Church wins top environmental award

Green ideas woven into parish’s life

By Stuart Mann

St. Cuthbert, Leaside is an attractive red brick church, but in environmental circles it’s known by another colour – dark green.

The church has won the Greening Sacred Spaces Award for 2018, given to the most environmentally friendly place of worship in Toronto. It is only the second Anglican church in the city to receive the award since it was established in 2000.

“We’re delighted and pleased that our efforts are making a difference,” says Heather Conolly, a member of the church and its property coordinator. “We’re keepers of the world and we want to pass on to the next generation what was handed down to us.”

The award is given by Faith & the Common Good, a national, interfaith network that assists congregations and spiritual groups to create more sustainable communities.

St. Cuthbert’s has made many upgrades to its building over the past decade, including installing two high efficiency boilers, LED lights inside and outside, and a protective layer for its stained glass windows. It has reconfigured its downsputs, put bike racks in the parking lot for several years, introduced rain barrels and Green Bins, and started a community garden.

The教堂 holds an environmental fair and film festival each year, and in 2017 a Great White Oak, more than 200 years old was designated an Ontario Heritage Tree. The tree on the property that is more than 200 years old was designated as an Ontario Heritage Tree. The church’s vestry passed a motion in 2015 that supported the diocese’s advocacy for effective public policy on climate change.

“St. Cuthbert’s has a sense of responsibility to be stewards of creation,” explains the Rev. Ian Paulsen.

Continued on Page 8

Discipleship, evangelism conference coming this fall

By Martha Holmen

Christians interested in discipleship and evangelism will have an opportunity to connect and learn together this fall. Discipulus’18, a new national conference, will be held Oct. 18-19 at St. Paul, Bloor Street in Toronto.

Discipulus’18 grew out of the Vital Church Planting Conference, an annual gathering that focused on planting new Christian communities and fresh expressions of church. “There’s been a growing recognition that we may have put the cart before the horse, in that we’ve been talking about mission without focusing on the hard work of renewal,” says the Rev. Canon Judy Paulsen, chair of the Discipulus’18 planning team. “That renewal is linked to evangelism, but first to discipleship and getting Christians excited and passionate to share what they’ve come to know about the faith.”

Discipulus’18 will focus on how churches can make disciples in their own communities who will be energized to share their faith with others. “We want to draw a stronger link between evangelism and formation,” says Canon Paulsen. “Both in equipping and resourcing, we’re hoping to encourage churches, whether large or small, to really take disciple-making seriously as an important foundation of renewal.”

This year’s keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Joan DeVries, a pastor in the Christian Reformed Church with practical experience as a liturgist, writer and teacher. “An important focus in her life, in her study and in her doctoral work is the connection between the Christian community and formation, and how formation happens in outreach, small groups, worship, church structure and leadership,” says Canon Paulsen.

Canon Paulsen says she also considers it a strength to have a keynote speaker from outside the Anglican tradition. “She is keenly aware of the context that is a challenge to all denominations now,” she says. “I think she will bring a unique perspective to us that also addresses the cross denominational pull of this conference.”

In addition to three keynote talks, Discipulus’18 will offer two sets of workshops on making disciples in churches. On Thursday, the sessions will consider how discipleship can be at the centre of all church activity, from budgets and governance structures to worship and social activities. On Friday, workshops will focus on specific programs and resources for discipleship, led by people who have used them in their own communities. Workshop leaders will be announced in the coming weeks.

While this is the first year for Discipulus’18, its organizers believe there is an audience across Canada eager to explore discipleship. “We’re hoping this conference will attract anyone who’s interested in the renewal of the church in Canada, and hopeful about that,” says Canon Paulsen. “Ultimately the renewal of the church is at its heart, for the sake of the world.”

Registration for Discipulus’18 is open, with an early bird price of $200 per person until July 31. After that, the cost goes up to $250. Theological students and postulants can attend for $100. To learn more and register, visit www.discipulus.ca.

Election results available on website

The results of the election of a coadjutor bishop on June 9 at St. James Cathedral will be posted on the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, and shared on Facebook and Twitter. A story and photos of the election will be published in the September issue of The Anglican. The paper is not published in July and August.

www.toronto.anglican.ca
Commissioning service involves area’s youth

Every part a ‘labour of love’

By Stuart Mann

Alexandra McIntosh is passionate about bringing youth and youth groups together, and her commissioning service as York-Credit Valley’s new area youth ministry coordinator perfectly reflected that.

