Website now on mobile devices

Accessibility upgraded, too

The diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, has been optimized for mobile devices and to meet current accessibility standards. “People are increasingly using their mobile devices to communicate and access information, and we wanted to make sure that our website could respond to that,” said Canon Stuart Mann, the director of Communications. “At the same time, we wanted the site to be accessible to those with special needs.”

People who view the website on their mobile devices will be able to access everything that is on the desktop version. A simple homepage and easy-to-use menu helps people get to the information they want.

“We tested the website on as many tablets and smartphones as possible, including the BlackBerry Q10 and Z10, iPhone and Android devices,” says Canon Mann. “The website can also be viewed on older models, such as the BlackBerry Bold, but people who use them will have to keep in mind that their devices do not have the ability to display websites to the same degree that modern devices do.”

People can donate to FaithWorks through a mobile-friendly webpage. In the coming months, all of the diocese’s funding programs on the website, including Our Faith-Our Hope, the Bishop’s Company and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, will be optimized for mobile devices.

“The diocese’s campaign is helping individuals and parishes re-imagine the church,” says Canon Mann. “Now they can be excited by the course and grow in comfort with sharing the good news of the Gospel,” says the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, the incumbent of St. George on Yonge, Toronto, and co-chair of the group. Spirit of Invitation consists of six sessions, each about two hours long, ideally for groups of six to eight people. Each session includes discussion, prayer, a video and a study of scripture. People will be asked to run the course as a six-week pilot project. However, the videos will be available on the Internet before the end of December, with the course materials following in January. At that point, parishes and individuals can start using them right away.

“It doesn’t matter to us how a person receives the material or even how they use it,” says Canon Kinghan. “The important thing is finding out what God is doing in our neighbourhoods and cities – one that will get us moving out into our communities and cities to find out what God is doing in the lives of all his children.”

In this series, we look at how the diocese’s campaigns is helping individuals and parishes re-imagine the church.

By Carolyn Purden

WITH the help of an Our Faith-Our Hope grant, a group of clergy and lay in the diocese has created a new, parish-based resource that they hope will inspire and equip Christians to share their faith. Called Spirit of Invitation, the resource draws on stories from people’s lives today and from stories of invitation in the Bible. It includes original videos, shot on location in the diocese. “We hope people will be excited by the course and grow in comfort with sharing the good news of the Gospel,” says the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, the incumbent of St. George on Yonge, Toronto, and co-chair of the group.

In some respects, Spirit of Invitation can become a gift from the Diocese of Toronto to the wider church,” says Canon Kinghan. The introduction to the course materials asks participants to see the six sessions “as a way to begin a different conversation, one that will put us in a creative space – one that will get us moving out into our communities and cities to find out what God is doing in the lives of all his children.”
The course is based on the following assumptions: “We offer the love of God out of the abundance of what we ourselves have been given; we offer this invitation from a community into a community – this is not an individualistic evangelism course; the process of invitation is grounded in relationships; invitation is a process that often happens over time; invitation is not a program, it is an attitude of heart and mind; offering an invitation is grounded in the Christian family story.”

“They’re going to surprise people,” says Jeff Potter, pastor of Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, and co-chair of the group. “They explore a range of topics, things that Anglicans and Christians in general, experience, and they relate these things back to what it means to engage in the kind of invitation that’s open and unforced and doesn’t at all smack of solicitation.”

The first video in the course tells a personal story of invitation, and the joy of how invitation is experienced in a shared meal and the Eucharist. Other videos look at joy in greater depth and reflect the theological thrust of invitation.

“The videos and the course material are inviting the participants into a moment, and that in itself teaches people what invitation’s about,” says Canon Kinghan. He predicts that once people view a video, they will want to share it with others, and use it as a resource to engage in conversation.

Spirit of Invitation grew out of Back to Church Sunday, which has been run in many parishes in the diocese for the past five years. Canon Kinghan said Spirit of Invitation is not a substitute for Back to Church Sunday, rather, it is a different way to look at invitation, for those who want to.

“Back to Church Sunday focuses on specific Sundays when we invite people to church with the hope that they will stay,” he says. “Spirit of Invitation has taken a broader look, saying we’re always about invitation and it’s not limited to this Sunday or that Sunday. It’s how we make it part of our life, and our relationships, all the time.”
Peterborough churches sign covenant
Clergy work as team

By Carolyn Purden

The clergy and congregations of five Peterborough churches have signed the Anglican-Lutheran Covenant, a formal agreement of mutual ministry in the city. The signing is the first step toward more shared ministry among Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Anglican congregations of All Saints, St. Barnabas, St. John the Evangelist and St. Luke the Evangelist.

The covenant was inspired by a similar arrangement between two congregations in Rochester, N.Y. The Peterborough churches also drew inspiration from team ministry work in the Church of England and from the fresh expressions movement. The covenant was developed in consultation with Bishop Linda Nicholls, the area bishop of Trent-Durham.

The Rev. Geoff Howson, the priest-in-charge at All Saints, explains that all five churches are facing challenging times, with smaller congregations and tighter budgets. “Doing this forces us to ask how we can be creative and find a new way of being the church, so we can use our resources and not get hung up on being maintenance-oriented,” he says.

A major benefit has been that the five clergy are able to work as a team, rather than as “ Lone Rangers,” he says. They meet weekly and offer support to each other. As trust builds, they discuss difficult situations and seek insight and advice from each other.

The five churches will remain distinct, governed by their own corporations and annual vestries, and will worship in their own locations. However, they hope the covenant will open the door to opportunities to better serve the needs of Peterborough.

