Synod elects new suffragan bishop

Election makes history

BY STUART MANN

The Ven. Peter Fenty, archdeacon of York and the executive officer to the Bishop of Toronto, was elected suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto on April 6.

Bishop-elect Fenty, who was born and raised in Barbados and came to Canada in 1992, will be the first black bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada.

“This is a historic moment in the life of the Anglican Church in Canada,” he said in an interview after the election at St. James Cathedral in Toronto.

Bishop-elect Fenty, 61, was elected on the seventh ballot. The other nominees were the Rev. Canon Allan Budzin, the Rev. Canon Isaac Kawuki-Mukasa, the Ven. Gordon Finney, the Rev. Mark Kinghan, the Rev. Warren Leibovitch, the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, the Rev. Nicola Skinner and Major the Rev. David Warren.

In a show of unity after the election, all the candidates threw their support behind Bishop-elect Fenty.

“This was Bishop-elect Fenty’s sixth time running in an episcopal election. We’ve learned more and more that in God’s time, things happen,” he said. “He had no plans to enter the election until friends urged him to reconsider. He only made up his mind to enter after his annual retreat in Boston in January.”

He says he “never dreamed” of being a priest in Canada, let alone being a bishop here. “From a very young age, I thought I had a call to priesthood, but I always thought that if I became a priest, I would serve in the Caribbean,” he says.

He was ordained a priest in Barbados in 1975 and was the rector of three parishes there. In 1992, he accepted an invitation to become the rector of St. Lawrence church in the Diocese of Montreal. In 1997, he became the incumbent of St. Joseph of Nazareth in Brampton in the Diocese of Toronto. Since 2004, he has been the archdeacon of York and the executive officer to the Bishop of Toronto.

As the executive officer, he has worked closely with the College of Bishops, the five-person group that provides episcopal oversight of the diocese. He oversees the diocese’s Fresh Start and Momentum programs and is a co-chair of the diocese’s postulancy committee. He has also served the church at the national level, most recently as a member and advisor to the Multicultural Ethics Committee and co-chair of the Partners in Mission and Eco-justice Committee.

“I want to serve our church more missional in its thrust, and that’s what we’re already doing,” he says. “I want to affirm the lay leaders in our church, who do great work. I want to see the raising up of vocations, particularly those in what we call ethnic communities.”

The diocese is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and Anglicans are also using these tools, and many more, in their ministry and their personal lives, often on their smart phones.”

The Nominations Committee realized they had an unprecedented opportunity to help Anglicans learn about the nominees. Traditionally, Synod members learned about the episcopal nominees through written biographies in the Convening Circular, which was mailed to parishes and posted online. In the last election, in 2007, the diocese also produced a video of interviews with the nominees and made it available on its website. But much has changed in six years. “Social media have made communication a two-way street, as well as inexpensive and immediate,” says Stuart Mann, the diocese’s director of Communications. “The diocese is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, and Anglicans are also using these tools, and many more, in their ministry and their personal lives, often on their smart phones.”

The Nominations Committee also set up a Facebook group as a forum for discussion. Anyone was allowed to join the group and ask the nominees questions. The nominees were told that their participation was completely voluntary, and all chose to participate. They were joined by more than 160 Anglicans, who sought answers to questions pertaining to everything from rural ministry, youth in the church, and parochial clergy, to environmental issues, gender discrimination, and spirituality. The discussion paused spontaneously during the video.”

Continued on Page 12
Invitation comes as a surprise

BY CAROLYN PURDEN

ADELE Finney of St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough, played an important role in the installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, in March.

Ms. Finney, the executive director of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, was one of five representatives of the worldwide Anglican Communion to offer gifts to the new archbishop.

She says she received an invitation to the installation service likely because she has been active in the formation of the Anglican Alliance for Relief Development and Advocacy, an Anglican Communion collaboration of relief agencies.

Just two weeks before the ceremony, she was asked by the dean of Canterbury, on behalf of Archbishop Welby, to participate in the actual installation. She says she has no idea why she was selected. She was asked to bring a symbol of the life and issues in her region of the Anglican Communion and take it to the high altar during the service.

She had to decide what item would be appropriate. She discovered that she would be representing not just Canada but the Americas, and so the symbol had to be important across the continent. After some consultation, she chose water, carried in two clay vessels, one of them crafted by an artisan from Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation near Brantford.