The service, held at St. George on-the-Hill, Toronto on April 20, was created by youth, for youth. “Every part of it was a labour of love by youth from different parts of the York-Credit Valley area,” says Ms. McIntosh, who was assisted in the planning by the Rev. Andrew MacDonald, one of the episcopal area’s liturgical officers.

When they started planning the service, Ms. McIntosh knew she wanted it to be a celebration of youth ministry and to involve as many young people as possible. “If we were to make it a service for the youth of the area, what would it look like?” she wondered.

She talked with youth leaders and young people, asking them what their favourite—and least favourite—parts of the Eucharist service were, what they would do differently and what part they would like to have in it. She found enthusiasm for every aspect of the service.

“We asked people what they’d like to do, and they stepped forward,” she says. “What ended up happening was this beautiful service where everyone who was involved had their favourite part and made it their own.”

The gospel reading was dramatized by the youth group from All Saints, Kingsway, complete with costumes and a narrator. The prayers of the people were written by the youth group from St. John, West Toronto. Youth also served as readers, servers and eucharistic gift bearers.

Youth from eight churches took part in the service: All Saints, Kingsway, St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto; St. George on-the-Hill, Christ Church, Brampton; St. Olave, Swansea; St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto; St. John, West Toronto and St. Paul the Apostle, Redvale.

One of the highlights of the service was when all the youth were invited to stand and were asked by Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop, to make a commitment. Together they said, “We promise to be engaged with leadership and not let ourselves be pushed aside and forgotten because we are young. We will be an example to others and will expect to be represented fully as the Church right now, and the promise of something new just over the horizon.”

Ms. McIntosh says the service gave her great hope for York-Credit Valley. “A huge part of making events like this happen is building connections and relationships, so while it was a lot of work bringing it all together, everyone had an amazing time. A real momentum was started. There’s a lot of possibility and a lot of hope.”

Ms. McIntosh’s job is to equip and empower youth leaders and to help youth ministry flourish in their parishes. She is working with Bishop Andison to help the episcopal area discern its priorities and goals for youth ministry.

In addition to her job as the area youth ministry coordinator, Ms. McIntosh is the pastoral associate for youth and young adults at the area’s youth ministry coordinator.

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A Conversation with Archbishop Colin Johnson
Hosted by Judy Maddren
Join us for a night of celebration and storytelling as we honour Archbishop Colin Johnson.
Judy Maddren is the former host of World Report on CBC Radio News and is now recording personal audio memoirs for Soundportraits.
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Archbishop Colin Johnson  Judy Maddren, M.S.M.

The Bishop’s Company 57th Annual Dinner
FAREWELL GALA FOR ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON
Date: Friday October 19, 2018
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Reception and Dinner will be hosted at The Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel

ORDAINED

The Rev. Louise Peters, vicar of St. James Cathedral, helps the Rev. Morning Wang put on her vestments.

The Rev. Canon Cheryl Palmer, incumbent of Christ Church, Deer Park, gives the homily.

Family and friends take photos of the new deacons.

The Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, incumbent of St. Peter, Erindale, hugs the Rev. Roshni Jayawardena.
Seeking the Lord’s face

Twenty-five minutes seemed like an eternity on that warm spring day as people in the ordinary crowd outside the Cathedral of the Assumption stood in line. The mood was somber as people of different faiths came together to pray. The Archbishop, Primate Fred Hiltz, invited everyone to join in this time of prayer and reflection. He emphasized the importance of community and the need for unity in the wake of tragedy.

The Anglican Church

The Anglican Church is a global community of 7 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 164 countries. The Anglican Church of Canada has approximately 650,000 members in 210 dioceses across the country. The Archbishop of Toronto, Fred Hiltz, has been serving in the role since 2013.

BRACERIDGE • Three parishes in the Diocese of Algoma are partnering with a local special needs charity to offer worship services for people with developmental challenges. For roughly a year, the parishes, all in Ontario’s Muskoka region, have been working with Community Living South Muskoka, a registered charity that serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Niagara to host Cursillo conference

HAMILTON • Archibishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, will give the keynote address at the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Triennial Conference, hosted by the Diocese of Niagara on June 22-24 at Ryerson University. Cursillo is a 26-hour retreat in Christian life for participants. Participants will have a choice of attending two of three workshops: Discernment, led by Dr. Elizabeth Ann Eckert of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto; “Your Spiritual Autobiography,” led by Canon Forrest Clark of the Diocese of Niagara; and “Labyrinth,” led by Lori Haskins-Barber, a certified trainer in the use of spiritual labyrinths. The Cursillo movement aims to support and encourage Christians through short courses in areas such as action, spirituality, and Christian community in action. Brief talks are followed by discussions by participants in small groups. The movement originated in Spain in the 1940s; the first meeting of the Canadian Anglican Cursillo was held in Toronto in 1977.

