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NOVEMBER 2018

Bishop Andrew Asbil consecrated

Diocese
challenged to
pull on oars

BY STUART MANN

“ARE you ready to row?”

Bishop Andrew Asbil, the diocese’s coadjutor bishop, asked that question during his consecration service on Sept. 29 at St. James Cathedral in Toronto.

The congregation answered with an emphatic “Yes!”

It was one of many delightful and surprising moments in the two-hour service, which began and ended with songs written by rock groups The Who and U2.

Bishop Asbil, wearing his mitre and vestments for the first time, asked the question from the chancel steps just before the exchange of the Peace. He was referring to the song “Michael Row the Boat Ashore,” the famous spiritual that describes St. Michael the Archangel rowing across the River Jordan to the Promised Land.

“To be dressed today in a mitre, a chasuble, a ring, a pectoral cross and a staff – some of it brand new, some of it well worn, some of it worn by saints who have gone before us – is to be literally wrapped in a story that can’t help but pull the oar for life,” he said. “In a world full of cynicism, doubt, fear, greed and violence, to pull on the oar is to pull for life itself.”

He thanked Archbishop Fred Hiltz, who gave the homily, and Archbishop Colin Johnson, the current Bishop of Toronto who will be retiring at the end of the year. He thanked his wife Mary and their children. Then he addressed the congregation – and the diocese – directly.

“Now I have only one question for you – for the Church, for our priests and deacons, for our lay leaders and pew dwellers: Are you ready to row?”

The congregation responded with cheers, clapping and a resounding “Yes!”

He continued: “Are you ready to put your back against the wind and pull on the oar?”

“Yes!”



Bishop Andrew Asbil (left) and Archbishop Colin Johnson walk down the aisle after the consecration service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, congratulates Bishop Asbil outside St. James Cathedral.

It was a wonderful moment and a powerful image to share as Bishop Asbil prepares to become the next Bishop of Toronto on Jan. 1, 2019.

Another memorable moment was at the end of the service, when Bishop Asbil and Archbishop Johnson walked down the aisle together, side by side, to sustained applause while U2’s song “Beautiful Day,”

performed by musicians from the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., filled the historic cathedral.

To many, including Archbishop Johnson, it felt like the start of a new chapter in the life of the diocese. “I’m so happy that Andrew is going to be leading the diocese in some new directions – that’s exactly

Continued on Page 2

A RETIREMENT CELEBRATION HONOURING ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON



All are welcome!

Saturday, December 15, 2018

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

St. James Cathedral
Church & King Streets, Toronto

Refreshments and Receiving Line

1:00 – 1:45 pm, 2:45 – 3:30 pm

Speeches and Presentations 2:00 pm

Choral Evensong 4:00 pm

Preacher: Archbishop Johnson

New bishop elated

Continued from Page 1

what we need to do," he said. "I've led it for a season of time and now it's time for someone else to take those reins and move it further into the 21st century."

The service started with an acknowledgment by Bishop-elect Chris Harper, the next Bishop of Saskatoon, that it was being held on traditional First Nations land. He then smudged the chancel, purifying and sanctifying the altar with scented smoke.

The first reading – the story of Jacob's ladder from Genesis – was told in the form of a story by Jean Bubba. Without using notes, Ms. Bubba captivated the congregation with her voice and her descriptions from the text. The second reading – Revelation 12:7-12 – was read by one of Bishop Asbil's children, Bridget Coyle-Asbil. The gospel reading – John 1:47-51 – was read solely in Mandarin by the Rev. Morning Wang, a leader of the diocese's Mandarin ministry. The reading in Mandarin was a powerful indicator of the changes taking place in the diocese.

In a 30-minute sermon, Archbishop Hiltz, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, spoke about the roles of a bishop. One of the roles, he said, is to protect the weakest and most vulnerable members of society. "By a public vow, a bishop promises to be mer-

ciful and defend those who have no helper. As children cry out for bread, even in this city, as men and women are trafficked through this city for the billion-dollar sex trade and other forms of exploitation, as Indigenous women and girls continue to go missing and be murdered, as Indigenous people seek an honouring of their rights in society, as an opioid crisis sweeps through the downtown core of many of our cities, as the earth is plundered by reckless practices – bishops are called to speak. We are called to speak truth to power, to name discrimination when we see it, and to advocate for what is good and right and just."

After the sermon, Bishop Asbil was consecrated. As he knelt at the chancel steps, about 25 bishops laid their hands on his head as Archbishop Johnson prayed for the Holy Spirit to come down upon him. The bishops, both active and retired, came from across Canada.

Bishop Asbil was then vested, receiving a white chasuble and stole, a pectoral cross, an episcopal ring, a mitre, a crozier and a Bible. The pectoral cross belonged to his father, Bishop Walter Asbil, a former Bishop of Niagara. The crozier once belonged to the late Archbishop Terence Finlay and was given to Bishop Asbil by his widow, Canon Alice Jean Finlay.



Musicians and choristers from the Church of the Redeemer and St. James Cathedral perform. Above: Jean Bubba tells the story of Jacob's ladder. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



In an interview after the service, Bishop Asbil said he was "elated, overwhelmed, delighted, happy and excited about what's next. I really want to have an understanding of where the diocese is, to learn as much as I can from Colin before he retires, and to really get to know the other bishops. I've had a chance over the last two months to go to diocesan meetings and get my feet wet. In listening, I'm hearing a lot of excitement about the possibilities for the future, and I'm also hearing the anxiety, too."

He said the image of Michael rowing the boat is a simple and powerful image for the Church today. "It has been sung by generations before us who have instilled a great sense of hope and anticipation. We're the boat. We're going to do our best to keep rowing because the world needs the Church – desperately."

He added: "For us, it's having that sense of hope that who we are as a Christian people is moving forward in a new and holy direction that goes into the world and finds the broken and enslaved and gives a sense of what can be."

Bishop Asbil, the former rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, will be working with

Archbishop Johnson over the next three months to learn about the duties and responsibilities of a diocesan bishop. His office is now at the Diocesan Centre. His service of installation as the 12th Bishop of Toronto will take place in January at the cathedral.

As the 12th Bishop of Toronto, Bishop Asbil will be the chief pastor of the diocese, working with four suffragan bishops. The diocese is the most populous in Canada, having some 230 congregations in 183 parishes. It stretches from Mississauga to Brighton and north to Haliburton.

In addition to the hundreds of people filling St. James Cathedral for the consecration, many more were following along on their computers, phones and tablets. Viewers tuned in from Toronto, Minden, Port Hope, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Hong Kong, Zimbabwe and more. This is the first major liturgical event the diocese has live streamed. The video can be viewed on the diocese's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/tordio135. Bishop Asbil's installation as Bishop of Toronto in January will also be shared live.

