Andrew Asbil elected coadjutor bishop

Will become next Bishop of Toronto

BY STUART MANN

THE Very Rev. Andrew Asbil, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, has been elected coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Toronto. He will become the 12th Bishop of Toronto when Archbishop Colin Johnson, who currently holds the position, retires at the end of the year.

“I am overwhelmed,” he said to about 600 Synod members after his election at the cathedral on June 9. “And I am humbled. To my core. Never in a million years would I have imagined this moment. But I am deeply grateful for it.”

Bishop-elect Asbil, 57, was elected on the third ballot, ahead of Bishop Victoria Matthews, the former diocesan bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand and a former suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto.

The other nominees in the election were Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley; the Rev. Canon David Harrison, the incumbent of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto; Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Scarborough; and Bishop Riscylla Shaw, the area bishop of Trent-Durham. They withdrew after the second ballot.

Bishop-elect Asbil received 167 votes from the clergy and 198 votes from the laity on the third ballot. Bishop Matthews received 120 votes from the clergy and 166 votes from the laity. They required 145 votes from the clergy and 106 votes from the laity to be elected. Afterwords, Synod passed a motion to declare the election unanimous.

The election has been confirmed by the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. A consecration service for Bishop-elect Asbil will be held on Sept. 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the cathedral. All are invited. His installation service as Bishop of Toronto will take place in January. He will automatically become Bishop of Toronto on Jan. 1, 2019 after Archbishop Johnson retires on Dec. 31, 2018.

After the election, Bishop-elect Asbil praised and thanked his fellow nominees and said he was looking forward to working with them. He then addressed Synod.

“A word to the clergy of this diocese: I am overwhelmed at how gifted a group you are – how talented and faithful, serving at a time when it is very difficult to be a shepherd of the faith when faith seemingly is not talked about much in the market square. I pledge to walk with you if you will walk with me, to pray for you if you will pray for me, that we will move together.” He thanked his wife Mary and their five children.

Finally, he said, “This world needs the Church – desperately. This world that so often settles for second best with cynicism and putting others down needs to see something different. We need the Church – desperately.”

He thanked the congregation of St. James Cathedral, where he has served since 2016. “We were just getting warmed up,” he said. “As I move across the way (to the Diocesan Centre), know that our relationship will continue in a new way and we will always walk together.” He thanked his wife Mary and their five children.

In an interview afterwards, he said he is looking forward to working with and learning from Archbishop Johnson in the coming months. “I’ve long admired his leadership and the way he’s been able to create space for the entire diocese. It’s an ethos that I share with him. It’s one thing to admire that from a distance, but now suddenly I have to imagine slipping into those cracks and to help lift up the broken-hearted so that they have hope and are not forgotten.”

He added: “I may be a little frightened right now. In fact, I may be really frightened. But I know that if you walk with me and I walk with you, we will be one always in Christ. And may God give us that glory and hope.”

As we begin another season of The Anglican, please consider making a donation to the Anglican Journal Appeal (an envelope is tucked inside this issue for your convenience.) This will ensure that the paper continues to carry photos and stories of Anglicans in our diocese who are living out their faith in so many different and fascinating ways. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.

Stuart Mann, Editor
New scholarship honours Primate

Clergy, laity can study in Jerusalem

BY STUART MANN

A major new scholarship fund has been created to help clergy and laity attend courses at St. George's College in Jerusalem, one of the leading centres of continuing education in the Anglican Communion. A $250,000 grant from the Diocese of Toronto’s Our Faith–Our Hope campaign has established The Most Reverend Frederick James Hiltz Scholarship Fund, named after the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

“I am enormously grateful for the generosity of the diocese to establish this scholarship,” says Archbishop Hiltz. “It is a wonderful act and it’s very humbling to have my name attached to it. My prayer is that the scholarship will prove to be a great blessing for the people who receive it and have the opportunity to go to St. George’s.”

Four to five scholarships will be awarded annually. All active clergy of the Diocese of Toronto and one of the people who receive it and have the opportunity to go to St. George’s. “In many respects, when I look at the scholarship with my name attached to it, it’s very humbling. For me, it’s a recognition of the Church’s witness there is enhanced.”

The scholarships will cover the full cost of tuition and related expenses for programs at St. George’s College, which offers a variety of courses on Jesus, early Christian history, the Holy Land, the Bible and Muslim-Christian relations. Several courses combine classroom learning with visits to key sites in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Hiltz says he was surprised that the scholarship was named after him. “It came right out of the blue. It’s beautiful.” Although he has visited St. George’s College many times, he has not actually studied there – a situation he hopes to remedy soon. “To do a course there is on my bucket list,” he says. He is pleased that the funds will allow people to visit the Holy Land, which he says can be a life-changing experience. “Most people who’ve been to the Holy Land, particularly the Diocese of Jerusalem and St. George’s College, says Bishop Philip Poole, a retired bishop of Canada and one of the people responsible for creating the award. Since Archbishop Hiltz was elected Primate in 2007, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Jerusalem have undertaken several initiatives to strengthen ties with each other. Canadian Anglicans observe Jerusalem Sunday each spring. The Companions of Jerusalem have established to support the Anglican Church in the Middle East. Archbishop Hiltz and national church staff have visited the diocese five times and Archbishop Sielleh DAWani of the Diocese of Jerusalem has come to Canada on several occasions.