Bishop plans fourth diocesan walk

FREDERICTON • For the fourth year in a row, Bishop David Edwards of the Diocese of Fredericton will be heading across one of the diocese’s archdeaconries on foot to visit parishes, pray with local Anglicans and bear witness to communities on the route. From May 23 to June 5, Edwards will be making his way through the archdeaconry of Saint John Diocese, which covers New Brunswick’s northwestern region, including the upper reaches of the Saint John River.

Highlights will include a visit to the Mo-Cam Foods facility in Florenceville; attending the University of New Brunswick’s annual Convocation at Alumni Stadium in Fredericton, New Brunswick; and a visit to a potato packaging operation. The pilgrim will include a service from the Anglican service book, a nature preserve and other walking trails.

Exactly one week after the van attack, several hundred people joined us for a prayer walk down Yonge Street, to mark the stretch of road and sidewalk where there had been a place of such carnage. As a processional cross was lifted high at the corner of Yonge and Finch, we walked behind it singing, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” A very strong singing response followed as we turned the corner and walked north on Yonge. People were deeply moved by this gesture of remembrance and it marked a moment of connection and purpose.

That letter came from John Strachan, the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, when Archdeacon Colin Johnson was elected to office. I got to know Terry, as he was affectionately known to those who knew him, even better and came to know him as my bishop and my colleague.

A co mmunity of about 650,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island in British Columbia to the Arctic Circle.

The Anglican Church

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BY ELIN GOULDEN

Ontarians will be going to the polls on June 7 to choose who will represent us at Queen’s Park for the next four years. Not only do elections give us the right to have a say in choosing who will lead our province, but they give us the opportunity to consider what makes for a society of justice and dignity in which all can flourish.

There are two temptations that commonly arise during election campaigns. One is to cast our votes for those whose platforms appeal to our self-interest, without considering the impact those policies will have on those who are in greater need than ourselves. Many politicians directly pitch their platforms to those whose principal motivation is “what’s in it for me?” This can lead to the second temptation, which is to become cynical or apathetic about the process and decide not to vote.

Both of these temptations represent an abdication of our responsibility as Christians to love our neighbours as ourselves. To vote only for those who benefit us, or to leave the choosing of those in government to others, squanders one of the chief opportunities our society affords us for contributing to the common good. It also fails to take advantage of the greatest form of influence we have over our political leaders.

Anglicans have a long history of contributing to and engaging in the public sphere. Many public institutions – hospitals, schools and universities, libraries and social service agencies – were originally founded by Anglicans. Today, we continue to serve our neighbours through outreach programs at the parish and diocesan levels. But Anglicans have also had a long history of using our voices to amplify the concerns of those in need, and for pressing for long-term, systemic changes that address social injustices.

Scripture calls us to seek the welfare of the communities in which God has placed us (Jeremiah 29:7) and to speak out and judge recklessly on behalf of those in need (Proverbs 31:8-9). In the same vein, our baptismal covenant calls us to “seek and serve Christ in all persons,” to “respect the dignity of every human being” and to “strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation.” These are values that we should carry with us at all times, including into the voting booth.

Before election day, take the time to learn about the various parties’ platforms. Ask what their impact is likely to be on those who are most vulnerable, and on the natural environment that sustains us. Share your concerns with candidates who come to call, with friends, family members, neighbours and fellow parishioners. Don’t forget to pray for those who will be elected, that they be given a spirit of wisdom and compassion to exercise their responsibilities for the good of all.

Finally, get out and vote! Whether or not your preferred party or candidate is elected, you have registered your interest in the life and future of the province – and of your community. At the same time, remember that, as important as it is, voting in an election is only one aspect of the ongoing work of civic engagement.

Continuing to pray for the government and other elected representatives, continue to learn about the issues that arise, and continue to speak up and to act for the building up of our common life.

Elin Goulden is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant. The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario has prepared a provincial election backgrounder on housing and income security, with suggested questions for candidates. Visit www.province-ontario.anglican.ca/elections.

Remember our Christian values

BY ANGELA HANTOUMAKOS

I am delighted to bring you an update on Growing in Christ, our diocese’s strategic plan. As part of the greater plan, the plan lays out a bold vision for our diocese for the next four years: to be an Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship.

