

Apprenticeship program doubles

Spotlight shines on unsung heroes



Holy Land trip enlightens priest

The Anglican

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Members of the Mission Action Planning Steering Committee at St. George, Pickering Village, stand beside a paper tree at the back of the church that displays the goals of the process. From left are Brenda Horsford, Janet Tennant, Thourla Moses Moore, the Rev. Susan Spicer, the Rev. Deacon Marilyn Metcalfe and Nigel Harris. Below right: some of the goals. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Process helps churches take 'missional stretch'

Parishes set goals based on strengths

BY STUART MANN

JANET Tennant says the diocese's Mission Action Planning process has not only helped her church but revived her faith. "I feel like I'm part of an active Christian community instead of just a Christian on my own, out in the world."

Ms. Tennant is a member of St. George, Pickering Village in Ajax, a church that has struggled over the past few years with declining attendance and shrinking finances.

A little over a year ago, the church contacted Janet Marshall, the director of the diocese's Congregational Development department. Ms. Marshall, who had recently started in the job, was launching a program called Mission Action Planning.

"She came to a meeting of our Advisory Board and presented it to us," recalls Ms. Tennant. "We didn't realize we were going to be the first ones using it, but once we heard about it, we thought it was a good idea."

A year later, the church has clear goals for both spiritual and numerical growth, a greater understanding of its neighbourhood, a deeper prayer life and a renewed sense of purpose. "We're more aware of where we are being called," says Ms. Tennant.

Mission Action Planning (MAP) is a process that helps parishes set goals and work toward them within a defined time period. Working from their greatest strength, churches take a "missional stretch" that will connect them to their



neighbourhood, making relationships with people for the sake of sharing the gospel.

Four parishes in the diocese have completed the process, with another 12 underway or slated to begin in 2020. Congregational Development has 26 trained volunteers to help facilitate the process in the parishes.

Ms. Marshall says Mission Action Planning has come at the right time for the diocese. "We're in a situation right now where all of our churches know that that they need to be stretching themselves in mission," she says. "We need to imagine creative new ways to share the gospel with our neighbours, to speak the truth of the gospel in ways that people hear and draw close."

Anglicans in the diocese are yearning to do this, she says. "We're living in a world that can often feel complicated, chaotic and even cruel, and everybody I meet when working with parishes wants deeply to be able to stretch out with the compassion, kindness, justice and care that Jesus offers."

She says Mission Action Planning can help parishes do that. "No process is perfect, but if a congregation spends some time and energy in prayer and reflection on themselves and God's call to them, then we can help them take the next steps."

MAP can take three months to a year to complete, depending on how much planning and discern-

Continued on Page 8



Logo for Signs of Life, a resource from the Society of St. John the Evangelist.

Series explores signs, symbols during Lent

THIS Lent, Anglicans across the diocese are invited to explore the signs and symbols at the heart of Christian worship. Signs of Life, a free five-week series from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, encourages individuals and groups to explore the riches of the Church's worship traditions, liturgy and sacraments, as well as the art and architecture of its worship spaces. Participants will discover the full meaning of these signs, deepen their experience of Christian vocation and be guided toward ongoing conversion. To learn more, download resources or sign up for weekly emails, visit www.signsoflife.org.

Service celebrates Black heritage

THE 25th annual diocesan Black Heritage service will take place on Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Bloor Street. For 25 years, this service has been a source of affirmation for Black members of the Church, with liturgical innovation, creativity and joy. This year's preacher will be the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, the incumbent of Holy Trinity, Thornhill and the founding chair of the Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee. It will include a combined choir, liturgical dancing and the traditional procession of the flags. All are invited. For more information, contact blaccanglicans@gmail.com.

Diocese doubles youth ministry apprenticeships

Program helps parishes start, grow vital ministry

BY STUART MANN

ONE of the diocese's most successful programs – and best kept secrets – is doubling in size.

Since 2009, 37 people have gone through the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program, providing outstanding youth ministry in parishes across the diocese.

To build on that momentum, the diocese has doubled the program's funding, providing training and mentorship for 12 aspiring youth leaders in 2020, up from

the usual six.

The diocese has also hired two former graduates of the program, Cormac Culkeen and Alexandra McIntosh, to serve as coordinators. They succeed the program's founder, the Rev. Christian Harvey, who stepped down in 2019 to become the executive director of Warming Room Community Ministries in Peterborough.

The expansion is necessary to keep up with the demand for trained youth leaders in the diocese, says Ms. McIntosh, who is also the youth ministry coordinator for York-Credit Valley and a divinity student at Trinity College. "Churches really want to hire youth ministers, but there just aren't any," she says. "They will have postings for months and months, but nobody will apply."

A youth leader for the past eight years, she says youth ministry is one of the most effective ways for parishes to share the gospel and create disciples. "I came to faith through youth ministry and think it's one of the most organic, natural



From left, Alexandra McIntosh, Bishop Jenny Andison and Cormac Culkeen at a recent liturgical training and networking event for youth leaders at Trinity College. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ways to talk about Christ. It set me off to seminary."

Parishes and clergy play a key role in the program. The apprenticeships are served in the parishes and graduates often stay on to work as youth leaders in those churches. Candidates for the program are often volunteers who are already involved in youth ministry or feel called to it; in many cases, they

are recommended by their clergy.

The program provides two models of apprenticeship, both of which last for nine months. The first, called Job Shadowing, is for volunteers in a parish who feel called to youth ministry and want to work as a youth minister when their apprenticeship is finished. This is a 10-hour per week, paid position that runs from October to June. The apprentice will work with a mentor, who will observe and participate in their ministry. Apprentices will also meet with their peers, complete assigned readings and attend events and conferences. At the end of the year, the program coordinator will help the apprentice find a position in youth ministry in the diocese.

The other apprenticeship model, called Parish Partnership, is for parishes that are looking to start a youth ministry program or to increase the youth ministry that is already happening there. In this model, the parish hires, or works with the program to hire, a youth worker. Between October and June, the program will pay for half of the youth worker's salary, up to 10 hours a week, with the parish paying the other half. This means that a parish can have a youth worker for 20 hours a week but, for the first nine months, will pay for 10 hours. In the time paid for by the program, the youth worker will be expected to meet with the apprenticeship coordinator, complete assigned readings and attend events and conferences. The expectation is that in June, if everything has gone well, the parish will take on the hours that the program has been

paying so that the ministry, and the youth worker's job, will continue uninterrupted.

Apprentices must be self-motivated and have an openness to learn and wrestle with a diversity of ideas. Preference will be given to those who are from an Anglican background, but people from other denominations are welcome as well. Upon completing the program, participants are expected to commit at least some of their time contributing to youth ministry in the diocese for at least one year.

To qualify, parishes must show a bold and creative vision for youth ministry, a willingness to continue funding youth ministry after the nine-month program is over, and to support and care for the youth minister as a member of the parish team.

Bishop Jenny Andison, the diocese's link bishop for youth, encourages clergy to recommend the program to volunteers in their parishes who are called to youth ministry. "As we get increasingly serious in our diocese about forming living faith in the next generation, YMAP is proving transformative in training people as youth ministers. If you think someone in your congregation might have the gifts and passions to work with young people, YMAP is for you!"