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Clockwise from above: Archbishop Colin Johnson places the mitre on Bishop Andrew Asbil's head during the consecration; bishops from across Canada place their hands on Bishop Asbil's head as Archbishop Johnson prays for the Holy Spirit to come down upon him; Bishop Asbil's wife Mary and his mother and father walk to the chancel; Bishop Asbil kisses Canon Alice Jean Finlay after receiving the crozier that belonged to the late Archbishop Terence Finlay. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation congratulates

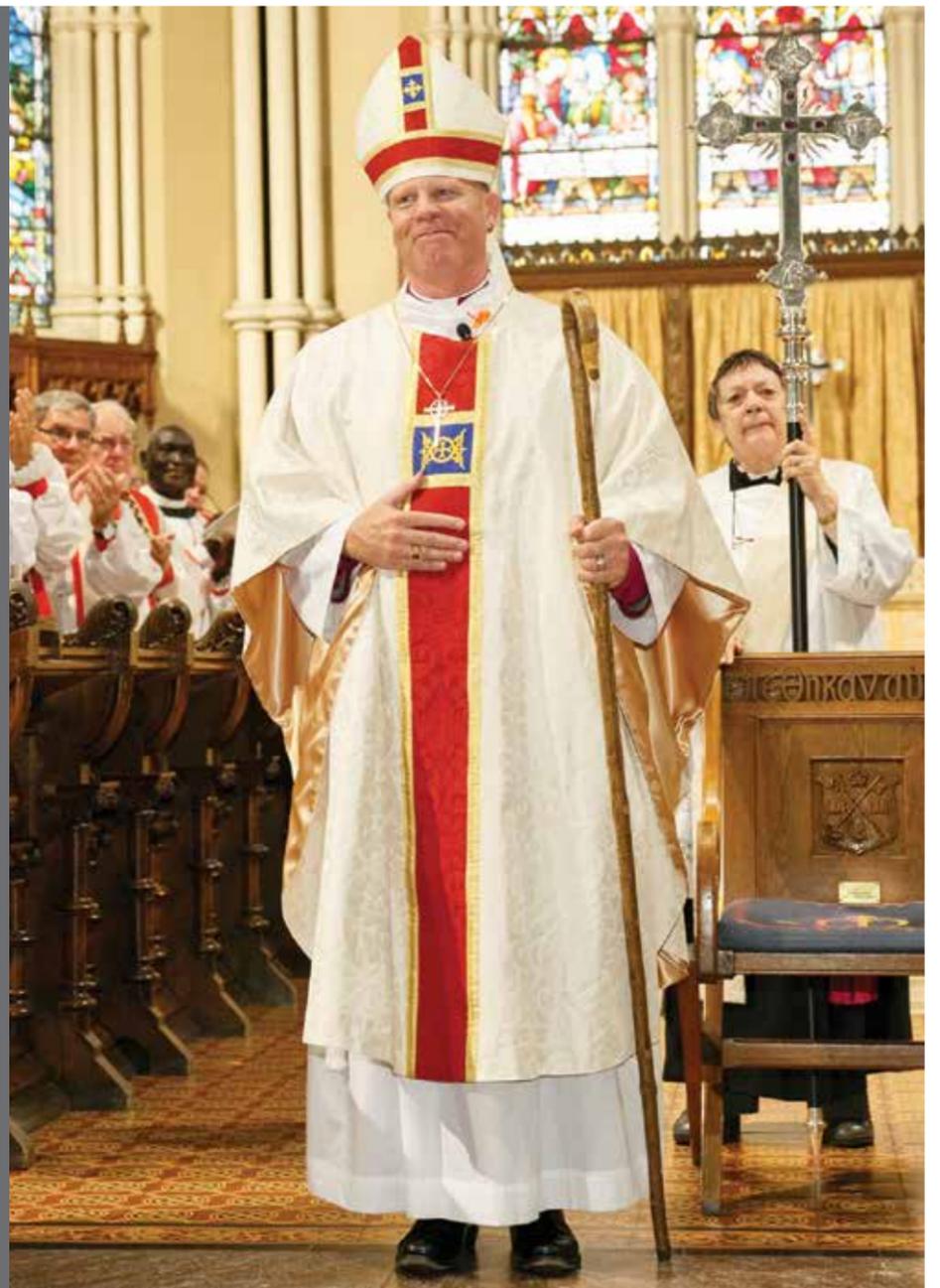
The Right Reverend Andrew John Asbil

on his consecration to the episcopate as he prepares to become the 12th Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto.

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I am excited by what's in store



In a couple of months, I will retire as Bishop of Toronto. I have already retired as Metropolitan of Ontario and Bishop of Moosonee. Many ask what I have planned and if I am worried about what I will do on Jan. 1.

At Easter, several parishioners kindly said they were sorry it was my last Easter. I replied that while I planned to retire, I hoped there would be many more Easters for me yet! I was not intending this to be my last Easter. (Now as for my last Synod... hmmm, that might be a bit more attractive!)

Almost 42 years of ordained ministry have taught me a few things about change and how I approach it. Change is inevitable. You can't stop it. At most you can delay it, but that often makes it more complicated and difficult. At some point, you have to forgo the deceit that you are in total charge; you have to learn to trust. How I wish parishes, as well as people, could learn that lesson! I long ago realized that I am a lot less in control of things than I pretend to myself to be – and guess what? – they still work out just fine. It's God's Church and it's God's world. I am invited and encouraged to engage in it fully and to the very best of my ability – but it remains under God's gracious providence. I have seen that so clearly in my life and ministry.

Change also involves grief. There is the loss (or at least the lessening) of something that has been very important and life-giving. There is the acknowledgement that some things have not and will never work out as you might have hoped. There are some things that you will not be able to ac-

ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

By ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

complish or fix or get a chance to complete (or even get around to start). There is the grief for the undone as well as for the poorly done. That grief needs to be recognized and worked out but cannot be allowed to overwhelm. Grief involves at least pieces of denial, anger, depression and bargaining (to reference the famous patterns identified by Kubler-Ross).

How we learn to approach the small losses, including how we approach the change of retirement, rehearses us for the ultimate giving over of ourselves to God in death. As Christians, we can grieve, but not without hope; we can grieve, but do not have to fear. Loss or diminishment or even death itself are never the last word because God in Jesus has overcome death and given us the hope of resurrection.

So change is a spiritual and emotional process as well as a physical one. The ongoing presence of a community of faith and the assurance of a compassionate and abiding God have been essential to me in my past experience of loss and coping well with it in the long run. I continue to be blessed with a rich and vibrant community of faith and faithfulness.

I have always found that I am more interested in what opportunity God is offering me next than hankering for the "good old days." As a lover of history and tradition, I have always looked to the past as a foundation for future construction. Much of the most exciting and enriching aspects of my

life have not been based on carefully crafted five- or ten-year plans but have come from unexpected meetings, unanticipated opportunities – the "chances" that have been presented that are actually divine invitations to try something new. God has been faithful. God is faithful. God will continue to be faithful. Even if we aren't.

That is the story of our faith. We are a pilgrim people, called to move (mostly) forward in response to the Holy Spirit's leadership. Sir Jonathan Sacks writes that the people Moses led needed to learn how to be free and not yearn for the familiar experience of slavery. But they had to take time to let go of some parts of the past before they could enter into the true freedom that was their destiny.

Ministry has been such an enormous source of joy, identity, purpose and satisfaction for me that there will be grief and sadness about not being so fully immersed in it. It has not been slavery at all, although it has been very demanding. But replacing that with more busyness or trying to recreate the old routines is not helpful. I will take some time to wander and wonder before I take up a few new activities.

Yes, I will read and sleep, travel and write. I may try my hand at a few committees and mentoring roles. I will attend church in the pews and pray. I hope to exercise more (and hope that my hope is not a vain hope! I do know my capacity to procrastinate!).

Am I worried? No! I am excited by what's in store.

And yes, Ellen and I will take ballroom dancing lessons, even if the Chancellor does not think Ellen has enough insurance.

We need to talk



God is love. God is good. Not all people behave well all the time, even though we are all formed in the image of God. This needs attention, and is getting attention in the media, in the streets, in our

churches. We are taking responsibility for calling out the bad behaviour that oppresses, coerces and persecutes people of God in the workplace, in the worship place, where we meet and greet and eat, where we study, play, work, explore and create.

