Millions displaced by war in Syria

BY STUART MANN

As the tide of refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East grows, a church in Toronto is doing its part to help. St. Matthew, First Avenue, has been raising money and awareness in the hopes of sponsoring a refugee family from Syria. “Jesus would do it immediately and would want his people to do it,” says the Rev. Ajit John, incumbent. “If we’re not going to do things like this, why do we even gather on Sundays?”

According to the United Nations, 6.5 million people have been displaced within Syria and another 3 million have fled to neighbouring states such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. About 12 million people in total in the Middle East have been forced to leave their homes due to war, violence or persecution. Many of those have been Christian.

Two speakers in the diocese recently raised concerns about the plight of Christians in the Middle East. The Rev. Nadim Nassar, an Anglican priest from Syria who visited Toronto in October, said there is “no future” for Christians or any other religious minorities in the region as long as the war continues. The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew White, nicknamed the Vicar of Baghdad for his ministry in the Iraqi capital, painted an equally grim picture, saying that thousands of Christians have fled Iraq while many others have been armed. The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew White, nicknamed the Vicar of Baghdad for his ministry in the Iraqi capital, painted an equally grim picture, saying that thousands of Christians have fled Iraq while many others have been

Church plans to help refugees

BY STUART MANN

When growing up, her mother and father made it clear to her and her brothers that it was their responsibility to give back to the community. In doing so, they were taught, they would get much more back, in terms of happiness and fulfillment, than they could ever give.

Canon Burns takes the message to heart. Throughout her life, she has given her time and talents for the betterment of others. This has included a five-year term as the Children's Lawyer for Ontario, representing thousands of children in legal cases. She has also sat on the board of directors of several non-profit agencies.

Now she’s about to give back in the biggest way yet – by serving as the chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto. Although a volunteer position, it is one of the most demanding in the Canadian church, requiring countless hours of work on often difficult and sensitive subjects. But she’s not fazed by it.

“It’s a big commitment, but I would say that we, as a group, get back so much more than we give,” she says, referring to the three-person team that is made up of the chancellor and two vice-chancellors, Robyn Ryan Bell and Canon Paul Baston. “It’s a way to use my legal skills in the advancement and protection of a faith community that means everything to me.”

Canon Burns was installed as chancellor at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1, becoming the first female chancellor in the history of the diocese. Before that, she served as a vice-chancellor for the past 12 years, working alongside Canon Bob Falby, who retired

New chancellor for diocese

BY STUART MANN

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Ads invite seekers at Christmas

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

For the second year in a row, the diocese invited seekers to church for Christmas using social media advertising. This was the fourth time the diocese has bought ads on Facebook before a major holiday, and its second time using Twitter ads.

The ads, which ran from Dec. 15 until Christmas Eve, used the same message as last Christmas: “Celebrate with us! This Christmas, find peace, beauty and joy at your local Anglican church.” Each ad also included a photo of a wooden creche hanging in a Christmas tree and linked to the diocese’s Find a Church webpage.

One benefit of social media advertising is the ability to measure how people respond to an organization’s message. Facebook and Twitter both track how many times a post is shared, liked and clicked on, also called “engagements.”

The diocese’s Christmas ad was seen more than 304,000 times on Facebook and received 408 engagements, compared to 31,000 views and 335 engagements on Twitter. While Facebook reached more people, Twitter users were more likely to respond to the ad.
Church pushes ahead with efforts to sponsor family

Continued from Page 1

killed or forced to convert to Islam. Both speakers pointed out that Christians have been living in the Middle East for two millennia and that Syria and Iraq have been the settings for some of the most important events in the Bible.

Mr. John says his congregation had had a “burden on their hearts” for refugees, particularly Christians in the Middle East and north Africa, for the past three or four years. But it was the Syrian civil war that prompted them to take action.

Moved by the devastation, the church formed a small group (its name is Matthew 25:35) and invited a speaker from AURA to visit the congregation. AURA is a charitable organization that has been helping refugees settle in Canada for almost 30 years. It is funded by civil war that prompted them to attend the church or stay connected to it. The congregation would have to find an apartment for them, take them to doctor’s appointments and manage dozens of other tasks to help them get settled.

Undaunted, the church decided to push ahead. Through craft and bake sales and other fundraising activities, the congregation expected to collect about $35,000 by the end of 2014. For Advent, they created special envelopes in which people could indicate gifts and pledges for the project.

They also contacted nearby churches, to see if they wanted to connect to it. The congregation learned some sobering news. Hosting a refugee family would not be easy or inexpensive. To sponsor a father, mother and three children would require about $62,000 up front. “For a small, growing parish, it’s a stretch,” says Mr. John.

It would also take a lot of patience, they learned. It could be months or even years before the sponsored family arrived in Canada, and even then there would be no guarantee that the family would attend the church or stay connected to it. The congregation would have to find an apartment for them, take them to doctor’s appointments and manage dozens of other tasks to help them get settled.

A Charlottetown church has sponsored a family that has been very energizing. They’ve noticed in the intercessions that people are praying for refugees and the homeless more often.

The church plans to invite a speaker in January who has first-hand experience of the refugee camps in Syria, and other ideas are in the works. “There’s a lot of money to be raised, but I’ve heard all kinds of encouraging things from people who say there is nothing that God can’t do,” says Mr. John. “These are very encouraging signs. People are saying we can do it.”

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Canon Falby retires as chancellor

Helped steer church in turbulent times

BY STUART MANN

In his understated way, Canon Robert Falby succinctly sums up the history of the Anglican Church in the past two decades. “It’s been an exciting time to be an Anglican,” he says.

As chancellor of the Diocese of Toronto for all of those years, he not only witnessed that history but had a hand in shaping it.

His contributions to the Anglican Church at the local, diocesan, national and international level have been remarkable. But as he got set to retire as chancellor on Dec. 31, it was the people he met along the way that he remembered the most.

“I’m sorry to give up the frequent contact with all the church people I’ve dealt with over the years – they’re all good friends,” he says. “When you leave these positions, it’s the people you miss more than the work.

