Time to be very present

It has been a year of comings and goings in my family. Just before Easter, we welcomed a new granddaughter into our family. Baby Verity was born on the Tuesday in Holy Week. What a gift she is! Karen and I fell in love with her immediately. What a gift she is! Karen and I were together on the Tuesday in Holy Week.

As an aside, I invite you to reflect on exactly how you live out that vow. So Verity is now a part of the great Christian family, who were by his side when Jesus was raised in a family – a family of faith – and would be schooled in the Jewish traditions. He would learn to pray and to participate in the worship of God. In his family, he learned what mattered and reflected that in his adult life.

Christmas has become a kind of once-a-year “time out” in the midst of frenetically busy lives,

Continued on Page 6

The Divine relied on the human! Jesus would be raised in a family – a family of faith – and would be schooled in the Jewish traditions. He would learn to pray and to participate in the worship of God. In his family, he learned what mattered and reflected that in his adult life.

Christmas has become a kind of once-a-year “time out” in the midst of frenetically busy lives,

Continued on Page 6
Syrian priest describes war in homeland

Christians will ‘vanish’ if violence continues

BY STUART MANN

WESTERN nations have helped to keep the people of Syria start talking about peace or face an endless stream of extremism flowing out of the Middle East.

That was one of the messages from an impassioned talk by Fr. Nadim Nassar, an Anglican priest from Syria who was speaking about the plight of Christians in the Middle East at St. James Cathedral on Oct. 30.

Fr. Nassar, who is based in London and is head of The Awareness Foundation, was in Syria the previous week and said the destruction and violence in his homeland is indescribable.

“My country is bleeding to death,” he said. “The violence and cruelty and monstrosity of it is beyond imagination. The despair and lack of hope, for both Muslims and Christians, is heart-stopping.”

Fr. Nassar was interviewed by Mark Kelley of CBC’s The Fifth Estate in front of a crowd of about 130 in Snell Hall. The event, held over the lunch hour, gave people a chance to hear about the war in Syria and to donate to The Awareness Foundation, an international Christian charity that provides programs of peace and reconciliation for young people in the Middle East.

Fr. Nassar said there is no future for Christians or any other religious minorities in Syria as long as nations continue to arm the warring factions and try to use force to stop groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).

He said the violence is dividing the Middle East into sectarian nations, which will eventually squeeze out Christians and other religious minorities. This would be a disaster, he said, not only for the minorities but for the entire region.

“If it continues like this, all the minorities will vanish,” he said. “We don’t want to empty the Middle East of Christians and other minorities. Minorities are the glue that holds the Middle East together.” He reminded the audience that St. Paul had his conversion on the road to Damascus, the capital of Syria.

He had strong words for governments that are trying to stop groups such as ISIS with force.

“ISIS cannot be defeated by force,” he said. “It can only be stopped by drying up the veins that feed it.”

In a question-and-answer session with the audience afterwards, he said ISIS has become such a powerful force in the region because governments in the Middle East are financing it. “Why is nobody asking who is supporting ISIS? All we hear is air strikes. Using air strikes to defeat ISIS is a joke. It won’t work. We need to stop the business of death now. No more ‘boots on the ground’. No more force.”

He said the only thing that will stop the bloodshed and the rise of extremism, both in the Middle East and the rest of the world, is a concerted effort on the part of the regional and world powers to establish peace in the area. “Why isn’t anybody talking about a peace process among Syrians?” he asked. “Until that happens, we will continue to see war and the export of extremism and fanaticism. I say shame on the politicians. You should not arm people. It is evil. As long at this happens, there will be no peace.”

He pleaded with Christians in Canada to take action to bring about peace in the Middle East. “Help us. Ask your politicians the difficult questions they don’t want to answer.” He also asked the audience to financially support The Awareness Foundation. “We’re trying to rebuild trust in the region. If you want to be a light in the world, support us. We need help to run programs for young people and children that will bring hope back into their lives.”
Laity to learn about planting new churches

Special day helps Anglicans share Gospel

BY CAROLYN PURDEN

ANGELICAN lay people will soon have a chance to gain some hands-on practice at planting churches.

The opportunity will arise at the Vital Church Planting Conference, to be held at St. Paul, Bloor Street from Jan. 29 to 31. The last day of the conference – a Saturday – is specially designated for teams of laity.

Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Toronto and the Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism, the conference offers an exploration of fresh expressions of church and church planting.

If anyone looks at the changing culture and feels helpless or confused and wonders about the future of the church, they will find this conference encouraging and educational, says the Rev. Ryan Sim, one of the organizers.

“They will learn about exciting things that are happening in Canada to reach new people, and they will learn some of the steps that have brought about those new forms of church,” he says.

In previous years, the conference looked to the United Kingdom for inspiration, since the Fresh Expression movement began there. However, this year there is a change.

“Enough is happening in Canada in terms of fresh expressions of church and people pioneering new forms of ministry to reach new people that we can have an entirely Canadian focus,” says Mr. Sim, who is the priest-in-charge of Redeemer, Ajax, and a church planter himself.

The conference will showcase a variety of fresh expressions of church, new church plants and other pioneering forms of ministry that are happening across Canada. It will include plenary sessions and workshops.

Providing education and support to lay people is important because many fresh expressions of church bubble up from the grassroots and are led and sustained by lay people.

The cost is $15.00. Proceeds from the sale of cards will benefit FaithWorks Ministry Partners, providing life-saving support to those in need throughout our Diocese and around the world.

The staff and volunteers at The Anglican wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.
Voice of Jays shares faith

Fundraiser assists clergy, families in need

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

MORE than 200 guests from York-Credit Valley and beyond gath-
ered on Nov. 4 to support clergy and their families in times of need. The York-Credit Valley Bishop’s Company Dinner, held at the Mis-
sasiauga Grand Banquet & Con-
vention Centre, featured a delici-
cious meal, a silent auction and a
Bishop’s Company Fund.

Jerry Howarth, long-time radio
broadcaster for the Toronto Blue
Jays and a parishioner of St.
Philip, Etobicoke, gave the
keynote address. Mr. Howarth
spoke about his spiritual journey,
including the many people who
have shaped his life as a Christian.
Among them was Gary Lavelle,
a born-again Christian and pitch-
er for the Blue Jays in 1985.

“When I heard Gary speak so lov-
ingly and personally and so gen-
uninely about his love for Jesus
Christ, I began to tune in,” said
Mr. Howarth, who grew up in a
Catholic household.

At Mr. Lavelle’s suggestion, Mr.
Howarth bought a Bible and be-
gan to read one Proverb each day.

“The seed was planted. I didn’t
know where it was going, but I
liked that relationship with Christ
that Gary had,” said Mr. Howarth.

Mr. Howarth also spoke about
his favourite biblical verse, Ro-
mana 3:23: “since all have sinned
and fall short of the glory of God.”

“We all fall short of the glory
of God,” he said. “I do every day.
But in the big picture, the seeds
have been planted, and I try to
love, praise and serve the Lord with
my life, my career, the friends that
I have right here, the people that
I’m talking to right now. That’s
my journey.”

The Rev. Canon Allan Budzini,
inhabitant of St. Philip, Etobicoke,
included Mr. Howarth, his
friend of many years. “Not many
folks know that throughout the
season, Jerry offers each broad-
cast not only to the Blue Jays fans,
but also to God. Jerry Howarth is
a man who practices his Christian
faith with as much dedication as
he practices his craft,” said Canon
Budzini.

Jerry Howarth, the radio broad-
caster for the Toronto Blue Jays,
speaks about his faith journey at
the York-Credit Valley Bishop’s
Company Dinner. Above left, guests
enjoy the evening’s speeches. At right, members of the
Church of South India choir sing. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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My brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 reminds us that we are accountable for how we use God’s bountiful gifts entrusted to us. Just as the servants in the parable were apportioned treasure – some more than others – so we too have been gifted with resources to carry out the work of the Master. We use these “talents” to invest in growing the Kingdom. All we do should focus us missionally as individuals, as parishes and as a diocese – increasing our capacity to respond as vibrant partners with God’s creative activity in the world. Some of it will be direct mission and some of it will provide the essential infrastructure through which mission is enabled.

I am delighted to be able to provide this special financial update in The Anglican – a “reckoning” to the people of the Diocese of Toronto – to serve as a narrative mid-term accounting between Synods. I think you will be as moved and delighted as I am by what we as a Church are doing with our resources – our gifts from God’s hand. I hope you find, as you read through the various activities of our diocesan departments that support our diocesan ministry, that we are truly engaged in Christ’s mission through Compassionate Service, Intelligent Faith and Godly Worship.

