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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update April 2018

"By opening our lives to God in Christ, we become new creatures. This experience, which Jesus spoke of as the new birth, is essential if we are to be transformed nonconformists ... Only through an inner spiritual transformation do we gain the strength to fight vigorously the evils of the world in a humble and loving spirit."

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, assassinated 50 years ago on April 4, 1968

NEWS FOR APRIL 2018

1. **Earth Sunday Resources Now Available**
2. **Provincial Election Resources - Coming Soon**
3. **Interface Youth Event, Sat. April 14**
4. **St. Cuthbert's Environmental Film Festival: "Tapped", Sun. April 15**
5. **Up Ghost River Book Study at St. Clement's, Fri. April 18**
6. **KAIROS Earth Day Walk, Sun. April 22**
7. **Voices for Peace Conference, Sat. April 28**
8. **Reconciliation in the Watershed at St. Martin's, Pickering, Sat. May 5**
9. **White Privilege Conference at Ryerson, May 9-12, 2018**
10. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle for April**

1. Earth Sunday Resources Now Available Sunday April 22 is Earth Sunday, and our Creation Matters committee has created a range of resources that have been approved by the Diocesan Bishop for parish use. These include a bulletin insert, reflection on the lectionary, prayers and hymn suggestions. To download these resources, or to learn more about how to your parish can get involved in creation care, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/environment.

2. Provincial Election Resources - Coming Soon! The provincial election is scheduled for June 7, 2018. We are working together with other Anglican Dioceses and faith networks in Ontario to prepare resources to enable you to engage candidates in discussion on key social justice issues, and hope to have these ready later this month. In the meantime, watch this short animated [video](#) from the Centre for Public Ethics at Wilfred Laurier University on how people of faith can make a positive contribution to public discourse during an election campaign

3. Interface Youth Event, Sat. April 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Open to youth age 13-18

and their leaders from all episcopal areas, this interactive day focuses on homelessness and affordable housing, while empowering youth to live out their faith in their communities. Hosted by St. Clement, Eglinton (70 St. Clement's Ave., Toronto ON.) Registration starts at 9:30. Lunch is included. Please RSVP to torontoanglicanyouth@gmail.com.

4. St. Cuthbert's Environmental Film Festival, Sun. April 15, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Join St. Cuthbert, Leaside (1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto) for a light lunch and a screening of "Tapped", a documentary about the ecological impact of the bottled water industry. The film will be followed by a discussion moderated by Stefan Hostetter of Green Majority.

5. *Up Ghost River* Book Study, Fri. April 18, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m., St. Clement, Eglinton (70 St. Clement's Ave., Toronto.) National bestseller *Up Ghost River* is the memoir of Edmund Metatawabin, survivor of the notorious St. Anne's residential School and former chief of the Fort Albany First Nation. All are welcome to join the discussion, led by parishioner Mary Botterell, on this important account of Indigenous survival, resilience, and justice-seeking.

6. Earth Day Walk, Sun. April 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Queen's Park, Toronto. Join KAIROS and other justice partners for a walk to protect and connect with food, land, and water. Meet in Queen's Park on the north side of Wellesley at 2:00 p.m.

7. Voices for Peace Conference, Sat. April 28, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Church of the Redeemer and Citizens for Public Justice are among the co-sponsors of this one-day conference, steeped in the spirituality of Henri Nouwen and Thomas Merton, on the foundations of peacemaking. Drawing from seasoned activists, leaders in contemplative ministry, artists of spoken word and music, this conference will feed your spirit, ignite your conscience, and inspire you to become a voice for peace! To be held at the Cardinal Flahiff Basilian Centre, Suite 214, 95 St. Joseph St., Toronto. Lunch and refreshments are included with admission (\$25 general/\$15 students). Find tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/voices-for-peace-tickets-42716178239>

8. Pickering: Reconciliation in the Watershed, Sat. May 5, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hosted by St. Martin's, Pickering (1203 St. Martin's Drive, Pickering) together with KAIROS, this full-day workshop aims to renew the relationship between Canadians and their local watershed on a path towards reconciled relationships with Indigenous peoples. The event will include outdoor reflection and ceremony and connect participants with the work being done by Indigenous communities to protect local watershed. Cost is \$15 with lunch included or \$5 if you bring your own lunch. Find tickets at <https://secure.kairoscanada.org/civcrm/event/info?id=87&reset=1>

9. White Privilege Conference at Ryerson University, May 9-12, 2018 This conference will explore Canadians' challenge with privilege and oppression, and provide an opportunity to engage openly in honest, critical, solutions-based discussions that address obstacles as they relate to issues that focus on and go beyond race. Participants may choose to attend one day on May 9 or the three day full conference May 10-12. Early Bird registration ends April 15. For more information see <https://www.ryerson.ca/wpc-global/>

10. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for April 2018

April 1, Easter Sunday - *Pray for* the Church of the Redeemer, Toronto, its weekday meal program and other supports for homeless and marginally-housed people, its

Indigenous Solidarity Working Group, Creation Matters group, and refugee resettlement program;
and for the Church of the Resurrection, Toronto, its community garden, monthly Common Table, support of Sanctuary, the Scott Mission, and Dale Ministries, and Side Door youth drop-in centre.

April 8, Easter 2- *Pray for* St. Aidan, Toronto, its Out of the Cold program, community lunches, refugee sponsorship, and Truth and Reconciliation education and action; its mental health support group; youth service/learning trips to Nicaragua and the Yukon; and its support of St. Stephen's breakfast program, Moorelands camp, the Grace Pascoe Food Bank, and the East End Refugee Committee;
and for St. Andrew-by-the-Lake, Toronto Island, its Christian Environmental Retreat Centre, and its involvement in Green Witness, Greening Sacred Spaces, and the diocesan Creation Matters Environmental Working Group.

April 15, Easter 3- *Pray for* St. Andrew, Scarborough, its monthly Neighbourhood Lunch and support for such programs as the St. Jude, Wexford, Food Bank, All Saints Community Centre, and the Pikangikum Water project;
for the St. Andrew Japanese Congregation, Toronto, its support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry and St. Monica's, and outreach in the Japanese-Canadian community;
and for St. Anne, Toronto, its monthly community dinners and interfaith refugee sponsorship project.

April 22, Easter 4 - *Pray for* St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto, its support of the Flemingdon Park Ministry and Community Food Bank, All Saints', Sherbourne, Moorelands Camp, and other community projects;
for St. Barnabas, Chester, its participation in the interfaith "Chew on This" initiative, support of Kennedy House Youth Centre; provision of space for new and emerging musicians, and its support of local artists through hosting the Riverdale Art Show;
and for St. Barnabas and St. John, Peterborough, its garden club, its management of the City of Peterborough's Warming Room, its One Roof dinner every Monday to Friday, its support of the St. John Centre housing for seniors, and advocacy for social justice;

April 29, Easter 5- *Pray for* St. Bartholomew, Toronto, its breakfast and afterschool programs, food bank, and Prayer Walk initiative;
for St. Bede, Scarborough, as the parish discerns and embarks on new outreach initiatives;
and for St. Bride, Clarkson, its involvement in the Caring and Sharing network, Compass community centre and food bank, and Community Church Volunteers, and its support of Hands Across the Nation outreach in developing countries.

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, [consider liking us on our Facebook page.](#)

In faithful witness,
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