Archbishop Hiltz says the scholarship fund is a recognition of the close ties between the Canadian and Jerusalem churches. “In many respects, when I look at the scholarship with my name attached to it, it’s very humbling. For me, it’s a recognition of the Church’s witness there is enhanced.”

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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

Tickets on Sale now!
Early bird deadline September 21

Individual tickets
Early bird: $175
Regular: $200

Parish tables
Early bird: $1,550
Regular table: $1,750

To purchase your tickets visit: bishopscompanytoronto.ca/the-bishops-company-dinner/

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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How the creeds shape us

 CHRISTENDOM – a culture that ostensibly supported (or actually underlined, depending on your view) some semblance of Christian norms – the Church has now been freed to joyfully proclaim the Gospel in fresh ways, without being encroached upon by an old-fashioned desire to be thought well of by our culture. When we say the creeds, we are boldly declaring that the world is not as it should be and that God has acted decisively in Jesus Christ to renew all of creation. It is this kind of public witness that is the root of all Christian ministries of justice, peace and reconciliation; if you want to start an rebellion against all the evil and repressive structures of the state, just start saying the creeds in the public square.

Humans are wonderfully creative, and there are many ways to use the creeds. As a parish priest, I frequently used the Q&A version of the Apostles’ Creed from the baptismal service, and there are many enacting musical settings. People have often told me that they don’t believe every line of the creeds, and I always told them not to worry – God still believed in them, and they could step into the family story whenever and wherever they liked. Conscious of the diverse nature of the congregations I visit, I will sometimes introduce the creeds with an invitation: “Mindful of our questions and doubts, please join me if you are able in this statement of Christian hope.”

The creeds are a short form for something much larger. They endure and unite us, and they remind us – and announce to the world – that in Jesus Christ, God is saying ILYSM (I love you so much).

BISHOP’S OPINION

By Bishop Jenny Anderson

I got to know Terry, as he was affectionate, encoutering Jesus, to build relationshp, to discover faith, to participate and experience this.
PROUD
Members of St. James Cathedral, top, and the Parish of Coboconk and Fenelon Falls, above, walk with other Anglicans in the 38th annual Pride Parade along Bloor Street and down Yonge Street in Toronto on June 24. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

FRIENDLY STOP
Bishop Rob Hardwick of the Diocese of Qu’Appelle (holding bicycle) stopped at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on June 30 during his cross-country ride to raise funds for the Anglican Healing Fund and Indigenous ministries. Joining Bishop Hardwick and his wife Lorraine (in purple shirt in front of him) are riders and friends, both clergy and lay, from the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Hardwick, who started the day in Hamilton, also stopped at St. Margaret, New Toronto. His ride from Hamilton to Toronto raised $7,600. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ON A MISSION
Young adults from the Diocese of Fredericton gather outside the Yonge Street Mission in Regent Park, Toronto during a week-long mission trip to the Diocese of Toronto in early May. While here, they worked with non-profit organizations and shelter programs, and visited the Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, Ont. The week was devoted to learning, serving, and sharing the love of Christ through discipleship. Last year, they visited Boston. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON
We always seem to be cooking up plans

Jillian Ruch is an Area Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Episcopal Area of York-Scarborough and chair of the Archbishop’s Youth Ministry Committee (AYMC).

If I told you only that AYMC is a committee that meets monthly to strategize about youth ministry in the diocese, that would probably be a little boring! We are so much more than that. Every time we meet, we lessen the kilometres between us and recognize that as youth leaders in different churches, we get excited and struggle about the same things. Our strength comes from our collective sense of humour and mind. We are a strong committee with a membership of about 12 people, including the four other youth ministry coordinators (Ian Physick, Alexandra Machintosh, Nancy Hannah and the Rev. Charlotte Taylor) and seven volunteers. At the heart of our meetings, we share in our love of Jesus and youth ministry coordinators (Ian Physick, Alexandra Machintosh, Nancy Hannah and the Rev. Charlotte Taylor) and seven volunteers. At the heart of our meetings, we share in our love of Jesus and youth ministry.

We always seem to be cooking up plans that will help build capacity in our diocese for youth ministry to flourish. We are about to go on retreat to Muskoka Woods at the end of September, which always proves to be exciting, humorous, tiring and inspiring – all at the same time. We are also working on an interface, a social justice event planned for Oct. 13. Lastly and probably most importantly, we are working together to form a strategic plan for how we can equip those who are working in youth ministry, how we can engage the wider church in bolstering youth ministry, and how we can communicate all the awesomeness that our youth ministers are doing while harnessing the power of our youth to enact change in our church communities.

It’s so hard to choose the best thing about working with youth because there are so many. They ask incredibly honest questions about their faith and about why we do what we do every Sunday. They are insightful beyond their years and ask the questions that adults on a regular Sunday would never ask, like “Who really wrote the Bible?” or “Why are there so many names for things in our church?” Youth have been called by many the “research and development department” that inform our church practices.

One of the hardest things about working with youth is that they are often committed to other things in their already very scheduled lives. This can prove difficult as they can’t always commit until the very last minute to come to an event. But, when they are supported by their families, youth have the intrinsic ability to become valued, engaged and sparkling members of their congregations.

