Expansion a dream come true
Trilingual church needs more space

BY STUART MANN

St. Elizabeth, Mississauga, took another step into the Promised Land on April 12, breaking ground for a church expansion project that will see the current building almost triple in size.

“It’s our dream and it has come true,” says Dr. Wilson Loo, the rector’s warden and co-chair of the church’s extension committee.

The church, located at 1051 Eglinton Ave. W., will increase another 7,500 square feet and will be able to seat 230 in the main worship space. It will have a chapel that can seat 60 and two large rooms for outreach and social functions.

The expansion is necessary to accommodate the church’s three congregations and to provide effective outreach and evangelism, says Dr. Loo.

The church has a Mandarin-speaking congregation, a Cantonese-speaking congregation and an English-speaking congregation—all meeting at different times on a Sunday morning. The expansion will give them more space for worship, Bible study and fellowship.

It will also give them the opportunity to worship together on special occasions. “We’ll be able to come together to worship in three different languages,” says Dr. Loo.

The expansion will provide more space for social functions such as the church’s fellowship lunch and its evangelism meetings, which can draw up to 200 people to hear guest speakers. For really large events, the foyer can be used for extra seating.

In addition to its current outreach activities, the church is thinking about providing a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal for the less fortunate in the community. It might also use some of the space for a daycare.

The expansion project will cost $2.75 million, of which the diocese will contribute $1.75 million through grants and an interest

Continued on Page 2
Church in prime spot for growth

Continued from Page 1

free loan. The church has raised nearly $900,000 toward the cost of the project. Construction is expected to be completed by the spring of 2016.

About 180 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony on April 12, including Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Patrick Yu and Bishop Philip Poole, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley. A number of local dignitaries also attended, including Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

In an interview afterward, Bishop Poole praised St. Elizabeth’s for its Christian witness and outreach to newcomers to Canada. “It can be a real challenge these days to be the church in society, but there are many places, including St. Elizabeth’s, that are not only meeting that challenge but expanding and growing,” he said. “I think York-Credit Valley is the most diverse area of the Anglican Church of Canada, and it’s very encouraging to see our increasing ability to welcome people from the 164 countries of the Anglican Communion who are coming to the area.”

Since the original Cantonese-speaking congregation formed in 1992, it has met in many locations, including St. Elizabeth’s church in Etobicoke, which was destroyed by a fire in 1999. With the insurance money from the fire, the congregation purchased 2.73 acres in Mississauga and eventually raised enough money to build a church on it in 2003.

“Looking back, I think it was good to spend some time in the wilderness to develop ourselves both spiritually and fellowship-wise, so that we can really work together,” says Dr. Loo. “We’ve gone through many bumps over the past 20-odd years, but after each bump we got stronger. We really believe in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

Since 2003, the church has grown from 60 people on a Sunday to more than 100. Billy Ng, the church’s extension committee chairman, says the building’s location – near a major intersection in central Mississauga – is one of the main reasons for its growth.

“We have the best location in Mississauga, especially for reaching the Chinese population,” says Mr. Ng. He credits Bishop Ann Tottenham, the former area bishop of York-Credit Valley, with recommending back in 2000 that the congregation buy a piece of land in a highly visible location.

“There were three pieces of land for sale at that time, and we never thought we would be able to afford to buy this one. The other two locations were cheaper but smaller and not near a major intersection.”

He also credits the parishioners for their faithfulness and dedication. “Whenever there are events or ministry that we want to launch, they don’t think about it – they volunteer themselves right away. We don’t mind trying things and failing. That’s okay.”

While he’s excited about expanding the church, he says the parish needs to keep focused on ministry. “We have to look at how to serve the community and spread the Gospel. I don’t want to have a building that is only 30 or 40 per cent occupied. This is our challenge – how we can build from 110 people to 200. That should be our target.”

Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre) turns the first shovelful of ground to begin the extension of St. Elizabeth, Mississauga. He is accompanied by bishops, clergy, local politicians and members of St. Elizabeth’s. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON
BIG DAY

Top right: newly ordained deacons gather on the steps of St. James Cathedral with Archbishop Colin Johnson, bishops, clergy and laity on May 3. From left to right are the Rev. Vernon Duporte, the Rev. Jonathan Turtle, the Rev. Leonard Leader, the Rev. Irina Dubinski, the Rev. Tim Taylor, the Rev. Antoine Rutherford, the Rev. Augusto Nunez, the Rev. Bill Mok and the Rev. Christopher D’Angelo. Friends and family of the new deacons filled the cathedral and spilled out onto the lawn afterwards to congratulate them. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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**Archbishop's Diary**

**BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON**

in cooking for company and frequently try out new recipes on guests.

We value our meals around our large table, which once belonged to my parents.

In each, an aspect of Jesus’ person and teaching is revealed, the Kingdom is effectively proclaimed and the nascent church is built up.

A couple of years ago, she argues that the Gospel of John is shaped around a series of five meals. In each, an aspect of Jesus’ person and teaching is revealed, the Kingdom is effectively proclaimed and the nascent church is built up.

This summer, because of the common lectionary, Anglicans along with Roman Catholics, Lutherans and in fact the majority ofChristians around the world will hear, over a five-week period, the reading of just one chapter of this Gospel: John 6, the feeding of the multitude and an extended interpretation of the meaning of that life-giving meal.

For many of us, the hectic pace and fragility, mentled lives we leave little space for gatherings around a table and shared family food. For others, making an attempt, will rob them of that chance. That is such a great loss!

This summer, whenever you can, gather around a family table, stand around the barbecue, sit around a camp fire, share a table in a nursing home, meet at a restaurant, share a meal and engage in conversation. Consider not only how you are nourishing your body with the food set before you, but how the conversation deepens your relationships, expands your horizons, and enriches your perception of the image of Christ in your neighbor. (And don’t forget the cook!)

I am thankful that we chose to have a dining room. It has been a school of discipleship.