There has long been an imbalance of power between the genders in Western colonial systems, and it continues to contribute to domineering and subjugating behaviours. The time is now to attend to this redress, with intention, clarity and compassion. Where can we practise inclusion in our personal and corporate lives? How do we open the lines of communication, encourage and allow the Holy Spirit-questions that are

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP RISCYLLA SHAW

emerging, and create space for every voice in our conversations? There are emotional – for some, even post-traumatic stress – triggers each time we turn on the radio or the television. There are societal convulsions while hearing public testimony about misconduct, abuse, harassment; we are realizing that we do not really know our neighbours, our publicly elected officials. And often, they do not know us. There is a crisis of community. How do we get to know one another with honesty, respect and humility? How do we allow ourselves to be vulnerable in ways that will build relationships across divides of political parties and fundamentally different theologies, recognizing our common humanity?

What dynamics are shifting in the balance of power, influence, authority? While this might cause initial consternation, how

can we spiritually deepen to embrace these shifts, to augment and support each other? How is this already changing in the public sphere? Speaking to the Church, where can we meet this call to new awareness in our liturgies, in our hymnody, in our printed materials? What can we address outside our worship services – creating spaces of welcome, inclusion, expanding the reign of God to grow disciples of all stripes and designs? Much of our communication, inside the Church and in Church circles, is currently in coded language that perpetuates a system of control and paternalism. We have inherited this; now we have an opportunity and, especially, a call from the Holy Spirit, to adapt. The winds of change are blowing, and we need people to feel welcome and included in their own Church. The message of Jesus is liberating for all people, beyond the "citizens" of any particular culture or society – out to the fringes, beyond the margins, and all the way up to the top of the hierarchy.



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Primate:

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In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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Churches worship online

Live broadcast links deanery's parishes, viewers from around the world

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

ON Aug. 19, parishes in the Toronto East Deanery worshipped together in a new way – through a live stream.

The project was prompted by the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, incumbent of St. Barnabas, Chester. In the spring, Ms. Lewis had invited a member of the congregation, an archaeologist who had just returned from Egypt, to preach.

"He mentioned that he was nervous about doing it, because he usually had slides for people to look at instead of looking at him," says Ms. Lewis. "I thought, there's got to be a way we could put something on the web that people could look at while he's talking."

When she later mentioned her thought to the parish's leadership team, an idea was sparked. "The treasurer here said we used to do a lot of things as a deanery," she says. "We thought maybe we could do something together as a deanery on the internet."

With a visit from Bishop Kevin Robertson scheduled for August, Ms. Lewis began to dream of a way to use technology to bring the deanery's 12 parishes together. "I was hoping to bring some technology, some of the 21st-century stuff, into the worship that would excite different people," she says. "Also, those at great distances or who can't physically get into the building – they could experience a service in real time."

To put her plan in motion, Ms.

Lewis enlisted the help of the Rev. Tay Moss, incumbent of Church of the Messiah, Toronto. Mr. Moss is a live stream enthusiast, broadcasting his parish's Sunday worship service each week and frequently sharing his expertise with other churches.

"Live streamed video is quickly emerging as one of the most powerful and cost-effective ways to engage people with a relevant message of hope in a cynical age," he says. "By its nature, live streaming is about connecting people in a way that exudes authenticity, immediacy and a back-and-forth relationship between the content creators and the audience."

With cameras set up at St. Barnabas, the other parishes followed the service on large screens, tablets and phones in their own worship spaces. After the exchange of the Peace, the other churches turned off the screens and celebrated the Eucharist separately, while St. Barnabas continued the live stream for those watching online.

Eight of the Toronto East parishes participated, a response far greater than Ms. Lewis had hoped for. "It was wonderful, it was so affirming," she says.

Among the 117 people who tuned in were family and friends of parishioners from around the world. "Our deacon's family in Singapore got to watch it, seeing her doing her ministry for the first time. I had family in England that watched it. Lots of parishioners had family in

the islands who were able to see it," says Ms. Lewis.

As for the other deanery churches, their members were enthusiastic about the experience. "They really enjoyed it. A lot of them felt it was really neat to be a part of a bigger whole," says Ms. Lewis.

Given this success, Ms. Lewis is eager to keep using technology to bring people together. "I want it to be more interactive in a lot of ways, getting others involved who would take their devices out to shut-ins and take communion," she says.

She says she would love to get youth involved, and she's started talking with Jillian Ruch, the area youth coordinator, about how that could work. She'd also like to explore the idea of hosting a multi-parish Bible study with a live-streamed component. "We could do something different, making it interactive and dealing with issues that everyone is focusing on at the moment in the Church," she says.

Whatever direction the next live stream takes, Ms. Lewis emphasizes that trying out new technology is essential for the Church. "It's a wonderful opportunity to spread the Word," she says. "You can see it on the streets. People aren't looking at each other; they're looking at their phones and listening to what's playing in their ears. We need to reach out to them in those ways. Otherwise, we're not going to be heard."

Mr. Moss agrees. "In the Church,



BLESSED

The Rev. Dana Dickson, incumbent of Trinity, Bradford, blesses a bearded dragon and dogs at the church's Blessing of Animals service on Sept. 23. Many churches held services in late September and early October to celebrate St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals and ecology. PHOTO COURTESY OF TRINITY, BRADFORD



we create many engaging experiences such as worship, concerts and classes – why not make those experiences more available? I am all about kicking over bushel baskets to let the light shine," he says. "I believe the future of the Church depends on finding new ways to share Christ with the world."

Ms. Lewis's advice to other churches considering live streaming is simple. "Go for it! What's the

worst that can happen? Nobody watches. Well, so what? You've done it," she says. "It's so important to keep up to date and try new avenues. It's exciting stuff!"

Donations go twice as far for those in need

BY STUART MANN

FAITHWORKS has launched a special appeal that will see every new or increased donation to the campaign matched dollar for dollar, up to \$75,000. That means a possible \$150,000 in additional funding to help the most vulnerable and marginalized people in the diocese.

"We really ask parishioners to pray about how they can continue to make a difference with FaithWorks," says Paige Souter, the diocese's manager of annual giving. "Any little extra that they could possibly do makes a tremendous amount of difference in the lives of others."

She says even a few dollars goes a long way. "We can take five or ten dollars for granted in our own lives, but for others it can literally mean a hot meal or a coat in the winter or a safe place for a mother and her children."

Those wishing to make a donation can do so through their parish's FaithWorks campaign or by donating directly to FaithWorks at www.faithworks.ca. (Online donations will not be included as part of the donor's parish campaign.)

FaithWorks is the diocese's annual outreach appeal, providing funds for 15 ministry partners, most of them located in the Greater Toronto Area. These Anglican-affiliated ministries serve about 32,000 people a year, including the homeless, ex-prisoners, refugees, women and children who are at risk of domestic violence, Indigenous people and those living with HIV/AIDS.

The special appeal is made possible by a pledge of \$75,000 from an anonymous donor who has supported FaithWorks for many years, says Ms. Souter. "It's so wonderful that he's willing to do this," she says.

She hopes the special appeal will help parishioners refocus their attention on FaithWorks, which saw a decrease in donations last year as people responded to the Syrian refugee crisis. "It's critical for us to get back to the levels we were at so we can continue to support vulnerable people across the diocese," she says.

FaithWorks raised \$1.3 million in 2017 from parish, corporate and individual donations. Since it began in 1996, it has raised more

than \$25 million.

Ms. Souter says giving to FaithWorks is a way that Anglicans can put their faith into action. "When we're serving someone who

is hungry, we're serving Christ; when we're giving somebody a safe place to live, we're serving Christ; when we're helping a prisoner leave incarceration and rebuild

their lives, we're serving Christ. It's the heart of who we are as his followers. It's not just enough to have faith in Christ, we need to live out that faith in an active way."