Since becoming Executive Director in December 2017, I have started working with many of the plan’s working groups to help establish clear deliverables and frameworks for the strategic focus areas identified in the plan. It is heartening to see the level of commitment and collaboration on the part of volunteers and staff to enable our diocese to fulfill its mission to build healthy missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Governance and Decision-Making Working Group is making substantial progress in identifying models of governance that will streamline and facilitate the decision-making process.

In our quest to continually become better stewards of our human and property resources, we are pleased to report that by the year’s end we will present recommendations from our Remuneration Working Group that address remuneration concerns of our clergy that reflect our values.

Our Property Working Group is focused on helping us to better track, manage and leverage our real estate resources. By mid-summer, we will have a comprehensive inventory of all our real estate holdings, a project we undertook last year with N. Barry Lyons Consultants. In January of 2018, a Request for Proposal was put out to market for engineering consulting services to assist us with a diocese-wide building condition assessment project. We are currently in the procurement phase of the engagement and are pleased to report that we have received positive responses from some of the country’s most pre-eminent engineering consulting firms. This phase of work will end with the Request for Award, at which juncture we will evaluate the cost and commence rollout, subject to Diocesan Council approval.

Feedback from the Engagement Survey, already completed, together with additional input from our clergy and senior staff at the Diocesan Centre, will help to inform and corroborate the work of the Trust and Culture Working Group as it seeks ways to build a more collaborative and trusting culture in our diocese.

The Innovation Based on Evidence Working Group is working on defining clear deliverables that will enable the diocese to mitigate risk through adoption of best practices with respect to how data will be used to measure outcomes for continuous improvement.

Our Leadership and Formation Working Group is in the early stages of defining deliverables that will enable us to develop the clerical and lay leaders who will lead our transformation efforts. The diocesan Postulancy Committee has reviewed its procedures for the identification of candidates for ordination and their formation.

We plan to bring recommendations from our working groups to our next Regular Session of Synod in November 2018.

The work of the strategic plan is often challenging but also immensely rewarding. I truly feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with the College of Bishops, talented diocesan staff and our dedicated volunteers to help implement our strategic plan.

I wish to thank you for welcoming me to the Diocese of Toronto as you have, and for your willingness and support to drive the positive change the implementation of our strategic plan will have in transforming our future by balancing our call to action for a bold vision, while maintaining our trust in Christ’s faithfulness to his Church and honouring our rich heritage.

Angela Hantoumakos is the diocese’s Executive Director. To learn more about Growing in Christ, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Work is underway on our strategic plan

Correction

In last month’s issue, the caption of a photograph of York-Scarborough MP Goodrich Dyer was incorrect. Information the person speaking was the Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer. The Anglican regrets the error.
I have done nothing in Belize alone

Andy Harjula is a member of St. John, Ida and volunteers here and in Belize.

I have been retired for over 20 years. In the church, I am one of many on the “Greeter” crew. I also try to help publicize the church by supplying photos and stories about events to the newspaper. My other voluntary jobs include volunteering with the Canada Revenue Agency by preparing tax returns for low income Canadians. Last year, volunteers across Canada prepared 700,000 free tax returns. I also volunteer with the Peterborough Police Department on their Community Policing Committee. We monitor drivers for speeding and organize bike rodeos for local youth.

My wife and I returned to Belize in April for a week to celebrate my birthday and to assist a family that has fallen on challenging times. The father, Eduardo Diaz, was an electrician until one day when he came in touch with an electrical wire that blew off his hands and feet. He now supports his family by selling popcorn on the street. Our local hardware store held a fundraiser for Eduardo and purchased a popcorn popper, like the ones used in theaters. In addition, one of our congregation has donated a set of stainless steel pots for the Diaz family. The majority of people in Belize use aluminum pots rather than stainless steel because of their affordability. We brought many other items for schools such as flip flops, soccer shoes, chalk and books.

To make it clear, I have done nothing in Belize alone. All the efforts have been because of the tremendous support I have received from St. John’s congregation, my tolerant wife and understanding adult children. I tell them I am spending their inheritance in Belize.

I began volunteering in developing countries after trying to help with rebuilding projects in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina. The U.S. immigration officers delayed my entry to such an extent that my unpleasant experience dissuaded me from ever trying to help there again. Then I helped each winter in Ecuador, Panama and Guatemala. Each of these countries is Spanish-speaking and I struggled with their language; I felt embarrassed in not being able to talk to them in their own language in their country. Then I discovered Belize, formerly British Honduras, a British protectorate since the early 1600s. To me it was obvious that one of the major problems in Belize was that they imported the majority of their food, even though they had the climate and soils to be self-sufficient in food production. My efforts, and those of other like-minded people such as Bev Hilditch, have purchased, supplied and planted fruit trees to help Belizeans become self-sufficient by growing some of their own food. In addition, funds have been raised in Canada through auctions and dinners to supply food to school lunch programs there. Initially, I also supported a priest who was attempting to acclimatize superior chicken breeds that would survive in the tropical heat.