I was born in Toronto and have lived in many places since then, from Calgary to York-Scarborough and Pearl River (New York), London (United Kingdom) and have settled back in Toronto. I have a social work degree and my current full-time position is as a child welfare supervisor in Toronto. Prior to that position, I also worked in various settings such as group homes, camps and schools for children with behavioural issues.

My spiritual journey has been a winding one. I now know that God was always watching but I did not open the door to Him until I was 23. The most important milestone was when I walked into a church and asked to speak to a priest. After patiently answering my many questions, the priest invited me to an adult confirmation class; I accepted, was confirmed and became a part of my church’s community, volunteering with our youth group. I found my volunteer- ing experience overwhelmingly positive and gained so much knowledge from the youth, through learning about their faith journeys and listening to their questions. I began asking harder theological questions of myself. This, along with my own discerning, led me to begin a Master of Theological Studies to really understand my faith on a deeper level. I am now only five courses away from graduating, which is really exciting. My faith now is as deep as it has ever been and I truly understand, through my life experiences, that it is only through God’s strength that I can make it through my every day.

Five years from now seems very far away! I find this a difficult question as my life is going through a transition period with the sudden death of my mother in December 2013. She will be the mother of two teenage boys, and we will still have our sailing boat and will have enjoyed a few more long-distance cruises on Lake Ontario. As for career plans, in five years I will be a child welfare supervisor and still enjoying my area coordinator job, even more than now, as youth ministry will be thriving and a firm network of youth ministers will have been built across the diocese.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 is my favourite passage from scripture. This became my favourite passage in March, 2015. I was in a season of sadness, having just lost my grandmother and experiencing a difficult incident at work. I went on a silent retreat at the convent for some stillness in the midst of a lot of external noise. During contemplative prayer in the morning, Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 was the selected reading. God gave me the gift of hearing a passage I did not know, at the exact time I would hear and use His words. This passage stays with me as I go through another season and have the confidence to know that this season shall also come to an end and the cycle will continue, all with God’s help and guidance.

Jillian Ruch describes her spiritual journey as a winding one.

ARE YOU A PARISH NURSE?

DOES YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE A HEALING MINISTRY?

The Diocesan Network of Parish Nurses, in partnership with the Cathedral Church of St. James, invites you to a time of fellowship and reflection, OCTOBER 17TH, 10:00AM TILL 3:00PM at St. James Cathedral, 106 King St. E., Toronto.

Across the Diocese of Toronto parishes respond to Christ’s calling of wholeness and health in a variety of ways. Please consider attending this Oct. 17th event where participants will be encouraged to share the wisdom and experience of their healing ministries with each other.

Our goal for the day is to build an informal network of parish nurses and others engaged in healing ministries where skills development and learning activities can be planned.

For information and to register contact; Lanadee Lampman, RN, Parish Nurse, St. James Cathedral llampman@stjamescathedral.ca 416-364-7865 ext 232
Reverend Canon Douglas Graydon, Coordinator of Health Care Chaplains dgraydon@toronto.anglican.ca 416-363-6021 ext 236

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LOFT Community Services 15 Toronto Street, 5th Floor Toronto, ON M5C 2E3 www.loftcs.org
Church responds to shooting spree

Cleric helps plan vigil

BY STUART MANN

ARCHBISHOP Colin Johnson and his wife Ellen joined thousands of people for a vigil on Danforth Avenue in Toronto on July 25 after a man shot and killed a young woman and a girl in the neighbourhood four days earlier.

The shooting spree, which injured 13 others, took place outside St. Barnabas Anglican Church on Danforth Avenue. “We were right in the middle of it,” said the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, priest-in-charge. The church was open the next day to help people cope. About 50 people showed up. “Some just wanted to sit quietly, others wanted to talk,” said Ms. Lewis. “For a lot of people, it brought up some really sad things. They were going through difficult things and they just needed someone to talk to.”

Ms. Lewis and other local clergy met with community leaders to organize the vigil, which started near Danforth Church and ended at nearby Alexander the Great Parkette. Among those in attendance were Premier Doug Ford, Mayor John Tory and police chief Mark Saunders. It included prayers, songs and speeches.

Ms. Lewis says she was glad her church could help the community begin to heal. “It’s how we should shine as Church – by being there for people. It has been exhausting emotionally and physically but it feels good to be able to do something.”

She said the neighbourhood was rallying. “It’s a very tight knit group.” Some local residents made cookies and brought them to the church on the day after the shooting, for people who dropped by. “People just needed to be together and talk. There’s such compassion in this neighbourhood and this has really brought it out.”

Here’s where you belong

At Presentation Manor, we’re building a seniors’ community that’s about inclusion and embracing the simple pleasures of life among friends. Sponsored by Catholic organizations, Presentation Manor will be home to Catholic religious women and men but also to laypeople and others looking for that sense of belonging and fellowship, regardless of the path their faith has taken. Diversity of life experiences enriches us all.

Presentation Manor may be just where you belong.