And chancellor of the diocese since 1992, Canon Falby advised two diocesan bishops – Archbish - opp Terence Finlay and Archbish - opp Colin Johnson – on matters of canon law. But his contributions to the church went far beyond that.

He played a pivotal role in neg - otiating the federal government that resulted in the Indi - an Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The agreement committed the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and United church - es to contribute to a fund to com - pensate the victims of abuse at the schools. A portion of the funds helped to establish the Truth and Reconciliation Com - mission.

Canon Falby also spoke the sen - tence that helped galvanize the church’s response to the tragedy of abuse at the schools. At a meet - ing of General Synod, a Synod member questioned the wisdom of Primate Michael Peers’ apology to indigenous people, made in 1993. The Synod member asked if the apology had created a danger - ous legal liability.

Canon Falby calmly replied that he didn’t think it did, then

Canon Robert Falby addresses the diocese’s Synod in 2013. He has become the diocese’s chancellor emeritus.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

“The feeling of joy in the cong - regation, and participating in that moment of rebuilding, is the reason why I’ve remained vice chancellor for 12 years,” she says. “It was an amazing moment. You could feel God working in the room. There’s a lot of joy in what we do.”

Canon Burns and her family at - tended The Bridge service at St. Paul, Bloor Street and St. John, Etobicoke, where they have a country home. Outside the church, she practices law at WeirFoulds LLP in Toronto. She is a graduate of Osgoode Law School and the Lon - don School of Economics.

Archbishop Johnson says he is looking forward to working with Canon Burns. “Clare brings a high level of clarity and interpretation of the canons and a real engage - ment in the ongoing pastoral life of the church. She understands the church and is part of the church. And she has a good sense of humour.”

Two evenings at the Church of St Mary Magdalene
Feb 4 and 11, 2015 at 7pm

Join us in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the birth of St Teresa of Avila, foundress of the Carmelite reformed and one of the most important spiritual figures in the Christian tradition. Our guest speaker will be the Revd Canon Allan Budzin, rector of St Philip’s Etobicoke and former Carmelite friar.

Each evening begins with a Gregorian Evensong sung by members of the Ritual Choir of St Mary Magdalene.

Also in Lent: Carmelite Saints and Mystics, Tuesday evenings Feb 24 to Mar 24, 2015 at 7pm.

427 Manning Avenue 1 416.531.7935 stmarymagdalene.ca

New chancellor

Continued From Page 1

from the role on Dec. 31 and is now the chancellor emeritus.

As chancellor, Canon Burns will assist Archbishop Colin Johnson on matters of canon law at Dioce - san Council and Executive Board. She will chair the diocese’s Trusts Committee, which reviews re - quests from churches for major building projects or repairs to buildings. The committee also ad - ministers the Baker and Carlton funds, two legacies that provide money for the improvement of Sunday school spaces and repairs to rectories. She will also help to review the salaries and working conditions of senior diocesan staff, review the policies and pro - cedures of the diocese and facili - tate pre-Synod meetings.

She points out that it’s not all hard work, and some moments are deeply moving. One such mo - ment happened several years ago when she took part in the re-consecration of Trinity, Streetsville, after it had been destroyed by a fire.

The “feeling of joy in the con - gregation, and participating in that moment of rebuilding, is the reason why I’ve remained vice chancellor for 12 years,” she says. “It was an amazing moment. You could feel God working in the room. There’s a lot of joy in what we do.”

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Why Black History Month?

This year marks the 40th anniversary of my father’s election as a Member of the Provincial Parliament. On that election night, I was interviewed by a young reporter for the largest newspapers in the riding.

“What is he personally getting out of this?” I was asked.

“He’s in this because he believes that he can make a difference to the people he’ll be spending time,” I said. “No, but what’s he really in it for?”

“He believes in the duty of service. He is altruistic. I don’t think the reporter knew the word. The interview never made it to press.

My father served for 15 years and I was very proud of him. I campaigned for him, even though Dad and I did not agree on a number of issues. We had some very loud arguments, including one of my episcopal predecessors in an election where many of his friends had lost their seats. But his faith and fortitude present some interesting challenges.

True or false? “In Canada, there is a separation of church and state.”

The answer is: There is no legal or constitutional separation of church and state in Canada as there is in the United States’ Constitution. Over the course of Canadian history, the relationships have been complicated. The first Bishop of Toronto was a member of the Executive Council and Legislative Council of Upper Canada essentially the Cabinet and the precursor to the Senate – while active as Bishop. When bishop, Canon Cody was for a time the provincial Minister of Education as well as rector of St. Paul, Bloom Street. In the 1800s, three priests of the Diocese of Toronto served at the same time in the House of Commons and the Senate among three major parties (a very Anglican balance, wouldn’t you say?) Two of those men died this past year – Dan Hoap and Roland de Cornelle – while Rob Stackhouse is still very much active in retirement. Anglican laity have served in all levels of government and three of the last four Governors General (and at least 20 of the 28 who have served) have been Anglicans.

On the other hand, the long connection between the church and the government in Canadian residential schools was hugely problematic and the consequential harm is still being experienced. In current policy and practice in the last few decades, there is clearly a much more nuanced understanding of the separation of church and state.

In the United States, we have consistently racialized and the media, and treated with equality, the contributions of people of African descent. And the media and society have a particular lens through which to view the world around us. It shapes how we participate as citizens in the decisions about the way we live in this world, how others are included, and what priorities we set. Five Marks of Mission were developed by the Anglican Communion to indicate in which we join in the mission of Christ to the world. At least three of these marks have a political dimension, as well as a service orientation:

• To respond to human need by loving service.
• To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.
• To strive to safeguard the integrity of black communities and black individuals, among black people about their cultural heritage.

Black History Month fundamentally highlights the history and contributions of black communities and black individuals, past and present. Making this history known enables many in our communities to learn of the significant contributions made by people of African heritage to the development of their communities and the world. Often, the achievements of people of African heritage with whom this month is associated include Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and Desmond Tutu. Our own Canadian personalities include Lincoln Alexander, Jean, Denise Brown, Rose Chin Brown, Keith Forde, Harry Jerome, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and Ann Cools, to name a few.

Black History Month is an opportunity for us in Canada to recognize the past and present contributions that African-Canadians have made to the life of this country in areas such as education, medicine, art, culture, public service, economic development, sports, religion, politics and human rights.

