single believer. When the Rev. William James left Baker Lake decades later, the entire population had not only been converted and baptized but had a 100 per cent church attendance each and every Sunday.

How did it happen? Like Dr. Schweitzer, the Rev. William James believed the need was the call. Maybe it is for someone reading this column.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Reginald Stackhouse is the principal emeritus and research professor at Wycliffe College, Toronto.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR JUNE

1. Theological Colleges of the Anglican Church of Canada
2. All Saints, Whitby
3. Ascension, Port Perry
4. Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa
5. Redeemer, Ajax
6. St. George Memorial, Oshawa
7. St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)
8. Oshawa Deanery
9. St. John, Blackstock (Cartwright)
10. St. John, Whitby
11. St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)
12. St. Matthew, Oshawa
13. St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering
14. St. Paul, Uxbridge
15. The Anglican Appeal
16. St. Peter, Oshawa
17. St. Thomas, Brooklin
18. All Saints, Markham
19. Christ Church, Stouffville
20. Christ Church, Woodbridge
21. Emmanuel, Richvale (Richmond Hill)
22. York-Central Deanery
23. Grace Church, Markham
24. Holy Trinity, Thornhill
25. St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges
26. St. Mary, Richmond Hill
27. St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville
28. Philip Aziz Community Hospice

Continued on Page 11

HONOURED



The Rev. Canon Gerald Loweth (left) and the Rev. Earl Gerber are congratulated by Bishop Linda Nicholls and Bishop Patrick Yu for 60 years of ordained ministry at the annual Blessing of Oils and Reaffirmation of Vows of Bishops, Priests and Deacons service at St. James Cathedral on April 15. Top left, Archbishop Colin Johnson congratulates (from left) the Rev. William (Tim) Sharpe, the Rev. Canon Donald Bone and the Rev. Frank Lee for 50 years of ordained ministry. At right, clergy are honoured for 25 years. They are the Rev. Brian Youngward, OHC, (second from left), the Rev. Dr. Alan Hayes (middle), the Rev. Andrew Graham, the Rev. Diana McHardy, the Rev. Canon Susan Sheen, the Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil and the Rev. John Saynor. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The Anglican is not published in July and August. The deadline for the September issue is July 28. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar, at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Art

MAY 29–JUNE 25 – Lunchtime chamber music series at Christ Church, Deer Park, 1570 Yonge St., Toronto. Every Thursday at 12:10 p.m. For more information, visit the church's music webpage at www.christchurchdeerpark.org or call 416-283-1844.

JUNE 4–JULY 2 – Concerts at Midday, 12:35 p.m., at St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, corner of College Street and Bellevue Avenue, between Bathurst Street and Spadina Avenue, Toronto. June 4: pianist Richard Herriott. June 11: organist Matthew Whitfield. June 18: pianist Pei-Chen Chen. June 25: organist Simon Walker. July 2: organist Clement Carelse. Donations gratefully received. Visit www.saintstephens.ca or call 647-769-2527.

JUNE 6–7 – "Why do God's People Sing?", a weekend of music and worship at St. James, Fergus, led by John Bell, a well known Scottish musician, composer and hymn writer. For more details, call the church at 519-843-2141.

JUNE 12 – Seraphina, a duet from Montreal, presents a program of Celtic music for harp and solo soprano, 7:30 p.m., St. George Memorial, 39 Athol St., W., Oshawa. All proceeds from this concert will be used to support Faithworks. Tickets, which are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors and students, are available from the church office, 905-723-7875.

JULY 4–5 – To commemorate the 50th anniversary of Christian apologist C.S.Lewis's death, Screwtape, a performance based on Lewis's The Screwtape Letters and Screwtape Proposes a Toast, will be presented in the Lady Chapel at St. Thomas, 383 Huron Street, Toronto, 8 p.m. both nights. Tickets are by donation and available at the door.

