Dozens support refugee effort

BY STUART MAN

WHEN Stan Squires spoke to his parish priest about the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family, he had no idea the number of people who would be attracted to his cause.

Since that first conversation back in September, Mr. Squires and a small group of parishioners at St. Saviour, Orono have been joined by Anglicans from nearby towns and villages, Christians of different denominations, Muslims, social service agencies and community groups.

Supporters include the owners of the local café, dentists, clergy, migrant workers, an imam, retirees, a banker, a hedge fund manager, university students – more than 80 people from all over Trent-Durham. Even the local newspaper editors have chipped in.

“It really is a multi-faith initiative,” says Mr. Squires. “The Anglican church started it, but we now call it the Orono Community Syrian Refugee Sponsorship.”

The goal, he says, is to bring a refugee family to Orono, a village just north of the town of Newcasttle off Highway 35. The group is well on its way to doing that, having raised $23,000 by the middle of December.

Mr. Squires says he has been amazed by the number of people who have offered to help. “Many of them I’ve never met before. Just last night the Rotary Club of Bowmanville phoned and said we’d like to give you $2,500. It’s been incredible.”

Mr. Squires, who has never been involved in a refugee sponsorship before, says the planning group started small. “We didn’t cast our net wide. People just kept on volunteering, so we added them to the list.”

His parish priest, the Rev. Kevin Wong, has since moved to All Saints, Markham, where he is the interim priest-in-charge. The Rev. Canon Susan Sheen is the new interim priest-in-charge of St. Saviour, Orono. Both priests support the effort, as does the local deanery clerics.

The initiative gained momentum in early September, when an article about it was published in the Orono Weekly Times. The group also set up a Facebook page and an online portal for donations. The rest was done by word-of-mouth.

Two of the people who read about the initiative were Dr. Nosheen Zaidi and Dr. Aleem Lalani, a husband-and-wife couple who operate a dental practice in Newcastle. “Our main reason for wanting to support this cause from the beginning was knowing firsthand what families of refugees go through and the barriers they face,” says Dr. Lalani.

Both of his parents migrated to Canada from East Africa during Idi Amin’s dictatorship in Uganda in the 1970s. “Their home, business and savings were suddenly seized by the government and they were facing persecution,” he says. At that time, the federal government made arrangements for several thousands of refugees to come to Canada.

“My parents were one of the lucky ones that were accepted into this amazing country with open arms – a land of true opportunity,” says Dr. Lalani. “If it wasn’t for this opportunity, I would have never known what it would be like to live a life of peace and security, nor would I have had the opportunity to study and obtain the opportunity to go to university and pursue my ultimate passion – dentistry. When I look at the images of what is going on in Syria, it is truly heartbreaking. I cannot imagine living each day of my life with such fear and uncertainty. We just knew we had to help out in whatever capacity we could.”

Like many people supporting the Orono sponsorship, Dr. Lalani and Dr. Zaidi have pledged practical support as well as financial help. They will be providing free dental care to the refugee family. Others have offered to translate and to give English lessons.

Mr. Squires says he has been inspired by a quote from Archbishop Colin Johnson, who wrote in The Anglican that bringing refugees to Canada was all about building communities. Archbishop Johnson was writing about his
Vestry motion responds to TRC’s findings

BY RYAN WESTON

AS many parishes across the diocese prepare for their 2016 vestry meetings, they are being asked once again to endorse the diocese’s annual social justice vestry motion as a way of enacting a Christian commitment to working towards a more just society. This year’s motion responds to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) by calling for government action on key recommendations of the commission and committing parishes to undertaking study and reflection on issues of indigenous rights and reconciliation.

“Social justice issues do not only have a political dimension,” says Archbishop Colin Johnson. “The church also needs to speak to the biblical dimensions that impact or arise out of these issues. This opportunity for a discussion at an official body such as a parish vestry is important, regardless of the results of the decision.”

The formal work of the TRC wrapped up in June 2015 after a seven-year process. The commission held public hearings across the country for survivors of the Indian Residential School system and collected more than 6,200 statements from survivors and their families. These events documented decades of physical, sexual and emotional abuse suffered by thousands of indigenous youth in more than 130 schools across the country, many run by Christian churches. In order to share these stories and insights, the TRC released a final report along with 94 calls to action directed to Canadians in all walks of life.

Although the formal process has come to an end, the work of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians requires ongoing commitment and effort to address a problematic history and move towards a better future. In their summary report, the commissioners of the TRC wrote that for churches, “demonstrating long-term commitment requires atoning for actions within the residential schools, respecting indigenous spirituality and supporting indigenous peoples’ struggles for justice and equity.”

