

Program revives lay leaders

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The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

www.toronto.anglican.ca

DECEMBER 2017



READY

From left, Matthew Ferreira, Kaitlyn Heffern, William Kneeshaw, Nicole Knewshaw, Aiden Sorensen, Billy White, Ethan Sorensen and Joshua Heffern practice lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath at Trinity, Bradford. A candle will be lit each week during Advent, followed by the lighting of the middle candle on Christmas Eve. Advent starts on Dec. 3. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

He came to show us a way to love and live



In Luke 2:11 we read, “to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” We may ask why God sent his Son into the world. As in the gospel story, we may answer that he came to the shepherds who were looking after their sheep, but not only to them. He came to the marginalized, the voiceless, to victims of exploitation and violence, to a broken world, to those without hope and to those with hope. God sent his Son into the world so that the world through him might be saved.

The birth of the Christ child is for Christians, the birth of the Messiah as proclaimed by the prophets of old. At the heart of this narrative is the conviction that God intervened in human history and became human in the person of Jesus. This act of unconditional love by God is for the sake and salvation of all. The incarnation is that God chose to come among us and share in our humanity.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

BY BISHOP PETER FENTY

We believe in Jesus Christ, that he is with us and that he offers comfort, hope, reconciliation and healing. We rejoice in the knowledge that in the birth of the child of Bethlehem, he came among us to offer a better way of living. Jesus’ coming into the world is about making a difference, transforming lives, offering peace and hope where there is brokenness and division.

In Jesus Christ the Way, the Truth and the Life, we look to him who shows us a more “excellent way” of being. He shows us how we should love, forgive, be compassionate, and live in community as good neighbours. The incarnation is the Good News of how individuals, families, and communities can be

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Lay leaders brought closer to God

Program piloted here and abroad

BY STUART MANN

LORRAINE Bell had been attending Trinity Church, Aurora for five years but had always felt that something was missing. She volunteered to help out with mailings and other tasks, but the feeling remained.

"I felt somewhat stuck in my own spiritual journey," she says. "I wasn't connecting with God in the way I wanted to be, and I wasn't sure what to do about it."

The feeling persisted until her priest, the Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis, incumbent of Trinity, invited her to join a new program that helped lay leaders get in touch with their spiritual side. It changed her life.

"I was doing things by rote and wasn't involving prayer and scripture-reading in my daily life," says Ms. Bell. "Now I have a renewed confidence and an ability to reach out to others. It's my job to live into the cross. It's made me really happy."

Ms. Bell is one of several people



Revive participants, front row from left: David Gordon, Lorraine Bell, the Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis, Joan McIvor, Ed Golem. Back row from left: Dianne Steele, Margot Secord, Betty Innes, Kelly Peters, Frank Braithwaite, Patti Town and Valerie Keith. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

at Trinity who have taken Revive: Equipping Lay Leaders to be Spiritual Leaders. The program was created by Canon Davis to help churchwardens, committee members, property managers, Sunday School teachers, volunteers and others draw closer to God – something they're not always able to do in their busy lives.

"I felt that our lay people worked so hard for the Church but in so many ways we weren't giving them the greatest gift – a relationship with God," says Canon Davis. "I

also wanted, in some small way, to thank them for the enormous effort that goes into church leadership."

The program is being piloted in 10 parishes in the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada by RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement, an arm of The Episcopal Church that is dedicated to reinvigorating the Church. "I'm really delighted that it has a chance to go beyond Trinity, because what we achieved can be easily replicated," says Canon Davis. "We've stumbled onto something that is

really simple and important."

Revive invites lay leaders to journey with their clergy for a year. The intent is to adjust their orientation from one of always giving to also receiving. "Instead of ministering out, it's about allowing the church to minister to them," says Canon Davis.

The program starts with an opening retreat followed by three modules, each lasting about six weeks. In the first module, participants learn several different types of prayer. They develop a prayer practice for themselves and feel confident about praying in public. In the second module, they learn about scripture and how to lead a small Bible meditation group. The third module is about orienting their ministry toward call and vocation, rather than just doing a job.

About 12 people and their priest journey together from October to early June, taking a break during the Christmas and Easter seasons. They usually meet one night a week for about two hours. At the end of the program, they attend another retreat and adopt a Rule of Life, a way for them to carry on their life and ministry in a new way.

Canon Davis has run Revive five times in her parish and has seen participants profoundly changed by it. "I saw them fall in love with God," she said. "They got in touch with the divine workings of God in their lives, and they were able to use a language to express the experience and not feel embarrassed about it."

One of those who have been changed is Mei Zhu, the church's people's warden for the past two years. Ms. Zhu came to Canada from China 16 years ago with no religious background. She says the program gave her a better understanding of the Bible and also a deeper awareness of others who were exploring their faith.

"I don't feel alone anymore on my spiritual journey," she says. "Wondering and questioning about God is so private and personal and sometimes it feels awkward to share that. But after the course, I saw there were people on a similar journey and that made me want to open up more and share more. I feel closer to God, closer to a higher purpose."

Canon Davis says the program has helped to change the culture of the church as well. "The congregation had deeper joy because it wasn't so tired anymore, because it was being spiritually fed. Also, there is much more healthiness around the use of the buildings."

As a case in point, Trinity welcomed the congregation from Aurora United Church when its church burnt down three years ago. It also removed the pews in its historic chapel to be more innovative at one of its Sunday morning services.

"The things that would probably cause a lot of controversy are embraced with grace," she says. "They're still done with a lot of discernment and process and conversations, but there's not the same kind of conflict that I see in other churches."

Both Ms. Bell and Ms. Zhu say the program can be used by anyone, not just lay leaders. "It can apply to anyone, whether you're just starting out and you don't know what being an Anglican is all about or you've been here for a long time – it brings you back and renews that energy and desire to find God in your life," says Ms. Bell.

Canon Davis adds: "I really hope it helps the Church come to a place where I think it should be, which is faith-forming our people so that we are followers of Christ."

For more information on Revive, visit <http://renewalworks.org/revive/>.



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

JOHN 21: 12-17



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Learnings from across the pond



This past summer my wife, our three kids and I visited Great Britain. It was, first and foremost, a vacation. Over the course of three weeks we logged some 2,500 km from the Scottish Highlands, through North Wales to meet up with family on my mother's side (she's a Jones), then on to Stratford and Canterbury.

I could not avoid mixing business with pleasure. Thanks to a grant from the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, a British-based agency designed to encourage dialogue between the Anglican Church of Canada and the Church of England, I connected with colleagues in Oban, Scotland; Bangor and St. Asaph, Wales; and in England. My mission was simple: to learn of their experience with stewardship education and to learn about their vision of the church for the next 20 years.

The tone of our conversations was hopeful. Even in tiny Argyll and the Isles on Scotland's west coast, where only 720 people are identified on parish rolls in 22 congregations, there is a feeling of optimism about the future. For Episcopalians here, it has always been about perseverance. The Church has maintained a presence here since St. Columba established a monastic community on Iona in 563 AD.

Stewardship is largely practiced in terms of time and talent – with a heavy emphasis on time. With only a handful of stipendiary clergy, lay people step up as readers, pastoral visitors, service providers and diocesan staff. Giving on the collection plate is not substantial, but thanks to outside grants the Church gets by.