The four strategic areas of focus in the Diocese of Toronto are: Strengthening Local Parishes; Building the Church for Tomorrow; Revitalizing Our Inheritance; and Giving to Others. As a diocese, we celebrate the best of our tradition in providing both a framework and the tools needed to build our future in faith – a Church where God is worshipped, people are cared for and justice is proclaimed.

I encourage you to read the following pages with grateful hearts. We know that much is expected of us who have received much (Luke 12:48). I pray that we will continue to be faithful stewards of God’s goodness, through faithful ministry and the proclamation of Good News of life in Christ, to every corner of our diocese.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto
EXPENDITURES
$7,948,039

All funds received from parish allotment and other sources of income are subsequently invested in the following categories: Leadership and Governance, Support for the Wider Church, Diocesan Departments and Ministries, and Episcopal Areas. Please read on for highlights about each of these important areas.

Episcopal Expenses and Episcopal Area Budgets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget 2014</th>
<th>Forecast 2014</th>
<th>Budget 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$2,045,216</td>
<td>$2,045,000</td>
<td>$2,076,228</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Diocesan Bishop and Suffragan (Area) Bishops of our diocese have a multi-faceted ministry: to proclaim the faith through teaching, including preaching and by example; to make provision for pastoral care and the sacramental life of the church; to provide oversight of the mission of the church within the diocese; to defend the vulnerable in society; and to participate in the leadership of the whole church.

A core component of the diocesan budget is the support of episcopal ministry and associated staffing for the benefit of the whole diocesan family. There are 10.7 staff positions in this area, which includes the bishops and their assistants, and the area youth coordinators. The budget also includes support for the Bishop’s Committees, travel and office costs, the expenses of the regional deans and their meetings, and leadership development. Regional deans receive a small honorarium and travel allowance, as do the Ecumenical Officer and the Interfaith Officer.

Some of the important diocesan events of the year include the Pre-Lenten Day for clergy and lay workers, the Archbishop’s Levee at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1, and the presentation of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, also held at the levee.

In addition to amounts budgeted for operating the episcopal areas, each area bishop and their area council is allocated an amount to be spent on area ministry and initiatives. In 2014, these initiatives included ministry to youth, Christian education and formation, and new forms of communication.

The diocese is committed to the development and support of its clergy. To do this, it provides training and mentoring, including professional development and conferences, assistance with grants and relocation, and support during a crisis. The diocese has a mandate to provide clergy to parishes, and it does that by providing grants to theological students, mentoring postulants and curates, providing grants to parishes for curacy placements, and providing training and development programs for newly ordained priests. As well, the Postulancy Committee engages in the selection and formation of new vocations to the priesthood. There are 1.5 staff positions in this area. This comprises part of the staff time for both the Diocesan Bishop’s office and for the Human Resources staff.

Developing and Supporting Clerical Leadership

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget 2014</th>
<th>Forecast 2014</th>
<th>Budget 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1,007,458</td>
<td>$832,000</td>
<td>$946,458</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The staff at the Diocesan Centre serve the diocese in four ways: by providing support to the Diocesan Bishop and Area Bishops for the leadership of the diocese; by carrying out administrative and corporate functions as may be required by Synod, Diocesan Council or the bishops; by overseeing corporate compliance and government reporting; and by providing services to parishes and other ministries. It is through the collective and mutually supportive effort of councils, boards, committees, the College of Bishops, staff and many volunteers that the priorities of the diocese are brought to life and the needs of the diocese are fulfilled.

Much of the work of the Diocesan Centre is carried out under the leadership of the CAO (chief administrative officer) and Secretary of Synod. There are 2 staff positions in this area. The CAO reports to the Diocesan Bishop and has oversight of the Diocesan Centre.

One of the most important tasks of the CAO Office is to convene and support sessions of Synod, meetings of the Executive Board, the Trusts Committee and Diocesan Council. Regular Sessions of Synod are held every two years. Although there is no Synod meeting planned for 2014, there are plans to hold Synod forums in the spring of 2015 to discuss significant proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons that will effect Synod membership and mandatory retirement. The next Regular Session of Synod will be held in November 2015.

