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Home for Christmas

Diocese’s gift gives family a new start

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

A mother and her three children were welcomed home for Christmas on Dec. 9, thanks to Habitat for Humanity GTA and the Diocese of Toronto.

In total, nine families invited sponsors, volunteers and representatives from Habitat GTA to their homes for a dedication and key ceremony. The families met their sponsor organizations and were presented with the keys to their new homes, as drivers on Brimley Road honked in support of the event.

The diocese made a $100,000 gift to Habitat GTA last January to support the building of affordable housing in the Brimley Road and Lawrence Avenue area of Toronto. The gift was a tithe from the diocese’s Ministry Allocation Fund and is the largest single donation from a religious organization in Habitat GTA’s history.

For Marianne Romain and her three children, who have moved into the diocese-sponsored house, the day marked a moment of transformation in their lives. “I have so much to say. I still can’t believe it,” she said.

Ms. Romain immigrated to Canada from Dominica, an island nation in the Caribbean, in 1989. Since then, she and her children have moved frequently from home to home, most recently living in a rodent-infested building in an unsafe neighbourhood.

“I’ve struggled, going from house to house, apartment to apartment,” she said. “I work, but the money never seems to be enough as a single parent.”

Now the family has its own two-storey, 1,300-square-foot, semi-detached house with three bedrooms and underground parking.

“I never gave up hope. I always had faith, I always prayed,” Ms. Romain said. Under the arrangement with Habitat GTA, families receive 20-year, interest-free mortgages, with monthly payments that never exceed 30 per cent of the total family income.

Ms. Romain and her children, Scyrilson, Toyan and Tricia, worked together to accomplish their 360 hours of labour for Habitat GTA, in lieu of a cash down payment. They volunteered on the construction of their own home and for a variety of other Habitat projects, while also attending training courses in areas such as personal finance, mortgages and insurance.

“It wasn’t easy, doing the volunteering, but it’s worth it today,” said Ms. Romain. “I come in here and I think, Wow, I can’t believe I have a house.”

Bishop Patrick Yu, area bishop for York-Scarborough, was invited to give a devotion at the beginning of the dedication ceremony. Acknowledging the presence of many faith groups among the families and volunteers, he spoke about the commonalities between different religions.

“In my experience, I do not know of one religion that does not say we need to do justice and love our neighbours,” he said. “We are here together from all faiths because we cherish this common humanity. It is why we build homes for people, no matter what their traditions are.”

In addition to the keys to their home, Bishop Yu presented the Romain family with a Bible, at their request.

As she and her children get settled in their safe, comfortable home, Ms. Romain said she looks forward to cooking some of her favourite Dominica dishes in the new kitchen she helped to build.

“There is no amount of words I can use to say thank you from the bottom of my heart,” she said. “I have a home.”

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The new homes on Brimley Road.

Bishop Patrick Yu gives the keys to the new house to the Romain family.

Marianne Romain with two of her children, Scyrilson and Toyan, in the kitchen of their new home. Ms. Romain is holding the flag of Dominica.

A NIGHT FOR THE WEST INDIES - SEE PAGE 14
The Rev. John Stephenson sprinkles holy water on a newly installed traffic light outside St. Timothy, Agincourt as members of the congregation look on. The church has been seeking traffic lights at the busy corner for the past three years. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Church wins long battle to install traffic lights

BY STUART MANN

YOU could say it was a blessing that was years in the making.

After the Sunday morning service on Dec. 6, the congregation of St. Timothy, Agincourt processed out of the church and over to the nearby intersection of Sheppard Avenue East and Lamont Avenue. There, the Rev. John Stephenson, incumbent, blessed the corner’s newly installed traffic lights, one after another.

“So many people have been invested in this over the past three years, it was a major moment of thanksgiving in the life of the church,” said Mr. Stephenson.

“We wanted to bless the lights, so that people can come safely in and out of the church, and to the businesses and homes around us.”

The church’s troubles started several years ago when an underpass was built in front of the church on Sheppard Avenue East. Traffic from the underpass made getting in and out of Lamont Avenue difficult and often dangerous. Lamont Avenue is a side street that provides access to the church parking lot and local businesses and residences.

Since the underpass opened in 2012, there have been traffic accidents, and a pedestrian was hit a couple of months ago. “We had moms with infants trying to cross the street with no lights to get to our children’s centre,” said Mr. Stephenson.

He said the underpass has hurt the church in other ways as well. “Up until then, we had experienced modest growth over a period of years,” he said. “Since the underpass was completed, we have had decline in numbers and givings. It was so dangerous to try to get out onto Sheppard Avenue that people simply stopped coming. It became a major problem.”

Toronto’s traffic department did not want to install traffic lights, so Mr. Stephenson and members of the congregation and local businesses made a presentation to Scarborough Community Council. Council overruled the traffic department’s decision and recommended to Toronto City Council that the lights be put in. The city agreed.

“It’s almost miraculous that the lights were approved, and even then it has taken almost two years to get them installed,” said Mr. Stephenson.

He said the fight to get the lights installed has brought the church into close contact with its neighbours. “It became a tool for community action, something we could all work together on. It was really neat to have everybody involved. It was a missional thing, because we joined with our neighbours in seeking to get this done for the safety of all those around us.”

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JEREMY Davies remembers when the feeling of being a refugee really set in. He was sleeping in a tent with his young son on the grounds of the Church of the Resurrection in Toronto when some noise outside woke him up in the middle of the night.

“I woke up cold and seeing my breath,” he said. “I couldn’t imagine doing this night after night. It really opened my eyes.”

Mr. Davies and his son joined about 75 other people who pitched their tents outside the Resurrection on the evening of Dec. 5 to raise money to sponsor refugees. The event was a collaboration between the church, Danforth East Community Association and Neighbourhood Link.

One of the highlights of the evening was a dinner inside the church that was cooked and served by Syrian, Afghani and several other refugees from Adam House, a Christian reception agency in Toronto’s west end that provides care to refugees.

“It was really incredible being fed by refugees as we were raising funds for other refugees,” said the Rev. Canon Dr. Duke Vipperman, incumbent of the Resurrection. Bishop Patrick Yu, the area bishop of York-Scarborough, attended the dinner to encourage the efforts to help refugees.

About 200 people in total visited the church during the event, which also plans to sponsor a refugee family.