Archbishop Johnson echoes these priorities, noting that action on this issue is particularly important “because of the role the church had in residential schools, the number of indigenous people who continue to be affected in their parishes on the issues addressed in the motion.”

This year’s vestry motion pursues this discussion by encouraging parishes to learn more about the TRC and the history of indigenous peoples in Canada and calls for strong government action on two key recommendations contained in the calls to action. The motion affirms the federal government’s efforts to initiate an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous people and the Anglican Church. The results of the motion will be collected by diocesan staff and communicated to both the federal and provincial governments.

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

BRIEFLY

Quiet Day for church musicians

The Toronto chapter of the Royal School of Church Music is holding a Quiet Day for church musicians on Feb. 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. John’s Convent, 233 Summer Ave., Toronto. The day will be led by Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones. For more information and to register, contact Joy at jolibays@netrover.com or 416-604-1230.

Service celebrates black heritage

The diocese’s 21st annual Black Heritage Service will be held on Feb. 28 at St. Paul, Bloord Street. There will be a mid-service to 4 p.m. followed by the service at 4:30 p.m. All are invited.

Threshold Ministries meets in Toronto

Threshold Ministries, formerly the Church Army, is having its annual general meeting on March 5, beginning at 9 a.m. at Christ Church St. James Anglican Church, 194 Park Lawn Rd., Toronto. All are invited to hear about the organization’s work for 2016. Threshold Ministries is an organization that trains, equips and releases evangelists to assist churches in communicating the Gospel. RSVP to hello@thresholdministries.ca or 506-642-2210 by March 1.

Time to update subscription list

Churches in the diocese will have received their subscription list for The Anglican and Anglican Jour- nal. It is time to update it and send the changes back to the office of The Anglican Journal, 8 Hayden St., Toronto, Ont., M4Y 3G2 or email the changes to circulation@national.anglican.ca.

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TORONTO’S WALK FOR RECONCILIATION, HELD LAST MAY, MARKS THE RELEASE OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION’S FINAL REPORT. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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February 2016
New degree helps Orthodox Church

Chances have long history of hospitality

by Stuart Mann

A new Master of Divinity program at Trinity College is helping to prepare students for ordained or lay ministry in the Orthodox Church.

The post-graduate degree — the only one of its kind in Canada — is often a requirement for those seeking ordination in the Orthodox Church. Previously, students who wanted the degree had to travel to seminaries in the United States, usually a prohibitively expensive undertaking.

“It was really quite a barrier, so the opportunity we’ve been given here at Trinity College is amazing,” says the Rev. Fr. Geoffrey Ready, an Orthodox priest and director of the program. “It’s a great benefit to the Orthodox Church across Canada.”

Trinity College’s faculty of divinity has been offering courses in Orthodox Christianity for the past 10 years and the new degree, established last year, is an extension of that, says Fr. Ready. “We decided to take it to the next level,” he says.

Three students were enrolled in the program in its first year and Fr. Ready is hoping for up to 12 when the next school year begins in September. The degree includes courses in biblical studies from an Orthodox perspective, liturgics and pastoral ministry.

The Rev. Canon David Neelands, dean of divinity, says the enhanced Orthodox curriculum and the new students it will attract will benefit the college. “I think it’s a great development,” he says. “It will benefit us and a new population.”

Anglican students enrolled in the Master of Divinity or Master of Theological Education programs at the college can take the Orthodox courses towards their degrees. “Orthodox historians and theologians have a lot to offer in terms of early church writers and history, and Anglicans have a long tradition of interest in Eastern Christianity — its icons, its spirituality and its authentic character,” says Canon Neelands.

The Anglican and Orthodox churches have a long history of mutual hospitality and learning. The late Bishop Henry Hill of the Diocese of Ontario devoted years to dialogue between the two churches. More recently, the Rev. Canon Alyson Barnett-Cowan and the Rev. Canon Philip Hobson have been involved in Anglican-Orthodox discussions.

Canon Neelands says that while the Anglican-Orthodox collaboration at Trinity College is unique in Canada, there are many other places of cross-denominational learning. The Vancouver School of Theology and the Montreal School of Theology, for example, provide courses for Anglicans, United Church members and Presbyterians, while the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax offers courses for Anglicans, United Church members and Roman Catholics.

Fr. Ready is hoping the Orthodox curriculum and scholarship at Trinity College will raise the profile of the Orthodox Church, which he calls a well-kept secret. “It’s partly our fault because we haven’t been engaging the world as we ought to have. One of the main benefits of having our seminary at a university is that it gives us the opportunity to engage with the world and really tackle modern questions.”