As a not-for-profit corporation, Synod is our corporate governing body made up of all the licensed clergy, lay members from all congregations, bishop’s and youth appointees, ex-officio members and the bishop. It is at Synod that members determine, at a high level, the priorities for Diocesan Council and its boards and committees, and refocuses the mission of the church throughout the diocese. Synod gatherings are a time of worship, inspiration and education, as well as a forum for affirming the direction of our ministry together.

CAO Office and Synod

Budget 2014 | Forecast 2014 | Budget 2015
$358,011    | $340,200      | $428,502

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Diocesan Centre Operations, which includes Finance, Payroll, Office Services, Facilities and Archives, provides a number of essential services to the diocese and parishes, including the administration of the payroll for all parish clergy, the administration of parish accounts and trusts, the management of the diocese’s finances and investments, and management of the diocese’s Archives. In addition, it provides information systems and technology, custodial support and staffing for the maintenance of the Diocesan Centre, including its offices, meetings rooms and grounds. There are 7.7 staff positions in this area.

As well as overall support offered to diocesan staff and committees, the teams strive to strengthen local parishes by offering advice and support on financial and risk mitigation issues. In addition, the staff in Archives is responsible for maintaining the central files of the diocese and the archival records of the diocese and parishes. Archives are unique, original records that have a continuing and permanent value – for example, to fulfill legal requirements or for informational or evidential value. The Archives, located in the Diocesan Centre, is the official repository for the records of Synod, its officials, clergy, parishes and organizations. The facility provides safe, secure, and controlled storage for non-current parish records as well as historical records of the diocese and parishes. These records are available for personal review in the reading room during our open hours for the public, or by consulting the staff.

Support for the Wider Church

The diocese supports the work of the Primate, General Synod and its staff and committees. In addition to funding, the diocese supports General Synod through the work of our bishops, staff and volunteers for General Synod committees, working groups and the Council of General Synod. They provide expertise in such areas as pensions, investments, communications, stewardship, and doctrine and worship. The diocese has also undertaken to contribute a tithe of 10% of all contributions to the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF). Since tithe MAF receipts in 2009, the diocese has made tithes totaling $1,014,231, in additional contributions to the wider church. The diocese also supports the work of Provincial Synod in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. This includes our diocese’s contribution to the Metropolitan’s office and grants to the Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education.

Human Resources

The Human Resources department is responsible for hiring, performance management, compensation and benefits, leaves of absence, endings, professional development, clergy wellness, health and safety, screening, and the Sexual Misconduct Policy, including training lay and clerical leadership. There are 1.25 staff positions in this area. The Human Resources team works not only with congregational leaders but also the College of Bishops and other Diocesan Centre staff in addressing congregations’ concerns. The diocese’s mandate to provide a safe, supportive environment for all members of our communities led to the development of two policies: the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith. The budget also provides for expenses related to ongoing support of these policies, including the salaries for the Canon Pastor and Assistant to the Canon Pastor. Additional work carried out by Human Resources includes workshops, one-on-one contact with parishes, the delivery of resources and information through the diocese’s website, working with the Postulancy Committee and screening new postulants.

Congregational Development

The Congregational Development team provides support and resources to congregations in the midst of change and growth. In addition, volunteers are recruited and are active in various ways to respond to congregational needs. Staff and volunteers work not only with congregational leaders but also the College of Bishops and other Diocesan Centre staff in addressing parish concerns. There are 4.25 staff positions in this area.

Through the work of Congregational Development, congregations have access to people who are trained and equipped in processes related to change and growth, including visioning, conflict resolution, benchmarking, strategic planning, demographic and community needs assessment and leadership development. Included in this area is support for the diocesan volunteer network, youth ministry, diversity initiatives, and the Area Resource Fund, which is available to the College of Bishops to support strategic parish initiatives.

Congregational Development is also active in NCD, Fresh Start, parish reconfiguration and parish selection committee facilitation. As well, Missional Transformation is a two-year program that helps parishes to learn to listen for missional opportunities in their neighbourhoods and to respond with experiments that seek to re-engage with their community in partnership with God.
Stewardship Development

**Budget 2014** $174,124  
**Forecast 2014** $174,000  
**Budget 2015** $177,488

The Stewardship Development team and volunteers are active in various ways to strengthen stewardship at all levels of the church. Key areas of work include the Our Faith-Our Hope campaign, the annual FaithWorks campaign, the Bishop’s Company and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. In addition, Growing Healthy Stewards is a unique program designed to engage parishes in a consistent process of education and invitation into a deeper understanding of discipleship. The program operates under the premise that all parishes have the capacity to be healthy and joyful worshiping communities. The results of this program among the participating parishes have been very positive. They include: increased PAG participation, increased giving of pledges, the development of annual narrative budgets, regular preaching on stewardship education, a commitment to increase volunteer recognition, and the promotion of legacy giving. In addition to these activities, the Stewardship Development team shares in initiatives with other dioceses to strengthen stewardship in Anglican churches across Canada. There are 2 staff positions in this area, comprising part of the staff time for the Stewardship Development team.

