Diocesan Council starts new year

Diocesan Council members and staff have their picture taken at the first Diocesan Council meeting of the year, held Jan. 26 at St. John, York Mills. Diocesan Council, which has a membership of about 40, meets on a regular basis to carry out the work of Synod between its sessions. It is responsible to Synod for the development and oversight of priorities to implement the diocese’s vision and mission, as well as the diocesan budget’s development, oversight and midterm adjustment if required. Once priorities have been approved by Synod, Diocesan Council acts at a strategic level to assign priorities to boards and committees. Diocesan Council has oversight of all boards and committees and monitors their work through a regular reporting framework.

Current Diocesan Council members will serve until the end of the next Regular Session of Synod, to be held on Nov. 8-9. Members include: Bishop Andrew Ashlib (chair), Bishop Jenny Andison, Brian Armstrong, GC, DDT, Richard Paul, the Rev. Jason Prisley, Ryan Ramsden, Sandy Richmond, DDT, Bishop Kevin Robertson, Mother Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, SSJD, Bishop Riscylla Stowe, Beverley Sneyd, the Rev. Michael Stuchbery, David Tuycoen, DDT, and Marilyn Yeung, DDT. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Grants, parishes push FaithWorks over top

Appeal beats 2018 goal

BY STUART MANN

THANKS to the generosity of an anonymous donor and the response of Anglicans in the parishes, the diocese’s annual FaithWorks campaign surpassed its goal for 2018, raising more than $30 million.

The donor gave a $875,000 “challenge grant” to the campaign last year. That meant that every new or increased donation from the parishes would be matched, dollar for dollar, up to $75,000. Anglicans responded, increasing their donations by $886,000 and making full use of the grant.

Bishop Andrew Ashlib says he is heartened by the results. “It says that Anglicans have a heart for social justice and taking care of the most vulnerable among us and being able to not just provide care and support but also advocacy.”

He added: “I’m incredibly grateful for the parishes and individuals who take the time not just to support the fabric and the ministry of their home church but to look beyond themselves and to say we know that there is incredible ministry happening in our communities and around the diocese that need help and I’m going to give that little extra.”

FaithWorks supports families in crisis, children, youth and women in need, immigrants, the homeless, those suffering from HIV/AIDS and people living in the developing world. Since the appeal launched in 1996, it has raised more than $30 million.

Donations from the parishes in 2018 amounted to $726,300, a 13 per cent increase over 2017. “This is the first increase in overall parish giving in five years and is a welcome change,” says Peter Misiaszek, the diocese’s director of Stewardship Development.

Of the $543,957 that participated in the 2018 appeal, 77 increased their giving. Donations were down in 2016 and 2017 as parishes responded to the Syrian refugee crisis but rebounded last year as parishes renewed their focus on FaithWorks and responded to the challenge grant.

Corporations gave $259,300 to the appeal in 2018, down 20 per cent from the previous year. The reduction was due to companies re-evaluating and realigning their giving areas, says Mr. Misiaszek, a trend that is likely to continue.

Despite the drop, Mr. Misiaszek says companies have played an important role in the campaign and will continue to do so. “We have been blessed for many years to get the gifts that we have,” he says, adding that several companies still give to the diocese through the Bishop’s Company Dinner and by sponsoring Synod.

A further $378,000 was raised in the 2018 campaign from individuals, groups, foundations, bequests and interest on the FaithWorks endowment fund.

The goal for the 2019 campaign is $1,350,000. Mr. Misiaszek says the appeal will have to step up its efforts to engage with the parishes and major donors to make up for the shortfall from corporations, but he is confident the goal can be reached, especially if another donor steps forward with a challenge grant.

Schealagh McPherson, chair of the FaithWorks allocation committee, says several ministries rely on FaithWorks funding for survival. “The donations are important to all of the groups that we fund, but for some of them FaithWorks is their lifeblood.”

She says she is very encouraged by the parish results in the 2018 campaign. “It’s a recommitment to FaithWorks, hope, a recommitment to outreach.”