Canon Vipperman said the collaboration was possible because the Resurrection is increasingly intentional about joining in with what God is doing in the community, something the church is learning through the Missional Transformation Process, offered by the diocese. Members of the church belong to the Danforth East Community Association, Adam House and other community groups.

“That’s the missional challenge: not simply to respond to a specific need out of our largesse, but to be steadily involved in the life of the whole community,” he said.

By the end of November, 52 churches across the diocese were involved in or had expressed an interest in helping refugees, says a report by AURA (the Anglican-United Refugee Alliance), the official sponsorship agreement holder on behalf of the diocese. AURA is able to set up refugee sponsorships, train sponsors and provide support throughout the sponsorship process.

In September, the diocese earmarked $500,000 for refugee work. An update on that initiative will be posted on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, as information becomes available.
Helping refugees transforms us

BY THE REV. RUTHIANNE WARD
AND THE REV. RISYOLLA WALSH SHAW

We undertook a survey of our congregation at Christ Church, Bolton, that yielded transformational results. We asked: What do you like about your church? What would you like to see more of? What do you hear God calling us to as a faith community? How do we join together in making disciples? The response we heard was that God was calling the congregation to go out into the community – at a grassroots level – to do ministry. The first step was to work hard in the congregation to shift from within the walls of the building to looking for what God was using through the people of the congregation. In this way, we were able to discover the common denominator that binds us as a faith community. We are all God’s people, chosen and called to share in God’s mission.

When equipping and empowering lay leaders, anticipate some degree of resistance. Many churches are used to being in charge of spiritual events, and possibly those occasions that have a spiritual bent. For some of our faith communities, this has created a perceived loss of power and control. It takes time, encouragement and coaching to help them step into their God-given roles as participants in the ministry of the church. Clergy provide training, resources and, perhaps most importantly, the constant reminder of all through the gifts and abilities of our lay people – the priesthood of all believers.

Enjoy the blessings of surprise and joy. Church people are accustomed to being asked to volunteer at theazaar or to hand out bulletins on Sunday morning. But when you start to invite them to take leadership roles, they will jump at the chance to be involved in things like going for a hike with a neighbour, or spending Sunday morning inviting neighbours in for coffee instead of going to church, they discover something about being Christian that they had not fully known before: That God simply wants us to love each other. And the best part is that they discover how much this enriches our own lives. Missional ministry is not another thing to do at church: it is a way of being the people of God in the world – day in and day out – that is life- giving and energy restoring.

BISHOP’S OPINION
BY BISHOP LINDA NICHOLLS

Some have joined recently in response to the photo; others have been engaged in sponsorship and refugee work for decades. This is a right and compassionate response to a global reality.

My own experiences of sharing in an ecumenical sponsorship group to bring three families to Canada remain an important touchstones of learning and growth. For me, the process of transforming the walls of learning and faith to a space of learning and practice has been profound. The learning to see the face of Christ in the other, the one who is different from us, was in experiencing hospitality from those with whom I was in conversation. It was in confronting our own inappropriately expectations and prejudices. It was in facing the inadequacies of our governmental policies and procedures and defying the need for prophetic actions.

Whether your parish is directly engaged in refugee sponsorship or not, I pray that you will share in the ministry of the church volunteer with English classes; assist a refugee settlement agency; help your interfaith partners; challenge each other; and protect the rights of those in need and welcome them to the community. See what they can show us about ourselves and about the face of God in a new way.

What we learned on the missional journey

BY THE REV. RUTHIANNE WARD
AND THE REV. RISYOLLA WALSH SHAW

We undertook a survey of our congregation at Christ Church, Bolton, as a young toddler, he and his parents were driven from their home by the violent response of Herod to learn about a possible “king” who had been born. So they fled to Egypt until Herod died and it was safe to return. Jesus was a refugee. As a young child, he and his parents were forced to leave their home by the violent response of Herod to learn about a possible “king” who had been born. So they fled to Egypt until Herod died and it was safe to return. Jesus was a refugee. We asked: What do you like about your church? What would you like to see more of? What do you hear God calling us to as a faith community? How do we join together in making disciples? The response we heard was that God was calling the congregation to go out into the community – at a grassroots level – to do ministry. The first step was to work hard in the congregation to shift from within the walls of the building to looking for what God was using through the people of the congregation. In this way, we were able to discover the common denominator that binds us as a faith community. We are all God’s people, chosen and called to share in God’s mission.

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In the Diocese of Toronto: A community of about 130,000 members in 210 parishes covering 30,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 370,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 40,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto is a cosmopolitan setting where people of many backgrounds come together.


York-Credit Valley: The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu

York-Starcborough: Their ladyship, The Rt. Rev. Cheryl Pidcoke

York-Scarborough: Their ladyship, The Rt. Rev. Cheryl Pidcoke

The Archdiocese of Toronto: As a young toddler, he and his parents were driven from their home by the violent response of Herod to learn about a possible “king” who had been born. So they fled to Egypt until Herod died and it was safe to return. Jesus was a refugee. We asked: What do you like about your church? What would you like to see more of? What do you hear God calling us to as a faith community? How do we join together in making disciples? The response we heard was that God was calling the congregation to go out into the community – at a grassroots level – to do ministry. The first step was to work hard in the congregation to shift from within the walls of the building to looking for what God was using through the people of the congregation. In this way, we were able to discover the common denominator that binds us as a faith community. We are all God’s people, chosen and called to share in God’s mission.

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The Rev. Ruthianne Ward, associate priest at Christ Church, Bolton, took the role of coach, facilitator and mentor as the church became missional. The Rev. Roscilla Walsh Show is the incumbent of Christ Church, Bolton.
Put on the armour of light

BY PETER MISIASZEK

As we embark on a new year, many of us will pause to consider what we can do differently to improve our physical, emotional, financial or spiritual disposition. For some, that might mean losing weight, exercising more or reducing debt. Christians too, have an opportunity to “put on the armour of light” (Romans 13:12) and take up new habits that will strengthen our relationship with Jesus and enrich our parish life.

It is only fitting, in the newness of the year, that I suggest 10 stewardship resolutions that would have a positive impact on your life, your parish and your community at large.

1) Sign up for pre-authorized remittance. By making a monthly gift to the church through your bank account, you demonstrate the important role the church plays in your life and the value you place on ensuring that its ministry continues even when you are not present.