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I say my Church is the Big Tent

The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer is the diocese's interfaith officer. He has also served as incumbent of St. Anne, Toronto since 2011.

As the interfaith officer, I hope to bring a robust Anglican presence to the conversations and developing friendships between faith groups in the Toronto area. When you consider how multicultural Toronto is, there is a lot going on. It's my first year in this role and I'm trying to find out what's happening, then figuring out where to join in.

When Archbishop Johnson appointed me, we talked about responsibilities. He advised me that there is more than we can possibly do – more events, more dialogues, more learning opportunities. I am going to prioritize! I will represent the Bishop of Toronto at some events, make sure he is invited to occasions where an episcopal presence is appropriate, and ask the bishop to offer written reflections on significant occasions as they come up. And as always, "ministry is not to be a make-work project." I will be working closely with Scott Sharman, the interfaith officer for the Anglican Church of Canada, especially on events of national signifi-



The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer holds a sign with Rabbi Elyse Goldstein of City Shul synagogue during the ring of peace outside a Toronto mosque in 2017. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

cance such as the upcoming Parliament of the World's Religions. In the context of interfaith discussions, our Anglican presence includes working collaboratively with the other Christian traditions, so I also work closely with the Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, the diocese's ecumenical officer.

I became interested in the role of interfaith officer as a result of friendships growing between St. Anne's church and our local mosque and synagogue. Our friendship with City Shul synagogue has included evenings of shared learning and preaching exchanges. City Shul's members now regularly volunteer at St. Anne's monthly community dinner. Our friendship with our local mosque, the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre, has also included shared learning events and preaching exchanges. We also have a joint refugee committee (shared with two other churches) and are working towards our third sponsorship. Our three communities came together when City Shul and St. Anne's formed the ring of peace around the Dawah Centre following the attack on the mosque in Quebec City.

left that world when I moved into the student residence at university. There were lots of Jewish students, a Hindu guy down the hall, Catholics, evangelical Christians, and avowed atheists. We got to know each other in the dining hall and the newspaper room. Religion would come up fairly often in conversation. It changed my life. The judgment I used to hear began to bother me. There are so many churches, and so many religions – how can anyone say they are the only one who is right?

These questions changed my university degree. I was not attending church. I thought it was because I wanted to keep an open mind. Then I heard Professor Richardson talk about Anglicanism. In a tutorial session, he talked about what he called "comprehensiveness" – how the Anglican tradition pragmatically made room for people of differing theologies, piety and liturgy to be at home in one tradition. At the time, I thought, "Finally something that makes sense. If I ever decide to go back to church, I will look for an Anglican church." His comment has stayed with me all these years. Now I say my Church is the Big Tent. I loved how our Primate, Fred Hiltz, phrased it: our Church is called to "Holy Spaciousness."

When I did go back to church, it was at St. Thomas, Huron Street. At first it was the welcome at the coffee hour. In so many ways, that welcome continues to matter to me. I stayed for the refugee committee. And then I discovered how much the members of the refugee committee loved the liturgy at St. Thomas. I started to love the liturgy by loving them. I sat beside an elderly woman at an outreach committee celebration and she asked me what I thought the Church of the future should be like. I don't remember everything I said. It's what she said that mattered. "What do you want to do about that?" I had never used the word ordination before about myself, and I couldn't unsay it after that. I am so thankful for those supportive people who helped me figure out what to do.

Five years from now, I hope I am part of new ways of bringing the neighbourhood and the city together to build community in God's Church. This is my life at St. Anne's, and I love the crossroads of people finding the Church to be holy spaciousness.

My favourite passage of scripture keeps changing. These days, it was Jesus saying, "Whoever is not against us is for us" (Mark 9:40). I want to begin conversations from this place.

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BRIEFLY

Synod coverage on website

The diocese's Regular Session of Synod will be held Nov. 9-10 in Richmond Hill. Full coverage of the proceedings will be provided on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Workshop explores assisted dying

A workshop on medical assistance in dying will be held on Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. Participants will enter into conversation with the Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, the diocese's coordinator of Chaplaincy Services, and the Rev. Margaret Johnston-Jones to explore the pastoral, moral and theological questions surrounding this issue. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Jennifer McLeod at 905-668-1558.

Children's ministry in spotlight

The Toronto Children's Ministry Conference, a gathering of parents, volunteers, ministry leaders and anyone with a passion for ministering to children, will take place on Nov. 3 at Wycliffe College, 5 Hoskin Ave., Toronto. Visit www.wycliffecollege.ca.



Archbishop Colin Johnson lights a candle during a vigil for the mass shooting victims on Danforth Avenue in Toronto in July. PHOTO BY JENNIFER BOLENDER KING

Event honours archbishop for 'job well done'

ANGLICANS will have a chance to say farewell to Archbishop Colin Johnson before he retires at the end of the year. A special retirement celebration will be held on Dec. 15 from 1-4 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, Church and King streets, Toronto. All are invited.

"I would strongly encourage people to come," says Bishop Andrew Asbil, the diocese's coadjutor bishop. "This is a real opportunity to give him the accolades and praise, and to speak the words we need to say to him for all that he has done for the diocese as the diocesan, the Archdeacon of York, and as a faithful priest of this diocese."

The celebration will include refreshments, a receiving line, speeches and presentations. It will conclude with a Choral Evensong at which Archbishop Johnson will preach.

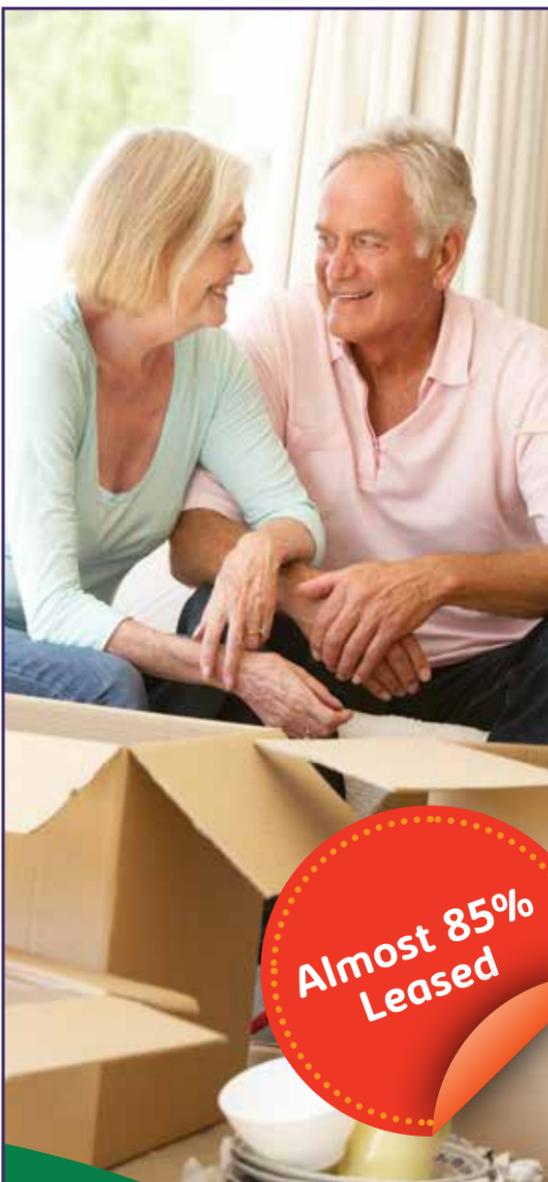
Archbishop Johnson is retiring after more than 40 years of ordained ministry. He has been the Bishop of Toronto, or diocesan bishop, since 2004. He was the Bishop of Moosonee and Metropolitan of the

Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario before stepping down from those roles in October.