The Belize Project has raised sufficient funds now to support 10 students with tuition fees so they can attend high school. High school fees represent 30 per cent of a labourer’s income. The primary source of local jobs in the Dangriga area of Belize is orchard work, which includes orange, lime, banana and coconut orchards. In the case of the Diaz family, the new popcorn popper will permit Eduardo to make additional volumes of popcorn and thereby make a difference for his family.

I was born in a snowbank and raised out of a suitcase. I have lived in 14 different houses, beginning in Finland, Sweden, the U.S. and Canada. My career was with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, where I was invited to go to new positions throughout the province. I enjoy helping people solve their personal problems and consequently after retirement I worked with the Ontario Human Rights Commission investigating harassment and discrimination complaints, resolving the complaint and closing the files.

My volunteerism probably stems from my father, now deceased, who would go and volunteer on any works at the drop of a hat. My sister possessed a similar trait and she put a lot of effort into helping immigrants settle in Canada. Before she passed on, she immigrated to Ecuador and helped people by starting a school and raising chickens.

Five years from now I would like to enjoy distributing the proceeds of a lottery – if I won – in Belize by establishing a long-term education scholarship that would help students pull themselves up by their bootstraps to a better life through education. I would also enjoy having additional volunteers come to Belize and experience the local life, and to help the volunteers lend their helping hand to one of the many projects that are crying for help.

My understanding of the Bible is very limited, but I like the King James’s version that says, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you: do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” The parallel Buddhist version is, “Each day try to do one good thing. If you can’t accomplish that, at least try to avoid doing anything bad towards others.” I am not perfect, but I aim for that each day.

To learn more about the Belize Project, including volunteer and fundraising opportunities, contact Mr. Harjula at andy-harjula@gmail.com or at 705-277-1825.
CONFIRMATION

Thirty-two confirmands and two who reaffirmed their baptismal vows join Archbishop Colin Johnson and sponsoring clergy and laity after the Diocesan Confirmation Service at St. James Cathedral on April 29. They came from the following churches: St. John, West Toronto, St. Matthew, First Avenue, Toronto, St. James, Caledon East, St. Matthias, Etobicoke, St. James the Apostle, Sharon, St. Hilary, Cooksville, Church of the Resurrection, Toronto, St. Jude, Bramalea North, St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto, St. John the Baptist, Norway and St. Michael the Archangel, Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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Conference explores Christian heritage of peacemaking

Topics include loving enemies, non-violence

BY PAUL PYNKOSKI

Church part of growing trend to go green

Continued from Page 1

LaFleur, incumbent. “That sensitivity is an important part of the DNA of this community.” He adds: “While it may be a lot of work, we’re doing it because we can do no other. To be disciples of Jesus Christ is to be engaged in the care of God’s creation.”

The church’s efforts to weave environmental thinking and action into all aspects of its life, including its worship, administration and building, was the reason why it was chosen to receive the award, says Donna Lang Faith & the Common Good’s Toronto animator. “I’ve been working with the parish for the past three years and have been impressed with the dedication of their Environmental Study Group and their ability to get things done,” says Ms. Lang. “We carefully select the winner every year and this year St. Cuthbert’s has definitely warranted it.”

She was impressed not only with the church’s dedication but its innovation as well. “It was things like the bike racks and LED lights in the parking lot of the community garden,” she says. “It’s really cutting edge to have a faith building producing products for the neighbourhood.”

Ms. Conolly says there is a practical side to the church’s green initiatives. While there is an up-front cost to upgrades, there are savings as well, she says. Since the church installed the new boilers in 2011, for example, they have not needed any repairs. The LED lights could not be replaced before they need to be replaced.

“When we look at any project, large or small, we always look at the green angle,” she says. “Is there a way to do this that has a recycling component or can we try to save energy and costs? That’s how we always try to make decisions.”

Ms. Lang says St. Cuthbert’s is part of a trend among faith groups to invest time and money in going green. “Faith buildings nowadays are spending a lot of money on energy audits and retrofits. I’ve been doing this job for eight years and I’ve noticed that faith buildings are getting a lot more serious about this.”