There can be no letting up in this work.
God had a message for me

BY THE REV. RUTH KNAPP

It was pretty much the same each week. There were meetings and classes during the day, and on Thursday nights there was church choir practice and sometimes play rehearsals for little theater. Weekends were spent parenting and doing the myriad of household chores that are required when one is a working mom who has three kids, two dogs and a changing number of cats, depending on the time of year. In other words, my life was pretty ordinary. Even though I attended church on Sunday, Christ was definitely not a real priority during the rest of the week.

As far as I knew, Jesus and the Christ were the same, and I did not know the difference. Their images filled the beautiful stained glass windows, beautifying places of worship, but not doing much else. I suspect that my faith stopped growing sometime after confirmation class at age 12. The early Sunday school stories that I had internalized as literal happenings stuck with me, and as I matured I chose to just set them aside rather than deal with the contradictions, doubts and unsettling questions.

For many years as a child and teen, I felt called to the priesthood, but because I was a girl, we were sent off to junior college, and we were not even listed by last name when we graduated. It was pretty much the same each week. There were meetings and classes during the day, and on Thursday nights there was church choir practice and sometimes play rehearsals for little theater. Weekends were spent parenting and doing the myriad of household chores that are required when one is a working mom who has three kids, two dogs and a changing number of cats, depending on the time of year. In other words, my life was pretty ordinary. Even though I attended church on Sunday, Christ was definitely not a real priority during the rest of the week.

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I see blessings at every step

Matthew Li is the Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Youth Program Worker at the Timmins Native Friendship Centre's satellite site in Moosonee. He is the son of the Rev. Simon Li, incumbent of St. John, Williamsdale.

The Timmins Native Friendship Centre provides a wide range of programs and services to support and improve the lives of aboriginal people living in urban areas. The centre is located in Moosonee, a satellite site in Williamsdale. It's a major obstacle to the potential of youth to be leaders. I'm not sure there is a worse part of my role as the Friendship Centre as a whole. The reality is that the experience of being an at-risk youth is real, and being ambitious to develop new things that meet the needs of the youth and community - that's what's most rewarding.

I grew up in Toronto and lived there my entire life. A huge influence on my direction in life has been my parents' consistent support and encouragement to develop myself as a person and expand my perspective. Their example of service to others has also been engrained in me. I've always believed that I can be a better person and grow together through all our adventures. My wife came to Moosonee on a field study three years ago as a university student. She was so inspired by the people and culture here that she came back to Toronto determined to eventually return. Our paths in life truly aligned when I also became inspired to work with the aboriginal community at the Truth and Reconciliation Conference in Toronto that same year. After finishing our post-secondary studies, we were set on working with an aboriginal community, and since I've always been drawn to Moosonee we decided to come here. That's the really condensed version of our journey. I won't leave out that I truly believe that our journey here has been a blessing and been guided by powers greater than us.

Moosonee is drastically different from Toronto in many ways. There's no road access here, so you have to take a train north or fly. There are no paved roads or traffic lights. You can drive from one end of town to the other, with a population of about 3,000, in about 10 minutes. And food is way more expensive and limited in variety. But the remoteness of Moosonee has also grown on me quite a bit. The culture is much more relaxed than the constant hustle of the city. Nature is all around and the bush is literally a few steps from your door. Most people are very welcoming and friendly, and I've been able to meet people and develop relationships more deeply than I have in the big city. Most of all, it has been inspiring to see how resilient and resourceful the youth are.

I became fascinated by the monster in the corner

Canon Giles Bryant is the organist and choirmaster at All Saints, Peterborough. He will be retiring on Sept. 6. He is also the organist and master of the choristers emeritus of St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

After being sent away from home during World War II and spending time at various convents, I went on to the school where my two brothers had been. St. George's College for Boys in Weybridge in Surrey. My parents were both keen singers and my mother played the piano, so from an early age I was singing at home. I was very lucky in that St. George's we sang folk songs in the class. As I was a new boy, I was encouraged my voice and it was quite often an organ-blower, which further encouraged my way to the beast. As we were being encouraged to pray, I was intrigued by the mechanism of the organ. After much begging, I started having lessons and was allowed after a while to play for simple services. I practised late at night, much to the distress of the monks trying to sleep. Eventually I was allowed after a while to play for some services.

Meanwhile, I was taking piano lessons and became fascinated by the monster in the corner of the chapel. I was pushed into service quite often as an organ-blower, which further encouraged my way to the beast.
Parishes see givings increase

BY STUART MANN

A resource created by the diocese to help parishes with stewardship is showing significant results after only two years.

Of the 16 parishes that took part in the Growing Healthy Stewards program in 2013 and 2014, almost all are seeing increases in their offertory giving. FaithWorks contributions and pre-authorized giving. One church even credits the program with helping boost attendance.


Growing Healthy Stewards is a year-round stewardship education program. One of its unique features is that it is coachled. Each parish is teamed with an experienced lay volunteer who has a proven track record of leading stewardship in their own parish.

Another important aspect of the program is that each component has been tried and tested by parishes in the diocese. Over the past 10 years, more than 100 parishes have participated in parts of the program. Based on their feedback, the material has been refined and collected into one manual.

Assisted by their coach, parishioners work through the manual, which includes strategies for such things as introducing legacy giving, running an outreach campaign, celebrating gifts of various sizes, preparing a narrative budget and holding an intentional giving campaign. Some of the most innovative strategies, such as a “relay” of pledge cards from house to house, come from the parishes themselves.

“The program has been great,” says Mr. Gladding. “It gives you a plan to follow and it’s really simple.”

After two years in the program, St. Margaret’s has achieved considerable success. By the end of 2014, the church’s offertory givings were 14 per cent higher than budgeted and its contributions to FaithWorks had doubled. The average offertory gift was $2,000 – this in a neighbourhood that has an after-tax household income of $82,663. Participation in pre-authorized giving increased by 36 per cent.

Not only has the church’s revenue gone up, but so has its average Sunday attendance, as it puts more time and effort into cultivating new members. “When you begin to focus on stewardship, you want to make sure that everyone has the ability to contribute,” says Mr. Gladding. “When a new person comes now, it’s not very long before someone is asking them if they would like to become a member of St. Margaret’s.”