Archbishop Johnson will continue to serve as Bishop of Toronto until he retires on Dec. 31. He will be succeeded by Bishop Asbil on Jan. 1, 2019.

"For many reasons, the diocese will want to gather to congratulate Archbishop Johnson on a job well done, to thank him for a lifetime of service to the Church generally and the Diocese of Toronto in particular, and to wish him and Ellen well in this next chapter of their lives," says Canon Mary Conliffe, the Diocesan Executive Assistant to the Archbishop. "This will be a wonderful occasion, and I hope many people will come out to honour him."

In addition to the Dec. 15 event, Archbishop Johnson was the guest of honour at the Bishop's Company Dinner, held in Toronto on Oct. 19. He will be chairing the diocese's Synod for the last time when it convenes on Nov. 9-10 in Richmond Hill.



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The Rev. Lucy Reid, incumbent of St. Aidan, Toronto, and the Rev. Bert Chestnut, incumbent of St. Luke, Old Crow, prepare to celebrate the Eucharist.



Above, youth and leaders from St. Aidan, Toronto at Old Crow. At right, youth from St. Aidan's and Old Crow spend time together. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. AIDAN'S

Local youth visit Yukon

Group stays with First Nation

BY AMY FERGUSON

A group of eight youth and four leaders from St. Aidan, Toronto travelled to the Diocese of Yukon this summer to visit the village of Old Crow, a small, isolated community in the northwest corner of Canada. We went to learn about one of Canada's First Nations, to make connections with the people there as part of our parish's ongoing work at truth and reconciliation, and to be of service to the community if possible.

Old Crow is a self-governing First Nation, the Vuntut Gwich'in. It was a joy for us to discover the strengths and wisdom of the people there, as we met with various leaders in the community and were guided by their priest, the Rev. Bert Chestnut.

We saw how the people of the Vuntut Gwich'in have created sustainable solutions to help them live healthy lives while having as little impact as possible on the planet and their fragile ecosystem. We learned about their work to help protect that part of the planet and

the Porcupine Caribou herd upon which they depend. As the week progressed, we gradually met more of the community members and became friends rather than just visitors.

Our group members were changed as we learned to see the earth – its people, plants, animals and water – differently. We were made more aware of the need to change our thinking and habits to preserve our world. Equally important, we were able to experience another way of thinking about



how people should behave towards each other and work together despite coming from very different backgrounds.

Living in this vibrant First Nations community for a week gave us some real hope for the future. It

was a model that needs to be shared with more Canadians as we work to repair the damage that has been done in our country.

Amy Ferguson was one of the leaders on the trip.



The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan and Bishop Kevin Robertson join members of the Uxbridge Gay/Straight Alliance.

Uxbridge church starts Gay/Straight Alliance

WHEN Kathleen Caroll, a member of St. Paul, Uxbridge and a teacher at a local school, proposed that the students at the school form a rainbow by wearing different coloured t-shirts in honour of Pride Week, she was met with a negative response. Out of that experience came the creation of the Uxbridge Gay/Straight Alliance, which meets at the church. In an informal and safe environ-

ment, members of the LGBTQ community and their friends share experiences and offer mutual support and encouragement. At the meeting on Sept. 15, the group welcomed Bishop Kevin Robertson, who shared his story and invited questions and comments. Through this initiative, Christ Church, Stouffville is starting at Gay/Straight Alliance in its community as well.

Centre for Spiritual Growth opens at St. James, Orillia

WENDY Passmore has been a spiritual director for more than 20 years, helping to guide both clergy and laity on their faith journeys. Now she is branching out to provide workshops and retreats at the newly opened Centre for Spiritual Growth, located at St. James, Orillia.

"It has always been in my heart to somehow recover the contemplative tradition from our Christian past," says Ms. Passmore. "It's really about inviting people into quiet prayer, meditation and attending to their inner life with God."

The centre, located in a room at the church, offers Ignatian and Franciscan spiritual exercises to deepen one's prayer life, spiritual direction, retreats and programs. There are also plans to create a chapel and a small library. The room was provided with the blessing of the church's incumbent, the Rev. Canon John Anderson.

"It's a very warm, creative space for spiritual renewal and refreshment," says Ms. Passmore. "Our



Wendy Passmore

Elizabeth Morley, a retired priest who has served in many parishes in the diocese, and Faye Oei, a parishioner and retired lawyer. It opened in September.

Ms. Passmore hopes the centre will be a way for seekers to find their way into a church and the Christian faith. "We want to connect with people from all walks of life, to be a presence and to listen to their stories."

Trained in both the Franciscan and Ignatian spiritual disciplines, Ms. Passmore has extensive experience in guiding and helping people on their faith journeys. She was the coordinator of a Christian

hope is that it will be a centre not just for the St. James community but for all of central Ontario."

Ms. Passmore runs the centre along with the Rev. Canon

storefront ministry in Mississauga for 10 years and served in a leadership role at a retreat centre, providing spiritual direction for individuals and groups. She is a member of St. James, Orillia.

"When I look at my life path, I've always enjoyed listening to people's stories," she says. "That's my passion – I just love tending to people's stories and listening to where God is at work in their lives and where God is calling them to. I find one-on-one and small groups very life-giving."

The centre is offering two workshops in November. On Nov. 3, the Rev. Sandor Borbely, a former Jesuit priest and the incumbent of St. Thomas, Shanty Bay, will lead a workshop on "Christian Mindfulness." On Nov. 17, there will be a workshop on relationships featuring "Safe Conversation" techniques. For more information on these and other activities at the centre, visit www.stjamesorillia.com/bulletin-board/centre-for-spiritual-growth.

Speakers urge kinship with creation

Churches can lead fight for change

BY DIANA SWIFT

“WE are the earth” is a compelling statement, but what does it mean, and how can urban people of faith live it in reality?

Those were the primary talking points for a panel convened Sept. 25 at the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. in Toronto. The discussion was part of the church’s “Season of Creation,” a time to celebrate and give thanks to the Creator for the earth and to look at ways to safeguard it.

The three principal speakers were Bishop Mark MacDonald, national Indigenous bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, minister of Trinity-St. Paul’s United Church and a former MPP, and the Very Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps, co-founder of Faith & the Common Good and a former moderator of the United Church of Canada.

Explaining the ancient beliefs of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (North America), Bishop MacDonald stressed the fundamental principle of the interconnectedness and interdependence of all creation. “In the great Walk of Life, all life is responsible to the rest of life. We are all relatives,” he said.

In Indigenous culture, he said, that creating kinship lies at the very heart of life, whereas in West-



Bishop Mark MacDonald (left) speaks while the Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo, moderator Susan Graham Walker and the Rev. Dr. Bill Phipps listen during the panel discussion. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ern society humanity has become increasingly alienated from the rest of creation, with adverse consequences for the planet. “This fundamental kinship, sometimes known as Walking the Good Life, does exist in Christianity but it is not taught strongly enough in Christian teaching,” he said.

Dr. DiNovo agreed that the Western cult of individualism has increased humankind’s separateness from the planet, resulting in an existence that is not spiritual but

rather cut off from spirit. She took the notion of kinship beyond earth to the galaxy, quoting Carl Sagan’s famous apothegm: “We are made of star stuff,” in that everything on earth was made in the interiors of collapsing stars.

“If we are not to be separate from earth, then our orders are to save the planet,” she said. “There is a prophetic call to do so.”