Conversations about the need for discipleship abound on Argyll and the Isles' webpage and in parish bulletins. More and more, evidence seems to confirm that stewardship follows discipleship, as several parishes have experienced numeric growth in recent years. A couple have even added part-time youth ministers. In a part of the Church where

THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

numbers matter, discipleship is making a difference.

A similar experience can be found in North Wales. Discipleship is all the rage here, too. On top of that, efforts to increase on-plate collections have resulted in a near doubling of per-person giving over the past decade. The reason for the growth is two-fold: each congregation needs to be self-sustaining, as there are few external granting opportunities, and Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) has made giving very easy (and ensured support for ministry goes on even when people are away from church).

As you have read in my column time and again, I am a huge proponent of PAR. The Welsh call it planned giving, and it has helped sustain and even grow some congregations in the past few years. When I attended a church service in Betws-y-Coed, I was pleasantly surprised by the size and diversity of the congregation – the vicar said attendance was lower that Sunday (they must have known that the director of Stewardship from Toronto was coming)! All kidding aside, there was optimism here that the Church must maintain a Christian presence in every community.

My final conversation was with John Preston, the national stewardship and resource officer for the Church of England. He has an office in London, though like most resource staff, he is on the road most of the time. Fifty years ago, he tells me, people in the pew were not required to support ministry. This changed in the 1970s as Church investments were hit hard by declining financial markets. Despite the chaos it caused at the time, the collapse of investment values had a positive outcome, as it forced church members to become more actively involved in the life and ministry of the Church. Among active members, proportionate giving is about 3.5 per cent of household incomes, and the propor-

tion is nearly double that for those who use direct debit (no surprise here).

The biggest challenge for the Church of England is discipleship. Adult formation is weak, as the Church has tended to rely on its schools to teach about Christian living and to provide sacramental preparation. Fresh Expressions of Church have resulted in positive outcomes, though growing the Church is hard work, especially as society becomes more secular.

My encounter with colleagues across Britain helped confirm my own assumptions about giving and provided optimism that growth is possible when we focus on discipleship.

One thing I took away from my journey that was completely new was a national giving program called Gift Aid. Simply put, it is a reverse tax credit arrangement where the donor designates their tax credit to a charity of his or her choice. Up to 25 per cent of any gift can be re-gifted. How ingenious!

To put this in Canadian terms, the average donor in Ontario who gives more than \$200 annually is entitled to a 40.16 per cent personal tax credit. In effect, a gift of \$1,000 over the first \$200 "costs" the donor \$598.40. This credit is used to off-set tax owed.

While I do not believe that a tax advantage is the leading motivator for giving, it might be a consideration for giving more. Consider that a donation of \$1,667 would be necessary to actually "cost" the donor \$1,000.

December is the most popular time of the year for people to make charitable donations. Many organizations, including churches, receive up to one-third of their annual revenue during this month. If you are able, can you Gift Aid the Church this year? While the procedure does not exist on any tax form, you can make it happen nonetheless. Up your gift by the value of the tax credit. This way charities will experience their own Christmas bonus and you will feel better knowing that your gift has had an even bigger impact.

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



TheAnglican

The Anglican is published under the authority of the Bishop of Toronto and the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Opinions expressed in The Anglican are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

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Circulation: For all circulation inquiries, including address changes, new subscriptions and cancellations, call the Circulation Department at (416) 924-9199, ext. 259/245, or email circulation@national.anglican.ca. You can also make changes online: visit www.anglicanjournal.com and click Subscription Centre.

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New clergy reading group builds bridges



BY THE REV. GARY VAN DER MEER

When you are in pastoral leadership, the business of the church demands so much of your attention," says the Rev. Canon Stephen Peake. "I just wanted to learn and force myself to learn by reading things I wouldn't otherwise read."

Stephen was talking about our new clergy reading group. He had hosted our latest informal group discussion at St. Bride, Clarkson, and we were talking about why reading theology together was so helpful. "The relationship is more important than the opinions," he said. "That's where the Body of Christ is – lots of opinions coming together."

When I first began to study theology, it was like a light coming on and I couldn't get enough of it. In the years since I was ordained, I have continued to buy books. Sometimes I finish them, but often I don't. They sit on my shelf, the bookmark a quarter or a third of the way through, at the place where other priorities of pastoral leadership intervened. I might have refer-

enced a quote or a chapter in a sermon or a Bible study. Then I moved on – and there the book sits while I wish I had greater self-discipline.

Last year, I brought a particularly compelling book to our annual clergy conference. At a time of open announcements, I got up and talked about the book. *The Crucifixion* would be so relevant for preaching during Holy Week, and the author, Fleming Rutledge, was coming to give a talk at Wycliffe College. Who would join me in reading it, so that I would be sure to finish the book? We would get a lot out of it if we could meet and talk about it. I followed up with everyone who expressed interest, and we began.

Our first gathering included people I didn't know, and people who didn't know each other. Maybe we recognized each other's faces from diocesan events, but we had never spoken. The discussion was wonderfully stimulating, and I think we all appreciated the diversity in the room. Some loved the book, some hated it, but the discipline of meeting together helped us finish it – and our shared reading informed our sermons during Holy Week.

We are in the middle of reading our second

book, *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Richard Rohr. Some love it and some don't, but the conversation is stimulating, respectful and honest. We are looking forward our next gathering, when our focus will be, "How will you preach this?"

Stephen and I are both reluctant to say that our group represents the full spectrum of theological views in the Church, but the diversity of views is evident in our conversation. We have experienced the breaking down of stereotypes. Talking together about our faith pushes back at the tendency to slot people.

"We are building shared experiences with other leaders and reflecting on pastoral care through what the text is saying," says Stephen. I think what we are building is a bridge. When you build a bridge and then stand on it together, new things you'd never thought about become possible.

We welcome clergy to join us reading theology together. We will start our third book after Christmas.

The Rev. Gary van der Meer is the incumbent of St. Anne, Toronto. He can be reached at pastor@saintanne.ca.

Priest sheds light on Syria

Foundation trains young ambassadors for peace

BY DIANA SWIFT

LIKE other countries in the Middle East, Syria is a complex multi-sectarian country, once controlled by outside western powers, devastated by wars, permeated by corruption, and dominated in all aspects of life by religion. This was a picture painted by the Rev. Nadim Nassar, the only Syrian-born, Arabic-speaking priest in the Church of England.

Born into a Christian family in the port city of Lattakia, the London-based advocate for interfaith understanding and religious freedom spoke Oct. 16 in Toronto at a presentation sponsored by the Canadian International Council.

Mr. Nassar is a frequent and passionate commentator in the media on international religious affairs. In that role, he has been an outspoken critic of what he considers Archbishop of Canterbury

Justin Welby's "appalling support" for western military intervention in Syria.

Westerners hold many misconceptions about the Middle East, and it is proving a Herculean task to raise awareness among them, although the Arab Spring has helped somewhat to lift the veil and spark discussion on this region, he said.

"The West does not understand that in the Middle East, religion colours everything – economics, politics, social norms, ethics," he said. "If you don't factor in the religious aspect, you have no idea about the issues. But the West has been afraid to talk about religion, it's taboo."

Few in the West are aware of Christianity's deep roots in Syria. "Jesus Christ was born in Palestine and so was legally a Syrian citizen since Palestine was a Roman satellite of Syria," he told a packed audience at the Munk School of Global



The Rev. Nadim Nassar talks about displaced minorities in the Middle East. The number of Christians in Syria, his homeland, has dropped by more than half through death and displacement. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Affairs at the University of Toronto. Many don't realize that having "a road to Damascus experience" refers to St. Paul's conversion to Christianity en route to the ancient Syrian capital, he said.