DROP IN! September 21, 22, 23 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Join us at the Information Centre and learn about Presentation Manor. Refreshments served.
Diocese supports new Indigenous health centre

Grant reflects ongoing commitment to healing and reconciliation

BY STUART MANN

The Diocese of Toronto has given a $250,000 grant to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation to help build a new Indigenous health and cultural centre in Toronto. Diocesan Council approved the funding at its meeting on May 24.

The gift will come out of the diocese’s Ministry Allocation Fund, 10 per cent of which is tithe to projects or ministries outside the diocesan budget. Previous grants have included $300,000 to the Diocese of Athabasca to help youth after the fire in Fort McMurray, $200,000 for refugee sponsorship, and $100,000 to replenish the national church’s Anglican Healing Fund.

The new centre, which will be built near Front and Cherry streets in the city’s West Don lands, will include healing gardens and outdoor therapeutic spaces, a Family, Child and Youth unit, expanded services for LGBTQ clients and palliative care services.

The centre will be owned and operated by Anishnawbe Health Toronto (AHT), which provides traditional health and healing programs for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and their non-Indigenous family members in Toronto. Founded in 1987, AHT is Canada’s first fully accredited Indigenous community health service.

“We’re really excited to have this tremendous support from the Anglican Church,” says Julie Cookson, the executive director of the Anishnawbe Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of AHT. “We’re grateful that this has come forward and we’re hopeful this campaign is the start of a friendship between AHT and the Indigenous community and other groups across the city.”

Toronto has about 70,000 Indigenous people, the largest and most diverse Aboriginal community in Ontario. According to a recent study, 86 per cent of the community lives at or below Canada’s low-income line and one-third are precariously housed or homeless; chronic health issues such as diabetes, asthma and arthritis are much more prevalent than in the general population. Mental health issues affect 80-90 per cent of AHT’s clients.

AHT currently provides services at three locations in Toronto, including its main centre at 225 Queen St. E. The organization plans to move all its services to the new building in the West Don lands. Construction is expected to begin in 2019 with completion by the end of 2020.

The total cost of the project will be $31 million, with $17 million coming from Ontario’s Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care’s capital program, an estimated $4 million from the sale of AHT’s Queen Street property and other government sources, and $10 million from a public fundraising campaign. The land was a legacy gift of the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, held in Toronto in 2015.

Ms. Cookson says the new building will convey the cultural richness of the Indigenous community and foster reconciliation through the reclamation and restoration of traditional healing practices. One of the Truth and Reconciliation’s Calls to Action (91) calls on churches, in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, to establish funding for healing and reconciliation projects at the local level.

She says the four-storey building will be part of an “Indigenous hub” for the city. “It will be space where the Indigenous community and the city can come together and recognize the strength and beauty of Indigenous culture.”

Archbishop Colin Johnson said he was pleased that Diocesan Council approved the grant. “It recognizes the ongoing commitment of the Diocese of Toronto to healing and reconciliation – in this case specifically with Indigenous populations that live in the City of Toronto and beyond,” he said. “The urban Indigenous population is one of the most underserved, and this reaches out using money that we have raised through the sale of property to support people for whom connection to the land is so important.”

As part of its commitment to healing and reconciliation, the diocese contributed $5 million to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement and created the Robert L. Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry. The diocese’s Our Faith Our Hope campaign gave a $500,000 grant to the Council of the North and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People for healing work with clergy and caregivers in remote communities.

The Rev. Chris Harper, the diocese’s Indigenous Native Priest, serves as pastor to the diocese’s Indigenous population.
New trust launched at film gala

Fund aims to fulfil Bishop John Strachan’s dream

BY STUART MANN

MORE than 160 years ago, Bishop John Strachan wrote to the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Toronto, expressing his hope of establishing an endowment that would fully fund the office of the Bishop of Toronto.

The endowment, he wrote, “will lay a sure foundation for the Church of God in Canada for all future time, and also provide for her rapid increase.”

Bishop Strachan, who was the first Bishop of Toronto and the founder of the diocese, did not live to see his dream realized. But a new trust fund may see it come true after all.

The John Strachan Trust, named after the indefatigable bishop who left a lasting mark upon the city and province, had its official kickoff on May 23 at the Eglinton Grand, a former art deco theatre, built in 1936, that would become the ideal venue for the gala. “We wanted to do something really fresh and exciting, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video,” says Mr. Cassabon, who organized the event. “We wanted it to be fun and whimsical,” says Mr. Cassabon, who organized the event. “We wanted to do something really fresh and exciting, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video,” says Mr. Cassabon, who organized the event. “We wanted to do something really fresh and exciting, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video,” says Mr. Cassabon, who organized the event.

By Mr. Rammell, writing his letter to the clergy and as a diocese.”

The film was shot over six months by videographer Nicholas Bradford-Ewart with the support of Martha Holmen, the diocese’s Digital Communications Coordinator, and Michael Cassabon, the diocese’s Manager of Major Gifts and Legacy Giving.

“Our goal isn’t just to raise money — it’s to help people understand what the Bishop of Toronto does, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video,” says Mr. Cassabon. “We wanted to do something really fresh and exciting, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video.”

The film opens with an evocative scene of Bishop Strachan, played by actor John Rammell, writing his letter to the people of the diocese, circa 1854. It then fast-forwards to the present with scenes of Archbishop Johnson carrying out his ministry as the Bishop of Toronto — leading Synod, teaching and preaching, celebrating the Eucharist, advocating on behalf of the poor, instituting clergy into their new parishes, meeting laity and more.