2) When your Faith-Our Hope (OFOH) pledge is complete, consider increasing your offertory giving. Most parishes are reimbursed 40 per cent of the total amount they raise during the OFOH campaign, to be reinvested in local ministry. By upping your offertory gift, you will help ensure that new ministry can continue. For those who didn’t participate in OFOH, make a proportionate increase to your weekly or monthly giving – your church will be grateful.

3) Draw up a will or update your current one. Remember your church or favourite diocesan ministry when planning your estate gifts. A Christian handshake is a wonderful testimony to the values you professed in life.

4) Tithe your time and talent. Seek out a new volunteer opportunity in your church, the diocese or the wider community.

5) Say thank you. If you are in a position of leadership, thank your donors. If you are not, thank those who are.

6) Pray for your parish priests and deacons. They give much and don’t expect much. Pray for their vocation, their families and the good work they do – and let them know you are praying for them.

7) Invite someone to church. There is a timeless bit of fundraising wisdom that says “people give to people who give.” That same wisdom can be applied to church growth. People will go to church with people who go to church. In our secular age, being a seeker can be intimidating. If you know someone who is seeking, invite them to an Anglican church.

8) Encourage your parish to tithe to outreach. The tithe remains the measure of generosity that is most widely admired and yearned for; and it is a challenge for most of us. It is precisely because it is such a challenge that parishes should lead by example and endeavour to donate 10 per cent of their revenue to outreach, including 5 per cent to Faith-Our Hope.

9) Encourage your children to give. Just because most parishes don’t hand out offertory envelopes to kids anymore doesn’t mean we should be exempt from teaching them to give. If your children receive an allowance, set aside an amount for spending, saving and sharing. Help foster a culture of generosity with the next generation.

10) Preach or, if you are a layperson, witness about stewardship and its benefits. While it might seem obvious that we need to have a dialogue about generosity, there is a general reluctance to preach on this topic. A good sermon or lay witness, presented seasonally, will help reinforce our understanding of stewardship as being inherently biblical.

For a resolution to come to fruition, it needs to be realistic, reasonable and desired. Hopefully, each one of these suggestions is attainable for Christians seeking to deepen their relationship with the church and Jesus. Individually (and collectively), these resolutions have the potential to be transformative to both the giver and receiver.

Peter Misiaszek is the diocese’s director of Stewardship Development.

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“Christ has no body now but yours,
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Yours are the hands, with which
he walks to do good.
Yours are the feet, with which
he blesses all the world.”
TERESA OF AVILA
I re-examined where I was going

Molly Finlay is a full-time student in the Master of Divinity program at Wycliffe College, Toronto.

I am currently doing a placement at the new parish of St. Mary and St. Martha, which is a new thing for me. Even though I've grown up in the church, I've never served in some of these ways, and I really love the people I meet. I am having so much fun with our wonderful team of Beth Benson and Jonathan Turtle. We love to laugh together, and it's a great joy for me to work alongside them in this place.

Another real gift in my life of ministry has been spending time at the sex trade workers outreach at All Saints, Shorbourn Street. I have a sense of what Father Gregory Boyle calls "kinship" with these women, and I feel very close to Christ when I'm there. I also think all the entrepreneurial work that David Ophheim does at All Saints is a real beacon for the Anglican Church. It's a great missional focus for friends of mine in my own neighbourhood who are so interested in being part of making a difference in the lives of those who are marginalized in our city.

It can be challenging at times to figure out what a call to ordained ministry will look like for me. I've loved being part of a church community for a really long time, and I know that as baptized Christians we are all called to serve God wherever we are, in all of our homes and workplaces. I'm sure plenty of our people are trying to figure out how serving God fits with their time and talent and I do think a lot about how exactly God might be calling me at this time and in our Anglican context. The other challenge is learning to say no — there are lots of things I get asked to do that I would love to do, but keeping it simple is this season of life for me.

I've grown up in Toronto, and this return to school is definitely a second — or third! — professional move for me. I enjoyed many years as a television journalist and then later a communications manager and then later a communications director and then later a communications consultant. I'm grateful for all of these experiences.

I have been a person of faith for my whole life, but about five years ago, I re-examined where I was going. I was working really hard and had a very young family. I felt tired and purposeless and that I somehow wandered from the person that God created me to be. I spent some great time with the Sisters at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, where I learned about Benedictines, turning within and centering prayer, and about how to get back to being within a new frame of life. That, along with some help from my own priest, Barry Parker at St. Paul, Bloor Street, opened me up to the possibility that I could be feeling a sense of calling to ordained ministry. This has been very unexpected but a great wonder and privilege. My husband Sam thinks I was in denial about this for a long time, so he's very supportive!

It's a really good time to be doing this kind of reading and thinking, and the schedule fits well with my family time. I was a working mom for many years, so I'm used to multitasking — what mother isn't? — and that's a handy skill at this stage of life. I love the new people I meet as part of this — not just Anglicans from across our diocese, but also from other parts of the province and country. My friends at Wycliffe are so fantastic — I love the fact that I find myself with men and women who are 15 years younger than me. It's so encouraging for the future of the church! As for the homework routine, it may not be the worst example for my kids that we are now doing our homework together after school. Having said that, trying to shift gears from the writings of the church fathers to helping out with Grade 4 math is a bit crazy.

I'm not sure in what context I'll find myself after this. I've worked in the area of social justice throughout my life, so that's a natural fit, and I'm very interested in how the local church can engage in this kind of work but also attract and transform the lives of the people doing the outreach. At the same time, I'm realizing that I wouldn't want to spend the time and the people I work with and meet at my parish placement, so I'm trying to be open to God's will in this. One thing I really recognize is that there will be something new that the Anglican Church will be doing, because of that — something creative that may be out of the way of how a typical parish setting currently operates. It's a very exciting time to be exploring this vocation — God is at work, that's for sure.

Isaiah 58:6-12 reminds me of our call to serve a broken world. We're confronted with this need more than ever in recent weeks, as we are heart-wrenching images of refugees and senseless global violence. The amazing thing about reaching out to those on the margins is that we are transformed in the process. Not only is the Gospel personally life-giving but it shows us how to create a new kind of community, of inclusivity and radical hospitality. The prophet Isaiah says of our faith: “It is not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter — when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear… The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen you like a mighty hero. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters will never fail.”