“Because our ongoing work at a new relationship with indigenous peoples is high on the agenda of indigenous connection,” says Ms. Finney, “I wanted to have some sort of indigenous connection.”

She then contacted members of the Council of General Synod (COGS), which was about to meet, to ask if they would bring some water from their part of Canada to the council meeting.

The water presented at the installation was carried in two vessels. A pitcher held both salt water and fresh water that came from the Yukon River, Lake Ontario, Lac St. Louis in Quebec, the town of Pasadena in Newfound- land and the Atlantic Ocean. It also contained water blessed during a COGS vigil.

The second item, a small pottery vessel, held water from the Old Man River in Pikani (Peigan) First Nation, Alberta.

The gifts were presented midway through the service. After the Archbishop’s sermon, there was an organ improvisation and a time for worshippers to reflect on the sermon. During this period, the Communion representatives one-by-one carried their gifts in silence to the high altar.

In a letter to Archbishop Welby explaining the gifts, Ms. Finney noted the importance of water in our physical and spiritual lives, and its life-giving quality. She concluded with a prayer she had written:

“May your ministry as Archbishop of Canterbury be a current in the river of love that is the Gospel, flowing out of Eden through our lands, times and spirits, welling up through the temple threshold into a river by whose banks are trees with leaves for the healing of the nations.”

She says the installation service was impressive. She was seated near the choir, and close to Prince Charles and Prime Minister David Cameron.

There were several highlights. “The choir was outstanding and inspiring,” says she. She appreciated Archbishop Welby’s sermon, in which he laid out the things that were close to his heart.

She was particularly impressed by the young Indian teenage girl who, at the start of the service, questioned Archbishop Welby when he pounded on the cathedral door for entrance. Using the traditional formula, she asked, “Who are you? Who sent you? Why are you here?”

“It was wonderful to hear those questions asked in a young female voice,” says Ms. Finney.

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Adele Finney holds jars of water from across Canada. At right, she returns from placing the vessels on the altar during the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury.
Students get down to business

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

IT’S not every day that business students choose a church program for their case study. And not every church is open to business ideas. But the drop-in meal program at the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto and some 300 first-year students from Rotman Commerce at the University of Toronto reaped the benefits when they decided to try something new and work together.

Their assignment was to pretend they were a consulting group hired by the Church of the Redeemer to talk about the issues that they see the program facing and what they would suggest doing with those issues, given that they have $5,000," says Angie Hocking, who runs the drop-in program. The arrangement came about when Kendra Hawke, Rotman’s assistant director of Student Academic Development, at the time, walked into the church hoping to find a place where students could do outreach.

First, the students visited Redeemer in four large groups to hear about the program from Ms. Hocking and drop-in participants. They learned that the drop-in runs Monday through Friday and provides a hot breakfast and lunch for about 120 people a day, as well as counselling, medical and nursing services, legal referrals and housing assistance. It serves people who are homeless or struggling.

Ms. Hocking says it was gratifying to see students “who don’t normally interact with this world have this experience of being a little uncomfortable and learning and really hearing. They were intensely listening to the stories that were shared by our participants, and our participants did an amazing job.” The students asked a lot of questions, and one student commented: “This isn’t about faith, this is about helping other human beings.”

During the visits, each group assembled packages of necessities for the drop-in participants, including lunches, winter hats, scarves and gloves, and hygiene products. “They gathered them all themselves through fundraisings and donations, and they brought them that day,” says Ms. Hocking. “The idea was to give them a taste of working with the program, as they couldn’t come during program hours.”

Finally, in smaller groups, the students developed presentations about their solutions to the problems they had identified. The presentations took place on a Saturday in March, with Ms. Hocking and two Rotman Commerce staff members as judges. “The group that won just stood out,” says Ms. Hocking. “Their ideas were really wonderful.” The group focused on raising public awareness of the drop-in, with ideas for signage and social media.

The five winners will do an internship with the drop-in for two months this summer. Ms. Hocking is not yet sure what they will do. “They might organize a fundraiser or apply some of the ideas in their case study,” she says. “They are going to visit with our participants and learn what it means to run a program like this and get some really good experience in the non-profit world.”

For the church, the case study was an opportunity to connect with the surrounding community in a new way. “I think it’s important for Redeemer to provide these experiences for students because we are so close to campus,” says Ms. Hocking. “So it was good for us, to stretch us and make us step up to the plate.”