For more information about the Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program, contact Ali McIntosh at yvc.area.coordinator@gmail.com or Cormac Culkeen at culkeen-cormac@gmail.com. Information is also available on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca

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BRIEFLY
 Calling all parish nurses
 The Bishop's Committee on
 Healing Ministries is creating a database of parish nurses in the diocese and is asking all parish nurses to identify themselves so they can be included. Email the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, committee chair, at Joanne.Davies@sunnybrook.ca.

Committee to link healing ministries

Group to be voice, resource for Church

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

THE newly re-formed Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries is expanding its vision and looking to connect with people and parishes across the diocese that are engaged in ministries of healing.

Until recently, the committee had been focused primarily on educating and supporting lay anointers and their parishes. "There are more healing ministries within the Church, as we know," says the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, new chair of the committee and chaplain to St. John's Rehab. "We began a more intentional way of expanding the committee, to bring on other members who were representative of the healing ministries."

In its new form, the committee oversees lay anointers, lay pastoral visitors, faith community nurses, healthcare chaplains and seniors' ministry. "Almost everything that we do within Church we could say, 'OK, that's healing.' But these are the things that Christ sent the disciples out to do. So we felt that we would like to incorporate all of them into the umbrella of the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries, because there was a way of making connections for people," says Canon Davies.

Lay anointing will continue to have its own subcommittee, but with more links between it and other healing ministries. "Many people who were lay anointers were also lay pastoral visitors, so a lot of their questions and the things they wanted to learn were all interconnected in that way," she says.

Seniors' ministry is a new addition to the diocese's healing portfolio. With many parishes developing important ministries to youth and young families, Canon Davies says seniors can feel overlooked. "The one age group that we forget, because we just assume they're going to be there, are seniors. But the truth of the matter is they often leave because there's nothing there for them," she says. The committee



The Rev. Canon Joanne Davies in the chapel of Our Lady and St. John at St. John's Rehab in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

wants to encourage what seniors are already doing to participate and find ways of bringing others back to a church community.

Canon Davies sees the committee's main purpose as creating links and connections across the diocese. "This is not a committee we want to keep quiet; we want everyone to know that we're there. We can be a voice that would advise the bishop on things that we're seeing and things that are wanting, but we are also there to be a resource for the Church, for the communities and people of the diocese," she says.

Previously, parishes and clergy may not have known who to call for information about certain healing ministries. Now, the re-formed committee and its chair will be the clear first point of contact. "I am happy to say I am already getting questions, so that's really good. And I can already see that there's information needed," says Canon Davies. "What I don't know, I will find out, because I have this wonderful committee."

In particular, she says she hopes to draw on the wisdom of the diocese's healthcare chaplains. "I'm hoping to use them – me being one of them – as a resource, the wisdom that they have from the healing ministries that they're involved

in," she says. She also wants to reaffirm their role in diocesan life, since working in a hospital can be an isolating experience. "This can really be a home for them, to link in to the diocese, and to encourage them, that they're definitely part of who we all are."

Beyond providing valuable help and resources, Canon Davies also wants to encourage parishes to let her know what's happening in their communities. "I'd like them to call me with what they're doing, their ideas, so that I can put groups and churches in touch with each other," she says. "Sometimes the church down the street's doing something really interesting and hopeful. I'd like to hear what they're doing, is it working, what is not working, and what is wonderful about it."

As part of its mandate to equip and support the diocese, the committee has started working on a new education program for lay pastoral visitors. "It's my dream that we will have a train-the-trainer program, and that eventually there will be somebody at least in every area that can do that and then, if we get really good, most deaneries might have somebody that could

train as well," she says.

Lay anointers have held regular education events for some time, and Canon Davies says she'd like to build from their success. The annual lay anointers' refresher day often covers topics about healing more broadly, which could be an opportunity to bring together participants of many healing ministries. "They already touch on a lot of things like bereavement and pastoral visiting during those days. I have a vision of having a retreat day or weekend focusing on the subject of healing," she says.

Ultimately, whether through education, resources, retreat or prayer, Canon Davies says the Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries hopes to uphold the health and wellbeing of all those across the diocese who are engaged in ministries of healing. "It's important that we equip people with the skills they need to look after themselves so that they can go and look after others," she says. "It says that we're all holding each other up. It's true – we who are many are one body in Christ."

BRIEFLY

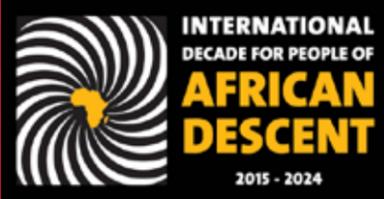
Volunteers needed for All Saints, Sherbourne

All Saints, Sherbourne Street in downtown Toronto is in urgent need of volunteers for the drop-in, a men's cooking group, a women's lunch and drop-in, a weekly breakfast with sex workers, and building maintenance. Volunteers with skills in the following areas are also needed: cook, hair stylist, legal aid, teaching reading and writing, resume-writing and job

skill training and assessment, yoga instructor, arts and crafts teacher, art therapist and poetry group leader. For more information, contact Shea Gerrie at shea@allsaintstoronto.com.

Colloquium focuses on Anglican history

The Canadian Church Historical Society is holding a Lenten Colloquium on March 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trinity College, Toronto. For details on the topics and speakers, visit the national church's website, www.anglican.ca. The cost is \$10. To register, email jonathan.lofft@mail.utoronto.ca.



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Take the Lenten leap



Our great nephew was born in Australia on March 1, 2012. The news of his birth reached us the day before, on Feb. 29. It was a leap year. So, while he may be turning eight in the land down under, to us in Canada, he is only turning two. You may play the same kind of creative math with someone close to you who happens to have been born on Feb. 29.

Every four years or so, we add one day at the end of February so that our modern-day Gregorian calendar remains in alignment with the earth's revolutions around the sun. It takes the earth about 365.242 days (365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds to be exact) to orbit the sun once. This is technically called a solar year. A solar year is measured from either the spring or fall equinox to the following one, or from the summer or the winter solstice to the one that follows.

Five hours, 48 minutes and 45 seconds doesn't really seem like very much in the context of a whole year. However, if we didn't add a leap day every four years, after only a century, our calendar would be out of synch by around 24 days. A missing six

BISHOP'S DIARY

By BISHOP ANDREW ASBIL

hours adds up over time.

Feb. 29 becomes a day of course correcting, of bringing things back into alignment, of synchronizing our earthly everyday lives with the heavens. In a similar way, Ash Wednesday summons us to stop, to correct our course, to take an accounting of our lives and find ways of immersing ourselves in the ancient means of recalibrating our souls. The branches of Palm Sunday, once waved in adulation and hope, are reduced on Wednesday to ash to remind us of the fragility of life, of our mortality, of our propensity to lose our footing and to wander away from God.

In the busyness of our lives, of making ends meet, of working and raising families, of volunteer work and getting stuck in traffic, or lost in the latest Netflix series, it is easy to assume that all that matters is what is in front of us. And before long we can miss the numinous moments that call us back to reality and life.

In the Ash Wednesday liturgy, the presider summons the community to prepare to enter the season of Lent by saying these

words: I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God...

Lent becomes the one season in our Christian year when all is righted. And we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through this Christian Passover, we gain more than just a day. We gain life itself.