In our diocese, many of our members are Afro-Canadian and Caribbean people who have made and are making significant contributions to life and witness of our church. I believe that the Anglican Church of Canada is the richer because of its diversity, the result of many people from many lands, including persons of African heritage.

I am hopeful that the contributions of people of African descent are acknowledged, that the achievements of known, black people are routinely included or affirmed through our curriculum, our books and the media, and treated with equality, the contributions of people of African heritage to the development of their communities and the world.

By law, not-for-profit organizations – charities and some religious bodies – are exempt from the Canada Revenue Agency’s Charitable Registration requirement. These organizations, when the achieve – ment in Canada is recognized, can make a difference to the people who’ll be spending time with them, and is non-partisan. We fall well within that. This is being interpreted more narrowly and, at times, restrictively. For example, the Canadian Revenue Agency recently deemed that a major Canadian charity could operate programs to allow its clients to express their views without conflict of interest, which is absurd! I believe that the Anglican Communion and the vores we make at our baptism compel us to engage with our government and the political system as an essential part of our Christian witness. Our faith gives us a particular lens through which to view the world around us. It shapes how we participate as citizens in the decisions about the way we live in this world, how others are included, and what priorities we set.

Archbishop’s Diary

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I am hopeful that the contributions of people of African descent are acknowledged, that the achievements of known, black people are routinely included or affirmed through our books and the media, and treated with equality, and assume leadership positions by virtue of their competencies and qualifications. When these are acknowledged, there will no longer be a need for Black History Month.
I can’t believe how fortunate I am

Mia Biondi, a registered nurse, is the coordinator of the PROS program (Providing Resources, Offering Support) at All Saints Church, Sherbourne Street in Toronto.

PROS is a comprehensive care program for trafficked individuals in Toronto, funded by the Diocese of Toronto. I spend about half my time working directly with clients, including those who have been trafficked or experienced trauma. I work holistically to meet their biologi- cal, psychological, social and spiritual needs. I also assist at our two drop-in programs for women and am excited to start a third that will focus on building capacity. My other duties include outreach, research, community education and political action.

Unfortunately, there is very lit- tle awareness of the problem of human trafficking in Canada among healthcare providers. For this reason, I recently submitted a resolution to the Regis- tered Nurses’ Association of On- tario (RNAO) to advocate for community prevention, as well as for protocols for nurses to identify trafficked individuals in healthcare settings like emer- gency rooms. We have also asked the RNAO to lobby for more funding for aftercare. It is my hope that I will be able to present this resolution at the RNAO’s up- coming annual general meeting, and gain the support of other members.

One of the best parts about working at All Saints is that I get to know the clients. I re- cently attended the Christmas service at All Saints, where I saw many of our clients in a different light. It was a powerful service and completely inclusive — in- cluding a blessing done by a client in another language. It has made me reflect on how big a role spirituality plays in our clients’ lives.

Recently, a client asked me to assist her in reaching an edu- cational goal. The most difficult aspect of this position is the darkness of the subject matter.

I grew up outside of Chatham and completed my BSc at the University of Guelph, my PhD at McGill, and my RN at Western University. During this time, I won several awards, in- cluding an HIV/AIDS Biomedical Research Award, and the Excel- lence in Professional Nursing Practice from the Council of On- tario University Programs in Nursing. In addition to acting as the PROS coordinator, I am a re- search fellow at the University Health Network, where I work on Hepatitis C, an issue that largely affects marginalized populations.

Before moving to Toronto, I volunteered with the London Anti Human Trafficking Com- mittee, and I wanted to contin- ue this type of work in Toron- to, but wasn’t sure how. Some- times I can’t believe how fortu- nate I am to be able to do clinical work at All Saints, and research at the University Health Net- work, in two areas that I am pas- sionate about. I believe that this is only possible because of the tremendous leadership of both of my supervisors, who have support- ed me in connecting these two worlds. I think that being given the autonomy at All Saints to take the program in a certain direction will be a career experi- ence that is difficult to top.

As a child, I remember praying for people to find their voca- tion, and thought how impor- tant a prayer this was. As an adult, I have also struggled to find a vocation, knowing that my main goal was to serve God and try to effect change, but not be- ing sure exactly how to do it. During my undergraduate stud- ies, I went on two outreach trips to sub-Saharan Africa, and spent much time reflecting and jour- naling on why I was there. After seeing HIV affect so many, I did a PhD studying HIV drugs, but seeing HIV affect so many, I did a PhD studying HIV drugs, but seeing HIV affect so many, I did a PhD studying HIV drugs, but seeing HIV affect so many, I did a PhD studying HIV drugs, but seeing HIV affect so many, I decided that I would pursue nurs- ing so that I would be able to pro- vide that front-line care, while applying my research skills to a clinical setting. During my nurs- ing education, I had placements in hospital-based settings but quickly realized that these types of positions were not for me. Af- ter completing my BScN, I knew it would be difficult to obtain a position in the community, but I had faith that God had a plan for me. I had been volunteering at All Saints, and only a few weeks after becoming a registered nurse, the PROS position came up - a position that would allow me to combine all my previous knowledge and training.

The next major project I am working on is to implement a TELUS Health Electronic Med- ical Record (EMR) at All Saints. With this, we will be one of the first RN-led drop-ins to have this type of system. An EMR will allow us to document pieces of a client’s history over time, while tracking progress, even if a client does not want to give her or his full name. We will also be able to customize assessment tools for our drop-in setting and anti-human trafficking ini- tiatives.

I have to say that I never thought I would get a position that I was so passionate about this early in my nursing career. In five years, I hope to be able to continue to work with street-in- volved individuals, but to have obtained the Nurse Practitioner certificate so that I will be able to provide more clinical case-man- agement for difficult-to-reach populations.

My favourite passage from the Bible is Romans 8:38-39: “For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” I was introduced to this passage by a member of the spir- itual care team at a long-term care facility. I owe so much of my understanding on how spirituali- ty affects health to this chaplain. During our time together, we re- flected on the lack of resources in long-term care, and when I asked her how she dealt with this on a daily basis, she said she used a lot of prayer and dedic- ates an extra hour every day to the facility. I think the passage reflects trying to understand in- equalities in our world.