As an example, says Mr. Howson, on issues of social justice such as poverty and homelessness, the five voices representing a large part of Peterborough can be powerful. “By joining together, we’re able to have a more profound voice in a city that does have a fair number of social issues it needs to confront,” he says.

The churches will share programs and worship as well. A Covenant Choir has been formed from 28 singers drawn from the five churches, and they are singing at special events. As well, there was a joint outdoor worship service in September and a joint Blessing of the Animals service in October.

The churches may also band together to sponsor a refugee family. “All five churches are trying to be missional, becoming more aware of our neighbours,” says Mr. Howson. “How can we reach out and be a presence there?”

A covenant council has been established, with equal representation from each church, comprising the incumbent, churchwarden and two members of each congregation. The council will advise on the management of the churches, shared opportunities in administration and property management. The council has also established several working groups that will focus on family ministry, education and training, worship, health, communications and shared events.

Peterborough is in the midst of significant change, and Mr. Howson believes the covenant offers an opportunity to be a new kind of church in the city. What that church will look like, no one knows, he says. “Maybe this will become the Anglican-Lutheran parish of Peterborough, where you have a team ministry,” he says. “I think that’s a possibility.”

BRIEFLY

Vital Church Planting Conference returns

The Vital Church Planting Conference returns Jan. 28–31 at St. Paul, Bloor Street, co-sponsored by the Diocese of Toronto and the Vital Church Planting Conference. This year’s conference theme is “Charting Our Course in the Canadian Context,” featuring speakers and workshop leaders from across Canada engaged in pioneering ministries and planting fresh expressions of church. Included in the conference is the Saturday Team Day on Jan. 31, a day focused on live worship, creating missionally and understanding what it means to be a team. Saturday’s hands-on missional training is at a reduced cost. Visit www.vitalchurchplanting.com for more information.

Conference explores children’s ministry

Interested in learning about children’s spirituality, Sunday school curriculum, or spiritual formation in the home? These are just a few of the topics being talked about at this year’s Children’s Ministry Conference: “Making it Easier to Serve” on Nov. 1 at St. John, York Mills. The one-day conference is organized every year by the Centre for Excellence in Christian Education, a group of lay people and clergy in the diocese, to promote children’s ministry. This year’s keynote address—“Making Faith Stick! Practices that Shape a Child’s Faith”—is being given by Janie Robertson. Workshops this year include Brian Suggs, Dr. Daniel Wong, Robert Robinson, Jackie Nunn, Lindsay Bradford-Roart, Yau-Man Siew, and Elizabeth Achimah. Lunch and childcare are provided. The conference concludes with a presentation by Archbishop Colin Johnson of the Sladen Awards for excellence in children’s ministry. For more information, visit http://thececc.org/.

Free Up $50

Did you know that in 1946, General Synod established a Foundation to receive donations for the purpose of disbursing financial assistance across the country. It was also agreed that every parish give a $50 donation every year to support their Foundation.

Get on Board

Ask your church wardens if your parish is a member. 21 of 200 parishes in the Diocese of Toronto are annual donors. We need 179 more parishes in your diocese to Free Up Fifty in 2015.

Free Up Fifty is our 2015 campaign for every parish to be an AFC member.

Speak with your church wardens to donate today.

www.anglicanfoundation.org
Poverty strategy needs firm goals

ARCHBISHOP’S DIARY
BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

The lack of a firm timeline or concrete goals in the strategy are cause for concern. The first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, released in 2008, contained concrete, measurable goals and plans for implementation, such as the central commitment to reduce child poverty in Ontario by 25 per cent over five years. Although this ambitious goal was not met over the first five years of the strategy, the stated commitment and timeline were important in moving the issue forward and achieving real successes in this effort. Over the course of the first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, low-income families saw significant increases in the Ontario Child Benefit, the implementation of full-day kindergarten across the province, and an increase in the minimum wage. According to the government’s own statistics, these initiatives helped to lift 47,000 children out of poverty in the first three years of the strategy, and prevented 61,000 children from falling into poverty. Without the firm commitments contained in the first strategy, it appears that the second phase of this strategy will struggle to achieve comparable developments. It is encouraging that the new phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy expands its focus beyond child poverty to address poverty issues for all Ontarians. The government’s commitment to end homelessness in Ontario is especially positive news. Anglican parishioners throughout the diocese have long been actively involved in supporting our neighbours who are homeless or precariously housed through the development of affordable housing projects on church lands, advocating for increased funding for supportive housing, or supporting Out of the Cold programs. We welcome the renewed attention this strategy will provide to this issue.

We see the new Poverty Reduction Strategy as a positive step toward addressing poverty in our province. We now look for some concrete evidence of the government to achieve the important goals they have laid out in this strategy. The Diocese of Toronto is committed to working with the government, and with our partners such as the 211 Campaign and the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, to move toward taking action on poverty in the province. Together, we can live out our commitment to embody “God’s reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation” in our communities and make a tangible difference in the lives of our most vulnerable neighbours.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak to you about this, as I hope that we can continue to work together in solidarity to the benefit of all the citizens of Ontario. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for the work that you do.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

LETTERS

Handel’s Messiah

Friday, December 12 at 7:30pm

The Cathedral Choir with Chamber Orchestra

Details and tickets available online

Cantatas in the Cathedral

Wednesday, December 3 at 6:00pm

“Wachet betet! Betet! Wachtet,” BWV70 - J.S. Bach
Soprano Erin Bardua, Alto Christine Steinhackmeyer, Tenor Charles Davidsson, Bass Graham Robinson
Admission is Pay What You Can

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The Anglican

November 2014

The Anglican Church

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York-Credit Valley: The Rt. Rev. Chris Bailey

Trent-Durham: The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls


York-Scarborough: The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty

The Diocese of Toronto: 95 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5C 1L8, 416-363-6021.