This Lent, I encourage you and your parish to join me in participating in the Signs of Life program devised by Virginia Theological Seminary and the Society of St. John the Evangelist. Details about the program can be found at www.signsoflife.org. The Lenten program invites us to contemplate the themes of light, water, food, shelter and community – elements of everyday life that sustain us, and symbols too that permeate our worship and faith life through which Jesus is present in our lives, with the power to transform us. I will be hosting a conversation on the symbols each Tuesday evening in the month of March. The location of these gatherings will shift week to week throughout the diocese. I hope that you will consider joining me at the location closest to you. Let's take this Lenten leap together.



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The gospel calls us to diversity, equity and inclusion



There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28, NRSV)

In this familiar passage from the Letter to the Galatians, St. Paul speaks of the dissolving of our differences so that we may claim our primary identity in Christ. But that one-ness is understood by remembering that we come from different places and have distinct stories to tell. We are strengthened in our relationships as we pay attention to the different faces, languages and identities that are woven together into the rich tapestry of our life in Christ.

It has been said that Toronto is the most diverse city in the world, and if you look across our diocese, you will see and hear Anglicans from all corners of the Communion, worshipping and ministering in a variety of languages and styles. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being the area bishop for many of these communities, as we have celebrated together in Tamil, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese, Tagalog and Indigenous languages. And over the past year alone, I have met newcomers to Canada who are now in our pews from many different places, including Nigeria, Ghana, Syria, India, Columbia and Melanesia. When Bishop Susan Bell served as our Canon Missioner, she often described the Diocese of Toronto as "the Anglican Communion in

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP KEVIN ROBERTSON

microcosm." It certainly is!

At times, we have done a good job of recognizing and affirming the diversity among us. Later this month, on Sunday, Feb. 23, Anglicans will gather at St. Paul, Bloor Street for the annual Black History Service. For 25 years, this service has celebrated the Black heritage of our Church with liturgical innovation, creativity and joy. This year's preacher is the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields. I hope you will plan to be there!

We have also dedicated considerable resources – money, time, prayer, clergy and lay leadership skills – to nurture diverse church communities across the diocese, and many Anglicans from around the globe have been able to find familiar, welcoming and accessible congregations here. We have also made a priority of celebrating the beautiful diversity within the LGBTQ2S+ community as many of us, wearing Anglican garb, march in the Pride Parade every June.

What we have not done very well is to really change the culture of our Church to eradicate all forms of discrimination that dishonour the rich diversity of the whole people of God. At the very core of the gospel, embedded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the Divine pledge of love for the whole world. When certain people are treated as "other" due to their skin colour,

culture, ethnicity, language, gender, sexuality or identity, we betray the gospel of Christ and fail to live up to the baptismal covenant in which we promise to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

So how will we change? I have a few hopes:

1. I hope we will put resources in place to make anti-racism training a top priority over the coming year. It is long overdue in our Church.
2. I hope we will create an "Officer for Diversity" staff position within the diocese. The one who fills this role should be experienced in this work, and unambiguously committed to the equity and full inclusion of all people within the life of our Church, without exception.
3. I hope we will draw on the experience of the many folks in our pews who know what it's like to be "othered." We need to hear their pain, as well as their dreams for respect, dignity and inclusion. We have many people in our midst who are leading the way in the dismantling of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia and other barriers that divide and injure the people of God. They have much to teach us.

Our identity in Christ has at its core the recognition and celebration of our amazing God-given diversity. May our Church move toward this goal with renewed passion in the coming year.

The Anglican Church

In the Anglican Communion:

A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 164 countries.

Archbishop of Canterbury:

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Lambeth Palace, London, England SE1 7JU.

In Canada:

A community of about 600,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean.

Primate:

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Church House, 80 Hayden St. Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2
Tel: 416-924-9192

In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 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 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has a large population of aboriginal peoples.

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This will be a foundational year for FaithWorks



It might seem odd to draw attention to a major milestone or anniversary one year before it happens. It would be strange, for example, to put more emphasis on your 49th wedding anniversary than on your 50th, or your 17th birthday instead of your 18th – the one when you legally become an adult and can vote. But the one before might be more significant if it lays the foundation for something greater. That's what we hope to accomplish as we launch our 24th year of helping the whole community through Anglican ministries.

Since 1996, FaithWorks has brought parishes and parishioners together to raise funds for some very needy people in our community and in the developing world: youth who call the street home; families deprived of housing security; the imprisoned, new immigrants and refugees; people with mental health challenges and addictions; and women looking for a way out of abuse and despair. Thanks to the generosity of Anglicans across our diocese, more than \$32 million has been raised in response to our annual appeal. Many are grateful for this outpouring of generosity.

Over the years, FaithWorks has faced

THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

a number of challenges: competing with appeals for refugee sponsorship; a major diocesan ministry campaign; and increased needs during the great recession. Just getting FaithWorks off the ground in the late '90s, when it seemed improbable that parishes would unite behind the idea of giving to a federated appeal – a sort of Anglican United Way – was a challenge in itself.

Our latest challenge might be the most difficult: indifference. Across our 196 parishes, about half commit to an intentional FaithWorks effort. Some might set a goal, while others have launch parties, special events or walk-a-thons. Some might invite an agency speaker to preach or dedicate a couple of Sundays to promoting the ministry of FaithWorks.

For some, FaithWorks is just another request for scarce funds – competition amid a mountain of requests each year. Typically, a pile of FaithWorks brochures and envelopes are left at the entrance of the church, lost amongst a pile of other paper for community projects and endeavours, in hopes that someone might take

an interest and respond.

It might come as a surprise, but nearly 25 per cent of our parishes do nothing to support FaithWorks. They don't put up our posters, they don't hand out our literature. FaithWorks doesn't even appear as a line item on the outreach budget. Anglicans in these parishes probably don't even know that FaithWorks exists.

And yet, if we all pulled together and did our part, the annual goal would be a slam-dunk from parish giving alone. This year's goal, for example, is \$1.5 million – an increase of more than 10 per cent on last year's. If every parish set a target equal to 5 per cent of its annual offertory, that goal would be surpassed with many thousands of dollars to spare. Some parishes do this already – setting targets closer to 10 per cent – and reaching them. We know it's possible.

To help make this objective a reality, a committed friend of FaithWorks has offered us a \$100,000 matching challenge grant in 2020. All new and increased gifts from individuals and parishes will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$100,000. We want to extend a special invitation to those parishes for whom participation could use a kick-start. Help us exceed our target and get a six-figure bonus along the way!

I'm going to be talking a lot about FaithWorks in 2020. Not just because of the matching gift, but because I am hopeful that our goal can be achieved and thousands of people in need will feel the hand of Jesus through our actions. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses the world." That's what FaithWorks is: the hands and feet of Christ. That's why what we do is so important.

We hope to encourage responsiveness in 2020. We hope to refocus our attention on what the late Archbishop Terry Finlay called the greatest unifying initiative in the diocese. We hope every Anglican in our diocese will have a chance to learn about our story and respond with enthusiasm.

2020 is going to be a foundational year for us. Parishes are going to be asked to recommit. Donors are going to be invited to learn more about our work. Together, we are going to achieve our potential so that our 25th anniversary is something to really celebrate.

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

Indigenous elder honoured

Priest leads walkabouts on city's streets

BY THE REV. JIM HOUSTON

MEMBERS of Toronto's Indigenous community and many non-Indigenous friends and colleagues came to pay tribute to a beloved elder, the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley, on Dec. 11. The standing-room-only gathering, held at Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, included about 20 uniformed police officers.