Donna Elnor attends nativity play for 70 years

BY STUART MANN

There are loyal audience members, and then there is Donna Elnor. Ms. Elnor has been attending The Christmas Story, an annual nativity play at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, in downtown Toronto for the past 70 years. She hasn’t missed a single year.

She first attended the play when she was 11, just after the end of the Second World War. Her uncle had been badly injured in the war and would be coming back to Canada soon. To celebrate and give thanks, her mother and her decided to attend the play.

“We had the most wonderful experience, and we thought it would be great to start every Christmas this way,” she recalled.

She’s remained true to her word. Not only that, but attending the play has become a family tradition. Her sister has attended for 68 years, her daughter for 53 years, her niece for 39 years and her two grandchildren for 21 and 34 years.

One of the things she loves about it is that it has changed very little. “There’s continuity to it, and that’s so beautiful. You come away feeling uplifted.”

She has attended during blizzards and mud storms. She says the lighting has improved greatly, and the children always get a kick out of seeing the angelic Andy.

Ms. Elnor first started going to the play when she was a member of the former St. Alban the Martyr in Toronto. She has attended a number of churches and is currently a member of St. Mary, Richmond Hill.

Susan Watson, director of the play, says Ms. Elnor is part of its history. “We’ve been able to mount this production for 78 years, and one of the signs of the faithfulness of audience members like Donna and the yearly commitment of so many cast members,” she said. “I think this pageant really brings Christmas alive for many people because it involves flesh and blood human beings, of all ages, telling the story.”

The Anglican Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension, Anglican Church of Canada, located in beautiful Port Perry, is seeking a Music Director

Our worship typically features choir, organ and piano music. The successful candidate will provide music leadership at regular Sunday services and special services and direction and accompaniment of a 15 voice adult choir.

The church has a two-man Casavant pipe organ and a Yamaha grand piano used regularly in the worship.

The position is 8 – 12 hours per week and compensation is commensurate with credentials and experience, according to the RCCO guidelines. Knowledge of liturgical music is an asset.

Please forward your resume to the Chair of the Music Search Committee c/o revjohnpowergale.ca
The diocese’s 156th regular session of Synod was held Nov. 13-14 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites in Richmond Hill. The theme of the Synod was “Treasures New and Old” from Matthew 13:52. Each day began with worship, followed by a business session and “Missional Moments,” in which Anglicans described how they were connecting with people in their communities. Just over 600 voting and non-voting members attended Synod. Here are some of the highlights, in chronological order:

**DAY 1**

Archbishop delivers Charge

In his Charge to Synod, Archbishop Colin Johnson spoke about how leaders in the church, both clergy and laity, need to draw on both the traditional and the new as they “stand on the edge of chaos, seeking what was, and is, and is to come.” (See pages 8-9 for the full text.)

New canons named

Archbishop Johnson named the following honorary canons of St. James Cathedral. They will be installed on Jan. 10 at 4:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral. 
- The Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley
- The Rev. Canon Beth Benson
- The Rev. Canon Claire Wade
- The Rev. Canon Janet Rockin
- The Rev. Canon Jenny Anderson
- The Rev. Canon Judy Paulsen
- The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner
- The Rev. Canon Paul J. Walker
- The Rev. Canon Simon Li
- The Rev. Canon Stephen Vail

**Missional Moment: Just Reach Out**

Sue Savage from the Parish of Penetanguishene spoke about its free community breakfast, funded by a diocesan Reach Grant. The breakfast averages 27-35 guests a month. The program was recently approached by a nearby church, and the breakfast now happens on two Thursdays a month instead of one. Ms. Savage encouraged others to approach their priest or bishop with ideas. She said that when you can put a smile on someone’s face first thing in the morning, you know your mission is successful.

No mandatory retirement for office holders

Synod approved changes to the Constitutions and Canons that abolished mandatory retirement for office holders in the diocese (clergy, the secretary of Synod, the registrar, the chancellor, the vice-chancellors and the diocese’s solicitor).

**Synod defeats motion to reduce size of membership**

Synod defeated a motion that would have reduced the size of its membership. A number of members spoke against the motion, saying it would have excluded too many clergy and laypersons from the decision-making body. Archbishop Johnson said the opposition to the proposed changes showed how much many members valued Synod and their participation in it. He said some of the proposed items in the motion that did not need canonical change, such as the creation of Synod Forums, might still be considered. He said the matter would go back to Diocesan Council.

**Missional Moment: We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight**

James Liu of St. James Cathedral and Morning Wang of St. George on Yonge spoke about the diocese’s Mandarin ministry. Their goal is to attract people into the church building and bring them to Christ, in an Anglican context. Starting in 2014 with no staff and a little budget, they now enjoy the support of four parishes and many volunteers of all ages. They have used events such as prayer services, Stations of the Cross, Doors Open Toronto and reading the Book of Proverbs to teach Mandarin-speaking people about the Anglican Church. Ms. Wang said they use everything that can be used to share the Gospel in order to invite more people to walk into our faith.

**Committee composition revised**

Synod has agreed that half of the membership of committees of Synod and Diocesan Council can be comprised of people who are not members of Synod, provided they are Anglican and members of a vestry in the diocese or a member of the Episcopal Lutheran Church in Canada and a vestry in the diocese. The change was made to expand the pool of expertise available to the committees.

**Electoral Synod time frame lengthened**

Synod approved a change to the Constitution and Canons regarding a vacancy in the See (the position of a Diocesan Bishop). If a vacancy occurs in the See and there is no Coadjutor Bishop, an electoral Synod to elect a new Diocesan Bishop will be held within six months. Previously, it had to be held within four weeks.

**Missional Moment: I’ll Be Outside With Jesus**

The Rev. Maggie Helwig spoke about ministry to marginalized and low-income people at St. Stephen in the Field, Toronto, with the goal of creating a radically inclusive community. St. Stephen’s serves breakfast to 200-300 marginalized people every weekend followed by morning prayer, hosts a fresh expressions service every Saturday night, and hosts events that prioritize street ministry and social justice as they intersect with the arts. Ms. Helwig said St. Stephen’s strives to be a church open to complexity and challenge.

**Synod prays for massacre victims**

Synod paused to pray for the victims of the massacres in Paris on Nov. 13.

