

Primate attends special service

Three bishops installed in areas



New chaplain for Sunnybrook

The Anglican

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MARCH 2017

Supply chain ships items north

Donated goods reach First Nations communities

BY STUART MANN

IN late January, three transport trucks loaded with donated hockey equipment and other items left a Mississauga warehouse for Timmins and the remote communities of Pickle Lake and Red Lake. From there, the cargo will be put on airplanes and flown to 11 First Nations communities sprinkled across northern Ontario.

Some of the hockey equipment is bound for Kashechewan First Nation, located on the Albany River near James Bay. The community has a new arena but not enough sticks, skates, helmets and pads to go around. When the shipment arrives, there will be enough equipment for 12 teams.

One of the people behind the trip is John Andras, an Anglican from Peterborough. He helps to coordinate a grassroots supply chain that transports donated items from southern Ontario to fly-in First Nations communities.

“For the northern communities, often a warm coat is the difference between a child being able to go to school or not going to school,” he says. “In a lot of ways, the delivery of those goods can be life-changing.”

Mr. Andras is a director of HIP (Honoring Indigenous People), a joint initiative of the Rotary Club and Indigenous leaders. The charity seeks to educate Canadians about Indigenous issues and



Gerald Lue and Susan Hicks get boxes of donated hockey equipment and other items ready for shipment at the Mississauga warehouse. At right, John Andras with items that were delivered in December. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND HIP

assist schools in First Nations communities. “We very much work with the communities,” he says. “We listen to what the needs are and try our best to fill those needs.”

HIP’s in-kind collection and transportation program started almost by accident last year, when Mr. Andras and Cobourg resident Laurie Siblock had to figure out how to ship 1,500 articles of winter clothing to nine First Nations communities in the

north. It was a daunting task but the duo managed to do it – and an idea was born.

“We realized there was a disconnect between people wanting to do something – wanting to collect and perhaps having done a collection – and them sitting with a school gym full of boxes and asking, ‘Now what?’ What we’ve managed to do is create a supply chain from the south to the north.”

Continued on Page 8



A woman holds a sign outside a mosque in Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Anglicans support Muslims after attack

BY STUART MANN AND MARTHA HOLMEN

Angela Forbes took part in a “ring of peace” outside a mosque in Toronto’s west end on Feb. 3 to show her support for Muslims fol-

lowing the deadly attack on a Quebec City mosque a few days earlier.

“This is an amazing experience,” said Ms. Forbes, a member of St. Anne, Gladstone Avenue in Toronto as she stood with about

250 Christians, Jews, Muslims and others as worshippers entered the mosque for Friday prayers. “There’s so many people and so much love being expressed.”

Ms. Forbes was one of hun-

dreds of Anglicans across the diocese who took part in events and organized gatherings in support of Muslims in the days after the Quebec City shooting, which left six dead and 19 injured.

Continued on Page 12

CHURCH WELCOMES SYRIAN REFUGEES - SEE PAGE 7



The Sudanese Community Church of Toronto's choir sings a hymn, accompanied by drums and tambourines.



Enjoying African and Canadian food after the service.



Archbishop Hiltz greets parishioners.



Archbishop Fred Hiltz talks with children at the beginning of the service. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Primate attends special service

Sudanese congregation worships at Toronto church

BY JANICE BIEHN

SEVEN years ago, St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto opened its doors to the Sudanese Community Church of Toronto, offering a space to worship on Sunday afternoons. Its pastor, the Rev. Peter John Achiek, an Anglican priest and one of the former "Lost Boys" of Sudan, was later named an honorary assistant at St. Olave's. The Sudanese church is part of the Diocese of Toronto.

The congregations come together for a special joint service every January and have welcomed a who's who of bishops over the years. On Jan. 15, Arch-

bishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, celebrated the Eucharist and preached. In his sermon, he compared the story of the Holy Innocents – baby boys killed at Herod's decree – to the current violence around the world, particularly in South Sudan.

He said the Sudanese Community Church of Toronto is truly ecumenical, noting how it brings together Sudanese Canadians from different ethnicities, tribes and denominations.

As violence and political unrest continue in South Sudan, the congregation feels the pain. Last year, it held three special prayer vigils

and memorial services for family members and friends who were killed back home.

"This annual joint service helps us stay connected to the plight of our South Sudanese brothers and sisters," says the Rev. Robert Mitchell, incumbent of St. Olave's. "We are privileged to have the congregation share our space."

The service included a procession for the Holy Innocents and musical selections from the Sudanese choir in both English and Juba Arabic. A delicious African lunch was enjoyed by all.

Janice Biehn is a member of St. Olave, Swansea.



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SUMMER CHAPLAIN Anglican Parish of Georgina

The Anglican Parish of Georgina is now accepting applications for its 10 week **Summer Outreach Chaplaincy** position commencing late June 2017. 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 in **Sibbald Point Provincial Park** on Lake Simcoe. Working flexible hours, the successful applicant will be front-line outreach. You'll be a self-motivated individual who enjoys the outdoors. Living accommodation in a camper trailer on a **campsite** is provided. Ability to ride a bike and willing to get around to the village of Sutton (3 km), nursing home, community dinners and youth shelter a definite asset.