He says the program has given parishioners more confidence to talk about giving and a deeper understanding of the church’s mission. Some members have given sermons on stewardship. “That changes how people look at each other, when someone is brave enough to preach a sermon on Sunday morning. That’s been a really good thing.”

Another church that has benefited from the program is St. Timothy, New Toronto. Its offertory givings in 2014 were 10 per cent above budget and its participation in pre-authorized giving increased from 28 per cent in 2012 to 34 per cent in 2014 – a considerable increase given that those who sign up for pre-authorized giving usually give about 30 per cent more than they would by using envelopes or the open plate. The church’s support for FaithWorks has also increased by 27 per cent.

“The program provides a structure, so you don’t have to invent one,” says the Rev. Canon Gregory Symmes, incumbent. “Often in stewardship, we know the language but we’re not quite sure where to start or have the confidence, and this helps us with that.”

He says the program helped the church set realistic and tangible goals and then work towards them in an intentional way. “I’ve never gone home after hearing a good sermon and said to my wife, ‘Honey, let’s increase our givings to the church.’ It just doesn’t happen that way. But it does when we’re asked to consider if we would sign up for pre-authorized giving or increase our donations to hire a new staff person or put in an elevator or accomplish more. Vision inspires.”

Gordon Longman, a member of St. Thomas, Brooklin, is one of 14 coaches in the program and enjoys working with the parishes. “When I meet with the parishes, I ask about where they are and what they have done, and then we see what aspects of the program should be done next.”

He says the program does not offer a cookie cutter solution. “You can’t just impose it on the church. What I continually say is, ‘I am here as a consultant to help you manage your situation. It’s your program, not mine.’ The diocese has ideas and experience and processes that could help you, but it’s up to you to decide which ones you want to do.’ After that, I’ll give them whatever encouragement and follow-up is needed. It’s a co-operative process.”

Churches that sign up for the program must commit to following the manual as closely as possible, with some minor variations allowed. Each member of the parish’s stewardship committee must complete a personal stewardship audit and commit to a life of generous stewardship. All of the committee members, including the incumbent, need to become boosters of the program and lead by example, including speaking from the pulpit about discipleship and the importance of stewardship.

It’s a big commitment, but anything worthwhile requires a commitment,” says Peter Misiaszek, the diocese’s director of Stewardship Development. “If you can muster together, at minimum, four people to do the program, you can do it. When you start seeing the results, that will build high levels of commitment.”

In return for signing up, the parish will be teamed with a coach who will meet with the parish’s stewardship committee at least four times a year to evaluate progress, plan activities and answer questions. At the beginning of the process, the parish’s current stewardship practices will be assessed, with an aim to improve them over the year. The parish will also have access to Mr. Misiaszek and other professionals in the Stewardship Development office.

For more information about the program, contact Peter Misiaszek, director of Stewardship Development, at pmisiaszek@toronto.anglican.ca.
Ethiopia a diverse, complex and beautiful country

Church team visits mission to children with disabilities

By Karen Isaacs

The air smelled of a unique mixture of dust, smoke, warmth, roasting coffee and incense as we took our first breaths in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We were and still are on a grey, chilly spring morning and had stepped off the plane 14 hours later into the sunshine and heat of a foreign land. I had been to different countries in Africa – Mali, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Mauritius – and I thought I knew something about what to expect as I was going to Ethiopia with a small team from my parish of St. George the Martyr: Parkdale. But Ethiopia is in many ways unique, and the food, clothing, coffee, traditions and other aspects of life were not what I had come to know as “African.” I found myself challenged, delighted and intrigued by everything I came across.

There were four of us on our team: our incumbent, the Rev. Simon Bell; our community pastor, Dan Brandsma; our church warden, Dale Hawke; and me. Of the four, only Dale had never been to Africa, and Ethiopia was new to three of us.

Mission and outreach is a strong focus of St. George the Martyr, and while that generally is expressed in local neighbourhood flowers and farmers’ market and other initiatives, we also want to have a global outreach. In 2014, the possibility came up for a partnership with Ethiopia with an organization called SIM (Serving In Mission). Dan, our community pastor, went last spring to check out some projects in Ethiopia. He discovered one called Hidden Abilities, which works with children with physical disabilities. He thought this would be a good fit for St. George’s, so in March we went to explore it further.

Hidden Abilities is run by SIM Ethiopia and is largely staffed by missionaries. It was started by John and Phyllis Coleman, long-time Canadian missionaries in Ethiopia who adopted twin girls, Amy and Abby, now aged 10. Abby’s physical disabilities opened their eyes to the lack of support for children like her in Ethiopia. Just over a year ago, Hidden Abilities was created specifically for them. It currently helps 27 children, and there is hope to grow that number to 200 over the next couple of years.

Hidden Abilities is in transition, though: the Colemans will be coming home to Canada soon, and a key Ethiopian staff member, Semret, will be leaving in the fall. While local staff are being hired to replace Semret, more missionary support is essential at this early stage of the project.

When we arrived in Ethiopia, we didn’t know what to expect or what practical help we could give. Except for Dale, none of us had been trained to work with people with disabilities. But we quickly realized that we had two roles to play: to provide encouragement and pastoral support to the missionaries and staff, and to advocate for the project back home. The project needs financial support and equipment. It also needs people who are trained in physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech therapy who can go for short periods of time. Prayers and encouragement from churches and individuals are also welcome.

On our first day at the clinic, we met Emmanuel – a five-year-old boy, very small for his age, who can neither speak nor sit up without help. But his smile is big and his laughter deep. His mother works in the sex trade on the streets of Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. For most of Emmanuel’s life, she was unable to provide him with proper nourishment for him to grow. When he began to attend Hidden Abilities, he was unable to move or make any sounds by himself. With the help of the trained staff, his improvement has been swift: he can now sit up with help. Emmanuel, however, is lucky after about eight or nine, the most that the staff can usually do is help a child (and their families) learn to live with their disabilities rather than heal them.