Canon Wesley has been a quiet, powerful presence on the city's downtown streets and in First Nations affairs for nearly 20 years, since he came to Toronto as the diocese's first Aboriginal Priest, serving on the team at Toronto Urban Native Ministries (TUNM).

Even though he retired from that position several years ago, succeeded first by Bishop Chris Harper and then the Rev. Leigh Kern, who is the current Coordina-



tor of Indigenous Ministries and Reconciliation Animator, Canon Wesley has continued to serve the community through his work with Council Fire. He is perhaps best known as the lead elder in the monthly "walkabouts," in which teams of three elders and three police officers make their way through the streets, visiting the regular haunts of street-involved men and women, building relationships of trust and friendship.

The celebration on Dec. 11 began with an invitation to all present to make their way outside to a ceremonial fire, overseen by a young

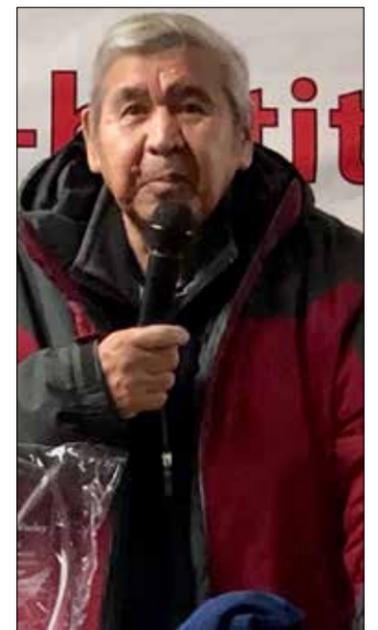
fire-keeper, to make offerings of tobacco. Back in the hall, the crowd was treated to song by a group of young people around a great drum. Then everyone stood for a thanksgiving prayer song, led by a group of women with hand drums.

A shy Elder Andrew, wearing his familiar, worn red jacket and faded blue jeans, was urged to go to the front of the room, where he received tributes and was presented with gifts by Council Fire, the police and the local Member of Parliament. He began by telling the crowd that as a boy he had wanted to be a police officer, but somehow

ended up as an Anglican priest, so he was very happy to be spending this time with police officers on the walkabouts.

He graciously paid tribute to the board and his colleagues at TUNM, to Council Fire, to the drummers and singers, and to the walkabout elders and police officers. A final Honour Song was followed by a feast that included spaghetti and meatballs – Canon Wesley's favourite – and of course, bannock.

In his speech, Canon Wesley solemnly told the gathering that his father had taught him "never to accept honours from people."



Drummers at the celebration and the Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley (above). PHOTOS BY THE REV. JIM HOUSTON

Then his face broke into a wide grin. Looking up, he said, "But he's gone!" In a final remark to the crowd, he said he had thought of dressing up for the occasion but wanted to appear in the clothes he always wore on the streets. Then he pulled on his beat-up old baseball cap. The crowd's long standing ovation left no doubt that everyone thought he very much deserved the tributes paid to him that day.

The Rev. Jim Houston is a retired priest of the diocese and a member of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square in Toronto.

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca

Laity receive Order of

Award honours outstanding service over the years

The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people who, in the exercise of their baptismal ministry, have demonstrated that “their light shines, their works glorify.” In 2019, the recipients came from the following deaneries: North Peel, Nottawasaga, St. James & Toronto East, and Victoria Haliburton. They were presented with their medalion at St. James Cathedral, Toronto, on Jan. 1.

Heather Bennett, ODT Redeemer, Bloor St.

Ms. Bennett has been nominated by the Bishop for her deep contribution to diocesan ministry throughout her adult life, as well as for her faithful and tireless support for the Redeemer community over the last 18 years. She is the type of volunteer who has contributed her professional skills to the wide variety of boards and committees that the Anglican Church has to offer. She lives her faith in action, with both integrity and intentionality, and is a role model for those who wish to be better at doing so.

Jan Booker, ODT St. Barnabas, Chester

Mr. Booker has been nominated for his dedication and service to his parish since 1967. As the treasurer for 25 years and counting, he is also the “go-to” person for any issues with the church building, and he works tirelessly behind the scenes doing jobs that most are unaware of and would only notice if not done. St. Barnabas is blessed to have him as a member of the parish, and he is very deserving of being recognized for his many contributions over the years.

Donald Brohm, ODT St. Paul, Lindsay

Mr. Brohm has been nominated by St. Paul, Lindsay for his diverse and extensive service to God and the Church. Learning from an early lay reader training course the need to spread the gospel of Christ, he has been motivated to train and encourage others, as well as steward resources, as property manager. His leadership has been enhanced by his quiet, unassuming personality, and his ready spirit has helped the church to be present in the community.

Bruce Chambers, ODT St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff

Mr. Chambers has been nominated by the Bishop for his exemplary service to the Anglican Communion through the Compass Rose Society. As treasurer for the Canadian chapter, he has also served as board member and sometimes international board member for nearly two decades. Thorough, diligent, precise – all



Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto gather with Bishop Andrew Asbil, the area bishops and dean on Jan. 1 at St. James Cathedral. For more photos, see

the qualities you hope for in a treasurer – he has also been marvellously faithful, and Bishop Asbil wishes him well as he retires from this role.

Ann Cope, ODT Redeemer, Bloor St.

Ms. Cope has been nominated for her long and faithful service that touches almost every aspect of life at Redeemer. She is a creative force, is sought out for her insights and wisdom, and is possibly the parish’s most effective evangelist. She continually shines a spotlight on what makes Redeemer remarkable, keeping existing members engaged and inviting newcomers into full, involved membership.

Douglas Court, ODT St. Margaret, Barrie

Mr. Court has been nominated by St. Margaret, Barrie for his decades-long service and support of the church communities he has been involved with. Having received his lay reader licence in 1975, he has contributed to several church communities with preaching, anointing, leading Morning Prayer, funerals and hospital visits – exhibiting exceptional leadership and earning him the respect and gratitude of many. His wealth of knowledge and willingness to help are traits admired, and so appreciated, by all who know him.

David Graham Fisher, ODT St. Saviour, Toronto

Mr. Fisher has been nominated for his unceasing commitment to St. Saviour’s. From churchwarden to treasurer to part-time organist, lector, Synod member and intercessor leader, he has let his name stand for any role needed to keep his church vibrant and functioning. An engineer by trade and therefore “untitled”

property manager, he is currently leading a weekly walking prayer group to pray for the parish community, street by street.

Evelyn Foster, ODT Christ Church, Holland Landing

Mrs. Foster has been nominated by the Bishop for her 68 years of membership and service to her parish of Christ Church, Holland Landing. Throughout her tenure, she has been an active member of the ACW, church choir and various fundraising initiatives. Having celebrated her 97th birthday this past summer, she is a regular baker for events and rarely misses a Sunday, to make sure she speaks to everyone.

Jerome Friday, ODT St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea

Mr. Friday has been nominated for his faithful service in several ministries with a willing and generous heart. As an integral part of The Bridge Prison Ministry and the Ontario Correctional Institute, he has helped guide countless individuals. Recognizing the blessings he has received and, in response, giving willingly to others, he is a model of Christian charity as he embodies Christ’s hands and feet to those in need.

