Give thanks today

I decided to write this article early in September, as I was inspired by two events that took place on Sept. 10 and 11.

On Sept. 10, I had the distinct honour and privilege of presiding at the celebration of the life and Christian witness of the Rev. Canon William “Bill” Riesberry in the parish of St. John, East Orangeville. It was a well-attended celebration befitting Bill, who always wore a smile on his face and was gracious to everyone he met. Many remarked that the liturgy was a wonderful thanksgiving for a good, long and faithful life of a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend and priest.

Bill’s daughter Jennifer gave a moving tribute to her father, whom she described as a person who loved life, cherished his family and cared for people. She spoke of how much he loved to laugh and be funny, and of the compassion and concern he had for persons on the margins of society.

God loaned Bill to us for 89 years, and what wonderful memories he has left us. We give thanks to God for a good and faithful priest, for the servant ministry he carried out and the many lives he touched.

On Sept. 11, I watched some of the events marking the 14th anniversary of the tragedy of 9/11. We were reminded that 14 years ago, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, sons, daughters and grandparents left their loved ones at home that day, never to return to them. No one in America or around the world could have imagined how that day would change the lives of all of us, in one way or another.

Give thanks today.

Large turnout for start of new parish

Name unique in diocese

BY STUART MANN

THE congregation of St. Mary and St. Martha is living up to its name, says the priest-in-charge of the diocese’s newest church. “There is a wonderful combination of spirited devotion and discipleship with a ministry of hospitality and welcome,” says the Rev. Beth Benson.

That was on full display at the church’s inaugural service on Oct. 11, when 145 people gathered for worship and to celebrate the long-awaited beginning of their new parish. On the following Sunday, the church held a potluck lunch that drew another large crowd.

“I was touched by the hymnody and prayerfulness of that first service,” says Ms. Benson. “People were singing from their hearts.”

St. Mary and St. Martha – a name that is unique in the diocese – is an amalgamation of four former churches in Toronto’s north-west corner – the Church of the Advent, the Church of the Good Shepherd, St. David’s on Lawrence Avenue and St. John, Weston. The congregation is worshipping in the building of the former Church of the Good Shepherd, located at 1149 Weston Rd.

For many, the first service also contained another key ingredient – people. Many had come from dwindling congregations that had

Continued on Page 4
New websites help churches look outward

Project promotes better online curb appeal

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

A project is underway to help churches proclaim the Gospel through a medium that is becoming an increasingly dominant form of communication: the Internet.

The Parish Website Project began about two years ago as a conversation between Stuart Mann, director of Communications for the diocese, and the Rev. David Giffen, incumbent at Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, about how to help parishes become more open and inviting online.

“ Websites, social media and digital communications in the 21st century are incredible tools to build the Kingdom of God,” says Mr. Giffen. “Over the course of six months, parishes work with a professional web designer to create a new custom-built website and receive advice to help them establish a presence on social media. A professional photographer also visits each church to take high-quality photos for the new website.

The project is funded by an Our Faith-Our Hope grant of $57,700 to build websites for 18 parishes. Each participating parish also contributes $500.

The first group of parishes began the process in October 2014, with the goal of launching new websites the following Easter: So far All Saints, Whitby; St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville; St. Martin, Bay Ridges; St. George on Yonge; Christ Church, Bolton, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields have launched new sites, with several more on the way.

The websites are all built on WordPress, an easy-to-use platform for those with limited technical knowledge.

“It was a great gift,” says the Rev. Stephen Vail, incumbent at All Saints, Whitby. “We don’t bat an eyelash about spending money on bricks and mortar. Spend some money on your website to get the best product you can.”

An inviting website is increasingly important in a time when a church’s curb appeal, once epitomized by a red door meant to attract passersby, has moved online. “People judge us based on our website. It’s a front door, it’s an entry,” says the Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, incumbent at St. Martin, Bay Ridges.

Six months after launching its new website, Dr. Falby says St. Martin’s is seeing success. “We have had people come to us based on our website. Even if it’s someone looking for a place to have their wedding, that’s something,” she says.

While many parishes assume their websites are visited primarily by their own members, the project team asks them to think more deliberately about who they are trying to reach. “It really helped us focus on who we were hoping to attract and how to reach different audiences, particularly newcomers,” says Dr. Falby.

Churches are encouraged to see their websites as one tool among many they can use to communicate, such as in-service announcements, bulletin boards, newsletters, email lists and social media.

All Saints, Whitby is taking that idea seriously. “We have a communications committee now,” says Mr. Vail. “The project has helped us to be less self-focused and to take the question of our target audience and apply it to other communication tools.”

The Parish Website Project is currently helping its third group of parishes create and launch new websites. Once the Our Faith-Our Hope grant money has been spent, the project team will evaluate its success and consider applying for a second grant.

“The goal is that every parish we work with would end up with a website that would be the front door for seekers,” says Mr. Giffen. “I hope that one by one, this will help parishes prioritize proclaiming the Gospel in new and different ways.”
As we prepare to celebrate the good news of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, please remember those in need with your gift to FaithWorks.

FaithWorks is the annual appeal of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. Since 1996 FaithWorks has provided more than $25 million to Anglican-affiliated ministries offering help and hope to people in need throughout south-central Ontario and around the world.