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TRENT-DURHAM

Bishop Riscylla Shaw receives water for baptism at her induction as the area bishop of Trent-Durham on Jan. 21 at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough. Top left, Bishop Shaw addresses the clergy and laity. At left, the Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe tells the Gospel through Biblical storytelling. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



YORK-SCARBOROUGH

Bishop Kevin Robertson is presented to the clergy and laity at his induction as the area bishop of York-Scarborough on Jan. 22 at St. John, York Mills. Top right, Bishop Robertson greets people after the service. At right, applause for the new bishop. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



YORK-CREDIT VALLEY

Bishop Jenny Andison is joined by the Rev. Susan Climo and parishioners of Holy Spirit of Peace, Mississauga, at her induction as the area bishop of York-Credit Valley on Jan. 22 at St. Matthew, Islington. At left, Bishop Andison and the choir (below) of the Church of South India in Mississauga. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Do our lives align with our values?



I read *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar Wilde's only novel, when I was a teenager. It contains the famous quip, "Nowadays, people know the price of everything, and the value of nothing."

A couple of years later, he reused the line in his play *Lady Windermere's Fan* as the definition of a cynic.

It is a good line for us to think about as we enter into the season of Lent. We live in a society driven by economic bottom lines – everything becomes a commodity, assigned a price tag, its worth determined by the market (whatever that market might be).

I'm sure it's not unrelated that our society is beset by a cynicism that is not only community destroying but soul destroying. People can be bought for a price (just when we thought slavery was dead). Truth is a commodity up for sale (just when we thought objective scientific evidence would free us from delusion). What's deemed valuable is what fetches the highest price.

But price and value are not the same thing, and the very cynical Oscar Wilde knew that. Value includes a sense of the importance or intrinsic worth of something or someone. It is not related to what we could fetch for it on the market. It may indeed be priceless – without price.

This Lent, I invite you to consider the values that undergird our diocesan strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*. It names five: faith,

ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

BY ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

compassion, collaboration, accountability, boldness.

Many think that Lent is a time to focus on our sins and shortcomings. The great spiritual guides direct us to focus less on the vices that lead us into sin and look instead to the virtues we aspire to. How do our lives and actions align with our values?

How do we nourish our *faith* in God who is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit? How do I grow in knowing God in my intellect, in my affections, in my activity? How do I respond to God's love for me in personal and communal worship?

Loving *compassion* is the primary stance of God toward creation, revealed in Jesus Christ. Our love of God needs to overflow into our love for our neighbour, also God's beloved, as God's love has overflowed for us. How do we express our compassion in attitude and act in our daily dealings with family, friends, colleagues, strangers? Are the vulnerable the particular subjects of our love?

The Christian life is never solitary. From the beginning, we have been called to live in companionship with others. The biblical invitation is to exercise our unique gifts *collaboratively*, for each needs the others' gifts for all of us to live fully and maturely. We do not need to compete for God's love and attention. God has already given that to us.

What we do actually matters – to us, to our world, to God's mission. It also matters how we do it. Both way and act are important. As part of a communion of saints, through time and place, we are mutually *accountable* to God, each other and ourselves for what we do and how we live. We bear one another's burdens. We share in each other's triumphs. Our baptismal vows remind us that our failures are not a measure of our worth but a chance for a new start. Accountability, then, is about constructive critique leading to growth, rather than punitive judgement that cynically pronounces nothing can improve.

Because we have hope in the living God who has raised Jesus from the dead and empowers us with the life-giving Spirit, we are called to live boldly and without the anxious fear that can trap and constrain us. Do we value *boldness* – the courageousness that empowered the apostles to proclaim the Good News that transforms the world? Boldness, unless it is linked to faith, compassion, collaboration and accountability, can be impulsive recklessness or irresponsible conceit. Linked to these other values, however, boldness can mobilize our creative imagination and productive energy, joining us to God's mission to reconcile the world to himself.

This Lent, explore these values and see how they shape your life, as well as the life of your parish and our diocese. Pray about what we can do and how we can more clearly live by the values we affirm.

Lent is an invitation to tear down walls



Over the past two years, Anglicans across Canada have stepped up to sponsor hundreds of refugees, mainly from war-torn Syria. Many parishes across our diocese have sponsored families on

their own, while some have partnered with other churches, community groups and neighbours. Not only have these efforts relieved the suffering of displaced people half a world away and given them a new home in Canada, but my sense is that they have reinvigorated and refocused the outreach ministries of parishes large and small. At the heart of this ministry is Jesus' call for his disciples to engage in acts of love and mercy, including welcoming the stranger (Matthew 25:35).

One of the many joys of welcoming others is the opportunity to get to know people who are different. In the parish where I served for the past five years, welcoming a family into our midst gave us profound insights into a language, culture and religious tradition that were not our own. Not surprisingly, building the bridges of those new relationships over time reminded us how much we have in common, notwithstanding our perceived differences.

It is vital that this work of tearing down walls continues. Over the past few months, the world has witnessed an increase of suspicion and mistrust of "the other." The proposed border wall between the U.S. and Mex-

BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP KEVIN ROBERTSON

ico threatens the further separation of two peoples that, though divided by citizenship, are united in so many other ways. In a speech in Berlin 30 years ago, American President Ronald Reagan famously challenged his Russian counterpart, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" But now, a new president is threatening to erect new walls with the aim of keeping people apart. The recent executive order to restrict entry into the U.S. for people of seven Muslim-majority countries is another kind of wall. It paints entire nations and peoples with a single brush, and heightens a sense of xenophobia around the world. Even here in our own country, we were shocked and saddened by the murder of six Muslim men at a Quebec City mosque in late January. Again, a reminder of the walls that divide us.