As for the students, Ms. Hocking hopes that the experience will stay with them. In her speech after the presentations, she said: “I urge you, wherever you end up working and living in the future, to never let yourself get too disconnected from those living in poverty among you. There is need in every nook and cranny of the world, and we need creative and brilliant people like you to help make this world a better place.”

Students get down to business

Winning case study seeks to raise public awareness
BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP PATRICK YU

An open letter to the bishop-elect

Congratulations, Peter, and welcome to the diocese of Toronto! I am sure that you will attend the same meetings in a new capacity. How are you feeling? I imagine a mixture of wonder and fear, which never quite goes away. Why isn’t that an interesting emotion? People will be ana-
lyzing it for a while. So many factors are at play, technology being one of them. God uses technology and every other tool. We will be looking at the open letter, to a large number of people, it is most
sided. The first warning sign is the number of people and the
dreams of churches depend on your leader-
ship, this weight of office is part of the job. But you, like the rest of us, have a tour of the diocese, and where is your part of the
ceremony process for many of them. Now you will see the same rhythm and the same steps. You
know the great staff we have at the Diocesan Centre, and how hard they work to support the
diocese. In the past, we have had the help of the Board of Deacons. And in the future, you
will meet the gifted cadre of clergy in our dio-
cese. You will be moved by how often people say, “We are pray-
ing: when a parish writes a grant application or when a cleric has a bright idea which
requires a little extra money, their expectation is that you will support it. A close second is
sentiment which may be a book project in the
future. (Do you want to contribute?)

All of them tug at my heartstrings, and some
 deserve both reply and remediial action.

What to do? First, you have to decide whether you should respond to each letter; not to;
some writers do not really want an answer.
The questions are rhetorical; they are, in fact,
acussations. In those circumstances, it is bet-
ter not to write back. Our Lord did not an-
swer all the questions at his trial. But if you
do decide to reply, you may want to consider
some strategy. You have to decide who is go-
ing to answer. It is usually a toss-up between
the bishop-elect and the one who wrote the
letter as well as how many copies of the
original letter. By replying, you
answer the real issue rather than the
presenting issue.

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An Anglican in a Roman square

BY THE REV. DAVID GIFFEN

A

though I began

worshiping as an

Anglican more than

40 years ago, there

has not been a time when I

have stopped referring to my childhood
denomination, Roman Catholicism, as my family’s. The truth is: we do not choose our
families, we are born into them. There was
certainly a wide range of reasons for leave-
ing my family’s church in early adulthood,
the conviction of which I still feel assured
about. But without the upbringing of my
family church, I do not know if I would have
come to know the love God has for me, or
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The tension between these realities be-
came clear to me when standing in St. Pe-
ter’s Square on the night of the papal elec-
tion in March. By pure coincidence, I was
studying at the Anglican Centre in Rome
during a week in which the eyes of the
world were upon Vatican City. On the eve-
of the second night of the con-
clave, I thought I would journey to St. Pe-
ter’s Square to check it out. The surge of
emotion from the crowd was felt in my
own heart when the white smoke rose
up. I was amazed by the power and emotion from the crowd was felt in my
heart when the white smoke rose
up. I was amazed by the power
I couldn’t help but get caught up in the mo-
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A glimpse into the netherworld

BY MURRAY MACADAM

M odern luxury: experience it.” The lifestyle promoted in the slick billboard ad, located beside the construction site of a luxury condo, seems a million miles away from me as I stride to the Toronto Reference Library. The “modern luxury” I’m looking for is a public washroom—which I can brush my teeth and change my socks. I’m taking a three-hour plunge into the life of a homeless person. I’m with a dozen other Anglicans from four parishes, taking part in a new educational program offered by the Church of the Redeemer’s outreach program.

Inside the library, my spirits soar as I see a coffee shop. On this cold winter night, I’d love a coffee. Then I realize that, as a homeless person, I don’t have any money. I slide past the coffee server’s watchful eye and into the washroom, without buying anything. There, I swiftly change my socks and brush my teeth. Many homeless people have only two sets of underwear. Where do you change if you’re living in a hostel or outdoors? Where do you brush your teeth if the bedbug epidemic has made the streets more attractive than a hostel?