FaithWorks funded the following Anglican-affiliated ministries in 2018. All Saints Church Community Centre, Toronto; The Warming Room, Peterborough; The Bridge Prison Ministry, Brampton; The David Busby Centre, Barrie; the Anglican United Refugee Alliance, Toronto; Flemingdon Park Ministry, Toronto; Couchiching Jubilee House, Orillia; Downview Youth Covenant, Toronto; North House Shelter, north Durham; Samantha House Community, Barrie; The Dru, Mississauga; Giving With Grace, northern Canada and Ontario; the Philip Aziz Centre, Toronto; PWDF, Toronto; and the Toronto Urban Native Ministry, Toronto.

The 2019 FaithWorks campaign materials will be available to parishes in time for Lenten campaigns.
Campaign that provided millions is winding down

BY STUART MANN

The diocese’s Our Faith-Our Hope campaign, which has provided millions of dollars to parishes, individuals and organizations, is winding down this year. No more applications for grants are being received.

The campaign, launched in 2010 to “renew, reimagine and revitalize” the Church, raised $32 million and gave out 192 grants, ranging from $1,400 toward the tuition for a professional development course to $418,000 for major renovations to a church building. Parishes could also keep a percentage of the funds they raised.

“It has been a huge benefit to parishes and it has been spread right across the diocese,” says Peter Misiaszek, the diocese’s director of Stewardship Development.

There were five categories of grants that parishes and congregations could apply for: adaptive re-use of parish facilities; communicating in a wireless world; enabling parishes to become multi-staffed; leadership development; and pioneering ministry.

In addition to grants for parishes and individuals, the diocese distributed $1.5 million from the campaign’s “Giving to Others” category. Three gifts of $500,000 each were given to the Anglican Military Ordinariate to fund the office of the Bishop Ordinariate in perpetuity; to the Council of the North to support regional gatherings of clergy and lay leaders; and to the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund to improve maternal, newborn and child health in Africa and in Indigenous communities in Canada.

After the last round of grants were approved in the fall of 2018, the campaign was left with about $1.2 million. Instead of going through another round of grants, the diocese plans to divide the remaining money among the four episcopal areas, to be disbursed according to the aims of the campaign.

“When it was announced in 2018 that funds from the campaign would be exhausted in the next couple of years, many parishes took that to mean imminent,” explains Mr. Misiaszek. “As the result, the last two rounds saw twice as many applicants than usual. If we experienced a similar response again, the allocations committee knew it wouldn’t have the funds available and it would be impossible to determine what project was more important than the other.”

The plan to divide the remaining funds among the four episcopal areas is expected to go to Diocesan Council for approval in the spring.

Mr. Misiaszek praised the work of the campaign’s allocation committee, which recommended to Diocesan Council twice a year which grant applications should be approved. The committee decided to disband late last year.

“The allocations committee did an exemplary job,” he says. “Most of the proposals submitted were approved. The fact that we’ve been able to reinvest in parishes tells me that people are passionate about their faith and they want to invest in it.”

Summer Chaplain

The Anglican Parish of Georgia is now accepting applications for its 10 week Summer Outreach Chaplaincy position commencing late June 2019. The candidate should have strong interpersonal skills for working with people of all ages, and will work closely with the Priest and the Outreach Committee. The primary focus of the chaplaincy is a Ministry of Presence at St. George’s Church, Oxford West to Lake Simcoe, and the surrounding towns. Pastoral support to the young people and the campers on the campout is provided. Ability to ride a bike and willing to get around to the Village of Sutton (3 km), nursing home, community dinners and guided visits in a defined area.

Applicants should write a letter of application to Outreach Committee, P.O. Box 88, Sutton West, Ontario L0E 1R0.

www.parishofgeorgia.org outreach@parishofgeorgia.org

Smaller donations can be made online at

www.ourfaithourhope.org

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Please contact the office of interest or visit our web-sites for more information.