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: 12-17
Christmas in prison

BY THE REV. CANON NORMAN COLLIER

W
ould you want to be born in a prison? The question was pretty direct, and somehow our Christ-
mas conversation had steered into uncharted territory. But it was exactly the kind of question I had been hoping for.

Since the beginning of December, I have been meeting with some of the Agassiz residents to talk about Christmas. It doesn’t take much imagination to realize that Christ-
mass is a time of great need, and appropriate, let us not lose the opportu-

dation with some evangelical churches in the

y to be born in 2014. Where are the places of

need, the places of poverty, the forgotten

places, the rough places?

I wait anxiously. Suddenly, one guy says a

broken home. Another shouts

Afghanistan. Someone from Winnipeg says

Jarvis and Main. And the guy beside me says

Agassiz. The perfect answer. Then another

resident asks, “Would you want to be born in

a prison?” And the answer, of course, is no.

No one would. Except God.

Christmas is the celebration of the Incar-
nation. It means that God became flesh at the

place of our greatest need. God does not re-

quire perfection or receptability. God simply

needs to be born in any moment in the heart of all who call out for help.

Your Christmas might include presents

and family and cars. But it won’t be Christ-

mas until it includes the birth of Christ in the

place of your greatest need. In prison or out.

The Rev. Canon Norman Collier is the chaplain at the Agassiz Youth Centre in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. This article first appeared in the Rupert’s Land News in 2014.

Millennials changing how we give

H
ow do we respond to the ways that millennials are changing the church? We’re not just talking about reaching out to newcomers; we’re talk-


ing specifically about people in their 20s and 30s – children of the information age, who shun cheque books for e-transfers, access Wikipedia for identification, and no longer use telephone land lines altogether.

As a group, millennials have the potential to shake up the church in ways we have not seen for decades. We know they have the ca-
pacity to give, but they want their giving to have a purpose. Millennials have already adopted peer-to-peer giving for their collection. Imagine a day when we are cashless and cheque-less. The parish of St. Mary and St. Bartholomew in Saint John, New Brunswick, seems to be ahead of the ball on this one. To my knowledge, they are the first Anglican church in Canada to install a debit and credit card machine in their narthex. As well, “giving kiosks” seem to be gaining trac-
tion with some evangelical churches in the United States. Given the use of technology across all sectors, it’s only a matter of time before they become commonplace in our parishes as well.

The Diocese of Toronto has invested con-
siderable energy and resources in developing mobile apps for giving and an online platform that will issue a tax receipt moments after a gift has been made. Online giving has in-

creased significantly in recent years, but we need to learn how to motivate giving on the Internet, we need to connect with young peo-

ple where they tend to gather online.

All of this is to say that demographic change is impacting the way people give. In the not-so-distant future, we can expect a church where the collection plate will not be passed, where everyone in the congregation will be giving through pre-authorized giving, where churches will have giving kiosks in the narthex, where financial planning is taught side-by-side with stewardship education, and where all registration will be done online. Millennials are ushering in a whole new way to give to ministry. We need not fear the change, but it is coming.

Every day is an opportunity to say thanks

Continued From Page 1

Many of those who died had no opportunity
to say goodbye for the last time to their loved ones. This was a stark re-

minder to all of us that as great and wonder-

ful as life can be, it is equally frail and at

minder to all of us that as great and wonder-

ful as life can be, it is equally frail and at

moral. Christmas looks pretty bleak.

In contrast, many youth feel as though they are in prison. The perfect answer is that Christmas in your living room. There is no

fireplace, no Christmas puddings, no pretty packages, no warm candlelight glow, no fam-

ily. Christmas looks pretty bleak.

Facing me are 10 young teens who are try-

ing to put the Christmas story together. They

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New rector appointed to St. James Cathedral

Canon Andrew Asbil begins on Jan. 25

BY STUART MANN

The rector of the cathedral, the Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil, incumbent of thelf Cathedral is a living entity in an ever-changing city,” he says. “We’re in.” It’s the kind of place that wants to experiment and take some really deep risks.”

Canon Asbil graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree in science and received his Master of Divinity from Huron College in London, Ont. He was ordained in the Diocese of Niagara and Executive Board. At the national level, he is chair of the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee and chair of the Liturgy Task Force, serving on those boards since 1999. In addition to his work at the Cathedral Centre, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the Diocese of Niagara, and is a member of the Board of Governors of the College of New Brunswick.

Asbil has served in the diocese of Niagara for nearly two decades, serving in three parishes – St. George in Guelph, St. Alban in Acton and the Church of the Incarnation in Oakville – before coming to Redeemer in 2001. He has been a member of the Diocese of the Cathedral’s Diocesan Council and Executive Board. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Diocese of Niagara, and is a member of the Board of Governors of the College of New Brunswick.

Asbil is here for you, we are here for you. Let’s discover together how God is calling us to serve on this corner, in this city, in the world.”

Under Dean Stoute’s leadership, the cathedral’s staff has grown significantly, mainly due to the activity at the Cathedral Centre. There are about 48 full- and part-time staff members, including three full-time clergy and four part-time priests who assist in the pastoral and liturgical life of the cathedral.

In addition to the activity at the Cathedral Centre, the cathedral owns and operates St. James the Less, an Episcopal church in nearby Regent Park, with the Rev. Walter Han- nam serving as St. Bartholomew’s vicar.