Yet now, according to figures presented at his talk, resident Christians in Syria have dropped from 1.25 million in 2011 to fewer than half a million today, much of it through death and displacement. "Christian and other minority communities are at risk of being wiped off the map in the Middle East," said Dr. Mark Sedra, president of the

Canadian International Council, in his opening remarks.

Mr. Nassar founded the Awareness Foundation in 2003. It is a Christian charity whose mission is peace-building and empowering Christians everywhere to counter intolerance and promote interfaith understanding.

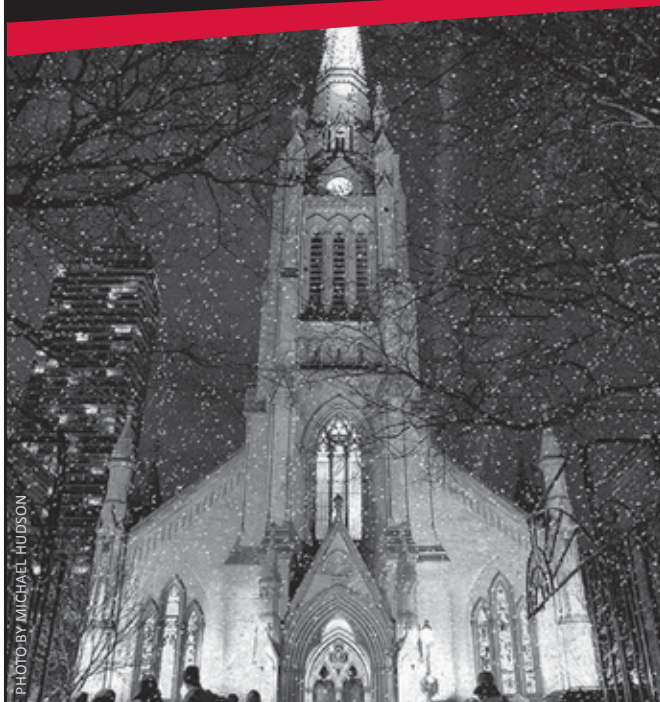
One of its programs is training young people in the Middle East to be ambassadors of peace and preparing them for the democracy they have never experienced. But Mr. Nassar cautioned that western-style democracy cannot be imposed

but must be tailored to the norms of the region. "Democracy is like water. It takes the shape of its container, whether that's a jug or a glass," he said.

In his native Syria, he faced a very difficult assignment in approaching youth. "Young Syrian Christians were angry, in despair, desperate," he said. "They were furious with the Church, with God, with the West. They were against everything." Having lost the lives they had lived in their now-wrecked

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Evangelist tells Christians to fight for justice

Kingdom of God requires change from within, he says

BY DIANA SWIFT

FOR the Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo, the American evangelist, sociology professor and activist for global justice, the kingdom of God does not refer to an otherworldly afterlife for the righteous saved. It is instead a demanding work in progress in the here and now, as he explained in an often-fiery sermon at Grace Church in Scarborough on Oct. 29.

The Baptist pastor began his address, which ranged from scripture and theology to politics and quantum physics, by asking “What was Jesus’ mission in becoming man?” It was, he argued, not to rescue lost souls or to model what it means to be a self-actualizing human being. “It was to declare that the kingdom of God – the one named in the Lord’s Prayer – is at hand.”

Christ wants to transform people from within so that they can change the world into an equitable kingdom as prophesied in the Book of Isaiah, Mr. Campolo said. “Chapter 65 speaks of a time when there will be no infant mortality, when people will live out their lives in health and well-being.” It speaks of an age when houses are inhabited by those who build them, and instead of labouring for the benefit of others, workers will be justly rewarded. “That relates today to the kid in Thailand earning a dollar a day for long hours so North Americans can buy bargain sneakers at Walmart and Kmart.”

Peppering his sermon with hilarious anecdotes and Pentecostal-style shout-outs to the congregation, the

professor emeritus of sociology at Eastern University in Pennsylvania explained how much the Church has done to concretely change the world into God’s kingdom. “Twenty-five years ago, 45,000 people a day died of starvation or malnutrition-related disease. That has diminished to 17,000 today,” he said. Furthermore, the number of those lacking access to clean drinking water has dropped from one in six 25 years ago to one in 12 today. “Who drilled most of the wells in developing countries? It’s been Christian people, and we don’t take enough credit for what we’re doing.”

In other gains, he said the global illiteracy rate has fallen over 25 years from 80 per cent to 20 per cent, and the Christian housing mission Habitat for Humanity has just announced the completion of its one millionth house. “Who did most of the literacy training around the world? Christians. And what government can claim to have built a million homes for the poor?” he asked. To keep those statistics moving in a positive direction, he urged attendees to support the world-changing work of Christian organizations.

But to achieve the kingdom of God in a flawed world, Mr. Campolo argued, people must change from within. “Sometimes mainline denominations forget that people need to be changed individually,” he said. “We get so busy dealing with the social problems of the world that we don’t get the fact that people have to open themselves



The Rev. Dr. Tony Campolo speaks to an appreciative congregation at Grace Church, Scarborough. He praised Christians for changing the world for the better. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



and let Christ invade them and transform them from within.”

He said he begins every day with 10 or 15 minutes of quiet focusing on Jesus to rid his mind of superfluous agendas while he waits for Christ to reach out from the cross across 2,000 years to connect with him. The paradox that the risen and ascended Christ can still be on the cross in 2017 took his sermon in a fascinating direction, where Christian theology met Einsteinian relativity. Einstein’s theory holds that the faster you travel, the more time is compressed.

“If we could travel at the speed of light, at 186,000 miles per second, all time would be compressed into one

instantaneous now,” Mr. Campolo said. That is the way God and Jesus experience time, he said – not, like us, as a series of unfolding events. “For them, time is an eternal now,” he said, pointing out that when the Jews ask Jesus who he is, Jesus replies, “Before Abraham was, I am,” using the present tense for something that happened eons ago. “That’s why he can be hanging on the cross and still be at my side in the morning. He is like a sponge absorbing all the dark and ugly and sinful things in my life.”

Mr. Campolo stressed that people are very much in need of spiritual cleansing. “Jesus wants to cleanse us. The Holy Spirit cannot flow

into us unless we cleanse,” he said. He emphasized the sacramental nature of reaching out to the poor and needy, the “least” of the world, and in so doing embracing Jesus. “I feel the presence of Christ in them,” he said.

Mr. Campolo also urged people to challenge governments that support the exploitation of the resources of impoverished countries, citing the example of the tax-free exporting of Nigerian petroleum by oil companies with the blessing of the Nigerian government. “Taxes on those billions of dollars in oil could provide schools and medical centres and food for the people,” he said.

He also noted that government-subsidized wheat and rice exports from Canada and the United States have destroyed the livelihoods of grain farmers in Haiti. “People in developing countries are not poor because they’re lazy,” Mr. Campolo said. “They’re poor because we have created a system that is unjust. God calls for justice. We need not only charity but we need justice.”

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.



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Church goes green, one step at a time

Local expertise, partnership gets results

BY STUART MANN

PARISHIONERS who sit in the back pews at Holy Trinity, Thornhill will be feeling a little warmer this winter, thanks to the efforts of the church's "Green Team."

