Church, school enjoy unique bond

Students learn about Jesus

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

For the past 20 years, volunteers at St. Paul, Lindsay have been teaching local kids about Jesus in an unusual partnership with a nearby elementary school.

The King Albert School program began at Easter in 1998, an initiative of parishioners Ethel Morris and Susan Sindrey. “There was this need and interest in trying to reach out to the local children in the school that’s almost behind St. Paul’s,” says the Rev. Warren Lewivitch, the current incumbent. “King Albert School is for the most part considered an inner-city school. Over 60 per cent of the school is on assistance of some kind, and a lot of the children come from families with difficult situations.”

Since then, St. Paul’s has run the program twice a year, at Christmas and Easter. At lunchtime on two days in a row, volunteers from the church walk a group of children the few blocks from their school to the church. Though organized by St. Paul’s, the school supports the program by coordinating permission slips and providing educational assistants to join the kids. “It’s seen as a positive for the children in terms of learning, interaction and stimulation,” says Mr. Lewivitch. “They get to have some fun and get an hour and a half away from school.”

In recent years, so many kids have signed up that they’ve been split into two groups, one for grades 1-3 and one for grades 4-6. Activities each year include crafts, story-telling and games. “It’s been wonderful,” he says. “All store owner pitches in – see page 10

I’m walking an amazing path

Indigenous Native Priest reflects on first year

BY STUART MANN

To gauge the Rev. Chris Harper’s level of happiness and fulfillment, you have to check the length of his hair. In Plains Cree culture, he explains, long hair is a symbol of patience, identity and wisdom, as well as a powerful connection to your ancestors, the Creator and the land.

Mr. Harper, who is the diocese’s Indigenous Native Priest, used to have two long braids stretching halfway down his back. He had to get them cut off when he went to school – a devastating experience, he recalls – and kept them off as a parish priest.

But his hair is getting long again, enough to make a ponytail – a sure sign that he is settling into his new life and ministry in the diocese. “I’m walking an amazing path where I am allowed to be who I am for the first time,” he says. “I’m relishing every moment.”

Mr. Harper admits that he was “terrified” when he started the job a little more than a year and a half ago. Coming from a parish in Thunder Bay, where he was the incumbent, he didn’t know what to expect. His main task was to serve as a pastor to the diocese’s Indigenous population – a tall order by any means. The City of Toronto alone has about 90,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit people, and about half of them are Anglican.

He was also starting during a watershed moment in Canada’s and the Anglican Church’s history. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2015 had released its final report into the history and legacy of Canada’s residential schools. Included in the report were 94 “calls to action” urging governments and institutions to address the harm caused by the schools and move forward with reconciliation.

His first priority was to “get the lay of the land” – meeting people both in and outside the Church, to discuss whatever was on their minds. He says it has been a journey of discovery and revelation.

“I’ve seen it all,” he says. “One of the most wonderful things has been to see the amazing diversity of the Church, from people who are willing to embrace new thoughts and ideas about Indigenous peoples, to others who are in outright denial or think that Indigenous peoples don’t even exist.”

He has visited 36 parishes and is already booked into November. “It’s been wonderful,” he says. “All...
A student dressed as an angel narrates the Christmas pageant at St. Paul. Lindsay and volunteers help kids make Christmas crafts. PHOTOS BY THE REV. WARRIN LEBOVITCH

Families form connections with church

Continued from Page 1

Kids who come back year after year. The initiative has recently taken on an ecumenical aspect. Since Easter 2017, St. Paul’s has partnered with The Centre Community Church, a new church plant reaching out to less fortunate families in Lindsay. Pastor Mike Kleinhuysen and volunteers from that community help provide leadership and music during the two days. The program is also supported by the local ministerial of churches. As many religious institutions worry about their declining influence in secular society, Mr. Leibovitch says the St. Paul’s community is well aware of how unique this partnership between church and public school is and says he actively encourages the relationship. “I’ve been very clear to say we have to keep doing this. If we ever miss one season, we could lose that continuity,” he says. “The challenge has always been when a principal changes. You always hope the new principal will be brought on board. So far we’ve been lucky.” Since arriving at St. Paul’s in 2008, Mr. Leibovitch says he has heard only positive feedback about the program. “Some of these parents have very little connection with church or have had a 50-year gap of ever being near a church,” he says. “The neat thing is the kids go back and share what they learned, so the parents are also learning.”

The program can also help families form a lasting connection with the church. “Every time we bump into one of the boys or girls out there in the community, they’ll remember seeing us,” says Mr. Leibovitch. He credits the Christmas and Easter activities with making St. Paul’s more accessible to local kids. “If it’s not a scary place, it’s not just that big building near the school, but a place they can feel comfortable coming into.” Some of the older kids have even dropped in on the church’s youth group to see what it’s about. As the program comes up on its 20th anniversary, Mr. Leibovitch says he’s grateful for the many dedicated volunteers who have given their time and energy over the years. “We know there’s a seed that’s been planted, that’s the most heart-warming part. We’re planting seeds, and we just don’t know how it will bear fruit in the future. As Christians that’s what we’re called to do,” he says. “I’m hoping it continues for many, many years.”

A service of solidarity in aid of the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba has resulted in an outpouring of support.

More than $10,000 has been given by people in the Greater Toronto Area to provide relief to the islands, which were devastated by hurricanes Maria and Irma last September. The donations are being given to the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which is working with local partners in the Caribbean to provide food, clean water, clothes and personal care items to the hardest hit islands.

A further $85,000 US could be coming from Episcopal Relief and Development, an international relief and development agency of The Episcopal Church, for a joint project with the Anglican Parish of Georgina.