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www.toronto.anglican.ca

The Hon. Kathleen Wynne Room 281, Main Legislative Bldg. Queen’s Park Toronto, ON M7A 1A4

Dear Madame Premier:

On Sept. 3, 2014 the Ontario government released the long-awaited second phase of its Poverty Reduction Strategy, Realizing our Potential. The document provides an important opportunity to focus public attention on the continued prevalence of poverty in our province. Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto have been actively working to address poverty in our communities for decades, and we welcome any effort by the government to engage with this issue. This latest phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy contains several ambitious proposals to root out poverty, including a bold goal to end homelessness, a commitment to expand health and dental care programs to all low-income Ontarians, and a continued focus on reducing child poverty levels across the province.

While these proposals are admirable, the lack of a firm timeline or concrete goals in the strategy are cause for concern. The first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, released in 2008, contained concrete, measurable goals and plans for implementation, such as the central commitment to reduce child poverty in Ontario by 25 per cent over five years. Although this ambitious goal was not met over the first five years of the strategy, the stated commitment and timeline were important in moving the issue forward and achieving real successes in this effort. Over the course of the first phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, low-income families saw significant increases in the Ontario Child Benefit, the implementation of full-day kindergarten across the province, and an increase in the minimum wage. According to the government’s own statistics, these initiatives helped to lift 47,000 children out of poverty in the first three years of the strategy, and prevented 61,000 children from falling into poverty. Without the firm commitments contained in the first strategy, it appears that the second phase of this strategy will struggle to achieve comparable developments. It is encouraging that the new phase of the Poverty Reduction Strategy expands its focus beyond child poverty to address poverty issues for all Ontarians. The government’s commitment to end homelessness in Ontario is especially positive news. Anglican parishioners throughout the diocese have long been actively involved in supporting our neighbours who are homeless or precariously housed through the development of affordable housing projects on church lands, advocating for increased funding for supportive housing, or supporting Out of the Cold programs. We welcome the renewed attention this strategy will provide to this issue.

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I would welcome the opportunity to speak to you about this, as I hope that we can continue to work together in solidarity to the benefit of all the citizens of Ontario. Please be assured of my ongoing prayers for the work that you do.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

Assistant suicide

Thanks so much to Dr. Reginald Stackhouse for raising this issue (“Time to Talk Openly About II – October issue”). In 1972-75, my family and I watched in anguish and sadness as our Dad, Herb Mowat, a prominent Anglican layman (and friend of Reg Stackhouse and many other clergy), lay in a hospital bed after a car crash, paralyzed from the chest down and in dreadful pain, before he finally died two and a half years later. During his lifetime, he was the strongest man I know. Half years later. During his lifetime, he was the strongest man I know. And yet this powerful man begged his children to help him die. We could not. Ironically, he had taken such good care of his health all his life to the age of 79 that his heart would not let him go. He had no quality of life during those agonizing years in hospital. We were called to the hospital several times to “say goodbye” as doctors were sure death was imminent. He refused, only to go through interminable months more of agony. Assisted suicide, when I’m told securely quietly today, would have given him what he deserved – a peaceful end to his suffering. Let’s talk!

Jane Mount Marth Toronto

www.toronto.anglican.ca
Ten good stewardship habits

BY PETER MISASZEK

We have a God of second chances

BY SEÁN MADSEN

The Steward

Let them drive

BY STUART MANN
Montreal Anglicans walked to Marcelin-Wilson Park. as well as protestant churches, Catholic and Orthodox Chaldean, Catholic, Orthodox Coptic. Cathedral of Saint Sauveur on L’Acadie Boulevard, more than 1,000 marchers, many of them members of eastern churches including Maronite Catholic, Orthodox Syrian, Greek-Melkite Catholic, Antiochian Orthodox, Armenian Catholic, Orthodox Coptic Catholic and Orthodox Chaldean, as well as protestant churches, walked to Marceulin-Wilson Park. Montreal Anglican

Photo project inspires youth

EDMONTON – In June 2013, Holy Trinity Anglican Church – partnered with the Knights Templar and the Old Strathcona Youth Society (OSYS) – invited high-risk and street-involved youth to meet at the church for a weekly meal and photography instruction. “We looked at ways relation-ships and the arts can be used to empower and support youth,” said the Rev. Chris Pappas. the incumbent of Holy Trinity. Youth were given donated digital cam-eras and asked to photograph signs of hope in their neighbour-hood. About 16 youth participat-ed and matched their favourite photos with scripture quotes. With help from the Anglican Foundation of Canada’s Kids Helping Kids Fund, the images were then published in an 18-month calendar.

Proceeds from the calendar, available at Holy Trinity, the Diocese of Edmonton Synod Off-ice and the OSYS resource cen-ter, will help support the youth society.

The Messenger

Helping the homeless prepare for winter

VANCOUVER – With a grant from the city, St. Faith’s Anglican Church plans to run its third an-nual Take a Bite Out Of Winter program, which provides a meal and a chance for people in need to pick up free winter clothing. A tent will be set up outside the church to welcome people, and “valet service” will be offered, so people can leave their shopping carts and backpacks outside. “Personal shoppers” will be on hand to help select winter cloth-ing, blankets and sleeping bags. Last year, the program served close to 100 people, said organiz-er the Rev. Christine Wilson.