The Orthodox Church, also known as the Eastern Orthodox Church, has between 225 and 300 million adherents worldwide, making it the second-largest single Christian denomination. It comprises 14 self-governing churches that are in communion with each other. There are about one million Orthodox Christians in Canada, mainly belonging to the Greek, Russian and Ukrainian traditions.

Fr. Ready is hoping the Orthodox programs at Trinity will act as a bridge between the Orthodox Church and the Oriental Orthodox Church, which includes the Coptic, Armenian and Ethiopian traditions. The two churches are not in communion with each other. “We have both Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox lecturers on faculty, so we’re trying to bridge both families, which is another unique aspect of our program,” he says.

To celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the Orthodox and Anglican traditions at the college are holding an “Eastern Christian Service of Supplication for Christian Unity” in the college’s chapel on Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. The chapel is located at 6 Hoskin Ave., Toronto. All are welcome.

Fundraising efforts move organizer to tears

Continued from Page 1

“Tear that out and put it on my computer because he is right on,” says Mr. Squires. “One of the most incredible parts of this has been the friendships we’ve made with complete strangers.”

He says he has been moved to tears by some of the fundraising efforts. Desley White, a migrant farm worker from Jamaica, gave a dozen cedar and pine wreaths he had made to St. John, Bowmanville, to raise funds for refugee sponsorship. From the sale of the wreaths, the church donated $100 to Orono’s efforts.

“It’s been a blessing to see the ripple effect of giving,” says the Rev. Christopher Greaves, the incumbent of St. John’s.

Mr. Squires says a nine-year-old boy makes woolen “hope dolls” and sells them for 50 cents apiece, giving the money to the cause. “The stories are amazing,” says Mr. Squires. “It’s mission work.”

Desley White with some of the cedar and pine wreaths he donated for refugee sponsorship.

He adds: “I believe that if one small congregation in a rural Ontario church can achieve this, then every church in Canada can do the same, and many are indeed doing it. Archbishop Johnson is right. Any community can do it — it’s possible.”

The evening will include a Silent Auction. Registration is available at http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/annualbdc/ or by calling 416-363-6022 ext. 243.

SAVE THE DATE!

Bishop’s Company Dinner

Now in April — Thursday, April 21, 2016
Marriott Downtown Toronto Eaton Centre Hotel
525 Bay Street, Toronto

Guest Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald
National Indigenous Anglican Bishop

6:00 pm Reception at Holy Trinity Anglican, Trinity Square
7:00 pm Dinner at Marriott Downtown Toronto Eaton Centre Hotel

The evening will include a Silent Auction.

February 2016
We are interconnected

My wife and I recently took a mid-winter break and traveled to the Galapagos Islands. It was fascinating to see the islands and their unique wildlife. One event that prompted for an earlier visit was Charles Darwin, a string of questions that led to the theory of evolution. This latter developed into the theory of evolution, itself one of the causes leading to the rise of Christianity in the 20th century. That’s for another column, though.

Near the end of our trip, I took some time to offer a prayer of gratitude for all whom I met. This trip was my decision to go. We thought through the plan. We joined some cousins who came along. We paid the money. We ordered the tickets. We went. It was “our” trip, “our” holiday.

But as I thought about it, I began to realize that how many other people are made it possible for us to take “our” holiday. The travel agents. The airport staff. The flight attendants. The pilots. The traffic controllers. The restaurant cooks and servers. The hotel staff. The drivers. The guides. The border control agencies. The visa vendors. The list goes on and on and on, both the obvious front-line people who provide the direct service as well as all the people you never see (or think of) who provide the food, fuel, documents, currency exchanges and infrastructure that make it all possible to travel.

My trip became “our” trip. Literally depended on thousands of unnamed people to enjoy the trip I thought of as “mine.”

My prayer of thanksgiving became much longer, much richer. That planted the seeds of my belief in the interconnectedness of the human experience.

I pray for those who have died, for the families they left behind, and for the care givers who worked so hard to ease their pain. I pray for those who still work to ease the pain of others and who will provide food, shelter, and comfort to the poor.

Bishop’s Opinion

BY BISHOP PHILIP POOLE

church be the place from which a Christian life is celebrated and that the ordained leader of the church be the facilitator of the service. The church is the one place that can mark all of life’s passages – birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage (and, yes, divorce and remarriage), joyful times, sorrowful times, and death.

I know my theology, but what happens in practice? It is sad to say, but there is sometimes an uneasy professional relationship between the clergy and the funeral industry. Like most of life, it pays to be proactive in this area as well. Here are a couple of thoughts you might consider, remembering that not all of us will die:

Tell your family what your wishes are. I assume you know your family. You certainly have talked about your wishes with them. You have told them the service you want. That said, there are some times when we have not been as clear as we might have been.