![Staff and volunteers from North House Shelter, North Durham, work on a community garden. North House is a FaithWorks partner. Photo by Michael Husson](image)

Chaplaincy

**Budget 2014** $307,077  
**Forecast 2014** $307,000  
**Budget 2015** $316,015

The diocese has a mandate to promote and advocate for Anglican chaplains. The Chaplaincy Committee supports chaplains in a variety of capacities, within a wide range of facilities across the diocese. There are 3 staff positions in this area, which includes 4 chaplaincies supported by the diocese, and the coordinator of Chaplaincy Services. The budget also provides for training for non-parochial ministries, advocacy regarding emergency response and resiliency planning, the support of parish nursing, lay pastoral visiting ministries and the work of the HIV Network.

![The Rev. Judith Alltree, executive director and chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers in Southern Ontario, stands with Andre Hamel on the bridge of a lake freighter in Toronto harbour. Photo by Michael Husson](image)

Communications

**Budget 2014** $278,753  
**Forecast 2014** $278,000  
**Budget 2015** $283,154

The Communications department proclaims the good news of our faith and supports the work of the clergy and laity through The Anglican, the website, social media and media relations. In 2014, the Communications team and volunteers began a number of important initiatives to equip clergy and laity for mission and ministry in the digital age: they optimized the website for mobile devices, led workshops on social media and websites, and launched the Parish Website Pilot Project, which equips strategic parishes with engaging, easy-to-use websites and effective social media strategies. There are 2 staff positions in this area.

![Clergy and parishioners of St. Anne, Toronto, advocate for a better world. Photo by Michael Husson](image)

Social Justice and Advocacy

**Budget 2014** $431,944  
**Forecast 2014** $432,000  
**Budget 2015** $434,762

The Social Justice and Advocacy department supports the work of outreach ministries, advocacy groups and those working to advance issues of social justice. The Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant works closely with the Bishop’s Office and with the Provincial Synod Office on advocacy initiatives. In addition, volunteers are active in carrying out work that addresses such urgent and important issues as homelessness, child poverty, and HIV/AIDS. The Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant works with a part-time Parish Outreach Facilitator in the York-Credit Valley episcopal area. Together with volunteers, they support the outreach and advocacy efforts of the diocese and parishes by developing workshops and training, providing resources and working with several volunteer committees to develop capacity around specific key issues. Another significant area of work is the annual Outreach Networking Conference. By supporting outreach ministries throughout the diocese and encouraging Anglicans to respond to inequality in our world, advocacy efforts directly address the diocesan priority to give to others. There is 1 staff position in this area. This budget includes the ministry of All Saints, Sherbourne Street.

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Property Support

**Budget 2014** $60,099  
**Forecast 2014** $89,000  
**Budget 2015** $63,159

Diocesan Council (on the recommendations of both the Trusts Committee and Executive Board) is responsible for the overall real estate planning processes, as well as for canonical and statutory oversight of all diocesan lands (including cemeteries) and buildings. This work is carried out on a day-to-day basis by staff in the Property Support department, in consultation with a variety of qualified professionals. There are 1.5 staff positions in this area. This broad scope of property and legal work also includes supporting parishes that undertake capital improvement projects, and with their real property matters. The department also works closely with the diocese’s treasurer & director of Finance, Marsh Canada Ltd. and Ecclesiastical Insurance in the management of the diocese’s insurance portfolio. The Property Support team also handles sales of surplus property, in addition to managing vacant land and a number of disestablished churches that are not surplus.

The mandate of the Property Support department, in relation to the diocese’s priorities, is to protect and maintain the value of real property assets and diocesan rights and interests, realize income from diocesan properties where possible, ensure good diocesan and parochial stewardship, and maximize proceeds of sale from surplus property. This is done in order to enable current and future parish and diocesan ministry.
Conference draws record crowd

A conference that helps Sunday school teachers develop discipleship in children drew a record attendance this year. More than 180 people, many from outside the Anglican tradition, gathered at St. John, York Mills in November for the Fourth Annual Children’s Ministry Conference.