Car for Haitian orphanage

OTTAWA – Since 2010, St. James in Carleton Place, Ont., has sup-ported two orphanages in Haiti, with parishioners Jeanie Blackburn and Bonette Vines co-ordi-nating funds and supplies. When parishioners heard that Dieudonne Batraville, the founder of one of the orphan-ages, was having difficulties with her vehicle, which was reaching a point beyond repair, the Rev. David Andrews approached local car dealer MIke Piter of Carleton Ford for help. He generously do-na ted a 2006 Ford Escape with an extra set of tires for Ms. Batrav-ille to use for the orphanage and her work there.

Crosstalk

Lost and found

HALIFAX – The Rev. Gary Thorne, the Anglican chaplain at King’s College and Dalhousie University in Halifax, was pleased to announce on Sept. 7 that an altar cross, stolen from the chapel at King’s College in August, had been recovered. Although the iron and brass cross with some inset glass was not worth much money, it was missed by the chapel worship-ers. A young man responded to the offer of a $200 reward and brought the cross to Mr. Thorne. “To my mind, the young man was desperate for money and must have been disappointed when he realized it had no resale value,” he wrote in The Diocesan Times, thanking students for their efforts to publicize the missing cross and reward. The Diocesan Times

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Speech opens day of discussions, workshops

BY BOB BETTSON

“You are making a difference.” That was the message from Carol Goar, a Toronto Star columnist who has written extensively on poverty, hunger and social policy issues, as she addressed Christians gathered for the diocese’s annual Outreach Networking Conference on October 11.

Ms. Goar believes churches and other non-governmental organizations working on issues of poverty, hunger and social justice will have an even more important role to play in the future.

She cited the increase in the minimum wage, the creation of the Ontario Child Benefit and the increase in social assistance payments to single adults as positive results of the social justice movement.

“These are small things, I am sure they haven’t changed material improvement in people’s lives,” she said. “And they wouldn’t have happened if people like you hadn’t led by example and stood with those who couldn’t afford to take basic steps towards a rich, advanced nation.”

Ms. Goar’s keynote address at the conference, held in Richmond Hill, kicked off a day of discussions and workshops on issues of social justice. Workshop topics included reconciliation with First Nations, Biblical storytelling, restorative justice, ethical investing and whether the Gospel is political.

The conference brought together clergy and lay people who are engaged in outreach work in the diocese. This year’s theme was “Repairing the Breach: Signs of Healing.” (Isaiah 58:12).

Despite the incremental changes, many challenges remain, said Ms. Goar. “The biggest, in my view, is that millions of Canadians—good people who help their neighbors, donate to charity and belong to your congregations—sincerely believe we can’t afford to do more than we’re doing for people in need.

Over the past 20 years, she said, political leaders at all levels of government have systematically re-shaped public opinion, convincing Ontarians that increasing social assistance rates is dependent upon reducing the province’s deficit.

She said governments and special interest groups use different approaches to measuring poverty and turn the conversation away from their own goals. These conflicting messages create confusion in the minds of people.

The third biggest challenge, she said, is the current political fixation on the middle class. She said the next federal election will be dominated by appeals to the middle class, leaving little room for others. “Unless voters demand it, poverty will be an after thought—if that.”

She finished by saying that probably the toughest challenge is for people not to feel overwhelmed by the needs and complexities of those in poverty. “Most of us don’t feel equipped to deal with this daunting snarl of problems. Even if we could, it would be hard to bring others along. So what can one person or one church do?”

She encouraged people to keep helping and advocating for those in poverty, to keep sleep and wash the knowledge that they’ll be welcome somewhere.

“You can show it’s possible to treat everyone with dignity regardless of their mental health, addiction, appearance or behavior. You don’t have to be religious to marginalize people the humanity that is usually missing from their lives.”

Ms. Goar ended her address by saying that there are many ways that people can help the poor, from assisting them with paperwork to attending rallies. She said church groups can launch a speaking tour among family members and friends to speak out and vote to send a message about the kind of province and country they want.

GROUP FIGHTS AGAINST ‘WAGE THEFT’

BY BOB BETTSON

A group that worked on a recent campaign to increase the minimum wage to $14 an hour is broadening its effort to legal protection for low wage workers in Ontario.

Beixi Liu, an organizer for the Workers Action Centre, outlined the group’s efforts to convince the provincial government to strengthen Bill 18, the “Stronger Workplaces for a Stronger Economy Act” which is being studied by the legislature.

Mr. Liu, speaking at a workshop at the Outreach Networking Conference, said stronger measures are needed to address “wage theft,” when workers don’t get paid for the work they do. Wage theft happens in a number of ways, he said, not paying overtime or vacation pay, issuing bad cheques, or denying access to CPP, EI, and workers’ health and safety compensation.

The Diocese of Toronto supported the drive to increase the minimum wage before the last election.

Many vestry meetings last winter approved the call for the increase from the previous rate of $10.25 to $14. However, the government increased the minimum wage to $11.

Mr. Liu said his group still believes that minimum wage increases are necessary. A participant in the workshop noted the minimum wage in Australia is $17, which is above the poverty line, so it can be done.

Now the group’s focus is on a comprehensive bill that addresses working conditions and protections for non-unionized workers. Mr. Liu said Bill 18 needs strengthening in a number of ways. Deadlines for reporting wage theft need to be increased to two years. Government for non-unionized workers.

Beixi Liu speaks about protecting non-unionized workers from unscrupulous employers. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Ms. Liu added that barriers that prevent temporary workers from being hired permanently need to be lowered. Also, documents outlining workers’ rights must be translated into other languages, for Ontario’s diverse workforce.