Tell your family what your wishes are. In my family, we were very fortunate that both my father and mother were very clear about us about their wishes regarding their “funerals.” They spoke to us about it and they wrote it down. And, God bless them as they gave us the wiggle room to decide at the time of their deaths what was best and what was practical. We are happy to do the same for our rite, others civil celebrations. Still others have a simple family gathering. (While you will die it from me, next time your mind wanders from the liturgy in church, take a look at an article concerning funerals on page 565 in the Book of Common Prayer’s office of Compline (p. 134): “O God, your unfailing providence live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that your blessing shall be with them, and that they may always work while others sleep, and grant that your blessing shall be with them, and that they may always work our Father and our Mother were very open about that. They spoke to us about it and, God bless them, they wrote it down. And, God bless them.

Can I be buried from my church?

A s an ordained priest, I agreed that funeral arrangements are in the hands of the family. We should have open discussions about what we want at the end and make sure we are clear about it. We should then pass the wishes to the parish register. It is the responsibility of the family to see that their wishes are followed, that the service is conducted as planned.

I have heard from funeral directors and others civil celebrations. Still others have a simple family gathering. (While you did not hear it from me, next time you mind wanders from the liturgy in church, take a look at an article concerning funerals on page 565 in the Book of Common Prayer’s office of Compline (p. 134): “O God, your unfailing providence live: Watch over those, both night and day who work while others sleep, and grant that your blessing shall be with them, and that they may always work while others sleep, and grant that your blessing shall be with them, and that they may always work our Father and our Mother were very open about that. They spoke to us about it and, God bless them, they wrote it down. And, God bless them.

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God calls us by name, into his story

quer" language can be a stumbling block for many people in the LGBTQ+ community. The acronym LGBTTQQ2SIA, often used to describe these communities, is a term that can be difficult to understand. To simplify things, "quer" language was developed.

So, what does LGBTTQQ2SIA mean, and why is it important?

While I could go into a lengthy exposition of the meanings of "lesbian", "gay", "bisexual", "queer", "transgender", "gender that facilitate systemic poverty as a matter of course. This latter disposition is deeply important, not to mention exquisitely Christ-like. My hope is that I might grow in my ability to exemplify and inspire movement in this direction.

I was born and raised in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and did undergraduate and graduate studies in journalism at nearby Kent State University. I worked primarily in news and community relations until 2006, when I relocated to Toronto to take up a call to seminary. In 2010, I graduated from the University of Toronto, Emmanuel College, with a Master of Theological Studies degree.

On graduating from seminary, my initial intent had been to continue in doctrinal study. During my discernment of whether I was best suited for a career in the academy, the opportunity arose to volunteer with Habitat GTA in a number of capacities. I began as a volunteer on build sites, then progressed to crew leader. Simultaneously, I was invited to serve as a writer and editor for Habitat GTA’s marketing and communications department and as a member of the organization’s Interfaith Outreach Committee. When the prospect came up to join Habitat GTA as its manager of faith engagement, I jumped at the chance.

Habitat appealed to me as a wonderful, unique, joyful vocational environment wherein I might see my faith put into measurable action. I was very much inspired by a notion coined by our founder, Millard Fuller: In his “Theology of the Hammer,” he suggested that despite differences in belief or social orientation, most people—and particularly people of faith—can do God’s work by coming together under the impetus to serve those in need in the most menial of ways. It’s through these daily acts of love that Habitat’s presence on the planet has thrived over the past 40 years.

I was raised in the African American Baptist tradition and grew up in an area of suburb in Cleveland that boasted what was then the densest Orthodox Jewish community between New York and Chicago. At the same time, my public school district was probably the most diverse in the Greater Cleveland Area. I enjoyed the friendship of classmates from many different backgrounds, and recognition it is to use the terms people use for themselves. The identities, orientations, communities and cultures included in that long acronym are complex and beautiful. There are many helpful resources online designed to give new initiates to the world of queer-language a better feel for what the people they are talking to value and cherish.

And being a neighbour is a serious call. In the parable of the Good Samaritan, a clever scholar asked Jesus to name someone who needed to be neighbourly with them. They were the outcasts; the outcast is your neighbour.

Jesus’ followers knew they were supposed to love their neighbour; it’s just that they had a pretty narrow view of who their neighbour was. Maybe, they thought, neighbours were people who shared their language and culture. Maybe neighbours were people who looked like them. But neighbours were not foreign and they weren’t Samaritans. Jesus’ followers were quite confident that they did not need to be nearly as neighbourly as those people. But our Redeemer Jesus teaches something different.

