Grant improves lives of women, children

BY JANICE BIEHN

In the past year, prenatal health in Burundi has improved, more babies were born safely in Rwanda, more people in Tanzania gained access to clean drinking water, more babies were not born in the dark in Mozambique and almost 400 low-income women were able to start businesses and lift themselves above the poverty line.

Those are just a few of the ways that the diocese’s $500,000 Our Faith-Our Hope grant to the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) made an impact in Africa last year. The funds also supported an Indigenous midwives program in Canada, Peru and Mexico.

“The funds provided by the Diocese of Toronto have had a real impact on the lives of thousands of people in a very sustainable and lasting way,” says Zaida Bastos, director of PWRDF’s Development Partnership Program. “The medical equipment, water wells, construction of infrastructure and loans will continue affecting the lives of beneficiaries long after the projects.”

Woman heeds call to help

GOODS, funds sent to island after deadly hurricane

BY STUART MANN

HUNDREDS of people on the tiny island nation of Dominica are getting much needed items of clothes, shoes, food and medical supplies thanks to the efforts of a woman in the Diocese of Toronto.

Jessica Carrington, a member of Grace Church, Markham, filled more than 180 boxes of donated goods and raised $3,800 for the Caribbean island after it was ravaged by Hurricane Maria last Sept. 19. The category 5 storm killed 40 people and left most of the country in ruins.

“Jessica’s efforts made a significant contribution in the lives of Dominicans who otherwise had no options,” says Frances Delsol, director of PWRDF’s Development Partnership Program. “The medical equipment, water wells, construction of infrastructure and loans will continue affecting the lives of beneficiaries long after the projects.”

A mother and child at a vaccination clinic in the Diocese of Masasi. PHOTO BY PWRDF

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A mother and child at a vaccination clinic in the Diocese of Masasi. PHOTO BY PWRDF

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JOYFUL PRAISE

The diocese’s 23rd annual black heritage service, A Spirit of Thanksgiving: Joyful Praise, was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 25 during Black History Month. Clockwise from above: members of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform; the Diocesan Combined Choir sings; Jamie Barrow, organist, (left) Archbishop Collie Johnson and the Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan receive plaques honouring their work and ministry; Kanier Hodge-Simon and a member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform in a medley of music and dance. Archbishop Johnson preached at the service and Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, presided.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

What so much you do for the least of us, you do for me — A Spirit of Thanksgiving: Joyful Praise, was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 25 during Black History Month. Clockwise from above: members of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform; the Diocesan Combined Choir sings; Jamie Barrow, organist, (left) Archbishop Collie Johnson and the Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan receive plaques honouring their work and ministry; Kanier Hodge-Simon and a member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform in a medley of music and dance. Archbishop Johnson preached at the service and Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, presided.

“What so much you do for the least of us, you do for me” — A Spirit of Thanksgiving: Joyful Praise, was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 25 during Black History Month. Clockwise from above: members of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform; the Diocesan Combined Choir sings; Jamie Barrow, organist, (left) Archbishop Collie Johnson and the Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan receive plaques honouring their work and ministry; Kanier Hodge-Simon and a member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform in a medley of music and dance. Archbishop Johnson preached at the service and Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, presided.

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.

For information call the office at 905-566-9403 or email ed@thebridgeprisonministry.com.

The unique opportunity to walk with our most wounded as they fight to transform their lives will be an experience worthy of great faith.

Islanders grateful for supplies

Continued from Page 1

Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, the incumbent of Grace Church, who enthusiastically encouraged her to help out. The following Sunday, the pair spoke to the congregation from the pulpit, asking parishioners to drop-off donated items at Ms. Carrington’s garage.

Throughout the late summer and fall, parishioners, neighbours and friends dropped off hundreds of items and Ms. Carrington packed them into boxes—so many that they often reached the ceiling. The boxes were put into shipping containers and sent down to Dominica by Ms. Delsol’s office.

“Through Jessica’s efforts, a lot of people were able to get new clothing, shoes and a lot of food,” says Ms. Delsol. Supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap were put into personal care kits for children and seniors.

In addition to the donated goods, Grace Church raised $5,800 through a karaoke night in October and a donation from the church’s ACW. The money was given to Dominica’s Hurricane Maria Fund to assist those who lost their homes or belongings or were injured.

Ms. Carrington says she was overwhelmed with joy by the experience. “No words could describe it. I actually had the chills while I was doing it. It wasn’t about us. It was about what we could do to help others. That’s what we’re here for—to help others. And it felt really good.”

Ms. Delsol says Ms. Carrington’s efforts have not gone unnoticed on Dominica. “I’ve heard from people who have told me, thank you so much for remembering that we are here and are not forgotten. People are posting on social media that we are truly appreciative.”

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Anglicans encouraged to have conversations with those of differing views

BY DIANA SWIFT

HOLY Trinity, Trinity Square’s monthly observance for Toronto’s homeless on Feb. 13 included a novel component: a performance based on Shakespeare’s tragedy King Lear.

The word’s stressed throughout the centuries as three seasoned actors took to the chilly public square beside the downtown church and raised a call to action for the homeless. They performed “Too Little Care,” a short dramatic passage about the passage where, turned out in a raging storm, the mentally deteriorating old king has a sudden epiphany. He acknowledges the pitiful circumstances of the dispossessed and calls complicity to account.

“Poor naked wretches, wheresoe’er you are, That dare to send and call yourselves citizens! / Your Lord and Master are all men. / Your loins and limbs are but your Master’s / And you too little care of this!”