**Priests called to consider school chaplaincy**

Bishop Linda Nicholls and the Rev. Canon Susan Bell spoke about the ministry of school chaplains in the diocese and introduced a motion that did not need canonical change, such as the creation of a school chaplaincy. If approved, it would allow a priest to be elected a Diocesan Bishop by Synod and appointed as a School Chaplain. If this motion was defeated, Synod paused to pray for the victims of the massacres in Paris on Nov. 13.

Continued on Page 9
Diocesan position for ministry, mission in a changing world

By Archbishop Colin Johnson

Some years ago, Bishop Smith, then Bishop of St. John the Evangelist, gave us an image of the training of new bishops. They wanted him to talk about the training of new bishops and knew: know everyone, center of the shepherd's staff for care, project, and fulfill, and all faith. He turned it all on his head and said, “Think of a shepherd’s staff.”

The image of the shepherd’s staff is an important one in the way pastoral care is depicted in both Old and New Testament Scripture. Today’s pastoral care is not in a vacuum; it is a part of the ongoing process of faith which takes place in the context of the larger world and the church.

In this context, the call of Jesus to his followers is to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). This commission is central to the work of the church in the world and is a call to be a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The context of pastoral care today is one of transition and challenge. The church is called to be a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world that is marked by change and uncertainty. This requires a willingness to be open to new ideas and approaches, as well as a commitment to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus.

We must also be mindful of the context of the church’s mission in the world. The church is called to be a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in a world that is marked by change and uncertainty. This requires a willingness to be open to new ideas and approaches, as well as a commitment to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus.

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Syndoms appointed
Syndom appointed the firm of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants, to conduct the audit of the Financial Statements of Syndom, the Consolidated Trust Fund and the Cemetery Fund for the year ending Dec. 31, 2015, at a fee to be approved by the Audit Committee.

Syndom approves diocesan priorities, budget
Syndom received the documents Priorities and Plans 2015-2017 and the Financial Budget 2016-2017 and approved the priorities and financial plans contained therein. Diocesan Council will implement and report back to Syndom on the plans and take corrective measures from time to time as best serves the needs of the diocese.

Parish assessment rate approved
In order to meet the revenue needs of the diocese for 2016 and 2017, in accordance with its priorities and plans for 2015-2017, Syndom approved an assessment rate for parishes of 24.85 per cent for 2016 and 24.70 per cent for 2017. The assessment rate for parishes in 2015 is 24.85 per cent.

Syndom applauds action on environment
Syndom passed a motion acknowledging and applauding the efforts being made by its Investment Committee to withdraw from the most environmentally damaging of the diocese’s investments, particularly those in tar sands oil. Syndom encouraged the continuation of these efforts, in cooperation with its ecumenical partners and with national church structures.

Women invited to live in ‘God’s rhythm’
The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine made a presentation about the formation of a new monastic community within the sisterhood. The initiative, called “Spend a Year Living in God’s Rhythm: Companions on the Way,” invites up to 10 women, age 22 to 40, to live with the sisters at St. John’s Convent in Toronto, where they will experience the Benedictine life of prayer, study, recreation and service to others. Visit www.ssjdcompanions.org.

Synod elects General Syndom members
The following were elected to be members of General Syndom:
The Rev. Risylla Walsh Shaw
The Rev. Canon Jenny Andison
The Rev. Canon Susan Bell
The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon
The Rev. Canon David Harrison
The Rev. Canon Mark Kingham
The Rev. Canon Heather McCance
The Rev. Canon Kevin Robertson
Mr. Chris Ambidge, ODT
Mr. Lawrence Barker

The Diocese of Toronto would like to thank the following sponsors whose generosity made the 2015 Syndom possible.

Evening Reception Sponsor:
Scotia Wealth Management

Refreshment Sponsor:
Northleaf Capital Partners

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DALTON building on principles

Refreshment Co-Sponsors:
Ecclesiastical
MARSH
TRINITY COLLEGE
Wycliffe College

Worship Co-Sponsors:
ARCHBISHOP REFLECTS ON PARIS VIOLENCE IN WRAP-UP

In his reflection at the end of Synod, Archbishop Johnson spoke about the massacres in Paris on Nov. 13. "I call on all of us to remember in our prayers those who have been victims of senseless violence. Not to lessen in any sense the violence that has occurred in Paris, but we need to remind ourselves that this sort of senseless violence happens in many places in our world on a daily basis, and to do what we can to lessen those challenges that people act out in violent ways. We're also called to build communities of reconciliation that would otherwise be communities at loggerheads, to reach out to unlikely people, where we can make connections for the sake of the Kingdom of God. It's very easy to stereotype all people of a particular class or circumstance. Muslims are no happier having their faith interpreted through the lens of ISIS than Christians are when our faith is interpreted through the lens of Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan. Fanaticism in any form does not serve God's purposes but human desires for power and control. We're called to act with reason and compassion." He read a passage from Second Corinthians.

CHRIS AMBIDGE THANKED

Archbishop Johnson thanked Chris Ambidge, OD'T, for his service as the Honorary Lay Secretary of Synod since 2009. Mr. Ambidge was stepping down from that role. Synod members gave him a standing ovation.

For more about Synod, including the motions and priorities and financial plans of the diocese, visit the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.
Church gives bursaries to students
For the first time, bursaries were given to youth at St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga. This is a new initiative of the parish to encourage young people in their academic careers. Recipients of scholarships in 2015 were: Sharifa Headley, who is enrolled in a four-year-writing and productions program at Berklee College of Music; Rahajy Henry, who is enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Georgia; Breanne Goring, who is taking a Bachelor of Fine Arts program, with jazz voice and accounting, at York University; Rochelle Khelawan, who is enrolled in a Bachelor of Commerce program with a major in human resources at Ryerson University; and Adegbesan Olufunmilayo, who is enrolled in a Business and Society program at York University.