The people you meet? They are our neighbours, the outcast in your neighbour: the Samaritan is your neighbour. And being a neighbour is a serious call. When you encounter someone who is quite different from ourselves, we are encountering a new neighbour. LGBTQ people are our neighbours, in every sense of the word. When we take the time to learn validating language, to use the pronouns that each person prefers, to meet people and listen to who they are, our hearts are nourished, and love through your words.

Megh Culkeen is the youth minister at St. John, West Toronto.

The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Zacchaeus, the tax-collector: When Zacchaeus is on the outskirts of a fervent crowd, up in the branches of a tree, Jesus calls Zacchaeus down from the tree and into his story. Jesus brings Zacchaeus in, by calling of faith by name. When we call someone, we call them by their name, we call them by their name, and call out to our neighbours by name, we recognize that God is calling them into his story.

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Laity receive Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Award honours outstanding service over the years

The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service near or far. This Drive is thanks to God for the work and witness in this church and in the world of these faithful people and the miracle of their service and the change they have wrought in our lives and the lives of others near and far.

Karen Anderson, ODT
St. Monica, Toronto

Mrs. Anderson has given love, compassion and presence to the people of her parish. She has taken a lead in a life-changing challenge: “you can teach the love of my brothers and sisters, you can do it.” Mr. Anderson believes in nurturing children, young people and their families.

Charlotte Empenham, ODT
St. Paul, Brampton
Ms. Empenham was nominated for her faithful service in her parish. She has been integral to the church’s growth and development, working with the vestry, in financial matters and in the parish’s event planning. She has been a key supporter of the parish’s expanding social justice ministry.

Keith Forth, ODT
St. Andrew, Cambridge
Mr. Forth has worked tirelessly in the worshipping community. A former deputy chief of the Toronto Police Services, he is a member of the Anglican Diocesan Response Team, Stokke Camps and the TREES Toronto Community Board, and a former board member of the Scarborough Hospital and United Youth Challenge Fund. Mr. Forth has an outstanding reputation for fairness and quality, and a strong commitment to race relations.

Bill Glenett, ODT
Parish of Hillary
Mr. Glenett has provided extraordinary service as an organist and choirmaster for more than 30 years in St. George. He is known for his musical gifts and his dedication to the quality of worship. Mr. Glenett has been a key figure in all aspects of parish life, both in the parish and in the wider community. He has directed many musicals for the local high school, where he is a music teacher.

William Goodyer, ODT
St. Margaret, Barrie
Mr. Goodyer was nominated for his work in children’s and youth ministry. His dedication and love for children and youth made a difference in their lives, as well as in the evangelism of his church at St. Margaret, Barrie, while never seeking recognition.

Gertrude Gowen, ODT
St. Luke’s
Mrs. Gowen has shown great example in her work in her parish, the diocese and community. She has been noted for her faithfulness, faithfulness in providing food for the homeless as one of the church’s homeless ministry and sending cards on all occasions to many of the people in her parish. She is an example of true discipleship.

Sue Hanks, ODT
St. Catharine, Leaside
Mrs. Hanks has served on the diocesan Vocational Commission since its inception in the 1980s. She was one of the original National Church Development Coaches when the program was introduced in 2005, and she was also a member of the first FaithWorks governing committee. Mrs. Hanks has been involved in a variety of community and other activities, including work with the diocese’s Vocational Development Commission.

Sonia Graham Walker, ODT
Parish of St. George
Mrs. Graham Walker has been an important figure in the development and service in her community’s churches, LGUOS and its sister community, and she is a staff member of the diocesan Ministry Resource Centre. She has been instrumental in developing the diocese’s What is Your Story project. Mrs. Graham Walker has been a leader in the development of the diocese’s Parish Development Commission.

Robert Hems, ODT
St. Luke, East York
Mr. Hems has shown outstanding and faithful service and commitment to his church, his episcopal area and the diocese.

He lives his faith in positive and meaningful ways that show Christ at work in our world. Under his leadership, the diocese has grown in numbers and influence, and Christ is more alive in this church.

Our Faith-Our Hope Peacemaking Study Committee and the Board of the Company. Mr. Robert was consistently engaged in his church, the community and generally giving of his time and energy.

Frank Little, ODT
St. Paul, Newmarket
Mr. Little has had almost every office possible within the life of this parish over 20 years of ministry. A churchwarden to five incumbents and chair of the property committee, Mr. Little also coordinates the parish’s annual spring flea market, organizes the monthly men’s dinner club and weekly sessions for new, darts and group, a history and a founding member of the weekly Bible study. Mr. Little currently represents St. Paul’s on the UEC’s Parish Development Commission.