When Ms. Werneburg herself played Lear back in theatre school, her director told her to providing required to perform this passage, saying “All you need to do is think of someone who’s sleeping out in this moment is sleeping on a subway grate on Yonge Street. What have you done about that today?”

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.

King Lear comes to public square

BY DIANA SWIFT

The diocese’s Canon XXI Task Group has posted several documents on the diocese’s website to help Anglicans learn about same-sex marriage and to have informed, respectful conversations on the subject leading up to the next regular session of Synod in November.

The resources include:

• A history of the dialogues, decisions and key moments in the discernment process in the Church of Canada.
• An article outlining the structures of authority in the Anglican Communion.
• Information on processes and decisions in different denominations and attitudes in the Anglican Communion.
• A bibliography of key resources.

The group also plans to have available the names of people who can host facilitated discussions in churches.

“We want people to talk with each other, as opposed to talking about each other,” says Marge Watters Knebel, ODT, chair of the group. “We’re encouraging individuals and groups to have deep, face-to-face conversations with people who have differing views.”

The Canon XXI Task Group was formed by Archbishop Colin John- son last year to assist diocesan Synod to consider the proposed changes to the marriage canon to incorporate provision for marriage of same-sex couples in the Anglican Church of Canada. General Synod voted in favour of the changes in 2016 by the required two-thirds majority in all three houses (laity, clergy, bishops); the second, required vote is planned when it convenes again in 2019.

In the intervening time, the motion was sent for consideration, although not a vote, at diocesan and provincial Synods.

The purpose of the Canon XXI Task Group is to develop a process that will help the diocese to have a dialogue about same-sex marriage and the proposed changes to the marriage canon. The diocese’s Synod will have a discussion – but not a vote – on the subjects when it meets on Nov. 8-10.

Ms. Watters Knebel says Archbishop Johnston set the tone for the diocese’s dialogue in his Pastoral Statement on Commitment to Diverse Theological Positions in the Diocese of Toronto, posted last September. In the statement, he writes: “All of us need to extend to each other the most generous Christian charity that Jesus Our Redeemer calls us to exercise as we, together, seek to discern and live out God’s will.”

Archbishop Fred Hilz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, expressed similar sentiments in a pastoral letter to Canadian Anglicans in July 2016: “More than ever, we must make efforts not to turn away from one another, but rather to one another; not to ignore but to recognize one another; not to walk apart but together.”

Ms. Watters Knebel says the group is committed to providing resources and a process that will accommodate the widest range of viewpoints. “In his statement, Archbishop Johnson writes about honouring and safeguarding the diversity represented in our parish and clergy, and that’s what we are trying to do.”

In addition to Ms. Watters Knebel, the group includes Chris Ambidge, ODT, the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, Pamela Boisvert, the Rev. Chris Harper, the Rev. Canon Philip Holson, the Rev. Ian LaFleur, Ryan Ramsden and the Rev. Mark Regas. It is facilitated by Janet Marshall.

The group made a presentation to the diocese’s Synod last No- vember and asked members what they needed to have a dialogue. It received 538 suggestions. The primary needs were for facilitated conversations and helpful resources.

“At a high level, people wanted an opportunity to hear and talk more fully about the rationale and convictions held by people with differing views across the spectrum,” says Ms. Watters Knebel. “They want opportunities for facilitated dialogue.”

To that end, the group will provide the names of people who will act as facilitators for conversations in churches. “We encourage parishes that want to have a conversation to have a facilitator, preferably a neutral one who is not involved in that parish community,” she says.

She encourages people to have informal conversations as well. “I would encourage anyone, if they haven’t already done so, to get to know another person who holds a different view. Spend time with that person and find out where they’re coming from and where they’re at. Sit with another person who shares a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and listen to them talk about what they understand, think and feel.”

To read the documents, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca. More information about the work of the Canon XXI Task Group and the dialogue in the diocese will be published as it becomes available. To contact the group or to arrange for a facilitator to lead a discussion in your parish, contact Pam Boisvert, the diocese’s Secretary of Synod, at pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca.
I n early March, I presided at the election of the Co-adjutor Bishop of Niagara, my last election on the Province. I am delighted that the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, the Canon Missioner of the Diocese of Toronto, was elected in a gracious, Spirit-filled process. I presided at the caucus, heard the election oration, and offer it here in anticipation of our own election of a coadjutor bishop in June. 

I still marvel at the work of a bishop. Martha Holmen, my inter-visitor, asked, “If you were on an elevator with a member of Synod who asked you what you would look for in electing a bishop, what would you say?” I responded.

My 30-second response was this: “A person of faith in Jesus Christ, able to articulate that faith clearly and fairly simply; the capacity to deal with complexity; ability to bridge the sacred and secular realms; an openness to a variety of expressions and practices, and the wisdom to discern among them; someone able to extend pastoral care with compassion and still make tough and decisive decisions; one who can preside graciously in leading worship; able to conduct a meeting.” You can see the interview online on our website (www.toronto.anglican.ca).

Each candidate brings many gifts for the Church today. The campaign is now officially concluded, thank you for your support. 

We are blessed with capable candidates who will allow themselves to be tested and questioned by hundreds of people; candidates who open themselves to God's invitation, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for me?” with the courage, “Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6).

We do not close our eyes, utter a prayer to God and let God mark down a person’s name on a ballot paper, or wait for God to press the right number on an electronic “clerks” panel. It is not magic. Discernment is about using the perceptions and intuitions and resources God has given us. Each candidate brings their weaknesses. Which of them has the specific gifts we need for the Church today?