The one-day conference, which is sponsored by the Centre for Excellence in Christian Education (CECE) and St. John’s, aims to give Sunday school teachers the tools and inspiration to develop discipleship among children.

This year’s gathering, entitled “Making It Easier to Serve,” started with a keynote presentation by Janie Robertson, who spoke on, “Making It Stick! Practices that Shape a Child’s Faith.” Archbishop Colin Johnson and Bishop Patrick Yu, the area bishop of York-Scarborough, also made remarks.

During the day, the teachers attended workshops on diverse topics, participated in worship led by Second Chance worship band, networked and socialized.

The conference also recognized excellence in volunteer children’s ministry through the Sladen Award. Archbishop Johnson presented the award to this year’s winners: Barbara Patterson from Christ Church St. James, Joyce Walton from St. Paul L’Amoreaux, and Tammy Delahay from St. Barnabas.

This year saw several new developments in the conference. For the first time, it was live-streamed in its entirety on YouTube. Although a few diocesan worship services have been live-streamed on the Internet in the past, this is the first time that a conference in the diocese has been broadcast in this way.

As well this year, conference organizers partnered with Tynsdel Seminary to bring in several new workshop presenters and broaden the Christian representation at the conference. As part of its mandate to equip children’s ministers, whenever possible CECE videotapes its workshops and makes them freely available on its website, www.theccece.org.

Next year’s conference, which will be held on Nov. 7, 2015, will feature a keynote address by the Rev. Stephanie Douglas Bowman, who will continue on the theme of faith formation at home and in the church.

Fair showcases outreach organizations

Holy Trinity, Thornhill held an Outreach Fair in October to inform parishioners about the organizations to which the parish contributes. Linda Robertson with the support of the outreach committee and the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, incumbent.

Participating in the fair were LOFT, Eva’s Place, Jessie’s, L’Arche Daybreak and Evergreen Hospice. Sleeping Children around the World was represented by Marilyn Olivares, who has delivered bed kits in the Philippines and Uganda. The Diocese of the Arctic was unable to send a representative, but did send information and books used in the diocese. The Out of the Cold and Christmas Assistance programs in the Thornhill community were also represented.

At the Sunday morning service preceding the fair, David Stevens, a retired engineer and executive member of the Pikangikum Working Group, spoke about work that the group is undertaking with a First Nations community. The Pikangikum Water Project is helping to bring clean running water to Pikangikum in northern Ontario. So far, it has brought water to 13 of the 450 homes in the village. The project is also training some community members to do plumbing and electrical work so that they can maintain the system and perhaps get jobs working in other communities.

“The intention is not to give the villages a hand out, but to give them a hand up,” said Mr. Stevens. He supplemented his presentation with a slide show of some of the work being done.
To submit items for Looking Ahead, please contact editorial@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 3. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese’s website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Worship and Music

NOV. 30 - A Procession with Reading, music and children’s service, St. Peter, Erindale, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga. Featuring the music of Mozart, Britten, Bruckner and Goldschmidt, with the parish choir.

DEC. 6 - Voices Chamber Choir presents An English Christmas, featuring music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 8 p.m., St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets at the door: $20 adults, $15 seniors/students.

DEC. 7 - St. Martin-in-the-Fields annual Advent Carvel Service at 7:30 p.m. The choir presents the music of Chilcott, Paul Edwards, James MacMillan and more. Directed by Jack Hatley, with Tom Pitchles, organ, and Nancy Nourse, flute. Free-will offering. Reception follows. St. Martin’s is located at 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Wheelchair accessible.

DEC. 7 - Peterborough Community Carol Sing, 2.30 p.m., at the Salvation Army Temple, Peterborough. Special offering for the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund.

DEC. 7 - Christmas Sing and King Collective Concert at 3 p.m., St. John’s, Don Ridge Dr., Toronto, from 3 to 4 p.m. Handbells join the hand and choir for a family-friendly concert. Free-will offering in support of Anglican Missions and World Relief.