INTERVIEW

ASH WEDNESDAY DISCOVERY DAY FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

February 18, 2015
9:00am - 3:30pm

Children and youth, ages 6-14, of the Diocese of Toronto are invited to attend a day of fun and learning at the Cathedral.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT THE CATHEDRAL WEBSITE OR CONTACT CHRIS D’ANGELO.
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The Anglican 5

February 2015

Mia Biondi outside All Saints, Sherbourne Street in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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February 2015
The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. In 2014, the recipients came from the following denominations: Oshawa, Mississauga, Eglington, Huronia and Tecumseh. They were presented with their medalion at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, on Jan. 1.

Ted Aldridge, ODT
Christ Church, Oshawa
Mr. Aldridge has served on committees of the diocese for many years. As the long-time chair of the Planning and Development board, he oversaw the building and renovations of many churches. He also served on Area Council for a number of years, adding his wisdom and voice to the needs of Trent-Durham. He is currently serving his parish as churchwarden.

W. Gordon Baker, ODT
St. Thomas of Peter, Erin Mills South
Since joining the parish in 1977, Mr. Baker has served as churchwarden, Sunday school superintendent, lector, chalice bearer, choir member, envelope secretary and greeter. Almost always on a weekly basis, seeing something to be done, he quietly and unobtrusively does it. As well, Mr. Baker serves the wider community, volunteering at the parish on a regular basis several times a week. His faithful commitment has inspired others to also step forward to help serve.

Norah Bolton, ODT
St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto
Ms. Bolton has had a long association with her parish as chorister, churchwarden, Sunday school volunteer and chair of a capital campaign. She is one of the parish’s lay delegates to Synod and a member of the York Credit Valley Area Council. At the diocesan level, she is a member of the Executive Board and Diocesan Council. She has also served as a volunteer for the diocese’s Congregational Development department. She has been a member of a national task force of the Anglican Church of Canada and has attended four provincial synods.

Helen Bradfield, ODT
Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto
Mrs. Bradfield has helped to facilitate virtually every aspect of parish life, from worship to music to special events. She is one of the church archivist for almost 15 years and has been instrumental in helping to record and preserve its history. She has also given back to the broader community, serving the Bishop Strachan School, Trinity College and the Diocese of Toronto.

Charles Brown, ODT
St. Hilary, Cooksville
Mr. Brown initiated and oversees the St. Hilary’s Gardens, which have won awards from Communities in Bloom. The gardens serve as a visible outreach to the community and an entrance to one of Mississauga’s main gateways. Mr. Brown initiated and oversees the development of the Charlie Martin Memorial, which honours one of Canada’s most decorated non-commissioned officers of the Second World War. Mr. Brown is a lay reader in his men’s fellowship group, and an associate with the Order of the Holy Cross.

E. Patricia Brown, ODT
St. Hilary, Cooksville
Mrs. Brown is president of the parish’s Chancel Guild, president of St. Hilary’s Day Care, a former churchwarden and member of Synod, co-ordinator of the church’s Worship Assistants and co-ordinator of the annual Outreach Walk. She is a companion of the Order of the Holy Cross and a past chair of the diocese’s Doctrine and Worship Committee.

Donna Cansfield, ODT
St. George on-the-Hill, Toronto
Throughout her life, Ms. Cansfield has dedicated herself to the public service of others. In 2001, she was elected as MPP for Etobicoke Centre and served in a number of key posts, including Minister of Transportation, Minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Energy, during which time she shepherded in the Energy Conservation Responsibility Act. She has a passion for community service, particularly children, senior citizens and justice issues. She is a long-time member and current churchwarden at St. George’s.

Margaret Cincurak, ODT
St. Thomas, Brooklyn
Mrs. Cincurak was nominated by the parish for her outstanding volunteer activities over the past 50 years. Her contributions are many and varied and include positions of leadership, planning, fundraising, worship and outreach. In all of these, her commitment and involvement have been exemplary.

Ronald Coles, ODT
St. John, East Orangeville
Mr. Coles has given a lifetime of witness to Jesus Christ through his life in the workplace. He has provided faithful service to the church as an altar server, AYA member, lay reader, churchwarden, Synod member and pastoral visitor in parish parishes wherever he and his family have lived, including St. John’s. His ministry includes being a friend and confidant of many clergy, especially in the early days of their arrival.

Janet Coombs, ODT
Parish of Coldwater Medonte
Mrs. Coombs was nominated by the congregation of St. John, Matchedash, for her long, faithful service and for providing key leadership as churchwarden, Sunday school teacher and board member over the past 34 years. Through difficult days in the life of St. John’s, she has been a beacon of hope and perseverance.

Philip Creighton, FCA ODT
Christ Church, Deer Park
Trained as an accountant, Mr. Creighton worked in some of the largest accounting firms in the country and decided early on to specialize in the not-for-profit sector. That group, which includes churches, educational and social service agencies, have accounting needs that are much different from large corporations. In recognition of his expertise and service, he was named a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, its highest award. For many years as a member of the Audit Committee, he has ensured that the financial records of the diocese meet the highest accounting standards.

Arthur Downes, ODT
St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto
Mr. Downes is a retired Justice of the Peace with extensive community involvement. He has been a lay member of Synod, an Ontario Hospital Association director, a Humber College lecturer, Senegal’s honorary Consul General for 16 years until 2009, and the founding chair of the board of directors of Doctors Hospital Foundation, now Kensington Foundation. Mr. Downes was among the first community members to develop and implement health committees between the black community and the Toronto Police Service.

Patrick Dugan, ODT
Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto
Mr. Dugan has been an integral part of the church since 1974, when he brought his joy, dedication, talents and love of God to the congregation. In addition to being a vibrant leader within the congregation, he has donated countless hours of labour over four decades to the maintenance and upkeep of the church, as a contractor and master carpenter.

Launi Elliott, ODT
Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa
Mrs. Elliott was nominated by the parish not just in recognition of her many years of faithful service, but also in gratitude for the witness of her life – her faith, her character, her prayers and her conduct. Her example encourages the congregation to be more faithful in its own walk with Jesus Christ.