When the apostles met after the Ascension of our Lord, they were a fragmented, incomplete, uncertain group. They were 11, not 12. In fact, they were not even there. Acts 1 records that there were about 12 present. Two names were proposed: Joseph called Barsabbas, also known as Justus, and Matthias. Both had accompanied Jesus through his ministry from his baptism to his ascension. (You will note, it was not just the 12 disciples who were with Jesus.) Matthias was chosen in place of Judas, the disciples were confused by the other guy who couldn’t settle on his own name!

But remember three things:

First, they were named, and they are named together, for all posterity.

Second, they both were equally qualified, both gifted.

Third, after the election, neither of them is a bishop — but one of them has continued to follow Christ and serve his Church.

The episcopal election, one will be chosen as bishop — but the one does not add to the glory and the others fade into oblivion (the political leadership contenders do). All will continue as faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ. All will continue to bring their gifts to the service of all. All will join in the central concern of the church — the call to bear witness to Jesus Christ, and the new life that God offers to all people through him.

Electoral Synods begin with the Eucharist. It is not an incidental add-on — a nod to God — before we get on with the real business at hand. Rather, it is the heart of what we are about. We rest ourselves as a eucharistically shaped people — a people called by God and bound together as his people into a community of thanksgiving and love in which Jesus himself is present in the midst. We listen to the Word of God, rehearsing our story, bearing again who we are. We pray for guidance. We are fed by the very life of Jesus, who died for us and was raised for us and bestowed on his own first gift of the Spirit. Then we leave, sent out with joy and hope into the world God so loves, to join in God’s work of reconciliation and re-creation.

The Eucharist draws us into our work of discernment. Listen to the leading of the Spirit.

There is nothing that we cannot face

T he wonderful seasons of Easter and spring are with us once again as we welcome a new season of warmer weather, outdoor activities, longer days, gardening and enjoying spring.

The resurrection is at the centre of our Christian faith, in the confidence of eternal life offered by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Easter is not a one-time event that took place many years ago, nor is it just an academic exercise about the real resurrection community, and our lives in the risen Christ mean new beginnings, hope for those who once had none. Hope for those who are estranged, marginalized or excluded. Life is no longer the same. In the words of the chorus of that wonderful Easter hymn: “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because He lives, I know that Easter is more.”

The resurrection of Jesus led to the birth of the Christian Church. We see a group of men, disciples of Christ, who were once afraid, dispirited and uncertain about their future become transformed and filled with the Spirit, boldly witnessing to their experience of their risen Lord and Saviour. They became empowered and were willing to face the world in His name, filled with the power to go forward with a mighty force that has changed and continues to change the lives of many around the world.

We believe that in Christ, death, oppression, injustice, fear and evil have been overcome and therefore Love conquers and will always win. The spirit of the living God is and will always be available to the Church. God’s will is that the risen Christ is in and of the power of the Holy Spirit. By our willingness to join in God’s mission we come to experience God’s love, mercy, compassion and goodness of God.

In a time when many are skeptical about the validity of our institutions, church “nurseries,” including religion, there is seemingly a lot of rage in our communities, and the Church has a gospel to proclaim and live out. Amid scepticism and even cynicism, we must not lose the good news of what God is up to in our communities. We can become so despondent and useless in the face of adversity, tragedy and wrongdoing that at times we do not notice the good that is taking place around us.

Remember the words of the song, “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because He lives, I know that Easter is more.”

There is nothing that we cannot face.

There is nothing that we cannot face
What does it mean to care for creation?

By Diane Marshall

The Anglican Communion’s fifth General Convention calls us to “strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation and renew the life of the earth.” But what does it mean to be an earth-keeper, that first mandate given by God to humanity in Genesis? In his reflection, Falling in Love with the Planet, Peter Atkinson, the rector of the University of Toronto’s School of the Environment calls us, as Christians, to find a new perspective where we redefine the meaning of care. He writes: “This perspective suggests that the human strives not for domination of, but for harmony with, the rest of the created world, and that we as humans are participants rather than ‘master and commanders’ within the fabric of Creation. Christians perspective also suggests that we can only be fully human, and fully true to our Christian calling, when the individual and communal elements of our social concerns are integrated to sustain all of creation... We are being invited to relationship – a relationship with all of creation that involves affection, compassion, celebration and joy. We are invited to fall in love with the Earth.”

This paradigm shift requires transforming our previous understanding of the concept of “progress,” which is our heritage from the industrial revolution and has resulted in a cultural acceptance of domination of the earth and its resources. Jesus and his disciples traveled light, so we must ask ourselves: are we living in a way that is ultimately sustainable on this earth? What are the moral and ethical dimensions of what it would mean to build a culture and an economy of sustainability? Increasingly, international development organizations like the Primates’ World Relief and Development Fund, World Vision and Doctors Without Borders have begun to report that climate change is a major cause of poverty and famine in the developing world – especially in the global south – and that the industrialized world is a major contributor to this.

At a conference on the environment in 2011, Dr. David Atkinson, the retired bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, said, “We have found that parishes need to be clear: the Church needs your financial support. The difference between a parish that is struggling and one that is growing is that the former often comes down to the availability of its resources. Struggling parishes suffer from overextended volunteers, limited ministry opportunities, a shrinking congregation and giving that is well below average. Members of the congregation feel tapped out. They really want to do better because they can see a time when their church did much better. Overall, freewill offerings in the diocese in 2016 declined by about one per cent ($312,125) from 2015 to $32,508,379. These gifts do not include the special collections, FaithWorks, additional outreach, capital giving or memorial donations. In the last six years, the number of givers across the diocese has declined by 7.45 per cent – a loss greater than the previous 10 years combined. On a per donor basis, the average annual offering per person of about $7,150 to remain healthy. This figure represents optimum giving – a level of support consistently found in our most successful parishes. Those parishes – both urban and rural – that have a variety of relevant ministry opportunities, experience numeric growth in the number of worshipping members, offer meaningful worship and are present to the missional needs of their communities have a habit of giving that is consistently well above average.