She says the shift is due to climate change being a regular and visible part of daily life. “We’re seeing that we’re part of it – it’s not just something way out there anymore.”

In addition to its ongoing green initiatives, St. Cuthbert’s is one of four Anglican churches participating in the Faith & the Common Good’s three-year Energy Benchmark Program, which tracks gas and electricity consumption, greenhouse gas costs and energy usage intensity. The other Anglican churches taking part are the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., and Holy Trinity, Thornhill. For more information on the program, contact Ms. Lang at dlang@faithcommongood.org.

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More than 125 people attend the Voices for Peace conference in Toronto. At right, hip hop artist Shad speaks about the intersection of art and peacemaking.

PHOTOS BY CASSIDY HALL

Road Ready: The Rev. Andrew MacDonald blesses bicycles at St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto on April 28. People from the High Park neighbourhood, parishioners and two Toronto auxiliary police officers brought their bikes for the annual Blessing of the Bicycles service. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Church part of growing trend
to go green
A group of parishioners at St. Christopher's began a ping pong ministry really started to flourish. As our church went through a three-year missional transformation, we built a close relationship with a local high school, Bayview Secondary. We discovered that many teens also loved to play ping pong, but they had no place to play. As a result, our church started a ping pong and board game club on Thursday afternoons. Michele Taylor, our English ministry pastor, spearheaded this new outreach to the local students. We also purchased 16 new ping pong rackets.

The club started with eight youth and has steadily grown to 25 students. Every Thursday at 4:30 p.m., Pastor Michele leads a discussion time with the teens about mental health issues or Christian teachings. In the meantime, a new couple weeks a month, which has brought over 10 new people to play ping pong weekly. As a result, St. Christopher's now has ping pong sessions on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Dozens of people are playing ping pong weekly at St. Christopher's!

Besides being a great outreach opportunity, we wondered how we could channel this enthusiasm for an even greater good. We decided to use the momentum to both strengthen our church’s team spirit and to raise money for a great social-justice cause. FaithWorks, as the 18 organizations under the Faith-Works umbrella, we made it our goal to try to have an 18-hour ping pong relay marathon. The idea was shared with the leaders, everyone got excited about making it happen and an organizing committee set two goals: raise $8,000 for FaithWorks and have 60 people participate in the relay.

All the players endeavoured to find sponsors, and in our church announcements we urged parishioners, “If you are not playing, please sponsor someone to play.”

We started each of the two marathon relay days (March 22 and 24) with a prayer to remember the ministries of all 18 FaithWorks organizations. There was tremendous energy in the room. Then the games began. Some came to play for an hour, others for six hours. By the end of the first day, we had raised $2,850 with 33 players. By the 12th hour of the second day, we were edging close to our target of $8,000. After that, we were behind our target and reached $8,812. Donations continued to flow and at the end, we raised $9,002 for FaithWorks. Over 60 players contributed to the project.

Parishioners not only had a great time playing but also had opportunities for fellowship with new and potential church members from the community. One person has started to join our Thursday YEAH (outreach) club. We thank God for all these blessings. As Paul says in Romans 12:8, “We know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”

The Rev. Canon Philip Der is the incumbent of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill.
Cope restored after three-year effort

Bishop has connection to local church

BY WILLEM HART

BISHOP John Charles Roper (1858–1940) was appointed vicar of St. Thomas, Huron Street in Toronto in 1888, when the parish had dwindled to only six people. He is largely responsible for having revived it and introducing the parish to the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Before going to St. Thomas, he had been the Keble Professor of Theology at Trinity College, Oxford, a position he relinquished to become the chaplain of the newly formed Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto, where he formed a close relationship to its founder, Mother Hannah Grier Coome.

In 1897, he accepted a position as professor of theology at the General Theological Seminary in New York City. In 1912, he became the third Bishop of British Columbia and was translated to be the Bishop of Ottawa three years later, serving for 24 years, the last six as the Metropolitan of Ontario. It is not unlikely that Bishop Roper was presented with the beautifully embroidered “Roper Cope,” made by the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, when he became the Bishop of Ottawa. The cope was gifted to the parish of St. Thomas upon his retirement from the Diocese of Ottawa in 1939.

In House of God, A Parish History of St. Thomas, Huron Street, it is said that Bishop Roper cope on April 23 after spending three years restoring it. From left are Heather James, Valerie Chambers, Anne Robson, Joyce Cannell, Sheila Wilgar, Peggy Perkins, Joy Horwell, Doreen Stanton, Elaine Rowe and Louise Reid. At right, Louise Reid shows details of the cope. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

In the early 1990s, Altar Guild members Doreen Stanton and Donalda McTaggart thought better of the cope than treating it as somewhat different from when it was presented to Bishop Roper in 1915, is a beautiful example of fine needlework and embroidery. The Ecclesiastical Needlework Committee is thrilled with the results and the parish of St. Thomas is privileged to use the cope for years to come in worship to the honour of God.