Mae Harasymiw, ODT Trinity Church, Barrie

Mrs. Harasymiw has been nominated by Trinity Church, Barrie for actively supporting and contributing to the mission of the Anglican Church throughout Barrie, Nottawasaga Deanery and beyond. Selflessly dedicated, the lives of many have been bettered and blessed as a result of her leadership in initiatives to provide clothing, food and basic care to those in need. Her determination has helped see

Trinity through difficult days, and her optimism and action have provided hope for the future.

Edward Harris, ODT St. Jude, Bramalea North

Mr. Harris has been nominated by St. Jude, Bramalea North for his 42 years of service at his 42-year-old parish. Long-time churchwarden, he has also raised money, led worship, brought the gift of sing-along music into the local prison and retirement homes, cooked breakfasts for the parish, run the bazaar, served on the advisory board, and fixed every broken thing in the parish. He directs ushers and counters, drives people to church – and takes out the garbage every single week.

Stephen Hughes, ODT Christ Church, Brampton

Mr. Hughes has been nominated by Christ Church, Brampton for his lengthy, consistent and sacrificial leadership through hospitality, administration, stewardship and care for others. As shepherd to the building restoration project, he successfully helped complete all projects over the past two decades on time and on budget. His ministry has been rooted in the parish, where he has raised his children, supported the weak, journeyed with those who mourn, and offered leadership in renewal and restoration.

Dianne Izzard, ODT St. Mary and St. Martha

Ms. Izzard has been nominated by the Bishop in recognition and celebration of her extraordinary contributions to the success of the parish amalgamation. As rector’s warden, she oversaw a complex program of repairs and safety upgrades at nine properties, while advising clergy and

the Diocese of Toronto



Page 8. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

wardens, and inspired the whole parish to get involved in missional and outreach ministries. Every day, she points us to the example of Mary and Martha in faithfully following and joyfully serving our Lord.

Lloyd Jensen, ODT
St. George, Allandale

Mr. Jensen has been nominated for his tireless efforts as sidesperson, churchwarden, lay member of Synod, financial planner, and supporter for both parish and diocesan fundraising programs. Instrumental in saving the quilters' quilts and supplies during the parish hall fire in 2006, he displays an extraordinary work ethic and an ability to take limited resources and make things work. As the go-to person of the parish, he is deserving of this recognition for faithful service to his Church and community.

Elsa Jones, ODT
Christ Church, Deer Park

Ms. Jones has been nominated by the Bishop for her cheerful and appreciative leadership and service to our Church. Chair of the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians, active in church activities and weekly life, she is an admirable servant driven by her strong faith and belief in equality for all. She leads by example with integrity and devotion, delivers with inspiration, and leaves a smile on the face of anyone blessed by a conversation with her.

Chuck Jowett, ODT
Evangelists, New Tecumseth
Mr. Jowett has been nominated by the Bishop for his significant volunteer service with the diocese. He takes on difficult jobs with diligence, leads workshops at

the annual volunteer conference, and is currently a key member of the Reconfiguration rewrite team.

Mary Kishibe, ODT
St. Matthew, First Avenue

Mrs. Kishibe has been nominated for her selfless service to her parish and neighbourhood. With the historical knowledge of an archivist, and the attention to detail needed as chancel guild director, she is the first to welcome visitors any time, any day to have a chat and invite them on a tour with generosity and joy. Her care for every corner of the church – and all those who enter the doors – is remarkable.

Sharron Lamour, ODT
St. Peter (Erindale)

Ms. Lamour has been nominated by the Bishop for her faithful volunteer service to the diocese. She is an anchor on the Parish Selection Committee and Fresh Start rewrite team, and often attends Synod to host the volunteer desk. As lieutenant to the Volunteer Resource Coordinator, she helps to mentor and train new coaches and is always willing to help by stepping in for last-minute cancellations.

Ruth May, ODT
Christ Church, Bolton

Ms. May has been nominated for her long-time role in modelling Christ's love for us and our neighbours. As church administrator, she calmly organizes and works toward the success of every activity, committee and service detail – all while supporting each individual with a kind word or pot of soup. Her hard work, compassion and fostering the engagement of all parish members have helped sustain the spiritual, financial and emotional well-being of the parish.

Paddy Ann McHaffie, ODT
Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton)

Ms. McHaffie has been nominated for her wide-ranging contributions to the parish as well as the diocese. An active churchwarden, lay member of diocesan and General Synods and advisory board chair, she also organizes fun social events for the parish and contributes the sales of her artwork to the parish. As a social worker by trade, her skills were valuable as chairperson of the diocesan Community Ministries Board, and all are blessed by her energy and gifts.

Ranil Mendis, ODT
St. Thomas à Becket (Erin Mills South)

Mr. Mendis has been nominated by the Bishop for his initiative as a community builder to found one of the diocese's most fun and engaging annual events. The Anglican Church Cricket Festival draws church teams from across the GTA, providing parishes with an opportunity to get to know each other and build relationships with the wider community. He also devotes his free time to promoting cricket in local high schools, giving students the chance to compete, travel and have fun.

Yvonne Murray, ODT
St. John the Divine, Scarborough

Ms. Murray has been nominated by the Bishop for her long-standing volunteer service in financial advising roles. A retired chartered accountant, she has served as the treasurer of her parish for more than 20 years, is a member of the finance advisory committee and the budget working group, and has lent her skill to help many other parishes develop financial plans and resolve debt issues. She is inspiring to many as she commits her time and talent for the improvement

of the Church.

Thomas Nicholson, ODT
St. Paul, Minden

Mr. Nicholson has been nominated by St. Paul, Minden for his unwavering devotion in maintaining the church in everything from electronics to repairs. When the church went digital, he made it happen. When yearly flooding occurs, he rises in the night and wades through freezing water to manage pumps, lights and heat lines that save the church from flooding. Repairing everything that moves, and some things that don't, his work truly reflects the love of Christ.

Dorcas Sheppard, ODT
St. Cuthbert, Leaside

Ms. Sheppard has been nominated by the Bishop for her honest, open-hearted discipleship, seeking the welfare of others and considering her own secondary. For six decades, she has served her parish in most of the roles possible for a lay person, currently serving as chancel guild president. She shares in the mission and ministry of the Church through innumerable acts of loving kindness in the parish and beyond.

Gordon Stock, ODT
St. John the Baptist, Norway

Mr. Stock has been nominated for his years of dedicated service, helping to lead St. John's and develop its vision. Using his corporate insight and clear communication, he has helped to guide the parish into a sustainable future. He has given nine years of decision-making, team-building and leadership while watching his young daughter grow up and helping to build and care for the community.

David Thornton, ODT
Christ Church, Deer Park

Mr. Thornton has been nominated by the Bishop for his many contributions to his parish and the diocese. At Christ Church, Deer Park, he has served as churchwarden, Synod member and chair of various committees, and he is currently a sidesperson and subdeacon. A board member of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation, former Secretary of Synod, and chair and treasurer of LOFT, his gifts have been well received and invaluable to the whole diocese.

Juanita Williams, ODT
St. Hugh and St. Edmund

Ms. Williams has been nominated for her competent, diligent and enthusiastic initiative in all matters pertaining to her parish and the diocese. For over 25 years, she has been a team player, easily able to establish rapport with all with whom she comes into contact. She has an avowed interest in her church and its community, and a desire to have such interest shared by all.