Thomas Fitches, ODT
St. Clement, Eglington
Mr. Fitches has been the organist and director of music at St. Clement’s since 1973. He trained in Oshawa, Toronto, and Croydon, England, at the Royal School of Church Music. He has performed on the CBC, at Roy Thomson Hall and is the accompanist for the Elora Festival Singers, with whom he has made a number of recordings. He is a past president of the Toronto Centre of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and was awarded the college’s Distinguished Service Award in 2006. He brings warmth, humility and friendliness to the parish. In 2008, St. Clement’s parish bell was named in his honour: Faithful Thomas.

Diana Heath, ODT
Church of the Messiah, Toronto
Dr. Heath has provided her parish with exemplary leadership in many areas, including pastoral care and healing ministries, worship, music and education. Since joining the church in 1973, she has epitomized servant leadership with unfailing energy.

Michael Hudson, ODT
St. James, Cathedrals, Toronto
Mr. Hudson photographs people and...
Laity receive Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto gather for a picture at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1. PHOTO BY SIMON CHAMBERS

Charles Jordan, ODT

Mr. Jordan is a faithful servant of the Lord and an inspiration to parishioners through his substantial and dedicated ministry, both at the Retreat House and the church. He is a man of deep faith and a generous

donor of his gifts and talents. He is a staunch supporter and encourager of others, and is often sought for his wise advice and counsel by clergy and laypeople alike. As a master craftsman, his contributions have enhanced the church's physical plant. As the Retreat House Café cook, coordinator and confidante, he has touched many lives.

Lori Johnson, ODT

St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West Ms. Johnson’s leadership skills, giving spirit, pleasant demeanor, willingness to go the extra mile and openness to the inclusion of all who enter the church's doors have endeared her to every member of St. Francis. She loves to sing her heart out in praise to God as a member of the choir and as a soloist on special occasions.

Charles Jordan, ODT

St. Andrew, Alliston Mr. Jordan is a faithful servant of the Lord and an inspiration to parishioners through his substantial and dedicated ministry, both at the Retreat House and the church. He is a man of deep faith and a generous

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Elliott Lucas, ODT

St. Martin, Bay Ridges, Pickering Mrs. Lucas was nominated for her tireless work in following Jesus’ commandments to love God and love her neighbour. She has helped the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the sick, and those in need. At the age of 90, she continues to follow those commandments. She shines the light of Christ to everyone she meets.

Hazel McCallan, ODT

Trinity, Streetsville Ms. McCallan was nominated for her exemplary service to the community and the church. She has been a key leader of the church’s successful fundraising efforts in rebuilding the church. She is a member of the order of the Diocese of Toronto.

Robert McIellam, ODT

St. Leonard, Toronto During a long and distinguished career in the insurance industry, Mr. McIellam has held many volunteer positions, making a mark both in the industry and society. He is a proponent of the Toronto Construction Association and served on the board of directors of the London Stock Exchange. He is also a member of the executive committee of the Bishop’s Development Corporation, following Christ’s call to ministry to all of his people. He was a lay member of Synod for eight years.

William Lowe, ODT

St. Peter, Erinville Mr. Lowe was nominated for his humble and devoted service over his lifetime. His devotion to the church, grounded in his love of Jesus Christ, has shone forth over decades of leadership as head of the servers’ guild, as sacristan, pastoral visitor and lay reader.

Esther Lucas, ODT

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Clifford Moon, ODT

Church of the Ascension, Port Perry Mr. Moon was nominated for passionately communicating the importance of an Anglican church in Port Perry and has been instrumental in keeping its doors open to everyone. He has not only ensured the integrity of the buildings has been addressed but he has been a great ambassador of Anglicanism in the community.

Susan Tremayne-Moon, ODT

Trinity East, Toronto Ms. Tremayne-Moon was nominated for her devotion to the parish in many different capacities, especially her ongoing efforts in helping to rebuild the church. She is a member of the order of the Diocese of Toronto.

Israel Newell, ODT

Trinity East, Toronto A systems analyst with the Toronto District School Board, Mr. Newell’s contribution to the church is not through computers or technologies but in dealing with people; often people who have been deeply marginalized. A man of deep evangelical faith, he has been involved for years in the church’s Community Ministries Board, which is now the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, following Christ’s call to minister to all of his people. He was a lay member of Synod for eight years.

Billy Ng, ODT

St. Elizabeth, Mississauga Mr. Ng lives out his faith through his willingness to serve and the way in which he continuously shares his passion for Anglicanism. Since he joined the parish in 1996, he has been a churchwarden, lay reader and mission chair. Mr. Ng’s pragmatic approach and ability to facilitate compromise gives the St. Elizabeth family a much-needed, down-to-earth perspective. This has been invaluable during the church’s first, and now second, phase of its extension project, as well as the day-to-day running of the church. His example is one to which all St. Elizabeth parishioners aspire.

Ann Orser, ODT

Parish of Washago-Price’s Corners Mrs. Orser was nominated by the congregation of St. Luke, Price’s Corners for her lifelong faithful service as a member of St. Luke’s and as a key leader of the ACM. She is a wonderful example of quiet and steadfast Christian ministry in her home, her neighbourhood and her church. Through many challenging years where the survival of her home church was in doubt, her resilience and positive spirit helped St. Luke’s to move into a more stable future.

Peter Paterson, ODT

Holy Trinity, Thornhill Mr. Paterson is a philanthropist who believes that one should give of both one’s time and money. His liturgical ministry among the gathered community comes alive in practical ways, from the garden and his intense passion for the marginalized in the local community and city. If Holy Trinity were ever to suffer a pause in its extension of faith, Mr. Paterson’s picture would be next to the section entitled “The Baptismal Covenant.”

Nancy LeGrezley, ODT

St. Martin, Courtnie Mrs. LeGrezley has provided faithful service as an organist, choir director, baker and inspirational friend. Along with her husband, she was one of the first parishioners of St. Martin, Courtnie, when it was an outreach of St. John, Bowmanville.