Heading down Yonge Street, I’m feeling colder, despite wearing an extra pair of pants. Thank God that warmth and a hot meal await me at the Sanctuary, a dynamic downtown congregation made up mostly of street people. I head into the Sanctuary’s basement, where people sit at long tables, enjoying a hearty supper of macaroni, ground beef and salad. The mood is upbeat, with lots of chatter. If I was homeless, this place would feel like an oasis.

Soon our group gathers at Allán Gardens, where we reflect briefly on our experiences thus far, led by our street walk coordinators, Angie Hocking and Allán Currie. They lead us past the Seaton House hostel. It’s a grim site, with high fences and equally high barriers on nearby boarded-up buildings. We ponder the quote in front of the hostel: “Only three types of men are housed here: someone’s father, brother or son.” It’s all too easy to forget that fact as we lump people together as “the homeless.”

As we walk around the corner, within minutes we’re dazzled by the garish billboards at Dundas Square, beside the Eaton Centre. Yet soon we’re beside another grim reminder of what homelessness means: the homeless memorial beside Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, listing the names of 700 people who died on Toronto’s streets. Many are identified only as John or Jane Doe.

Feeling lonely, we are not cheered by that death toll reminder. Yet Angie reminds us that “this isn’t a hopeless journey.” We’ve been told to do three things as a result of our walk: lobby politicians for action against poverty and homelessness, to teach the homeless people by name; and be creative.

Even though I had walked or cycled the streets of our walk numerous times, I never experienced them this way. Others felt the same. “The street walk made me aware that I live in a different world from the many people who have ended up on the street,” says Peter Dale, a member of Redeemer.

Adds Cathy Gowen, another Redeemer member: “I found the first half of the street walk, where we wandered on our own, to be particularly powerful. It wasn’t some kind of poverty tourism exercise, where we looked in from the outside to see how much more firmly the line between ‘us’ and ‘them.’ It is so easy to dehumanize people when we see them as the Other, but putting myself in someone’s shoes gave me a chance to connect with their humanity and see how we are part of the same creation.”

Murray Macadam is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

Speak out for those in poverty

BY SEAN J. MADSEN

The poor are not only in the developing world, but right here in our own country. It doesn’t matter that the political party in office—whoever composes the government—has a demonstrable duty to see that society’s most vulnerable members are properly cared for.

In the final analysis, government reflects the will of the people, not only as expressed at election time, but also in its response to ongoing representations from its citizens. As followers of Christ, we are called to be the voice speaking to power for those who have no effective voice of their own.

A few minutes spent in writing an articulate letter to a political representative, asking that our tax money be used responsibly in the compassionate support of those in want, may have an effect far beyond our imagination. If a sufficient number of us will rise to the challenge of speaking out, the result could be transformational.

We should demand that those in power provide us with a clear vision of how they will use their powers and the resources under their control to achieve the benefit of those who are the most impoverished in society.

The time to act is now, because the time is reaching its end. It is the time of decision for those who have the power. It is the time of responsibility for those who have the privilege of using the resources that the people have placed in their hands. As Christians, we urge our leaders to act appropriately. If we do not speak up, our leaders will not act.

Sean J. Madsen is a member of Church of the Ascension, Port Perry.

Walk organizers Angie Hocking (far left) and Colin Currie (far right) gather with others at Allán Gardens in downtown Toronto. PHOTO BY MURRAY MACADAM

LOFT Community Services
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, June 25, 2013
6:30 pm - Business Meeting
7:00 pm - General Meeting
St. Lawrence Hall, 3rd Floor
157 King Street East (at Jarvis)
Downtown Toronto
For information on attending, please contact:
Irene Breznica
by phone: 416-979-1994, ext. 222
by email: ibreznica@loftcs.org
www.loftcs.org
Faith leaders oppose casinos

Politicians urged to vote against ‘tax on the poor’

BY MURRAY MACADAM

BISHOP Philip Poole joined a coalition of faith leaders speaking at a press conference at Toronto’s City Hall on April 4, urging city councillors and Greater Toronto Area councillors to vote against accepting any new casinos.

More than 250 faith leaders have signed an interfaith anti-casino statement, including Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Linda Nicholls, Bishop George Elliott, Bishop Patrick Vu and Bishop Poole, as well as many Anglican clergy.

In his comments to the press conference, Bishop Poole noted that faith leaders oppose gambling for several reasons, including the fact that gambling amounts to “a tax on the poor,” attracting those who can least afford it. Gambling offers the illusion of getting something for nothing.