The film was shot over six months by videographer Nicholas Bradford-Ewart with the support of Martha Holmen, the diocese’s Digital Communications Coordinator, and Michael Cassabon, the diocese’s Manager of Major Gifts and Legacy Giving. Mr. Cassabon is confident the trust will reach its target. “As Bishop John Strachan wrote, we can raise the money if we make people ‘fully alive to the importance of the measure,’” he says.

By Mr. Rammell, writing his letter to the clergy and as a diocese.”

For more information on The John Strachan Trust, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/foundation or contact Michael Cassabon at 416-363-6021 ext. 242, or email mcassabon@toronto.anglican.ca.
Play brings history to life

BY SUSAN WOODS

Not many small Anglican churches have been in continuous ministry for 180 years. And not many can boast that the story of their founding can be discovered in the journals of a woman whose descendants still worship there. The church is St. Thomas, Shanty Bay. The Journals of Mary O’Brien 1828 to 1838 recount Mary’s and husband Edward’s efforts to build a community in the Upper Canada wilderness.

Theatre by The Bay, a Barrie-based professional company, had approached the church with a proposal to produce an original play based on Mary’s journals. It would be set in Shanty Bay and presented in our church hall – surely a unique way to celebrate our important anniversary.

Leah Holder, actor, director, and screenwriter, had discovered Mary O’Brien’s story and became deeply committed to transforming it into a play. In Leah’s mind, the observations of this articulate, 19th century woman are social history, far too infrequently presented.

St. Thomas members had little idea of what was in store. The parish hall was taken over with stage lights, a sound system, risers for seating the audience, and blackout curtains all around. Coffee hour was adjourned to the porch for three Sundays!

There were 17 performances in all, and Mary of Shanty Bay was acclaimed a sold-out hit. The four actors were outstanding, bringing the O’Brien family’s story to vivid life in the very location where it all happened. The opening night champagne reception was over-subscribed by friends and neighbours, all showing their support for St. Thomas.

For us at St. Thomas this meant that we were able to welcome hundreds of people to our historic site, introduce them to our founding story, show them around the church and even the graveyard where the principals are buried. On top of this, we met and became friends with the cast and crew whose work inspired us all.

Susan Woods is a member of St. Thomas, Shanty Bay.
‘This world needs the Church’

Bishop elect looks forward to new role

Continued from Page 1

into his shoes and taking on the leadership and that’s somewhat overwhelming and intimidating and yet exciting. This is an opportunity for me to enter into a time of deep listening and building trust with the diocese and for the diocese to build trust with me.”

Archbishop Johnson said he was delighted with Bishop-elect Asbil’s election. “He is very capable, with a lot of depth in the life of the Church. He will bring a huge number of gifts to the ministry of bishop.”

He said Bishop-elect Asbil will join him full-time at the Diocesan Centre by the end of September. “I will spend time working with him, to help him learn some of the ropes and see some of the parameters of the job. I will also ask him to spend some time going to the parishes in the diocese and getting to know them.”

Before the election started, Chancellor Clare Burns announced that Synod had received a formal protest with regards to two of the nominees. She said the Nominations Committee was satisfied that all the nominees were clergy in good standing and that the Synod could proceed. Bishop John Chapman of the Diocese of Ottawa, who presided, ruled that the Synod could and should proceed.

Bishop-elect Asbil is a graduate of Huron College in London, Ont. He served as a parish priest in the Diocese of Niagara before becoming the incumbent of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., in Toronto in 2001. In 2016 he became the rector of St. James Cathedral and the dean of Toronto. He is the chair of the diocese’s Remuneration and Compensation Working Group and has served on Diocesan Council, the diocese’s Executive Board and many other committees and boards. His father, Walter Asbil, was the Bishop of Niagara in the 1990s. “My father and I have always shared the same kind of visions for ministry, and to find myself now in the same office is a deep joy – beyond words,” he said.

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GODSPELL
Members of Contemplative Fire, a fresh expression of church, pray for the Rev. Anne Crosthwait and her husband Hugh Crosthwait (seated) during the community’s 10th anniversary celebration on July 20 at St. Leonard, Toronto. Ms. Crosthwait founded Contemplative Fire in the diocese in 2008. She and her husband were moving to British Columbia. The Toronto community continues to meet. It offers a monthly worship gathering called ‘Way Beyond Religion’ on the last Sunday of the month as well as two smaller group gatherings – ‘Finding Stillness’ each week and ‘Deep Listening’ once a month. For more information, visit www.contemplativelfire.ca.

Faith groups share beliefs over dinner
Christians, Jews, Muslims enjoy food, friendship

NEW BOOK EXPLORES HAROLD PERCY’S MINISTRY
A new book that explores the ministry of the Rev. Canon Harold Percy, a priest of the diocese whose work and ideas influenced the Church at the local, diocesan and national level, will be launched on Sept. 15 from 2:30 p.m. at Trinity, Streetsville; 69 Queen St. S., Mississauga. All are invited.