Review

“Busy Cathedral Centre brings together diverse groups

BY STUART MANN

PERHAPS nothing quite so neatly illustrates the size and complexity of St. James Cathedral as a ca- lendar for the week. A small room on the second story of its glass-and-brick Cathedral Centre. The walls of isolation that keep people separated? How do we help people understand their neigh- others and create common space where faith has a chance to sink in?”

He says the cathedral is ideally situated and suited for that to happen. “Because of its size, the cathedral can be a daunting place for some people to go into, and yet the same time it offers those ari- mosphere of mystical space in the heart of a city that’s going 100 miles per hour. We’re able to say, ‘Step inside, come and see. Christ is here for you, we are here for you. Let’s discover together how God is calling us to serve on this corner, in this city, in the world.’”

He says he has been shaped by the ministry of Redeemer and is proud of the church’s commit- ment to social justice and advoca- cy. Located at one of the busiest corners in the city, Redeemer’s lunch program feeds about 100 people a day; the program costs more than $130,000, most of which comes from open plate offerings. “Redeemer is a community that says, ‘We’re in.’ It’s the kind of place that wants to experiment and take some really deep risks.”

Talking about the role of the Cathedral Centre, an $18 million renovation and expansion of the former parish house. The building has been renovated and expanded, and the former parish house. The building has been converted into a high-end, state-of-the-art facility that offers a variety of services, including a foot-care clinic, pastoral counselling and referrals, and a nutritious lunch. The drop-in helps hundreds of people, every week of the year.

Business groups that rent space in the centre often see the drop-in and are moved to assist. Catering companies have provided chefs to prepare meals, food companies send products and a local restaurant hosts an annual elegant holiday dinner in December for the drop-in’s guests. Leaders from around the world have come to the cathedral to tour the facilities and learn how they can emulate it. Trinity, Wall Street, an Episcopal church in New York, filmed a documentary about the cathedral’s success.

In addition to the activity at King and Church streets, the cathedral owns and operates St. James the Less, a historic and prominent cemetery at Parliament and Bloor streets. The rector of the cathedral is also the priest-in-charge of St. Bartholomew’s near Regent Park, with the Rev. Walter Han- nam serving as St. Bartholomew’s vicar.

New Cathedral to be Unveiled

Located at the corner of King and Church streets in downtown Toronto, the cathedral is open seven days a week and provides at least four worship services a day, beginning with a Eucharist at 7:30 a.m. This past summer, about 400 people a day visited the historic Gothic building. The cathedral figures prominently in the city’s cultural landscape. It provided important out- reach during the Occupy move- ment, and was a site for protests and electricity to protesters came out next door in St. James Park. It was the site of the Hon. Jim Flan- nery’s state funeral in 2014, and, in previous years, welcomed the Queen on two separate occasions.

Much of the activity takes place in the new Cathedral Centre, an $18 million renovation and expansion of the former parish house. The building has been converted into a high-end, state-of-the-art facility that offers a variety of services, including a foot-care clinic, pastoral counselling and referrals, and a nutritious lunch. The drop-in helps hundreds of people, every week of the year.

When the city wants to have meetings and consult with the neighbourhood, they come here,” says Dean Stoute. The centre hosted mayoral debates in the last municipal election and a seminar on the plight of Christians in the Middle East, chaired by the CBC’s Mark Kelly. It regularly hosts forums on social, political and educational matters.

Rental income from the meet- ings and events helps fund the cathedral’s outreach, especially its weekly drop-in, which takes place on two levels of the Cathedra- Centre. Among the services offered are haircuts to men and women, a foot-care clinic, pastoral counselling and referrals, and a nutritious lunch. The drop- in helps hundreds of people, every week of the year.

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Laura Walton, a member of Christ Church, Batteau in the episcopal area of York-Simcoe, was recently elected prolocutor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, which comprises the dioceses of Algoma, Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Ottawa, Ontario and Toronto. Representatives from each diocese meet every three years at Provincial Synod. For more about the work of Provincial Synod, see the related article on Page 7.

The main duties of the prolocutor are to support the Archishop and to assist as vice-chair at the meetings of Provincial Synod and its executive council. The term lasts until the next Provincial Synod in 2018.

My hope is to support mandates that have already been established by Provincial Synod but also to work on new ones that were proposed at our Synod this past October. I think it’s critical to keep not only the executive council engaged in the work of Synod over the next three years but also those who are elected from each diocese. We have many gifts within our membership and it would be wonderful to utilize them beyond our in-person meetings. I hope we can also expand our diversity and knowledge base, to bring even more depth to the table.

I was born in Mississauga and grew up in Bramalea, now a part of Brampton. I moved to Nottawa, Ont. (near Collingwood), in 1998 to raise my two children and be closer to my parents, who moved to the area when my mother became the incumbent of a local parish. I’m the proud mom of my daughter Michaela, who is 19 and attending University of Toronto, my mom of my daughter Shila.

I attended University of Toronto, completing an Honours BA in criminology. I continued my studies at St. Michael’s College, U of T, and attained certificates in counselling, specializing in mediation, re-creation and additions. I currently work with the Anglican Church of Canada on their Youth Initiatives Team and am in private practice as a family and individual counsellor.