Giving that is exceptional is not limited to parishes with very wealthy congregations. Of the 25 per cent of parishes that are growing in the diocese, many are in communities where incomes are ordinary. But members give – and give well – because they have been disciple effectively and schooled in the benefits of generous living.

Giving that leads to sustained and innovative ministry that empowers an enthusiastic base of volunteers who are committed to missional outreach and a welcoming spirit of hospitality. This provides the necessary foundation that helps foster numeric growth in the congregation.

Peter Missaszek is the diocese’s director of Stewardship Development.
I dived into the Anglican Church

The Rev. James Liu is an assistant curate at St. James Cathedral, leading the Mandarin Ministry.

Working with Morning Wang, who is soon to be ordained a deacon, I have established and continue to develop the Mandarin Ministry, serving all Chinese people in the Diocese of Toronto. I also assist with the cathedral’s English language services and pastoral work.

As a theology student and a Chinese person, I started to reflect on trans-cultural ministry and how to bring the gospel to more people in Toronto’s multicultural environment. I believe that all ministry development should be based not only on clear theological thought but also on research and a detailed plan. Many of the Chinese people we meet who are new to Toronto have no Christian background, so we developed what I call the “cathedral model” of ministry. This involves the traditional Anglican treasures of scripture, tradition and reason, but also liturgy, architecture, spiritual devotion and teaching the basics of Christianity and Anglicanism.

Using this model, we started the Mandarin Ministry in 2014, first meeting at the local Tim Hortons and then in the second-floor kitchen at the Cathedral Centre, then the boardroom, then the lecture room, and now we have our service every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the cathedral’s sanctuary.

Our congregation started with one person and now averages about 50 on a Sunday. After the service, we have a time for theological education and training. We also have a Sunday School and a choir. Each year, more than 10 people are baptized. This model of ministry has brought more people to know Jesus and join the Church, entering God’s presence and love through his blessings.

The Mandarin Ministry also offers Taize services in English and Mandarin on the first Tuesday of every month at the cathedral and on the first Thursday of every month at St. George on Yonge, Toronto. Both services start at 7 p.m. and all are welcome. In addition to the Mandarin Ministry congregation at the cathedral, there is one at St. George on Yonge and another that has started at St. Thomas, Huron Street, led by Michael Liu.

The spiritual growth of our brothers and sisters in Christ is evident, and their Anglican identities are confirmed. From loving our neighbours, we have become a loving Church to loving God to loving God to loving people and grow.

At my ordination service, the Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, the former Dean of the cathedral, taught me three words or identities to remember: watcher, interpreter, and weaver. I think these are especially important aspects of my ministry. How to watch for people? No one can exist alone by himself. But it is very difficult to establish a core team. How to interpret our faith from one culture to another, or to people who have no background of Christianity? How to weave a big family together from a more inclusive theological grounding? These are all the challenging topics that I am dealing with at the moment.

I was born in Tianjin, China and started my own IT business during university there. I also joined a church and took a leadership role in the choir. Later, I taught at a Christian training centre in Fujian Province, China. While there, I studied liturgy and found that the Anglican faith was the best expression of faith for me. At the same time, I started to seek confirmation. I went to Singapore and Malaysia to be confirmed in the Anglican Church, but my attempts failed because no bishop knew me. When I came to Canada, I was confirmed and dived into the Anglican Church. I studied theology and was ordained to the priesthood in February of this year. I believe that God’s calling for me to serve in the Anglican Church is clear and strong.

Over the next five years I’d like to improve my knowledge of theology. I’d also like to share the “cathedral model” of ministry with others, so that more and more Anglican churches can reach new people and grow.

In John 9, after the blind man receives his sight, he says, “One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” That is my favourite verse from scripture. I think we’re all in a process of seeing more clearly. Through Christ, our lives are transformed.
Grant makes impact in Africa, Americas
Women, children helped

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The Anglican 7

are over. PWRDF is very thankful to the diocese for its generous gift and the lasting impact it is having towards alleviating poverty in target countries.

PWRDF used the grant for its maternal, newborn and child health program called All Mothers and Children Count. The $800,000 grant was matched by $1 million from Global Affairs Canada, which gives $6 for every $1 that PWRDF contributes to the program. The program is being implemented in Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Burundi with local partners who are focused on health and food security.

Here's a summary of how the Our Faith-Our Hope grant made a world of difference:

Medical equipment in Burundi
Village Health Works, a partner of PWRDF, operates in 18 villages in the provinces of Vyanda and Rumonge. They used the funds to buy a polymeric chain reaction machine (PCR), as well as to help build a nutrition centre and a house for nurses. The PCR machine, located in the main clinic in Kigutu, is the only one of its kind in Burundi. It is essential in helping assess the status of HIV/AIDS patients and their treatment protocol, especially in pregnant women and children with HIV/AIDS. The housing facilities for nurses have allowed the clinic to retain more skilled health staff, who are providing around-the-clock service for patients. The new on-site nutrition centre diagnosed and treated 2,233 children for malnutrition last year.

Solar panels in Tanzania
PWRDF’s partner in Tanzania is the Diocese of Masasi. The agency also bought an ambulance and assigned it to one of the remotest districts, so women could safely get to a clinic to deliver their babies.