Mr. Wilson says the fundraising is ongoing and much relief work still needs to be done. Donations can be made to PWRDF online at www.pwrf.org or at PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON, M4Y 1Z2.

“We are delighted by the tremendous support and compassion shown by everyone who has given so freely to our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean,” says Lance Wilson, ODT, a member of St. John the Divine, Scarborough and one of the organizers of the service.

Mr. Wilson says the fundraising is ongoing and much relief work still needs to be done. Donations can be made to PWRDF online at www.pwrf.org or at PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON, M4Y 1Z2. CHEMS should be directed to “Hurricane Relief.”

The service on Dec. 2 at St. Andrew’s, Scarborough, was organized by the Toronto Anglican Hurricane Relief Committee, a local group of Anglican clergy and lay members. Bishop Peter Fenty, a native of Barbados and the area bishop of York-Simcoe, told those in attendance that Christians must go beyond sympathy and prayer and lend concrete aid to those struck by disaster.

For more information on making a donation or to contact the Toronto Anglican Hurricane Relief Committee, contact Bishop Peter Fenty at pottery@toronto.anglican.ca or by phone, 905-833-8227.
BIG DAY
Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre) stands with the diocese’s new vice chancellor, canons and archdeacons at their installation service at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 21. Front and second row from left: Vice Chancellor Brian Armstrong, Canon Mary Contiffe, the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, the Rev. Canon Philip Der, Deacon Canon Jacqueline Soulheen, the Rev. Canon Christopher Greaves, the Rev. Canon Byron Gilmore, the Rev. Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark, the Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, the Ven. Kyn Barker (Archdeacon of Toronto) and the Ven. Stephen Voil (Archdeacon of Trent-Durham). Joining them are the area bishops, Canon Paul Baston (diocesan registrar), Dean Andrew Asbil and Paul Seddon, ODT, of the cathedral. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Rev. Canon Joanne Davies is installed by Archbishop Johnson.

Archdeacon Stephen Voil of All Saints, Whitby receives congratulations after Whitby receives congratulations after

The Rev. Canon Philip Der with family, friends and parishioners of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill.

“What so much you do for the least of us, you do for me”

The Bridge Prison Ministry is seeking 2 special Volunteers with a high degree of compassion and understanding. For 15 years we have facilitated a community support group for men who have offended sexually and in that time none of the 40 men who have attended have ever re-offended. Please email ed@thebridgeprisonministry.com

ST. TIMOTHY’S CHURCH AGINCOURT WOODWORKING SHOP

Do you need furniture repaired/refinished, caning work, or a custom item built? For a good deal, and to help your church, call Ken at 416-438-4055 or email kgpage@Qenesis.com

Nominations sought for electoral Synod
Synod members are called to assemble at St. James Cathedral, 61 Church St., Toronto, at 9:30 a.m. on June 9 to elect a coadjutor bishop, who will assist and ultimately succeed Archbishop Colin Johnson as diocesan bishop. The diocese’s chancellor, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, is calling for nominations. Members of Synod may submit individual nominations, or a nomination may be submitted with the signatures of 10 members of Synod. For more details, see the 2018 Electoral Synod page on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

“Safety for women theme of ACW meeting
The diocesan Anglican Church Women will hold its 2018 annual general meeting and luncheon on May 12 at Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Toronto. This year’s theme is “Embracing Safety for All Women,” with guest speaker Barbara Gosse, chief executive officer of the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking.

For more information, contact 416-362-0018 or acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

Bishop hosts town hall
Bishop Kevin Robertson invites the clergy and lay people of York-Scarborough to a town hall meeting on March 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2353 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto. This will be an opportunity to share hopes, dreams and practical ideas about ministry in each parish and the wider community, exploring where God may be leading the area.

Youth ministry coordinator appointed
York Credit Valley will celebrate the appointment of Alexandra McIntosh as its new youth ministry coordinator with a service of commissioning on April 20 at 7 p.m. at St. George on-the-Hill, 4600 Dundas St. W., Toronto. Area youth ministers and leaders, along with church youth groups, are especially invited to attend and should get in touch with Ms. McIntosh at ycvarea.coordinator@gmail.com if they are interested in participating in the service.

CCC seeks general secretary
The Canadian Council of Churches is seeking an individual to fill the role of general secretary on a full-time basis for a five-year renewable term. The general secretary is the senior executive officer of the council, responsible for the articulation and implementation of its vision, direction and priorities. The deadline to apply is March 15. For more details, visit www.councilofchurches.ca.
Pilgrims on a journey

Wikipedia defines “pilgrimage” as “a journey to a holy or religious site for spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person’s beliefs and faith.”

There are many classic pilgrimages: a visit to the Holy Land, the Norsemen’s approach to the Camino de Santiago from Compostela, the historic Canterbury pilgrimage immortalized by Chaucer, or the magnificent annual pilgrimages to shrines of the blessed or the saintly. Pilgrimages have been part of human experience since early times, when they were a way to connect with the spiritual world, seek forgiveness for sins, or ask for protection or help.

As the parents of three teenage daughters, my husband Tim and I are keenly aware of how teenagers are not simply the Church of the future – they are the Church of the present. We are also acutely aware of how many of our churches are not very welcoming to youth. There are, of course, some outstanding exceptions, but in many parishes the usual suspects are the local face of the Church. They are truly the “vicars of Christ,” the representatives of the Church of the present. We are also aware of how we can be failures at exercising our episcopal ministry responsibly. We have sometimes taken on too much work, and sometimes given too little. Some of the parishes have changed because of Our Faith-Our Hope – not just because of the significant fundraising effort. In it he describes that parishes in our diocese have to help the Archbishop’s office inviting me to meet the Archbishop of Alexandria and Pope Shenouda III of the-Anglican-persuasion in the world.