In the face of such disheartening news, I have found consolation and encouragement in the response of people of faith. I have heard stories of churches in our diocese redoubling their efforts to sponsor more families, especially from the countries on the U.S. watch list. In early February, I was moved to see a group of Anglicans from St. Anne, Gladstone Avenue form a "ring of peace" outside a mosque in the west end of Toronto. With their Jewish brothers and sisters from a neighbouring synagogue, they stood in soli-

arity with Muslims to "express our common humanity." A year ago, the people of St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough raised funds for a local mosque after arson destroyed their building.

As we begin the season of Lent once again this year, we are reminded of the walls in our own lives, and are asked to consider how we might allow God to tear them down. This year, what might we give up or take on that would help us remove those walls we have constructed between ourselves and God, and ourselves and each other? How might we recommit ourselves to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ in a world that seems overcome by fear and division? How might we pattern our lives in accordance with the one who was lifted high on the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself? Well, going back to the basics of Lent is a good start. The invitation on Ash Wednesday is to observe a "holy Lent" by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving and by reading and meditating on the word of God (BAS, p.282). In their own ways, these disciplines may help us to consider the ways we have built and maintained walls in our lives. Hopefully, they will also lead us to a vision of being transformed in the image of God. For at the end of this Lenten path lies the resurrection of Jesus, which is the ultimate tearing down of every wall, including sin and death.

I wish you a holy Lent. With God's help, may the walls come down, and may we be brought together in the love and service of Christ.



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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 SE17JU.

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. Fred Hiltz, Church House, 80 Hayden St. Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

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 the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

The Archbishop of Toronto:

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson

York-Credit Valley:

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison

Trent-Durham:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw

York-Scarborough:

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson

York-Simcoe:

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You can be love in the world



Can you imagine what your community or church would be like without Anglican outreach? Imagine no parish food bank or mission trip to Africa. No 30-hour famine organized by the parish youth group. No Christmas food hamper for a needy family. No toy drive, blood donor clinic or carpool to the cancer treatment centre. No parish bazaar in support of an emergency relief effort. No volunteering at the AIDS hospice or marching with others on Good Friday on behalf of the homeless.

Outreach is an integral part of our Anglican community; it is our faith in action. When we reach out our hands to support others, we share Christ's love with people who need it most. As parish communities, we help to improve the lives of people who live in our neighbourhoods. As a diocesan community, we bring hope where there is

THE STEWARD

BY PETER MISIASZEK

despair and compassion where there is a broken spirit.

FaithWorks is our shared ministry of feeding, sheltering, befriending and nurturing the most vulnerable people in the diocese. Because of the faith-filled support of individuals, parishes, foundations and corporations, we are able to touch the lives of 10,000 people every year. According to Archbishop Colin Johnson, "FaithWorks is a ministry of encounter and compassion in which we walk with people who are marginalized and vulnerable." For 20 years, we have been actively committed to and engaged with this ministry. Together, we have raised more than \$25 million.

In 2016, FaithWorks raised nearly \$1.5 million. Thank you to everyone who donated to the campaign! Although we almost reached our target, it was the first

time in its history that FaithWorks received more money from sources other than parish campaigns. Parish participation is critically important to the ability of FaithWorks to support our Ministry Partners who are Christ's hands and feet in the diocese.

It was an extraordinary year. We know that it took hard work and tremendous sacrifice for parishes to balance their commitments to FaithWorks with the call to support the settlement of Syrian refugees. Your continued support of FaithWorks is both humbling and inspiring. For parishes who decided to focus on the Syrian refugee crisis, remember that FaithWorks needs you!

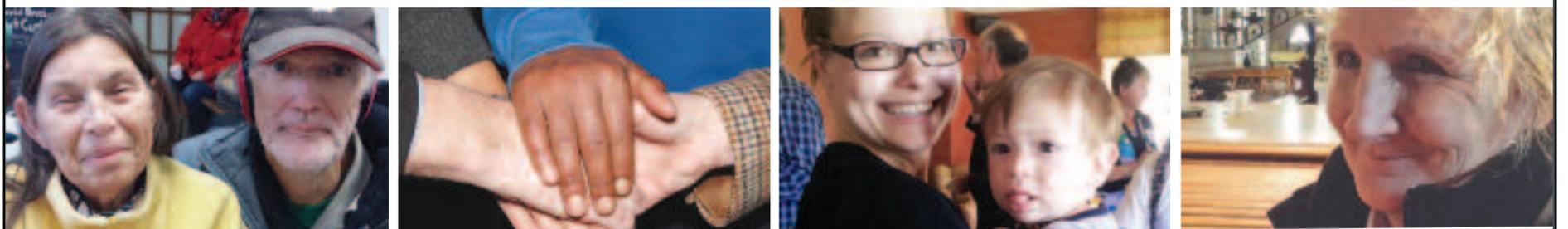
So as we begin the 2017 FaithWorks campaign, imagine what outreach could look like in your community and your parish this year. Imagine homework clubs for at-risk youth, safe housing for women fleeing abuse, supporting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and helping new-

comers and refugees call Canada home. Through FaithWorks, all of this and more is possible.