Solar suitcases in Mozambique
EHALE used the funds to buy and install 30 solar suitcases in rural clinics that do not have electricity. In the past, nurses and midwives would hold cellphones in their mouths and use its light to help them see to deliver babies in the dark—sometimes as many as 10 in a night. The risks of infection and obstetric complications were very high. A solar suitcase—and attached to solar panels on the roof—provides medical lighting and power for mobile communication, laptop computers and a fetal doppler with rechargeable batteries. Clinics with solar suitcases registered 7,161 nocturnal births last year, and 11 babies were resuscitated. EHALE was also able to equip 27 health clinics with baby scales, patient beds and mattresses, sterilizers and other medical disposal products.

Micro-finance in Mozambique
The Our Faith-Our Hope grant enabled PWRDF partner EHALE to use the funds to help more than 400 pregnant women who are focused on health and food security. The grant also enabled PWRDF to buy equipment such as an anesthesia machine, fetal monitor, sterilizers and other medical disposals.

Equipment for Rwanda
PWDF’s partner is Partners in Health/Inshuti Mu Buzima. They used the funds to buy esthesia machine, fetal monitor, and incubators. The equipment was distributed to 43 health centres and three hospitals in Buvuma, Southern Kayonza and Kirehe districts. The agency also bought a anesthesia machine, and assigned it to one of the remotest districts, so women could safely get to a clinic to deliver their babies.

Midwives from Mexico, Peru and Canada meet at the International Congress of Midwives in Toronto. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PWRDF

Midwives from Mexico, Peru and Canada meet at the International Congress of Midwives in Toronto. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PWRDF

Elsa Mateus (right) converted her living room in Mozambique into a café and now employs five people.
Anglicans look to wilderness for inspiration

Cobourg church hosts area day

BY MIKE WINTERBURN

Anglicans from parishes across Trent-Durham looked to the wilderness for inspiration during their annual area day discussions at St. Peter, Cobourg on March 3. The theme was “Church in the Wilderness: Hearing God’s Call in the 21st Century.”

In her homily, Bishop Riscylla Shaw challenged participants to see how a wilderness experience can lead to transformation and testimony. “The favour of God will change lives,” she said. “Do you believe it?”

In a session on “Finding God and Ourselves in the Wilderness,” Sylvia Keesmaat asked people to brainstorm stories from scripture where people found themselves there. When they put these examples on a timeline, it quickly became apparent that the wilderness is a recurring theme throughout the entire Bible. “The story continually goes to places of deep darkness, but it’s in those places where God works for redemption,” she said.

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, led a discussion on “Prayer and Spiritual Practices in the Wilderness.” He emphasized the importance of really wanting to be with God. “It shouldn’t just be, in the words of our lovely Prayer Book, “bounden duty and service,”” he said.

As well, he spoke of the value in understanding which activities are most meaningful for us as individuals. “It is important to grasp what really works for us. Is it music? Is it walking? Is it poetry? Is it serving in the soup kitchen? Our lives are our prayer.”

In the discussion circle on “Parishes in the Wilderness,” Bill Bickle, ODT, and Anne Martin discussed techniques they use to encourage restorative discussions in churches facing disagreements. “Just like our relationship with God is a conversation, so is our relationship with a congregation,” said Mr. Bickle.

The area day’s 104 attendees benefited from an area-wide team of organizers led by the Rev. Bryce Sangster and about 15 local volunteers from St. Peter’s. “We’ve got a great facility and we’re glad to host,” said the Rev. Canon Richard Miller, priest-in-charge.

Mike Winterburn is a member of St. Martin, Bay Ridges in Pickering.
Tribute to Healey Willan strikes right note

Evening devoted to composer’s church music

BY DIANA SWIFT

The ascetic apse of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, dominated by its immense rood cross, supplied a striking backdrop to Willan 50, a musical tribute on the 50th anniversary of the death of Healey Willan, the influential Anglo-Canadian composer.

Born in 1880 in Balham, England, Dr. Willan moved to Canada in 1913 and composed some 850 religious works, a multi-genre legacy of some 850 musical works. In addition to appointments at the University of Toronto, he was the music director at the church and St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, for which he composed a large body of liturgical music.

“Willan was a humble genius and is considered the dean of Canadian composers,” said Canon Giles Bryant, a former organist and music director at St. Mary Magdalene.

According to Canon Bryant, Dr. Willan’s choral piece for the Feast of Dedication, “Behold, the Tabernacle of God Is with Men,” and closed with the vocal prelude and fugue “Gloria Deo Per Immensa Saecula,” sung by choristers from St. Mary Magdalene and St. Thomas, Huron Street and conducted by the latter church’s music director, Matthew Larkin.

The program also featured Dr. Willan’s beautiful setting of Isaac Watts’s 18th century hymn “Christ Hath a Garden.”

Mr. Larkin performed the first organ work on the program, Dr. Willan’s “Prelude and Fugue in C Minor,” published in 1895 in Velasco’s series of virtuoso organ works. Thanks to a large video screen, the audience was able to follow the complex keyboarding of the double-fugue composition, described by Canon Bryant as a grand, sweeping piece with huge drama borne along with very, very confident harmony and daring chromatic inflections.

From the organ loft, the gallery and ritual choirs of St. Mary Magdalene chanted Gregorian plainsong, including the Caddoems introit, “We Have Waited, O God.”