Marjorie Wrightson, ODT
Redeemer, Bloor St.

Ms. Wrightson has been nominated by Redeemer, Bloor St. for her long-standing commitment to the life and work of the Church. She has served as a lay leader in numerous roles, is a gifted preacher and presider at Evensong services, and acts as a valued mentor to clergy, staff and senior lay leadership. A highly respected leader, she is an integral member of the Redeemer faith community.



GOOD TIMES

After the presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, people gather for informal photos and to enjoy each other's company. Clockwise from top left: Bishop Andrew Asbil stands with a group from Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., where he used to be the incumbent; Jennifer Bolender King and others take photos; Order of the Diocese of Toronto medallions; chatting and taking photos before heading home. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Churches' missional stretch takes many forms

Continued from Page 1

ment the parish has already done. The process is guided by a trained facilitator from outside the parish, to achieve the best results. Each parish is asked to form a steering committee to assist with decisions and help coordinate activities.

The process comprises three phases. In the first, the church learns more about its surrounding community. "We want to deepen our understanding of who is living in the neighbourhood, not just for today but in five or ten years from now," explains Ms. Marshall. This can happen in several ways, including prayer walks, conversations with neighbours and commissioning an Environics study.

Ms. Tennant says this part of the process was illuminating. "The demographics in our parish had changed quite a lot over the past few years and we weren't really sure who was in our neighbourhood," she says.

The Environics study revealed that the average of age of local residents was quite high, there weren't a lot of children in the neighbourhood, and that many people lived in multi-generational households. A key finding was that a lot of residents were seeking a

spiritual connection – something that would play an important part in St. George's planning.

"We thought, there are some spiritual needs that we can fulfil and we have to start thinking more seriously about that," recalls Ms. Tennant.

The second phase of MAP involves identifying the church's ministries and then focussing them so they better connect with the surrounding community and the church's mission. "Many churches have inherited a lot of activities and they're all over the place," explains Ms. Marshall. "This puts them into place."

Ms. Tennant says this phase, which included input from many parishioners, helped St. George's set clear goals. "We were able to see what was important to us."

The third phase of MAP is the "missional stretch," where the church is encouraged to go beyond what it is currently doing. "It's about doing something audacious in their neighbourhood – stretching themselves from what they're already feeling confident about," says Ms. Marshall.

The missional stretch need not be scary because the church is working from its strength, she adds. "It's about moving out from

that which you already feel most confident about."

The missional stretch can take many forms. One church had a group of women who made prayer shawls and caps for chemotherapy patients. Confident enough to reach out into the community, they rented a table at a local farmers' market. In addition to making their creations, they taught young women how to crochet, forming friendships with them.

For some churches, the missional stretch involves working on their own discipleship. After looking at the Environics study and its own ministries, St. George's realized it could connect with the surrounding community through its faith formation activities. But first it had to strengthen the spirituality of its own members.

"We needed a strong core first," explains Ms. Tennant. "We needed to focus on our own spiritual development and connection with each other. We'll be attractive to the wider community if we can truly be disciples."

The church has set itself three main goals, which it hopes to achieve by December 2020:

- "Deepening and enriching our spirit." Twenty more parishioners will attend at

least one new activity.

- "Strengthening our Sunday morning congregation." Twelve more parishioners will come regularly to worship God and nurture their souls.
- "Becoming disciples of Christ and talking about our faith." Ten more parishioners will talk about their relationship with God.

The goals, which are displayed on a paper tree at the back of the church and printed on a bookmark, are already producing results, says Ms. Tennant. "We've seen new people come out for Bible study, for our weekly meditation and for coffee hour. We're seeing more people at our Sunday morning worship service, and some have stood up to tell us how they've talked about our church with others."

One thing that Ms. Tennant is seeing and hearing a lot more of is prayer. "Because we made prayer a focus, we now start every meeting with prayer. People are praying a lot and you can sense that support in the church." The entire process at St. George's was undergirded by prayer, as it was in the other participating churches.

Ms. Tennant says the process has given St. George's parishioners a renewed focus and purpose. "I think

sometimes you go to church, attend the service and then go home and that's you done for the week. But this whole exercise has kept things top of mind for people. People are realizing that they can have an impact, that they can actually make something change."

Ms. Marshall has heard similar comments from other churches. "There is something about how MAP is worked on that invites leadership and congregations to understand that this is a fullness of time moment for them. It's time to truly to take up the opportunity and challenge of stretching themselves further than they have imagined, of asking more of themselves than they have before, of setting a bar and saying, 'With God's help, we can do this together.'"

"We don't enter a MAP process with any judgement as to where that bar needs to be," she adds. "That's entirely between the congregation and facilitator, to set goals the congregation knows it can achieve, because what we're wanting to do here is rebuild confidence and hope in our discipleship in a practical way."

For more information on Mission Action Planning, contact Janet Marshall at jmarshall@toronto.anglican.ca.

Levee rings in new year

THE annual Bishop's Levee was held at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1, the first of the new decade. The event included a Eucharist, a ringing of the cathedral bells and an opportunity to share New Year's

greetings with the diocese's bishops and dean. The receiving line was followed by festive music, a choral Evensong and the presentation of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (see pages 6-7).



Clockwise from above: Bishop Andrew Asbil stands with, from left, Dilkushi Mendis and Ranil Mendis of St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South, the Rev. Nirmal Mendis of All Saints Anglican Church in Welland, Ont., Hiraj Mendis and Rasadari Mendis of Holy Family, Heart Lake in Brampton, and Nilanthi Mendis and Riza Zubair of St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South; Bishop Kevin Robertson and his spouse Mohan Sharma speak with the diocese's vice chancellor, Brian Armstrong, ODT; the Rev. Canon Elizabeth Kilbourn and Br. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, with friends; Bishop Asbil with Elsa Jones, ODT, chair of the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians; Bishop Jenny Andison and family with friends Ira Carmichael and his dog (left) and Canon Phyllis Creighton, ODT (right); Dean Stephen Vail and his partner Neil Walker (left) with Davi Liang and his spouse Can Zhang of St. James Cathedral's Mandarin Ministry; Bishop Riscylla Shaw with Lyds Keesmaat-Walsh of Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., and Sydney Brouillard-Coyle of the Diocese of Huron. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON





The pilgrims at Petra in Jordan. At right, the Rev. Canon Philip Der celebrates the Eucharist at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem. PHOTOS BY KHALID NAWAFLEH AND DORA LI

Holy Land pilgrimage a blessing in many ways

BY THE REV. CANON PHILIP DER

WHEN I was seated on the plane to Israel, I came to realize that we had finally embarked on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was real! I gave my heartfelt thanks to God Almighty for making this trip come true. After more than a year of planning and anticipation, 35 of us had begun our journey together.

Leading a group for 13 days was a test of my spiritual leadership and servanthood. We started each day with a short devotion while on the bus. Every night, I prepared a Morning Prayer that would be

appropriate to the site that we would be visiting the next day. Moreover, I had to ensure our group members' safety and needs. I was greatly blessed by their care and respect in return.