This Lent, you can be love in the world by making a donation to FaithWorks. We have included in this issue of *The Anglican* an envelope that contains a brochure sharing FaithWorks outreach work and an invitation for you to make a donation. You can respond by mail or online at www.faithworks.ca. Please give! Imagine the impact that being love can make!

Across our diocese – in parishes, community ministries, homes and workplaces of faithful men, women and young people – Christ's work goes on in support of our mission and moves us forward in building communities of hope and compassion. What we do in reaching out to those in need has a bigger impact on Canada than you imagine.

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



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The community connected with my soul

Jenn McIntyre is the director of Romero House.

Romero House is a community of welcome and support for refugee claimants in the west end of Toronto. We commit to walking alongside refugees as they seek safety and a new life in Canada.

I spend my days encountering remarkable people – newly arrived refugees who have undergone incredible journeys to get here, passionate and committed volunteers and supportive donors. My main role is to encourage and support the interns, who are the heartbeat of Romero House – the young people who give a year or two of their lives in service to the community. They are really the people who run Romero House. My role is to accompany them and to ensure all that we do is done in the spirit of our Way of Being as a community.

Right now I am really excited about the Community Host Program, an initiative that has been supported and encouraged by the Diocese of Toronto. This is a program that allows individuals and families to fill a deep need for emergency housing by offering a room in their

home to a newly arrived refugee family. It is a sign of real Christian hospitality. It is the voice of the church speaking God's love very loudly in this moment in history – a moment in which fear is trying to build walls between people. Through this program, we are meeting Christians who are choosing to open their doors in trust and faith, who are choosing to break down walls rather than build them.

The best part of my job is that I don't do it alone. I am held up and accompanied by a faithful and tremendous community. The second-best part of my job is the amazing food that is shared by my neighbours. The smells and tastes of Romero House are glorious.

There are no "worst" parts of my job, although many things are difficult. I am a witness to injustice every single day. And in that, I am given a choice to simply observe it, or to do something.

I grew up in Calgary and moved to Ontario to study at the University of Guelph. After graduating from International Development studies, I spent an incredibly formative year as an intern at Romero House. It was



Jenn McIntyre in a video about Romero House's Community Host Program. PHOTO BY NICHOLAS BRADFORD-EWART.

during that year that I started to shift my mindset from one of helping people in need to walking alongside those who suffer. I took that learning into three years of working with students in campus ministry at the University of Guelph.

When I was working in campus ministry, I really loved my job. I spent my days in deeply meaningful spiritual conversations with young people figuring out their relation to God. But I felt a deep yearning, a call of sorts, to be near to Romero House. The community and its Way of Being connected with my soul. So I left Guelph and moved back to Toronto to become a

neighbour of Romero House. I started studying theology at Wycliffe while volunteering at Romero. And then the call came to move back in and step into my current role. There was a need, and I felt a total sense of being in the right place.

My spiritual journey is far from a linear one, with lots of turns, backtracks and circles. It is hard to say where it began – probably as a child in a Sunday school classroom. As long as I can remember, I have been trying to figure out who I am in relation to God. I have felt welcomed and at home in a number of different Christian traditions over the years and have come to

see the presence of God in the world through ecumenical movements. My faith is what grounds my work and my life. God is my reference point. Prayer is what roots me. Our little community of interns and staff meets for prayer every morning, which is by far the most important part of my day.

I have learned that "refugee" is simply a label that is put on someone for their particular situation in life. But everyone I meet at Romero House is really just a person. My sister or brother.

I don't really think about the future in terms of where I would like to be or what my goals are. I believe that I am in absolutely the right place right now. And I am deeply committed to my work and community. I am not really thinking of or planning for anything else. I am open to the leading of the Spirit. And that might be that I am at Romero House for the rest of my life. Or I could be somewhere else in five years that is not even on my radar. But I am choosing to live now, in this moment, and to be faithfully committed to it.

I don't necessarily have a favourite passage of scripture. But the one that is speaking to me right now is the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12. In stark contrast to the politics of power and self-importance, the Beatitudes reveal the politics of God. They reveal the Kingdom values of humility, mercy and peace. They give us a very clear idea of how the church is to be in the world. They give us a deep hope.

157th Regular Session of the Synod

Notice of Meeting

The Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Rev. Colin R. Johnson has called all Synod members in the Diocese of Toronto to assemble at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites (9005 Leslie St., Richmond Hill, Ontario) for the 157th Regular Session of Synod starting on the morning of Friday, November 24, 2017 and ending at mid-day on Saturday, November 25, 2017.

Episcopal areas will hold Pre-Synod Meetings to prepare for the upcoming Regular Session of Synod. Agenda items will include: Orientation for new Synod Members, Priorities and Plans 2017-2019 including the Assessment Rate, and elections for Diocesan Council. Attendance at Pre-Synod Meetings is extremely important as this is the setting for Synod members to engage in discussion and debate on items being brought before Synod for approval.

