Spiritual spa

Harried moms find peace at St. John's Convent

BY JANICE BIEHN

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

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

It’s no surprise then that Christians perform flash mob in city

The Anglican

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Archbishop takes to Twitter

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

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

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

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

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

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

Jim Flaherty

Archbishop

Twitter

Analcans remember Jim Flaherty

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JOURNEYING WITH JESUS - SEE PAGE 5
Adults reboot their faith
Parishes work together on education program

BY THE REV. LESLEY BARCLAY

TWENTY-THREE adults chose to publicly affirm their faith at a service on April 27 at St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope. Four were confirmed, two were received from other denominations, and 17 reaffirmed their baptismal vows.

The group was part of an education initiative called Confirmation Reboot. Bishop Linda Nicholls, the area bishop of Trent-Durham, presided at the service.

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

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

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

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

Christians sing, dance

BY STUART MANN

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

"It was awesome," said the Rev. Jeannette Lewis, the incumbent of St. Peter, Carlton Street, and co-organizer of the event. "It was a great way to spread the faith." Several hundred people had witnessed Christians singing about their faith, and they're going to talk about that to others. We also had people coming up to us and asking questions."

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

Annual outreach conference to focus on healing rifts

BY MURRAY MACADAM

HEALING of some of the rifts in society will be a major focus of the diocese's annual Outreach Networking Conference, which will be held at Yonge and Dundas Square, in the heart of the city. A protest was going on, with people speaking into bullhorns and banging on a drum, but that didn't deter the performers. "As soon as we started the music, they stopped and almost everyone turned around to watch us," said Ms. Lewis. "People coming out of the Eaton Centre stopped and watched. Everyone was whipping out phones to take pictures and record it. A couple of hundred people were watching."

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

The conference is a highlight for Anglicans involved in outreach efforts with First Nations, as well as hear from experts. "The Outreach Networking Conference offers a unique opportunity for learning new things and sharing perspectives with other Anglicans," says the Rev. Kyn Barker, a member of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. "I always come away from this event feeling spiritually re-energized and refreshed as well."

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

The conference takes place at Holy Trinity School, 11300 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone with an interest in the issues facing society is welcome, not just those already involved in outreach efforts. The conference fee of $20 ($10 for students and unemployed individuals) includes lunch. Child care is provided. For further details and to register, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference. The conference webpage will be up and running by June 15.

Murray MacAdam is the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.
Seek justice for all

Sne a years ago in my parish, we displayed a poster produced by the United World Relief and Development Fund (WURDF) with the slogan: “Justice, not just Us.” It has stuck with me. It was meant to be.

We are in the midst of an election campaign. If you are in some parts of the diocese, you might be in the midst of three – four prayer vigils on the same day. Churches, religious and secular, parties’ election platforms are pitched directly to a self-interested, “just us”, emotion. “What’s in it for me?” is a refrain that every politician and candidate hear, but they do hear what groups of their constituents are saying - at the door, at political gatherings, in letters, on the phone, in the coffee hour when they visit your church.

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

Politicians want to make a difference in their communities in the way they wish to do. They want to do the right thing and they want to respond to their constituents. They will do whatever it takes to get their job done - maybe not responding to your individual interest, but they do hear what groups of their constituents are saying - at the door, at political gatherings, in letters, on the phone.

When the election is over, pray for our government, politicians and civil service. They do your work and they do your thinking for the inclusion of all in the abundant life God offers us.

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

Prepare for the unexpected

I was ordinary Friday. Morning rush hour in this town was at its usual pace. Toronto was abating. Traffic on Yonge Street was steady and the lineup for mid-morning coffee at Tim Hortons were significant. Nothing out of the ordinary. It all changed in a moment.

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

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

Something also happened that morning. While the fire was still raging, the Anglican Church in Aurora came to offer us the care and comfort we so desperately needed. “We won’t leave you”, was the promise. They remained with us to the very end.

They shared the 7 p.m. service and held the 4 p.m. and 10 p.m. services as each congregation originally planned. As an assembly of St. David’s, the Rev. Joyce Barnett, put it, “No cold stable for us. We were invited into the warmth and light of friends.” Bravo, St. John’s.

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

What if, God forbid, there was an emergency situation at a local school. How might the church help? What kind of support response might one give; the issues, keep in touch with your elected representative to express your hopes and concerns for a better society; do your part in working actively for the inclusion of all in the abundant life God offers us.

To the editor or the publisher.