Dr. Phipps noted that the United Church has changed its creed to include a core commitment to “liv-

ing with respect in creation.” And rather than being “given” that creation, he said, humankind is actually embedded in it along with all other forms of life and is not, as we arrogantly assume, its pinnacle. “The assault we see on Mother Earth is an assault on ourselves.” He called on society to celebrate and grieve publicly for the planet.

On a political level, Dr. DiNovo reminded the audience that people of faith must speak truth to power. “We have to remind government

that we are the true owners of Parliament Hill and Queen’s Park and City Hall, and the public servants there work for us. We must make sure they understand their responsibilities.”

Bishop MacDonald said urbanites must first abandon the urban-versus-rural mentality and humbly acknowledge the sacred land on which their cities are built. “This sacred location calls us to the highest moral standards in our relationships to the land and to each other,” he said.

A new truth and reconciliation initiative was suggested by Dr. Phipps, one that would unite people in the healing of the earth by listening to the autochthonous wisdom of Indigenous peoples, “a wisdom that has nurtured the human spirit on this land for thousands of years.”

In a question to the panel from the floor, one audience member expressed frustration with the bewildering number of organizations focused on climate change. She asked how we can consolidate the leadership to galvanize the thousands of voices needed to effect change.

In response, Dr. Phipps pointed to faith communities as the perfect organizing tools. “I want to see our local churches active in this,” he said. “If every church installed solar panels on its roof, that would send a huge message. Why don’t we in every faith community join up with congregations down the road and go down to Queen’s Park and demand action? And if we did that across Canada, things would change just like that.”

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.

Hopeful signs for outreach, environment



BY ELIN GOULDEN

The 2018 Parish Outreach & Greening Survey was launched in May to gain insight into the outreach, advocacy and environmental efforts of parishes in our diocese and how diocesan staff and volunteers can best support them. At the time of writing, 71 responses have been received from 67 parishes in all four episcopal areas – from large urban parishes to multi-point rural parishes, and parishes of every size and description in between.

It is clear that our parishes are active in direct outreach ministries, especially in providing food and shelter: 86 per cent of responding parishes either host or collect for a food bank program, and more than half host or contribute to a community meal program; 30 per cent have community vegetable gardens, and over 20 per cent host or contribute to an Out of the Cold program; 60 per cent have engaged in refugee sponsorship over the past two years.

Other forms of outreach include clothing exchanges; ministry to seniors, youth, hospitals and shelters; partnering with local organizations; and raising funds

for FaithWorks’ ministries and PWRDF. Half of respondents are involved in five or more forms of direct outreach.

While participation in advocacy activities was generally lower, diocesan efforts to raise awareness and engagement have borne fruit. Fully 90 per cent of responding parishes present the diocesan social justice vestry motion at their annual vestries, and one-third are involved in meetings with elected officials on justice issues. Several indicated growing interest in Indigenous justice and reconciliation.

In terms of creation care, many parishes are doing the best they can with aging buildings and limited budgets. The vast majority of parishes (over 85 per cent) participate in low-cost conservation measures such as recycling (especially paper) and keeping lights, appliances and taps turned off when not in use. Nearly two-thirds use reusable jugs and china rather than plastic bottles and disposable cups. More than 60 per cent have upgraded to energy-efficient lighting and programmable thermostats, while a sizable minority (40-50 per cent) have taken measures such as improving insulation, upgrading heating systems, installing low-flow toilets, using non-toxic cleaning materials, and choosing landscaping that needs less water. Several respondents indicated that

they would like to do more in terms of energy and water conservation but lacked funds for upgrades. Participation in a free energy benchmarking program, such as that offered by Faith & the Common Good, could help such parishes prioritize measures that will have the greatest impact for the lowest cost.

Some parishes get creative when it comes to creation care. The Church of the Ascension, Port Perry has partnered with Kawartha Conservation to regenerate Williams Creek, located behind the church property. In this project, professionals have begun removing invasive Japanese knotweed from the creek, and volunteers will help replant the banks with native species and reinforce it with boulders to reduce erosion and improve wildlife habitat. Ascension’s property chair, Cliff Moon, a freshwater limnologist, describes it as a very practical way for the church to help “safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.”

Most parishes surveyed build awareness of justice issues by bringing social justice and creation care into prayer and preaching, as well as through use of bulletin inserts and other print resources. Nearly half make social or ecological justice the focus of specific Sundays, such

as Earth Sunday or National Indigenous Sunday, while 46 per cent hold special events on justice issues. Unsurprisingly, the most common request for support was for print resources such as bulletin inserts, advocacy toolkits, lectionary reflections and prayer resources. However, more than half indicated a desire for diocesan staff to visit their parish to preach or make a presentation on social and ecological justice.

While only 44 per cent of responding parishes have a formal outreach committee, 40 per cent said their whole parish is involved in outreach and advocacy in various ways. Only 18 per cent indicated that the incumbent did most of the work in this area. A small but growing number of parishes are starting green committees as well.

Overall, the survey indicates that parishes in our diocese recognize the importance of outreach, advocacy and creation care. They welcome support from the diocese and are interested in learning from each other. The survey offers a snapshot of a Church on the way, growing in love for, and public witness to, the world around it.

Elin Goulden is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.



Canon Percy, a former incumbent of Trinity, Streetsville, listens to speeches in the church.



Canon Percy, the first director of Wycliffe College's Institute of Evangelism, gets a hug from the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen, the current director.



GOOD NEWS

Friends and colleagues gather at Trinity, Streetsville on Sept. 15 for the launch of *Good News Church: Celebrating the Legacy of Harold Percy*, edited by Dr. John Bowen and the Rev. Michael Knowles. Above from left are the Rev. Michael Knowles, Dr. John Bowen, former Mississauga mayor Hazel McCallion, ODT, the Rev. Canon Harold Percy and Bishop Jenny Andison of York-Credit Valley. The book contains 18 essays exploring the lessons and impact of Canon Percy's ministry on evangelism, discipleship, worship, preaching, prayer, mentoring, congregational outreach, financial stewardship and more. The book is published by Castle Quay Books and is available for \$19.95. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the December issue is Nov. 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

OCT. 28 – "Evening of Music," 4:30 p.m., Christ Church, Scarborough Village, 155 Markham Rd., Scarborough. Admission \$20. Call: 416-261-4169.
OCT. 28 - Choral Evensong for St. Simon and St. Jude, featuring St. Paul's Cathedral Choir from London, Ont., 5 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. Community supper follows.
OCT. 31 - DEC. 19 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series at All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. All concerts begin at 12:30 p.m. and end at 1:15 p.m. Admission free but freewill offering gratefully accepted. For program details, visit www.organixconcerts.ca.
NOV. 4 - All Souls solemn Requiem Eucharist featuring the Redeemer Choir, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.
NOV. 10 - Bach Children's Chorus & Bach Chamber Youth Choir present "Resonant Reflection," 7:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Norway, 470 Woodbine Ave., Toronto. A benefit concert for the East End Refugee Committee. Tickets \$20; students \$10. Tickets available at 416-691-4560 or at the door.
NOV. 20 – Messy Church for all ages, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.
DEC. 1 – Carols and lullabies at the Healey Willan Singers annual Christmas concert, 8 p.m., with accompanist John Stephenson and

conductor Ron Cheung, St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door (cash only), \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors.
DEC. 9 - Advent carol service, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto.
DEC. 13 - Service of Healing and Reconciliation, a simple worship of song, readings and a reflection of God's hope, for those experiencing loneliness, sadness and loss during the Christmas season, 3:30 p.m., St. Theodore of Canterbury, 111 Cactus Ave., Toronto.
DEC. 15 - The Mystery of Christmas at the Voices Chamber Choir annual Christmas concert, featuring Healey Willan's The Mystery of Bethlehem, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door (cash only), \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors.