Dinner & Gatherings

JUNE 7 – Electronic waste collection, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. George, Pickering Village, 77 Randall Dr. at Kingston Road West, Ajax. Rain or shine. Help save the environment by bringing your used electronics to the parking lot, thus diverting them from landfill, to be properly recycled or reused. Call the church at 905-683-7981.

JUNE 7 – Join parishioners of St. Thomas, Huron Street and the Rev. Canon David Harrison, incumbent of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, on the "Lost Churches of Toronto" bus tour, 9 a.m to 4 p.m, $25. Bring a bag lunch or purchase lunch along the way. Call 416-979-2323 for more info and to register.

JUNE 20 – 17th annual Georgian Bay Whitefish Dinner and Silent Auction at St. Paul, 5 Noraline Ave., Midhurst. Dinner will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets for adults are $17 and for children aged 6-12 are $11. For children under 5, tickets are $5.Take-out tickets are also available. To reserve tickets, call the church office at 705-721-9722. A donation from the profits will be given to outreach for the Women and Children's Shelter of Barrie.

JULY 6 – St. Thomas, 383 Huron Street, Toronto, celebrates its Patronal Feast at 10:30 a.m, followed by a barbecue. All invited.

TO PLACE AN AD CALL CAROL 905.833.6200 EXT. 25

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PRAYER CYCLE

Continued from Page 10

29. Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
30. St. Peter on-the-Rock, Stoney Lake

FOR JULY
1. Christ Church, Bobcaygeon
2. Christ Church, Coboconk
3. St. George, Haliburton
4. St. James, Fenelon Falls
5. St. James, Kinmount
6. Victoria & Haliburton Deanery
7. St. John, Dunsford
8. St. John, Rosedale
9. St. Luke, Burnt River
10. St. Margaret, Wilberforce
11. St. Paul, Beaverton
12. St. Paul, Lindsay
13. Toronto Urban Native Ministry
14. St. Paul, Minden
15. St. Peter, Maple Lake
16. The Chapel of St. James, West Brock
17. The Chapel of St. Thomas, Balsam Lake
18. McEwan Housing and Support Services (LOFT)
19. St Anne's Place (LOFT)
20. Holland Deanery
21. All Saints, King City
22. Christ Church, Holland Landing
23. Christ Church, Kettleby
24. Christ Church, Roches Point
25. Parish of Georgina
26. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
27. Camp Couchiching
28. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
29. St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg
30. St. Paul, Jersey (Keswick)
31. St. Paul, Newmarket

FOR AUGUST
1. Trinity Church, Aurora
2. Christ Church, Waubaushene
3. Huronia Deanery
4. Good Samaritan, Port Stanton
5. Good Shepherd, Wyebridge
6. Parish of Penetanguishene
7. St. Athanasius, Orillia
8. St. David, Orillia
9. St. George, Fairvalley
10. Couchiching Jubilee House, Orillia
11. St. John, Matchedash
12. St. John, Waverley
13. St. Luke, Price's Corners
14. St. Mark, Midland
15. St. Matthias, Coldwater
16. St. Paul, Washago
17. David Busby Street Centre, Barrie
18. St. James, Orillia
19. Wycliffe Church, Elmvale
20. St Anne's Place (LOFT)
21. John Gibson House (LOFT)
22. Bradford House (LOFT)
23. College View Supportive Housing (LOFT)
24. Durham & Northumberland Deanery
25. St. George, (Clarke) Newcastle
26. St. George, Grafton
27. St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope
28. St. John, Bowmanville
29. St. John, Harwood
30. St. Mark, Port Hope
31. Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Robert Sweet, Honorary Assistant, St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, Toronto, April 6.
- The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, Honorary Assistant, St. John, West Toronto, April 13.
- The Rev. John Anderson, Incumbent, Ascension, Port Perry, April 15.
- The Rev. Susan Haig, Assistant Canon Pastor for the Diocese of Toronto, May 1.
- The Rev. Darrell Wright, Liturgical Officer for York-Simcoe, May 1.
- The Rev. Susan Spicer, Incumbent, Parish of Fenelon Falls, May 9.
- The Rev. Diane Fryer, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Orillia, May 1.
- The Rev. David Giffen, Incumbent, Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, May 1.
- The Rev. Canon Barbara Hammond, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. James the Apostle, Sharon, May 1.
- The Rev. Mark Stacey, Regional Dean of the York-Central Deanery, May 1.
- The Rev. Simon Davis, Assistant Curate, St. James Cathedral, Aug. 15.
- The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman, Incumbent, Christ Memorial, Oshawa, Sept. 1.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese, with the permission of their bishop, may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