Joan Melson, ODT
Holy Trinity, North Mississauga
Mrs. Melson was nominated for faithful service to God and the church throughout her life. Her leadership roles in her parish have included chairperson, treasurer and chair of the Pew and Property committee. She has shown great care and concern for fellow believers, often serving in leadership roles and supporting their needs, all while remaining steadfast in faith, love and devotion.

Joseph Robert, ODT
Holy Trinity, Newmarket
Mr. Robert was nominated for his outstanding and faithful service and commitment to his church and community. He has been a dedicated worker in the church, offering his time and talents.

Robert Saunders, ODT
St. Timothy, Ajax
Mr. Saunders was nominated for his outstanding and faithful service in the community. He has worked tirelessly in the community, serving as a volunteer, fund-raiser and advocate for many causes. Mr. Saunders has been a leader in the community, serving in a variety of roles and offering his time and talent.

Sandy Richmond, ODT
St. George, Ajax
Mrs. Richmond has been a faithful servant of God, having served in many different roles throughout her career. She has been a leader in the church and community, offering her time and talent to support and promote the work of the church.

Tony Saunders, ODT
St. Timothy, Ajax
Mr. Saunders was nominated for his outstanding and faithful service in the community. He has worked tirelessly in the community, serving as a volunteer, fund-raiser and advocate for many causes. Mr. Saunders has been a leader in the community, serving in a variety of roles and offering his time and talent.

Barbara Trevenen, ODT
Parish of St. Bartholomew
Mrs. Trevenen has been a devoted worker in her parish for more than 20 years. She has served her church as a lay reader, a youth ministry leader, a member of the diocesan Lay Ministry Committee and a member of the diocesan Lay Ministry Commission. She has worked tirelessly in the community, serving in a variety of roles and offering her time and talent.

Sue Trocewicz, ODT
Holy Trinity, North Mississauga
Ms. Trocewicz has been a devoted worker in her parish and community for many years. She has served in a variety of roles, including as a volunteer, fund-raiser and advocate for many causes. Ms. Trocewicz has been a leader in the community, offering her time and talent to support and promote the work of the church.

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Susan van Straubenzee, ODT
Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street West
Mrs. van Straubenzee was nominated for her outstanding and faithful service in the community. She has worked tirelessly in the community, serving in a variety of roles and offering her time and talent.
Church welcomes Syrian refugees

Phone call that family landing soon sets wheels in motion

By Stuart Mann

The Rev. Canon Stephen Peake and his wife Sarah were taking one of their sons back to university in Ottawa when they got a phone call that the refugee family from Syria they were helping to sponsor would be landing in Toronto.

“It was very short notice and our committee went into high gear,” recalls Canon Peake, the incumbent of St. Bride, Clarkson, a community in the southwest corner of Mississauga.

The next day – Dec. 31 – Canon Peake and some members of the church’s refugee sponsorship committee, accompanying with a hotel near Pearson International Airport to meet the family – Riad Al-Hussein, his wife Sarah and their three young children. None of the newcomers could speak English so one of Canon Peake’s group wrote on a sign in Arabic. Mr. Al-Hussein saw it and stepped forward, pointing to himself.

“We were really excited to meet him,” says Canon Peake, adding that it was “a bit of a madhouse” for the next two days as the family stayed in a motel in Clarkson and while members of the refugee committee and other parishioners scrambled to buy groceries, collect furniture and secure permanent housing.

The committee signed the lease on a townhouse about a kilometre from the church and the family moved into their new home. For the first time in years, they didn’t have to worry about violence.

Riad kept saying “Canada saladam,” says Canon Peake. (Salaam is a salutation meaning “peace,” most often used in Islamic countries.) “After a couple of days they were beginning to realize how peaceful Canada is compared to where they were.”

Although Mr. Al-Hussein couldn’t speak English, he started to tell his story. Using his cell phone, he showed a picture of his brother to Canon Peake and made the sound of gunshots. Later, Mr. Al-Hussein pointed to one of his young sons and then back to his brother’s photo, indicating that he had been shot. In that photo, Canon Peake believes the family, who are Muslim, fled Syria some years ago before living in Lebanon. None of the children, age 7 and under, have been to school – a situation that will soon change. The kids are being assessed and, after being given immunization shots, will be starting school.

In addition to St. Bride’s, the family is receiving help from the nearby Polychultural Centre, which provides Arabic-speaking people to arrange things like ESL classes, immunizations and health care. Although the parents are keen to find jobs, their first priority is to learn English, says Canon Peake. “They’re really keen to learn English and work. They’re highly motivated to get things on track.”