Gambling addiction is something that faith leaders know about directly, he added. “As faith leaders, we develop personal relationships with our members which allow us to look into their lives in a deep way. Our members share with us the pain, anxiety and anger gambling brings, and we are there to help them pick up the pieces of their shattered lives.”

The anti-casino statement was the first one ever signed by a diverse group of faith leaders, including Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders, on a public policy issue. Councillor Joe Mihevc congratulated the faith leaders on their effort, describing it as “an amazing statement of unity” which reflects “the courage to act in the public realm when the common good is being threatened. The fact that so many religious leaders have signed on shows how broad-based the opposition to casino expansion is.”

Toronto City Council is expected to vote in May on a new casino proposal.

Anglicans urged to protect water

Efforts to protect clean water in the Gaasp region from potential contamination by oil drilling deserve the prayers and support of Anglicans throughout the Diocese of Quebec, says Bishop Dennis Dansereau. An oil-drilling project is being planned near the town of Gaasp by the Quebec-based company Petrobas. About eight million barrels of oil, worth about $1 billion, lie beneath the ground on the edge of town. The town is concerned that the drilling will pollute local drinking water, and has passed a bylaw to ban the project. Bishop Dansereau is urging Anglicans in the diocese to join with others in peacefully opposing the project until it can be clearly demonstrated that the drilling will not pollute the drinking water.

Gazette

Baptism goes on as snow piles up

Not even a severe winter storm was able to stop a service at Trinity, Sussess, at which eight people were baptized. Initially, only one child was scheduled to be baptized that day, but in the days leading up to the service, other families asked to have their child or children baptized, too. Even one of the fathers asked to be baptized. So despite the frigid temperatures and a heavy snowfall, the service went ahead as planned and eight people were welcomed into Christ’s flock.

The New Brunswick Anglican
Church wins heritage award

Constructed in 1830, Holy Trinity, Thornhill, is the oldest original church building still in use in the diocese. To see it now, 183 years later, one marvels at its fresh appearance. In 2012, the church’s exterior was carefully renovated to return it to the best possible condition.

The City of Vaughan has honored Holy Trinity with a Heritage Vaughan Award, in recognition of the renovation. The Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, incumbent, and Ron Tolhurst, the chair of the church’s Property Committee, attended a city council meeting to accept the award.

Renovating a heritage building can be an expensive proposition. The church’s Property Committee and vestry had to take a hard look at the church’s resources for undertaking such a costly venture. The diocese’s Our Faith Our Hope campaign helped to make the decision far easier. Holy Trinity surpassed its $500,000 target by more than 20 per cent, and the campaign share that was returned to the church provided, together with existing resources, substantial relief toward the funding of the renovation project.

Parishioners are thrilled by the outstanding results, as carried out by the contractors under the supervision of Mr. Tolhurst and the Property Committee.

Churches celebrate day of prayer

The World Day of Prayer service for churches near Lake Scugog was held at the Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, on March 1. The theme was, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” and the service was created by women in France. The service, which included piano and guitar, was well attended. The Bible, a globe and a candle sat on the altar as the focal point. A DVD presentation on France was enlightening. The women of the Church of the Ascension did an amazing job transforming the church hall into a Parisian café, providing hors d’œuvres and desserts and continued fellowship following the service.

BY IAN ANTHONY

G race Church on-the-Hill in Toronto marked its parish centennial from November 2011 to November 2012. In May of 2011, the Rev. Canon Peter Walker approached me to write a history of the church.

Canon Walker brought the idea to me because I am the historian for the E.S. Rogers family and Rogers Communications and have faithfully attended Grace Church since 1986. I authored a biography of radio inventor E.S. Rogers Sr. and two articles on Grace Church priests, the Rev. Canon Milton Barry and Canon Walker.

Compiling a definitive parish history can be quite enjoyable, but it carries challenges. Here are some tips that authors should keep in mind: identify important dates and influential people; seek facts and details from a wide variety of sources, as one nugget of information can open up a wealth of knowledge; first-hand accounts are best; read registers, service bulletins, newsletters, vestry reports and scrapbooks; when it comes to photographs, use a keen eye to see what they hold; browse through clerical directories; visit the diocese’s archives, as the archivists are very friendly and helpful; extend your research to newspapers, the Internet, and even city directories.