LOCAL PIPELINE FOR TAR SANDS OIL RAISES CONCERNS

BY BOB BETTSON

A pipeline that opened in 1975 to ship oil from Montreal to refineries in Sarnia has become a symbol of the potential dangers of climate change caused by the use of heavy oil from the Alberta Tar Sands.

Environmental activist Lyn Adamson told a workshop at the Outreach Networking Conference that Line 9 pipeline, which passes through southern Ontario, is set to carry three million barrels a day of heavy oil.

What worries environmental groups, local politicians and academics is that Enbridge, which is responsible for Line 9, has a record of 610 spills, including a massive oil spill in 2010 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, which was the largest in United States history.

The pipeline running through southern Ontario has about nine million people living within 15 km of it.

Participants viewed a film on the Line 9 controversy, which showed the efforts to stop the Enbridge plan, and how they have so far been ignored by governments and the petroleum industry. At this point, the pipeline change in direction, which will carry the tar sands oil from Sarnia to Montreal, is likely to be approved soon by the National Energy Board.

The Rev. Maggie Helwig, who is the priest-in-charge of St. George’s, Toronto, has been part of protests against Line 9, at times chaining herself to heavy equipment to stop work. She has been present at “integrity digs” to inspect the pipeline.

Ms. Adamson says Line 9 crosses every river that feeds into Lake Ontario, so an oil spill would be devastating. She says 18 First Nations within 50 km of the pipeline have not been consulted.

The Line 9 issue is also linked to tar sands. The heavy oil from the tar sands is more dangerous to ship, even by pipeline, and it is the same type of oil as was involved in the Lac Megantic train derailment which killed 47 people and spilled 9,000 cubic meters of water to produce one barrel of heavy oil, or bitumen, and carbon emissions are huge.

Ms. Adamson said it is easy to “throw up our hands,” consider the complexities of those in poverty. “But we have a prophetic mandate, because it is God’s creation we are talking about.”
New programs attract families

Christ Church, Stouffville has launched a new weekly family drop-in and sports program to draw younger parishioners. The idea arose when the Rev. Dawn Leger, the associate priest, organized a poll with the aim of getting younger families and singles together.

“Mostly I was hoping that these very busy folks would just have a chance to connect with one another,” she says. Instead, they began discussing what they could contribute to Christ Church and developed the Family Initiative, which subsequently received a Reach Grant from the diocese.

The sports program offers participants a way to meet new people, make new friendships and stay active. Initially, badminton and floor hockey will be offered to those 16 and older in the church’s Great Hall one night a week. The church hopes to expand the program to include basketball and volleyball.

At the same time, a family drop-in on Tuesday nights offers activities for the entire family. Plans include crafts nights, sports nights, movie nights. Parishioner Shawn May, one of the organizers, says of the family program, “I’m looking for a low-cost regular activity that we can all do together, rather than having us all segmented off into individual activities.”

Church celebrates 30th anniversary

For Bishop Phillip Poole, it was a special homecoming when he celebrated and preached at the 30th anniversary celebration of Christ Church Stouffville. The former rector of Christ Church Stouffville has continued into the present, he said, and is seen in the many ways that Christ Church ministers to the community and those in need.

Following the service, there was a luncheon for the almost 200 guests, with speeches from former church members as well as Bishop Poole.

Parishioner honoured for food bank deliveries

Bishop Peter Fenty, area bishop of York-Simcoe, presented Peter Paterson of Holy Trinity, Thornhill with a special certificate of recognition in May. The previous month, Mr. Paterson had made his 500th food bank delivery since 1996 on behalf of the church. Past recipients of the special certificate have included St. Peter’s Food Bank (closed 2009), All Saints Church Community Kitchen and Hill Food Bank and Eva’s Place. Parishioners continue to support food bank, \( \text{Mission to the Seafarers.} \)

Bishop Philip Poole, area bishop of York-Credit Valley, delivers his sermon at the 30th anniversary of Christ Church, Stouffville’s current worship space. At right, family and friends enjoy food after the service. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

“Holy Honey” for tasting. To learn more about Bee Rescue visit toronto-bee-rescue.ca.

The service proceeded to the accompaniment of piano and frantic bees. “A novel way to fill the front pews,” said the Rev. Susan Haig, priest-in-charge. “God works in mysterious ways.”

Honey bees are in drastic decline in North America. A combination of harsher winters and the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is creating worrisome talk of colony collapse. But St. Theodore’s has two healthy hives, in the east gable and the west gable. They headed for the light of the west window, trying to reach the park beyond.

Discretion being the better part of valour, the organist and choir joined the congregation below, all scrambling to occupy the front pews furthest from the visitors. The service proceeded to the acclamation of piano and frantic bees.

“A novel way to fill the front pews,” said the Rev. Susan Haig, priest-in-charge. “God works in mysterious ways.”

Honey bees are in drastic decline in North America. A combination of harsher winters and the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is creating worrisome talk of colony collapse. But St. Theodore’s has two healthy hives, in the east gable and the west gable.

This tale has a satisfying ending thanks to three remarkable organizations. The congregation of St. Theodore’s refused to consider extermination as an option, even when extermination appeared to be the only option. Peter Chorabi of BeeRescue safely removed the queen and workers from the main hive and continued into the present, he said, and is seen in the many ways that Christ Church ministers to the community and those in need.

Following the service, there was a luncheon for the almost 200 guests, with speeches from former church members as well as Bishop Poole.