Trent Durham
- St. Matthew, Oshawa

York – Credit Valley
- St. Matthias, Bellwoods

York – Scarborough
- Christ Church, Deer Park (Associate Priest)
- Christ Church, Scarborough

York – Simcoe
- Parish of Coldwater-Medonte
- Parish of Georgina
- St. David, Orillia
- St. Mary, Richmond Hill
- Grace Church, Markham

Retirement

- The Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer has retired. Her last Sunday at Christ Church, Scarborough was May 25.

Ordinations

- The Rev. Christian Harvey was ordained a Deacon at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough, on May 3.
- The Rev. Pamela Alderson was ordained a Deacon at St. Andrew, Alliston on May 14.
- The Rev. Evelyn Butler was ordained a Deacon at St. John, West Toronto on May 25.

Continued on Page 12



READING THE BIBLE

BY THE REV. CANON DON BEATTY

Book of Isaiah a fascinating study

Before we leave the Classical Prophets, let us look at the Book of Isaiah. It is the longest of the three prophetic books, and the most quoted by Christians from the earliest days of the church.

Isaiah can be divided into three parts, covering three distinct periods, and was probably written by at least three different authors. Chapters 1 to 39 are often referred to as First Isaiah; chapters 40 to 55, Second Isaiah; and chapters 56 to 66, Third Isaiah. First Isaiah deals with the southern kingdom and is concerned with the Assyrian crisis. The contemporaries of First Isaiah would include Amos, Micah and Hosea.

The Assyrians came to prominence during the eighth century BCE. Their empire included the northern part of modern day Iraq and the south-east part of Turkey. They would eventually conquer the northern kingdom, called Israel, and take most of the inhabitants into exile, where they disappeared from history. The southern kingdom, called Judah, survived the crisis.

Second Isaiah was written about the Babylonian crisis. Babylon conquered Assyria and eventually conquered Jerusalem and Judah, taking many into exile. During the Babylonian exile, Persia became the dominant force in the Near East and conquered Babylon. Cyrus, the emperor of Persia, did an amazing thing. He freed the Judeans and allowed them to return to Judah and rebuild their temple and the city walls. Throughout the exile, the Jewish people kept their identity. Third Isaiah records the return from exile and the restoration.

The three parts of Isaiah deal with the usual problems covered by the prophets – the moral decay of the Hebrew people and the social injustice prevalent throughout the land. The people were disobedient and God had to punish them. So the Assyrians and Babylonians were instruments of God in this punishment. But God promised through the prophets that a remnant would survive. The remnant would return to true worship and obedience to God, and they would be redeemed.

The books of the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) were finalized during the exilic period, and the role of the prophets became more prominent. Prophets were not fortune tellers. They were so in-tune with God and society that they were able to tell God's word to his people, who realized they proclaimed God's truth. The Hebrew people saw their enemies as instruments of God punishing his people, and they responded by continuing to believe in their God and did not accept the gods of their conquerors. Thus they maintained their faith and their identity as God's people. Most exiles accepted the gods of their conquerors, lost their personal identity and were assimilated into the conquering nation. Not so with the remnant of Hebrews from Judah. This may be God's greatest miracle in the Hebrew Bible!