Saturday, October 14, 2017

- Trent-Durham – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Thomas, Brooklin
- York-Scarborough- 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough

Saturday, October 21, 2017

- York-Simcoe – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. George, Allandale
- York-Credit Valley – 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at St. Bride, Clarkson

For updates on Synod visit the diocesan website at www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod

For more information, contact Pamela Boisvert, Interim Secretary of Synod, at pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca, or call (416) 363-6021, ext. 231 or 1-800-668-8932, ext. 231.



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Syrian refugees guests of honour at celebration

Family members help lead joyful service

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

A year after their arrival in Canada, an extended family of Syrian refugees were the guests of honour at a festive celebration at San Lorenzo-Dufferin Ave. in Toronto on Jan. 15.

The two families, 13 people in all, were sponsored in 2015 by two Presbyterian churches – St. Andrew, Humber Heights and St. Timothy, Etobicoke – and three Anglican churches, St. Philip, Etobicoke, St. George on-the-Hill, Toronto and San Lorenzo-Dufferin Ave.

During the past year, the Rev. Hernan Astudillo and his congregation at San Lorenzo had not yet had the opportunity to welcome and greet the families. “It was a chance for them to see the people that they had helped to bring to Canada,” says Margaret Henderson, a member of St. Andrew’s who sits on the sponsorship committee. “It was just a very joyful time.”

The families, who are Christian, helped lead the service. Christine and Carol, both teenagers, sang a few songs, and their mother and aunt served at the altar during the Eucharist.

The sponsorship project began with Hanna Bytion, a longtime member of St. Andrew’s whose brother and sister were living in Syria with their families. She had been trying to sponsor her brother and sister-in-law, along with their six children, without much

success. “In the meantime, she’d asked our church if we might bring her sister, so we approached the other churches,” says Ms. Henderson. “When the other application didn’t work out, we took that one on as well.”

With the help of the churches, the applications for both families were approved. Ms. Bytion’s sister Poline and her four children arrived first, on Dec. 10, 2015. “They came on the first plane from Syria, so that was quite exciting to be part of the first group,” says Ms. Henderson. The second family followed a few weeks later.

“When they first came, the 13 of them, they all lived with their sister, and that was a pretty crowded situation,” says Ms. Henderson. “They then found other places to rent, and so they’re in their own places now.” Several of them have found work in family members’ businesses, and they are determined to support themselves financially.

They are also eager to keep sharing the hospitality they’ve received. “They’re very appreciative and friendly, and when you go into their homes ... you can’t leave without having something to eat,” says Ms. Henderson.

The families, in particular the women and girls, have found a church home at St. Andrew’s. “We’ve really enjoyed having them there. The teenage girls are very lively, and they enjoy participating,” she says.



Syrian refugees Tamar Boughos (left), Poline Betyoun (second from left) and their children exchange the peace with friends and parishioners at San Lorenzo-Dufferin Ave. Joining them is their co-sponsor Hanna Bytion (third from left). PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Margaret Henderson (standing centre) joins hands with people at the service.

As the families continue to thrive in Canada more than a year after their arrival, Ms. Henderson

says she is struck by their determination to succeed. “They didn’t bring much with them, but they’re



Christine Boughos and her sister Carol (right) sing.

able to survive doing their own work,” she says. “It’s been kind of amazing how they’ve done that.”

New format for sermon creates a buzz in Aurora

BY STUART MANN

THE regular sermon time at Trinity Church, Aurora may never be quite the same again.

Throughout the season of Epiphany, the church has replaced the sermon with a conversation between the incumbent, the lay associate minister and the congregation. The new format has created a buzz in the parish and even attracted the attention of the local press.

The series, called Holy Shift! How to Navigate a Changing World, features the Rev. Canon Dawn Davis and Philip Hamilton sitting on bar stools at the front of the church, discussing some of the most pressing issues of the day. The congregation is then invited to ask questions and give comments as well.

The conversation isn’t just a

talk about current events. Throughout the discussion, the speakers, both at the front and in the congregation, talk about God, Jesus Christ and how their faith informs their opinions on the issues.

Canon Davis and Mr. Hamilton select the topics each week, based on what is in the news and what’s on the minds of parishioners. The election of Donald Trump and his executive orders on immigration and other subjects have provided ample material for discussion.

Some of the topics have included “What is Truth?”, an exploration of how the Gospel can help Christians navigate between facts and so-called alternative facts, and “Who Stole My Church?”, addressing numerical decline and Christ’s vision and mission in the midst of that. On

the Sunday after the massacre at the Quebec City mosque, a local Muslim leader joined the conversation. All the conversations are available in audio on the church’s website, www.trinityaurora.ca, and additional commentary is posted on its Facebook page during the week.

Canon Davis says parishioners like the format because it gives them a chance to participate in conversations about important and challenging topics in a safe place. “We’re in a moment of drastic change in society, when things are shifting quickly around us, and we wanted to slow the pace down and find a space that’s safe for us to reflect together on what is the role of our faith in the midst of all of these changes,” she says.

She says the impact on the parish has been profound.

“When people are coming out of the church, the place is bubbling and everyone is talking. I’ve had parishioners tell me this has elicited huge conversations in their homes or between friends. A number are connecting with people and going out for coffee after church to further the conversation.”