It’s always helpful to provide the context behind an occurrence, and to determine what external factors were unfolding at different times which may have impacted your church’s decisions or activities. For example, earlier publications recounted how the Governor General conceded the turning of the sod for Grace Church. I scrolled through newspaper microfilms to learn why he was visiting Toronto (he was on a cross-country tour) and why he performed the ceremony (he was an ardent Anglican). This provided a more thorough re-telling of the history. In another example, I studied the open plate offerings listed from 1929 to 1939, revealing how Grace Church fared through the Great Depression.

Google is another excellent resource, but first it must be given the right information to provide what you require. Make sure to search for names accompanied by dates, then narrow your search down from the broad to the specific. Go beyond a common name, because some entries may be in different forms. For example, in the early part of the 20th century, people typically were identified by their initials instead of their first names. When searching for a woman, particularly before 1960, search by her husband’s name, such as Mrs. F. Walker. Also, there may be typographical errors, so read carefully. Cross-check data to make sure you get accurate information. For example, one book stated that the position of executive secretary for General Synod began in 1902. Actually, Bishop Robert Machray only suggested his opening remarks at Synod in 1902 that one be hired, the position did not begin until 1910.


Ian Anthony is the author of Amidst In Faith: The Story of Grace Church on-the-Hill.
Anglicans honoured for service

The following Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto have received the Diamond Jubilee Medal. The province-wide ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 25, 1997, near the Queen for her service to this country. At the same time, it serves to honour significant contributions and achievements by Canadians.

Evelyn Fitzakerley
St. Bede, Scarborough
Evelyn Fitzakerley was recognized for her 35 years of dedication in coordinating and conducting The Wexford Warblers Seniors’ Choir and Kitchen Band at the Wexford Residences in Scarborough. Under her direction and creativity, the choir has performed more than 400 concerts and skits for residents and visitors. Recognized as one of the largest and most diverse collections of its kind in Canada, Mr. McQuillan and Mr. McMillen’s roles involve the organization and running of programs and activities. Acknowledged as one of the largest and most diverse collections of its kind in Canada, Mr. McQuillan and Mr. McMillen’s roles involve the organization and running of programs and activities. They have served as president of the St. John’s, St. David, Lawrence Avenue, and St. Stephen, Downsview, for the purpose of refugee sponsorship. This group became legally responsible for the welfare of a family of “boat people” from Vietnam. Ms. Breckenridge and her husband, Walter, welcomed them into their home and provided them with invaluable assistance and direction during their adjustment to life in Canada. Ms. Breckenridge also promoted, organized, and ran the weekly community supper, Com-Sup, at St. John’s.

Marion Saunders
Marion Saunders has been a life-long volunteer in the Anglican Church of Canada, the Canadian Armed Forces, international and ecumenical church organizations and the health care field. At her medal presentation, she was cited for making a difference for the “poorest of the poor,” particularly families in the health care field. At her medal presentation, she was cited for making a difference for the “poorest of the poor,” particularly members of St. John’s, St. David, Lawrence Avenue, and St. Stephen, Downsview, for the purpose of refugee sponsorship. This group became legally responsible for the welfare of a family of “boat people” from Vietnam. Ms. Breckenridge and her husband, Walter, welcomed them into their home and provided them with invaluable assistance and direction during their adjustment to life in Canada. Ms. Breckenridge also promoted, organized, and ran the weekly community supper, Com-Sup, at St. John’s.

Norman McMullen
St. Mary, Richmond Hill
Norman McMullen has served as chair of the parish’s Archives Committee since 2001. He volunteers with the Outreach Committee and, alongside his wife, helps to maintain the St. Swithin’s Memorial Rose Garden, located beside the parish’s historic chapel. In the early 1970s, along with Kevin Dark, who was also presented with a Diamond Jubilee Medal, Mr. McMullen established the McMullen/Dark Collection of Royal Commemoratives. Recognized as one of the largest and most diverse collections of its kind in Canada, Mr. McMullen and Mr. McMillen’s roles involve the organization and running of programs and activities. They have served as president of the St. John’s, St. David, Lawrence Avenue, and St. Stephen, Downsview, for the purpose of refugee sponsorship. This group became legally responsible for the welfare of a family of “boat people” from Vietnam. Ms. Breckenridge and her husband, Walter, welcomed them into their home and provided them with invaluable assistance and direction during their adjustment to life in Canada. Ms. Breckenridge also promoted, organized, and ran the weekly community supper, Com-Sup, at St. John’s.