The pilgrimage enlightened me in many ways. Firstly, I came to understand that Jordan is, and had always been, part of the Holy Land. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Naomi, Ruth and even Jesus had at one time or another been there. The descendants of Esau once lived in Petra, the famous ancient wonder. Secondly, I was moved by the opportunity to celebrate the

Eucharist at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, the city where Jesus instituted the Last Supper, carried His cross along the Via Dolorosa to Calvary, was crucified, died and was resurrected. I could feel His presence and love for us all. Lastly, I was deeply touched when I officiated at the renewal of marriage vows for six couples in Cana, the place where Jesus did His first miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding banquet. This reminds us all that marriage is holy and instituted by God, that it should be honoured and upheld.

The pilgrimage not only en-



riched our understanding of the Bible, but also strengthened our bond and fellowship. We laughed together, dined together, celebrated together, sang together, prayed together and shared our testimonies together. When one got lost, all were concerned; when one fell, all reached out to care. We had truly lived out what 1 Corinthians 12 taught the Body of Christ should be. We were one in the bond of love.

I thank my hardworking team – Dora, Benita and Clara for their tireless effort and dedication, our travel agency, our guides and bus drivers for making the trip possible and memorable. Above all, I thank God for all the blessings bestowed upon us as we journeyed together in the footsteps of Jesus.

The Rev. Canon Philip Der is the incumbent of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill.

Orillia church makes Christmas shopping fun

St. James, Orillia, together with local artisans, downtown merchants and the Peter Street Arts District, hosted the first Orillia Christmas Market on Nov. 22-24. The organizing committee included members of St. James, and the church's ACW replaced its traditional Christmas bazaar and luncheon with this exciting new event.

Music played a big part in the market's success. Advanced piano students, an a capella choir, two bands, musicians from the local youth centre and St. James' choir filled the church with music from morning until night. There were

about 20 booths in the church, with artisans offering a stunning variety of wares. ACW members sold knitting and sewing items while their bake table ran out of cookies every day. Santa was available for photos, and people were welcomed and informed by enthusiastic volunteers. The crowd of people shopping, strolling, chatting and enjoying "Christmas like it should be" was overwhelming at times.

The church was pleased and honoured to introduce Bishop Peter Fenty, who had attended the Sunday morning service, to



Local merchants and members of St. James choir take part in the first Orillia Christmas Market, held at the church. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ST. JAMES, ORILLIA

the vendors and shoppers. The church is grateful for the generosity of the market's major sponsors, including Orillia Home Hardware,



which donated a large wooden train displayed on the church's front lawn, and Creative Nomad Studios, which developed and man-

aged the market's website and social media platforms. Many vendors and musicians have already requested space in the 2020 market.

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LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the March issue is Jan. 30. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

folk songs, Broadway show tunes and contemporary music. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. There will be refreshments and a raffle. Reservations can be made by calling All Saints at 905-833-5432. The church is located just south of the King Side Road on the east side of Keele Street.

FEB. 9 - Rock Eucharist featuring the music of Florence and the Machine, 7 p.m. Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

Music & Worship

JAN. 26 - "Sing and Joyful Be!", a Eucharist featuring the music of the Sacred Harp (shape note singing), 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

JAN. 26-APRIL 26 - Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, 31 St. Phillips Rd., Toronto. Held Jan. 26, Feb. 23, March 22 and April 26. Pay what you can. Amanda Tosoff on piano, Morgan Childs on drums and Jon Meyer on bass.

FEB. 2 - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

FEB. 5 - APRIL 29 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., free admission, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. Recitals on the following dates: Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29.

FEB. 8 - Concert by the Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir, 2:30 p.m., All Saints, King City, 12935 Keele St. This internationally travelled group of over 35 choristers has a broad repertoire that includes spirituals, operatic arias, Canadian

Workshops & Gatherings

JAN. 24 - Evening Prayer at 6 p.m., followed by light supper at 6:30 p.m. and at 7 p.m. a talk by Dr. Carl Benn from Ryerson University's Department of History on the diversities of Toronto church architecture, from the Neoclassical visions of the Georgians to the Gothic Revival and eclectic tastes of the Victorians, all at St. Olave, Swansea, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto.

FEB. 7 - Monthly Lenten Study, "Oils in the Bible," 7 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

FEB. 9 - Choral Evensong for the Queen's Accession at 4 p.m., followed by Royal Festive Tea, during which the choir's director Clement Carelse will present an illustrated feature on the First Viennese School of composers, which includes Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart and Schubert, at St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto.

FEB. 17 - Crafts, face painting, food, magic show and more, 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR FEBRUARY

1. Church of the Messiah
2. Eglinton Deanery
3. St. Augustine of Canterbury
4. St. Clement, Eglinton
5. St. Cuthbert, Leaside
6. St. John, York Mills
7. St. Leonard
8. St. Timothy, North Toronto
9. FaithWorks

10. Church of the Transfiguration
11. All Saints, Whitby
12. Church of the Ascension, Port Perry
13. Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa
14. Redeemer, Ajax
15. St. George Memorial, Oshawa
16. Oshawa Deanery
17. St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)
18. The Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto
19. St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)
20. Social Justice and Advocacy

- Department (Elin Goulden)
21. St. Martin, Courtice
 22. St. Matthew, Oshawa
 23. Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry
 24. St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering
 25. St. Paul, Uxbridge
 26. Ash Wednesday
 27. St. Peter, Oshawa
 28. St. Thomas, Brooklin
 29. St. John, Whitby

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. William Craven, Honorary Assistant, St. Jude, Bramalea North, Oct. 8, 2019.
- The Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale & Missional Partner to the Parkdale Community Food Hub at Epiphany and St. Mark, Dec. 23, 2019.
- The Rev. Chris Dow, Incumbent, St. James, Caledon East, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Ronald Duncan, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Atonement, Alderwood, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy, Interim Associate Priest, St. John, Willowdale, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. David Howells, Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew by-the-Lake, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Hilda, Fairbank, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Fran Kovar, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering, Jan. 8.
- The Rev. Irina Dubinski, Priest-in-Charge, Our Saviour, Don Mills, Feb. 1.

Area Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
- Church of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth
- St. Paul, Newmarket

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the

Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe.

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

- Trinity, Streetsville
- Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
- St. Thomas, Huron Street
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
- St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea
- St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering

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

- All Saints, Whitby
- Christ Church, Stouffville
- Grace Church on-the-Hill (Associate Priest)
- Parish of Fenelon Falls
- Parish of Lakefield
- St. Christopher, Richmond Hill (Associate Priest)

Third Phase - No Longer Receiving Names:

- St. Martin, Bay Ridges
- Church of the Incarnation
- St. Margaret in-the-Pines

Ordinations

- The Rev. Alison Hari-Singh was ordained a Priest at St. Martin in-the-Fields on Jan. 12.
- The Rev. Alexandra Pohlod will be ordained a Priest at St. Olave, Swansea on Jan. 26 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Benjamin Gillard will be ordained a Priest at St. John the Baptist, Norway on Feb. 2 at 4:30 p.m.
- The Rev. Philip Gearing will be ordained a Priest at Church of the Ascension, Port

Perry on Feb. 9 at 4 p.m.

- The Rev. Orvin Lao will be ordained a Priest at Trinity East (Little Trinity) on Feb. 22 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Michelle Jones will be ordained a Priest at Christ Church, Brampton on March 1 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Michael Perry will be ordained a Priest at St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle on March 25 at 7 p.m.