The Anglican is a perfect season to think about how we might reflect God’s love to our communities. It is a season of hope and forgiveness. As Paul says in Galatians 5:25,26, “We are to live in a new way, with a new spirit, not as former naturelings.” God bless Aurora United Church.

ARCHBISHOP’S DIARY

BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

At the meeting of their parish council to begin to plan for the unforeseen future – not easy but absolutely necessary. They have put the worship and hospitality space into the vulnerable and the vulnerable in our society. Learn about the issues. Get out and VOTE! We do not care who you vote for – well, actually, I do but I won’t tell you that – but I believe you have an obligation as a Christian to exercise your franchise. I do not understand those in a democratic society who can sit and do not vote. People have the right to make their own decision. Women struggled for years to gain that responsibility. People have left their homeland to come here to gain the freedom to have a say in those who will govern them.

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

We are called as a church to offer in tangible and visible reminders of the presence of the Christ, the body of Christ, remains serving the community. The Good News is an offer we. “Opening to every race and nation the way of the Lord Jesus Christ, that all people might find the freedom to have a say in the life and the future of the communities we belong to. Pray for the candidates. When they come to your door to ask for your vote, speak to them about issues of poverty and hunger, about housing, about the well-being of chil-
I realized how often I expected my pilgrim- ing, as I questioned Jesus, the phrase, “It’s scenic scenery. Then there would be a change in the weather and my expectations would not be met. I became like the boat, thrusting its way through the ice that was resist- ing it.

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

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

One Saturday, I stood in a church ceme- tery. I was struck by the mystery of all the people buried there. They had all had lives that were shaped, in part, by the decisions they had made. I, too, have a life shaped by the decisions I have made. If I hadn’t re- sponded to an invitation to come to Canada and see how I liked it here, my faith jour- ney would not have taken the same direc- tion.

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

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

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

Helen Robinson is a member of St. Andrew’s Anglican Church Toronto, Ontario, and a writer, teacher, and coach. She is the former editor and publisher of FaithWorks. She is the founder and former executive director of FaithWorks Canada, an organization that helps people integrate faith and work. She is the author of several books on spiritual formation, including “The Christian Writer’s Manual” and “The Christian Writer’s Handbook.”
‘The call to simplicity can raise eyebrows’

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

The call to simplicity can raise eyebrows from others. “Even a little bit is going against the culture,” Ms. Finlay says. “That means with your kids, too, not having them going 24/7 in a million different programs.” This is tricky for parents. Experts say extra-curricular activities can help prevent bullying, don’t get burnt out. I learned you can have some real Sabbath time together.”

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

After a lively discussion on the merits of simplifying, it was time for the first of two quiet hours: time to reflect, meditate, read or even nap. I wondered, “Do the sisters have WiFi?” but then realized I was probably missing the point. Be alone with my thoughts. For an hour? Wow, that was going to be hard. After wandering the light-filled hallways and cozy library, I was drawn to a book with a piano on its cover. I had been moonlighting as a piano teacher for the last eight years and finally retired last spring in an effort to be less busy, so this followed, and I had worked up an appetite. I paid the extra $15 (Quiet Days are usually $25) so I wouldn’t have to bring my lunch, and the beef stroganoff did not disappoint. But here was the catch. We were to eat monastic-style – in silence. How would I ever manage that?

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

After lunch and all that quiet, the group was energized to talk about prayer. Ms. Finlay described how she listened to Gregorian chant on her iPod while riding the subway to work and prayed for herself and her family and friends. She also sticks to a prayer ritual with walking. During better weather, she walks up and down a small hill, thinking about the day. The discussion turned to self-care, and how mothers often feed their kids before themselves first. “Another mom chimed in: “The first and greatest commandment is to love your neighbour as yourself.”

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

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

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Trinity United Church, 284 Division St., Cobourg, Ontario
Debbie Fingas, Ian Jelly & Judy Scott-Jacobs, Music Directors

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Call 905-372-2210 - Toll Free 1-855-372-2210

TORONTO PERFORMANCE – Saturday, June 21st, 2014 - 3 pm
St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto (King and Church Streets)
Debbie Fingas, Ian Jelly & Judy Scott-Jacobs, Music Directors

Tickets $25 or $19 for children 12 and under
Call 416-983-9837 for more information and tickets

Is he waiting for the Priest, the Levite or the Samaritan?

(Luke 10:25)

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

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News

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Tweeting to continue

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him using a new and advanced mobile app.”