Trinity, Barrie celebrates anniversary
Trinity, Barrie celebrated its 180th anniversary with several special events in October. On Oct. 4, Archbishop Colin Johnson led a procession from City Hall along Collier Street to the church. The procession included Mayor Jeff Lehman, Town Crier Steven Travers, who proclaimed the anniversary at City Hall, a pipe and drum group, and numerous members of the congregation, some of whom carried anniversary banners. The procession arrived at the church, Archbishop Johnson blessed and dedicated a new St. Francis of Assisi church building, which was designed and constructed by the Newman family, former clergy, and beautiful cakes, which were decorated with centre displays. The many guests were welcomed with a cup of apple cider and entertained by Celtic Sky’s fiddlers and vocalists, Julian Puhm and Sarah Morano. Van Artis, Jesse Paquette and Bill Sergeant put together a series of slide shows and a poster with historical pictures of Trinity, its ministers, its people and significant events throughout its existence from 1836 to 2015. The tables were named in honour of various ministers and parishioners who had contributed significantly to Trinity throughout their lives. These included the Rev. Samuel Ar- drey, the Rev. Canon Frances Lightburn (who celebrated her 80th birthday at the event), the Rev. T.H.M. Barrett, the Laking-Jones families, Nellie Seat, the Rev. Canon Winton Nainby, the Rev. Canon David Busby, the Caldwells, Jim Blogg, and Bishop Ray Beverley. The buffet, which included venison, chicken and pork, was enjoyed by all, along with some local wine and the customized Trinity labels depicting the church and highlighting its 180th anniversary. The sold-out dinner was a huge success, thanks to the many people who helped out.

Pickering church turns 90
St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering in 2015 celebrated 90 years of blessing, success, outreach and growth. The church, originally named the “Dunbarton Mission,” has grown from its humble beginnings as a satellite ministry of St. George, Pickering Village. The first Anglican service for the “Dunbarton Mission” was held on Nov. 8, 1925, in the newly renovated Dunbarton Hall. As the Pickering area grew, parishioner Harry Newman donated some land and personally paid to have the new church built on it. As a result of this generous act and the determination and commitment of the founding group of worshipers, St. Paul on-the-Hill was constructed and the church building dedicated on Nov. 16, 1934. Richard Newman, the grandson of the founding donor, and Harry Newman and his wife Priscilla and their children Richard and Sarah, still actively participate in church life at St. Paul’s.

Over the years, St. Paul’s has maintained an outstanding focus on lay ministry and outreach. Here are some of the numerous ministries and programs led by St. Paul’s: mission teams sent to pines and China, Grenada, Bolivia, Tanzania, Thailand and Ethiopia; pilgrimages to holy destinations in Israel and Spain; the St. Paul’s Community Food Bank, serving Durham region; backpacks for the homeless and adult family; liturgical dancers, the choir and the new anniversary banner. Mayor Dave Ryan, Bishop Linda Nicholls, the Newman family, former clergy, parishioners and special guests attended. The services were followed by a reception with food and beautiful cakes, which were ceremoniously cut by the incumbent, the Rev. Canon Kim Beard, and his wife Barbara.
It was cold and rainy outside, but the atmosphere inside St. Thomas, Brooklin on Nov. 18 was warm and friendly as the church hosted the Trent-Durham Bishop’s Company Dinner, attended by about 150 people from across the episcopal area. The guest speaker was Christine Elliott, former MPP for Whitby-Oshawa and a lifelong member of All Saints, Whitby.

Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, a retired area bishop of the diocese who lives in Newcastle, brought greetings from Bishop Linda Nicholls, who was unable to attend the fundraising event. “It’s time to celebrate the bonds of friendship, forged throughout our shared life of Christ within our Anglican parishes here and across the sea, and to make new friends across the table,” he said, reading a message from Bishop Nicholls.

He greeted many in the crowd, including Bishop Douglas Blackwell and his wife Sandra, and members of Trinity College School in Port Hope, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

He welcomed Ms. Elliott, saying that Anglicans are proud when “one of their own” takes on extraordinary leadership roles. “Anglicans have done this since the beginning of our province, and Christine has modelled that in our time,” he said.

Ms. Elliott said she entered public life in 2006 to advocate for the rights of vulnerable people and their families. Her passion for helping the vulnerable started years earlier, when her infant son John was stricken withencephalitis—swelling of the brain—and almost died. He recovered but was left with an intellectual disability.

She said John’s condition had a profound effect on her and her husband, the late Jim Flaherty. “Over time, Jim and I realized how blessed we were, not just because of John’s survival, but because John opened our eyes to a whole new world. Because of John, we became acutely aware of the many challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and their families. We saw families struggle with financial and health issues, and in many cases with little or no support.”

She and her husband became deeply supportive of people with disabilities and their families, both on a personal and professional level. They helped to create the Abilities Centre, a fully accessible recreational and community facility in Whitby. As federal finance minister, Mr. Flaherty introduced the Registered Disability Savings Plan, which helps parents of special-needs children put savings aside to care for their kids after the mother and father die. As an opposition MPP, Ms. Elliott brought forward two private member’s bills to deal with issues that people with disabilities face; both received support and led to action.

Ms. Elliott reflected on her recent campaign for the leadership of Ontario’s Progressive Conservative Party, and said she had no regrets about leaving politics. “I’m looking forward to the next chapter of my life and the tremendous opportunity to work in partnership with individuals to support our most vulnerable citizens.” She closed with a quote from Philippians 2:4: “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.”

The dinner – the third held in Trent-Durham since 2007 – raised a total of $18,000. The funds will be used to support clergy and their families in the diocese who are in difficult circumstances. The Bishop’s Company holds dinners every year in downtown Toronto and in one of the diocese’s four episcopal areas. Since it was established in 1966, the Bishop’s Company has raised more than $4 million.
Faith groups, politicians discuss poverty

BY MURRAY MACADAM

THE keynote speaker at a forum on poverty at Queen’s Park on Nov. 18 proposed that all politicians be required to live in a poor neighbourhood for a month during their first year in office. “After a few years, all the politicians would know what poverty is like,” said Armine Yalnizyan. “Nothing would better trigger the imaginations of our elected lawmakers.”

The event drew nearly 100 participants, including anti-poverty advocates, low-income people, rabbis, imams and other faith leaders such as Bishop Michael Bird of the Diocese of Niagara. It was sponsored by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition.

Armine Yalnizyan

Ms. Yalnizyan, an economist, media commentator and Christian, urged her listeners to keep up the fight against poverty. “Remember that you have a voice that all of us need to hear. You can raise questions that people don’t hear anywhere else. We need the faith communities to remind us why we are here and who we are serving.”

She noted that some progress has been made in combatting poverty, such as the provision of dental care for low-income children, Toronto’s adoption of a poverty reduction strategy, and a promised new federal child benefit that will benefit low-income families. Yet one-quarter of senior women living alone live in poverty, as do 19 per cent of all children in Ontario.