Good News Church: Celebrating the Legacy of Harold Percy, edited by John Bowen and the Rev. Michael Knowles, contains 18 essays exploring the lessons and impact of Canon Percy’s ministry on evangelism, discipleship, worship, preaching, prayer, mentoring, congregational outreach, financial stewardship, and more. Authors include the Rev. Canon Judy Paulsen, Bishop Linda Nicholls, Peter Patterson, and David and Diane Toycen.

Canon Percy was a long-time incumbent of Trinity, Streetsville and is currently an honorary assistant at Christ Church St. James, Toronto. He will be at the book launch. For more information, visit www.haroldbooklaunch@gmail.com.

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September 2018
Church gives LGBTQ youth a safe place

 Teens can be themselves without being harassed

BY STUART MANN

In a conversation with his mother and aunt in 2015, Mylo Woods talked about how difficult it was to be a trans youth. “Everyone was bullying me, using homophobic slurs, making me feel angry and depressed, even suicidal,” he recalls telling them.

During the conversation, Mylo said he wished he had a place to get away from it all. “I just wanted something for me and other kids where we could be ourselves and forget worrying about those things anymore,” he says.

His comment struck a chord. “In my world, if a child asks you if you can build a safe space for them, you say yes,” says his aunt, the Rev. Erin Martin, the incumbent of St. James the Apostle, Sharon, located about 50 km north of Toronto.

Ms. Martin and by Mo’s mother, Kit Woods, had an idea. What about creating a safe place for LGBTQ youth and their friends at the church? The women, who are sisters, asked some parishioners if they would like to help. They said yes, and in 2016 A Safe Place was born.

Hold in the parish hall, the twice-monthly gathering gives LGBTQ youth and their friends an opportunity to hang out together and be themselves. There is no structured program. Sometimes they simply shout “I’m gay!” or “I’m trans!” or “I don’t know what I am!” It is a release for some of the kids because they can’t say it at home. Often they share stories about their lives such as being misgendered or rejected because they are gay. Then they rally around each other for support. It isn’t all serious—they have a lot of fun as well.

Mylo, 14, says it has been a life line for him. “I’ve gotten to know so many other kids like me who have gone through what I have, so they get it,” he says. “A Safe Place has cool people and we do cool things like normal people.”

Since it started, A Safe Place has grown from four youths to about a dozen. It is for youth aged 12 to 18. Once they reach 18, they’re asked to be mentors to the younger kids.

The youth come from the surrounding area and as far away as Markham. Some have come out to their families and others haven’t. Some do not tell their parents exactly where they are going. “They’ve told their parents they’re going to a youth group at a church, but they haven’t revealed what kind of youth group it is,” says Ms. Martin. “It’s still not a hundred per cent safe for them in their families.”

A Safe Place has mostly grown through word of mouth or by the youth bringing their friends. Ms. Martin gets calls from organizations across Ontario wanting to learn more. Recently the RCMP’s headquarters in London, Ont., asked if it could raise money for the group.

“We’re just a tiny group but apparently there are not that many like us out there,” she says. There is a similar group in Newmarket but not many others outside of Toronto.

In addition to financial support from the church and outside groups, A Safe Place received a $5,000 Reach Grant from the diocese to get started. Reach Grants help churches try innovative forms of ministry to connect with people who aren’t yet attending church.

Ms. Martin says St. James the Apostle and the surrounding community have been very supportive. In recognition of their efforts, the group was given an honoured place in the York Region Pride Parade.

A Safe Place’s efforts, she was asked to be the grand marshal of the York Region Pride Parade on June 16 and the group was given an honoured place in the parade.

She praises her parishioners. “Even those people who didn’t totally understand what LGBTQ kids were going through could understand that children need a safe place. We’re grateful because we absolutely love being a part of it. These are incredible, creative kids that are a joy to be around.”

A Safe Place’s founder, Ms. Woods, says “Supporting LGBTQ youth is not only important, but necessary.”

Parents get support, too

LGBTQ youth and their friends across the country are finding support in the church.

When A Safe Place started, some of the parents stayed at the church after dropping off their kids. Their kids had come out to them and they didn’t know what to do. They were confused and had questions.

Kit Woods, the mother of a trans youth and one of the founders of A Safe Place, had been through it herself and knew what they were feeling. “Because I had experience, I’d say ‘Do you want to step outside and talk for a few minutes?’ I’ve been where you are.”

Ms. Woods saw that the parents needed a safe place as well, so she created A Place. A group of parents now meet once a month to talk. “We don’t have to temper our words or thoughts for people who might not understand,” she says. “We just get to talk like real people who share an experience.”

She says her son’s experience and creating A Place has opened up a new world for her and her sister, the Rev. Erin Martin. “We now have a passion for LGBTQ youth and adults and being true allies,” she says. “It’s something we’re so grateful for because we absolutely love being a part of it. These are incredible, creative kids that are a joy to be around.”

The bishop’s company dinner

Archbishop Colin Johnson

The Bishop’s Company Dinner on Oct. 19 will be an evening of honour Archbishop Colin Johnson before his retirement at the end of the year. The dinner will be held at the Toronto Marriott in downtown Toronto. For tickets, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Our Faith–Our Hope deadline Sept. 15

Applications for the diocese’s Our Faith–Our Hope grants must be submitted by Sept. 15. There are five categories of grants that parishes and congregations can apply for: adaptive re-use of parish facilities; communicating in a wireless world; enabling parishes to become multi-staffed; leadership development; and pioneering ministry. Grant amounts have ranged from $1,400 toward the tuition for a professional development course to $416,000 for major renovations to a church building. The last chance for parishes and individuals to apply for grants will be September 2021.