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Church members and friends visit Canon Nind Hall at St. George, Grafton, renovated with an Our Faith-Our Hope grant in 2016. At right, the Rev. Andrea Budgery (left) volunteer Jacob Hounsell, and the Rev. Maggie Helvig prepare food for needy people in the renovated kitchen of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, funded by an Our Faith-Our Hope grant in 2018. photos by Michael Hudson

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This training weekend is for individuals to be trained and equipped for the ministry of lay anointing in the Parish. Supervising clergy attend for approximately two hours on the Saturday afternoon. Registrants may register as a commuter (lunch but no accommodation) or register to stay in the SSJD Guest House for the weekend which includes accommodation and meals. A limited number of rooms are set aside for the SSJD in the Guest House so early registration is encouraged. On line registration on the Diocese of Toronto website for attendees and supervising clergy will close Tuesday, May 7. A clergy letter of support or the participant is to be sent in advance to The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger, Chair, BCH at j.billinger@rogers.com. Clergy considering introducing the ministry of lay anointing in the Parish who would like more information about the ministry are welcome to contact the Committee through The Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger at j.billinger@rogers.com.

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NEWS
Priest appointed to Indigenous ministry

Cleric brings experience to role

BY STUART MANN

The Rev. Leigh Kern, a former associate priest at St. James Cathedral, is the diocese’s new Coordinator of Indigenous Ministries and Reconciliation Animator, effective March 1.

Ms. Kern, who is Metis through her mother’s side of the family, brings years of experience in the Indigenous community to the position, formerly known as the diocese’s Indigenous Native Priest. She succeeds the Rt. Rev. Chris Harper, who became the Bishop of Saskatoon last year.

“It’s a honour and privilege to be asked by the (Indigenous) community and the diocese to take this role on,” she says.

Ms. Kern will focus on working in and with Indigenous communities in Toronto and the GTA. Toronto has the largest and most diverse Indigenous community in Ontario, with between 45,000 and 70,000 people.

“The role is really about creating those spaces where Indigenous wisdom and knowledge and leadership can shine and be shared with the broader community,” she says. “It’s about them, it’s not me being jolted into that work with people, we can really amplify those voices.”

Before leaving the cathedral on Feb. 17, she helped to plan the opening ceremony for Shades of Our Sisters, an exhibit about Canada’s missing and murdered Indigenous women. The exhibit is being held at the Neechee Circle, a healing circle led every Thursday at Allan Gardens in downtown Toronto. The spiritual ceremony is led and attended by Indigenous people, some of whom live in and around the park. It is barrier-free, meaning that people do not have to be sober or free of drugs to participate.

Ms. Kern has already done some innovative work in the Indigenous community. With a grant from the Anglican Healing Fund, she started the Neechee Circle, a healing circle held every Thursday at Allan Gardens in downtown Toronto. The event includes prayers for the healing of the lake and its contributing streams and rivers, a prayer walk through the city and a barbecue at St. James Cathedral.

One of the things she plans to do in her new role is minister Indigenous people in prisons, particularly at the Toronto South Detention Centre in Mississauga, which does not have an Indigenous chaplain. She says prisons are a continuation of the residential schools system, whereby Indigenous men and women are taken out of their communities and forced to assimilate through corrective behaviour.

“That’s something that’s not being talked about or reflected upon critically,” she says. “We can say we acknowledge that the residential school system was wrong, but we’re pretty far from acknowledging that the whole way that we do corrections is wrong.”

Social justice has been a major part of Ms. Kern’s life. While studying for an MDiv at Yale Divinity School, she worked as a chaplain at a soup kitchen run by Christ Church, New Haven, a city with one of the highest crime rates in the United States. For her clinical pastoral education, she was a chaplain at CAMH (The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) in Toronto, where she ministered to men who were serving prison sentences for sexual assault.

She credits her parents for instilling in her a passion for helping others and working in and with the Indigenous community. The Rev. Stephen Kern, the incumbent of St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville, and Dr. Anne Kern were among a handful of people who were discussing the need for urban Indigenous ministry in the 1990s. “Those early conversations happened around my parents’ dinner table when I was just a little kid,” she recalls.

After becoming ordained in 2016, Ms. Kern worked as an assistant curate at the cathedral and then became an associate priest there last year, in charge of urban Indigenous ministry. “It was a beautiful ministry and I’m going to miss it,” she says. But she’s looking forward to the next chapter of her life. “I’ll continue to seek out the consultation of elders where I should go.”