I currently work with youth who are struggling not only with their faith but with religious relevancy. I also see young families searching for a church home and often finding churches that aren’t very flexible or open. My faith journey is a reflection of these struggles. At times it felt not only like people didn’t care about ministry but like God had no interest, either; at those times, I have wanted to walk away from our church and God. At other times, I find myself in others who are so selfless and positive in opening their doors and walking with those who need a hand up. I see the joy of God’s love in those who are so full of grace and humility, and it is inspiring.

I enjoy working with youth and children at all levels of the church. Youth and children have a huge capacity to give from the heart, without prejudice or expectations. I’m also proud to be part of my church family at Batteau and am grateful that they are outward-looking. When they see those who struggle and are vulnerable, they do not hesitate to help. They do ministry for the sake of ministry, not because it will put bums in the pews or money on the plate. I’m proud to be part of this team, doing God’s work because it’s what we are called to do.

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Laura Walton and Jean Béland, the chancellor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, at their installation service during Provincial Synod. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HIDSON

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Keep Hope Alive

Advent and Christmas at the Church of St Simon-the-Apostle

Advent Lessons and Carols - Sunday November 29, 4pm
Begin the Season of Advent with a service of readings and carols. A social gathering featuring fruit cake and cherry will follow the service.

A Christmas Carol - Saturday December 12, 3pm
A dramatic reading of the abridged version of Charles Dickens classic with choral selections by St Simon’s Choir and lots of audience singing along cards. Tickets $5/$10

Nine Lessons and Carols - Sunday December 20, 4pm
A beloved traditional selection of carols and readings by candlelight, a social gathering featuring mince pies and mulled wine will follow.

Christmas Eve - Thursday December 24, 10 pm
A candlelit traditional Eucharist services featuring Christmas carols & choral music.

Christmas Day - Friday December 25, 10:30am
A joyful and reverent celebration of the Nativity.

Every Sunday
8:30am Quiet Service + 10:30am Choral Service
All are welcome!
The Church of St Simon-the-Apostle, 452 Bloord Street East, 45 Howard Street
416 923-8714 office@stsimons.ca www.stsimons.ca

Interview

My faith journey has been challenging
Archbishop re-elected Metropolitan

BY STUART MANN

ARCHBISHOP Colin Johnson has been re-elected Metropolitan, or senior bishop, of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

Archbishop Johnson, who is the bishop of the dioceses of Toronto and Moosonee, was re-elected for a second six year term at Provincial Synod, held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Oct. 14-16.

Two other people from the Diocese of Toronto figured prominently at Provincial Synod. Laura Walton, a member of Christ Church, Bateaux in the episcopal area of York-Simcoe, was elected prolocutor, or vice-chair, of the area of York-Simcoe, was elected prolocutor, or vice-chair, of the group while Canon Christopher Riggs, a member of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, retired as its chancellor.

“I’m delighted that Laura has been elected,” says Archbishop Johnson. “She’s had long experience with Provincial Synod, General Synod and our own diocesan Synod, so she brings a wealth of experience. It’s also good to have someone who comes from a smaller community, representing a different voice in the life of the church.”

As chancellor, Canon Riggs provided legal counsel on a pro bono basis for the past six years, “His work has been a great gift to the church,” says Archbishop Johnson. “He brought together the chancellors from all the dioceses in the province so they could have an interchange of ideas and also work together on common policies and procedures. Building up those relationships is really important.”

Ms. Walton succeeds the Rev. Canon Rob Towler of the Diocese of Huron and Canon Riggs is succeeded by Jean Bédard, the former chancellor, of the diocese of Moosonee.

“The theme of Provincial Synod was “Re-imagining Church in the Public Square” and a number of speakers reflected on that, including Premier Kathleen Wynne. She praised the Anglican Church for creating “communities of belonging” and advocating for the poor and marginalized.

“You don’t just witness the harsh realities of marginalized peoples, whose struggles are often ignored – you take on their struggles as though they are your own,” she said. “You help them find a voice. You help them find support, and that tightens the bonds among all of us. You help them find a roof over their heads and ensure there is food on their plates, and you provide access to economic opportunities so they can build a future for themselves and their families.”

Other speakers included Hugh Segal, the former Conservative senator and current master of Massey College, Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Dr. William Cavanaugh, a professor of theology at DePaul University in Chicago.

“The theme of Provincial Synod was “Re-imagining Church in the Public Square” and a number of speakers reflected on that, including Premier Kathleen Wynne. She praised the Anglican Church for creating “communities of belonging” and advocating for the poor and marginalized. “You don’t just witness the harsh realities of marginalized peoples, whose struggles are often ignored – you take on their struggles as though they are your own,” she said. “You help them find a voice. You help them find support, and that tightens the bonds among all of us. You help them find a roof over their heads and ensure there is food on their plates, and you provide access to economic opportunities so they can build a future for themselves and their families.”

Other speakers included Hugh Segal, the former Conservative senator and current master of Massey College, Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Dr. William Cavanaugh, a professor of theology at DePaul University in Chicago. Several dioceses showed videos about how they were reimagining church in the public square.

Archbishop Johnson says Provincial Synod’s work over the next three years will focus on three main areas: theological education and vocations, advocacy with the provincial government, and developing cooperation between the seven dioceses that make up the ecclesiastical province (Algoma, Huron, Moosonee, Niagara, Ottawa, Ontario and Toronto). “In terms of advocacy, we’ll continue to work in the areas of poverty and homelessness,” he says. “We are big providers of services to those who are poor. We’re significant stakeholders in the conversation, so we’ll bring our expertise to the table with the government.”