Stories sought about flu epidemic

Stories about flu epidemic

St. James Cathedral is presenting an exhibit of an 1818 worldwide epidemic. If you have a story of how your family was affected, contact Nancy Mallett, the cathedral’s archivist, at archives@stjamescathedral.ca.
difficulties they have experienced.

The program was called “Shipwreck: Rescued by Jesus.” Each morning, 32 children (the castaways), 20 adults and 17 teenagers would meet at the morning “Castaway Sing & Play” to learn a Bible point and a key Bible verse.

The program was designed to emphasize to everyone involved that when life causes you to feel like you have been shipwrecked, Jesus has promised to rescue you. The theme was reinforced as the children travelled from one station to another. These stations included: “Imagination Station,” where children learned, through engaging science experiments, how God can make the impossible possible; “KidVid Cinema,” a daily video clip featuring children living out their faith and having an opportunity to explore their own lives and faith; and “Ship Rec Games,” fun-filled games that allowed the children to celebrate their outdoor voices and God-given energy.

“The castaways,” who were volunteering this summer, were outstanding. The teenagers were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

It was music to our ears to hear questions such as, “Is God real?” and were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

At the beginning of the week, they tentatively asked questions such as, “Is God real?” and were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

To celebrate the Vacation Bible School, the participants’ families were invited to a Sunday worship service that included testimonies from children, teenagers and adults, as well as music and video clips from the week. A barbecue lunch was held after the service.

Participants in the Vacation Bible School at St. Andrew, Alliston, gather for a photo outside the church. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANDREW’S

Participants sought for Parish Website Project

The diocese’s Communications department is seeking parishes interested in participating in its Parish Website Project, which helps parishes develop professionally designed, custom-built websites on WordPress, an easy-to-use platform.

At the end of the project, parishes will be given training and assume control of their own websites. Interested parishes should have two to four team members who are prepared to think strategically about the purpose of their website and write content. Each parish is asked to contribute $500 toward the total cost.

The next round of parishes will be given training and assume control of their own websites. Interested parishes should have two to four team members who are prepared to think strategically about the purpose of their website and write content. Each parish is asked to contribute $500 toward the total cost.

To date, more than 20 parishes across the diocese have taken part in this program, which is funded by a grant from the Our Faith-Our Hope campaign. To learn more or express interest, email Martha Holmen, the diocese’s Digital Communications Coordinator, at mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca. To learn more, email Martha Holmen, the diocese’s Digital Communications Coordinator, at mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca.

The youth choir from St. Clement, Eglington, directed by Karlis Kinnon, performs at the Reaching Out Through Music’s 10th anniversary concert at Eglington St. George’s United Church in Toronto on May 12. Reaching Out Through Music provides musical opportunities for children in St. James Town, one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Toronto. Some of the proceeds from the concert went to the St. James Town Homework Club, Moorelands Camp and a school in Haiti. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Anglican

Parish News

September 2018

Waubaushene drop-in donates to charities

CHRIST Church, Waubaushene’s weekly drop-in soup luncheon provides a hot meal and friendship to anyone in the community. Under the direction of Ken Fulford, volunteers from Christ Church prepare soup, sandwiches, desserts, tea and coffee for about 18 people each week.

Mr. Fulford obtained a grant from the diocese to upgrade the church’s kitchen and to buy supplies. The cost of a meal at the drop-in is a freewill donation, with the proceeds going to local charities.

This past summer, the drop-in donated $791 to The Benny Club, a local charitable organization, to send five children to camp. The drop-in also gave $1,000 to Warm and Cozy Children’s Charity, which provides needy youngsters with good quality winter clothing.

Sheila Dickson is the youth and family coordinator at St. Andrew, Alliston.

In their young lives. At the beginning of the week, they tentatively asked questions such as, “Is God real?” and were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

It was music to our ears to hear questions such as, “Is God real?” and were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

A highlight was our ability to give each child and teenager their own Bible to take home with them. The Bibles were provided by the Canadian Bible Society. The older children received a copy of Spark magazine, provided by Gideons International. We would like to thank both organizations for their generous contributions.

To celebrate the Vacation Bible School, the participants’ families were invited to a Sunday worship service that included testimonies from children, teenagers and adults, as well as music and video clips from the week. A barbecue lunch was held after the service.