During a recent green energy audit of the church building, the team learned that a small section of the roof wasn't properly insulated. "The parishioners in the back pews were always saying they were cold, and we always thought it was because they were sitting close to the entrance door," explains Iverson Grimes, chair of the team.

Some handy parishioners climbed up to the area in question and sealed off the draft. "On the following Sunday, quite a few people said they noticed a difference," says Mr. Grimes. "That was our crowning glory."

The energy-saving step is one of many the historic Thornhill church has undertaken to improve its carbon footprint. It has managed to do this by tapping into expertise that exists in the parish and partnering with a not-for-profit agency that helps places of worship go green.

Holy Trinity's efforts started in 2015, when it approved the diocese's vestry motion that asked parishes to take steps to address climate change. It drew together a diverse group of people at the church who had the passion, skill and knowledge to drive the initiative forward. The Green Team, as it's called, consists of Mr. Grimes, Steven Law, who is an environmental engineer; Dianne Rimmer, Ron Tolhurst, Robin Parravano, Swan Li and Jesús Cruz Arango.

The team's initial task was to analyze the church's energy consumption and identify the building assets such as the heating and cooling system, the insulation in the walls and roof, and the windows and lighting. The study showed that the church was relatively energy efficient, but there was still room for improvement.

The group presented its findings at the church's 2016 vestry meeting and was given \$5,000 from the parish's Our Faith-Our Hope campaign funds to continue its work. It also received a \$1,000 grant from Faith and the Common Good, a national interfaith network, to conduct a green audit of the church. The audit cost \$1,500, so the church had to pay just \$500.

Stephen Collette, Faith and the Common Good's building audit

manager, led a tour of the property, looking at energy-consuming appliances and activities, wiring and piping, windows and doors, recycling efforts, cleaning products and pesticide use, signage – virtually anything that could be greened.

Mr. Grimes says Mr. Collette was easy-going and patient. "He was very pleasant. No question from us was considered insignificant. He was very easy to work with."

The audit was an eye-opening experience, he says. "Stephen's team was able to point out stuff that really needed to be done, and identified areas that gave us the biggest bang for our money. They pointed out areas of concern that we hadn't even thought about."

Mr. Collette put his findings and recommendations into a report, which has formed the basis of a road-map for the Green Team's efforts over the next 10 years. Importantly, the plan contains action steps that the group can implement right away at little cost – what Mr. Grimes calls the "low-hanging fruit."

Some of the fixes have already paid off. For example, the old air conditioning fans in the balcony storage rooms have been covered over, stopping cold air from drifting down into the heated area. The simple renovation, done by parishioners at a cost of \$140, will save hundreds of dollars in heating bills over the coming winters.

Mr. Collette also gave some practical advice. He cautioned the church against accepting donations of old appliances from parishioners, as they usually weren't energy efficient.

Some of Mr. Collette's recommendations will require a greater investment of time and money. For example, the church plans to upgrade its entire lighting system to LED bulbs, at a cost of about \$15,000. It also hopes to replace its air conditioner with an energy efficient model in the next year or two.

The church's vestry provided the Green Team with a further \$10,000 this year from its Our Faith-Our Hope funds, so it now has about \$14,000 in hand to make the changes. But Mr. Grimes admits the group might have to go looking for government grants to pay for those and other high-end improvements.

Still, he's happy with the progress to date. "For now, we said, let's concentrate on the low-hanging fruit. Yes, we may not be able to



Holy Trinity, Thornhill is reducing its carbon footprint after completing a green energy audit. At right, Stephen Collette of Faith and the Common Good (far left) joins the church's Green Team, from left: Jesús Cruz Arango, Swan Li, Dianne Rimmer, Ron Tolhurst, Iverson Grimes, Robin Parravano and Steven Law. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND THE REV. CANON STEPHEN FIELDS



do the high-cost things right away, but there's a benefit to doing the low-cost things. We have 50 to 60 items on the list and have done a lot of them."

He says Holy Trinity has shared its knowledge with other churches that want to go green but don't know how to start. "They're a little intimidated, but we explain that you're going to do it one step at a time. We've gone through this without too much pain, and you can too."

Donna Lang, the Toronto animator for Greening Sacred Spaces, has worked with several parishes in the diocese, including St. Cuthbert, Leaside and St. Matthew, Islington, to reduce their carbon footprints. She is hosting an "Energy Savings Webinar" for churches on Jan. 24 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The webinar will look at incentives and rebates for retrofits, lighting, heating and cooling. It will also examine how a United Church in Toronto reduced its lighting consumption by 10 per cent and saved money. During the webinar, Ms. Lang will launch a three-year project that helps faith communities measure their energy and greenhouse gas footprint. For more information, contact Ms. Lang at dlang@faithcommongood.org.

Sun. 7th Jan. at 4 p.m.
Choral Evensong (BCP)
plus Epiphany Tea
with music feature at 5

GILES BRYANT: CATHEDRAL AND PARISH MUSIC

Giles traces Anglican church music from just before the Prayer Book up to now. His illustrated talk at the piano will focus on Tallis, Purcell, Maurice Greene, S.S. Wesley, Stanford, Howells and their parish contemporaries, drawing on his time leading choirs at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, and at All Saints, Peterborough.

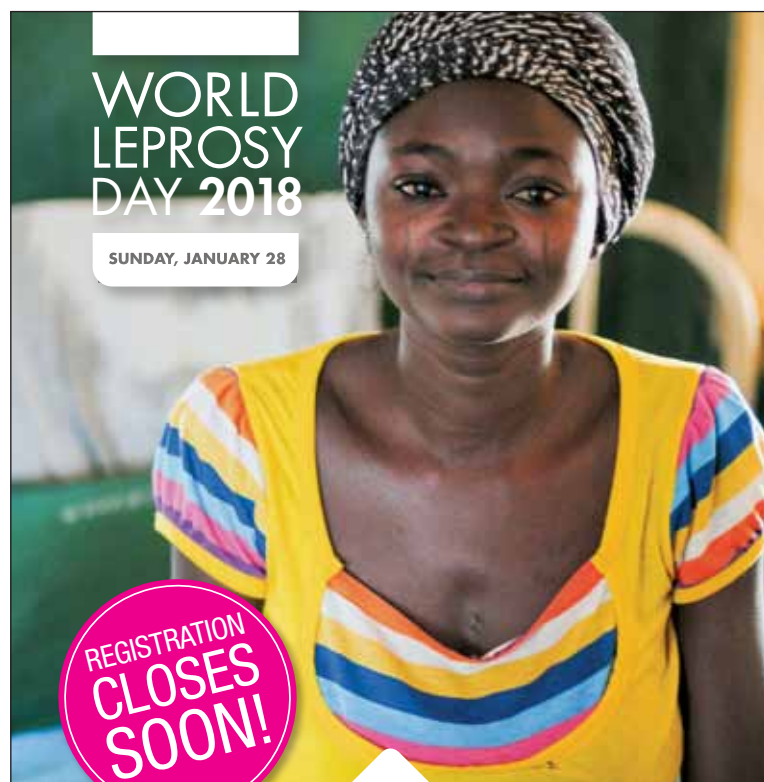
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Corrections

THE late Rev. Campbell Russell served at St. Philip the Apostle, Caribou in Toronto, not St. Philip the Apostle, Etobicoke, as reported in the October issue. In the same issue,

Archbishop Johnson was referring to the Thirty Years War, not the Hundred Years War, in his Diary. *The Anglican* regrets the errors.