DEC. 7 - St. Anne, Toronto, presents Cantata: A Neighbourhood Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. in support of the Youth Scholarship Program of the Division 14 Commission. Featuring St. Anne’s choir, The Junction Trio, and other guests. The program includes Christmas classics from Williams’ classic Fantasia on Christmas Carols, excerpts from Handel’s Messiah and other Christmas favourites, along with a carol-sing. Tickets are $15 at the door.

DEC. 8 - Annual Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m., presented by the choir of St. John, Craigbiirth, 1311 Penetangushene Rd, Craigbiirth. The concert will end with Even-song. Free-will offering. Refreshments afterwards.

DEC. 9 - Christmas Cantata “Appalaged” featuring the combined choirs of Grace Church, Scarborough and The Basin. At 10 p.m. at Grace Church, Scarborough, 706 Kennedy Rd. Tickets $20 for adults, $10 for children 12 and under. Tickets available at the door or call 416-755-5116.


DEC. 14 - Annual Community Carol Sing, 7:30 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 50 Lawson Rd, Scarborough. Free-will offering for the Kids for Peace. Refreshments following. Call 416-281-1844.

DEC. 15 - The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as celebrated at King’s College Cambridge at 7 p.m., St. Thomas, Huron St., Toronto.

DEC. 17 - A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas, featuring the music of Petzmann, Matterson, Carelse and traditional carols, 7 p.m., St. Peter, Erindale, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga. With St. Peter’s Singers, St. Peter’s Handbell Choir and St. Peter’s Parish Choir.


DEC. 21 - Candelight Service of Worship and Music, 7:30 p.m., St. Olave, Toronto, at the corner of Bloor and Windermere. Contributions appreciated. Call 416-769-5066.

DEC. 24 - Christmas Family Service at 4.30 p.m. and Christmas Carol Sing-a-long at 7.30 p.m., Church of Christ the King, 473 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke. Wheelchair access through side doors.

DEC. 24 - Children’s Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5066.

DEC. 24 - Candelight Service of Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5066.

DEC. 25 - Handbell Choir and St. Peter’s Parish Choir present a concert with Anointing at 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5066.

Christmas Bazaars

DEC. 6 - St. Nicholas Day Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Philip’s Parish Hall, 60 Dixon Rd., Etobicoke. Christmas crafts, food, fun, raffle.

Advent Catechesis

DEC. 6, 15 AND 20 - At St. Simon’s, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the Saturdays of Advent. A new resource from the CST, Christ Church, England helps Anglicans re-come and grow into the basics of the Christ faith and deepen in their knowledge and contemplation of Jesus Christ. Call 416-923-8714 or email office@stsimons.ca.

Theatre & Pageants

DEC. 6 - “Dickens’ A Christmas Carol at St. George Memorial, Os- hawa. Performances at 7 p.m. on Dec. 5, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 6. Carol sing-along after each performance. Tickets for adults are $18, for seniors and children 17 and under, $15. Half the net profit goes to St. George Memorial Church.

DEC. 12 - The St. Thomas, Huron Street and Poculi Ludique Societas annual co-production, A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. at St. Theodore of Canterbury. Tickets $10 at the door. All proceeds to benefit North York Harvest Food Bank. Call 416-222-2361.

DEC. 14 - 31st annual Christmas Pageant (Junior Church Nativity Play) at 10.30 a.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere.

Christmas Display

DEC. 6 – Display of Nativity at St. Mark, Port Hope, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6, and from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Call 905-865-1360.

Reflect on what really matters

Continued from Page 1
to tend to those whom we can so easily take for granted. We live remarkably full and busy lives while complaining that we don’t have the time to do the things we want and many of the people we wish to be with. Life has a way of being taken for granted, as does the gift of family and our relate- ship with God. Often it takes a shock, either good or bad, to turn our heads to what truly matters. Family matters. Faith matters. Relationship matters. I hope that Christmas will be a time for us to be very present to what truly matters in life – present to friends and family, present to the Christian community, present to the needs of others and, above all, present to God in Jesus Christ. May Christmas be a time to recolour and seek the balance in life for which many of us are so used to. All too often we use the rhythm of the cycle of life. One final thought. At Christmas, God bent down and kissed the world with God’s love, ex- pressed most fully in Jesus. God loves you unconditionally. God loves you, and told you so in the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrec- tion of Jesus. My observation is that while we do mean everyone – that he loves us all equally. And this is right. And our love of one another, of our God, is right. May I encourage you to tell someone you love that you love them, using your words and not just your actions. Saying “I love you” matters. At Christmas, God says that to us all. What do you need to tell that to this Christmas?