The campaign is now officially concluded, and the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people, was a global community of 70,000 churches and congregations in 264 countries. A global community of about 80,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean.

To the Diocese of Toronto is a community of 80,000 people, currently with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest percentage of aboriginal peoples in the counties.

The Anglican Church in the Anglican Church of Canada is a community of about 80,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean. Panama, 80,000 people, which has about 80,000 people.

Bishop’s Opinion

by Bishop Jenny Andison

That’s why! I also believe that the message our churches can offer – that there is a God who loves us, who wants to partner with us to help us live in meaningful ways, and who encourages us to find community in our society and to help create communities of hope and healing – is something teenagers just might get out of bed for.

We have an opportunity in the coming years to make youth ministry a top priority in our churches. In the past year, as I have gotten to know the churches of York-Credit Valley, I have seen numerous parishes that already have creative and dedicated ministries for teenagers, and others that could offer little in this area. No matter where any parish might sit on this continuum, I believe that the Holy Spirit has a great deal to store for any church that decides to refocus its attention, energies and resources onto youth ministry. If we believe that our youth ministry needs to be a clear priority, not because of the aging demographics of our churches but because youth are human beings desperately in need of God’s love and mercy. Our strategic plan, Growing in Christ, has identified leadership development as one of its key priorities. Let us join in prayer together that we will seek transformative ways to shape in Christian love and wisdom the next generation of young leaders for our Church.

Youth ministry needs to be a priority in parishes

As the parents of three teenage daughters, my husband Tim and I are keenly aware of how teenagers are not simply the Church of tomorrow, which of course they are, but also the Church of the present. We are also keenly aware of the wonderful opportunity that parishes in our diocese have to help shape the character of the next generation of young people. Many North American studies indicate that the majority of Christians first began their journey of faith before the age of 18, and that sharing the good news of God in Christ with others during their childhoods and teenage years can be particularly powerful. This should come as no surprise. During the critical years of late adolescence – a period when individuals are forming their understanding of the world around them, and are really trying to figure out their place in that world – it can be truly life-transforming for a person to hear that God loves them just as they are and (because of that love), God has no intention of limiting their proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ and celebrate the sacraments of redemption.

Bishop’s opinion

by Bishop Jenny Andison

One of the great joys of the past year has been the opportunity I have had to travel to new contexts and different parts of the world. I have been in Australia, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States. I have been changed by the experience. I have found that the significant spiritual journey is to meet the “holy people of God,” the ordinary faithful people of any parish who come to church, who give of themselves to support a community of prayer, who are becoming more deeply engaged in understanding the life of Jesus, and who are quietly engaged in God’s mission for the welfare of the community in which they are placed.

Almost universally, when bishops are asked, “What is the most life-changing thing you have seen in your travels to parish churches week in and week out?” Bishops are not like most priests or deacons: bishops are not simply people who move from one place to another. In the words of Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, “Do the work of the Church.” The Church is the strangeness of one community to the next. They are “one with the apostles” as they proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ and celebrate the sacraments of redemption.

Bishops get to see a lot. While we must often offer to others the spiritual gifts which others cannot find solutions for, what bishops most often encounter are people from all walks of life – “all sorts and conditions of people” as the Prayer Book prayer says – putting flesh on their spiritual prattle. With the regular business of living faithfully as Christians of the-Anglican-persuasion in the world. It inspires me. It gives me courage. It gives me hope.

These weekly pilgrimages are journeys that sustain my belief and faith because the parishioners, who are the local face of the Church. They are truly the “vicars of Christ,” the representatives of the Church. Some of the parishes that I visit are very well-off. Sometimes it takes some time to discern that there, are, of course, some outstanding characters. There are some who are who lack- daisical. Most are somewhere in between. But isn’t that true of every organization, and in every age? There have always been saints, and always saviours. Saints are hard to live up to; saviours are hard to live with. Sometimes they can actually be a bit of a pain to live with. In my journeys around the diocese and around the world, what really impresses me are the ordinary folk who are the middle who try to make sense of their own confusing and challenging circumstances, who try to live with integrity and faith, who try to find some experience of joy and peace and to share that with someone else. They are the backbone of our Church. I continue to be impressed and humbled by them.

Now go back through this article and replace the third person with the second person “you.” Hear me say this about you! We are currently in the midst of Lent – a season, yes, but also a pilgrimage. As you know, part of my Lenten pilgrimage this year is to join with others in various dioceses and specifically with a small group of catechist parliamentarians, to walk together to meet John of God’s (See www.soje.org/meetingjusjohn.)

As in all pilgrimages, follow travellers desirous in mind from the start of any journey – a pilgrimage that will continue to mould the contours of our life. Eternally.
Seven habits of highly effective parishes

**Comment**

**THE STEWARD**

BY PETER MISIASZEK

First, the good news: 25 per cent of the parishes in the Diocese of Toronto are experiencing growth in attendance or number of givers – or both. That means that 25 parishes are doing something that sets them apart from the others.

The inconvenient truth about congregational health, however, is that 75 per cent of our parishes are either not growing or are experiencing decline. For some, the decline is gentle and hardly noticeable; for others, it has been severe – losing 40 per cent or more of their Sunday worshippers since 2009. As the decline intensifies, it leads to low morale among existing congregants and may eventually signal the closure of a church and disestablishment of the parish.