Sales

NOV. 3 - Christmas Bazaar, noon to 3 p.m., St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, 1512 Kingston Rd. Crafts, baked goods and more.
NOV. 3 – Bazaar with bake table, café, jewelry and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Joseph of Nazareth, 290 Balmoral Dr., Brampton. Call 905-793-8020.
NOV. 3 - Annual Christmas Bazaar featuring a lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert, a silent auction, an art sale, handmade jewelry and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. James the Apostle, 3 Cathedral Rd., Brampton. Call 905-451-7711.
NOV. 3 - Annual Craft Club Christmas Sale featuring knitting, sewn and handcrafted one-of-a-kind items, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Timothy, Agincourt, 4125 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto.
NOV. 3 – Christmas market, hand-crafts, raffle, bake table and more, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Barnabas, 361

Danforth Ave., Toronto.
NOV. 3 - Poinsettia bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Matthew, 135 Wilson Rd. S., Oshawa. Knitting, baking, country store and more. Lunch room available.
NOV. 3 - Sugar Plum Christmas Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Margaret in-the-Pines, 4130 Lawrence Ave. E., Scarborough. Baked goods, craft table, collectible table, lunch room and more. Tables available for rent as well. Call 416-284-4121.
NOV. 3 – Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of St. Mary & St. Martha, 1149 Weston Rd., Toronto. Deli, bake table, crafts and more.
NOV. 3 – Christmas bazaar with silent auction, bake table, crafts and more, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Meet and have photos with Santa between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
NOV. 10 - Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Featuring antiques, baking, knitting, sewing, lunch and more. Call 905-294-3184.
NOV. 10 – Christmas bazaar with homemade lunch, silent auction, baked goods and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., All Saints, 300 Dundas St. W., Whitby.
NOV. 10 - Christmas bazaar featuring gift baskets, baking, knitted goods, crafts and more., 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. John the Divine, 885 Scarborough Golf Club Rd., Scarborough.
NOV. 16-17 - Art show featuring fine arts and crafts, St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave., Toronto. Ticketed reception with silent auction and wine tasting Friday evening. Open admission Saturday. Visit www.stmarymagdalene.ca/services-and-events.
NOV. 17 – Nutcracker Fair with silent auction, home-baked goods, crafts and more, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto.

NOV. 17 - Holly Berry Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. Handicrafts, jewelry, home-baked goods and more.
NOV. 17 - Christmas craft show and coffee house, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., crafts, book fair, home baking, luncheon and more, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.
NOV. 17 - Christmas bazaar with crafts, bake table, lunch room and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Family, Kennedy Road North, Heart Lake, Brampton.
NOV. 17 - Holly bazaar with crafts, baked good and more, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Martin, Bay Ridges, 1203 St. Martin's Dr., Pickering.
NOV. 24 – Snowflake Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John, 11 Temperance St., Bowmanville. Lunch room, bake sale, handmade knits, crafts and more.
NOV. 24 - Festival of Christmas with baked goods, gourmet gifts, crafts and more, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Trinity, 140 Brook St., Thornhill. Tickets at the door, \$10 per person.
NOV. 24 – Christmas bazaar with crafts, knitted goods, baked goods and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2333 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto.
NOV. 24 – Hollyberry Fair with tea room, crafts, knitted goods, baking and more, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Luke, 904 Coxwell Ave., Toronto.
NOV. 24 - Craft sale with gifts, food and more, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John the Baptist, Norway, 470 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.
NOV. 24 - Christmas bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Andrew, 125 Wellington St. W., Alliston.
DEC. 1 - Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar with lunch room, homemade home décor and gift items, baked goods and more, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Ascension, 266 North St., Port Perry.
DEC. 1 – Christmas Kitchen, home

baking, lunch, silent auction, Santa photos for kids and more, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Timothy, 100 Old Orchard Grove, Toronto.
DEC. 8 - Christmas craft and bake sale and an open house art exhibit hosted by the Creative Space Resident Artist Group, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Aidan, 70 Silver Birch Ave., Toronto.
Workshops & Gatherings
SEPT. 16-DEC. 2 - Christopher Leadership Course, designed to enhance your leadership and communication skills, and your confidence, 3-6 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Register by calling 416-410-7776 or 1-800-418-8925 or email cltorontoeast@gmail.com.
OCT. 27 – "Spirituality for Activists," led by the Rev. Maylanne Maybee, a deacon who is the former principal of the Centre for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. John's Covent, 233 Cummer Ave., Toronto. \$30 (\$25 for associates and oblates) if you bring a bag lunch; a hot meal is an additional \$15. For more information, visit www.ssjd.ca or call 416-226-2201, ext. 305. Members of Propitiation, a fellowship of LGBTQ Anglicans who prefer the Book of Common Prayer, will be attending this event. For more information on Propitiation, call 416-977-4359.
OCT. 27 - Lay pastoral care teams are invited to attend an overview of lay pastoral care with Dr. Shelley Tidy, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, 25 St. Phillips Rd., Etobicoke. Lunch provided. Call 416-244-0088 to confirm attendance.
NOV. 1 – All Saints Communion at 6 p.m. followed by light supper, then from 7-8 p.m., "Reformation and the Printing Press" with the Rev. Dr.

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CANADA BRIEFS

Woman joins Lambeth community

EDMONTON – A local Anglican has joined 35 Christians from around the world taking part this year in the Community of St. Anselm, a program for young people centred at Lambeth Palace, the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Melissa Ritz, who was most recently working as a theological intern and office administrator at Christ Church, Edmonton, arrived at Lambeth Palace in September, where she will spend a total of 10 months with 15 “residential” members of the community. Another 20 “non-residential” participants will live and work outside the palace, but in the London area.

Launched in 2015, the Community of St. Anselm invites Christians aged 20-35 to “spend a year in God’s time,” praying, studying and performing ministry together. The program is named after a medieval Benedictine monk and scholar, and participants in the community must follow a “Rule of Life.”

Ms. Ritz, who holds a Master of Divinity degree from Wycliffe College in Toronto, says she’s both hopeful and apprehensive about the experience. “I’m introverted and shy and have a tendency to be a hermit, so I’m looking forward to spending time with God and others with a common purpose,” she says. “Benedict encourages finding community and developing one’s self in God that endures wherever you go. I’m terrified to begin this journey, but I look forward to where God takes me next.”

The Messenger

Vigil held for shooting victims

FREDERICTON – Clergy from a number of denominations and community members joined Anglicans Aug. 10 at a vigil for victims of the shootings that had taken place in the city earlier that day.

About 200 people attended the vigil, held at the Anglican church of St. John the Evangelist, off Brookside Drive, the street on which the shootings took place. Though organizers said they didn’t know beforehand whether anyone would show up, the church was full for the ceremony. In addition to church leaders were two dozen members of the media.

The Rev. Paul Ranson, rector of the church, opened the service. Bishop David Edwards of the Diocese of Fredericton invited participants to light candles. “These candles represent the light of our solidarity – with each other, with those who have been greatly affected, and of course God’s solidarity with us,” he said. “That light is hard to see tonight, but as a minister of the Christian gospel, I can say God is here with us.”

The vigil, which also included

readings of biblical passages and hymn-singing, was live-streamed by the CBC.

Four people, including two police officers, were killed by gunfire in the parking lot of a Fredericton apartment complex in the early morning of Aug. 10. Matthew Vincent Raymond has been charged with first-degree murder in connection with their deaths.