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Conference urges equity for all

Event focuses on racial, ethnic diversity

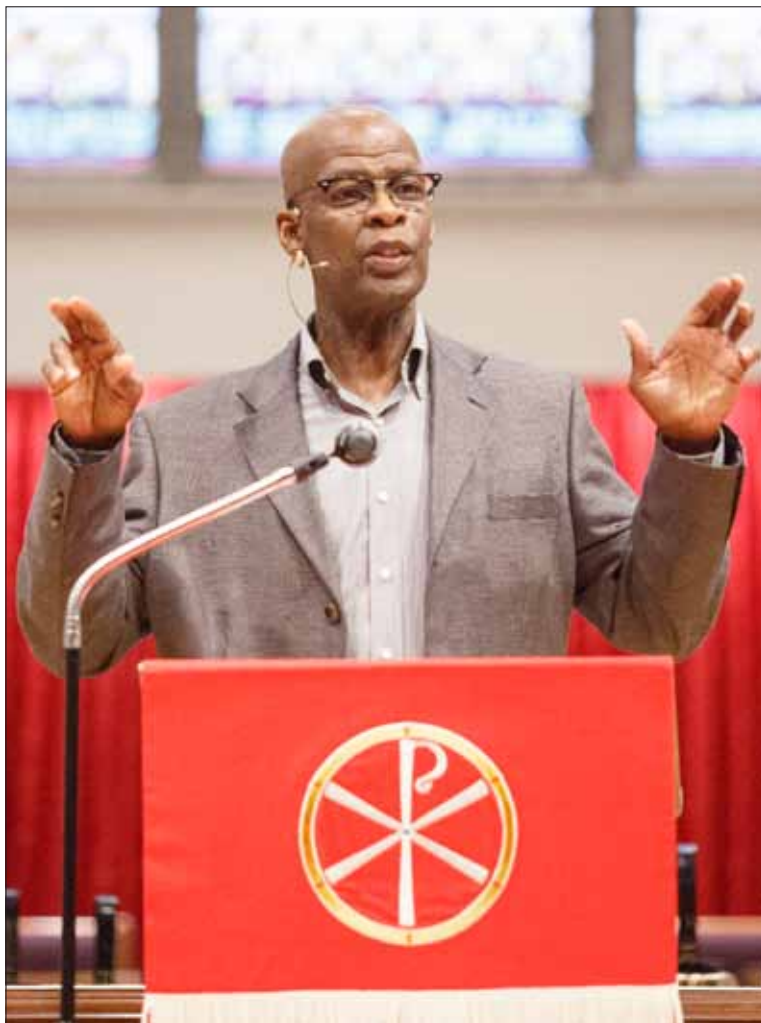
BY MURRAY MacADAM

PARTICIPANTS at the diocese's annual Outreach and Advocacy Conference heard a powerful call to work for equity in the Church and society, and grappled with ways to bring it about. The conference, held on Nov. 4 at St. John, York Mills, drew 100 people from across the diocese and marked the first time that the event focused on racial and ethnic diversity.

Keynote speaker Dr. Carl James, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education at York University, spelled out the difference between equity and equality, and highlighted how inequality is built on racism. "We don't want equality of opportunity, because that means treating everyone the same," he said. "What we want is equity, which takes everyone's situation into account and is based on justice."

Canadians are proud of their country as a multicultural oasis, a colour-blind society, said Dr. James. Yet while most people don't like talking about it, race is a core reality of life in Canada, he noted. "Whiteness is taken for granted," he said, and we need to think about how whiteness, which we see as "normal," is impacting our lives. "If we think that the best priest is a white priest, then we are using whiteness," he said.

Diversity is an ongoing challenge, and we need to think about diversity in all we do. "The work we have to do is bring people to a consciousness that we're all in this together," he said. We need to constantly think about what offends people from other backgrounds, which is not always easy. "We have to become comfortable with uncomfortability," he added.



Dr. Carl James, the Jean Augustine Chair in Education at York University, gives the keynote address. Photos by Michael Hudson

A lively question period followed his address. Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, asked how we can respond to racist comments, and asked, "How do we confront the fact that systemic racism is real?"

The Rev. Canon Don Butler, incumbent of Trinity, Barrie, said that when he strolls along Barrie's waterfront at night, people steer clear of him as a tall black man. When he did the interment service for a local resident, people were shocked to see a black priest. He appealed to the audience to have courage to confront racism, "to be mindful of who we are called to be as people of God."

Workshops explored issues of ac-

cessibility, understanding privilege, confronting racism, Indigenous issues, youth and social justice, and climate change. Brother Reginald-Martin Crenshaw, OHC, an associate at St. Paul, Rexdale, led a workshop on dismantling racism in the parish. It defined racism as racial bias combined with the misuses of structures and institutions, so that one group's racial bias is institutionalized by its power, based on its perceived racial superiority. The workshop contrasted personal and systemic racism, with the latter, like the water in which a fish swims, being so pervasive that it is not perceived easily. Everyone is born into it and socialized to play well-defined roles.



Imam Ilyas Ally of the Islamic Information & Dawah Centre, a mosque in Toronto, and the Rev. Gary van der Meer, the incumbent of St. Anne, Toronto, discuss building interfaith friendships.



May Lui, an activist in the fields of feminism, anti-racism and anti-oppression, leads a workshop on 'Understanding Your Privilege: Intersectionality 101'.

The Rev. Gary van der Meer, incumbent at St. Anne, Toronto, provided a practical example of interfaith inclusion in action during a workshop he led with Imam Ilyas Ally. The workshop focused on the growing friendship between St. Anne's and Imam Ally's Muslim community. It has included interfaith learning events and joint sponsorship of a refugee family.

Mike Walker, a student completing a doctorate on a theology of disability, told a workshop on accessibility and solidarity that "ableism is a sin" (ableism is discrimination in favour of able-bodied people). He has cerebral palsy, and after noting that people with disabilities are sometime labeled as a "retard", or a "cripple", he said, "I'd rather have names like friend or brother," his voice cracking with emotion.

Participants explored the notion of "sacramental solidarity" and how baptism and Holy Communion can lead all people into Jesus' embrace. They agreed with a suggestion that the Church develop official programs to educate parishes on disability issues, just as it does on sexual misconduct concerns.

Karri Munn-Venn of Citizens for Public Justice led a climate change workshop in which participants highlighted the people and places most immediately impacted by climate change: people of colour, former colonies, and communities that have contributed little to the problem. A discussion outlined the inconsistencies in Canada's approach to climate change, including tensions between respect for Indigenous rights and pipeline approval, and between the Paris Agreement and ongoing fossil fuel subsidies. The workshop wrapped up with an impassioned call to minimize our environmental impacts, engage church leaders on the Christian imperative to care for the Earth, and to demand action from the federal government.

Parishes were invited to take part in CPJ's Give it up for the Earth! campaign, which invites individuals to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while urging the federal government to increase climate action. For more information, visit: cpj.ca/for-the-earth.

Murray MacAdam is a freelance writer.