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Sarah Peake, ODT
St. Bride, Clarkson
Ms. Peake has been a member of choirs, Bible study groups, youth groups, events and activities in the Anglican Church her entire life. She has served as a member of the diocese’s Ministry Recruitment Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Meadowvale West Church Centre. She is currently the Associate Registrar at Humber in Toronto.

Geoff Pring, ODT
St. Paul on-The-Hill, Pickering
Mr. Pring is a faithful, loving, and long-time member of St. Paul’s church family. He has served as a lay reader for over 35 years. He sings in one of the church’s worship teams, trains the servers, leads worship, and exemplifies in word and deed the life of a humble follower of Jesus. He and his wife Joy are a great blessing to the church community.

Barbara Reckord, ODT
Church of the Incarnation, Toronto
Ms. Reckord was nominated for her advocacy for the ministry of healing in the diocese. Her deep faith and commitment have been demonstrated in her work to establish a healing centre and in the training of clergy and laity in the exercise of Christian healing. This work has led to the majority of the parishes in the diocese actively engaged in this ministry. She is an associate of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine and a spiritual director.

Edna Evelyn Reid, ODT
Parish of Coldwater-Medonte
Mrs. Reid was nominated by the congregation of St. George, Fairvalley for her 66 years of faithful service as a member of the ACW, as well as her inspiring life of professional and volunteer service to those in her community. Her particular gift to the church has been her ministry of invitation, hospitality and pastoral care. She reaches out in Christian love to all she meets. She is noted for her St. James affection and high regard by both her church community and the Oro-Medonte area, where she has lived and worked for almost all of her 96 years. She epitomizes the Gospel call to see and serve Christ in each person.

Donald Sabeau, ODT
St. Matthew, Oshawa
Mr. Sabeau was nominated for his faithful service over the past 50 years as a lay reader and also as an on-call chaplain at LakeRidge Health Oshawa. He lives out his Christian faith in all he does – at work, in his family life, in his friendships and at the church.

William Saudersson, PFA, ODT
St. Clement, Eginton
Mr. Saudersson began his career as a chartered accountant with Clarkson Good (now Ernst & Young). In 1971, he founded Sceptre Investment Counsel Ltd. He was elected MPI in 1995 and served as Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism. He has extensive experience as a board director. He is the chair of RDI, the Canadian Osteopathic Education Trust Fund, the Diocese of Toronto Investment Committee, and the Trinity College “Strength to Strength” Endowment Campaign. He is also a board director for the Royal Ontario Museum Foundation and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and a member of the University of Ottawa Pension Investment Committee and the Shaw Festival Governor’s Council. He is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a recipient of their Award of Outstanding Merit.

T. Leonard Skidmore, ODT
St. Paul, Uxbridge
Mr. Skidmore was nominated for his outstanding work, dedication, strong sense of community and faith. For close to four decades, he has devoted countless hours to the parish, particularly the bricks and mortar of the church. St. Paul’s truly appreciates all the time, energy and willingness to pitch in wherever needed to take care of the church.

Grace Stephens, ODT
St. Luke, East York
Ms. Stephens has been a long-time, dedicated volunteer in her parish, where she has had numerous leadership roles. She has been a lay member of Synod for more than a decade and has been involved in Social Justice and Advocacy work, particularly as a member of the diocese’s Housing Committee. Additionally, she has served tirelessly on the Agenda Committee for both diocesan Synod and General Synod.

Alma Stoneman, ODT
St. Clement, Eginton
Ms. Stoneman was nominated for her uncommon ability to empathize with those who reach out to her for help; her listening skills are treasured by many people within and outside the church. She can comfort with a touch of her hand or a gentle word and give hope and encouragement to those who need it most. Her generosity of spirit comes from her faith in Christ, and she has been an encouragement and example to many.

Vern Taylor, ODT
Parish of W ashage-Friee’s Corners
Mr. Taylor was nominated by the congregation of St. Paul, Washago for his years of leadership as a churchwarden and for sharing his practical skills to maintain the property. He is an inspiring and steady presence in the community. When the congregation thinks of Mr. Taylor, these words from scripture come to mind: “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

Danny Thomas, ODT
Church of South India
Mr. Thomas is a key leader and current lay warden of the Church of South India. He has served in many key positions, including being a member of the diocese’s Healing Committee. Additionally, he has served on the York-Credit Valley Area Council as well as the diocese’s Intercultural Committee and is a passionate voice for the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

David Toycen, ODT
Trinity, Streetsville
For 18 years, Mr. Toycen served as the president and chief executive officer of World Vision Canada, the largest humanitarian relief and development agency in the country. He has had a significant influence on public policy in this area and has spoken at the World Bank, the United Nations and with heads of state, always focusing attention on the well-being of the world’s children. He has travelled the world, seeing first-hand the challenges children face in some devastating situations of poverty. He is the author of The Power of Generosity and holds three honorary doctorate degrees.

Judith Ann Tutty, ODT
Trinity Church, Port Credit
Ms. Tutty was nominated for her constant selfless giving to the church and the neighbourhood with humility and grace. While she provides strength, leadership, wisdom and refined skill to every area of parish life, she deflects praise and passes it on to the people with whom she works and with whom she builds teams. She has a deep personal faith in Christ, which is evident in her life choices, words and actions. She lives out the Gospel mandate by serving others joyfully and lovingly, always prepared to forgive and to laugh.

Donald Walker, ODT
Parish of Coldwater-Medonte
Mr. Walker was nominated for his long and faithful service to the church, holding many key positions, including being a churchwarden, for over 30 years. He is an example of quiet, competent and steadfast leadership, and of a spirit of friendly cooperation. His ministry reminds the congregation of the Christian teaching of Paul: “Render service with enthusiasm as to the Lord, not to men and women” (Ephesians 6:7).

Lillian Wells, ODT
St. Cathertine, Leaside
Dr. Wells has made a significant contribution to the life of the parish. Her service as churchwarden and envelope secretary show the trust the parish has placed in her. Her current major parish responsibilities as a lay reader and as president of the ACW’s executive show her continued dedication to the parish.

Gloria Wiebe, ODT
St. James Cathedral
Ms. Wiebe was nominated for her service as a parish nurse; she developed the parish nursing program at St. James Cathedral. This provides health care monitoring not only to the regular parishioners of the cathedral but also to the hundreds of guests at the weekly drop-in, many of whom are under-housed, under-fed and under-served.