In addition to the conversation, the format includes one other important element. After each talk, the congregation is given a “spiritual takeaway” to help them navigate the change they’ve just talked about. For example, after the “Who Stole My Church?” talk, parishioners were asked to reflect on if they’ve ever had a spiritual encounter with God. If so, they were encouraged to tell a loved one about it.

The spiritual takeaways have led to some surprising moments

of grace. The week after the “Who Stole My Church?” talk, a parishioner stood up and shared his spiritual story with the rest of the congregation. “It was a holy moment,” recalls Canon Davis.

The takeaway exercise is not without some light-hearted moments – an important aspect of the format. If people complete the takeaway, they are given a sticker. “There’s some whimsy to it because part of the survival kit is holy humour,” explains Canon Davis.

People can also attend small-group discussions on Tuesday and Wednesday nights to start to build a Rule of Life for navigating today’s turbulent times. The groups have seen an uptick in attendance since the series started.

One of the interesting aspects of the series is that Canon Davis

Supply chain making impact

Continued from Page 1

In a remarkable act of generosity, the trucking companies and airlines that transport the goods have provided their services for free. Otherwise, each load would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. So far, the program has sent seven shipments to the north – all at no cost. For the most recent trip, transportation was provided by trucking company MGA International and airlines Wasaya Airways and ThunderAir.

“I’ve found that the trucking industry has a huge heart and they’re aware of conditions in the north,” says Mr. Andras. “They have contacts with First Nations communities along their routes on the northern highways, so they’re aware of the issues and problems, and they want to help.”

In addition to winter clothing and hockey equipment, donated items have included footwear, school supplies and blankets. “We’ve been working with the chiefs of Ontario and also with principals and health care centres to get lists of needed items,” he explains.

A number of community groups in the south have responded, including The Bridge Prison Ministry, an agency funded by FaithWorks, the diocese’s annual outreach appeal. Last fall, The Bridge held a clothing drive for Syrian refugees and received so many items that it was able to give several skids worth of clothing to HIP’s program.

“It was really gratifying,” says Garry Glowacki, The Bridge’s executive director. Some of the men who packed the clothes for shipment were ex-prisoners. “They loved being able to give back, because in the back of their minds they think nobody wants anything from them, so contributing is a big deal.”

Mr. Andras says the supply chain program has become “far



Gerald Lue and Susan Hicks sort donated hockey sticks and other items bound for 11 fly-in First Nations communities in northern Ontario. At right, a truck from MGA International, which is providing transportation services for free. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

bigger, far faster” than he ever dreamed possible. “It’s having a real impact in the north – not just by getting things up there that people need, but also making connections and having people realize there’s a lot of people of goodwill in the south who want to reach out and make things different.”

He says the program gives people a chance to get involved in reconciliation efforts. “I think it’s essential that the ordinary Canadian steps up because if we don’t lead, the governments won’t follow. If enough people get involved and demand change, then the governments will listen and change will happen.”

Mr. Andras has been fighting

for the marginalized for many years. He was one of the founders of Project Warmth in the 1990s and has been working with homeless people in Toronto for more than 20 years. He was a founding member of the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee and has served on other similar groups.

“I don’t like to say it’s a calling, but to some extent it is,” he says. “When you see a gross inequity, there’s a drive to try to do something to help resolve it. In a way, you could say it’s putting faith to work.”

He is passionate about reconciliation with Indigenous people. “This is the unfinished business of Canada,” he says. “Finally, we



have an opportunity to change things – if people demand it. After the TRC and people like Gord Downey, people are more aware now than they ever were and are starting to make demands. I just

hope and pray that they will continue to do so, because without those voices there will be no change.”

For more information about the program, visit www.rotaryhip.com.

Baby boomer, millennial bring different perspectives

Continued from Page 7

is a baby boomer and Mr. Hamilton is a millennial. Mr. Hamilton says they often have different perspectives on an issue, something the congregation appreciates.

“In most parishes, being a millennial in church is like being a unicorn – there aren’t too many of us around – so I think the majority of our parishioners, who

are of the baby boom generation, find it really helpful to hear the two of us interact and hear in our conversations some of the conversations they’re having with their children,” he says. “The way Dawn and I approach problems and even truth is very different, and people have found that really helpful to hear two different opinions.”

The two often disagree, which is not only accepted but a welcomed part of the format. “That’s what’s been fun about it, that even in our preparation we’re trying to teach people and model for them what it is to disagree well and to have different opinions and to still be unified in purpose and mission and vision,” says Mr. Hamilton.

Canon Davis agrees. “Holy Shift is really a listening platform. We can be listening to the generation that went before us or the generation that comes after us. We can be listening to all the diversity in our parish. It’s helped us be a lot more respectful of other people’s perspectives.”

She says churches need to re-

spond in creative ways in these changing times. “I think there is so much change going on that we have to be pretty light on our feet and make sure that our churches and our liturgies are responding to the spiritual needs that people have right now, because if they don’t we’re going to miss an incredible opportunity for Christ to speak into people’s lives.”

New chaplain installed at Sunnybrook

Diocese, Sisterhood provide innovative ministry

BY THE REV. CANON DOUGLAS GRAYDON

SISTER Hannah Grier Coome, foundress of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in 1884, identified ministry to those who were ill and distressed as a vital witness for her order. To that end, she founded a surgical hospital for women, which evolved over time into St. John's Convalescent Hospital before becoming the St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital we know today.