The Rev. Leigh Kern is smudged by the indigenous ministries team before being gifted with an eagle feather at her ordination at St. James Cathedral in 2017. Joining her are, from left, Bishop Riscylla Shaw, Bishop Mark MacDonald, the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor and Bishop Chris Harper. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

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March 2019
Travelling together towards Easter

W e are en route now. For almost 30 years, I have had the joy of holding the keys and serving as the incumbent of a parish church. Sunday mornings were spent holding the door open to welcome the long-time parishioner, a lost soul or two and visitors coming for the first time. Worship happened in a well-known place, with the regular crowd, in a predictable way… We en route now. Every Sunday morning, it is the keys to the car that I hold in my hand. The car points in a different direction week after week, sometimes the southeast, sometimes to the east and sometimes to the west. With Mary by my side, we set out in anticipation of meeting you. We find our bearings in the suburb, the country or in the heart of city. And while the place may be new to us, there is something familiar. One of my mentors was Dr. George Black, who taught liturgies at Huron College. He was convener of the Common Praise Hymn Book Task Force and one of the key leaders in developing the Book of Alternative Ser-

BISHOP’S DIARY
By Bishop Andrew Asbil

vices. George used to say that liturgy is like visiting with old friends. The readings, the prayers, the hymns and mass settings take us home and bathe us in a narrative of God’s love. No matter where we go on a Sunday morning, there is some feel at home among old friends.

Sometimes we meet in the most seren-
dipitous ways. After the New Year’s levee at St. James Cathedral, Mary and I headed north to Bala for a couple of days of rest. We stopped at the ON Route Service Center in King City for some refreshments. Once inside, we traipsed behind someone who looked familiar to me. “I think I know that guy,” I said to Mary. As we emerged into the dining area, there was a throng of people gathered at tables sipping coffee and tea.

We looked at them and they looked at us. It took a moment to recognize each other. Hey, it’s St. George’s, Fairvale! we called out. Hey, it’s the Bishop! they said. Arms went up, there were pats on the back and shak-

BISHOP’S OPINION
By Bishop Riscylla Shaw

ing of hands. A newly minted Order of the Diocese of Toronto medal hung around a neck or two. They were on their way home. We delighted in the surprise of seeing each other en route. We marked the moment by taking a group photo. The other travellers on the road must have wondered what on earth was happening.

We are en route now. With sheets smooched on our headphones on Wednesday, we turn our faces toward the promise of the resurrection on Sunday. From sheets to Easter, we travel together making the commitment for 40 days to steep ourselves in the ways of Lent. Old friends, fasting, almsgiving, self-examination, penitence and prayer help us to prepare and make our souls ready for the week that holds the key to life itself. With Jesus, we go to celebrate the paschal feast.

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ied congregations in 164 countries.

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A community of 224 congregations in 210 parishes and missions, containing 20,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 60,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-

ed congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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Editor
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Does it spark joy?

G ood is very often what we think “stuff” is. It is good, too. Sometimes we like our stuff better than people and relationships. People can be difficult; they sometimes let us down and then require a lot of moni-
toring and maintenance. Stuff, on the other hand, can remind us of good times; if it was gifted or earned, it can make us feel appreci-
ated, beautiful, valued. But stuff always has a life of its own. Wise words from Jesus in Matthew 6:19: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” It is the steadfast work of a rich and rewarding life to engage with one another, to be open and willing to share oneself to deepen and develop the connections that, sort of like electricity, ignite St. Life and love. It is interpersonal relationships that build community and nourish us in long-term and deep-souled spiritual journeys.

My daughter recently showed me a video of Marie Kondo, a brilliant tidying-up expert whose methods are simple and compelling. She invites people to sort and sift through their worldly possessions, collections and acquisitions — i.e., their stuff. Following this organizing of clothing, books and papers, kitchen, and finally collectibles and sentimental items, Marie encourages individuals to consider with their minds and with their hearts, “Does it spark joy?” If yes, keep it. If no, be grateful for the item for its place in your life, then liberate it go to the give-

FaithWorks.ca
March 2019

Like many others, I’ve made my fair share of donations over the years. One gift stands out from all the others. The amount was rather unremarkable - $200. Typically, I like to give an amount that is meaningful to me, that I believe (or hope) will have some impact. I made it over the Christmas break, a time of year when many charities realize nearly 30 per cent of their annual gifts.