Across the mainline Protestant denominations in Canada and the global West – including Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United churches – the decline has been happening since the 1970s. It is only recently, however, that the pace has accelerated, due to the aging and passing of the first born of the Boomer generation. Other denominations are not immune. Evangelical churches and the Roman Catholic Church are beset with closures. The reasons for decline are countless – and have been discussed time and again in our diocese. Not every parish that is growing is doing every one of these things, though most are:

1) Giving to church ministry is exceptional. In our diocese, the average gift per year through envelope giving or pre-authorized giving is $1,325. In our wealthiest parishes, the average gift is $1,900. Our top giving parish has an average of over $4,000 per giver – and it is not in downtown Toronto.

2) There is a breadth of engagement in outreach. Our top parishes often give more than 10 per cent of their total offertory to outreach initiatives such as food banks, hot lunches, Out of the Cold, after-school clubs, FaithWorks, mission trips to the developing world, etc. Churches need to look beyond their own walls and seek to involve as many parishioners as possible.

3) Newcomers are welcomed and invited to become involved in the ministry of the parish. The role of the greeter should be more than simply handing out the order of service. We need to present our very best to newcomers: welcome them at the door, interact with them at the sign of Peace and during coffee hour, and then invite them to become involved in some ministry.

4) Clergy are active in promoting discipleship and Christian formation. The Rev. Canon Harold Percy (now retired from Trinity, Streetsville) notes in his book Your Church Has Thrive that “the failure to make disciple-making a priority is the basic cause of our current malaise and stagnation.” He contends that churches need to teach the gospel, teach people how to pray, read scripture, forgive, worship, give generously, model Christ in their lives and give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

5) The church makes connecting with young people a priority. Parish leaders often lament the absence of young people in their pews. Connecting with adolescents needs to be part of our core witness. How do we involve young people? Ask yourself: Are they serving at the altar? Do they participate in reading the word of God, singing, playing an instrument, welcoming newcomers or organizing events? Failing to engage with them is a sure way to turn them off Church.

The church has a well-maintained website and uses various communication methods. If you are still promoting the strawberry social from 2014, then some- thing has gone amiss. Healthy parishes use their online footprint to communicate with church members and seekers alike. They post sermons, weekly bulletins, ministry opportunities and lots of photos of church members doing stuff.

7) Healthy churches experiment with new liturgies, music, missional engagement, giving vehicles and roles for volunteers. If we believe that we have already tried that or that a certain idea will not work, then we have no chance of being successful.

Our Church is going to experience an unbelievable change over the next decade. We will become a lot leaner and there will be fewer of us worshipping on Sundays in the traditional format. That doesn’t mean that the remaining churches cannot be full of energy, vigor and hope. Perhaps worship will take on different forms and be held on different days and in different types of spaces. Perhaps our youth will be engaged in more hands-on ministry. Perhaps our missional engagement will look a whole lot different.

We have seen that while there is a place for traditional ways of doing Church, those that are thriving are doing things different- ly – they must. It means that stewardship education, too, will need to adapt, becoming more closely aligned with discipleship and faith formation.

Change is unavoidable, but decline can be reversed. Can we, collectively, realign the Church to arrest decline and set our churches on the path to health and growth? Will you take up the challenge to do Church differently in your own worship community and help lay the foundation for a healthy, vital Anglican presence in the years to come?

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

Thank you to the 155 parishes whose continued support makes FaithWorks possible. Together, as the body of Christ we are improving the lives of individuals and families.

To our corporate partners – Thank You! Your generosity makes FaithWorks a true community endeavour.

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BMO Financial Group

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Jackman Foundation

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Requests and Trust Income

Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation

Bishop Kenneth Maguire Trust

(for LOFT Community Services)
The Rev. Louise Peters is the vicar of St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

As vicar, I am a member of the clergy team and share in leadership in the rich liturgical life of the cathedral as a preacher, presider and officiant. I work with the cathedral guilds: the Altar Guild and Servers Guild, in addition to the Health Council, the Lay Pastoral Visitors Team, the Outreach Committee and the communications department. The vicar has a quiet role of doing the background detail work for liturgical services – daily worship and larger diocesan events. The vicar provides support to help others pray well. I currently supervise and mentor two curates and one theological student. The vicar provides support to the dean and other members of staff, and is a pastor to the cathedral. What I do most is pray. This duty is a joy.

I am preparing to facilitate “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” with a small group of others from the cathedral during Lent. I love small circles gathered around scripture. I am excited to return to this spiritual discipline. I am also preparing for a Lenten Quiet Day focusing on prayer, privacy and the practice of spending time in solitude. I am working with my colleague James as we prepare and put in place Aug. 15-19 in Thunder Bay. Participants will encounter scripture in meaningful ways, experience ancient and modern ways of worship, learn together in special interest forums and make connections with youth from all over Canada. To attend, youth must be part of a “home team” group travelling and staying together. Congregations can join to form a home team. For more information, visit the CLAY website: www.claygathering.ca.

Trent-Durham holds Area Day

This year’s Trent-Durham Area Day will take place on March 3 at St. Peter, Cobourg with the theme “Church in the Wilderness: Hearing God’s Call in the 21st Century” (Isaiah 40:1-5). Register by Feb. 26 to get the early-bird cost of $20. After Feb. 26, the cost is $25. To register, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Women spend year in God’s rhythm

The Sisterhood of St. John the Evangelist is accepting applications for the 2018-19 cohort of its Companion Program. Women age 21 and up are invited to explore an expression of new monasticism rooted in the Anglican tradition while living at St. John’s Convent. For more information and applications, contact Sister Constance Jama at 416-229-2201, ext. 316 or companions@ssjd.ca. Applications will be accepted until June 15 or until the program is full. Learn more at www.ssjdcompanions.org.