After the choir sang Dr. Willan’s melodic rendition of the mystical Revelations-based anthem “I looked, and Behold a White cloud,” the second featured organist, Simon Walker, played the composer’s “Introduction, Passacaglia, and Fugue in E-flat minor,” which has been called the most significant example of the genre since Bach.

According to Canon Bryant’s biographical account, Dr. Willan was challenged to write this work after a companion at a recital featuring a German passacaglia said that only a Teutonic mind could compose of this type, which consists of a set of variations above a fixed pedal bass line. “His reaction was apoplectic,” said Canon Bryant, and the result was this Bach-like “staggeringly marvellous work… with 17 variations of incredible ingenuity… and a fugue using the same subjects as the passacaglia,” he said.

Noting that Dr. Willan’s music remains integrally woven into the fabric of worship at St. Mary Magdalene, the Rev. Canon David Harrison, incumbent, read praise for Dr. Willan’s achievements from the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, a former governor general of Canada. He also read an affecting account of her father’s last hours by his only daughter, Mary Willan Ma- son, from her memoir The Well-Tempered Listener, and introduced Dr. Willan’s eldest grandson and his great-grandson.

Andrew Adair, the music director at St. Mary Magdalene, played the third organ composition, Dr. Willan’s “Passacaglia and Fugue in E Minor,” written in 1959 and reminiscent in technique to the C minor composition of 1900.

“Gloria Deo,” the closing vocal piece, was written in 1950 and, inexplicably, commissioned by the Village of Forest Hill’s community centre. “I have absolutely no idea what provoked them but, by God, they got a wonderful piece out it!” said Canon Bryant. Dr. Willan apparently composed the fugue after a comment by a fellow organist that no one could write in five parts any more. “Well, poppycock,” the supreme contrapuntalist allegedly replied, and the result was this transporting polyphonic fugue.

Canon Giles Bryant shares anecdotes about Healey Willan’s life and music with the audience.

Organist Simon Walker acknowledges choristers in the organ loft as, from left, Canon Giles Bryant, Andrew Adair and Matthew Larkin look on. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Healey Willan’s eldest grandson Peter Willan (centre left) and great grandson enjoy the concert.

Matthew Larkin conducts the combined choirs of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto and St. Thomas, Huron Street.

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.
Youth invited to national gathering
Registration is open for CLAY, a national gathering of Lutheran and Anglican youth age 14-18 taking 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. For more information, visit the CLAY website, www.claygathering.ca.

Archbishop's Easter message on video
Archbishop Colin Johnson will share his thoughts on Easter through video again this year. His Easter message will appear on the diocese's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels during Holy Week, as well as on the home page of the diocesan website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. This is the fourth year in a row the Archbshop has filmed an Easter video. Previous years’ messages have focused on Easter morning, Good Friday and Maundy Thursday. Last year’s video was viewed more than 24,000 times.

MEETING JESUS
Anglicans share their thoughts on Jesus Christ at St. Olave, Swanssont in Toronto on the first night of Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, a six-week Lenten journey of prayer, reflection and drawing closer to God. Hundreds of people across the diocese in February and March took part in the program, either in groups in churches or on their own. The series, created by the Society of St. John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary, included a short daily video, prayers and journaling. In private devotions, study groups and online, participants focused on the words of John, renewing their acquaintance with the crucified and risen Messiah and deepening their understanding of God’s redeeming love for humanity. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Toronto priest elected next Bishop of Niagara

The Rev. Canon Susan Bell, the diocese’s canon missioner and a former chaplain at Hargavel College in Toronto for 10 years, was elected coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Niagara on March 5. She will succeed Bishop Michael Bird as the 11th Bishop of Niagara when he steps down in June.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Bishop-elect Bell will be the first woman to serve as Niagara’s diocesan bishop since the diocese was founded in 1875. She was elected on the fifth ballot during the Synod, she focused on words of gratitude, beginning by thanking all candidates who let their name stand for election.

Bishop-elect Bell was ordained in the Diocese of Toronto in 1997, and, in addition to her role as canon missioner, is a Ph.D. candidate in Church History at St. Michael's College within the Toronto School of Theology. She is married with four children.

In an interview with the Anglican Journal, Bishop-elect Bell said her election was “a full-circle moment. My family are all from, and still in, Niagara. I know and love that region in the Church.”

Her consecration is tentatively set to take place May 5, followed by a transitional period, after which she will assume the full responsibilities of diocesan bishop on June 1. Her election was unanimously confirmed by the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

BRIEFLY

Videos explore episcopal ministry
The diocese’s Synod will convene on June 9 at St. James Cathedral to elect a coadjutor bishop, who will succeed Archbishop Colin Johnson as Bishop of Toronto upon his retirement. To help members of Synod discern God’s call for the ministry of the Bishop of the Church, the Nominations Committee has developed Episcopal Ministry, a document that outlines the responsibilities and gifts required for the ministry of the Bishop of Toronto. It will be accompanied by a series of video clips highlighting the various aspects of episcopal ministry. For more details on the nomination process, the list of nominees and key dates leading up to Synod, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Leaders urged to attend workshops
Clergy and parish leaders (churchwardens, treasurers, etc.) who have not already attended one of the diocese’s parish leadership workshops are encouraged to do so. Topics include insurance and risk mitigation, real property management, parish finances and human resources. The dates for the two remaining workshops are:
- York Scarborough: April 7, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough.
- York-Credit Valley: April 7, 12:30-4:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dixie.

For more information, visit the Parish Leadership Workshops page on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Good Friday walk explores poverty
This year’s Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice will begin at 2 p.m. on March 30 at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Toronto. The theme is “Dimensions of Poverty.”