The theme of Isaiah is the eternal centrality of Jerusalem and the social and economic injustices against the people. The seventh and eighth centuries BCE saw a growth of aristocratic estates and the impoverishment of the common people.

Isaiah believed in the greatness of Yahweh, and he believed all nations would come to recognize Yahweh's all-powerful nature. Jerusalem was the eternal city, and the House of David was to be their eternal ruler.

The remnant who survived would lead to a purified Israel in anticipation of a new era. Eventually, all the nations of the ancient world would accept the one true God. The nations would be satisfied with their land and thus war and the growth of empires would be no more. David's descendent would continue to rule in Jerusalem with perfect justice. From this concept developed the Messianic theology of later Israel.

In Chapter 6 of Isaiah, we see a vision of the throne room of God and a divine command for this prophet Isaiah. There is a change of direction in his oracles from this point on. Isaiah no longer called the people to repent. In verse 9, Isaiah reported that the people no longer understand the message from Yahweh. "They see but do not grasp, they hear but do not comprehend." Thus repentance was no longer an option.

Isaiah should to be read in small sections, and please remember that he is talking to the people of his own day about circumstances that were occurring at that time. It is a fascinating study, and many of our Christian beliefs come from these words.

Easter ads on Facebook, Twitter

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

FOR the second year in a row, the diocese used social media to invite people to church at Easter. Its Facebook ad ran for 12 days, and was seen by more than 247,000 people and clicked on 906 times. "This Easter, find hope, joy and renewal at your local Anglican church," said the ad, using words carefully chosen to resonate with people who are not regular church-goers.

People who clicked on the ad were taken to the Find a Church page on the diocese's website, where they could search for an Anglican church near them. A similar ad ran on Twitter, a first for the diocese. It was shown more than 9,000 times to people searching on Twitter for terms such as "Easter," "Easter Sunday" or "Good Friday." It was clicked on 191 times. The entire Easter social media campaign cost $500.

"We are encouraged by the number of people who engaged with our Easter messages on Facebook and Twitter," says Canon Stuart Mann, the diocese's director of Communications. "It shows that what the Anglican church has to offer resonates with a certain percentage of people online. We hope that at least a few of those who clicked on our ads made it to church this Easter and heard the good news of the resurrection."

Many churches also used social media to invite people to church at Easter. St. Anne, Toronto, posted a picture and an invitation on Facebook for each of their major worship services during Holy Week. On Twitter, they interacted with their local councillor and the *Toronto Star* to let the community know that St. Anne's was welcoming people at Easter. They see social media as a way to build connections in their west-end neighbourhood. "It's a relationship, so it takes time and you need to get your name out there into the community," says the Rev. Gary van der Meer, the incumbent.

Canon Mann says the diocese has a plan to help parishes learn to use social media effectively for ministry. "We presented two social media workshops for church leaders at synod in November and are committed to providing a social media workshop for each episcopal area." Trent-Durham was the first area to take advantage of the opportunity, with a well-attended workshop at St. Paul, Beaverton, on April 12.



CONFIRMED

Thirty-one people were confirmed and two people were received into the Anglican Communion at the annual Diocesan Confirmation at St. James Cathedral on April 27. They came from the Church of the Advent, Toronto; Christ Church, Scarborough; Holy Spirit, Dixie North, Mississauga; Church of the Incarnation, Toronto; St. Barnabas, Chester; St. James, Lisle; St. John the Baptist, Norway; St. Martin, Bay Ridges; St. Michael the Archangel; St. Paul, Lorne Park; Trinity Aurora; St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Toronto. Standing with them after the service are Archbishop Colin Johnson and their sponsoring clergy. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