Lent & Holy Week at The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

Lent 3 – March 18: “A Lenten Meditation through Music, Readings & Prayer”
Palm Sunday – March 25: Services at 8:30 and 10:15 am
Maundy Thursday – March 29: Service at 7 pm
Good Friday – March 30: Ecumenical Walk at 8:00 am starting at Our Lady of Lourdes
The Solomon Liturgy at 10:30 am
Holy Saturday – March 31: The Great Vigil at 8 pm
Easter Day – April 1: Services at 8:30 and 10:15 am
We will welcome the Right Reverend Michael Bedford-Jones to celebrate and preach.
Every Sunday 8:30 Qatar Community Service - 10:30 Choral Community Service

All are welcome!
The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle
225 Blue Street East, Oakville, ON
416-522-8714 office@salmonca.org - www.salmonca.ca
Shop brings men together for fellowship

No repairs or job too small

BY STUART MANN

It’s not every day you get asked to build a sedan chair. The elaborate wooden structure, complete with seats, curtains, walls and a roof, was used to carry a bride during a part of her wedding ceremony.

The chair is just one of hundreds of items that have been built or fixed over the years at St. Timothy’s Workshop, located in a building behind St. Timothy, Agincourt. Each week, a group of men gather in the shop to do woodworking, some metal work and other odd jobs. “We take a look at anything that comes in, and if we believe we can do it, we go ahead,” says Bill Gibson, the group’s spokesperson.

The shop has produced some memorable items. One was the large cross that was used during the diocese’s sesquicentennial celebrations in 1989. The wooden cross was displayed in various churches in the diocese before being carried into the SkyDome (now the Rogers Centre) for a service attended by thousands.

The men have made prayer book racks and have refurbished baptismal fonts, railings and churchwardens’ wands. They work on non-religious items, too. Recently they moved the case bottom of an antique chair. One of the men is building a small lap table so a person can read an iPad in bed. Their current big project is restoring a dining room table.

The shop is fully equipped with table saws, band saws, drill presses, sanders, hand tools and countless other items that have accumulated over the years. But Mr. Gibson stresses that anyone can join the group, whether they’re skilled or not.

“If you can sweep the floors and put tools away, you can join,” he says. “The group is about fellowship – that’s our primary purpose. It’s not to make money or anything like that. It’s just a good group of guys.”

Any money the group earns is given to the church, he says, mostly to pay for the upkeep of the shop building. Most of their orders come to them through word of mouth.

The group first formed in the early 1970s as a men’s club and the numbers have fluctuated over the years. At one time, membership reached 100 but currently there are about 10 men who gather at the shop each week.

Mr. Gibson says it’s a great opportunity for men to “get out of the house” and take up a hobby. In addition to woodworking, they also make wine and have lunch together. “Our primary focus is on fellowship,” he says. “We all enjoy each other’s company.”

The shop is open on Monday and Tuesday mornings until noon, and occasionally on Thursdays. The church and shop are located at 4125 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto. For information about joining the group or enquiries about items that need to be made or fixed, call the shop at 416-438-4655.

EASTER AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS
A COMPLETE LISTING OF HOLY WEEK LITURGIES IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

MARCH 29 | MAUNDY THURSDAY
7:00pm Institution of the Lord’s Supper and Stripping of the Altar; Watch at the Altar of Repose until 10:00pm

MARCH 30 | GOOD FRIDAY
The Three Hour Devotion
12:00noon Choral Mattins
1:00pm Ante-Communion & Reading of the St. John Passion
2:00pm Choral Evensong & Veneration of the Cross

MARCH 31 | IN THE HOLY NIGHT
9:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter

APRIL 1 | EASTER DAY
8:00am Said Eucharist
9:00am Sung Eucharist
11:00am Procession & Choral Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

LITURGIES

LECTURES
Truth & Reconciliation
INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY & ART IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE
with Chief Lady Bird
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21
6:00pm Service (Cathedral)
6:30pm Light Supper (Cathedral Centre)
7:00pm Lecture, Q&A (Cathedral Centre)

“The Breath Between Us”
THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF LISTENING, SILENCE, AND STORYTELLING
A Lenten Lecture Series
WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 14
6:00pm Service (Cathedral)
6:30pm Light Supper (Cathedral Centre)
7:00pm Lecture, Q&A (Cathedral Centre)

ART SHOW

“The Breath Between Us”
PUBLIC ART DISPLAY
ON IN THE CATHEDRAL UNTIL MARCH 26
Weekdays and Sundays, 7:00am-5:30pm
Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

From left, Ken Page, Bill Gibson and Dave Brown repair a chair seat at the shop. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON
Church partners with parents network

By Dan O'Reilly

THE clergy and parishioners of Christ Church, Bolton decided a few years ago to focus on getting out into the neighbourhood and exploring missional ministry. Ideas were to come from the congregation and were seen as experiments. “The hope was that whatever was explored would lead to deepening relationships with people in Bolton who were not going to access the church in typical ways, like attending Sunday morning services,” says the Rev. Ruthanne Ward.

(Ms. Ward was appointed the church’s missional partner in 2014 and priest-in-charge in 2017. She is now the priest-in-charge of the Church of the Annunciation, Port Perry. The Rev. John Wilton is currently Christ Church’s interim priest-in-charge.)

A number of ideas were explored, including a hiking church—a group of people who worship God on Sunday mornings by prayerfully walking local trails and inviting others to join them. That concept took root and, once a month during the warm weather months, a group of parishioners get together for a hike.

Perhaps the best example of the church’s outreach is the special partnership it has forged with Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI), a local parent network that advocates for improved housing, employment and other opportunities for young adults with intellectual and development disabilities.