The Rev. Maggie Heltwig, incumbent of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, author, poet, activist and chair of the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, will be the closing speaker. Holy Trinity is located behind the Eaton Centre.

Conference explores the Eucharist
Liturgy Canada is hosting “Real Presence: Sharing the Meal,” the fourth of five conferences on renewing eucharistic worship. It will take place on April 23-24 at St. John the Baptist, Dixie, 710 Dundas St. E., Mississauga. The cost is $35 per person, $125 for a parish team of up to five people ($25 for each additional member) or $25 for students. Learn more on the Liturgy Canada website, www.liturgy.ca.
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LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca.

The deadline for the May issue is April 2. Articles can also pro-
mote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

MARCH 29 - Maundy Thursday with a service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars, 7 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MARCH 30 - Good Friday “Eggestra-
vana,” 10:30 a.m., worship service for adults, children, eggs, games, painting, decorating and colouring for children, Holy Trinity, Guild-
wood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

APRIL 1 - 8 a.m. sung Eucharist; 10:30 a.m. procession and sung Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Guild-
wood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Followed by the Guildwood com-
munity Easter egg hunt for chi-
dren at noon.

APRIL 7 - Bach Rediscovered with Voices Chamber Choir, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glen-
lake Ave., Toronto. Tickets $20 adults, $15 children, $10 seniors. Call 416-519-0528 or email voicescham-
berchoir@yahoo.ca.

APRIL 14 - Special fundraising con-
cert, 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guild-
wood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Featuring Robert Graham and his band “The Fairest and Best” and together with talented scholars and ensembles from Sir Wilfred Laurier Collegiate Institute.

APRIL 21 - Community Spring Con-
cert featuring world-renowned performers, 7 p.m., St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2233 Victoria Park Ave. Tickets $25 adults, $20 seniors and $15 for students. Call 416-447-1481 or visit www.st-andrew-anglican.ca.

APRIL 27 - MusicFest 29 – “Songs to continue the church’s year-long celebration of Canada 150,” 7 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets $20 adults, $15 students/seniors. Call 416-519-0528 or email healeywil-
lingsingers@yahoo.ca.

APRIL 29 - A Bluegrass Eucharist featuring selections from “The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass” by Carol Burnett, 6:30 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto. Music led by the B in Barley Grass and a bluegrass band.

MAY 5 - Opus 8 presents “What Is Our Life?” at 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Opus 8 asks the eternal questions of the human condition through a program of raving choral music. Admission is pay-
what-you-can-afford donation.

MAY 6 - MusicFest 2018: Magical Music from the Movies, including handbells, band and choir, 2 p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Proceeds aid Sleeping Children Around the World and the church. Tickets for adults $25, children 85. Call 416-225-4611 or email musicfest@ sjym.ca. Children dressed as their favourite movie character get in for free.

Sales

APRIL 14 - Spring rummage sale, 8:30 a.m., St. John's Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Bar-
gains on household items, cloth-
ing, books and toys. Call 905-294-3184.

APRIL 21 - Spring rummage sale, 8:30 a.m., St. George’s Tea. At 5 p.m., St. Brook St., Thornhill. Children’s, lad-
ees and men’s clothing, jewel-
ery, household items and more.

MAY 5 - Spring Market Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, 101 Winchester Rd. and Dunlop Lake. Bake sale, book sale, tea room, vendor tables and more. Call 905-655-3883.

MAY 12 - Men’s Spring Sale, noon to 9 p.m., St. Andrew’s, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Come for a safety check, bazaar, sale, food, tea, vendor tables and more. Call 416-447-1481.

Workshops & Gatherings

MARCH 27 - “Spirited,” food and drink for the body and soul, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., located at Ace’s Place Bar and Grill, 111 Gore Ave. Toronto. This is an opportunity to relax as well as enjoy some spiritual con-
versation. Hosted by Holy Trinity, Guildwood.

APRIL 11 - Evening Prayer for Easter, 6:30 p.m., followed by light supper. From 7-8 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Schuyler Brown leads the first of four weekly discussions that ex-
ploring the emotional power of the King James Bible’s poetry and its heightened language. At St. Andrew, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

APRIL 13 - St. Luke’s Centre’s 2018 Envi-
ronmental Film Festival presents “Tapped,” moderated by Stefan Hamblett and hosted 7:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Cuthbert, 1189 Bay-
view Ave., Toronto. A light lunch, followed by a discussion.

APRIL 22 - Choral Evensong for St.
George’s Eve at 4 p.m., followed by a meeting of the Guild with their present drama, poetry, music and songs to continue the church’s year-long celebration of Canada 150. At St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MAY 19 - Hosted by Green Majority, noon to 2 p.m. at St. Cuthbert, 1189 Bay-
view Ave., Toronto. Come for a safety check, bazaar, sale, food, tea, vendor tables and more. Tickets $25 per person or $80 for a family. Proceeds go to support St. Cuthbert’s 2018 Envi-
ronmental Film Festival.

MAY 26 - 1087 Lillian St., Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 3G1
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FOR APRIL

1. Easter Sunday
2. St. Stephen, Maple
3. Trinity Church, Aurora
4. Ascension, Don Mills
5. Incarnation, Toronto
6. Our Saviour, Toronto
7. St. Cyprian, Toronto
8. York Mills Deanery
9. St. George on Yonge, Toronto
10. St. John, Willowdale
11. St. John’s Convent
12. St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole
13. St. Theodore of Canterbury, Toronto

IN MOTION

Appointments
- The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, Interfaith Officer for the Diocese of Toronto, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon David Brinton, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas, Huron Street, Feb. 1, for the duration of the Incum-

ENTRIENT's Sabbatical leave.
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Assistant Liturgical Officer for York Credit Valley Area, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon David Clark, Associate Priest, St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax), Feb. 3.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson, Honorary Assist-
tant, St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto, Feb. 12.
- The Rt. Rev. Michael Pollesel, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew, Scarborough, Feb. 22.
- The Rev. William Craven, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Bolton, Feb. 27.