Emmanuel was just one of the many children we were able to meet on this trip. The work that Hidden Abilities does is beautiful and valuable. It is also humble – one stretched muscle at a time and one smile at a time. It is only over weeks and months that change is visible.

Patience is essential.

When people ask me what my favourite part of the trip was, I am at a loss for words. Do I start with these experiences: meeting and laughing with Emmanuel? Blowing bubbles with 8-year-old Rahel and seeing her huge smile? Getting to hear the incredible faith story of Semret? Or do I speak of meeting with the Anglican bishop of Ethiopia, Grant Le Marquand, and hearing what exciting things the church is up to in Ethiopia? While there is currently only one Anglican church in Addis Ababa – due to a historical misunderstanding of the Anglican Church as a “chaplaincy” to English-speaking expatriates – Anglican churches are flourishing in the province of Gambela, located in the western part of the country. Gambela borders South Sudan and hosts many Somali and Sudanese refugees who are fleeing conflict. Many of these refugees are finding a spiritual home in Anglican churches in the region. As Bishop Le Marquand re-marked, new Anglican churches are springing up every time his back is turned. One newly constructed church in a refugee camp, built to hold 1,000 people, was bursting with almost 2,000 at last year’s Easter service!

Or maybe I could say that my favourite experiences came during the few days we were exploring the tourist side of Ethiopia. We went north to see the city of St. George the Martyr in front of St. George Cathedral, Bahir Dar; macchiato, Ethiopian style; Dale Hawke playing with Emmanuel at the clinic; Rahel doing stretches at the clinic. Photos courtesy of Karen Isaacs

Pair ride in Europe to raise funds for soldiers

By Carolyn Purden

On June 12, Major the Rev. Canon David Warren (left) and Dr. Phil Burridge will be cycling from Vimy Ridge to Groesbeek Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Major the Rev. Canon David Warren (left) and Dr. Phil Burridge will be cycling from Vimy Ridge to Groesbeek Cemetery in the Netherlands.

This year, it starts at Vimy and ends at Groesbeek Cemetery in Nijmegen for the 70th anniversary of VE Day and the liberation of the Netherlands.

Canon Warren, who was chaplain to the reserve forces until his retirement in 2013, says last year’s ride was the first long-distance cycling he had done. He has been training for this ride ever since, in the gym for the winter months and on the road in better weather.

“Currently we’re supposed to be road-riding three days a week, and one of those rides should be approximately three hours long,” he explains. Days on the tour begin at 8 a.m. and, with scheduled breaks, end at 4 or 5 p.m.

The biking should be easier this year, he says, as it starts in the hills of France and ends on the flat land of Holland. “Last year it was a lot uphill,” he adds.

Continued on Page 9
Continued from Page 8

are 12 castles scattered over the compounds.) We also spent a morning visiting ancient island monasteries on Lake Tana, where the Ark of the Covenant was rumoured to be housed in centuries past. It was humbling to watch faithful monks and nuns working, fasting and praying with such dedication, and to know that some of these monasteries had been in existence since the 14th century. On our way back to shore, we stopped by the mouth of the Blue Nile (the main tributary of the Nile) and saw a “bloat” of hippopotami swimming. It is a privilege of visiting beautiful Orthodox churches and learning something of their rich tradition, which saturates everything one sees and does. Ethiopia was one of the first states to officially adopt Christianity (in the 4th century), and the centuries of deep faith are evident across the country. The iconography is beautiful and powerful (eyes symbolize understanding, so any picture of the 12 disciples shows Judas with only one eye visible). Every action and artifact in Ethiopian Orthodoxy is steeped with symbolism, from the four steps leading into the Holy of Holies (representing the four Gospels), to the vertical movement of the priest’s staff, symbolising Christ coming to earth, being raised on the cross, descending to the grave and ascending to heaven.

And how could I be satisfied that I had properly conveyed my favourite experiences if I didn’t mention the food and coffee? Anyone who has experienced Ethiopian food knows something of what to expect: multiple tasty dishes served on the sour, spongy flatbread known as injera. But we also enjoyed grilled fish fresh from Lake Tana and an assortment of stews and soups. There was also an Ethiopian take on “Western” food such as pasta and pizzas. The food was very flavourful, often very spicy and, in general, a delight. (But be warned: “green peppers” are actually little hot peppers that are green, not our large sweet variety.)

The coffee deserves a paragraph of its own. Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and Ethiopians take great pride and delight in their coffee ceremonies. A traditional coffee ceremony involves coffee brewed in a particular pot over a charcoal stove and served in little cups with sugar on the side, accompanied by burning incense for smell, grass for beauty and popcorn for taste. But the Ethiopians wisely took some traditions from the Italians as well before they conquered them and sent them out of the country: among other things, a love of macchiatos under the stars, is a memory open-air restaurant at our hotel, sipping with only one eye visible). Every action and artifact in Ethiopian Orthodoxy is steeped with symbolism, from the four steps leading into the Holy of Holies (representing the four Gospels), to the vertical movement of the priest’s staff, symbolising Christ coming to earth, being raised on the cross, descending to the grave and ascending to heaven.

BRIEFLY

Solidarity walk planned for Toronto

On May 31, communities across Canada will be preparing for the formal end of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by marching in solidarity with survivors of residential schools. A solidarity walk will take place in Toronto beginning at 2 p.m. at Lord Dufferin School, located at 350 Parliament St., and ending at Queen’s Park. For more information, contact Ryan Weston, the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, rweston@toronto.anglican.ca.

22 days of prayer for reconciliation

The Anglican Church of Canada will be marking the conclusion of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with 22 days of prayer for continued reconciliation between May 31 (the beginning of the last TRC meeting) and June 21 (National Aboriginal Day). The diocese invites every parish to pray for all those affected by the schools; to ring church bells for murdered and missing Aboriginal women and girls; and to renew their resolve for reconciliation. For more information, visit the national church’s website, www.national.anglican.ca.