“(The young adults) get cut out,” says the group’s founder, Patricia Franks, referring to the number of government support programs that end when young adults reach the age of 21.

Through the efforts of a parishioner and CAFFI member Sian Leyshon-Doughty, the church has been providing free meeting space for the last few years. During the meetings, church members often undertake activities such as baking or making crafts with the young adults, allowing their parents to be more engaged in the discussions. The minutes of those meetings are taken by a church member, who previously was not aware of the daily challenges the developmentally disabled face. Other links between the church and CAFFI have also been formed. This past December, the congregation and CAFFI co-celebrated their third annual Christmas dinner. A pivotal component of those dinners has been the contribution of the young adults from CAFFI, who assist the church volunteers with cooking and setting up the hall.

Another example is a talk Ms. Franks delivered at a Sunday morning service in late January on housing and financial obstacles that persons with intellectual challenges face. She was invited to speak by the church’s social justice committee.

Through these events and others, parishioners have become increasingly aware and personally invested in the issues facing CAFFI members. “This relationship will continue to evolve as different people become involved, as CAFFI’s needs change and as, hopefully, our community becomes more inclusive and supportive of all people living with developmental disabilities,” says Ms. Ward.

Dan O'Reilly is a freelance writer.

Town hall meeting sets priorities for episcopal area

On a wintry Saturday morning, lounging on the couch with a hot beverage and the weekend paper is what many folks aspire to do. Not so for almost 70 dedicated laity and clergy in York-Credit Valley, who braved frigid weather to gather at St. John, Dixie in Mississauga for a town hall meeting on Jan. 13.

The meeting, hosted by Bishop Jenny Andison, was a follow-up to her first town hall on Sept. 19, 2017. At that gathering, participants were asked what aspects of current ministry in York-Credit Valley excite them and what forms of ministry require additional attention. At the Jan. 13 meeting, attendees (who represented 32 parishes from across York-Credit Valley) reviewed the responses gathered in September and participated in an exercise to narrow them down by identifying, in their opinion, the priority ministries for the area.

The exercise revealed that the top three forms of ministry the group wishes to continue are nurturing worship and prayer, evangelism, and service to others. In her closing remarks, Bishop Andison observed that these three closely mirror the fundamental activities of the early Church as described in Acts; they reflect ways in which the Church,
**Skit highlights meager funds for needy**

**Group presses city to honour commitments**

**BY STUART MANN**

Effie Trinket, the shallow character from the popular movie *The Hunger Games*, came to Toronto’s City Hall on Jan. 10 for a “reaping” – choosing which groups would be pitted against each other for a share of the city’s social service funding in 2018.

Ms. Trinket, in full costume and elaborate hairstyle, was played by the Rev. Andrea Budgery, the chaplain at Trinity College. She was assisted by two “peacekeepers” from the dystopian movie – the Rev. Maggie Helwig, the incumbent of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, and Leah Watkiss, the program director for Social Justice, Peace and Care of Earth for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto.

The women put on the skit outside Mayor John Tory’s office as about 25 members of the interfaith group Faith in the City looked on. The group, which is made up of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists, advocates for better social programs and services for the poor and marginalized.

Her voice full of enthusiasm, Ms. Trinket welcomed everyone to Toronto’s first ever Hunger Games and performed a reaping – drawing the names of two city strategies out of a bowl that would fight each other for funds. On the movie, Ms. Trinket chooses two young people from her district to fight other teens to the death in the dominant city of Panem.

With great compassion, she reassured those watching that they would get their chance to compete for funds as well. “Don’t worry: every equity-seeking group will have the chance to fight for its life before it’s all over,” she said. When the 10-minute skit ended, she and her helpers left with a flourish, just $8 million in its preliminary 2018 budget to pay for the programs – far short of the $41 million needed to fund them. Citizens and not-for-profit organizations made deputations to the city’s budget committee in early January to recommend how the $9 million should be spent.

“We believe that the budget process pits groups and citizens against each other to fight for scarce funding for programs that city council has already approved, and that shouldn’t be the case,” said Ms. Goulden. “If city council has approved it, they should fund the funding for it.”

She added: “Who’s to say that students in need of nutritional supplements are more deserving than homeless people? It’s pitting people against each other and creating angst and a sense of scarcity.”

Faith in the City called on the city to fully fund the programs, plus additional actions that have been approved by council but were not in the preliminary budget. They also wanted the city to set clear targets and timelines for reducing poverty and waiting lists for housing, child care and recreation programs.

Members of Faith in the City and other social justice advocates met with city councillors and staff and made their concerns known at the budget deputations. In late January, the city’s budget committee indicated that more money would be put into the 2018 budget to pay for the programs.

Ms. Goulden described it as a “win” for advocacy. “I think, given that this is an election year, and given the amount of publicity the city has been getting around failing to fund their programs, that they want to see these actions funded in the future and are prepared to see a modest increase in property taxes and other revenue tools is what’s needed.”

She expressed a note of caution, however, that the funding would continue. “The problem is that the funding for these measures – some from borrowing, some from taking money from reserve funds, and relying on a hot housing market to generate sufficient Land Transfer Tax – isn’t really sustainable long term. If this is just an election-year sop, and we go back to austerity next year, we won’t be further ahead. So looking at a modest increase in property taxes and other revenue tools is what’s needed.”

She said Faith in the City will be urging council to provide sustainable long-term funding for the programs and to create a better budget process. “We want to keep holding their feet to the fire, saying that we’re not forgetting what they’ve promised and we do intend them to live up to their promises.”