What made this gift stand out from all the others was the letter of thanks I received less than two weeks later. It was hand-written and substantial. What I didn’t read was a rehearsing of worn-out phrases and platitudes. It was authentic, thoughtful and real. In addition to being thanked, I was told exactly how my gift was used, why it was important, and how I could get more information if I wished. The note was simple and sincere, and it stands out as the best thank-you letter I have ever received.

The fact that someone took the time to pen a hand-written note for what is arguably an average donation is noteworthy. That it was sent so efficiently at the busiest time of year (or hope) will have some impact. I made it over the Christmas break, a time of year when many charities realize nearly 30 per cent of their annual gifts.

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I am tempted to more doing than praying

The Ven. Kyn Barker is the Archdeacon of Toronto and coordinator of the diocese’s Community of Deacons. He is a deacon at St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole.

At the start, one should explain what a deacon is. From the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada, based on the ordination rite: “A deacon is a Christian person whose ordained ministry is within a servant community, living and proclaiming the Gospel in the world. The deacon’s presence, bringing the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world to the Church, is a living reminder of the community’s call to servanthood. A deacon is to enable the Church to be justice-makers, truth-tellers, advocates and reconcilers in the world.” A deacon, then, is a servant minister, doing work in charity, social justice and pastoral care, but really doing that work as an example for others. Essentially, a deacon is able to enable everyone to carry out their baptismal promise “to seek and serve Christ in all persons.”

The Community of Deacons is all 50 deacons from across the diocese. We support each other and share ideas and information to carry out our callings. Almost all the deacons have been raised up by their parishes and continue to serve in their communities.

I assist the Community members to make connections with each other and with others in the diocese. We meet with our bishop, Andrew, at least once a year. We also have a retreat; this year, we will be meeting with Bishop Andrew. I assist parishes that have a calling to raise up a deacon, and mentor candidates through diocesan screening and formation. Three deacon candidates, God willing, will be ordained in their parishes this spring. Twelve parishes have potential candidates and are in discernment.

At General Synod 2016, a report was received containing draft competencies for deacons. I was part of the writing team and continue to be involved in publicizing, using and revising them.

The best part of my job is being involved in the ordination service of a deacon in a parish, where all are enthusiastic and excited. I also enjoy teaching a class for potential deacons in which they uncover their calling. Another highlight is my diaconal work on the front desk at Community Information Fairview. A difficult task is walking with a deacon in a parish where a newly arrived priest-in-charge does not appreciate, understand or support having a deacon.

I worked for the York Region District School Board for 36 years, as a classroom teacher and as staff in Curriculum and Instructional Services, supporting teachers to improve their assessment and evaluation practices. Way back in university, some of the best times were being the stage manager for big theatre productions, responsible for all the lighting and sound cues, set chang-es and actor entrances so that the plays came alive. In a sense, a deacon “sets the stage” so all can live out their callings to be servant ministers.

As a cradle Anglican, I’ve always had some involvement in the Church, once an Anglican diocesan youth worker. I appreciate that there were opportunities for questions, growth, learning, serving and being. I’ve always been drawn to Church and social justice. I am easily tempted to more doing than praying. I am blessed to have a parent spiritual director - who helps me recognize that the Trinity are all patient!

A profound experience for me was the diocese’s 150th anniversary service at Skydome. My family and I were in the 500-level and the view was oppressively big and grey. But then the music began, the cross came in and singers, dancers and worship leaders came in from all directions. The Spirit called – and keeps calling – me to the diaconate through my family, my parish,由 and several men-tors, including the late Tom McQuiston, who undertook the “raising up a deacon” process for me and Mary, a col-league at work who encouraged me just when I was discouraged.

My favourite passage of scripture is Ephesians 2:10: “For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” We do not choose to serve, to work for social justice or walk alongside our neighbours to earn points with God, or be thanked by others, but because that is what we are already.

New director brings passion for customer service

Lillian Qian brings more than 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, and a passion for customer service, to her new role as the diocese’s treasurer and director of Finance.