Integral to this ministry of healing was care for the soul – pastoral care, as we know it today. Like the healing ministry of nursing care, care for the soul has evolved over time as well. This evolution was captured well in St. John's Chapel on Jan. 17 when

Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Scarborough, installed the Rev. Joanne Davies as the new full-time Anglican chaplain to the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, of which St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital is a part.

Over the past several years, the Sisters and the Diocese of Toronto have collaborated in complementing the excellent pastoral care provided by the Sisters with the provision of a priest chaplain. St. John's Rehab is unique in that it is one of only a few remaining health care facilities that still has its founding religious order as its principal pastoral presence.

The Sisters provide a ministry of presence to those who face the challenges of rehabilitation after illness or accident. Such a journey back to health touches upon each



The Rev. Joanne Davies (second from left), Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas and friends enjoy a reception at St. John's Convent after the service of installation. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

dimension of who a person is – their physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual parts that make up a whole person.

The diocese, through the work of its Chaplaincy Committee, supports the Rev. Joanne Davies as a priest chaplain who works with the Sisters, providing a full range of religious and spiritual care to the staff and patients at Sunnybrook and St. John's.

As the Reverend Mother, Sister

Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, shared with the congregation during her homily, the service of installation was the culmination of a deep and growing relationship with the diocese regarding the building up of an innovative ministry that combines the traditions, principles and dedication of the Sisters with the Rev. Joanne Davies' enthusiasm and creativity in attuning the spiritual care provided at St. John's to the needs of the patient.

Such evidence of this creative thinking was in full display during the reception hosted by the Sisters as the Rev. Joanne Davies padded around the refectory in her brilliant flamingo pink slippers – an obvious sign she feels wonderfully at home in this new and evolving ministry.

The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon is the diocese's coordinator of Chaplaincy Services.

LENT AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Liturgies with imposition of ashes at 7:30am, 8:30am, 12:30pm, 5:15pm, and 6:30pm.

SUNDAYS IN LENT

MARCH 5 | THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30am Said Eucharist
9:30am The Great Litany & Sung Eucharist
11:00am The Great Litany in Procession & Choral Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

MARCH 12, 19, 26, APRIL 2
THE SECOND - FIFTH SUNDAYS IN LENT

8:30am Said Eucharist
9:30am Sung Eucharist
11:00am Choral Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

LITURGIES

LECTURES

Lenten Series for Faith Formation BODY & SOUL

FIVE WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

6:00pm Eucharist in the Cathedral
6:30pm Light Dinner | 7:00pm Lecture

MARCH 8: "Sexuality," Dean Asbil

MARCH 15: "Mental Health," Dr. L. T. Young

MARCH 22: "Aging," The Rev'd Dr. Tim Elliott

APRIL 5: "Food and Land," Dr. S. Keesmaat

THE WORD MADE GLOBAL The Changing Shape of Christianity & its Implications for Urban Ministry

TUESDAY, MARCH 14 | 7:00PM

Mark Gornik, Founder & Director,
City Seminary of New York City

Truth & Reconciliation THE REV'D CHRIS HARPER, INDIGENOUS NATIVE PRIEST

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

"The Next Step on the Bridge of Healing:
My Journey as a Cree Priest"

6:00pm Eucharist in the Cathedral
6:30pm Light Dinner | 7:00pm Lecture, Q&A

LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the April issue is March 2. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

MARCH 1, 15, 29 - Kingsway Organ Recitals at All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. On March 1 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., John Laing, music director at the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, accompanied by Roger Flock (percussion), will present music by J.S. Bach, Robert Jones, William Matthias and John Laing. On March 15 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., Wayne Carroll, organist and director of music at Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Thomas, Ont., accompanied by Samuel Bisson (cello), will perform. On March 29 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:25 p.m., Thomas Gonder, organist and director of music at St. Matthew, Islington will present a program consisting of *Gershwin's* by Naji Hakim, a new work by David Briggs and *Pageant* by Leo Sowerby.

MARCH 5 - Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent, 4 p.m., with Schola Ecclesiam, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. This will be followed by light refreshments, during which the choir's director, Clem Carelse, talks about the life and works of Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), an early crossover composer who linked religious and secular music.

MARCH 5 - Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., featuring the Amanda Tosoff Words Project, St. Philip, Etobicoke, 31 St. Phillips Rd., Toronto.

MARCH 19 - Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., featuring the Mark Eisenman Trio, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

MARCH 19 - Rock Eucharist featuring the music of James Taylor, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MARCH 21 - John Tuttle, organist and choirmaster of Trinity College Chapel, will play a short recital in Trinity College Chapel featuring the organ music of Johann Sebastian Bach at 12.10 p.m. There is no admission charge. Trinity Chapel is located on the Trinity College Campus, 6 Hoskin Ave., Toronto.

MARCH 24 - Organ recital with Thomas Bell, 7:30 p.m., Calvary



SOLIDARITY

The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan of St. George on Yonge, Toronto, the Rev. Joanne Davies, chaplain at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and the Rev. Dawn Leger, pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Toronto, were among tens of thousands who attended the Toronto Women's March on Jan. 21 at Queen's Park. The three-hour demonstration for justice, equity and social change was one of hundreds held worldwide in support of the Women's March on Washington following the American presidential inauguration.