He says this is the first time since sponsoring a Vietnamese family in the 1970s that St. Bride’s has sponsored a refugee family. It started last fall when he was approached by three people in one who asked if the church was interested in helping the growing humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. He contacted Ian McBride, the executive director of Aura (the Anglican United Refugee Alliance), who came to a meeting at the church. About 45 people attended – a tremendous show of support.

What happened next really surprised Mr. McBride and Canon Peake, who explains: “I told the congregation on a Sunday morning, ‘I think there’s a lot of support for this, but before I sign on the dotted line I want to have a sense that we’re going to be able to come up with the $40,000 that we’re going to need to support this family in Clarkson. By the next Sunday, we had $44,000.”

He adds: “People have really come on board. They’ve donated everything we’ve needed.”

He plans to invite the family to church but is in no rush. “I’m going to invite the family to come to the church at some point if they’re comfortable doing that. They’re fairly devout Muslims so it might be uncomfortable for them. It might not be. Right now, we’re just building a good friendship with them.”

He says helping to bring the family to Canada and settling them in Clarkson has been “a madhouse” for him personally. “I love it. I went morning-to-night for two days in a row when they first arrived and I felt so energized by it.”

The church has been changed by it, too. “It’s certainly changed the people who have been directly involved, in terms of feeling like this is a way of really putting faith into action. It’s impacted the wider congregation in that it has given them a chance to also share and make this happen.”

Students carve images for altar

Students at Bishop Strachan School, an independent school for girls in Toronto that is affiliated with the Anglican Church, have designed and carved wood panels for the chapel’s new altar. The designs are based on stories from Catherine Gibbs, the school’s chaplain, to look for themes and images for worship there,” said Ms. Gibbs.

“Any artwork in sacred places is there to reflect the spiritual complexity of the people worshiping there,” says Ms. Gibbs. “Our school altar is no different. The goal is to create a piece of art that illustrates the transcendental part of the journey of our young women.”

Working with the school’s art teacher, a carpenter and a wood-carver from the Ontario Carvers’ Guild, the girls designed and carved images on wood panels and then carved out the images. The panels are now part of the new altar. The project was done in celebration of the school’s 150th anniversary next year.

Prison ministry helps refugees

The Bridge, a ministry for prison ex-offenders and at risk youth, which is based in Brampton, has organized a donation drive for refugees. “It’s our way of giving back for all that has been given to us,” says Garry Glowacki, the executive director.

By the middle of January, more than 200 bags of clothes had been donated, of which only six were deemed to be unusable. “The generosity of the community has been both humbling and inspiring, to say the least,” says Mr. Glowacki.

The Brampton Sunnatul Islam Islamic Association and other Muslim organizations are dispersing the products to refugees in Canada. “We’re not sure where the donations will end up,” says Mr. Glowacki.

Anglicans encouraged to pray

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Toronto invites all members of the diocese to pray, read scripture or a Christian book for one hour each day throughout 2016. Some may wish to spend a continuous hour with God, while others may choose to complete the hour in segments. Prayer resources are available at www.anglicanprayer.org.

Church planter to speak at conference

The Vital Church Planting Conference will be held Jan. 28-30 at St. Paul, Bloor Street. Dr. David Fitch, an academic and church planter from the Chicago area, will be the plenary speaker. Participants will also hear about Canadian fresh expression of church from a variety of other speakers. The event will conclude with a workshop about engaging local communities. For more information, visit www.vitalchurchplanting.com.
Pre-plan your funeral

Continued from Page 4

ices of non-members; clergy are not flexible with their calendars. Some funeral homes report that the quality of the clergy leadership at funeral services is quite uneven. Some clergy do not take the time to meet with the family ahead of time, some try to get through the service at breakneck speed, and many provide no follow-up at all. I have fielded complaints from people on these very matters. One adult son was furious that a priest took his father’s service by coming to a funeral home 10 minutes before the start of the service and whipping through it in 20 minutes, never mentioning his father’s name once and leaving without evening speaking to the son! And to make matters worse, the father was a parishioner! Incidents like this may account for why funeral homes have taken over the ministry of bereavement counselling and follow-up, an area that once was firmly in the church’s domain.

It always saddens me when tension between funeral professionals and the church somehow infect the marking of the death of an individual. A little pre-planning and communication can make a world of difference. “Can I be buried from my church?” Absolutely.
The Rev. Canon Simon Li is surrounded by members of his church, St. John, Willowdale, friends and family after his installation as an honorary canon of St. James Cathedral at the cathedral in Toronto on Jan. 10. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Rev. Canon Simon Li is surrounded by members of his church, St. John, Willowdale, friends and family after his installation as an honorary canon of St. James Cathedral at the cathedral in Toronto on Jan. 10. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Rev. Canon Claire Wade and a relative from New York.

The Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner is congratulated by Bishop Philip Poole.

Above, the new canons wait to be installed by Archbishop Colin John-son. At right, front row from left: the Rev. Canon Claire Wade, the Rev. Canon Simon Li, the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen, the Rev. Canon Janet Read-Hockin. Back row from left: the Rev. Canon Beth Benson, the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley, the Rev. Canon Jenny Andison, the Rev. Canon Stephen Vail and the Rev. Canon Paul J. Walker.

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Looking Ahead

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

Music & Worship

Feb. 14 - Valentine’s Day Service, 10:30 a.m., Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke.

Feb. 20 - A Quiet Day for Church Musicians, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., led by Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, St. John’s Convent, 233 Cummer Ave., Toronto. Organized by the Toronto chapter of the Royal School of Church Music. Contact Joy at jolibays@netrover.com or phone 416-694-1260.

Feb. 28 - Organ recital with Ian Sadler, 3 p.m., St. Paul, Bloor Street, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Admission free.

March 5 - The Cellar Singers at St. James, Orillia, 58 Peter St. N., in celebration of the church’s 175 years of sharing and serving Jesus Christ. Visit the church’s website, www.stjamesorillia.com, for time.

April 3 - Thomas Bell: Music by Bach, Boelmann and Widor, 3 p.m., St. Paul, Bloor Street, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Admission free.

April 9 - Handel’s Messiah Singers at St. James, Orillia, 58 Peter St. N., which is celebrating 175 years of sharing and serving Jesus Christ. Visit the church’s website, www.stjamesorillia.com, for time.

April 28 - Organ recital with Ian Sadler, 3 p.m., St. James Orillia, 58 Peter St. N.

March 12 - Organist Sarah Svendsen, 3 p.m., St. Paul, Bloor Street, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Admission free.

March 16 - Organ recital with Ian Sadler, 3 p.m., St. Paul, Bloor Street, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Admission free.

APRIL 24 - 175th anniversary service, 10 a.m. at St. James Orillia, 58 Peter St. N.

APRIL 9 - Handel’s Messiah Singers at St. James, Orillia, 58 Peter St. N., which is celebrating 175 years of sharing and serving Jesus Christ. Visit the church’s website, www.stjamesorillia.com, for time.

APRIL 17 - Evensong for Lent, 6 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere streets, Toronto. Light supper at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Lenten series about the future of the Prayer Book, with guest speakers from the Prayer Book Society, Wycliffe College and Trinity College, chaired by historian Dr. William Cooke. Second of six Wednesdays through to March 16.

APRIL 23 - 175th Anniversary Celebration Banquet at St. James, Orillia, 58 Peter St. N. Visit the church’s website, www.stjamesorillia.com, for time.
Epistle contains great love sonnet

Paul’s epistles to the Corinthians were probably a single, complete letter. 2 Corinthians is probably a composite letter: it contains a single, complete letter 1 Corinthians and another letter. It is therefore a composite letter. The epistle contains two letters, 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians. 2 Corinthians consists of four parts: a letter to the Corinthians, a letter to the Galatians, a letter to the Ephesians, and a letter to the Philippians. The epistle opens with a discussion about the history of the church. It is a study of a letter to the Corinthians. Paul wrote a letter to the Corinthians that was lost, but he wrote another letter to the Galatians. The letter to the Galatians was written in 1 Corinthians 11. The letter to the Ephesians was written in 1 Corinthians 12. The letter to the Philippians was written in 1 Corinthians 13. 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CATHEDRAL REACHES OUT TO ‘TENT CITY’

VICTORIA - In response to a group of about 60 homeless people who had set up some 45 tents near Renfrew and Island, a significant contribution was made. The Rt. Rev. Michael Battle, archbishop of British Columbia, said the long-awaited move reflects a growing sense of compassion and a desire to share the prosperity and wealth of the province.

In a statement released yesterday, Battle said the cathedral will contribute to a fund to support the homeless, and that the need for such support is growing.

Battle said the cathedral has been approached by a number of different groups and organizations, including the Victoria Housing Authority, the Victoria Regional District, and the Victoria City Mission, all of which have expressed interest in supporting the homeless.

Battle said the cathedral is committed to providing support to the homeless, and that it will continue to work with these organizations to find ways to help.

Battle added that the cathedral is concerned about the impact of homelessness on the community, and that it is committed to working with others to address the issue.

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