Willem Hart is a member of St. Thomas, Huron Street.

Outdoor service refreshes

BY LILLIAN NEWBERY

LIKE a special blessing after a long winter, sunshine and a canopy of cloudless blue sky hung over the group engaged in St. Peter, Erindale’s first Christian Meditation in Nature service.

The service to mark Earth Day on April 22 was created and led by the Rev. Maria Nightingale, the church’s associate priest and chaplain to seniors, and youth minister Leisa Cordie. It was based on the idea of “forest bathing,” suggested by Cathy Robertson, the parish’s environment officer.

A group spanning seven decades in age straddled from the church to Erindale Park, acknowledging the traditional territory of the Huron/Wendat, Seneca and Mississaugas of the Credit River. As red-winged blackbirds trilled, Ms. Cordie began with prayer, then we walked to a spot in the woodland overlooking the Credit River.

Ms. Nightingale led the meditation, guiding us to an awareness of sound, feel, touch, smell and sight. Afterwards, everyone in the circle spoke of what they had noticed – the rushing sound of the river, traffic and passers-by on the path, the feel of sunlight and the breeze on skin, the smell of decaying leaves, the look of bright sunlight, green moss, red sumac panicles, silvery branches, light dancing on the river and a feeling of calm.

We listened to Psalm 148, which speaks of all of creation praising God, and concluded with prayer as we left the park refreshed.

Lillian Newbery is a member of St. Peter, Erindale.
COUNSELLING

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The Anglican will not be published in July. The deadline for the September issue is July 26. Parishes can also promote their events through the ‘in the neighborhood’ feature. Contact music@stmarksporthope.ca.

Music & Worship

MAY 27 - Rock Eucharist: The Music of Blue Rodeo, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy in the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary (Amy) McIntyre at 604-391-1960 for the September issue is July 26. The Anglican will not be published in July. The deadline for the September issue is July 26. Parishes can also promote their events through the ‘in the neighborhood’ feature. Contact music@stmarksporthope.ca.

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- St. John, Bowmoreville
- St. Matthew, St. Edmund, Mississauga
- St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills, South, July 15
- Trinity, Aurora

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):
- Parish of Churchill and Cooks town
- St. Andrew, Scarborough

Ordinations

The following individuals were ordained priests or deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 6.


The Rev. Jeffrey Boldt, Assistant Curate, Trinity, Streetsville, June 1.

The Rev. Adrienne Clements, Priest-in-Charge, St. Hilary (Cooksville), Mississauga, June 1.


The Rev. Stephen Blackmore, Regional Dean, Etobicoke-Humber, June 1.

The Rev. Alison Hari Singh, Assistant Curate, Grace Church, King Street, Toronto, June 1

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Anglicans organize prayer walk

BY STUART MANN

JUST hours after the deadly van rampage that killed 10 people and injured more than a dozen others in North York on April 23, the Church of the Incarnation at Bayview Avenue and Sheppard Avenue East opened its doors for a candlelight vigil.

The next day, nine more Anglican churches on the Yonge Street corridor between North York and Lake Ontario were open for prayers and pastoral care. Soon churches across the city and elsewhere in the diocese were providing space and special services for those dealing with the shock and grief.

“I think the churches have responded remarkably,” said Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Starcrother, where the tragedy occurred. “People who were hearing the news were in shock and were looking for comfort and some answers. I think they were looking to be together as well.”

In an interview shortly after the tragedy, he said he had talked to many people in the area, including one person who had seen the van drive by. “I’m hearing stories of Anglicans feeling vulnerable and, in some cases, afraid. But there is a strong sense of getting together with other people to pray. Many Anglicans are trying to make sense of what’s happened over the past couple of days by being together in community and making time for prayer and silence.”

The churches in York Mills Deanery organized a prayer walk on April 30 that followed the start of the van driver’s route. The walk began at the Finch subway station and proceeded down to St. George on Yonge, concluding with a vigil at the church. Anglicans also attended a multi-faith service on April 29 at Mel Lastman Square.