Other areas of advocacy and conversation with the government will include increased funding for palliative care, a response to the issue of physician-assisted death, and school curriculum that accurately reflects the First Nations experience, particularly in regards to the residential schools.

The ecclesiastical province has worked with the government on a number of issues over the years, particularly ones that affect churches. This includes laws and regulations that govern heritage buildings, cemeteries, water use, land registration and funeral services. Much of the work is done with ecumenical partners. “It means that Anglicans, Roman Catholics and United Church members in the whole province can go together to the government on particular issues to represent a large chunk of the electorate,” says Archbishop Johnson.

More than half of all Anglicans in Canada live in the ecclesiastical province, which falls almost entirely within the geographic boundaries of the civil province. “We’re in very good shape,” says Archbishop Johnson. “The seven dioceses that comprise the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario are all strong. In a sense, it’s the engine of the Canadian church.”

CHRISTMAS AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

Celebrate with St. James Cathedral

Christmas Liturgies

Saturday, December 12
11:30am Service of Prayer and Reflection for when Christmas is a Difficult Time

Christmas Eve: December 24
4:30pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
7:30pm Choral Eucharist & Procession to the Creche

Christmas Day: December 25
8:00am Said Eucharist
9:00am Sung Eucharist
11:00am Procession & Choral Eucharist

The Naming of Jesus

New Year’s Day: January 1
12:30pm Said Eucharist
1:30pm Archbishop’s Love
3:00pm Festive Music for Brass & Organ
3:00pm Choral Evensong & Presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

A Complete Listing of Advent & Christmas Liturgies is Available Online

Music

Haydn’s NicolaiMesse Britten’s St. Nicolas

Saturday, December 5 | 7:30pm

Messiaen’s La Nativité du Seigneur

Saturday, December 19 | 4:00pm
Organist David Briggs | Donations welcome

Exhibit

Creches from Across the World Exhibit

December 3-30 | 12:30-4:00PM
Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays (closed Dec 24) in the Archives & Museum. Admission free. Further details and times online.
BRIEFLY

Lutheran, Anglican youth meet in PEI

CLAY 2016, a national gathering of Lutheran and Anglican youth, will be held Aug. 17-21 at Charlottetown, PEI. Online registration opens Feb. 1. “We will be experiencing CLAY through the theme of ‘Not For Sale,’ with a focus on three areas: salvation not for sale, human beings not for sale, and creation not for sale,” says Hannah Shirliff, communications coordinator. “After CLAY, we will share what we experienced and learned with others in our home communities.” All registration and fee information can be found at www.claygathering.ca.

Blog provides free music resources

Jason Locke, director of music at St. George-the-Martyr, Parkdale, has started a new online music resource called Our Sacred Song. The blog is dedicated to sharing original settings of useful service music. Visit www.oursacredsong.weebly.com.

Conference focuses on social justice

BY RYAN WESTON

UNDER the theme “Living in Deed and in Truth,” taken from 1 John 3: 17-18, about 90 Anglicans from across the diocese gathered for the annual Outreach & Advocacy Conference at Holy Trinity School, Richmond Hill, on Oct. 17 for a day of learning, networking and worship.

The day’s events opened with a passionate keynote address from Dr. Alex Himelfarb, former Clerk of the Privy Council, former ambassador, and co-editor of the book Tax is Not a Four-letter Word. “The consequences of austerity fall most heavily on the vulnerable,” Dr. Himelfarb told the audience. “When the consequences fall most heavily on the vulnerable, we are all diminished by it. We’re diminished in our shared humanity. We’re diminished in our society.”

Dr. Himelfarb reminded conference attendees that taxes are an important way in which citizens contribute to the public good and that tax cuts always come with a cost. “I don’t think there was ever a cost built into them. In the past, we pursed the public good. “Every time we have a tax cut, we are asking ourselves: is it time that we paid it forward? What are we leaving for future generations?”

The drive towards lower taxes at all costs, he suggested, is because we have come to see ourselves as “consumers before we are citizens.” While consumers seek out advantages over their neighbours, citizens are called to pursue the public good. “Every one benefits equally from the taxes we pay,” he said. “As the busy day wound down, attendees once again gathered in the theatre where they were addressed by Archbishop Colin Johnson, who reminded those present that they were engaged in following the call of the gospels and that they must remain persistent and patient as they carried on this work. The day closed with a brief worship before folks returned to their home communities to share what they had learned at the conference.

Ryan Weston is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

TRINITY RAVINE

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Ryan Weston is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant."
Run raises funds for worthy causes

St. John, Ida, hosted the 11th annual Cavan Hills Cross Country Run on Sept. 26, with 158 participants crossing the finish line. Participants could take part in a 10 km run or walk on townships roads, or go on a 4.7 km stroll through corn and soy bean fields.

More than 50 volunteers assisted in the setup and race day organization, and another 15 produced some of the delicious and nutritious foods that all enjoyed. “It’s been an amazing event for St. John’s,” says Cathy Olley, the people’s warden. “It has not only raised funds for important causes but our parishioners are out there in the community, honouring God.”

As in previous years, money raised through pledges will go to local charities such as Homegrown Homes in Peterborough and the Millbrook & District Food Share. All other net income from the run will support St. John’s outreach ministry and social and medical ministry to Palestinians. The Anglican-Lutheran Covenant is a formal agreement of mutual ministry in Peterborough.

Next year’s run will be held on Sept. 25.

Dinner serves up Palestinian delicacies

A study trip to Saint George’s College in Jerusalem bore fruit quickly for the Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe and churches in Peterborough that are in the Anglican-Lutheran Covenant. On Oct. 3, Ms. Bell-Plouffe and her husband, chef Daniel Plouffe, presented “Palestinian Palate,” a dinner of Palestinian delicacies to more than 80 diners. A group of Muslim youth set the tables, while Anglican youth did the dishes. The $3,500 raised from the dinner and silent auction was sent to the Diocese of Jerusalem for use in social and medical ministry to Palestinians. The Anglican-Lutheran Covenant is a formal agreement of mutual ministry in Peterborough.

Church celebrates 50th anniversary

St. Cyprian, Toronto, celebrated its 50th anniversary on Sept. 13. Bishop Patrick Yu presided at the service and blessed the parish and its congregation.

Bishop Yu expressed his appreciation for the work of the clergy and all who had given so much to the life of the church. He spoke of the good work and the many activities that have been done at St. Cyprian’s over the past 50 years, and how this has been of service to the members and the community.

Many former members of St. Cyprian’s, including some who were a part of the original formation of the church, attended the service. They rekindled old friendships and met with new members.

“St. Cyprian’s is not just a place for worship – it is a place for serenity, a sanctuary where the storms of life are calmed,” wrote Ingrid Ellis-Rowe, a 50-year member. “God’s love shines brightly throughout St. Cyprian’s.”

The service was attended by several past clergy, including the Rev. William Sharp, the Rev. Allan Kirk and interim ministers the Rev. Doug Jacques and the Rev. Mary Lewis. Almost 200 people filled the church and sang several of the hymns that were part of the original service.

St. Cyprian’s was the first Anglican congregation to join in the construction of a building with United and Presbyterian churches to form the first tri-congregational church building in Canada, with separate worship areas for each congregation. The church is located at 1080 Finch Ave. E.

Send your parish news to editor@toronto.anglican.ca

PARISH NEWS

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Since 1999, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation has been the key charitable fundraising arm of the diocese tasked with raising legacy and endowment gifts in support of capital and endowment projects, including the Episcopacy, FaithWorks, and the wider needs of the Diocese. In the last 5 years, nearly $1,400,000 has been distributed.

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation welcomes all gifts for immediate use, or as a capital fund with only the income used for those purposes stipulated by you.

Your gift can be made in several ways:
- Cash
- Bequest under your Will
- Life insurance policy
- Stocks and bonds
- RRSP/RRIF
- Tangible property
- In memory of a loved one
- In a named endowment

The 2015 Allocations totaling $335,000 included:
- $271,300 to fund the Office of the Bishop of Toronto
- $76,600 to fund the ministry programs of FaithWorks
- $2,600 to assist with the Continuing Indaba process
- $2,200 from the Anglican Community Development Fund to assist with parish scholarship programs
- $500 in support of theological education (in conjunction with the bursary program of the Bishop’s Company)

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SIRACH 35:10

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SIRACH 35:10

All gifts are for the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation.

For more information or to make a donation, please contact:
PETER MISIASZEK, CFRE | 416-363-6021 X246 | ADTF@TORONTO.ANGLICAN.CA

CRA Registration No. 89388 4528 RR001
Worship & Music

**NOV. 25** - Advent lessons and carols, 4 p.m., St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St., E., Toronto.

**NOV. 26** - Welcome Him: A Choral and Narrative Presentation, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

**DECEMBER** - Welcome Him: A Choral and Narrative Presentation, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

**DEC. 6** - St. Martin in-the-Fields annual Advent Carol Service, 7:30 p.m. Music presented by the choir of St. Martin’s, directed by Jack Hatley. Instrumental accompaniment by Tom Fitches on organ, Paul Sanvidotti on trumpet and Nancy Nourse on flute. St. Martin’s is located at 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto.

**DEC. 12** - Voices Chamber Choir performs Handel’s Messiah with orchestra and solist’s, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in the Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available by calling 416-419-0528 or at the door: $35 for adults, $25 for students and seniors. Children free. Tickets available online at Eventbrite.ca or by cash at the door.

**FOND FAREWELL**

The Rev. Canon Dr. George Sumner, his wife Stephanie Hodgkins and artist Greg Furmansczyk stand with a portrait of Canon Sumner during an open house at Wycliffe College, Toronto, on Oct. 31. Canon Sumner, the former principal of Wycliffe College, is the new bishop of Dallas. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

**TALKS, PLAYS & PRESENTATIONS**

**DEC. 4-6, 11-13, 18-20** - The Christmas Story at Holy Trinity, 19 Trinity Square, west side Toronto Eaton Centre. Performed since 1908 with professional musicians, volunteer cast. Matinees 1:30 p.m. Dec. 4, 5, 11, 13, 16, 18; 2 p.m. Dec. 5, 12, 14; 4 p.m. Dec. 7, 9, 17, 19, 20. American Sign Language interpretation at selected performances. Suggested donation $20 adults, $5 children. Wheelchair accessible. To reserve: www.holytrinitytoronto.org; 416-598-4521, ext. 301.

**DEC. 5-6** - Display of nativities from around the world at St. Mark, Port Hope. December 5: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 6: 12 noon to 4 p.m.

**DEC. 11** - The English National Opera’s A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m., St. John the Baptist, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke. Tickets $10 for adults, free for children under 12. Tickets available at the door. Proceeds will support AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance) and Save the Children Fund.

**DEC. 12** - “A Fireside Christmas Gift,” storytelling and carols, mulled cider and mince pie, 4 p.m., St. Theodore of Canterbury, 111 Cactus Ave., Toronto. Proceeds to the North York Harvest Food Bank.

**DEC. 13** - 3nd Annual Christmas Pageant, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

**DEC. 20-24** - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto.

**DEC. 23-24** - Carols by Candlelight, 4:30 p.m., and carol service with Communion, 7:30 p.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

**DEC. 24** - Candlelit traditional Eucharist with Christmas carols and choral music, 10 p.m., St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St., E., Toronto.

**DEC. 26** - Candlelight Service of Holy Communion, 10:30 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto. Children’s Christmas Eve Service at St. Olave’s; call 416-769-5686 for details.

**DEC. 26** - Holy Communion with Anointing, 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto.

**DEC. 26** - Communion, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

**DEC. 26** - Service celebrating the joy of God’s blessing in the birth of Jesus, 10:30 a.m., St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St., E., Toronto.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Thursday, December 24
9 p.m. The First Mass of Christmas: Solemn Mass in the Night with Festal Procession to the Choir.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Friday, December 25
7 a.m. Mass at Dawn
11 a.m. The Third Mass of Christmas in the Day

**THE FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD**

Friday, January 1 | 10:45 a.m.

Mass

**THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

Wednesday, January 6 | 10:45 a.m.

Mass

**CANDLEMAS**

Tuesday, February 2 | 10:45 a.m.

Solemn Mass with Procession

For more information, please visit www.decemberanglican.ca or call 416-598-4521, ext. 301.
been struggling to keep up their mission and ministry. “After the service, people were coming up to me and saying, ‘We haven’t worshipped in a congregation anything near this size for many years,’” says Ms. Benson. “They’re starting to feel again what it is like to be part of a big family.”

Sandra Lewis, one of the churchwardens, says the service reminded her of the large Christmas Eve services back in her native Grenada. “I couldn’t remember the last time I saw so many people in church,” she says. “The hymns were wonderful. It was like we Angicans can sing!”

Ms. Benson says the transformation of four congregations into one is like the birthing process, where time and patience are essential. “All the ingredients are here; we just need care and patience for each other to create the space for this to happen. I know there’s a real desire for it.”

To help with the transition, the church has incorporated some things from the former parishes into its worship. It uses a candle stand and some vestments from the Church of the Advent, sacred vessels and linen from the Church of the Good Shepherd, and a procession cross from St. John’s. The church will remain at its current location for the foreseeable future. It plans to sell the rectory belonging to the former Church of the Good Shepherd to pay for renovations to the building. The future of the three former church properties has yet to be decided. Bishop Philip Poole, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley, is in discussion with the diocese of the missionaries that the church has incorporated some vestments from the former Church of the Good Shepherd.

IN MOTION

Appointments
• The Rev. Beverley Williams, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Simon the Apostle, Toronto, Oct. 10.
• The Rev. Geoffrey Sangwine, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Lawrence, Oct. 11, while continuing as Incumbent of St. John the Baptist, Norway.
• The Rev. Jan van Veghel-Wood, Interim Associate Priest, St. Peter, Erin Mills, Oct. 13, while the Associate Priest is on leave.
• The Rev. Patrick White, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Church of Our Saviour, Toronto, Oct. 15.
• The Rev. Dr. Judy Pauleau, Honorary Assistant, Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto, Oct. 18.
• The Rev. Geoff Howson, Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke, Peterborough, Nov. 1, while continuing as incumbent at All Saints, Peterborough.
• The Rev. Lee McNaughton, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John the Divine and St. Ninian, Scarborough, Nov. 1.
• The Rev. Doug Woods, Interim Associate Priest, St. Luke, Peterborough, Nov. 12.
• The Rev. Canon Andrew Asbil, Interim Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Coniffe, middlefield@toronto.anglican.ca.

Trent Durham

Luke reveals a loving Jesus

The first Sunday in Advent this year is on Nov. 28. Advent is the time that the church begins the four weeks of waiting for the birth of Jesus. He is the son of God who came into the world to save us. Advent is also a time of joyful expectation.

Advent also marks the beginning of a new church year. This year we will be in Year C. This means that most of the Gospel readings will be from Luke, which provides a fascinating account of the life of Jesus. Luke is the only Gentleman writer in the New Testament. He was probably a medical doctor, converted by Paul. He accompanied Paul on most of Paul’s missionary journeys. In addition to his Gospel, Luke wrote the Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book in our Christian Bible.

Luke met most of the leaders of the early church as he travelled with Paul. He may have even talked to Mary, the mother of Jesus. His stories reflect a very compassionate and loving Jesus, a Jesus who is concerned for the underdog, the poor, outcasts, and women and children. It is only in Luke that we find the parables of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan.