“Have you to get angry about it,” she said. “That’s how change happens. How? Walk a mile in the shoes of the poor.”

Deputy Premier Deb Matthews told the forum that when she knocked on doors during the recent federal election, the issue of poverty was not raised once. While admitting that more could be done to benefit the poor, she said that a single mother working at minimum wage with two children lived on less than $28,000 in 2005, but now receives more than $36,000 due to a higher minimum wage, the Ontario Child Benefit and tax changes. Ontario has 47,000 fewer children in poverty since the province’s poverty reduction plan began in 2008. “That’s real progress,” she said. “You should all own that success.”

Speaking for the NDP, MPP Cheri DiNovo said the shortage of affordable housing has never been worse, with 168,000 Ontario households waiting up to 12 years for an affordable apartment. “Your job is to hold the politicians’ feet to the fire,” she said. Conservative MPP Julia Munro urged participants to read to children so they can learn better, and improve their future prospects.

Ideas for mobilizing more people to act against poverty were outlined during a panel discussion led by Muslim and Christian anti-poverty advocates. Many participants volunteered to take part in a new campaign called Voices From the Margins. Low-income people and those working with them will speak of the challenges they face and possible solutions at hearings in communities across Ontario during the spring. For more information, visit www.isarc.ca.

Murray MacAdam is the program coordinator for ISARC.
CSI: Bishop Mary Irwin

FORM OF WORSHIP AND EVANGELICAL AND MULTICULTURAL PEOPLE

The Rev. Canon John Wilton, model of evangelism recently replaced parishioners through a "plant" process.

BRIEFS

MONTREAL – St. James the Great, York – Scarborough

FOR JANUARY

1. The College of Bishops of the Diocese of Toronto

2. The Chancellor, Vice-Chancellors and Registrar of the Diocese

3. Archbishop Colin Johnson

4. Archbishop Colin Johnson

5. St. George Memorial, Oshawa

6. St. George, Pickering (Village)

7. St. John, Blackstock (Cartwright)

8. St. John, Whitby

9. St. Martin, Bay Ridge (Pickering)

10. Oshawa Diocesan

11. St. Martin, Courtice

12. St. Michael, Oshawa


15. St. Thomas, Burlington

16. York Central Deanery

17. All Saints, Markham

18. Christ Church, St. Catharines

19. Christ Church, St. Mary’s

20. Christ Church, Woodbridge

21. Emmanuel, Richmond (Richmond Hill)

22. Grace, Vaughan

23. Holy Trinity, Thornhill

24. Canadian Council of Churches and its affiliates

IN MOTION

Appointments

The Rev. Dr. Alison Kemper, Honorary Assistant, St. Matthias, Belwood, Belwood, Oct. 28, 2015.


The Rev. Dawn Legier, Interim Associate Priest, All Saints, King City, Nov. 1, 2015.

The Rev. Ronald Duncan, Associate Priest, Grace Church in Scarborough, Nov. 15, 2015.

The Rev. Steven Smith, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark, Markham, Nov. 16, 2015.


The Rev. Bill Mok, Incumbent, St. Elizabeth, Mississauga, Nov. 22, 2015.

The Rev. Kevin Wong, Interim Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Markham, Nov. 29.


Ordinations

The Rev. Irwin Sikha was ordained a priest at St. Margaret, Tamil Congregation, Toronto, Dec. 20.

Vacant incumbencies

The Rev. Peter Tink died on Dec. 3. A Methodist Church minister first in Australia, later a United Church minister in Canada, he was ordained in the Diocese of Toronto in 2002 and served as Assistant Curate and subsequently as Honorary Assistant Priest at St. Peter’s Church and was read to each congregation.

“…to the churches in Galatia” (1:2). It was probably written from Ephesus during Paul's third journey, or about 54-55 CE. Paul spent two years in Ephesus during his third missionary journey. It is possible that some Galatians thought circumcision would give them greater merit, that somehow it would make them purer or more holy (and thus more faithful to the church) than those who were merely baptized. Baptism was considered necessary for salvation, and that was all that was needed for those who believed in Jesus Christ. Whatever followings for this growing phenomenon, Paul wrote this letter to cease what was actually damaging to their salvation.

Paul argued that to proceed with circumcision was to deny the power of God as it was first given to them by their faith in Jesus. To live according to the law of the Jews was a form of slavery and death, he said. They had been freed from the law through their faith. Paul sketched a vision of life empowered by the Spirit and shaped by a pattern of Jesus’ faith and love. And Paul insisted he had knowledge of the Midrash in 3:6-8, where he states that all who are on the right hand of faith are cursed. No one is justified before God by the law. The one who is righteously seeking the faith, he said. Christ redeemed us by faith from the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “cursed is everyone who hangs upon a tree” (Deut. 21:23). Christ did this so that the Gentiles may receive the blessing of Abraham through the promise of the Spirit and their faith in Jesus (3:14).

For Paul, to be baptized in Christ meant that there was no longer any need for circumcision, to be circumcised, then if Paul, is free, male or female — all are one in Christ (3:27). To be circumcised was to be a Jew and a man, and to be enslaved by the Torah, he said. This was not what Paul tells the Galatian Christians “if they allowed themselves to be circumcised, then they are of no benefit to you” (5:2). We are saved by faith in the Spirit, Paul argues in this passage, we became children of God in Christ and were no longer under the law of Moses.

Bearing another’s burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. When I was under the law, he continues, “I persecuted the church of Jesus Christ. I became an apostle when I experienced the risen Christ.” Paul then reminds them that it was by living in the fruit of the Spirit that they demonstrated that they were indeed in Christ. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, meekness, self-control. There is no law against the works of the Spirit. In baptism we become children of God in Christ (3:28). In baptism we not only die to the old life, but are born again to a new one. It is the Holy Spirit working within us that empowers us to love a Christian lifestyle. We must be empowered by this Spirit of God and respond by living in the gifts of the Spirit to His will. We will continue next month with the epistles to the Corinthians. Enjoy the dialogue.

The Rev. Canon Don Beattie is on honorary assistant at St. Luke, Daisy South, Mississauga.

Paul writes to the Galatians

We have finished with Paul’s third journey, it is time to look at some of his writings. I will attempt to do this in chronological order. As we have already discussed, there are two of these letters to the Thessalonians, the next in order would be his epistle to the Galatians.