Youth invited to event

The Archbishop’s Youth Ministry Committee is hosting Interface, an event for youth under 18 along with their leaders and parents. Interface will take place on Sept. 26 at St. James Cathedral, 65 Church St., Toronto. There is no fee, but participants will need to bring or buy their own lunch, as well as fare for the TTC. Youth under 18 must have a parental consent form signed by a parent or guardian to attend. Contact Jillian Ruch at yorkscarboroughyhc@gmail.com.

The Archbishop’s Youth Ministry includes: 1000 Youth, Family and Community Ministries, Springboard, Youth Network, and York-Scarborough Yhc.

“...we arrived back in Toronto on March 24, landing after a 16-hour flight to another chilly, damp Toronto morning. It was good to come home. We came back enriched by our trip to Ethiopia, with a deep respect for the difficult history and present situation, and glad to have been able to share encouragement and fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.”

Karen Isacs is the administrative assistant to Bishop Patrick Yu.
Leaders to publish Book of Joy
INDIA – Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama met this spring to create something they call the Book of Joy to help people find “enduring happiness in an uncertain world.” Archbishop Tutu travelled to Dharmsala for the Buddhist leader’s 80th birthday. The two spent a week together in what was described as “deep dialogue and playful laughter” as they shared their experiences of finding joy in the face of life’s challenges.

Anglican Communion News Service

Small loans lead to big change
GHANA – When 188 women received micro-loans to purchase donkeys, carts and ploughs, the intention was to increase productivity in the agricultural community and provide more income. But when Sara Delaney, an Episcopalian program officer, traveled to Ghana a year later, she found they had achieved much more. The women had gained a sense of independence and no longer relied on help to accomplish basic tasks. One of the women, Anyandebe Madudu, said: “If there is rain, I am not going to rely on any bullcuck to come to my farm to plough. I will put on the donkey and plough. I have moved from one level to another.”

Anglican Communion News Service

Congregation on move during repairs
There was a sense of optimism in the air as more than 400 people gathered at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver, on April 26 for the last service in the historic building before it would be closed for extensive renovations. The concrete slab under the roof, a renovat-ed and enlarged kitchen and the building being moved to a temporary site a few blocks away, the congrega-tion was treated to a funny, thoughtful and uplifting sermon by the cathedral’s deacon, the Rev. Alisdair Smith. The liturgy was topped off with a postlude by organist Rupert Lang. Mr. Lang played an enthusiastic arrangement of John William’s “Star Wars” themes, which seemed appropriate for a congre-gation on the move.

Vancouver anglican.ca

Church opens for Bible reading
St. Mark, High Prairie, hosted a Bible Reading Proclamation during Holy Week. For 63 hours between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, the church was kept open as people took turns read-ing the Bible out loud. As in past years, all the churches in High Prairie were invited to take part. People from a few local churches took part, with several coming back to read more passages. “Several people said their experience was awesome and wonder-ful,” said Peter Clarke, a member of St. Mark’s, “The Messenger.”

Diocese to sponsor Iraqi refugees
An Iraqi refugee family will be calling Regina home after the Diocese of Qu’Appelle decided to sponsor them. The family are Orthodox Assyrian Christians who fled from Mosul after ISIS overran the city last year. The family has been living in Turkey for the past six months. Diocese-san Council voted unanimously to sponsor the family. It will cost about $40,000 to sponsor the fam-ily for a year. The diocese will pay for half of that, with the re-mainder coming from fundrais-ing events and donations. It will be the second refugee family sponsored by the diocese, which took part in the PWRDF50 initia-tive in 2011.

Saskatchewan Anglican

African bishop at Celtic service
Bishop Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith from Ghana will join some 25 fid-els at a service at St. Cath-ber’s, Oakville, in June. “To me, having an African bishop celebrate at a Celtic liturgy with such festive music speaks to the truly global church that we are,” says the Rev. Joseph As-selin, incumbent. Bishop Kobina Ben-Smith will be in the Diocese of Niagara to lead a conference for clergy. While planning his trip to the diocese, he made a special request to visit St. Cath-ber’s. He knew the Rev. John Rye, who was rector of the parish in the early 1960s before going to Ghana as a missionary.

Niagara Anglican

Bishop to walk through diocese
David Edwards, the bishop of the Diocese of Frederickton, plans to walk through the Archdeaconry of St. Andrews in early June. Bishop Edwards plans to walk through all of the diocese’s archdeaconries over the next few summers. The diocese includes all of the province of New Brunswick. “Walking will give me the chance to see the land and meet people whom I would not usually come across,” he says. “As well, there will be time for reflection. Walking will mean I will have to slow down and it will give me time to ponder.” There will be set prayer times along his route and anyone can join in. “There will also be an op-portunity to share the good news of Jesus with those we meet,” he adds. “This is not intended sole-ly to be a walk, but also to be a mission.” He invites everyone to join him on his walk through St. Andrews Archdeaconry, which is located in the southwest part of the province.

The New Brunswick Anglican

World Briefs

Anglicans among dead in earthquake
NRPAL – The Anglican Deanery of Nepal says there has been a devastating loss of life and infra-structure since a massive earth-quake hit the country in April. In Nepal, Sunday is a work day, so many were in church on Sat-urday, April 25, when the earth-quake hit. Dean Lewis Lew re-pports that in the village of Choke, the Rev. Laxman Tamang and 17 members of his parish died when the earthquake struck. Dean Lew said many of the deanery’s churches were lo-cated in a district badly hit. Buildings, schools and churches all collapsed. Nothing was left standing, said one of the local clergy. Churches and agencies throughout the Anglican Communion have launched appeals to support the relief effort.