The New Brunswick Anglican

Cathedral votes for \$258k organ

SAULT STE. MARIE – The vestry of the Diocese of Algoma’s St. Luke’s Cathedral, in Sault Ste. Marie, has endorsed a proposal to build the cathedral a new organ, at a cost of \$258,000.

The winning proposal was made by Rudolf von Beckerath, an organ-making firm based in Hamburg, Germany. The Beckerath-built organ is expected to be useable for 100 years. The next most attractive bid to make the cathedral an organ with similar music-making capacity would have cost \$100,000 more.

The new instrument will replace the cathedral’s current organ, which failed earlier this year after nearly 50 years of use, and was found to be beyond repair.

During the process of finding a replacement, cathedral leaders decided the new organ should be able to at least match the old one in tonal quality, range and ability to accompany worship. They also agreed it should be cost-effective over its projected life and not impose a financial burden on the church’s existing ministry, and that it would be paid for through fundraising and other freely given gifts, rather than debt or the church’s general operating budget.

The vestry has approved a campaign to raise the necessary money. A number of fundraising activities have already started, and some generous donations have been made. It’s estimated that the organ will be installed six months from the signing of a contract.

Algoma Anglican

Affordable housing project approved

VICTORIA – A proposal by the Diocese of British Columbia to create 24 affordable rental homes for seniors has received its required zoning approval. On Aug. 27, the municipal council of Esquimalt, B.C., unanimously approved the project, to be built on the site of St. Peter and St. Paul’s Anglican Church. The project will also include a new community centre.

The project is part of the diocese’s long-term plan for sharing its properties more widely and building partnerships in local communities. Organizations partnering with the diocese already provide more than 300 affordable housing units on Vancouver Island. Another project now under construction will mean 84 more units of affordable housing for seniors in Saanich, B.C., and another 85 are planned for the same community.

A total of eight projects in the diocese are now awaiting approvals for funding.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR NOVEMBER

1. The Vocational Deacons of the Diocese of Toronto
2. Education for Ministry program
3. The FaithWorks Allocation Committee
4. Members of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto
5. Giving with Grace (formerly Anglican Appeal)
6. Threshold Ministries (formerly The Church Army)
7. The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor and

8. Registrar of the Diocese of Toronto
8. Synod Planning and Agenda Committee
9. The Synod of the Diocese of Toronto
10. The Synod of the Diocese of Toronto
11. Military Chaplains
12. All Saints Church-Community Centre
13. New Hope Anglican Mission
14. Christ Church, Scarborough
15. Grace Church in Scarborough
16. Holy Trinity, Guildwood
17. Nativity, Malvern
18. Scarborough Deanery

19. St. Michael the Archangel, Toronto
20. St. Dunstan of Canterbury, Toronto
21. St. John the Divine, Scarborough
22. St. Jude, Wexford
23. St. Margaret in-the-Pines, Toronto
24. St. Margaret Tamil Congregation, Toronto
25. Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund
26. St. Ninian, Scarborough
27. St. Paul, L’Amoreaux
28. St. Peter, Scarborough
29. St. Timothy, Agincourt
30. St. Andrew, Scarborough

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Dr. David Barker, Honorary Assistant, Parish of Haliburton, Sept. 5.
- The Rev. David Howells, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. as of Sept. 10 while the Incumbent is on leave.
- The Rev. Gregory Carpenter, Regional Dean, Scarborough Deanery, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Incumbent, St. Barnabas, Chester, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Robert Hurkmans (Diocese of Niagara), Associate Priest, St. Paul, Bloor Street, Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Grant Schwartz, Pastoral Care Provider for retired clergy, spouses and widows in the Oshawa area, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Sherbourne Street, Dec. 1.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their

bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

First Phase - Parish Selection Committee in Formation (not yet receiving names):

- St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South
- St. Andrew by-the-Lake, Toronto Islands (Half Time)
- St. James Cathedral

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga
- St. John, Bowmanville

Third Phase - Parish Selection Committee Interviewing (no longer receiving names):

- Trinity, Aurora
- St. Andrew, Scarborough

Celebrations of New Ministry Trent Durham

- The Rev. Ken McClure, Priest-in-Charge, St. George, Haliburton, Oct. 14.

- The Rev. Greg Fiennes-Clinton, Priest-in-Charge, St. George (Clarke), Newcastle, Oct. 21.

York-Credit Valley

- The Rev. Adrienne Clements, Priest-in-Charge, St. Hilary (Cooksville), Mississauga, Oct. 14.
- The Rev. Monique Taylor, Priest-in-Charge, St. James the Apostle, Brampton, Nov. 25 at 4 p.m.

Retirement

- The Rev. Anne Crosthwait is moving to British Columbia and will be continuing her ministry with Contemplative Fire in the Diocese of New Westminster.

Conclusion

- The Rev. Chris Harper concluded his ministry as the Indigenous Native Priest of the Diocese of Toronto on Oct. 15. He was elected the Bishop of Saskatoon in September and will be consecrated on Nov. 17 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Saskatoon.

LOOKING AHEAD

Continued from Page 10

Pearce Carefoote, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

NOV. 4 - Choral Evensong for All Souls at 4 p.m., followed by a presentation by historian Richard Fiennes-Clinton on the special role of the monarch during the First World

War, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 7-23 - The Christmas Story, a Toronto tradition since 1938 featuring professional musicians and a volunteer cast in this hour-long nativity pageant, Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Toronto (behind the

Eaton Centre). Suggested donation is \$25 for adults and \$5 for children. Evening and matinee performances. For times and reservations, visit www.thechristmasstory.ca or call 416-598-4521, ext. 301. American Sign Language interpretation is available at select performances.



Youth and leaders from the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Ontario have their picture taken at the ReCharge retreat in Muskoka. PHOTO BY MICHAEL PERRY

Power outage doesn't stop youth from recharging

BY JILLIAN RUCH

EVEN though the ReCharge retreat on Sept. 21-23 at Muskoka Woods Camp started on generator power, the 168 participants from across the diocese – and even from Kingston! – lit up the music hall with songs, laughter and joy after long rides up to the camp. In our initial session, we learned about #drunknakedjesus – ask one of the youths what this means!

Afterwards, we moved to our cabins with help from our trusty flashlights, which only added to the excitement of our youth finding their cabins and beds for the night. We awoke to a beautiful morning, very thankful that breakfast was still able to be made and enjoyed by all, even with

no power.

The power outage only rejigged our plans slightly, and the sessions carried on as if nothing stood in our way. The ages were split into 11-13 year-olds and 14-18 year-olds, all talking about the same topic: “What it means to feel at home.” We all learned about how God wants us to be home in Him, home in our communities, home in our churches, home in our families and home in ourselves.

Our afternoon was filled with excitement on the low ropes and during gym time, mountain biking, team games, skateboarding and chill-out time. With the power restored, our evening sessions had us split into our groups once again with scripture being acted out, stories being told

and ending in our small groups to delve deeper into the conversations of “Home.”

The evening ended with an epic game of Flame Battlers – again, ask your youth! The retreat ended with a rousing service of celebration and a sermon telling our youth that fear can drive us away from our home in God. They were tasked with asking themselves what scares them the most and then to “Go and do it!”

We so look forward to our retreat next year and ask that you consider sending your youth to join in all the learning, fun and fellowship!

Jillian Ruch is chair of the Archbishop's Youth Ministry Committee and an area youth ministry coordinator for York-Scarborough.



Youth from St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto, and friends ride bicycles at the retreat. PHOTO BY ANTHONIA DAVY

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca or find us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.