The vigil at the church of the

NEW BISHOP

Bishop Susan Bell, a former priest of the Diocese of Toronto, addresses the congregation during her ordination and consecration as the coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Niagara in Hamilton on May 5. Bishop Bell will become the Bishop of Niagara upon Bishop Michael Bird’s retirement. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Rev. Leonard Leader of St. George on Yonge, Toronto, speaks to a reporter before a prayer walk organized by the York Mills deanery a week after the tragedy. At right, Anglicans walk down Yonge Street, following the van driver’s route. Top right, the sign outside the Church of the Incarnation, Toronto, shows support for the community. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND SUBMITTED BY CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION.

Incarnation on the night of the tragedy was attended by about 20 people, including Bishop Robertson. “It was very beautiful and comforting” said the Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy, incumbent. “Bishop Kevin led us in prayers and there was lots of silence for those who had been affected. The church was very beautiful and we all had a candle to hold.”

The vigil included Taize songs, psalms and prayers for the victims and their families, and also for the driver of the van and his family. “It was very poignant, very moving,” said Ms. Gwynne-Timothy. She said the clergy in the area were devastated by the tragedy but were focussed on supporting others. “It’s hard to put into words how much this shakes you up, you have to stay grounded so you can help other people cope.”

The vigil had to be held at the Church of the Incarnation because the church closest to the scene of the rampage, St. George on Yonge, was cordoned off as police shut down that part of Yonge Street. St. George’s is located on Yonge Street just two stoplights south of Finch Avenue, near where the killings began.

“We’re right in the midst of it,” said the Rev. Leonard Leader, the priest in-charge of St. George’s, in an interview on April 25. He said the van had passed in front of the church and killed a pedestrian nearby.

The police barriers outside St. George’s were taken down on April 24 and the church promised to stay open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day for the remainder of the week. The church had received lots of offers of help, especially from clergy. “They’re saying, ‘If I’m needed, please let me know.’ It’s coming from across the diocese.”

Mr. Leader said the church provided space for private prayer, both in the chapel and the main sanctuary. Most people just wanted some time to pray. “Those who have come in so far have been pretty reflective,” he said.

Bishop Robertson visited St. George’s on the following Sunday, joining the church for its two English-speaking services and its Mandarin-speaking service. “It’s an opportunity for us to reclaim the space and try to bring some healing to that community,” he said.

At St. James Cathedral in downtown Toronto, the bell tolled for 10 minutes at noon on April 24-25 for those who had died. At the Church of the Redeemer on the corner of Bloor Street and Avenue Road, people were invited to write prayers and comments in chalk on a wall outside the church. By the end of the day, messages filled the wall and the pavement in front of it.

“A lot of messages were rooted in hope,” said the Rev. David Giffen, incumbent. Hundreds of people visited the church throughout the day, and in the evening, there was a community vigil. Bishop Robertson attended, as did people from some churches in the Yonge Street corridor and elsewhere. “We really just took time to grieve together and to put our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ,” said Mr. Giffen.

Archbishop Colin Johnson posted a statement on the diocese’s website and social media just hours after the rampage on April 23. “Tragedy has struck our city today,” he wrote. “I weep for those who have died. I join in prayer for those who are physically injured or suffering emotionally from having witnessed such carnage, and for those loved ones. It is hard to comprehend such violence.”

He wrote that on the Sunday before the tragedy, many Christian churches had celebrated Good Shepherd Sunday, recalling Jesus as the one who cares for all his people in times of anguish. “Psalm 23 was read, which includes the verse ‘though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me. In the midst of such trauma, in the fear and confusion, anger and heartache, may we know that God is with us, with mercy and justice, healing and compassion. As the events unfold may we find ways to come together as a community of freedom, unity and peace.’”

Archbishop Fred Hills, the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, posted a statement as well. Churches and individuals took to social media soon after the tragedy to express their sorrow and support. The Rev. Chris Harper, the diocese’s Indigenous Native Priest, wrote on Facebook, “With all our prayers ascending, may the peace and love of God our Creator be drawn in to embrace all affected.”

Pennington Park Ministry, a diocesan outreach in Don Mills, wrote on Facebook: “We are praying today for our fellow Torontonians who have been taken, and those that remain. Today we pray, tomorrow we pray for our city to be different, to come together in the face of tragedy.”

Messages of support and encouragement poured in from around the world on social media. Archbishop Francisco de Assis da Silva, Primate of Brazil, said on Twitter: “Prayers raised for consolation and hope to the people of Toronto. Our full support to our Canadian brothers and sisters!”

See you in September

The Anglican will not be published in July and August. It will resume publishing in September. To keep up with news and events, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. The staff and volunteer teams of The Anglican wish you a pleasant summer.