Parishioner honoured for food bank deliveries

Bishop Peter Fenty, area bishop of York-Simcoe, presented Peter Paterson of Holy Trinity, Thornhill with a special certificate of recognition in May. The previous month, Mr. Paterson had made his 500th food bank delivery since 1996 on behalf of the church. Past recipients of the special certificate have included St. Peter’s Food Bank (closed 2009), All Saints Church Community Kitchen and Hill Food Bank and Eva’s Place. Parishioners continue to support food bank, Mission to the Seafarers. The shelter, which was founded in 1990 by St. Simon the Apostle’s parishioners, young and old, St. Christopher, Richmond Hill held a Community Fun Day this summer. More than 100 people from the neighbourhood turned out to enjoy the fun and games, which included a colourful inflated slide, face painting and yard and bake sales. Many participants asked about faith, church and mission, said the Rev. Philip Der, incumbent.

The Rev. Judith Alltree from the Mission to Seafarers was also on hand, greeting people and chatting with them about her work.

With the help of more than 50 parishioners, young and old, St. Christopher’s raised about 200 pounds of food and $2,800 for the Richmond Hill Food Bank and the Mission to the Seafarers.

Church’s fun day supports food bank, mission

Bee invasion ends sweetly

The May 29 Ascension Day service buzzed at St. Theodore of Canterbury, a small church in Toronto’s north end, as hundreds of honey bees invaded the organ loft. A hive that had been quietly building in the wooden soffits of the east gable had split and the new queen had mistakenly led her swarm of workers into the church. The installed light of the west window, trying to reach the park beyond.

“Holy Honey” for tasting. To learn more about Bee Rescue visit toronto-bee-rescue.ca.

The service proceeded to the acclamation of piano and frantic bees. “A novel way to fill the front pews,” said the Rev. Susan Haig, priest-in-charge. “God works in mysterious ways.”

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has also transitioned more than 700 residents into housing.

Tickets for the fundraiser are $25. For more information, contact Bob Duff at bobduff@bell-net.ca.

Market brings food, fun to neighbourhood

This summer, the Church of the Messiah partnered with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the residents of 250 Davenport housing development, and FoodShare to establish a weekly Good Neighbours Food Market to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to an under-served part of Toronto.

Access to fresh food can be difficult in well-off parts of the city, such as the Halcyone neighbourhood just south of Messiah, because high rents push affordable food retailers away and poorer residents lack cars to reach them.

The Good Neighbours’ Food Market brings fresh produce and other goods to the residents in a farmers’ market setting. Every Wednesday volunteers sell the produce under a large tent on the lawn in front of 250 Davenport at below-market prices.

The church also hands out a weekly newsletter at the market that includes recipes and articles about faith, housing policy and other items of interest to local residents. Face painting for kids, live music and pot-luck dinners are also frequent activities there.

The objectives of the market go beyond just making affordable food accessible. The Rev. Tay Moss, incumbent of the Messiah, says there is a growing gap between rich and poor in the neighbourhood and the market brings people together and helps to break down social isolation.

“The intention is use the market as a platform for building up community,” he says. “We want to add a community meal, cooking demonstrations, movie nights, social service tents and other programs based on the needs of our community.”

The hope is that as needs are met and community is formed, spiritual communities will also flourish. The market start-up costs were funded by a Reach Grant from the diocese, as well as by the parish.

Program nurtures young leaders

Photography, videography, community building and advertising were a few of the skills that a group of young people learned at the Church of the Messiah, Toronto, this summer. The youth mentorship program, known as CR-CUT (connect, interact, reflect, create, understand, imagine, how) was an experiment to see how the church could build relationships with local youth by teaching them useful skills to run a Vacation Bible School with younger children.

The church hired seminarian Elizabeth Aine Achimah to develop and run the program, which was funded by a diocesan Reach Grant. The goal was to recruit and train young people who would then use their skills to help run the day camp.

What the church did not expect was just how important the program would be for those who participated, many of whom had behaviourial, mental illness and intellectual challenges.

“We have had ample opportunities to come alongside these youth and help steer them into a life-giving path,” says Ms. Achimah.

The young people initiated several attended Morning Prayer before the day’s activities began. “It’s pretty cool — and isn’t always something that comes up this early in a program with unchurched teens,” says Ms. Achimah.

The program wrapped up with an open-mic style talent show and pot-luck dinner.

Local students helped with education

For the third consecutive year, All Saints, Whitby awarded scholarships of $1,000 each to two local young people, Hayleah Sytnyk and Maya Deen. The recipients and their friends and families joined members of the parish in June for the annual family barbecue and service. As in previous years, the church raised the money through their coin jars and two fundraisers.

Film festival challenges audiences

The St. Hilary’s International Film Festival (SHIFF) was held over three nights in September, each with a different focus. On Friday night, the festival screened a collection of films submitted by youth under 19 from across Canada and other countries around the world. These shorts films covered a wide range of topics, each of them offering insights into current youth culture. Each film sparked conversation not only about the topic covered, but about the way it was addressed and conceptualized in the form of film. This was the first time that the festival had held a youth-focused film night, held in collaboration with The Dam and Reel Youth.

Friday night featured two short films from two graduates of Glen Forrest Secondary School in Mississauga, Julie Do and Donna Liu. As well, attendees watch a short film, “Use Your Power”, and then were encouraged to write to the authorities to free Canadian citizen Saeed Malekpour, who is held in an Iranian prison. There was also two professionally produced films: “Laundry Day,” by Vancouver brothers Jeremy and Michael Stewart, and “The Lady in Number Six.” The latter won an Academy Award this year for Best Documentary Short Subject. It is a moving film about the world’s oldest pianist and oldest Holocaust survivor, Alice Hertz Sommer. Until her death at 110 years old, Alice never tired of saying “Music saved my life, and music saves me still.”