In her previous position at Toronto Pearson International Airport, Ms. Qian provided financial expertise that helped the airport focus on customer satisfaction, cost efficiencies and continuous improvement.

“I want to act as a financial partner with the parishes, to help them look at their financial status and achieve long-term financial stability,” says Ms. Qian, who began at the diocese in November. “I also want to make sure the diocese manages its assets properly so that we can grow and thrive in the long term.”

Ms. Qian is also keen to help the diocese make full use of technologi-cal change and innovation. “As a Church, we have an opportunity to embrace change and make sure we’re well positioned to continue our mission.”

Ms. Qian oversees the diocese’s finances and investments. She is a member of the Parish Finance Advisory Committee, the Investment Committee and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. She also heads the diocese’s six-person Finance department, which provides a number of financial ser-vices, including payroll and billing, accounting, charitable receipting, parish account balances and IT support for the Diocesan Centre.

Ms. Qian says she was attracted to the position because of its abil-ity to help people and parishes.

“I think it will enable me to have an impact on people’s lives. If I can support people to ac-complish their goals, that gives me a great sense of satisfaction,” she says.

Correction notice
In last month’s issue, the name of Fenella Chiu, ODT, was spelled incorrectly. The Anglican regrets the error.
March 2019

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LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for St. Peter’s prayer issue is March 1. Parishes can also pro-

nounce their events on the diocese’s website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

MARCH 20 Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30 p.m. to 1:35 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W. Toronto. Tickets are available at the door: $20 for adults, $15 for students and seniors.

MARCH 27 Rock Eucharist: The Music of George Frideric Handel, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto. Tickets are available at the door: $30 for adults, $20 for students and seniors.

MARCH 28 – Holy Week Choral Evensong at 4 p.m., St. Luke, Willowdale. The church is located at 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street. Admission is free.

March 10 Choral Evensong at 4 p.m., followed at 5 p.m. by a singer and an allied folk song. St. Philip, Hill, presenting settings from 13th and 14th century Florence and Cremona. At St. Olave, Bloor Street West. Contact Peter Skerritt at p.skerritt@rogers.com.

March 11 – March Break Musical Theatre Camp for ages 13-18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on: March 11-15. This theatre experience required, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Register by March 8.

MARCH 13 – Evening Prayer at 6 p.m., followed at 7 p.m. by the Rev. Rob Mitchell (St. Olave’s incumbent) discussing how to use the Book of Common Prayer as a daily com-
passion, for personal devotion and structuring your life. First of five Wednesdays; continues to April 10.

MARCH 16 – Messy Church, crafts, activities, songs, stories and a meal, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MARCH 23 – Time, Talent and Trivia Night, 5 p.m., catered dinner and activities, 7 p.m., Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MARCH 26 – Lay Anglers’ Training Weekend offered by the diocese’s Bishop’s Committee on Healing, 7 p.m. to 9 a.m., at Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facil-
ity, 2700 Audley Rd., Ajax, featuring Toronto Star All-Star Big Band,entertainment and dancing. Cash bar and cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are $125 per person (VISA accepted). All tests reserved (none at door). For tickets, call the church office at 416-380-2884.

MAY 4 – Spring rummage sale, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Margaret’s-in-the-Pines, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Register by May 1.

April 27 – Healey Willan Singers present Reimagined, music re-
arranged for women’s ensemble, featuring Mozart’s Missa Brevis in C “Spatzenmesse” with chamber orchestra, 8 p.m., St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: $25 for adults, $20 for students and seniors.

April 28 – The St. Peter’s Handbell Choir presents its spring concert at St. Peter, Erin Dale, 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street, at 4 p.m. Also performing are the Orthodox Church of Canada’s and the Boys in B. Donations in the $10-$20 range would be appreci-
ed and put to good use to provide more music.

JUNE 8 – Voices Chamber Choir pre-
sents Handel and Haydn, music by Michael and Joseph Haydn, handel’s Four Coronation Anthems, 8 p.m., St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: $20 for adults, $15 for students and seniors.

Sales

APRIL 6 – Spring rummage sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holy Trinity, Thornhill. Clothing, linens, household items, games, toys and jewelry. Call 416-895-8911.