Shelagh Stewart
St. Theodore of Canterbury, North York
Shelagh Stewart was honoured for her role in achievements in road safety. She has worked with both provincial and federal enforcement agencies, justice officials and related groups and charities. She has written extensively, including legal texts and papers at the national and international level. She has been committed to working with police services and others to save lives on Ontario’s roads. The province’s fatality rate is now the second lowest in North America.

Michael Stevenson
St. Cathbert, Leaside
Michael Stevenson has been a volunteer at Sunnybrook Hospital’s Veterans Centre in Toronto for more than 15 years. During this time he has been a committed Wheelchair Escort volunteer and has visited residents, participated in the music and entertainment group and assisted with courting veterans to chapel services on Sunday. His compassion and caring for veterans is evident in his many contributions.

TRANSITION TIME

Members of St. Patrick’s, Willowdale, join their mascot in celebrating their final pastoral festival. After 59 years, St. Patrick’s is closing. Its last service will be held on June 30. However, the church will be the new home of St. John, Toronto (to be re-named St. John, Willowdale), an Anglican congregation. Bishop Patrick Yu will preside at a joint service on July 7 to celebrate the transition. 'This transition is a gift from God because the building will stay,' says the Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer, priest-in-charge of St. Patrick’s. 'St. John’s congregation has been very accommodating, and a good relationship has been built between them and St. Patrick’s parishioners, many of whom will attend their English service.' To celebrate its final year, St. Patrick’s is offering former members and those ordained from there to come and preach. The church has also set up a trust fund with the Anglican Foundation to give scholarships to theological students across Canada, especially those from the poorer areas of the country. PHOTO by MICHAEL HUDSON
MAY 4 – Ascension Evensong at 6 p.m., at St. Olave, Swansea, 360 Landing, invites all to a special p.m., at St. Olave, Swansea, 360

Educational

MAY 25 - All are invited to a Town Hall on Climate Change, 2-5 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough. The panel discussion will feature Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner for Ontario. Visit www.forourgrandchildren.ca.

MAY 1-9 – Alpha siblings, aged 5-21, play fiddle, along with guitar, piano, mandolin, accordion and Irish bodhran. The two-hour concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults; $10 for children 12 and under. To reserve tickets, contact the Rev. Marlene at 905-775-3911.

Music/Theatre/Art

MAY 22 – The Three Cantors at St. Andrew, 2323 Victoria Park Ave., Scarborough, at 7:30 p.m. A benefit concert for the Primates’ World Relief & Development Fund and other special projects. Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for seniors/students. Call 416-979-2323 or email saintthomas@rogers.com or visit www.stthomas.on.ca.

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca
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Synod elects bishop

Continued from Page 1

gregations.”

He says he is particularly looking forward to working with the clergy and laity in the episcopal area where he will be appointed. Archbishop Colin Johnson said after the election that he would make the appointment within two weeks. Bishop George Elliott, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, retired in April.

Bishop-elect Fenty, who will be consecrated at the cathedral on June 22, praised the other nominees in the election. “I have a deep respect for every one of them. They’re fine clergy who do fine work.”

Archbishop Johnson said he is looking forward to working with Bishop-elect Fenty. “Peter has a vast range of knowledge of the diocese. He brings good organizational skills and he is a compelling preacher and interpreter of scripture. He has a deep faith and is theologically articulate. He has sensitivity not just to the Caribbean community but to a wide range of communities, including some minority communities in the life of the church who are not otherwise well represented. I think he has wonderful gifts that he is bringing.”

For the first time in the history of the diocese, Synod members used electronic devices to vote. Bishop-elect Fenty is married and has two grown children.

Archbishop Johnson said that he is bringing.

A Synod member uses an electronic device to vote.

Social media play part

Continued from Page 1

Holy Week to allow nominees to interact with their colleagues in Synod to such a degree in a public forum. We have been very well served by your use of this medium.”

Learning origins helps

Continued from Page 11

Torah and served as a bridge between these stories; thus the priests were the final editors of the Torah. The final writing of these sources occurred during and after the exile. The Babylonians in 586 BCE conquered Judah, taking many of the Hebrew people into exile.

This Documentary Hypothesis has been helpful to me in dialoguing with the Torah, discovering who these ancient Hebrews were and how they developed such a strong faith in one God, in the midst of a polytheistic society.

The Rev. Canon Don Beatty is an honorary assistant at St. Luke, Dixie South, Mississauga.