Anglican Communion News Service

Churches speak out after disaster
UNITED KINGDOM – A ship-wreck off the coast of Italy in April that cost the lives of almost 1,000 Africans seeking refuge from Libya has prompted churches to speak out. The Con-
ference of European Churches asked for prayers for the victims, deploring the loss of life on Eu-rope’s doorstep. The tragedy un-derlines the need for legal and safe pathways for people escaping desperate circumstances, said Justin Welby, the Archbish-op of Canterbury. He said illegal migration must not prevent Eu-rope from “doing what is right” and opening borders to people in need. He said the current crisis is not just the responsibility of Italy but of the whole of Europe, including Britain.

Anglican Communion News Service

Aid groups frustrated with delays in Gaza
ISRAEL – Christian Aid is among the relief and develop-ment groups that are frustrated with the delays in rebuilding Gaza after the conflict with Is-rael. Reports indicate that while donors pledged $3.5 billion to-wards Gaza’s recovery, none of the 10,000 homes destroyed has been rebuilt, and 100,000 people are still homeless and living in camps or schools. There is no permanent ceasefire agreement, and Israel has continued its blockade of Gaza, the groups say. Only a quarter of the money pledged by donors has been re-leased. Restrictions on getting material into Gaza has prevent-ed the 81 health clinics and hos-pitals that were damaged during the conflict from being rebuilt.

Anglican Communion News Service

News

CELEBRATION

The Rev. Gabriel Okporu Wale cele-brates his induction as the priest-in-charge of the Ghanaian Anglican Church of Toronto on April 26. At right, Ebenezer Amos and his band play at the induction. The service took place at St. David, Lawrence Avenue, where the Ghanaian congregation worships.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

NEWS

CANADA BRIEFS

Bishop to walk through diocese
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The New Brunswick Anglican

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The New Brunswick Anglican
Ten minute talks ‘inspiring’

Speakers share stories of AIDS

BY MARY LOU HARRISON

THE social justice team at St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, hosted a discussion evening in April at which six “table speakers” shared their experiences of HIV and AIDS with an inquisitive audience.

The format for the evening was based on the “Slice of Life” event held by the Rotary Club of Whitby and promoted by RADAR (Rotary Action for the Development of AIDS Responses) as a template for groups interested in learning about HIV and AIDS.

After brief introductory remarks, representatives of Latinos Positivos, the Ontario AIDS Network, Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS), and the HIV & AIDS Network of the Diocese of Toronto were seated at banquet tables, where they were joined by up to six guests each. Each speaker had 10 minutes to share his or her personal journey as a person living with HIV/AIDS and answer questions. At the end of 10 minutes, a bell was rung and there was a short refreshment break before participants moved on to another speaker.

“It was eye-opening to meet people from different countries and cultures and hear their stories of dealing with AIDS,” said a St. Mary Magdalene parishioner. “I was saddened to hear about the lack of medical and social support for AIDS patients in Latin America. Even in Canada, we have a long way to go. I learned about grassroots organizations here in Toronto that support people of Latin American descent and people of Asian descent. These social support organizations are a powerful movement for caring and inclusion. The people I met were determined, hopeful, and resourceful, and the evening left me feeling totally inspired.”

The groups heard that federal cuts to refugee healthcare have meant that some HIV-positive people are unable to afford the medication they need to stay healthy. The situation is so dire that Latinos Positivos is looking to establish an emergency pharmacy so people will not have to stop their treatment regimens. Another common theme was the vital importance of a caring and accepting community, especially when family and other traditional supports are no longer available because of the stigma often associated with an HIV-positive diagnosis.

Mary Lou Harrison is a member of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.”

He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”

JOHN 21: 12/hyphen.cap17

BRIEFLY

Episcopal areas invited to build

The diocese gave $100,000 to Habitat for Humanity GTA in January to support the building of affordable housing for a family of four in the Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue area of Toronto. As part of the donation, the diocese can participate in a number of “build days” to assist with the work at the project site.

A day has been set aside for each episcopal area, with space for up to 20 participants each day. No construction experience is necessary, and all safety equipment, training and lunch are provided. The dates and contact information are as follows:

• May 23 - York-Scarborough (contact Karen Isaacs: kisaacs@toronto.anglican.ca or 416-363-6021 ext. 253 / 1-800-668-8932 ext. 253).
• June 13 - York-Credit Valley (contact Gina Bearne: gbearne@toronto.anglican.ca or 416-363-6021 ext. 223 / 1-800-668-8932 ext. 223).
• July 4 - Trent-Durham (contact Heather Burton: hburton@toronto.anglican.ca or 905-668-1558).
• July 18 - York-Simcoe (contact Jennipher Kean: jkean@toronto.anglican.ca or 905-833-8327).

Have a happy and safe summer, whatever your plans may be. And please remember those in need with your gift to FaithWorks.

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**New minister transforms kids’ program**

**Easter event popular**

**By Janice Douglas**

**OUR FAITH OUR HOPE**

This series looks at how the diocese’s Our Faith-O ur Hope campaign is helping individuals and parishes re-imagine church. The campaign has raised $41 million.

Laura Oxley welcomes children and parents to the Garden of Gethsemane inside St. Olave’s. PHOTO BY JANICE DOUGLAS

For every sin – past, present, and future – with his own sacrifice on the cross, and that’s what we remember when we eat the bread and the wine.

After the last supper, the group moved to the baptistry, where Ms. Oxley had a miniature Garden of Gethsemane arranged with the help of a parent volunteer. Children added spring blooms to the garden and learned how Jesus was betrayed and arrested there. Back in the chancel, Ms. Oxley described the story of the crucifixion with the help of Hillary Eresto, a drummer with the South Sudanese Community Church that worships at St. Olave’s. Children each had hand drums to beat along with Ms. Eresto as the story turned darker and darker. The group sang, “Were You There?” The final verse – “Were you there when they rolled the stone away? – hinted at the resurrection. As children learned of the empty tomb, the mood lifted. They learned the hymn, “Sons of God,” adding rhythms with drums and other percussion instruments.

Finally, the group returned to the hall for a snack. Ms. Oxley had set up a mixer and ingredients to make “Tomb Cookies,” meringues that become hollow after drying out over a few hours in the oven. As each ingredient was added to the bowl, a short Bible passage was read to link it to a symbol from the story.