It is also in Luke that we find the clash of the story of Jesus with the world. This is the beautiful account of angels and shepherds and the stable in Bethlehem. The emperor or in far off Rome has decided to have a census taken. A decree goes out, causing Mary and Joseph to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. (As they are of the House of David, Mary and Joseph have to return to their ancestral homeland. Bethlehem is the birthplace of David, born a thousand years before Jesus. David was Israel’s greatest king.)

It is in Bethlehem that the Saviour of the world is born, in a dark, damp cave fit only for animals. For Luke this is the fulfillment of Jewish history. His arrival marks the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. Jesus is the king, born to lead his people into a new relationship with their God. His enthronement is to be the cross on Calvary Hill. Luke emphasizes the kingship of Jesus and the establishment of his kingdom here on earth. For Luke, Jesus is a revolutionary who comes to replace temple worship and to renew the old Jewish order with a new order. He represents the new Israel. Thus the cross, his throne, is central for the history of God’s people, which includes all people on earth. Luke’s Gospel message is universal, and Christians are called to proclaim it to all people.

I would encourage you to read Luke’s Gospel during this Advent season. It reveals a very loving and compassionate Jesus, who reaches out to us across the centuries with the love of God for each person.

Luke probably wrote his Gospel shortly after the destruction of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. The temple was one of the great wonders of the ancient world, the most holy place of the very Jewish Jews. Luke did not want the believers in Jesus Christ to interpret this destruction as a sign of the end of the world. God had not deserted his people. Their hope was in the future, with the triumphant return. The Christian community was encouraged to continue to live faithfully, endure suffering, and wait patiently for God’s promise of a new beginning to be fulfilled here on earth.

May Advent be a time of joyful hope, anticipation and expectation, as we prepare for the birth of the Christ-child in our hearts, and for His coming again in great glory to reign forever. Have a blessed and holy Advent and may Christmas be filled with love, joy and peace for all.

The Rev. Canon Don Beatty is an honorary assistant at St. Luke, Dain South, Mississauga.
We should be making disciples

What is the goal of youth ministry in your parish? Often the ultimate purpose of ministry to our 12- to 18-year-olds gets tangled up with other pursuits – numerical growth, ensuring a future congregation or to be more attractive to those searching for a church. While these may be by-products of a faithful and fruitful ministry, they cannot be the sole motivating factors for ministry to youth. Rather, our goal should be to continue to carry out Jesus’ command to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

I want to focus on three aspects of discipleship for youth – relationships, education, and formation. The value and importance of building safe, healthy, and trusted relationships with our youth in the discipleship process cannot be overstated. It is often the area we spend the most time on; it is also the area most questioned by those not engaged in the process. Relationship-building can be playing games at a youth retreat, eating a simple meal together, talking over hot chocolate or spending a summer day at Canada’s Wonderland. This can be perceived as being a waste of time or unnecessary, but it is neither. This is the time when we get to know one another.

Another key component of discipleship is education, as we seek to teach this generation about God, the Bible and the Christian faith. Education may look like a Bible study group, a confirmation class, a Sunday school lesson, or listening to a later discussing or debating a sermon. This part of the process is often the most engaged and valued by parishes, but it is only one part and must be combined with the others in a wholesome approach to making disciples.

The final component is spiritual formation. This can include activities such as serving others (raking the neighbour’s leaves, working at the foodbank or serving as an acolyte or greeter), engaging youth in spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, silence, fasting), including youth in the rituals of the church (many found in services during Advent and Christmas, Lent, Holy Week and Easter), and regular participation in the sacraments of the church. Formational activities look vastly different from educational ones in that they do not employ a schooling model and are not oriented toward knowledge acquisition. The purpose is to allow transformation, a work of the Holy Spirit, to occur. While we cannot produce transformation ourselves, we can provide a conducive environment.

As part of the Archbishop’s Youth Ministry Committee, where it is our goal to support and nurture youth ministry in the diocesan, it is my prayer and hope that we will continue to make disciples of Christ in this generation and in future ones. Our next event, Recharge Retreat, is on Jan. 29-31 at Muskoka Bible Camp, where we will focus on the above aspects of discipleship while emphasizing engaging youth in spiritual practices.

Brian Suggs is the Youth Coordinator for York-Simcoe.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR DECEMBER
1. New Hope Missionary Ministry
2. All Saints, King City
3. Christ Church, Holland Landing
4. Christ Church, Kettleby
5. Christ Church, Roshen Point
6. Holland Deeney
7. Parish of Georgina
8. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
9. St. Joan the Acolyte, Markham
10. St. Paul, Newmarket
11. Trinity Church, Aurora
12. Mississauga Deeney
13. Holy Spirit, Oakville
14. St. Bride, Clarkson
15. St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
16. St. Francis of Assisi, Mississauga
17. St. Hilary (Cooksville) Mississauga
18. St. John the Baptist (Dixie) Mississauga
19. Primat’s World Relief and Development Fund (FaithWorks)
21. Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
22. St. Peter, Erindale
23. St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South) Mississauga
24. Christians
25. Trinity, Streetsville
26. The Anglican Foundation
27. AURA (Anglican United Refugee Alliance)
28. All Saints, Whitby
29. Ascension, Port Perry
30. Christ Memorial Church, Dalworthington

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