Their light shines, their works glorify
‘Continued from Page 7’
Anglicans rally for homeless

Deep freeze puts vulnerable at risk

by STUART MANN

ADVOCATES for the poor and homeless, including an Anglican priest and a member of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, took part in a press conference on Jan. 7 outside of the streetcar shelter where a man died a day earlier during Toronto’s first deep freeze of 2015.

The shelter, located at the corner of Yonge and Dundas streets, is a short walk away from the homeless memorial outside Holy Trinity, where the names of hundreds of men and women who have died on the city’s streets or in homeless shelters are listed.

“I would just ask you to imagine dying here,” said the Rev. Maggie Helwig, the incumbent of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields, Toronto, to those attending the press conference. “Or imagine dying in a truck in a parking lot, in the dark, cold and alone” she added, referring to another man who had died in the city’s west end on Jan. 5.

“I am tired and sick at heart and do not want any more of my people to die this way,” she said. “People are dying because the waiting list for affordable and supportive housing in this city is hundreds of people long. People are dying because the emergency shelters are at capacity night after night.”

Ms. Helwig, who is the chair of the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, urged Toronto to issue extreme cold weather alerts earlier, before temperatures reach -15°C. According to the city’s protocols, an alert is made when the temperature hits -15°C, not including the windchill.

“People are dying because the emergency shelters are at capacity night after night,” she said. “It took a Twitter campaign and a sit-in at the mayor’s office to get the (warming centres) open, and as far as we know no one died on the streets last night. That’s a pretty sad situation when that’s your standard for a win.”

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia, a parishioner of Holy Trinity and a former member of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, said the city should automatically create more beds as soon as shelters reach 90 per cent capacity. Right now, she said, most are running well above that.

However, she said calling cold weather alerts earlier and creating more shelter beds is just Band-Aid solutions. “We need to be looking at housing and prevention and income support so that we don’t have more and more people entering the system and we can start emptying the shelters instead of continuing to build new ones. Until we have enough income for people and until we’re building housing that people can afford to live in, this problem is not going away.”

Ms. Gulliver-Garcia, who was homeless for a short while as a teenager, says people of faith are called by God to take action. “If you look at the teachings of Jesus, he’s talking about protecting and taking care of your neighbour. If I was outside and homeless, I would want someone to take care of me. If we’re not doing that with the most vulnerable in our society, we’re failing as Christians.”

She says people can advocate for change by taking small steps. “Write a letter to your city councillor. Write a letter to the mayor asking to open more shelter beds. Write a letter to the province to increase the minimum wage and income supports. Write to the federal government and say it’s time to get back in the business of building affordable housing. It’s about sympathy and the efforts of people. As faith communities, we’re a loud voice if we want to be.”

Anglicans are helping out in other ways. One of the city’s warming stations, run by Margaret Fraser House, is located in the parish hall of All Saints, Sherbourne Street. The station is open to men and women overnight, and in the day they can go around the block to the church’s drop-in, which is located in the nave. At both locations, they are provided with food and other necessities.

“We’ve been busy the last couple of days, there’s no question about it,” says the Rev. David Opheim, incumbent of All Saints. He says the church has been handing out as many warm clothing items as it can get. “On Monday, we had a couple of pews full of winter coats and they were gone within the first hour. We’ve had all sorts of groups drop by to donate sleeping bags and coats. Anything that people can give to us, we can certainly hand out. We can sure use them.”

“Donations of warm clothing can be made at the church, which is located at the corner of Dundas and Sherbourne streets.”

A few churches in the diocese run or contribute to Out of the Cold programs, providing overnight accommodation to hundreds of homeless men and women every winter. Many more provide food and warm clothing through their parish outreach. Through their donations to FaithWorks, the diocese’s annual outreach appeal, churches, corporations and individuals give more than $1 million a year to agencies and ministries that help the poor and homeless. The diocese recently raised $100,000 to Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing in Scarborough.

Archbishop Colin Johnson said the death of the two men is a tragedy and the ongoing struggle to house and care for the marginalized is an issue that effects the whole of society. “The fact that there are people who are without shelter on some of the coldest nights of the year, leading to their deaths, is, frankly, a sin of our society, which has chosen to repent and amend our own lives so that it doesn’t happen.”

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Issues should be discussed

Continued from Page 4

creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. (See more about the Marks at:
http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/mission/five marks.cms/5thash/CSOLhF6m.dpdf.)

Our diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy work (along with the work of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund) is a key resource to help us analyze the issues, educate, build partnerships and assist us to advocate for appropriate, appropriate, appropriate to the existing state of affairs. This includes not only getting Anglicans to engage in direct outreach ministries to the vulnerable in our society – we have done a lot of very good and needed work in this – but also to engage in the longer term effort to change the policies and structures that either cause or perpetuate the problems in the first place.

Policy is as critical as programme; advocacy needs to be hand-in-hand with ministry. There are inevitably different possible solutions and different ways of both understanding and addressing the problems, which is why open discussion and healthy debate within our parishes on these matters is an essential part of our Christian duty. Complex issues are not solved only by experts. In fact, solutions to complex problems require imagination, creativity, determination and changed attitudes because expertise does not yet exist.

That is the reason that, over the last few years, we have proposed a motion on a social justice issue to be discussed at annual parish Vestry meetings. While it is helpful to have the motion passed or amended – I can use this data when I meet with members of government, for instance, to indicate the level of support that I represent – that is not the most important thing. For me, it is to have the issues discussed and people of all persuasions commit to learn more, understand better and act responsibly and faithfully in the name of Jesus Christ.

As Anglicans, we know that we need to wrestle with how we interpret our faith and that there will often be competing conclusions. There is, however, no such thing for an incarnate Christian as faith without politics, although there might be politics without faith.