She urged Anglicans in the city to talk to their councillor: “We have a municipal election coming up this fall, and I think if enough people make it clear to their councillors that they want to see these actions funded in the future and are prepared to see a modest increase in their property taxes over the cost of inflation, we could start to see council implement these strategies.” City council was expected to vote on the 2018 budget in February.
Anglicans busy at bridal show

More than 400 people stopped at the diocese’s booth at Canada’s Bridal Show, held Jan. 5-7 in Toronto. Their questions included: Will a minister come to our venue to marry us? Can a minister marry us if one of us is divorced? Do you have information about marriage classes?

Clergy have staffed a booth at the show since 2013. “Each year has been different and the change this year seemed to be the surprise that Anglican clergy would go to the wedding site and not limit weddings to the church building,” says the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, incumbent of St. Peter, Erindale. “A few brides said how great it would be to have a blessing on their marriage.” She was contacted by couples after the show and referred others to local churches.

Joining her at the booth were the Rev. Andrew MacDonald of St. Luke, Dixie South, the Rev. Jeffrey Brown of St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West, the Rev. Bill Mok and Catherine Zheng of St. Elizabeth, Mississauga, the Rev. Mark Guilding of St. Margaret, New Toronto, and the Rev. Clement Carlselle and Roshti Jayawardena of St. Peter, Erindale.

Store owner helps to deliver turkeys

St. Bede, Scarborough donated 52 turkeys to the Flemingdon Park Food Bank over Christmas, thanks to the efforts of a local No Frills store owner.

“I want to place on record my appreciation for Tom Hui, our neighborhood No Frills owner, who so that the church could buy more of them, then stored them in his facility until the delivery day. He got additional turkeys to be delivered to his store and absorbed the cost of transportation. On the day of the delivery, he joyfully delivered the turkeys to the food bank – making two trips because his vehicle couldn’t hold all the turkeys in one go.

Flemingdon Park Food Bank, located in Don Mills, is one of the busiest in the GTA and serves many new Canadians from south Asia, Africa and eastern Europe.

ACW gives to hospice campaign

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) of All Saints, Peterborough has given $5,000 to Hospice Peterborough to help build a hospice care centre for people in the city and the surrounding area.

Karen Sadler, the ACW president, presented the cheque to Linda Sunderland, executive director of Hospice Peterborough, at a meeting at the parish hall on Jan. 15. The ACW also donated funds in 2015 and 2016.

“I need to emphasize the significant difference each and every donor, volunteer and funder has made during the Every Moment Matters campaign,” said Ms. Sunderland.

A new hospice building is needed to give a different choice for end-of-life care and to provide room to expand hospice programs. Hospice care is less expensive than hospital palliative care, she said.

All Saints’ ACW raises money from its sale of Easter eggs each spring. The sale has been a well-known local event for more than 50 years. Each year the group donates money to non-profit organizations whose programs benefit Peterborough citizens. Other groups that have benefited include YON Adult Day Centres, Faith Works, Meals on Wheels and The Warming Room. Funds are also used for church projects such as upgrading washrooms and replacing the dishwasher.

Small church’s efforts recognized

The efforts of St. Saviour, Oro-Medonte to help Syrian refugees have been recognized by the provincial government. The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has given the Orono and Community Refugee Sponsorship Program for its sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family in 2016. The award recognizes groups for “playing a crucial role in promoting immigrant success, economic growth, cultural diversity and inclusion in Ontario.”

“Our committee could not have achieved this award without the amazing response from the community,” says Stan Squires, ODT, chair of the group and a member of St. Saviour’s. More than 300 individuals and businesses donated and contributed to the effort.

“We hope that this award will demonstrate that our (parish’s) strategic plan and focus on social justice missional work in the community through the Five Marks of Mission can be very successful, and that even the smallest church in rural communities can contribute in a meaningful way,” he says.

Petition urges Canada to sign nuclear treaty

Canon Phyllis Creighton, who spoke briefly at Synod about banning nuclear weapons, is urging Anglicans to sign Petition e-1402 to the House of Commons. The petition reads: “Whereas the use of any nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences; and nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by international agreement, we, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”


“Reckless U.S. and North Korean threats,黑客 U.S. and North Korean threats, and the renewed arms race with the modernization of nuclear arsenals, put us at greater risk of nuclear catastrophe than in the Cold War,” writes Canon Creighton. “Expert studies and three humanitarian conferences have shown no effective emergency response to a nuclear attack is possible. Even small-scale nuclear war could bring nuclear winter, famine, and two billion deaths. With the nuclear weapon states scorning disarmament, the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a milestone – a sign of hope recognized by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons for its work in achieving the ban treaty last July. “You can help avert disaster and create hope. We have to change our international agreements, and put an end to the threat of nuclear attack is possible. Even small-scale nuclear war could bring nuclear winter, famine, and two billion deaths. With the nuclear weapon states scorning disarmament, the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a milestone – a sign of hope recognized by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons for its work in achieving the ban treaty last July. “You can help avert disaster and create hope. We have to change our international agreements, and put an end to the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

The Diocese is on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. To connect, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca

No Frills store owner Tom Hui (centre) helps to deliver turkeys to Flemingdon Park Food Bank before Christmas.

Karen Sadler, president of All Saints, Peterborough’s ACW (left), presents a $5,000 cheque to Linda Sunderland, executive director of Hospice Peterborough.
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• The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Da Costa, Dean of Trinity, Aurora on March 4 at 4 p.m.

Vacant Incumbencies

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

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

• St. John, Bowmanville
• St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga
• St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishops):

• Parish of Bote Creek, Dundas & Burford River (Trent Durham)

Celebrations of New Ministry

York-Scarborough

• The Rev. Megan Jull, Priest-in-Charge, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto, March 4 at 5 p.m.