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

BY STUART MANN

IN addition to looking after Cana-
dan’s finances, former finance min-
ist, Jim Flaherty helped to save his local church.

When Mr. Flaherty was a churchwarden at All Saints, Whitby, from 1992 to 1996, he and the other churchwardens, the late Rose John, and Tony, a former finance minister from 2006 to 2014, added a state funeral at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on April 16. He died of a heart attack in Ottawa. “Any time he was home from Ottawa. “Any time he was home from Ottawa. “Any time he was home from Ottawa. “Any time he was home from Ottawa.”

The Rev. Stephen Vail, who became the incumbent of All Saints last year, echoed her words: “I’m so interested in enabling people with disabilities.”

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

The Rev. Kenneth Davis, who was the incumbent of All Saints from 1996 to 2010, recalled Mr. Flaherty attending the 8 a.m. Sunday services when he was home from Ottawa. “Any time he was home, he was in church,” he said. “He wanted to be just one of the congregation. He didn’t want to be singled out, and I think that was a real blessing for him. He could just come to church and be Jim.”

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

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

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

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

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

In a moving tribute, Mr. Flaherty’s widow, Christine Elliott, and the couple’s three sons spoke of their father and his family first. Ms. Elliott, who is the member of provincial parliament for Whitby-Oshawa, said her husband was a “proud Canadian who entered politics through an inclusive environment.”

As a man of faith, he used that awareness to inform and energize his service to the public.

In his homily, the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Whitby, said his service to the public.”

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

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

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

Couple sold home to provide housing

By the Rev. Maggie Helwig

The Rev. Don Heap — more familiarly known as either Dan or Don, depending on whether he was on the fields or behind a desk — was a part of the fabric of social justice work in Toronto, and an important figure in the history of Canadian socialism. He was a lifelong activist, agitator and organizer, an NDP MP for Trinity-Spadina from 1981 to 1990, and always on the front lines of every struggle, not infrequently putting himself at risk of arrest. Less well known, he was an Anglican priest, one whose vocation remained central to his personal and political identity.

Mr. Heap was formed by his engagement with the Society of the Catholic Commonwealth, a Marxist Anglican group that saw socialist economic principles as the necessary working-out in practice of an incarnational and eucharistic theology. Ordained in 1956, he served for a short time as a parish priest in Quebec, but moved to Toronto to become a worker-priest. This was, in fact, his longest single engagement — for 18 years, while serving as an honorary parish assistant, he went to work in a Toronto cardboard box factory wearing his close-woven collar, something he saw as an integral part both of his faith practice and his commitment to bringing socialism to Canadian workers.

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

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

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

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

The Rev. Maggie Helwig is the priest-in-charge of St. Stephen in the Fields, Toronto.
Artists depict stations in new ways

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

Church’s ‘gift profile’ a first for NCD

St. Timothy, North Toronto, was the first church in the world to have a group “gift profile” produced online by Natural Church Development (NCD). NCD is a process that helps churches with their health and growth. At the church’s annual Parish Breakaway weekend, parishioners focused on their personal gifts. After completing NCD’s 3 Colour Gift Test, each participant received a personal profile describing their spiritual gifts, suggestions on how to apply their gifts, dangers to watch for and tips for training the gifts. The consolidated parish profile assisted the congregation in mapping gifts to current activities and to consider which ministries fit with the parish strategic plan.

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

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

Exhibit pays tribute to military chaplains

As the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War draws near, St. James Cathedral’s Archives and Museum will host a multi-faith exhibit to honour the service of all Canadian military chaplains through the years, up to the present day. “In celebrating the contribution of these chaplains, the exhibit will afford insights into the critical role they have played at home and abroad,” says Nancy Mallett, curator. The exhibit will be open to the public from Nov. 6 to 16. If you or someone you know has been a military chaplain of any faith, or if you have been touched in some way by the kindness or bravery of such a chaplain and wish to share your special memories, please contact Nancy Mallett at 416-364-7863, ext. 233 or archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca.

Well Told

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

BY THE REV. CANON DR. REGINALD STOCKHOUSE

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

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

That does not demand a dramatic confrontation between the Almighty and an ordinary human being. Nor does it involve individuals wrestling with their souls about what it means to serve the Almighty and an ordinary human being. Nor does it involve anything that did not have a 100 per cent probability that did not have a single be-liever. When the Rev. William James left Baker Lake decades later, the entire population had not only been converted and bap-tized but had a 100 per cent church attendance each and every Sunday.

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

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

NOR was it because he recog-nized he had just the right med-ical knowledge those people needed. The fact was that not only was he not a doctor, but he had no relevant qualifications at all. He was a New Testament scholar, a world class academic whose in-terpretations commanded the at-tention of professors and clergy on every continent. If he was to offer himself for that assignment, he would have to put all his bibli-cal expertise to one side and be-come a first-year medical stu-dent.

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

Is his experience limited to su-perhuman individuals? No. For many years, an Anglican mission in the Arctic was served by a priest who initially went there with his bishop and a year’s sup-ply of provisions so he could start a Christian ministry in a commu-nity that did not have a single be-liever. When the Rev. William James left Baker Lake decades later, the entire population had not only been converted and bap-tized but had a 100 per cent church attendance each and every Sunday.

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Music & Art

MAY 29–JUNE 25 – Lunchtime chamber music series at Christ Church Deer Park, 1570 Yonge St., Toronto. Every Thursday at 12:10 p.m. For more information, visit the church’s music webpage at www.christchurchdeerpark.org or call 416-260-1844.

JUNE 4–JULY 2 – Concerts at Mid-day, 12:35 p.m., at St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, corner of College and Bay Whitefish Dinner and Silent Auction at St. Paul, 5 Noraline St., Oshawa. All proceeds from this concert will be used to support Faithwalks. Tick-ets, which are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors and students, are available from the church office, 705-723-7075.

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

Dinner & Gatherings

JUNE 7 – Electronic waste collec-tion, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. George, Pickering Village, 77 Randall Dr. at Kingston Road West, Ajax. Rain or shine. Help save the envi-ronment by bringing your used electronics to the parking lot, well diverting them from landfill, to be properly recycled or reused. Call the church at 905-663-7861.

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

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

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

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Chapter 2 of Isaiah is the longest of the three prophetic books, and the most quoted by Christians from the earliest times of the church. Isaiah can be divided into three parts, covering three distinct periods, and was probably written by at least three different authors. Chapters 1 to 39 are often referred to as First Isaiah; chapters 40 to 55, Second Isaiah; and chapters 56 to 66, Third Isaiah. First Isaiah deals with the southern kingdom and is concerned with the Assyrian crisis. The contemporaries of First Isaiah would include Amos, Micah and Hosea.

The Second Isaiah came to prominence during the eighth century BCE. His empire included the northern kingdom of Israel and the south-east part of Turkey. They would eventually conquer the northern kingdom, called Israel, and take most of the inhabitants into exile, where they disappeared from history. The southern kingdom, called Judah, survived the crisis. Second Isaiah was written about the Babylonian crisis. Babylon conquered Assyria and eventually besieged Jerusalem and Judah, taking many into exile. During the Babylonian exile, Persia became the dominant force in the Near East and conquered Babylon. Cyrus, the emperor of Persia, gave permission for the Jews to return from exile and begin the restoration. The three parts of Isaiah deal with the Babylonian crisis, the exile of the people of his own day about circumstances that were occurring at that time. It is a fascinating study, and many of our Christian beliefs come from these words.

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World Briefs

Church Army hopes churches transform society

East Africa – An ambitious program to set up 1,300 new Anglican parish churches is part of a program called Heal Africa. The holistic approach includes churches offering healing through health care, education, and justice work, including creating wealth and sharing it. Heal Africa projects include schools, clinics, microfinance initiatives, and new church plants.

Anglicans offer prayers for lost flight victims

Malaysia – At one of the oldest Anglican churches in Malaysia, a special service offered prayers for the families and victims of lost flight MH170 and the international government search effort. Bishop Jason Selvaraj of West Malaysia said the church wanted “to tell families that we are concerned and stand with you at this painful time. We are saying, our Lord is with you. He stands with you and feels your pain, as he endured pain on the cross.”

Church seeks support for garment workers

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

Servy visit to cardboard cathedral

Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, paid a visit to the Transitional Cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand, built after the earthquake in 2013. The controversial cardboard structure had just won one of architecture’s most prestigious international awards for Tokyo-born architect Shigeru Ban, recognizing his innovative, elegant and resourceful approach to design. Prince William visited Christchurch soon after the earthquake, and was encouraged this year to see the progress of reconstruction. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were presented with a children’s book for baby George called Kia Kaha’s Brand New House which tells the story of the quake and the building of the cardboard cathedral.

Baghdad vicar honoured for reconciliation work

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

See you in September

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