APRIL 13 – Spring rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Clothing, linens, household items, clothing, linens, books and toys.

MAY 4 – Spring market bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Brooklin.

Workshops & Gatherings

MARCH 5 – The choristers of St. Peter, Erin Dale, present a pancake supper at St. Peter, Erin Dale, 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street, Mississauga.

MARCH 5 – Pancake supper, 5-7 p.m., St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Register by March 5.

MARCH 16 – Messy Church, crafts, activities, songs, stories and a meal, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

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Church leads clothing drive for Pikangikum

BY MARILYN CARTMILL

On Nov. 28, David Gordon, a parishioner with a long history of advocating for Indigenous issues, received an email from Jennifer Manitowabi, the vice-principal at the Eenchokay Birchstick School in Pikangikum, a remote northern Ontario First Nations community.

She identified 70 students from kindergarten to high school who did not have proper winter jackets and many who did not have winter boots. Of the 300 students from Grade 3 through high school, many could not go out for recess.

In extreme cold, many could not go out for recess. Students from Grade 3 through Grade 12 were taken out on the land by elders for fishing and trapping. The school keeps a supply of winter clothing, and dresses students from head to toe for these occasions so all the students can participate. Ms. Manitowabi noted that mitts are needed for these outings.

Thanks to the generous outpouring of financial support from the congregations of All Saints, King City, St. Timothy, North Toronto, Grace Church, Markham and others, we were able to raise $40,000. With this, we were able to purchase for children, youth and adults 75 pairs of snow pants, 60 pairs of boots and 66 pairs of winter mitts.

For us, this was the third year that Coats for Kids, provided 72 new winter jackets. We completely filled the list of clothing that Ms. Manitowabi had sent to us.

In addition, a significant number of donations of jackets, snow pants, boots, knitted hats and mitts were placed on six pallets and shrink-wrapped, then transported to the north. Thanks to the All Saints’ team of Leah and Michael Springfield, Denise and John Whalley, Bill Fines, Michael Springfield and Leah Springfield, move boxes of clothing from the church.

The Anglican and United churches in Canada were invited to participate. Each church is quick to invite the other to a special service or event; for example, St. James doesn’t have a women’s group, but the ladies are invited to the monthly United Church Women’s Group. Mr. Leckie says that through these experiences, “we have begun to care about one another’s lives – a true mark of community.”

Diane Allengame is a member of St. James, Caledon East.

Anglican, United churches have close ties

BY DIANE ALLENGAME

In a world of division and unrest, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity might seem like a waste of time. However, for two of the clergy in the village of Caledon East, it is a very real opportunity to put two congregations together, to join others in a week of worship.

After all, these people are neighbours, friends and even relatives. This was the third year that Caledon East United Church and St. James, Caledon East shared services in January. The first Sunday was hosted by St. James, with the Rev. Ross Leckie of the United Church preaching. On the following Sunday, the service was hosted by the United Church with the Rev. Chris Dow of St. James preaching.

The United Church was built on Old Church Road in 1880 as the Caledon East Methodist Church. St. James was built across the road to scripture. For several years, the Anglican and United churches country-wide shared a hymn book and were actively working at unification. Although that direction has changed from an institutional perspective, the two churches have a long history of working together. Last year in Caledon East, the churches co-hosted The Combined Christmas carol concert.

Each church is quick to invite the other to the following Christmas carol concert.

There are differences in worship services, both churches have a similar approach to scripture. For several years, the United Church has co-hosted the annual Amazing Grace Church of the Resurrection, Toronto, St. George in St. Catharines, and the United Church in Caledon East.

The United Church of South India, Toronto; St. Thomas a Becket; St. Peter, Credit Valley; plans to once again open the festival. An invitation to the annual festival is to provide opportunities for Anglicans to get to know each other as a church community and to build relationships. It is an occasion to enjoy food, fun and good Christian fellowship rather than focusing on competitive cricket. Women, men, children of all ages, seasoned cricket players as well as absolute beginners are welcome to participate.

Planning for this year’s event – scheduled for June 15 at Creditview Sandalwood Park in Brampton – is progressing well. Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop of York-