“Tomb cookies,” says Ms. Oxley, “are the brown egg, turning it into a fuzzy creature drying out over a few hours in the oven.” Something made a little bit different.

Trees cut down in the past three years, Guildwood Village in Toronto – and Holy Trinity church at the heart of the village – has been devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer.

“Thousands and thousands of trees, over 100 in number,” says Mr. Kirkegaard, incumbent of Holy Trinity. “We have lost 118 trees on our property alone. It looks like a clear cut.”

The trouble for Holy Trinity began in 2012, when a few trees began to die. The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, incumbent, reminded the group how Jesus served the disciples bread and wine, and the kids all munched on pita and sipped grape juice.

At this time, Ms. Oxley explained the deeper meaning of Jesus’ sacrifice, which we remember through Communion. “I explained to the kids that in God’s plan for redemption, Jesus paid the cost to the parish has been enormous, too. The hill for tree removal is approaching $80,000, and that is on top of $60,000 for a new church roof.

Fortunately, Bishop Patrick Yu, the archbishop of Hong Kong, had become the parish’s champion, and the area council gave Holy Trinity a grant of $15,000 to help pay for tree cutting. Parishioners also responded to a special appeal for funds to cut more trees, and two fundraising concerts raised $28,000.

The loss for the church has also become a loss for the village. Holy Trinity is situated on a large, unfenced lot right at the village crossroads, and over the years it has sought different ways to engage with the community, outside the church walls.

As a result, the church property has become the village green, hosting concerts, theatre, a farmers’ market, an annual garage sale, barbecues, the Seniors Health Fair and Back to Church Sundays. The Guildwood community has rallied to the church’s support, its ratepayers association donating a couple thousand dollars for the tree cutting. Now, as it plans the replanting of the property, the parish is in talks with the community.

“We’ve started a Trees Down, Trees Up campaign,” says Mr. Kirkegaard. “As we replant, we’re speaking to the community about how we can best use the property to serve the community. We want to try and capture a missional vision for it.”

He also anticipates financial help from all three levels of government. “I think all levels of government are saying there be some willingness to assist in the replanting,” he says. “Replanting is much easier to get support for than cutting down.”

Although it has been a devastating loss, parishioners’ morale is high. In the Our Faith-O ur Hope campaign, Holy Trinity raised $230,000, exceeding its target by $91,000, says Mr. Kirkegaard. People felt very encouraged when, after Holy Trinity supported the diocese, the diocese in turn supported it in its time of need.

“For the parish, it was nice to see that immediate loop of support and fellowship from the diocese,” he says, adding, “Although we are dismayed by the loss of our beautiful tree canopy, we are excited about the missional possibilities of our Trees Down, Trees Up campaign.”

**Tree cutting brings church, community closer together**

**By Carolyn Purden**

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Although it has been a devas-
Prem Watsa speaks about how his faith has shaped his life. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Prem Watsa speaks about how his faith has shaped his life.

BY STUART MANN

ONE of Canada’s foremost business leaders spoke passionately about his faith at the Bishop’s Company Dinner, held May 7 in Toronto. 

Prem Watsa, chairman and chief executive officer of Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. and a long-time member of St. Paul, Bloor Street, said being a follower of Jesus Christ has shaped every part of his life, including how he built and runs his business.

“I have been blessed my whole life,” he said. “When I look back, I see that the most important decisions of my life I had no control of. They have been blessings from above.”

Born and raised in India, Mr. Watsa immigrated to Canada in the early 1970s and settled in London, Ont., where he attended the Ivey Business School. In 1985, he took control of a small trucking insurance company and, two years later, re-organized and renamed it Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. The company today has assets of about $40 billion.

“Fairfax has been a labour of love for many people in our company,” he said. “We have a fair and friendly culture, treating all people well. We have prospered, but not at the expense of our founding principles.”

Those principles include valuing the company’s employees and their families. “We don’t want our employees to work at the expense of their families,” he said, adding that employees often have long careers at the company.

He said Fairfax donates one to two per cent of its pre-tax profits to the communities in which it does business. Last year, it donated $19 million to those communities. Over the years, it has donated $130 million.

“When a business does well, its customers benefit, its employees benefit, its shareholders benefit and also the communities benefit,” he said. “At Fairfax, we have a saying – Doing Good by Doing Well. We never forget that we have to do well over the long term so that we can do good in our communities.”

He added: “Business has a huge impact in the world, and with the good Lord’s help it can be a calling.”

The 54th annual Bishop’s Company Dinner began with a reception at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, followed by dinner and a silent auction at the nearby Marriott hotel. It was attended by 425 people and raised $130,000 to help clergy and their families in need and to provide scholarships for theological students.

The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman, the incumbent of Christ Memorial, Oshawa, and her husband Michael spoke about how funds from the Bishop’s Company Dinner had helped them pay for the educational testing of one of their children in preparation for a move to a new church and a new city.

Standing at the podium, Ms. Douglas-Bowman thanked the audience for its support, saying, “What makes the Bishop’s Company Dinner so remarkable is the recognition that clergy care doesn’t just mean supporting the priest. It means caring for their families, too.”

As in previous years, scholarship recipients were announced at the dinner. Allison Dean and Vinaya Sagara Dumpala received the Terence and Alice Jean Finlay Bursary, which is given to two students, one each from Trinity and Wycliffe colleges, who are engaged in studies that celebrate and enhance the understanding of the diversity of the church. Mary-Catherine Garden was awarded the Kirubai Scholarship, given to a Trinity College divinity student who is specializing in liturgy and worship. Donald Beyers and Monique Taylor received the William Kay Bursary, which aids students who are engaged in theological education that will lead to ordination. John Sundara and Rebecca Spellacy received the George & Eileen Carey Bursary, awarded to Anglicans pursuing post-graduate theological studies.
Diocese seeks nominees for General Synod

The Nominating Committee of the Diocese of Toronto is calling for nominations for General Synod 2016. All members of the Diocese of Toronto’s Synod are entitled to nominate any members of diocesan Synod. The election will take place at the regular session of diocesan Synod on Nov. 13-14, 2015. General Synod meets every three years, and the term of office for a member is three years. The term of office will begin at General Synod in 2016. The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Parkway-Hill, Ont.