On Saturday night, the festival partnered with AWA (African Women Acting) to include an African food fair, a performance from Afro-Jazz singer Sonia Ainy, and the screening of the Calgary-made film “Treacherous Heart” by Kathryn Fastega. It is the story of a Nigerian family immigrating to Canada and some of the cultural challenges they encounter.

SHIFF grew from an idea to a community cinema experience that is educational and entertaining, with a social edge,” said the Rev. Paul Walker, incumbent. “We had people gathered together in a church who usually would not come on a Sunday morning. As one film producer said, “I never thought I’d find myself back in a church.” People became engaged in conversation with filmmakers, directors, and one another on human issues after sharing the common experience of going out to the movies.”

A colour party from the Orangeville Royal Canadian Legion opened a memorial eucharist at St. John, Orangeville on Aug. 10. The service commemorated those who died in the First World War, including three members of the parish.

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Children in the Vacation Bible School at St. Andrew, Alliston this summer make animal faces as part of their “Weird Animals” program. Joining them are the Rev. Kim McArthur, incumbent, and Bishop Peter Fenty.
Worship and Music

NOV. 9 - Marzani Vespers for All Souls Day, 4 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, featuring Jorge Lopez and Mexico Amigio Band.

NOV. 10 - City Flutes in Autumn at St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto. Choral Even- sing at 7:30 p.m., featuring Piano King Tea. At 5:30 p.m., Toronto City Flutes, directed by Lana Chou 161 Queen St. W. Call 416-865-7637.


NOV. 15 - Special concert, 7:30 p.m., at St. James Cathedral featuring Andrew Ager’s Symphony No. 2, “The Unknown Soldier.”

Christmas Bazaars

NOV. 1 - Christmas Bazaar at St. Nicholas, 1512 Kingston Rd., from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Annual Christmas bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Holy Family, Heart Lake, Bram- ton. Concerts and craft market.

NOV. 21 - Annual Christmas Bazaar at Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham, Antiques, collectibles, knitting, sewing presents, Marketing, and Luncheon. Call will be reported at 929-3184.

NOV. 8 - Christmas Fair featuring crafts, kitchen items and silent auction, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Cuth- bert, Leaside, 1198 Bayview Ave. Call for ticket information.

NOV. 8 - Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of Our Saviour, 135 Glenlake Ave., Don Mills. Baking, knitted items and crafts. Call 416-449-5879.

NOV. 8 - Craft Sale and Bazaar at St. Peter, Erincliffe, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Knitted goods, Christmas crafts and decorations. Free admission. Non-perishable food donations for the Deacon’s Cupboard.

NOV. 8 - Christmas Bazaar at Christ Church, Scarborough Vil- lage, 13110 Lawrence Ave. from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baking, needlework, silent auction and hand-made crafts.

NOV. 8 - Annual Snowflake Bazaar and Luncheon, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John, 16390 4th Line Rd., Bow- manville. Bake sale, crafts, attic treasures. Lunch served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 416-429-4601.

NOV. 15 - Christmas Craft Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Olave, 33 Overland Blvd., Toronto. Shop for unique hand-made crafts by GTA artists.

Entrance proceeds directed to downtown homeless. Call 416-553-7637.

NOV. 15 - Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Leonard, 519 Wansley Ave. Toronto. Silent auction, attic treasures, baking and more. Call 416-845-7278.

NOV. 15 - Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Peter, 776 Brimley Rd., Scarborough. Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bake table, Christmas crafts and Crafts table rental $25. Call Lottie, 416-733-7909, or the church, 416-364-7865 ext. 233.

NOV. 15 - Country Craft Bazaar, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Paul, Innis- fil, Yonge St. and Mapleview Dr., Barrie. Knitted and sewn items, children’s gift shop for men and dad, photos with Santa. Call 705-722-7755.


NOV. 22 - Christmas Fair, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Christmas Bazaar at St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Law- son Rd., Scarborough, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafts, gently used china and DVDs. Santa in attendance. Information: 416-280-1944.

NOV. 22 - Holly Berry Bazaar, St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Law- son Rd., Scarborough, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafts, gently used china and DVDs. Santa in attendance. Information: 416-280-1944.

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NOV. 22 - The Belles of St. Timo- thy. Agincourt, 4152 Sheppard Ave. E., ringing in Christmas from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Timothy Mouse Christmas store features unique crafts, fashion and kitchen accessories. Free admission. Elevator. Lunch tickets $10 at the door. Call 416-280-1944.

NOV. 22 - Karen Phair from the Alzheimer Society of Peel will discuss Alzheimers and aging, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Peter, Erincliffe, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga. Call 905-361-2000.

SPECIAL DAY

Lyne Samways-Hiltz (left) is received as an oblate during a Eucharist marking the 130th anniversary of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, Toronto, on Sept. 8. Mervat Iskander (right) is renewing her oblate prom- ises. Sr. Jessica, who is the Oblate Director of the SSJD, looks on with Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate. Arch- bishop Hiltz’s sermon is on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nbq1OsseZI0. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SSJD
T he third section of the Tanakh (the Hebrew Bible) is called the Ketu- sim or “the Writings.” This was the last section to be added to the Jewish canon of scripture and has the most varied collection of genres. The author- ship of these books has been questioned over the years, with few definitive answers. Some of these writings date from the second century BCE. The Book of Daniel, on the other hand, was written much more recently, probably dating to the second century BCE. The Writings include three books of Psalms, Job, Ecclesiastes, and Esther. Last month, we looked at one of those books, Job. It is to the other two books, Ecclesiastes and Esther, I would like to turn today. With Job, they form the Wisdom part of the Tanakh. All three books are very different, written from distinctly different world- views.