When I queried him about that practice, he said, “Well Phil, God has told us to love God, love oth- ers and love ourselves. I am just following what I have been asked to do.”

“I love you” are among the three most important words we can say May I encourage you to tell someone you love that you love them, using your words and not just your actions. Saying “I love you” matters. At Christmas, God says that to us all. What do you need to tell that to this Christmas?
The Psalms written over 1,000 years

Do you like to sing Christmas carols? I think most people do. It is difficult to imagine major complaints I have heard over my 50 years in ministry is, “We don’t sing enough Christmas carols before Christmas.”

The Anglican Church has tried to maintain the season of Advent, the four Sundays prior to Christmas, as “the liturgical preparation for the birth of the Christ-child. Advent means “the coming,” and we are sing-songs of Christmas songs during this period to the broadcasting industry and the mass media. There are a number of beautiful Advent hymns that we sing during this season, remembering that music is an important part of our worship.

The ancient Hebrew people were aware of the importance of music, too, and they produced the Psalter as the songbook of the temple worship. That book, we know commonly as the Psalms, is a remarkable book of prayers, people’s songs and poems about their God and what He meant to their daily lives. The Psalms are probably the most varied collection of writings in scripture, having been composed over a period of 1,000 years. Some may actually date back to King David and his son Solomon. Others were written during the Exilic Period (566 B.C.E. and later). Some were written in the post-Exilic Period, after 538 B.C.E., when the Hebrew people returned to Jerusalem. As such, the Psalms give us a good overview of the developable theology of these ancient people.

The longest psalm is the 119th, covering some 176 verses. Each stanza begins with a succeeding letter in the Hebrew alphabet (acrostics). The shortest psalm is the 171st; it has only two verses. The most popular psalm is probably the 23rd. Most people in my age group know the words along with me without realizing how they got there. I begin to read, he said the words along with me without realizing how they got there. As the end of the psalm, he had the appearance of absolute peace and contentment. He knew the Good Shepherd and knew where he was going, and he had absolute faith in the power of God in these last hours. He died shortly after we left the hospital that day, but he did so in the assurance of his place in heaven. That is the pow-

Please RECYCLE The Anglican Give it to a friend.

Ad deadline for the January 2015 issue is Friday, December 5 Call 905.833.6200 or email anglican@churchadvertising.ca
St. John’s is the oldest Anglican parish church in Toronto and will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2016. In preparation for continued service to the community, it recently completed a $1.6 million renovation. In doing so, it has realized its dream for new gathering and worship spaces that are both welcoming and reverential.

Although many renovations and two extensions had taken place over the years, the main portion of the building - the sanctuary - had changed very little. Updating it for the 21st century was a labour of love for the congregation. It was also important so that St. John’s could accommodate its growing programs for children and teens. The church building is now refreshed, refurbished and re-imagined after nearly nine months of construction work, during which time the congregation worshipped in the basement auditorium. The renovated and brightened foyer is very welcoming, and the new social area and meeting room, still called the Garnsworthy Room (after the late Archbishop Lewis Garnsworthy), has been conveniently re-located to just off the entrance to the church; it now has a much larger kitchen. The beautiful sanctuary seems bigger than before, and the light and brightness is uplifting to all who enter.

On the morning of the rededication, the service was busy with musicians - choirs, worship team, hand, bell choirs and young chimers. The children led the congregation in singing “Standing on the Promises of God.” All joined together to raise prayers to God in thanksgiving for the newly renovated church, His home, which is now more accessible and open.

Archbishop Colin Johnson presided over the rededication service. It was encouraging to hear him speak about how the new space was already being used; he referred to the church as a place for worship and learning. Also during the service, the Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald, incumbent, extended the congregation’s appreciation to those involved in the renovation. St. John, York Mills is a teaching church, and now it has a more congenial space to hold its many events. On Nov. 1, the Leading Children’s Ministry Conference, held in the new space, was able to livestream the sessions on the Internet because of the technical updates; this enabled more people to benefit from the conference, even though they could not attend in person. With the front pews now replaced with chairs, and the new technology, St. John’s will be able to host and record a wider variety of musical and theatrical events.

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating is a deacon at St. John, York Mills.