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

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):
- St. Andrew, Scarborough

Celebrations of New Ministry
- York Credit Valley

- The Rev. Daniel Breteron, In-

cumbent, St. John the Baptist, Dixie, Mississauga, April 4, p.m.
- The Rev. D. Boyers, Incumbent, Christ Church, Bolton, 4 p.m., June 3.

Retirement
- The Rev. Mark Gladding has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Margaret, New Toronto will be April 28.

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Women invited to spend year with Sisters

BY THE REV. FRANCES DROLET SMITH

SINCE the sixth century, St. Benedict's Rule has guided individuals and groups of people to live well in community by engaging members in a balanced life of prayer, work, study and leisure. St. Benedict invites his readers to “listen with the ear of your heart,” an invitation that is welcomed in a noisy world.

This early monastic rule is part of the wisdom tradition of Christianity and is firmly rooted in, and inspired by, the scriptures. Despite its antiquity, it remains fresh for our time, for it is primarily a guide to daily life lived in Christ; it is a call to live such a life extraordinarily well with others.

Living is often a hectic existence. Despite being instantly connected to people and events half-way around the world through technology, individuals can feel increasingly disconnected from others. While the internet offers an online community for every interest, it lacks tangible, in-depth human interaction. Though products such as FaceTime and Skype offer visual community in real time, the warmth of human proximity remains illusive.

Today, many Christians are seeking fresh ways to express ancient truths. The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD), an Anglican community already engaged daily in those very things and who have insights to share?

The 2018-2019 cohort begins in September. A woman interested in exploring the Companions program may request a program description, application and further information from the Companions' coordinator, the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gelwert, by emailing cjs@ssjd.ca or phoning 416-226-2201, ext. 316. Applications will be considered any time before June 15.

The Rev. Frances Drollet Smith is the rector of St. Alban’s Anglican Church in Dartmouth, N.S., and an obstet of SSJD.

University chaplain draws throngs with pets

VICTORIA - An Anglican chaplain at the University of Victoria, B.C., says she has been attracting students to the university’s Interfaith Chapel with a weekly event centred around animals.

Since Sept. 4, 2017, Ruth Dantzer has been operating what she calls a “Pet Café” – a one-and-a-half-hour slot when people are free to drop in to be with therapy animals brought by volunteers. To her surprise, the opening of the Pet Café drew nearly 200 students, she says.

“Students lined up to get in and they all crowded into the lobby of the Interfaith Chapel – all to pet some animals!” she says. The Pet Café has been maintaining its popularity since it opened, she adds.

Ms. Dantzer says the “overwhelming” response to the café has made her realize that university students “need effective gateways to help release some of the stress they carry, either through socializing or through the hands-on experience with the pets.”

She adds, “The animals provide a natural ‘break’ and, as a result, the atmosphere is one of relaxation, peace and emotional connection.”

Ms. Dantzer says the event has allowed her to make contact with students and let them know she’s there if they need support. But it has great value in itself, too, she says. “There is something spiritual happening at each Pet Café – the hospitality that is extended, the connections that are being made and the healing that is happening by way of the therapy animals.”

Diocesan Post

Warming centre open all week

MONTREAL - A warming centre run by a Montreal mission is open more days of the winter this year, partly as a result of donations to an appeal by the diocese. St. Michael’s Mission, an agency that provides services to Montreal’s poor and homeless, is operating its warming centre seven nights a week this winter, from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Dec. 1 to April 30. In previous years, the centre was open only when temperatures fell below -20 C, which worked out to about 25 nights last year.

The mission is located in St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church and is supported by the Diocese of Montreal. Last year, the mission was facing a deficit partly because of the loss of $70,000 in government support and private donations. But the mission was named as one of the beneficiaries of 2016’s Bishop’s Action Appeal, an annual call for donations to the diocese, and it was able to extend its nights of operation.

The centre welcomes an average of 85 people or more per night, depending on the weather.

Homeless people in Montreal sometimes avoid sleeping in shelters that do not allow them to leave once they have been accepted for the night. But the warming centre at St. Michael’s Mission is unusual in that it allows its clients to leave and return during the night, if they wish.

Montreal Anglican

Diocese commissions first lay evangelists

EDMONTON - The Diocese of Edmonton has commissioned the first graduates of its fledgling program in lay evangelism. Alison Hurbut, of Edmonton; Corinna Kubos, of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.; and Jenny Stuart, of St. Albert, Alta., were commissioned as licensed lay evangelists at a service at Edmonton’s All Saints’ Cathedral in January.

In a homily, the Rev. Tim Chesterton, the diocese’s warden of lay evangelists, said Anglicans have not always been enthusiastic about evangelism, which, he said, is a gift of Christ. “Some people see evangelists as a nuisance, or an embarrassment, or a theological anachronism. But we’re here to receive that gift and celebrate it together,” he said.

The three new lay evangelists will serve as volunteers in their home parishes in a number of outreach activities, he said. Mr. Chesterton designed the course after visiting three Church of England dioceses in 2012. He plans to start the next course in the Diocese of Edmonton in fall 2018.

The Messenger

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca