Tech tools enhance services

Screens, videos increase participation

This is the first in a series on how the diocese’s Our Faith–Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign is helping churches proclaim and live out the Gospel in new ways.

BY STUART MANN

ON Father’s Day, the 11 o’clock congregation at St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering, sat in rapt attention as some young people from the parish talked about why they liked their fathers. It was a delightful moment, bringing smiles to many.

The difference was, the children were speaking in a short video that was shown on an electronic screen at the front of the church. With expert lighting, sound and editing, they were able to tell their stories – and the congregation was able to watch and listen to them – in a powerful way.

St. Paul’s was able to create this experience with the help of a $13,000 grant from the diocese’s Our Faith–Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign. The fundraising drive has raised $41 million in pledges to help churches in the diocese share the Gospel in new ways.

St. Paul’s used part of its grant to install new wiring, allowing the church to show its services on five electronic screens throughout the building, including the parish hall. This helps with overflow crowds for things like weddings, funerals, baptisms and other special occasions, says the Rev. Canon Kim Beard, incumbent.

“With the service on large screens, people in the parish hall can participate,” he says. “They can sing along, watch and listen to what is going on in the sanctuary. This makes their worship experience much more intimate than it otherwise would be.”

The church also used some of its grant to upgrade its video camera technology, enabling it to broadcast the service on screens in the sanctuary. This means that worshippers no longer have to flip through prayer and hymn books, as the words and music are projected up on the screens.

“We can go paperless,” says Canon Beard. “This is helpful for several reasons. Number one, people are looking up during worship. The singing is better and people are looking at what’s happening at the front rather than looking down. Secondly, it’s environmentally friendly. Thirdly, in addition to broadcasting the service, we can show things like presentations from the children and liturgical dancing that people at the back of the church might not otherwise see.”

Parishioner Bill Bradbury operates the video camera and inputs the liturgy wording from the control desk at St. Paul on-the-Hill. Pickering. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The church is using technology to not only enhance its worship experience but to welcome people who visit online. Its website includes a video that shows clips from parish life. There are also recordings of sermons and special presentations, for those who can’t attend in person or are looking for a church. “For people who are checking us out, they can get a good idea of who we are by our website,” says Canon Beard.

Archbishop celebrates on anniversary

ON the 10th anniversary of his installation as Bishop of Toronto, Archbishop Colin Johnson will be celebrating the Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Sept. 14 at St. James Cathedral. All are invited.

“As the diocesan bishop, he sets the vision and goals of the diocese and we’re seeing the fruits of his labour 10 years later,” says Bishop Philip Poole, area bishop of York-Credit Valley.

“We’re seeing it in our advocacy for the homeless, in placing the diocese on a good financial footing with the Our Faith–Our Hope campaign raising in excess of $40 million for ministry, and in his able presence as our leader. He brings a sharp intellect along with an abiding faith in God through Jesus Christ and continues to provide faithful and excellent ministry for the diocese.”

Archbishop Johnson was consecrated bishop on June 21, 2003, and served as the area bishop of Trent-Durham. He was elected diocesan bishop a year later and was installed on Sept. 12, 2004. More information about the service at the cathedral will be posted on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, as it becomes available.

As we begin another season of The Anglican, please consider making a donation to the Anglican Journal Appeal (an envelope is tucked inside this issue for your convenience.) This will ensure that the paper continues to carry photos and stories of Anglicans in our diocese who are living out their faith in so many different and fascinating ways. By making a donation, you can continue to look forward every month to news, opinions, features, interviews and coming events – all packaged in an attractive and easy-to-read format. Your financial gift will be split evenly between the national paper (The Anglican Journal) and your diocesan paper (The Anglican). Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Stuart Mann, editor

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Newsletters need support

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Stuart Mann, editor
Carnival kicks off at church

Organizers, politicians blessed

MEMBERS of the Church of the Nativity, Malvern, have always supported and taken part in the Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival, held annually in Toronto to celebrate West Indian music, cuisine and the performing arts. But this year was just a little more special.

The church, located in Scarborough, hosted the celebration’s opening service on July 13. The service featured a blessing for the event’s organizers, volunteers, sponsors and local politicians, including mayoral candidate Olivia Chow. Participants danced to the sounds of the Steel Angels, the church’s steel pan band. The church’s choir and children also sang.

“Everyone was there for the same reason, which was to have fun and praise God and pray for the carnival to be a safe and happy occasion for all,” said the Rev. Pam Prideaux, incumbent. “Nativity has always played a role in sponsoring the arts and culture, and as a church with a primarily Caribbean heritage, it was very special to be asked to host the service,” she said.

Each year, a church is selected to host the opening service of the three-week extravaganza. Nativity was chosen this year because of its close proximity to the junior carnival parade, which went by the church on July 19. On that day, the church set up a water station in the church for participants and those who lined the route to watch. The big carnival parade took place near Exhibition Place on Aug. 2.

In addition to giving the blessing, Ms. Prideaux took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the junior parade and said the grace at the gala. She praised her parishioners for organizing the service at the church. “It all came together very smoothly because we have really great members of the church who take care of things and get things done.”

Kanika Ambrose dances with Toronto City Councillor Raymond Cho at the Church of the Nativity, Malvern, during a service of celebration and blessing for the Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival. Below, people gather for the blessing. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON
Church opens $4.5 million ‘storefront’

Historic buildings transformed for ministry

By Henrieta Paukova

If you peek into the storefront at 403 King Street East, near Parliament Street in Toronto, you might see some of the staff of Little Trinity church (Trinity East is its official name) going about their day. And that is exactly what they intended.

‘This has always been the vision around these buildings, that it’s our storefront into the community,’” says John van Gent, deputy people’s war- den of the church. “We decided we felt called to redevelop the buildings for our own mission and ministry.”

Two capital campaigns will raise more than $2.5 million in total. The first started in 2009 and ended in 2013; the second started this year and goes until 2018. In addition, the Diocese contributed approximately $1.1 million in grant funding and also provided a bridge loan.

Besides treasure, virtually every member of the congregation gave time and talent as different aspects of the project took shape, from interior design to IT and audio-visual equipment. The ground floor houses the church office, the basement is a multi-purpose space with a commercial kitchen.

The project was a “four million dollar investment in neighbourhood mission,” says the incumbent, Rev. Tim Haughton. For instance, the church offers Alpha courses and “tots of people from the neighbourhood are interested in connecting and this space will give that ministry a chance to grow,” he says. Little Trinity is also planning to use some of the wall space to feature local artists. Other ideas will emerge as the congregation listens to what the community needs, says Mr. Haughton. In the meantime, it’s warm out and people are coming to Little Trinity Park next door to walk their dogs or relax on the grass, so the church is planning a series of Music in the Park events.

The church held an official opening celebration on May 25 and posted photos on Facebook. “Amazing celebration,” wrote one commenter. “So glad I made it to the dedication. What a testa- ment of God with us!”

Outreach conference Oct. 4

WHAT does it mean to stretch a meagre income to put food on the table at the beginning of the new month? What are the minimum needs? Participants in this year’s Outreach Networking Conference can get a realistic taste of the tough choices involved through a workshop called “Poverty is No Game.” It will be led by Deacon Kyn Barker, as well as Sharon Anderson, who lives on a low income and is involved in advocacy efforts to alleviate poverty.

Poverty is just one of many workshops being offered to par- ticipants at the conference, which will take place on Oct. 4 in Rich- mond Hill. The conference theme is “Reparuring the Break,” inspired by the vision of faith in action outlined in Isaiah 58:12.

Another innovative workshop, led by staff from the Workers Ac- tion Centre, will confront the plight of low-wage workers, an is- sue raised by the diocese earlier this year through a video campaign that encouraged support for workers and families in Ontario. The workshop will be presented by Deacon Kyn Barker, as well as Sharon Anderson, who lives on a low income and is involved in advocacy efforts to alleviate poverty.

The issue of whether the church should engage in political advocacy will be debated at a workshop called “Is the Gospel Political?” led by the Rev. Paul Hanson, a theologian and keynote speaker at a previous conference. Workshops on environmental issues, restorative justice and refugee issues are also being offered.

The Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis, pro- fessor of theology at Howard Uni- versity School of Divinity and rector of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., will be the keynote speaker at the annual Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians fundraising dinner, held on Nov. 15 at the Church of the Ascension, 33 Over- land Blvd., Toronto. Funds raised by the diocese support the work of the church in the Caribbean. The evening begins with a eucharist at 5 p.m., celebrated by Bishop Peter Fentz, followed by the din- ner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $60, with a tax receipt of $30, and can be purchased by calling Felicia Holder at 416-636-3071.

Priimate’s Fund provides food

The Pimate’s World Relief and Development Fund has launched a new program to provide food to more than 10,000 people, mostly women and children, displaced by the conflict in South Sudan. The food will help bridge the gap between now and when they can harvest their crops.

Society commemorates diocese’s founding

The Canadian Church Historical Society will host a conference to commemorate the 175th anniver- sary of the founding of the Dio- cese of Toronto. The conference will take place Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 at Trinity College, Toronto. Histori- cal papers on a number of sub- jects will be presented.
We all need healing

When I was a newly ordained priest, I was called to the hospital to see a very sick parishioner. I knew that one of the sacramental rites of the church was anointing for healing. I had read about it but never seen it done. So with some trepidation, I offered the ministry, not knowing what to expect. I was shocked by what occurred — not an instant miraculous healing, but the deep calming of an agitated spirit, and sleep.

I don’t, in fact, have a church to minister to people to sleep. But here was a profound exception. I touched the person with the oil blessed by the bishop during Holy Week (along with the chrism for baptism), traced a sign of the cross on it with the person’s forehead, and uttered the prayer, “As you are about to sleep, and pray that the ministry will indeed be as effective today as they were in the past.”

I have been in the line of ministry for nearly five years to make a faith commitment. I touched the person back into engagement with their community.

In the story of Christ healing the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5), the individual had been invalid for 38 years! Yet Jesus of acts of healing were not just about the individual’s physical well-being; they always brought the person back into engagement with their community.

In St. Mark 16:18 (the lesson appointed for the feast of St. Luke, apostle and physician, and Oct. 18) we are told to “heal the sick,” and to “preach the gospel.” Healing has, in fact, always been about hope, and will bring many closer to faith with little or no church background do indeed, we believe, by the internal witness of God’s “shalom,” God’s abiding purpose to restore all things to wholeness, the peace and safety that we long for and yearn for. Jesus’ acts of healing were not just about the individual’s physical well-being; they always brought the person back into engagement with their community.

As the archbishop says, “Is there a way to share our faith?”

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In the Diocese of Toronto: The Anglican Church of Canada, 2130 King Road, PO Box 1060, Oakville, ON, L7J 1B1

In Canada: A community of about 600,000 members in 275 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean.

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York-Credit Valley: The Rev. Richard Dale

Durham: The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholas

York-Starsborough: The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu

York-Mississauga: The Rev. Peter Fentz

We can do this

Hugh Segal, the former Conservative senator and new master of Massey College, University of Toronto, spoke about a guarantee annual income program at St. Anne, Toronto, on May 25. The parish’s Social Justice and Advocacy Working Group oversaw and facilitated this during the Sunday morning service. The following is an abridged version of Mr. Segal’s address.

BY HUGH SEGAL

My exposure to the realities of poverty, both as they affect our lives and the moral challenge related to dealing with it, began when I was very young. Calling my parents lower working class in Montreal while a student between a significant facelift of their economic circumstances. I recall baskets of food being delivered by the local congregation when they knew that we were short on money and that they had some room table gatherings on Sunday night with the bills piled high and my father said that if the money was clear, bills for drugs, bills for doctors, bills for the rent and bills for the heat. We can pick any day this month.” That was part of the reality.

I also attended religious schools between the ages of seven and 11—a pre-biblical seminary in Montreal. I was taught from the Old Testament about where poverty stood in terms of what God expected of all of us. Deuteronomy 15:1: “You shall open wide your hand to your brothers, to the poor and needy in your land.” Versus 22: “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to edge nor shall you gather the gleaning after your harvest. You should leave them for the poor and the sojourner. I am the Lord your God.”

Low wages

The friends of poverty is too often dismissed by politicians on the far right and the far left as being the result of people being simply lazy and not wanting to work. They say it is so complex, there is no way to solve it without a hundred different special programs. In this city, the rate of poverty of poor people has a job. Some have more than one. But the jobs have wages that are so minimal it is necessary to cover the rent, the food, the heat, the transportation and the clothes. This is why the problems sitting on couches and watching television and eating popcorn is generally absolutely untrue.

Those who argue that poverty is very complex are against doing something simple that addresses the core question. They say poverty is the result of low education, of parental dysfunction, of drug abuse, of illiteracy, of immigration status, of not finishing school. They say those causes are way too complex to solve. I say that poverty is very complex, but we have also left out the key factor that we’re doing is not working.

The rate of poverty in this country, which is 15.7 per cent based on the 2011 census and 15 per cent, depending on the part of the country you live in, hasn’t changed in a quarter century. Examine economic security programs, though well meaning and run by people who are doing their very best, do not make poverty go away. Quite the contrary. The administration around eligibility for welfare has 80 rules. You can be the police or a public servant or your best friend working as hard as you can, but that is an unmanageable workload.

We had this problem with respect to our senior citizens back in the 1970s. The Toronto Star did stories about senior citizens being evicted from their apartments because they couldn’t pay the rent and were buying dog and cat food to have a little bit of protein to add to their diets because they couldn’t afford real food. In that period of our history, 35 per cent of our senior citizens were living beneath the poverty line. They were mostly women whose husbands had died without any savings or pension or equity built up. But they were managing as best they could.

Poverty reduced

Four weeks (after those stories were published), the premier of Ontario stood up and brought in the Guaranteed Annual Income Supplement, which was very simple. There were no new civil servants, no new programs, no new forms to fill out. Instead, you simply filled your tax form, as we’re all supposed to do every year, and if you fell beneath a certain level, you were automatically topped up. That spread from Ontario to other provinces and eventually became part of the federal social security process.

In two years, that 35 per cent rate of poverty was reduced to three per cent. So when people say to me, this can’t be done, we’ve never done it before, there’s no experience, I say that’s just not true. We have done it before, and we can do it again.

The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) says that in terms of poverty amongst senior citizens, Canada is in the top five in the world in terms of solutions that work. But when it comes to people who are poor and are working age, there are 24 countries, some of which are much smaller and poorer than ours, that do a far better job.

The cost of topping up everybody in Canada who falls beneath a poverty line would be about 10 per cent of the present federal budget. When people say there’s not enough money to do that, I remind them that in 2009, when the banks began to collapse in the U.S. and the government had to lend them the money, it cost 10 per cent of the present federal budget. When people say there’s not enough money to do that, I remind them that in 2009, when the banks began to collapse in the U.S. and the government had to lend them the money, it cost 10 per cent of the present federal budget. When people say there’s not enough money to do that, I remind them that in 2009, when the banks began to collapse in the U.S. and the government had to lend them the money, it cost 10 per cent of the present federal budget.

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But if we can find $362 billion in one year, the notion that we can find $300 billion a year to top up the fence beneath the poverty line strikes me as completely reasonable and utterly affordable.

Staying in school

There’s a town in Manitoba called Thompson. They did it in the mid-70s, Prime Minister Trudeau and then Premier Edward Schreyer agreed to a test called the Min- com program. Every child who was living in poverty, they said, would get a thousand dollars. If for some reason there was a bad crop cycle and they didn’t do well at the end of the year, they would be topped up. Seventeen per cent of the people needed help, which meant that 83 per cent didn’t need help at all. Everybody benefitted because when they brought in that guarantee, guess what happened? Hostel admissions fell by eight per cent, car accidents fell, arrests fell, family violence fell. Do you know what increased? High school students staying to finish their high school education, which we all know is the best first step to a life of some measure of economic success and security.

We know the guaranteed annual income can work in Canada. It has been tried, and there is serious data available for our politicians to address. Not eradicating poverty when we have the tools to do it is the ultimate immoral- ity. As human beings in a wealthy country, we can do this. We can reach out to those who have their noses pressed to the wind- ow of the economic mainstream, against the windows of the restaurant we call Canada, knowing they can’t get in. We can say to them that with the grace of God, there is room for everybody at the family table that we call Canada. We have the wealth, we have the capacity and we have the system of distribution. We can move beyond simply the swells helping as best they can for charity. We can move beyond simply the swells helping as best they can for charity. We can move beyond simply the swells helping as best they can for charity. We can move beyond simply the swells helping as best they can for charity.

This is usually the point at which I begin to panic. It’s one thing to let every- thing slide; it’s quite another to let your revelation slide with it. I begin to wonder if I can really manage this (life) on my own. Can coffee and the end of a fishing trip and it hadn’t gone well. We had driven about 200 kilometres and caught exactly one fish. A fish that wasn’t much bigger than the hook. The mere thought and the lack of fish had made us cranky and jad- ed. As we drove home, defeated, the sign seemed to mock our situation.

“Draw the line at making fun of Jesus.”

But if we can find $362 billion in one year, the notion that we can find $300 billion a year to top up the fence beneath the poverty line strikes me as completely reasonable and utterly affordable.

No need to panic

Jesus welcomes you, Dad,” said Henry, reading the sign outside the Persecution church on the edge of town.

“Yes he does,” I answered.

Henry fell silent, knowing that to con- tinue could lead to trouble. I let my kids talk about the fish and the sign. I drew the line at making fun of Jesus.

To be honest, I was surprised at the conviction of my response. For some weeks, I had been having a “wilderness experience,” as some folks in the church like to say. This means that God feels very far away and our faith is rather shaky.

The problem is, my annual breaks-from-the-faith can become a little too complete. It never ceases to astonish me how Jesus, who is very near the central figure in my life, can disappear so utterly from view as soon as I put on a pair of sandals, flop in my favourite coffee shop and crack open the New York Times. As the summer months blend into another, Jesus (let alone God), seems ever more distant, buried under layers of indifference. At that point he becomes like a historical figure to me, a curiosity. I wonder why I ever got so worked up about him. I say to myself, I probably need a fair amount of engagement between all of us in our respective political parties, and I suspect a little bit of prayer always helps.

At this point I usually set a goal to read one of the Gospels, some of Paul’s letters or a few of the epistles. (One sum- mer, for my sins, I read Revelation.) In this way I have read the New Testament several times now.

This past summer, feeling the link to Jesus becoming perilously thin, I started to read Matthew. After a few chapters, I stopped. It just wasn’t working. I flipped through some more pages, hoping to find something, but nothing stuck. I closed the book.

To my surprise, I didn’t feel panic at all. Jesus wasn’t right to let your sailer slide with it. I begin to wonder if I can really manage this (life) on my own. Can coffee, and the end of a fishing trip and it hadn’t gone well. We had driven about 200 kilometres and caught exactly one fish. A fish that wasn’t much bigger than the hook. The mere thought and the lack of fish had made us cranky and jad- ed. As we drove home, defeated, the sign seemed to mock our situation.

But if we can find $362 billion in one year, the notion that we can find $300 billion a year to top up the fence beneath the poverty line strikes me as completely reasonable and utterly affordable.

No need to panic
We seem to be gaining some ground

The Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Kawuki Mukasa, a priest of the Diocese of Toronto, is the Africa Relations Officer for the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church (USA).

I fulfill a diplomatic role for both the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church in relation to African provinces. My job involves creating space for bishops from African and the two North American provinces to meet and engage in conversation on a wide range of issues, and in the process build bridges and improve relations between African and North American dioceses and provinces.

The broad vision is to bring about healing between African and North American Anglicans following more than a decade of injured relationships that have threatened the survival of the Anglican Communion itself. Real difficulties emerged when leaders from the two continents stopped talking to one another. To bring about healing, we must try and find ways of bringing the leaders into conversation in small and larger groups.

The meetings have strengthened the relationships among the bishops as co-workers in God’s vineyard and contributed to a lowering of tensions between African and North American provinces. On another level, the group has become a conciliatory voice in the Anglican Communion at a time when many leaders, particularly in Africa, are becoming weary of mission fields as best as they can.

I was raised in Uganda in a typical Anglican clergy household. At least two dynamics had a formative impact on my life and influenced who I became. In the early days of my life into my early teens, the East African Revival movement dominated my life. I went to numerous revival meetings with my siblings and “came to the Lord” (Matthew 5:9).

The movement instilled in me a strong sense of morality and the assumption that there’s a certain order of things that cannot be violated and needs to be observed. The other dynamic was the rise of “indepen-dent” African states and the ideology of post-colonialism, with its critique of the established and deconstruction of ideological assumptions. Along with all of that, the almost immediate chaos that engulfed in my country shortly after independence led to violence, social disruption and eventually a brutal and devastat-
ing war that forced my generation to flee the country. That is how I ended up in Canada. This side of my upbringing, difficult though it was, nevertheless turned me into a critical thinker. I recognized that order carries with it certain oppressive elements. I began to understand that the very structures upon which stability rests can at the same time be immoral, destruc-tive and confusing. The typically Anglican vocation of balance began to set very deep roots in my consciousness.

A war of words erupted on the issue of human sexuality. Some leaders will increasingly recognize that they are all faithfully responding to the challenges of their mission fields as long as they can.

The meetings are aimed at promoting independence and recovery, offering housing and support to those with mental health and addiction challenges, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

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Food for Life

The Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Kavuki Mukasa, shown outside his office in Toronto, works to bridge the gap between the African and North American churches. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON
Grants help Anglicans re-imagine church

As of June 1, the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign has given a total of $2,590,858 in grants to churches, individuals and groups for work in the following areas: leadership development, pioneering ministry, communicating in a wireless world, enabling parishes to be church-wired and giving to others. Here is a summary of all the grants awarded to date.

**Leadership Development**
- Wyckiffe College: $75,000 for the development of a leadership program for new clergy and lay leaders.
- The Rev. Richard Dentinger: $2,698 for a professional development course at St. George College, Jerusalem.
- Spirit of Invitation: $120,400 for the Diocesan Spirit of Invitation working group to develop a course that uses video and instructional content to explore the concept of invitation in a practical, dynamic and engaging manner.
- The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman: $15,000 to assist with doctoral studies in children's and family ministry.
- Archdiocesan Youth Ministry Team: $6,200 to offset the cost of the Diocesan Youth Retreat, scheduled for Oct. 3-5.
- The Rev. Kevin Wong: $5,415 to help finance the cost of taking an English language training course.

**Pioneering Ministry**
- Redeemer, Ajax: $361,200 to support a special event overflow.
- St. Matthew, Islington: $8,000 to pioneer a new ministry designed to bring focus to the creative arts and artistic expression as tools for ministry.
- Parish of Georgina: $16,500 to provide an outreach chaplaincy over three years at Sibbald Point Provincial Park during the summer months.
- Church of the Resurrection, Toronto: $260,000 ($151,000 in the first year and $109,000 in the second year) to enhance its ability to pioneer ministry in the recently disestablished parish of St. Columba and All Hallows, Toronto.

**Communicating in a Wireless World**
- St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering: $13,000 to purchase and install TV screens to be utilized through the church's website.
- All Saints, Collingwood: $25,000 to enhance communications for those in the congregation who are visually, hearing or physically impaired.
- Parish of Penetanguishene and Wabunashene: $10,000 to help equip all three parish points with technology to enhance worship services and create an event overflow.
- Trent-Durham Area Council: $1,500 to launch a pilot project in video conferencing and social media for the purposes of Christian learning and sharing.

**Ongoing Grants for 2014**
- St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg: $9,000 to upgrade the church's sound system and install a WiFi system.
- Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa: $27,288 to purchase video equipment and upgrade computer and website technologies.
- Christ Church, Stouffville: $9,000 to improve and develop its website.
- Christ Church, Kettleby: $3,500 to install a WiFi system in the church.

**Our Faith - Our Hope**
- St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto: $75,000 to hire a youth minister.
- Christ Church, Toronto: $25,000 to hire a director of young Christian formation.
- Oshawa Area Parishes: $25,000 to provide leadership for youth ministry in the Oshawa area.
- St. Jude, Weston: $66,500 to hire an additional part-time youth ministry and pastoral staff at the parish, covering three years.
- St. Dav, Swansea: $49,000 to hire a part-time youth worker.

**Giving to others**
- Anglican Military Ordinariate: The ordinariate is composed of all of Anglicans in the Canadian Forces, including chaplains, military personnel and their families. $300,000 to fund the Office of the Bishop Ordinariate in perpetuity.

**Funds will strengthen ministry for years to come**

Funds from the Our Faith-Our Hope: Re-Imagine Church campaign will be used to strengthen ministry in our diocese in the coming years. Not only will the funds allow many parishes to invest in serious capital upgrades, retrofits and renovations, they will also allow parishes to dream about programs that they never thought possible – either revitalizing our inheritance or reimagining the church of tomorrow.

As of June, 2014, $7,535,116.21 has been returned to parishes. This portion represents the 40 per cent that is returned to parishes on a quarterly basis as funds are received, and will continue through 2017. The diocese has initiated an allocations process for many parishes to invest in capital upgrades, retrofits and renovations, which will allow parishes to dream about programs that they never thought possible – either revitalizing our inheritance or reimagining the church of tomorrow. As of June, 2014, 7,535,116.21 has been returned to parishes. This portion represents the 40 per cent that is returned to parishes on a quarterly basis as funds are received, and will continue through 2017. The diocese has initiated an allocations process for many parishes to invest in capital upgrades, retrofits and renovations, which will allow parishes to dream about programs that they never thought possible – either revitalizing our inheritance or reimagining the church of tomorrow.

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Feeding community for 18 years

The community supper program at St. John, Weston, celebrated its 18th anniversary in June with a barbecue attended by more than 100 people. Laura Albanese, MPP for York-South Weston, presented St. John’s with a certificate in recognition of the church’s service to the community through the program.

Two years ago, the weekly meal program was struggling. Age and ill-health had caused a number of core volunteers, including founder Mavis Breckenridge, to step down. For six months in 2012, “Com Sup”, as it’s known, was held only twice a month and had only one team of volunteers.

A committee was formed to find ways to improve the logistics of the program and attract new volunteers. The then incumbent, the Rev. Michelle Chils-Ward, approached the Rev. Michael McGourty of the nearby Roman Catholic church of St. John the Evangelist, to see if he could provide support. The Catholic congregation not only provided two teams of volunteers, but donated a barbecue to the program. Since last year, Com Sup has returned to a weekly schedule, with four teams serving from 50 to 70 low-income guests.

“We feel at home here,” says Trish Schell, who, with husband Rob, is a regular volunteer as well as guest of the program. Sylvia Giovanoli, team coordinator, agrees: “We try to make it a family meal.”

Church celebrates Jerusalem Sunday

St. Thomas, Brooklin, celebrated Jerusalem Sunday on June 1 with postcards, special hymns, a 10-minute video on the Holy Land, the Jerusalem Eucharistic Prayer and special refreshments indicative of Israel – dates, apricots, grapes, fresh bagels, cream cheese and a Jewish coffee cake. “It was an educating service,” said Bruce Beveridge, a parishioner: “Jerusalem, cradle of the three great monotheistic religions, deserves a special Sunday of worship every year.”

CANADA BRIEFS

New position strengthens partnerships

EDMONTON - Bishop Jane Alexander has appointed Sharon Pasula as the diocese’s first Aboriginal Cultural and Educational Helper. Ms. Pasula aims to strengthen partnerships between Anglican and aboriginal groups, and to build community within the Anglican Aboriginal population. From 2008 to 2011, she was a vice president of the Metis Nation of Alberta. “The spiritual development of all people and of aboriginal people in particular has been in my heart,” she says. She will work alongside the Rev. Rick Chapman as part of the diocese’s Inner City Pastoral Ministry team. The Messenger

Fruitful change at food bank

KAMLOOPS – The organizers of the Louves and Fishes Food Bank at St. Andrew’s/St. Mary’s in Lil- looet, B.C., report a very positive response to a change in the way they run the program.

For years, patrons came, registered and received a pre-filled bag or bags of food based on the number in each family. Motivated by a desire for patrons to exercise choice and decision-making skills, organizers moved from a “hand out” to “shopping” set-up. Tables with food groups – protein, vegetables, carbohydrates, fruits, cereal, and extras – were set up with shopkeeper volunteers to help patrons choose appropriate amounts for their family and what they will use and need at this time.

“What we discovered was that the interaction between patron and volunteer increased and there was joy and laughter in the room,” wrote Sheila Dunbar and Jeanne Berdan. “Patrons said, ‘I don’t need that item at this time,’ and they chose the kinds of soup, vegetables and protein that they liked and would use.”

The Anglican Link

Newspaper seeks 100 donors

HALIFAX – The Diocesan Times, the newspaper of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, has started a fundraising drive called 100 Readers Who Care. The goal is to find 100 readers who will donate $100 each to help the paper keep publishing. A number of readers have already signed up, reports the paper. The Diocesan Times

Youth, rector pitch in for PW RDF

ST. JOHN’S – As a challenge to the confirmation class of the Parish of Bay L’Argent, Newfoundland, the Rev. Jeff Blackwood suggested that the youth undertake a four-month fundraising campaign for PW RDF. To keep the candidates motivated, Mr. Blackwood decided to take his own challenge, promising not to cut his hair from Dec. 1 to April 19, and not to shave during Lent. “By Holy Saturday, the parish had what may have resembled John the Baptist or a Sasquatch,” said a story in Anglican Life. Through donation cans in the parish’s churches, bake sales and individual donations, the young people raised $1,800. Best of all, each young person took a turn shaving Mr. Blackwood’s head following the Easter Vigil service. His beard was trimmed, too. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a potluck dinner.

Anglican Life

Cathedral opens new building

REGINA - St. Paul’s Cathedral recently opened its new community centre after two years of construction. The new building includes a hall, kitchens, washrooms, offices, a lift for handicapped people, space for a columbarium and choir space.

Saskatchewan Anglican

PARISH NEWS

ALL TOGETHER

Bishop Philip Poole gathers with some members of St. Paul the Apostle, Readale, after a service of baptism, confirmation and re-affirmation of vows at the church on May 11. Eight people were confirmed, three re-affirmed their vows and one was baptized. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ALTARPieces

The Rev. Judy Oatway speaks at St. Mark Anglican-Lutheran Church, Midland, surrounded by altarpieces from Kenya. With the support of Ms. Sikri and the Rev. Wilfred Aloro, a Kenyan priest and artist, the people of Sikri, Kenya, designed and stitched 13 altarpieces for their local Anglican church, the Church of the Resurrection. The creative process of making the centrepieces, engaging with the Gospel and discovering what the stories meant to them helped knit the community of Sikri back together, she said. Donations from the sale of some of the centrepieces went to Sikri’s school building project and for clean water maintenance.

DUNKed

Archbishop Colin Johnson wipes his face after being dunked in the water tank at Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto’s picnic on June 6. Money raised by the dunk tank went to the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund.

LEGO CHURCH

Bishop Philip Poole, the Rev. Penny Lewis (left) and the Rev. Rick Ross, who, are featured on a church made out of Legos, created by young people at Christ Church, Bolton.
Annual dinner raises $95,000

Speakers praise clergy, Company

BY STUART MANN

TERRIFIC speeches were the order of the day at the 53rd annual Bishop’s Company Dinner, held in Toronto on May 20. The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil, the incumbent of the Church of the Redeemer, and John Fraser, the former master of Massey College and a lifelong Anglican, vowed the sold out crowd of 480 with their personal stories. Canon Asbil spoke about how the Bishop’s Company helped him and his brother and sister-in-law in a time of need, and Mr. Fraser spoke about how various Anglican clergy guided him during the ups and downs of his life.

The annual fundraiser began with a reception at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, followed by dinner at the nearby Marriott Downtown Toronto Eaton Centre hotel. The evening raised $95,000, including $10,150 from a silent auction, to help clergy and their families in need and to provide scholarships for theological students. Mr. Fraser kept the crowd in stitches through much of his address, especially when he recounted his early life as a chorister at Christ Church Deer Park, a server at St. Bartholomew, Regent Park, a student at Upper George & Eileen Carey Bursary, and his brother and sister-in-law, who was in an induced coma.

During his teenage years, as his mother dealt with mental illness and his father’s business faced bankruptcy, Mr. Fraser was taken under the wings of kindly Anglican clerics – an experience he never forgot. “I wasn’t really aware that I was being attended to by these unobtrusive Anglican saints, but I was, and they glow in my memory as I try to honour them as I see the needs around me,” he said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Mr. Fraser went on to a distinguished career as a writer with the Globe and Mail and editor of Saturday Night magazine. Whenever he travelled in the world, he said, he sought out an Anglican church, despite every misstep or catastrophe in our church, there have always been Anglicans struggling to reach the light through a prism of fairness and understanding of each other. In the end, the reason why I love the church so much is because it remains an institution capable of absorbing the hurt we can thoughtlessly and sometimes willfully inflict on each other and yet transcend it through a distinctive filter of tolerance.”

The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil talks about how the Bishop’s Company helped him during a time of need.

The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil

“Through all the centuries of our church, despite every misstep or catastrophe in our church, there have always been Anglicans struggling to reach the light through a prism of fairness and understanding of each other. In the end, the reason why I love the church so much is because it remains an institution capable of absorbing the hurt we can thoughtlessly and sometimes willfully inflict on each other and yet transcend it through a distinctive filter of tolerance.”

The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil

Archbishop Colin Johnson and his wife, Ellen enjoy Mr. Fraser’s speech.

Delores Lawrence, chair of the dinner committee and MC for the evening, welcomes guests.

Minoli and Ajitha Gunawardana of St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, were among the 480 people in attendance.

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For Kathryn Rogers, becoming the diocese’s new Treasurer and Director of Finance is a dream come true.

Ms. Rogers spent almost 10 years as the director of Finance at the Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, an international non-profit organization that is easily marginalized. Out of those two experiences came a lifelong passion to help others, an ethic that she has carried with her into her new role as the Director of Finance at Toronto’s diocese.

“I love the environment of a non-profit,” she says. “It’s about having the opportunity to work in an environment that is literally giving things to the greater good. I’ve always thought that if I have to be away from my kids, I want to know that it’s for a good cause.”

Kathryn Rogers

Working for a better world

GROWING up in a small town, Ryan Weston was the only Catholic in his class. The Canadian Society for the Incurably Marginalized was struggling to make ends meet and asking for assistance. As he grew older, Weston was forced to face a challenge of faith: is this Christian background, and everything else, not wanting to share it with people who already understand, namely another Christian. Then you are ready to share it with someone who has not heard it before, or experienced it.

It is simple but not easy. We have to face a challenge of faith: is this Christian background, and everything else, not wanting to share it with people who already understand, namely another Christian. Then you are ready to share it with someone who has not heard it before, or experienced it.

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Prayer Cycle

For September

1. All school chaplains
2. All school students and teachers
3. Bishop Strachan School
4. Havergal College School
5. St. Margaret’s School, Richmond Hill
6. Royal St. George’s College School
7. Don Mills United Church
8. The College School, Port Hope
9. Lakeshore Collegiate School
10. St. Clare’s School
11. Kingway College School
12. St. Martin, Guelph
13. St. Paul, Glenforest
14. The Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of Toronto
15. St. Paul, Pickering
16. St. Peter, Caledon

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Vacant Incumbencies

These vacancies were vacant as of July 22. Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

Trent Durham
- St. Matthew, Oshawa
- York - Credit Valley
- St. Matthias, Bellwoods
- Trinity, Streetview
- York - Scarborough
- Christ Church, Scarborough
- St. Christopher, Richmond Hill (Associate Priest)
- York - Simeone
- Parish of Georgina
- St. David, Orillia
- Grace Church, Markham

Retirement

The Rev. John Phillips has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at Christ the King, Richmond Hill, will be Oct. 26.

Death

Sister Margaret Mary Watson, SSND, died on July 20. Her funeral was held on July 25 at St. John’s Convent, Toronto.

Reading the Bible

We turn to the third section of the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible), called the Ketuvim, which translates as “the Writings.” The Ketuvim consists of many genres. We have the poetry of the Psalms; the historical writings of the book of Chronicles; Ezra and Nehemiah; Ruth and Esther; the wisdom literature of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes; and the apocalyptic writings of Daniel.

The Writings also contain the Five Scrolls, which was actually one scroll with five stories.

These stories were used during worship at the major festivals. Song of Songs was used at Passover (the Christian Easter); Ruth was used at Shavuot (in late spring); Lamentations was used at the fast of Av commemorating the destruction of both temples in Jerusalem (during summer); Ecclesiastes was used during Sukkot (in the fall); and Esther was used during Purim (in the winter).

Let’s look first at the historic narratives contained in the two Chronicles. According to Isaiah (2 Kings 23), he omitted some of the bad images of the Davidic kings, but follows the story line of Samuel and Kings. Ezra and Nehemiah record the returning of the exiles to Jerusalem. Ezra was a prophet, priest and scribe sent by Cyrus, King of Persia, to restore religious order. Nehemiah was sent out to be the governor of this Persian province, called Yehud, (Juda). He was charged with restoring the religious laws of the land. He arrived with a copy of the Torah. Since his time, reading aloud from these books of Moses in the town square, teaching the people what they meant.

Meanwhile, the “People of the Land” were being chased out of Jerusalem. They had not been through the fires of exile and thus were not true Jews. Many had intermarried with other tribes and were no longer pure. This became an issue for Ezra, in restoring the Torah and requiring them to put away their foreign wives and children born to these wives.

Aramaic was the language of the Babylonians. This also became the spoken language of the Hebrews. They re-established the requirements of kosher food observances, in accordance with the Torah. In the restoration, we see the importance of Scripture; the need to keep the Hebrews pure by not mixing with Gentiles; the importance of the Sabbath, and circumcision.

Continued on Page 12

Poetry, wisdom in the writings

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Reach Grants bring ideas to life

Church offers breakfast, friendship

BY STUART MANN

AS part of their Lenten study, the Revs. Veronica Roynon and Sue Savage read A World Worth Saving, by George Hovaness Donigian. They were moved by the author’s words to seek out and respond to the needs of their community.

One chapter in particular, called “Feeding Others and Starving Our Gaul” touched their hearts. “That chapter gave birth to what we felt we were being called by God to do – to reach out to those who have a spiritual, emotional and real hunger,” says Ms. Savage.

Based at All Saints, Penetanguishene, the women see needs around them every day. Local jobs are hard to come by, so many people survive on government assistance. About 2,000 outpatients of the Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care live in the area in low rent housing and halfway houses.

The pair decided to launch a monthly breakfast club at the church, providing a hot meal and friendship to anyone who came through the doors. “We wanted to bring friendship to each guest, and, above all, to let them know that they have value and are loved – not just by us but by God,” says Ms. Savage, the parish administrator.

They shared their idea with June Marion, the parish’s outreach coordinator, who quickly connected them to the Waypoint Centre for Start-up costs, they applied to the diocese for a Reach Grant. These are small, one-time grants, between $500 and $5,000, to help churches and individuals turn their ideas into reality.

They filled out a grant application for $2,000, then were invited down to the Diocesan Centre in downtown Toronto to pitch their idea to a panel about their idea and how it will reach those who do not currently attend church. They also have to describe how their idea will create a Christ-centred community.

The dragons make their decision by the end of the day, and Diocesan Council gives the final approval.

The dragons were so moved by the women’s plan to start a breakfast club that they not only approved the grant but raised it to $5,000 so the church could buy a new stove and the meal could be offered twice a month.

“Taste it, agree” says Ms. Marion. “I grow up in a foster home and I know what children have to deal with. There is a need for this here.”

The first breakfast was served in the church hall in late July. On the menu was plenty of hot food, orange juice and fresh fruit. Ten people showed up, including a man who cycled over from Midland.

“That is good ministry because they read their context – they looked at the place where they were planted, they looked at what people needed and they looked at what they were able to give,” says the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, the diocese’s Canon Missioner.

Canon Bell’s job is to help clergy and lay leaders build awareness of missional opportunities in the diocese. She says small start-ups like the one in Penetanguishene are exactly the right way for the Anglican Church to share the faith with others.

“I really believe this is the way we’re going to experiment our way into the kingdom,” she says. “We can build some confidence and capability around mission just by doing and thinking and engaging in the small things, and then maybe that will turn into something a little bit larger.”

Reach Grants, she says, play a critical role in that. “If any idea is being held back because it needs $800, then a grant makes it possible,” she says.

Since they were created three years ago, Reach Grants have funded 44 missions across the diocese, launching everything from youth programs to farmers’ markets. To date, $145,000 has been disbursed. The number of grant applications has grown each year.

“That’s why I got so excited, because of the tremendous creativity that is out there,” says Canon Bell. “People are just beginning to tap into it. There’s a lot of energy around it. We’re hearing, ‘I have this idea, what do you think?’ several times a week now.

“The ideas are really coming from the right place: a want to share a living faith in Jesus Christ, so that people’s lives and hearts are changed. That’s a different place from where we’ve started before: we’ve been worried about survival; now we’re thinking about transmitting the faith, and that’s where the energy is.”

She says the missions help the diocese learn about what is working and what isn’t. “We’re learning that you cannot have cookie-cutter solutions to mission. You need to watch, know your people, have sympathy and know what God is calling you to do in your context. The two big lessons we’ve learned are that every mission is a bespoke mission – it’s tailor-made for those people at that time, in that place – and that everybody is responsible for mission because it’s in our DNA as Christians.”

A video about Reach Grants is posted on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, along with information about grant applications. The next deadline for applications is Oct. 24.

Youth involvement a priority

“Taste it, agree” says Ms. Marion. “I grow up in a foster home and I know what children have to deal with. There is a need for this here.”

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