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SPECIAL DAY

The Bridge Prison Ministry and Regeneration Outreach Community, two agencies that help ex-prisoners and the poor and homeless in Brampton, marked World Homeless Day on Oct. 13 at Grace Place in Brampton. The event included a photo exhibit by homeless people, the launch of a cookbook for those living in poverty, and a hot meal using food bank items. Above, cookbook designer Lisa Lawless (second from left) joins Susan Kochie (left), Garry Glowacki and Natalie Pereira of The Bridge at the event. At right and left are some of the photos taken by homeless people in Brampton. The burr in the top-right photo indicates that someone spent the night there. The Bridge is a FaithWorks partner and received a grant from the York-Credit Valley episcopal area to create the cookbook, called *Living Well on Less*. MAIN PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

BRIEFLY

Faith leaders hold 'pray-in'

Faith leaders from across Toronto marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Oct. 17 by occupying City Hall and performing a "pray-in" in front of Mayor John Tory's office. Among those taking part in the demonstration was Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Scarborough.

The faith group, called "Faith in the City," says Mayor Tory and City Council are not doing enough to combat poverty and called for greater investments in the city's upcoming budget, expected to be released in February.

"We have seen Council commit to strategies and projects to tackle staggering inequality in our city, but when the time comes to funding these priorities, our leaders can't seem to make the leap," said Imam Habeeb Alli. "We're here to urge Council to stick to its own promises in the upcoming budget."

Council unanimously adopted the Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2015 and has provided funding for some measures but says it cannot fully fund the plan without increasing taxes or using some other forms of revenue.

The faith leaders affirmed the need for good transit, affordable housing and the importance of good jobs in eradicating poverty. "Our city's most vulnerable residents, including one in four children, desperately need access to affordable housing and reliable transit to help lift them out of poverty," said Elder Kim Running Bear McDougall of the Oneida Nation.

"It is important to unite with people across Toronto in pushing for action on inequality and poverty," said Bishop Robertson.



Imam Habeeb Alli reads from a statement while Bishop Kevin Robertson (third from right) and other Christian, Jewish and Muslim faith leaders listen outside Mayor John Tory's office in Toronto.

"We must work together to urge our politicians to follow through on their own commitments."

Synod on diocese's website

Coverage of the diocese's Synod, held Nov. 24-25 in Richmond Hill, will be available on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. Stories and photos will also be published in the January issue of *The Anglican*.

Online Advent calendar returns

As we begin a new church year in Advent, Christians around the world are once again turning to social media to pray through their phones and share their experience of expectant waiting for Jesus Christ. For the fourth year in a row, the Anglican Communion is inviting Anglicans to join Advent Word, its global online Advent calendar. Everyone who signs up will receive a daily email with a prayer and a

photo based on a different word each day. They'll also be invited to respond on social media with their own prayers and photos, using the hashtag #AdventWord and the word of the day. Visit www.advent-word.org to learn more and sign up, and search for #AdventWord on your favourite social network to join Anglicans around the world as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Christ.

Episcopal area hosts town hall

Bishop Jenny Anderson is inviting all interested clergy and laypeople to a follow-up to the York-Credit Valley September town hall. This gathering will take place on Jan. 13 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dixie, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga. Participants will consider how to realign area resources to strengthen existing ministries and focus on opportunities identified as needing more attention. Those who attended the September town hall are particularly encouraged to attend.

Priest supports youth in Middle East

Continued from Page 5

country, they were simply biding time until visas got them out – to anywhere.

Mr. Nassar related well to their nihilism since he had lived for seven years in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War of 1975-1990. He won their confidence by showing them he was not just another expatriate living safely in the West.

He heard them out quietly, and his listening was rewarded. "It was an incredible experience turning a person from despair to embracing the idea, 'I can be an ambassador for peace in my own broken country,'" he said.

One positive step the West can take for Syria is to use its leverage to encourage negotiations between the country's warring factions, with the goal of re-establishing peaceful co-existence. "Why are we not pushing toward Syrian-to-Syrian dialogue?" he asked.

Mr. Nassar has long supported talks with Syrian president Bashar al-Assad – in spite of protestations from others that no one should sit at the table with such a murderous dictator. "Assad is not going anywhere," he said. "His army is still there." Mr. Nassar believes

dialogue is the only recourse in both Syria and Yemen.

Despite few opportunities for political power, Christians will survive in the Middle East, he said. "History has proven that Christians are resilient, but we have to work for survival. This is why the Awareness Foundation was established." Rather than aid refugees in camps – which are devoid of Christians and other minorities, he said – the foundation has chosen to support people who choose to stay in their ancestral homeland. "The only way to try to make a difference is to be inside. We want to strengthen those who remain in the country. Exporting people is never a solution."

Asked by *The Anglican* what Canadian Christians can do to help Syria, he said, "Support those working inside the country to strengthen those who remain. And support dialogue between the warring parties." Only by bringing sectarian stakeholders to the negotiating table can the already hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of evacuations be prevented from spiraling even higher, he said.

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.



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CANADA BRIEFS

Church has plans for derelict space

HAMILTON - A church is planning to transform a derelict property that once housed a biker gang into an urban haven of peace, beauty and community service. Last year, the Diocese of Niagara authorized the Parish of St. James and St. Brendan in Port Colborne to purchase a property across the street from the church, consisting of an overgrown lot and two buildings.

The empty lot will be made into a parkette with benches, artwork, trees and a fountain – an inviting spot for lunch breaks, art shows, concerts or weddings. The former biker gang clubhouse will be repurposed to house a youth outreach centre that will provide mentoring projects to youth, including bike-rebuilding classes. The project will cost close to \$500,000, and the parish is undertaking a “multi-pronged approach” to raising funds.

Niagara Anglican

Church gets new lease on life

VICTORIA - Parishioners have converted an Anglican church on Salt Spring Island, off Vancouver Island, B.C., into a centre for fostering spirituality of all kinds.

On Sept. 30, a development team composed of members of the Salt Spring Anglican Parish officially opened the Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice, located in the former St. Mary's Church, Fulford, B.C. The centre, team members said, will offer programming of various kinds in spirituality and the arts, with the goal of serving as a bridge not only between Christians but also between Christians and those of other faiths, or of no defined faith.

The idea for the centre arose about three years ago, when members of the Salt Spring Anglican Parish – which included three churches, including St. Mary's – felt that more could be done with St. Mary's, which was falling into disuse.

Diocesan Post

Diocese finds discipleship school

SASKATOON - The Diocese of Saskatchewan has established a “school without walls” for providing free, diocese-wide mentoring and support in discipleship. St. Brigid's School of Discipleship offers short classes for all levels of discipleship, from those who are curious about Christianity to training for lay readers, deacons and priests. It also provides courses in preparation for rites of passage, training in advanced spiritual care and theological reflection, and continuing education programs for clergy. Instruction is by diocesan clergy and lay specialists, who travel to parishes throughout the three deaneries, eliminating the need for students to travel long distances to attend the classes.

Saskatchewan Anglican



AGENTS OF CHANGE

Young Anglicans and youth ministers from across the diocese attend the ReCharge Youth Retreat, held Oct. 27-29 at Muskoka Woods camp in Rousseau, Ontario. Participants learned how God has called them both individually and as the Church to be agents of change within their own communities. Despite the rainy, cold weather, they also enjoyed indoor rock climbing, indoor skating, archery, basketball and a bonfire. The event was organized by the Archbishop's Youth Ministry Committee, and 133 teens aged 12-17 attended. PHOTOS BY MICHELLE CLOUTER



Church secretaries gather in Oshawa

Demanding position often misunderstood, says writer

BY HELEN ELBERTSEN

THE Professional Church Secretaries' Association's annual conference took place from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3 in Oshawa. Attended by 55 church secretaries and administrators from all over southern Ontario, the event was a great way to get to know people who work in a very secluded profession.