Continued from Page 1

the new Aga Khan Museum, from 10:10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., in Canon Nicholson Hall, 70 St. Clements Ave., near Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue. All welcome. No admission charge. On Jan. 18, the speaker will be Terry Fallis, talking about his satirical novel, The Best Laid Plans. On Jan. 25, the speaker will be the Rev. Ian Gilchrist to reminisce about his career. On Feb. 1, Thabat Abdullah of York University will speak on the roots of religious extremism in Iraq. On Feb. 8, physician Dr. Ritika Goel will discuss why Medicare needs to provide pharmacare and insurance for the uninsured.

Dioceese runs ads

The diocese spent $300 on Facebook and $200 on Twitter.

The goal of the ads was to encourage seekers to visit the website and ultimately their local Anglican church, but they also helped to promote the diocese’s presence on social media. The Anglicans involved in efforts to provide affordable housing

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Affordable housing and homelessness has been one of the social justice priorities for the diocese for more than 10 years. Anglicans have passed vestry motions calling on the provincial government to make affordable housing a priority. They have met with their MPPs to discuss the need for improved affordable and supportive housing infrastructure. They have also supported the work of several ecumenical, interfaith, and secular justice organizations. In addition, the diocese has provided direct support to housing initiatives through its relationships with several FaithWorks Ministry Partners.

In his letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne in September of 2014, Archbishop Johnson reminded the government that “Anglican parishes 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.”

Ryan Weston, the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, said the diocese remains committed to working with the government to put an end to homelessness. “While timely emergency responses remain critical to keep people safe and warm in the short-term, particularly during extreme weather events, a long-term strategic plan to combat homelessness and marginalization requires commitment and investment from all three levels of government to build and improve affordable housing in our region, including safe and supportive housing for those living with addictions or mental health concerns. The diocese will continue to remind all levels of government of our commitment to live out our baptismal vow to ‘seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.’”
Paul played central role

Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. This title was given to Paul by the early church and it continues to describe his ministry to this day. How could someone who was raised in a Jewish home to do with Gentiles come to be their primary recruiter for the Christian faith? We cannot answer this question with any degree of certainty. But we can answer this perplexing question.

Paul was born in the diaspora (that is, the Jews who had migrated from the Holy Land into various parts of the Roman Empire). He was born in Tarsus of Cilicia, located on the southwestern coast of modern day Turkey. He was brought up in a strict orthodox Jewish home and probably learned his trade as a tent-maker while travelling in Tarsus. His parents may have been Roman citizens, which meant they were probably wealthy and had some important job in that area. Although he may have known Hebrew, his native tongue was Greek. At some point, he moved to Jerusalem; Luke suggested it was to study under Gamaliel, one of the most influential rabbis of the first century.

We know little about Paul than any other writer in the Christian Bible. In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke constructs the last half of the book to Paul's mission work (see Acts 13:28); it could have been called the Acts of Paul the Apostle. Thirteen of the 21 epistles in the Christian Bible are credited to the pen of Paul. The Letter to the Hebrews was written anonymously. Some in the early church assumed it was written by Paul but the view that view was discredited and the epistle has remained anonymous through the Christian tradition. There is much discussion among biblical scholars about the authorship of many of Paul's 13 epistles, but I believe he was the original author of each.

For this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief. Remember, there were no computer or printing presses. Every word had to be pressed for this belief.

The Rev. Canon Don Beatty

READING THE BIBLE

BY THE REV. CANON DON BEATTY

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Refugees remain hopeful

BY THE REV. BOB BETTSON

When Christians in Mosul, Iraq, were forced from their homes either to convert to Islam or death at the hands of ISIS, which had taken over the city from the hands of Christians from Amar, they did not lose their faith. They would be lucky to receive them. They were well educated and dedicated to their faith. The courage of these people, who left with little more than the clothes on their backs, was inspiring. Many of them told stories of suffering, but they did not lose their faith.

The Rev. Rachel Kessler is the Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel of Ottawa. She is a member of the Anglican-Roman Catholic Consultative Committee. She has been a member of the Interfaith Task Force on Refugees in Canada.

In this series, we look at how the diocese’s Christian refugee support campaign is helping individuals and families from Iraq, Jordan and Syria. We launch “Grace Church Our Hope,” a new online Bible study and resource for building community and faith practices.

The app includes links to a number of videos and resources gathered from across the Internet with the goal of bridging the gap between church and “everyday” life. Online Bible study tools give users the opportunity to access scripture on the go, in any number of translations. More importantly, the app includes links to a number of videos resources that bring many popular Bible stories to life for children. We hope the app will help connect our congregation to some of the great material being produced throughout the church, such as the national church’s community blog and the new Spirit of Inspiration videos produced in our own diocese.

One of our major goals is to keep the app up to date with the current liturgical season. So far, the most popular aspects of the app are the introduction to the Sunday readings and the various Grace media collected under the “Watch and Listen” category.

Many aspects of the app are not exclusive to Grace Church. We hope that we can offer the app as a resource to be used by Anglicans throughout the diocese and beyond. We are grateful to the Our Faith Our Hope campaign for giving us this new opportunity for the building up of God’s church.

The Rev. Dr. Rachel Kessler is the associate priest at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto.

BRIEFLY

Time to update subscription list

Churches in the diocese will have received their subscription list for The Anglican and Anglican Journal. Please take the time to update it and send the changes back to the office of the Anglican Journal, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2 or email the changes to circulation@anglican.ca. Keeping your list up to date reduces mailing costs, helps the environment and ensures that new parishioners are connected with the diocese and the wider church.

Sisterhood elects new Reverend Mother

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine has elected Sister Elizabeth Holte-Thomas as the new Reverend Mother. She will be the seventh Reverend Mother in the 130-year history of the sisterhood. Her installation will take place in May. Sister Elizabeth Ann Eckert, SSJ, will retire as Reverend Mother at that time. After some sabbatical time, she will take up new duties in the sisterhood.

Bishop’s Company Dinner set for May 7

The next Bishop’s Company Annual Dinner will be held on May 7, beginning with a reception at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square followed by a dinner at the Toronto Marriott, Eaton Centre at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be V. Prem Watsa, chairman and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings.

Eucharist honours refugee sponsors

Archbishop Colin Johnson is thanking parishioners in the diocese that have offered refugee sponsorship during the past 16 years of his episcopacy with a special celebration of the Eucharist on Feb. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral. All are welcome.