Conclusions

The Rev. Dr. Dave DaVis will conclude her ministry at Trinity, Aurora on March 4. She will be taking up a new ministry appointment with the Diocese of Niagara.

• The Rev. C.J. Adams conclude his ministry at St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) on Jan. 29.

• The Rev. Douglass Clark concluded his ministry at St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) on Jan. 29. He has taken up a new ministry appointment with the Department of Corrections as duty chaplain.

• The Rev. George Jacob will conclude his ministry at the Church of South India on April 30.

Retirement

• The Rev. Canon Jerome Kedelan has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga, will be May 30.

• The Rev. Canon James Woolley has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South will be June 24.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

6. St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto

its core, very much the same. Four

lay leadership training and innovative “non-Sunday” forms of wor-

ship and ministry. Bishop Anson observed that all these ministries
could be grouped together as faith formation activities; the exercise
clearly identified a need in York for greater focus on building faithful disciples of all ages.

The final activity at the town hall was a brainstorming session on ideas for moving forward in each of these identified priority ministries. Thoughtful discussion at each table yielded many pages of suggestions, which were shared in a closing

plenary session. Bishop Anson indicated all the results from the meeting would be collated and organized for distribution through the area’s webpage. She also said the newly redesigned Area Council would be using the results as a foundational resource in planning

its work, and invited interested participants to become involved in potential working groups on the priority ministries.

The Rev. Susan Climo is the in-

cumbent of Holy Spirit of Peace, Mississauga.
the churches have been gracious and welcoming.”

When he’s invited to a church, he usually preaches. “I stay true to my calling as a priest - I preach the gospel,” he says. “I then subject the gospels of the TRC or the gospel of Indigenous ministry. I try to bring it under the lens of what we can be – how the gospel speaks to all nations and is a hope for everyone.”

He will spend as much time at a church as he is needed, whether for one service or three. He will also speak at informal parish events. “One of the greatest things I’ve been doing is simply speaking with people and answering questions – often questions they’ve always wanted to ask but were afraid to. In those situations, I always say that you can’t offend me, so go ahead and ask anything.”

In addition to parish visits, he has led workshops, seminars and a clergy retreat. “I’ll speak on whatever the organizer is looking for. Usually it’s about what Indigenous spirituality is and what it could be. I’ll also speak about the TRC – what’s been happening and where it is now.”

When he’s discussing the TRC, he often mentions the TRC’s truth and Reconciliation Commission, which carried out its work from 2015 to 2017. “Most of the ships were bulk cargo and the appropriate number of gifts would be delivered to the 18 ships they carried almost 400 gifts that were going on and help them in their ministries, especially as they relate to the TRC.”

His second goal is to get out on the land, something he hasn’t been able to do much of since moving to Toronto. “I’ve always been in rural parishes and places where I could step out into nature. A city park just doesn’t cut it. I’d like to connect to the land and re-energize myself.”

Most of all, however, he looks forward to continuing to meet people. “I’ve discovered that my calling is to work with the churches and to help them embrace diversity and change. I try to get people to see that we don’t need to be held back by fear and stipulation, but that we can walk bravely forward into the future that is in the plan and movement of the Spirit.”

He adds: “It’s all about embracing people around us. We’ve hugged ourselves for too long and it has become a straightjacket. We need to open our arms and welcome others into the Church.”

The Anglican Church of Canada, possibly as early as 2019. He also sees the potential for an Indigenous congregation forming in the diocese within the next five years, possibly sharing space with another church or on its own.

“I think people in the diocese are starting to see that a potential of doing things is not the answer for all peoples,” he says. “We have a great diversity of churches, and each one speaks to a certain people. They listen and say, ‘Yes, this is my home’. Indigenous people have not fallen yet with this.”

One of the things he hopes to do more of is to visit rural churches. “I’d like to get on and go out there and re-energize them.”

Mission delivers presents to seafarers

VANCOUVER: A Mission to Seafarers team, along with a CBC intern doing coverage for an afternoon radio program, boarded a water taxi on Dec. 22, 2017. With them they carried almost 400 gifts that would be delivered to the 18 ships at anchor in Vancouver’s harbour. A total of 1,000 gifts are distributed annually as part of this seasonal ministry of the Mission to Seafarers. In preparation, participating churches organized the donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toiletries, chocolate, socks, hand-knit toques, gloves, and more, which were wrapped in gift boxes and given to seafarers who found themselves far from home during the Christmas season.

The group made contact by radio with each of the ships to be visited, then maneuvered the water taxi into position for the ship’s gangway to be lowered. Senior Port Chaplain the Rev. Peter Smyth then asked how many were on the ship’s crew, and the appropriate number of gifts were brought onboard.

Most of the ships were bulk cargo ships from around the world. The group met crews from the Philippines, Ukraine, Myanmar and China.

Bowsers fight childhood hunger

FREDERICTON - A bowling fundraiser in the Diocese of Fredericton is hoping to raise $100,000 to fight childhood hunger in New Brunswick. The organizer of the tournament, the Rev. Kevin McLellister, decided to expand the tournament, which has been brought in for two years at $7,500 to help build a library at Bishop McClellister College in Uganda.

This year, the tournament will take place in three cities – Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John – with the goal to raise $35,000 for each city. These funds will be designated to a local charity in each city that addresses childhood hunger.

Mr. McLellister says he was inspired to combat hunger by the diocese’s Stewardship Day workshop last year, when diocesan Bishop David Edwards spoke about child poverty. “I didn’t realize it was that bad,” he said. “As a dad and a priest, I don’t think it’s right that people should be hungry, especially kids.”

The tournament will take place April 21. The New Brunswick Anglican

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