Nominees to General Synod will be required to remain a member of the Diocese of Toronto’s Synod for the duration of their term of office. They must be willing and able to attend all meetings of General Synod, and must be willing to serve on a sub-committee or working group should they be asked or elected to do so. Expenses incurred are covered according to diocesan policy.

The Nominating Committee is requesting that nominations be submitted by June 1, 2015 to the Rev. James Blackmore at jblackmore@hotmail.ca. Nominations must include name and contact information (email, mailing address and phone number) and parish affiliation of both nominator and nominee, and a statement indicating that the nominee has consented in addition, nominees are asked to submit a brief (100-150 words) biographical statement that includes any past parish associations, skills, educational background and why they are interested in serving in this position. For further information, contact the chair of the Nominations Committee, the Rev. James Blackmore, by email at jblackmore@hotmail.ca, or the assistant secretary of Synod, Pamela Boisvert, by email at pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca.
PRAayer cycLe

FOR JUNE
1. St. David, Deer Park
2. The Rev. Rutherford, Don Valley
4. St. Matthew, First Avenue
5. St. Monica
6. St. Nicholas, Toronto
7. Theological College of the Anglican Church of Canada
8. Christ Church, Rosedale
9. Church of the Advent, York – Scarborough
10. St. John, Janesville

FOR JULY
1. Archbishop Fred Hiltz and the Anglican Church of Canada
2. St. John, Woodbridge
3. The Bishop’s Company of the Diocese of Toronto
4. Trinity Church, Newmarket
5. Mississauga Diocesan
6. Holy Spirit, Kleinburg
7. St. Brice, Clarkson
8. St. Elizabeth Church, Mississauga
9. St. Francis of Assisi
10. St. Mary’s (Cooksville)
11. St. John the Baptist (Brampton)
12. Mission to Seafarers
14. St. Paul, Last Mountain Lake
15. St. Paul, Peterborough
16. St. Thomas A Becket (York – Credit Valley)
17. Trinity Church, Port Credit
18. Trinity United
19. The Doctrine and Worship Commission
20. St. Peter the Apostle – Rocky Lake
21. St. John, Hanover
22. St. Paul, Wasaga Beach
23. Wyndfield Church, Elmvale
24. Anglican Parish of Georgian Bay (GAGT)
25. Evangelicals, New Tecumseth
26. Osheaga Diocese

IN MOTION

Appointments
- The Rev. Dawn M. Gibby has been appointed Interim Priest-in-Charge of St. James the Apostle, Brampton beginning May 1, 2015.
- Following his ordination on May 3, 2015 at St. James Church, an 4:30 pm, Antoine Rutherford will be appointed as Assistant Curate at Christ Church, Deer Park beginning June 1, 2015.
- The Rev. Frances H. Kovar has been appointed Incumbent of St. James the Apostle, Brampton beginning June 16, 2015.
- The Rev. Anthony Bassett has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of St. Peter, Oshawa beginning June 30, 2015.
- The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, Honorary Assistant, St. George on Yonge, Toronto, March 28.
- The Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, Honorary Assistant, Church of the Transfiguration, April 12.
- The Rev. Mark Regia, Associate Priest, St. Paul, Bloor Street, May 4.
- The Ven. Gordon Finney, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy, North Toronto, June 1.

Vacant Incumbencies
Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe, mconliffe@toronto.anglican.ca.

Anglican Classifieds

TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 ext. 22 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA
**Ordinations**
The following individuals were ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 3:
- The Rev. Christopher D’Angelo
- The Rev. Irina Dubinski
- The Rev. Vernon Duporte
- The Rev. Leonard Leader
- The Rev. Bill Mok
- The Rev. Augusto Nunez
- The Rev. Antoine Rutherford
- The Rev. Tim Taylor
- The Rev. Jonathan Turtle

- The Rev. Teena Brown was ordained a deacon at St. Dunstan of Canterbury, Toronto, on May 24.
- The Rev. Thomas Andrew Smith will be ordained a priest at St. Bride, Clarkson on June 7 at 4 p.m.

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**Social media shares Easter with thousands**

Ads promote archbishop’s message, invitation

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

This year, Archbishop Colin Johnson delivered his annual Easter message in a new way – by YouTube video. At 6 a.m. on Easter morning, the Archbishop’s message of hope and new life appeared on the diocese’s website and social media channels.

“The world is not as it should be, but the world will not be that way forever,” Archbishop Johnson said in the video. “With the first light of Easter day, everything changed, because Jesus had been raised from the dead.”

To share that message more widely, the diocese turned to paid social media advertising, spending $50 on Twitter ads and $200 to boost the video on Facebook. Boosting a Facebook post guarantees that more people will see it in their news feeds, a tactic many organizations use to reach larger audiences.

Six days later, the archbishop’s message had been watched nearly 900 times, making it one of the diocese’s most popular videos. It was shared 89 times on Facebook, within the diocese and beyond, and received 17 comments – more than any previous post.

This success wasn’t due entirely to paid advertising. Of the nearly 40,000 people who saw the posts on Facebook and Twitter, about 7,200 were organic views, which means they weren’t the result of the advertising campaign.

In addition to sharing the archbishop’s Easter message, the diocese also continued its use of social media advertising to invite people to church. This year’s ads ran from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday with the message, “Christ has risen – celebrate with us! Find new life this Easter at your local Anglican church.” Each ad linked to the diocese’s Find a Church web page and featured a photo of a yellow daffodil.

For a budget of $250 split evenly between Twitter and Facebook, the ads reached nearly 60,000 people and received 457 interactions between the two platforms. In contrast to previous campaigns, Facebook users were more likely than Twitter users to click on the Easter ad.

Watch Archbishop Johnson’s Easter message on the diocese’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/tordio135.