Celebrations of New Ministry

- The Rev. Irina Dubinski, Priest-in-Charge, Our Saviour, Don Mills, March 1, at 4 p.m.

Conclusions

- The Rev. MacIvan Rogers concluded his ministry at Church of the Atonement, Alderwood on Nov. 25, 2019.
- The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas Stoute concluded his appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St. Hilda, Fairbanks on Dec. 31, 2019.

Retirements

- The Rev. Canon Kimberley Beard has retired. His last Sunday at St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering was Dec. 29, 2019.
- The Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square will be June 7.
- The Rev. David Bryant has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea will be June 30.

Death

- The Rev. Canon Ronald Da-

CANADA BRIEFS

Grant helps church build affordable housing

OTTAWA - The city of Ottawa has approved a grant application from Christ Church, Bells Corners and the Diocese of Ottawa for a new affordable housing project. The project consists of a new 35-unit building with a community services hub on the ground floor that will include a food bank and community resource centre. Ten units will be reserved for women and children transferred from a shelter. Other

units will be available at below-market rental rates to people on the Ottawa housing list, which currently has more than 10,000 families on it. To realize the project, Christ Church, Bells Corners has partnered with the Diocese of Ottawa, the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre, a local food cupboard and Cornerstone Housing for Women. Christ Church, Bells Corners' rectory, which has not been used as a rectory for decades, will be torn down to make way for the new building. The church is looking for a new name for the initiative, originally called the Rectory Reimagination Project. The project is part of a plan by the Diocese of Ottawa to create 125 units of affordable housing to coincide with the diocese's 125th anniversary in 2021.

Crosstalk

vidson died on Dec. 15, 2019. Ordained deacon in 1961 and priest in 1962, he served as assistant curate of St. John, York Mills, incumbent of the Parish of Cannington, incumbent of St. Christopher, Warrendale in the United States, incumbent of Christ the King, Etobicoke, incumbent of

Christ Church, Deer Park, and then incumbent of St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough. After his retirement in 1997, he served various interim appointments and was recently an honorary assistant at St. Bride, Clarkson. His funeral was held in Peterborough on Jan. 11.

We will be introducing a recording studio

Aaron Dumpala is the music director at Grace Church, Markham.

Last August we launched the Parkway Concert Series. The theme of the August concert was "Road Trip Favourites" and for December it was "Christmas Favourites." The series has been a wonderful success, as we have been able to reach out to musicians in the community and invite them into Grace for a time of fellowship. The theme of the Spring concert is "Cinematic, Theatre and Musicals."

Another exciting project that we are about to embark on is the creation of the Parkway Music Studio & Music Program. At the end of last year, we were blessed to receive a Reach Grant from the diocese. We have a vision of Grace to be a place for youth and young families to enhance their musical abilities, to enjoy a supportive community spirit and to participate in the life of the church. As part of the program, we will be introducing a recording studio for those eager to create or study music. The program will also consist of weekly rehearsals and seasonal concerts. In the long run, I would love for this initiative to be interconnected with the diocese, where youth from different parishes could visit and enjoy each other's music.

Apart from the church, I am completing my Bachelor of Economics degree at Ryerson University. I love exploring different cuisines in Toronto, as food is a big part of my culture. Being an immigrant, of Indian origin from Saudi Arabia, I've been exposed to many different cultures and traditions. I enjoy seeing shows at the Ed Mirvish Theatre and at local comedy clubs. Toronto has been a wonderful place for me to grow up in.

I have also recently become a Canadian citizen, which was the best Christmas present this year.

Growing up in Saudi Arabia, Christianity was definitely a problem, as we did not have any churches to go to. The diplomatic embassies, however, opened their doors for community worship – the British and Australian embassies for Anglican services, and the American embassy for ecumenical and Pentecostal services. I was exposed to a variety of denominations, which taught me a lot about my personal Christian faith. I began my classical musical training at the age of five, and then my parents introduced me to worship music two years later. I was able to get a well-rounded view of traditional and contemporary styles of theological music.

My parents have played a key part in my spiritual life. My father, the Rev. Vinaya Dumpala, and mother, Geetha Dumpala, have instilled in me a strong grounding in the Christian faith. They have shown me how important it is to be part of a church, regardless of the role I might play. As an immigrant family, we were able to overcome challenges. Another person who has been instrumental in my path to this position is the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner. What started as a part-time position quickly became a full-time placement, thanks to her. She has always supported any ideas I might have had in terms of hymnody and music direction. Canon Skinner and Grace's community welcomed a 19-year-old as their music director. I was very touched by that.

Five years from now, I would like to be just as involved in the Church. Yes, my other professional life might take me elsewhere, but I will continue to worship



Aaron Dumpala at Grace Church, Markham. PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE CHURCH, MARKHAM

at a parish, using the talents God has blessed me with.

My favourite passage from scripture is Psalm 121, v. 1 & 2: "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth." This passage resonates with me because it gave me strength and hope in times of need, specifically during the process of coming to Canada. When times were beyond challenging, my family and I would never forget our roots and our faith.



ROYAL VISITOR

Sophie, Countess of Wessex meets with supporters of the Awareness Foundation in Toronto in November. The countess is the royal patron of the foundation, which provides educational support primarily to Christian children and youth in Syria and Iraq and promotes a better understanding of Middle East issues in the West. The foundation was created by the Rev. Dr. Nadim Nassar, an Anglican priest based in the United Kingdom. From left are the Rev. Canon Peter Walker, Tamara Rebanks, James Appleyard, the Countess of Wessex, Christopher Bunting, ODT, Francesca Mallin Parker, Fred Parker, the Rev. Dr. Nadim Nassar and Bishop Andrew Asbil. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AWARENESS FOUNDATION

CANADA BRIEFS

Church opens indoor play park

FREDERICTON - The Church of the Resurrection in Grand Bay-Westfield, N.B., is home to a new indoor play park, which officially opened in January. The facility is called Sunrise Playpark, as determined by a congregational vote. The name refers to the sunrise over Grand Bay, the sunrise on Easter Sunday symbolizing the resurrection, play by children in the early dawn and as a symbol of new life in Jesus, renewed every morning. The state-of-the-art playpark was completed in December and is available for use by the community at affordable cost.

The New Brunswick Anglican

Anglican, Lutheran congregations merge

VICTORIA - Anglican and Lutheran leaders have signed a memorandum of agreement officially fusing congregations in Port Alberni, B.C., from each tradition into one faith

community. On Dec. 1, representatives of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) signed a memorandum establishing Trinity Anglican + Lutheran Church. The agreement marks the culmination of a process that began 19 years ago, when St. Alban Anglican and Christ the King Lutheran churches pooled resources to form a shared ministry, one year before the Anglican Church of Canada and ELCIC ratified their full communion partnership. As part of the agreement, St. Alban housed the two congregations. Christ the King sold off its church property, with proceeds split between the congregation and the B.C. Synod. Shortly thereafter, All Saints Anglican Church asked to become part of the shared ministry and merged with St. Alban. The new parish was dedicated in 2004 as Trinity Anglican Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. In following years, the Anglican and Lutheran congregations became further intertwined. The decision to merge followed a recognition that it was redundant to have two councils, two treasurers and two envelope secretaries, and that despite respect for both traditions, members shared a greater common identity as members of Trinity than as Anglicans or Lutherans.

Diocesan Post