The Wisdom tradition was international, with most of the tribes and nations in the Near East possessing their own Wisdom writings. These books usually outline how to live a good, well, based on the experiences of the authors. Thousands of proverbs have been discovered in the Ancient Near East, containing guidance for living well and the prospering. Wisdom literature had little connection to the other major themes or the great formative historical memories in scripture. There is no mention of covenant, the Promised Land, the temple, the ancients, the Exo- dus. Last month, in looking at the Book of Job, we saw that bad things happen to good people, and punishment is not always the result of living unrighteously. God doesn’t seem to have an understand- able moral order in life. Finally, we saw God telling Job that, as he was unable to understand the order of nature, he could not lim- it God by deciding how God would be rewarded and prosper.

The basic premise of this book is that good behavior is rewarded to a good life, and if one behaves in a particular way he or she will be rewarded and prosper. The Book of Proverbs is a se- ries of sayings of a father to his son about the skills necessary in living well. If you expect to suc- cess in life, you do so in a certain way. Proverbs is a set of skills for living a good life. Thus the message of Ecclesiastes is very different from the Book of Job. The son of King David, who was the last king of the united king- dom in Palestine, it would have been written in his old age. After his death, the kingdom of Israel divided into two parts. If this book originated with Solomon, it has undergone much revision and rewriting at the hands of the scribes and redactors, especially in the third and second centuries BCE.

Ecclesiastes appears in a sec- tion called the Book of the Five Scrolls, containing five short sto- ries that are read at the five ma- jor festivals in the Jewish Year. Ecclesiastes is the fourth book and is read at Sukkot, the festi- vale of the late harvest or in the late fall or the early winter.

The message of Ecclesiastes is simple: “There is nothing new under the sun” (though the word “vanity of vanities, all is vanity” (1:2 and 12:9). All is vanity is like chasing after the wind. There is no lasting value found in Ecclesiastes. You can’t catch it. It will always evade you. Nor can you understand what it all about. (Remember, this was written 3,000 years ago!) Thus, for the author of Ecclesiastes, “all is vanity.” Life really has no meaning; it is irrelevant and empty. Why do we do use as a form of therapy. But the author of Ecclesiastes ends with the statement, “Fear God and keep His command- ments, for that is the duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every secret thing whether good or evil” (12:13-14).

Actually, this epilogue may have made possible for this book to be included in the canon of scripture. It does suggest a di- chotomy in Ecclesiastes. Al- though life is meaningless, ne- vertheless we need to be obedient to God in all things to live a good life. Thus the message of Ecclesiastes is that life is meaningless, but we need to be obedient to God in all things to live a good life.

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BRIEFLY
Former ACW president turns 100
The diocesan Anglican Church Women’s second president, Winifred Goodaire, celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 13. The Goodaire family were members of St. Clement, Eglinton, for about 50 years. Ms. Goodaire started the ACW at St. Clement’s and was its first president, before becoming president of the diocesan ACW. She was instrumental in starting the College of Preachers, held at St. Clement’s.

Day explores contemplative life
A day for those interested in a contemplative approach to life and prayer will be held on Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at St. James Cathedral. The day will explore the contemplative approach to life through presentations, group discussion, and time for prayer. For more information, contact info@contemplativefire.ca.

Nominations invited for Order
Nominations are invited for the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. In 2014, every parish in the following deaneries is eligible to submit one nomination: Mississauga, Eglinton, Huronia, and Tecumseth. Nomination forms should be sent to your following deaneries by Nov. 21. Awards will be presented at the Archbishop’s levee on Jan. 1, 2015, at St. James Cathedral. For nomination information, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Decree on ecumenism celebrated at cathedral
“Pilgrims Together,” an event celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s decree on ecumenism, will be held Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, the corner of Church and King streets, Toronto. There will be a liturgical celebration followed by guest speakers and a time of fellowship. The guest speaker will be Dr. Michael Attridge of St. Michael’s College, Toronto, and the Rev. Dr. Alan Hayes of Wycliffe College, Toronto. All are invited.

Reading the Bible
The Rev. Canon Don Bentley is an honorary assistant at St. Luke, Dixie South, Mississauga.

An Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols
Sunday, November 30 at 4:30pm
Sung by the Cathedral Choir
One of the most beautiful liturgies in the Anglican tradition

Parish News
First try is successful
For the first time, St. Olave, Toronto, decided to participate in Back to Church Sunday, which was held on Sept. 28. The church made use of the free invitations provided by the diocese and added labels to them, giving the service time and church address. The invitations were to be handed out by parishioners. Invitations were placed in the church bulletin in the two weeks prior to the day, and the Rev. David Burrows, incumbent, and Janice Douglas, a churchwarden, made sales pitch-es each week at the beginning of the services. “We emphasized that the goal was to take the risk of asking someone and not to feel bad if that person can’t come,” said Ms. Douglas. “For my own part, the task of inviting someone encouraged me to finally invite a neighbor, who wasn’t able to come but now knows that the door is open.” Mr. Burrows also sent an email to parishioners on the Thursday before the Sunday, noting that if they couldn’t invite anyone, they could be welcoming. On the actual day, the church printed its entire service in the bulletin to make it easier for visitors to follow. At least a half a dozen new faces showed up on Sunday morning, including two young people.

The sixth annual reading of A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. at St. Theodore of Canterbury. Tickets $10 at the door. All proceeds benefit North York Harvest Food Bank. Call 416-222-2461.

Wigmore Bursary
The Rev. Dr. George Sumner, principal of Wycliffe College, at 10:30 a.m. Special guests will be Marena (Wigmore) Char- ron and recipients of the Rev. Dr. Y.D. Wigmore Bursary. Information: 416-769-5866.