WORLD BRIEFS



Church Army hopes churches transform society 1

EAST AFRICA – An ambitious program to set up 1,500 new Anglican parish churches is part of a program called Heal Africa. The holistic approach includes churches offering healing through health care, education, and justice work, including creating wealth and sharing it. HEAL Africa projects include schools, clinics, microfinance initiatives, and new church plants. The HEAL Africa initiative began in Kenya in 2007 when the Church Army considered how to respond to a situation where Christians were killing each other in civil disputes, even members of the same church. The dream is to evangelize Africa and promote peace and transformation.
Anglican Communion News Service

Anglicans offer prayers for lost flight victims 2

MALAYSIA – At one of the oldest Anglican churches in Malaysia, a special service offered prayers for the families and victims of lost flight MH370 and the international government search effort. Bishop Jason Selvaraj of West Malaysia said the church wanted "to tell families that we are concerned and stand with you at this painful time. We are saying, our Lord is with you. He stands with you and feels your pain, as he endured pain on the cross."
Anglican Communion News Service

Church goes high-tech to evict bats 3

UNITED KINGDOM – The parish of St. Andrew in Holme Hale, near Swaffham, England, has a colony of 300 bats which it can't remove because they are a protected species. The Rev. Stephen Thorpe says the bats and their excrement are off-putting, and couples look elsewhere for weddings. The floor must be covered to protect it. But the church is hoping new ultra sound technology may be used to get the bats to move elsewhere.
Anglican Communion News Service

Church seeks support for garment workers 4

BANGLADESH – After the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in 2013, which killed 1,129 garment workers, the Church of Bangladesh launched a campaign for better safety standards for factories and better pay for workers. Many international clothing brands are also working with factories to make conditions safer. While there has been some progress, the church reports, much more needs to be done. International support is necessary because Bangladesh is the second largest clothing producer in the world after China. Part of the campaign is to have Christians in developed countries put pressure on retailers to buy imported clothing from factories with better wages and working conditions.
Anglican Communion News Service

Royals visit 5 cardboard cathedral

Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Katherine, Duchess of Cambridge, paid a visit to the Transitional Cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand, built after the earthquake in 2011. The controversial cardboard structure had just won one of architecture's most prestigious international wards for Tokyo-born architect Shigeru Ban, recognizing his innovative, elegant and resourceful approach to design. Prince William visited Christchurch soon after the earthquake, and was encouraged this year to see the progress of reconstruction efforts in the country. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were presented with a children's book for baby George called *Kia Kaha's Brand New House* which tells the story of the quake and the building of the cardboard cathedral.
Anglican Communion News Service

Baghdad vicar honoured for reconciliation work 6

IRAQ – The Rev. Canon Andrew White, who is also known as the Vicar of Baghdad, has received this year's William Wilberforce Award in recognition for his work. The judges said Canon White had taken great personal risks to bring about change in a dangerous area. Canon White heads up one of the largest churches in Iraq, with 6,000 members, a clinic and a school. He also works with Sunni and Shia Muslims to bring reconciliation to Iraq, recently hosting a remarkable meeting of Iraqis, Israelis and Palestinians in Cypress.
Anglican Communion News Service

See you in September

The Anglican will not be published in July and August. To stay informed over the summer, visit the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. The staff and volunteers of *The Anglican* wish you a pleasant summer.

IN MOTION

Continued from Page 10

The following individuals were ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 4:

- The Rev. Jacqueline Daley
- The Rev. Simon Davis
- The Rev. Megan Jull
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey
- The Rev. Jason McKinney
- The Rev. Jeffery Stone

Death

- The Rev. Don (Dan) Heap died on April 25. Ordained in the Diocese of Montreal, he entered the Diocese of Toronto in 1956 as Assistant Curate at St. Matthias, Bellwoods. He was well known in Toronto circles and beyond as a tireless social justice advocate, active on many issues. He also served as a Toronto City Councillor and for 12 years was a Member of Parliament, while continuing to serve as an Honorary Assistant in a variety of Toronto parishes, most notably Holy Trinity, Trinity Square. His funeral was held on May 4 at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square in Toronto.