Again, Paul was writing in reply to a perceived problem: some of the Galatians were seeking to be circumcised. We are not sure if this was the result of some Judaizers who were following Paul. Judaizers were people who insisted that Christian converts be obedient to the laws of Judaism before they could be admitted to the church. They plagued Paul for most of his ministry.

The issue of circumcision had been settled at the Council of Jerusalem, but Paul and Barnabas had been present with the leaders of the Jerusalem church and had argued on behalf of the Gentiles converts. The council pronounced that Gentile converts were not required to follow the Torah and thus did not need to be circumcised for membership in the church.

Galatia was a Roman province in modern-day Turkey and included the cities of Pisidian Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, which were evangelized by Paul during his first missionary journey. Perhaps this letter to the Galatians was a circular letter that travelled from church to church and was read to each congregation. It was addressed “to the churches in Galatia” (1:2). It was probably written from Ephesus during Paul’s third journey, or about 54-55 CE. Paul spent two years in Ephesus during his third missionary journey. It is possible that some Galatians thought circumcision would give them greater merit, that somehow it would make them purer or more holy (and thus more faithful to the church) than those who were merely baptized. Baptism was considered necessary for salvation, and that was all that was needed for those who believed in Jesus Christ. Whatever followings for this growing phenomenon, Paul wrote this letter to cease what was actually damaging to their salvation.

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Five receive Sladen Award

Conference explores children’s ministry

BY STUART MANN

FIVE people were honoured for their work in the area of children’s ministry at the Centre for Excellence in Christian Education’s annual conference, held at St. John, York Mills on Nov. 7.


The award, which recognizes excellence in children’s ministry, was named after the late Kathleen Sladen, a former parishioner of St. John, York Mills who led children’s ministry at the church and wrote several books on the subject.

About 40 people attended the conference, which featured a keynote address by the Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman, the incumbent of Christ Memorial Church in Oakville and a doctoral student at Wycliffe College. In her address, “Why Your Ministry to William and Yvette Langevine of Ms. Douglas-Bowman shared where things she’s actually done in their work in the area of children’s ministry to this degree. Our belief is that the whole foundation of the church stems from the children. The children bring their parents and friends to church, and if it’s a wonderful experience for them, the church grows.”

The conference, which is funded by the diocese, will be held next year on Nov. 5 at St. John, York Mills. The Rev. Canon Judy Paulson of Wycliffe College will be the keynote speaker.

Anyone can nominate someone for a Sladen Award, which is given to a person in each episcopal area for a Sladen Award, which is given to a person in each episcopal area and presents to the conference, visit the Centre for Excellence in Christian Education’s blog at www.thecece.org.

Archbishop Colin Johnson presents the Sladen Award to, from left, the Rev. Graham McCaffrey (on behalf his mother Elizabeth McCaffrey), Charlotte Orser, Yvette Langvine and Lance Williams. Missing from the photo is Laird Moore. The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman (right) gives the keynote address. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDDSON

Looking Ahead

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the February issue is Jan. 3. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese’s website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music

JAN. 8 – The 71st anniversary concert and cocktails at All Saints, Kingsway, 2801 Bloor St. W., Toronto, at 7:30 p.m. Featuring the choir and soloists of All Saints, the Nathaniel Dett Chorale and Trio Bravo. This is a fundraiser for the clean water project in Piskahshun First Nation in northern Ontario. Tickets $35. Information: 416-233-1125 ext. 6.

Talks, Luncheons & Dinners

JAN. 6 – Stained glass windows tour at St. Olave’s, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto. Event song on 6 p.m. followed by light supper at 6:30 p.m. From 7 to 9 p.m., Janice Douglas presents an illustrated talk on the church’s beautiful windows, most of them created by Canadian artist Yvonne Williams.

JAN. 30 – Under Tucker Community Dinner, 5:30 p.m., St. Augustine of Canterbury, 1447 Bayview Ave, Toronto. Tickets $25 before Jan. 11 at eventbrite.ca or $40 at the door.


Anniversaries

SEPT. 18 – St. John, York Mills celebrates its 200th anniversary on Sept. 18, 2016. Former parishioners are encouraged to send their contact information to chryant@symj.ca so they can receive updates on celebration events. Write to St. John, York Mills Anglican Church, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto, ON M4J 1H3 with your details.

Canada Briefs

Continued from Page 15

Rotting stump turned into memorial

POWELL RIVER, B.C. – A wood-carving project funded by the Diocese of New Westminster has turned into what some are calling a work of mortuary art at a carvings and memorial works in the Indian residential school system. In October, a work by Ivan Rosypakke, a wood carver from the Heiltsuk First Nation, was unveiled before a gathering of some 150 people at Sycamore Commons Permaculture Garden, on the grounds of St. David and St. Paul Anglican Church. The work was a carving made from the remains of a 12.16-meter-high cypress tree. The stump features various images from nature: a sun at the top, an eagle, a killer whale, a bear and five salmon. In addition to carving these figures, Mr. Rosypakke also embedded into it, about halfway up, a brick taken from the ruins of St. Michael’s Residential School in Alert Bay, B.C., which was attended by the artist’s mother and aunt. The brick, interrupting as it does the natural flow of life that unfolds in his carving, is an apt symbol of the way residential schools interrupted the flow of First Nations culture and community. In Canada, he said. A short documentary, “Carving Reconciliation: Art and Community in Canada,” has already been produced about the carving.

Levee, Order at cathedral

The annual Archbishop’s Levee, followed by the Order of the Diocese of Toronto presentations, will be held on Jan. 1 at St. James Cathedral. The afternoon will be followed by the Order of Canterbury at 12:30 p.m., followed by the levee’s receiving line and reception at 1:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., there will be a choral evensong and the presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. All are invited.

Choir hosts fundraiser for U.K. tour

The choir of St. Simon-the-Apostle, Toronto, will travel to England July 7-17 to sing as the choir-in-residence at Lincoln Cathedral and Chester Cathedral. The choir is renowned for its services of choral evensong, matins and the Eucharist.

In preparation for the tour, the choir will host a night of wine tasting, dinner, a silent auction and entertainment on Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the church, located at 325 Bloor St. E., Toronto. For more information about the fundraising evening or to buy tickets, email office@stsimons.ca or call the church at 416-923-9714.

Briefly