Ken Fulford presents a cheque to Cathy Cato-Larosa of The Benny Club. Joining them is the Rev. Eileen Steele, priest-in-charge of the Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIST CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY

Archbishop Colin Johnson meets children at St. Barnabas, Chester on June 10 during the church’s 160th anniversary celebrations. The weekend included a dinner with entertainment. The church welcomed past members and clergy and members of the Latvian community, who have been worshipping there for more than 60 years. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BARNABAS CHURCH
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Looking Ahead

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

Music & Worship

September 2018

- Messy Church (for infants to 99 years old), an introduction to faith with “A Wrinkle in Time” adventure through time and space, 5-7 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto
- September 29 – Consecration of Co-adjutant Bishop-elect Andrew Ashbey, 10:30 a.m., St. James Cathedral, Church and King streets, Toronto. All invited. Please be seated by 10:15 a.m.
- October 30 – This year marks the diamond anniversary (100 years) of St. John the Divine, Scarborough. All are invited to the 11 a.m. service on October 30. There will be a guest speaker, a photo and archives display and a luncheon with live music. For more information, visit www.sjd.ca.
- October 30 – Choral Evensong for Mich- aelden, 4 p.m., with the choir of St. Peter, Erindale, followed by Peach Tea, during which the choir’s direc- tor, Clement Careoo, will discuss the dynamic changes in church music that resulted from the Oxford Movement, such as the compositions of Samuel Sebas- tian Wesley and Thomas Attwood Walmesly. At St. Andrew, Japanese Wesley and Thomas Attwood Walmesly. At St. John the Divine, Scarborough. All are invited to the 11 a.m. service on October 30. There will be a guest speaker, a photo and archives display and a luncheon with live music. For more information, visit www.sjd.ca.
- November 5 – Weekend of Worship, 5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m., Grace Church, 19 Parkway Rd., Toronto. Featuring present- ations, book sales and a formal dinner supervised by Susan E. Haig, LL.B., M.Div. All are welcome. For more information, contact Susan Haig at 416.960.4646.

Worshops & Gatherings

September 14 – Youth drop-in with fun and games, 4-6 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guild- wood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Junior high school (13-year-olds) to college students are welcome. For information, contact Rev. Andrew St. John the Divine, Scarborough. All are invited to the 11 a.m. service on October 30. There will be a guest speaker, a photo and archives display and a luncheon with live music. For more information, visit www.sjd.ca.
- October 12-December 2 – Riverside Art Show and Sale featuring high quality original art at modest prices, generally in the $50 to $500 range, at St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Open Oct. 12 from 6-8 p.m. and Oct. 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the show, and the church is celebrating its 160th anniversary this year. Total sales over the past 29 years have raised over $25,000 for church projects. Visit www.stbarnabas.com.

October 15 – Fall rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Bargains on house- hold items, clothing, linens, books and toys. Call 905-294-3184.
- November 3 – Anglican Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Joseph of Nazareth, 290 Balmoral Rd., Toronto. Call 416-749-4643.
- November 4 – Annual Christmas Bazaar with lunch room, homemade home décor and gift items, baked goods and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Ascension, 260 North St., Port Perry.

Bay Street

Summit brings area youth leaders together

Bishop Jenny Andison and Alexandra McIntosh, the York- Credit Valley youth ministry coordinator, are hosting a summit for area youth leaders to network, ask questions and plan collaboratively for the future of faith formation ministry in the York Credit Valley. The summit will take place on Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 305 Windermere Ave., Toronto. The event is open to paid, volunteer, clergy and lay leaders in youth ministry. Clergy involved indirectly in youth ministry in their parishes are also welcome. For more information, contact Arlene Ralph at 416-360-6212 or aralph@toronto.anglican.ca.

Save the date: Social Media Sunday

The 2018 edition of Social Media Sunday is scheduled for Sept. 30, and is designed to demonstrate the power of social media to help churches around the world engage their communities online and in between times of formal worship. Parishies and individuals are encouraged to participate in ways that make sense for them, such as live- tweeting the sermon, inviting friends to church, checking in at church on Facebook, or sharing a photo or video, all using the hashtag #SMS18.

September 2018
Church celebrates Season of Creation

BY ELIN GOULDEN AND HEATHER BENNET

In 1989, Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I declared Sept. 1 as a day of prayer for creation in the Orthodox Church. Since then, Christian churches of various traditions around the world have been celebrating a “Season of Creation” between Sept. 1 and Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Archbishop Justin Welby has encouraged Anglicans to participate, and the Creation Matters network of the Anglican Church of Canada has collected resources to guide Canadian Anglicans in observing this season.

One Toronto parish, the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, is making ambitious plans of its own. From Sept. 23 through Oct. 14, Creation Matters @ Redeemer invites you to join with them and with Christians around the world to pray and reflect during a “Season of Creation.” Shifting the observation of the season a little later so as to encompass the Thanksgiving weekend, Redeemer has planned evening and morning services, music, panel discussions and guest speakers, including National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald, Primate Fred Hiltz, and former United Church of Canada moderator Bill Phipps. For more details, see www.theredeemer.ca.

“The Season of Creation” is a time to celebrate and give thanks to the Creator for the lakes, rivers, ravines, trees, and parkland we enjoy; for the abundance of food and the rich diversity of living things sustained by the Earth. It is also a time to consider how individually and collectively we are carrying out our baptismal promise to “safeguard the integrity of God’s creation and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth.”

Elin Goulden is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant and Heather Bennet is a member of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street.

BRIEFLY

Program helps churches lower energy costs

Faith & the Common Good, a national interfaith network, is starting an energy benchmarking project for churches in Toronto, York Region, and Halton Region. The project will help parishes establish a baseline for their energy use and identify areas for improvement to lower energy costs. Several parishes in the diocese have already signed up. Learn more at www.faithcommongood.org.