The church secretary's position is often misunderstood by the outside world and can be seen as “not a real job” and being done by “grandma types” who have nothing better to do. This could not be further from the truth. A church secretary often runs the day-to-day business of the church, and her or his job can

include bookkeeping, hall rental booking, building maintenance troubleshooting, assisting church committees, taking minutes, lending a pastoral ear, and booking funerals and weddings, to name just a few – oh, yes, and preparing Sunday bulletins!

The church secretary's job is exclusive, and anyone in this position usually finds that there is no one to turn to for assistance, advice or just to vent frustrations. That's why the association is so valuable.

Made up of church secretaries and administrators from across southern Ontario, and from many denominations, our membership allows us to have constant contact with others doing the same job. Solutions to problems or advice

can be received easily and quickly via email or a quick phone call.

Each fall for the past 24 years, we have gathered as a group in various cities and towns across the province for a three-day extravaganza of learning and fun. This year's theme was “Learning with Laughter.” There are workshops dealing with all kinds of relevant topics from “How to Leverage Technology” to “Stopping Elder Abuse” and “Stress is Funny.” Over the years, we have learned about conflict management, working with volunteers, copyright laws and many other subjects.

The conferences are not all about work. There is great entertainment and enjoyable outings to local hot spots. This year, we were enter-

tained by the Howling Heretics, a wonderful musical duo from Jubilee United Church in Scarborough, whose musical talent and humorous biblical references kept us laughing and cheering for almost two hours. Day trips included tastings and shopping at a local winery and a visit to a working flour and lumber mill; their homemade doughnuts were to die for!

I invite all church secretaries and administrators in the diocese to join us in 2018 when we celebrate our 25th anniversary in the London and Stratford area. For more information, visit www.pcsa.ca.

Helen Elbertsen is the Parish Administrator of St. George, Ajax (Pickering Village).

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IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Dr. David Neelands, Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Roches Point, Oct. 1.
- The Ven. Canon Stephen Vail, Archdeacon for the episcopal area of Trent-Durham, Oct. 6. This is in addition to his current appointment as Incumbent of All Saints, Whitby.
- The Rev. Captain Robert Lauder (Diocese of Athabasca), Honorary Assistant, St. George-the-Martyr, Parkdale, Oct. 12.
- The Rev. Frances Kovar, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ the King, Toronto, Oct. 30, while the Incumbent is on medical leave.
- The Rev. Kit Greaves, Priest-in-Charge, Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa, Dec. 1.
- The Rev. Susan Climo, Regional Dean of Mississauga Deanery, Jan. 1, 2018.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

First Phase – Parish Selection Committee in Formation (not yet receiving names):

- Parish of Churchill and Cookstown
- St. Andrew, Scarborough
- St. John, Bowmanville

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3. St. James Cathedral
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5. The Anglican Foundation
6. The Good Steward Foundation
7. The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation
8. St. George, (Clarke) Newcastle
9. St. George, Grafton
10. Durham-Northumberland Deanery
11. St. John, Bowmanville
12. St. John, Harwood
13. St. Mark, Port Hope
14. St. Paul, Brighton
15. St. Paul, Perrytown

16. St. Peter, Cobourg
17. The Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
18. The Chapel of St. George, Gore's Landing
19. St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope
20. St. Saviour, Orono
21. Holy Spirit of Peace
22. St. Bride, Clarkson
23. St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
24. Mississauga Deanery
25. Christmas Day
26. St. John the Baptist (Dixie), Mississauga
27. St. Luke (Dixie South), Mississauga
28. St. Peter (Erindale), Mississauga
29. St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South), Mississauga
30. Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
31. The Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Second Phase – Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River (Trent-Durham)

Third Phase – Parish Selection Committee Interviewing (no longer receiving names):

- Christ Church, Bolton (York-Simcoe)

Ordinations

- Nancy Glover will be ordained a Deacon at St. James, Sutton in the Parish of Georgina on Nov. 26 at 4 p.m.
- Thomas Lapp will be ordained a Deacon at St. John, Craighurst on Dec. 3 at 3 p.m.

Celebrations of New Ministry York-Credit Valley

- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke (Dixie South), Mississauga, Nov. 5.
- The Rev. David Smith, Incumbent, Christ Church St. James, Toronto, Nov. 19.
- The Rev. Michael Stuchbery, Incumbent, St. Philip, Etobicoke, Jan. 28, 2018 at 4 p.m.

York-Scarborough

- The Rev. Dan Cranley, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, Nov. 5.

York-Simcoe

- The Rev. Matthew McMillan, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mary, Richmond Hill, Nov. 5.
- The Rev. Canon John Anderson, Incumbent, St. James, Orillia, Nov. 12.

Conclusions

- The Rev. Canon Paul J. Walker will conclude his ministry at St. Hilary (Cooksville), Mississauga on Dec. 25. He will be taking up a new ministry appointment with the Diocese of Niagara.

Deaths

- The Rev. Philip Whitney died on Oct. 16. Ordained deacon in 1960 and priest in 1961, he served as assistant curate of the Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto. He returned to the Diocese of Toronto from the Diocese of New Westminster in 1989 and served as chaplain of Oshawa General Hospital, interim priest-in-charge of St. Peter, Cobourg and St. George, Grafton, honorary assistant and interim priest-in-charge of Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa, director of chaplaincy of Lakeridge Health, Oshawa and assistant priest of St. Peter, Cobourg. His funeral was held at St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Leaskdale on Oct. 21.

LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

NOV. 26 - Cello concert by Julia Kim, 2-3:30 p.m. at St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto.

NOV. 26 - Christmas Classic, 7 p.m., St. Paul, 59 Toronto St. S., Uxbridge. Bach Christmas Oratorio with soloists and choir. Tickets \$20. Call 866-808-2006

DEC. 2 - Healey Willan Singers' Christmas in the Village, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 for students and seniors. Call 416-519-0528.

DEC. 3 - The Redeemer Choir will be joined by the Cantabile Chamber Singers for an Advent carol service of music, word and prayer, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

DEC. 3 - Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday at 4 p.m. At 5 p.m., St. Olave's Arts Guild and guests present light music and entertainment, including some Christmas songs, poems and more. All at St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 4 - Blue Christmas, a service for when Christmas is difficult, 6 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto. The service will be followed by refreshments and informal conversation with our pastoral care team.

DEC. 10 - 34th Annual Christmas Pageant (nativity play), 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 16 - Voices Chamber Choir performs Handel's Messiah, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets are \$35 adults, \$25 for students and seniors. Call 416-519-0528.

DEC. 17 - Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 17 - The Wonder of Christmas, a showcase and celebration of music and song, 4 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Performers include Gordon McLaren, best known for his portrayal of Javert in *Les Misérables*, and Jay Davis, whose past credits include *Miss Saigon*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evangeline*.

DEC. 17 - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., with the choir and chamber orchestra, Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

DEC. 24 - Children's Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 24 - Candlelight service of Holy Communion, 7:30 p.m. St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

DEC. 25 - Service of Holy Communion, 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

Sales

NOV. 25 - St. Timothy's Christmas Kitchen, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the church, 100 Old Orchard Grove, north Toronto. Silent auction and more.

NOV. 25 - Snowflake Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. John, Bowmanville, featuring bake shop, jewelry, crafts and much more. Visit Martha's Lunch Room between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

NOV. 25 - Festival of Christmas, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Trinity, Thornhill, 140 Brook St., Thornhill. Baked goods, hand-crafted items and more. Luncheon from noon to 2 p.m.

DEC. 2 - Holly Berry Fair with tea room, crafts, baking, quilt raffle, books, Christmas items, attic treasures and more, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Luke, East York, 904 Coxwell Ave. Call 416-421-6878, ext. 21.

DEC. 2 - Old-fashioned Christmas bazaar with lunch and tea room, festive handmade home décor, gift items, baking and mystery raffle, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Ascension, 266 North St., Port Perry.

Workshops & Gatherings

DEC. 8 - A reading of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*, 7:30 p.m., at St. John the Baptist, Norway, 470 Woodbine Ave., (at Kingston Road), Toronto. The evening includes carol singing and refreshments. Tickets are \$20 adults, free for children 10 and under. Tickets available at the door. Proceeds will support the organ renovation project.

DEC. 8-10, 15-17, 21-24 - The Christmas Story, a Toronto tradition since 1938, at Holy Trinity, 19 Trinity Square, Toronto. Professional musicians and a volunteer cast present this charming hour-long nativity pageant. Evening performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 8, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23; matinees are at 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23 and 24. Suggested donation: \$20 for adults, \$5 for children. Visit www.thechristmasstory.ca to reserve or call 416-598-4521, ext. 301.

DEC. 10 - Annual Community Carol Sing at St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 7:30 p.m., 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. This is a fun, seasonal event for all ages. There will be a free-will offering with all proceeds going to the Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities Food Bank. Refreshments following program. Call 416-283-1844.

DEC. 10 - Family concert featuring handbell ringers, band and choir, 3 p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Free-will offering for Anglican missions.

DEC. 15 - A fundraising event with good music and a reading of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* by Dylan Thomas, featuring radio personality Tom Allen and Canadian actress Jayne Lewis, 7:30 p.m., St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. All proceeds will benefit the refugee projects of the church. Tickets are \$20 at the door or call ahead, 416-923-8714.

Service supports people of the Caribbean

Many in diocese have loved ones back home

BY STUART MANN

A service of solidarity and support for the people of the Caribbean is being held after hurricanes devastated parts of the region this fall.

The service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2333 Victoria Park Ave. The guest preacher will be Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe and a native of Barbados.

"It's a visible sign that we care," says the Rev. Jacqueline Daley, one of the organizers. "For some of us, we have very close connections to the Caribbean. This is to gather together and support each other and say we're in this together."

Ms. Daley says many people in the diocese have family and friends in the Caribbean who were affected by the hurricanes. "Although it happened far away, it felt very near. Everyone has a story to tell."

The service is being organized by a group of clergy and laity in

partnership with the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians, a group in the diocese that has supported the work of the Church in the Province of the West Indies for many years.

"The service is important because when our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean region hurt, we hurt because we are from there," says Elsa Jones, chair of the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians. "We are in a position to help, and I think it is important that we as Christians do what Christ would have called us to do."

Ms. Daley hopes the service will be a first step toward ongoing support for relief efforts for the region. "We hope to have an offering at the service but also to find ways that people can commit to long-term support," she says.

All are invited to the service. "We are God's family and God's people, and all are welcome," she says.



FOR WEST INDIES

About 140 people attended the annual Bishop Arthur Brown and Bishop Basil Tonks Dinner, a fundraiser of the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians, at St. Andrew, Scarborough on Nov. 4. Bishop Calvert Leopold Friday of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (third from left), the evening's guest speaker, received a cheque for \$5,000 for work in his diocese. Joining him are, from left, Bishop Kevin Robertson, area bishop of York-Scarborough, Elsa Jones, chair of the Canadian Friends to the West Indian Christians, and the Rev. Canon Jim Garland, project coordinator. At right, pianist Vince Cato plays during the dinner. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



BRIEFLY

Christian unity week resources available

The next Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place Jan. 18-25, 2018. This is an annual ecumenical

celebration that invites Christians around the world to pray for the unity of all Christians, reflect on scripture together, participate in ecumenical services and share fellowship. The theme for 2018 comes from the Caribbean region: "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power" (Exodus 15:6). For more information and resources, visit www.weekofprayer.ca.

In Motion

Continued from Page 11

- The Rev. Canon Robert Greene died on Oct. 16. Ordained deacon in 1953 and priest in 1954, he came to the Diocese of Toronto from the Diocese of Rupert's Land in 1977, and served as incumbent of St. Bartholomew, Regent Park, Toronto until his retirement in 1993. He moved to Calgary in 1996 and held several parish appointments in the Diocese of Calgary. At the time of his death, he was the priest-in-charge at St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Gleichen, Alberta, commissary of the Diocese of Northern Malawi, padre at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 264 in Calgary and honorary national

- padre of the LSH (RC). His funeral was held at St. Bartholomew's on Oct. 28.
- The Rev. Canon Alan Ferguson died on Nov. 1. Ordained deacon and priest in 1962, he came to the Diocese of Toronto from the Diocese of Saskatoon in 1967. He served as assistant priest of St. Clement, Eglinton, incumbent of St. Bede, Toronto, incumbent of St. Margaret, New Toronto, priest-in-charge of St. Agnes, Long Branch, and incumbent of St. Timothy, Toronto. After his retirement in 1997, he served as associate priest and then honorary assistant of Trinity Church, Aurora. His funeral was held at St. Aidan, Toronto on Nov. 4.

We have an awesome God who loves us

Continued from Page 1

agents of change for the common good. Jesus' mission, in which we are privileged to share, is about transformation for the salvation of humanity.

The times in which we live are very troubling and can so easily lead us into being fearful and full of despair. There is much suffering, pain and inhumane behaviour in our world. The perpetrators of inhumane behaviours want us to stop believing in God, in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Spirit. They want us to stop living into those Christian values which inform godly and righteous living. We cannot and must not give in to the negativity that

pervades our communities. As believers in Jesus of Nazareth, we are to be witnesses to the work of a liberating, life-giving and loving God whom we worship and serve.

Archbishop Michael Curry, the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church in America, often speaks about how God, in coming among us in the person of Jesus Christ, came to transform this world from the nightmare it often is, to the dream that God intends for us all.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, we have an awesome God who loves us, a gospel to proclaim, and a witness to carry out

as disciples of the One who came among us, that we might have life in all its fullness. In the story of our Lord's birth, we are reminded again and again that he came to show us a way to love and a way to live. To us is born our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who invites us in the power of his Spirit to follow him. As we celebrate God's gift of himself to the world this Christmas, may we live out the peace and goodwill heralded by the angelic hosts. I wish you all a blessed and happy Christmas, and good health in 2018.

Bishop Peter Fenty is the area bishop of York-Simcoe.

NEW MINISTRY

Clergy and laity gather for the Celebration of New Ministry service in September installing the Rev. Jonathan Turtle (second from right) as the priest-in-charge of the Parish of Craighurst and Midhurst. Back row from left: the Rev. Janet Mitchell, the Rev. Wendy Moore, the Rev. Canon Beth Benson, Beth Conway, the Rev. Darrell Wright. Front row from left: Thomas Lapp, Major the Rev. Canon David Warren, Bishop Peter Fenty and the Rev. Canon John Anderson.