Baptist Church, 72 Main St., Toronto. Music by Saint-Saëns, Vierne, Messiaen, Langlais, Dupré and Marchand. Admission \$10. Desserts included. Call 416-691-4271.

MARCH 25 - Voices Chamber Choir presents its annual Lenten concert featuring Mozart's Requiem with soloists and orchestra, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$30 adults, \$25 students and seniors. Call 416-519-0528.

MARCH 26 - Organ recital with Thomas Bell, 3 p.m., St. Paul, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Music by Saint-Saëns, Vierne, Messiaen, Langlais, Dupré and Marchand. Admission is free. Call 416-961-8116.

APRIL 9 - Performance of Handel's Messiah (Parts II & III) by the choir of St. Peter, Erindale,

with orchestra, 7 p.m., 3041 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga. Tickets \$20. Call 905-828-2095.

MAY 7 - Join the handbells, chimes, band, choir and organ at 3 p.m. in celebrating MusicFest 2017: Around the World in 80 Minutes, at St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Proceeds aid Sleeping Children Around the World and the church. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children. Visit www.sjym.ca, call 416-225-6611 or email musicfest@sjym.ca.

Sales

APRIL 8 - Spring sale and lunch, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. Crafts, jewelry, lunchroom and more. Call 416-283-1844.

APRIL 21 - Spring luncheon with fashion show, 12:30 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson

Rd., Scarborough. Advance tickets, only \$15, are available by calling the church office at 416-283-1844, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon. Last day for sales is April 18. There will be crafts for sale.

APRIL 22 - Semi-annual rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Bargains on clothing, linens, household goods and other items. Call 905-294-3184.

Workshops & Gatherings

FEB. 28 - Annual Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. Dinner includes pancakes with sausages, bacon, tea, coffee, juice and ice cream. Tickets: \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 12 and under. Call 416-283-1844 for information or tickets.

FEB. 28 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., St. Barnabas, Chester, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Tickets for adults \$6 and for children under 13, \$3. For tickets, call 416-461-1344. Pancakes, sausages and desserts will be served. Access the church via the Hampton entrance.

MARCH 7-APRIL 4 - Engaging Questions: An Introduction to Christian Apologetics, a five-week Lent series, St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave, Toronto. With the help of Christian apologists C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton and D.L. Sayers, this series will explore the ways in which Christians define their beliefs to others and themselves. Tuesday evenings, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 416-531-7955.

MARCH 8-29 - The Rev. Rob Mitchell, incumbent, will lead four weekly interactive discussions exploring images and themes of the wilderness in scripture, Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. Preceded by Holy Communion for Lent at 6 p.m. and a light supper at 6:30 p.m.

MARCH 26 - Children and Spirituality, a listening workshop for parents and children, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave., Toronto. Call 416-531-7955. Admission is free.

APRIL 1 - Real Presence: Proclaiming the Word, a rediscovering liturgy conference designed for parish worship teams, for all who serve in liturgy, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., St. George the Martyr, 197 John St., Toronto. \$35 per person or \$125 for a parish team up to five (\$25 for each person beyond the first five), \$25 for students. Lunch included. To register, visit realpresence1.eventbrite.ca. For more info, visit www.liturgy.ca.

APRIL 28-29 - The Monks' Cell Steakhouse, a unique dining experience that includes salad, fresh rolls, New York Strip steak or chicken cooked over an open hearth by professional chefs, potato, apple pie and wine - all for \$40 - at St. Theodore of Canterbury, 111 Cactus Ave., Toronto. Call 416-222-6198 or email monks-cell@hotmail.com for reservations. Seating available Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday night from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

MAY 13 - The Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women will be holding their 50th anniversary celebration, annual general meeting and luncheon at Christ Church, Stouffville. Details to follow. For tickets, call 416-363-0018 or email acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

SPECIAL EXHIBIT

Lieutenant Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell (wearing hat at right) attends the opening of Diversity of Toronto: A Black Canadian Journey, at St. James Cathedral on Feb. 5. The exhibit told the history of African-Canadians through stories of individuals who lived and worked in Toronto, with a focus on those having connections to the cathedral. The exhibit was curated by cathedral archivist Nancy Mallet. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



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PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MARCH

1. Ash Wednesday
2. St. Margaret, New Toronto
3. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (National

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. James Blackmore, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John, Blackstock, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Andrea Christensen, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Deer Park, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Julie Golding-Page, Honorary Assistant, Grace Church, Scarborough, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Priest-in-Charge, St. Barnabas, Chester, Jan. 1.
- The Very Rev. James Merrett (Diocese of Qu'Appelle), Interim Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Kingsway, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Ruthanne Ward, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Bolton, Jan. 1.
- LCdr the Rev. Carol Bateman, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Parish of North Essa, Jan. 8.
- The Rev. David Bryant, Regional Dean of North Peel, Jan. 19.
- The Rev. Steven Smith, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Saviour, Orono, Feb. 2.
- The Rev. R. James Ferry, Honorary Assistant, St. Peter, Erindale, Jan. 26.
- The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft, Honorary Assistant, Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, Jan. 26.
- The Rev. Canon Barbara Hammond, Honorary Assistant, St.

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- director - Archdeacon Paul Feheley)
4. The Chapel of St. George, Gore's Landing
 5. Eglinton Deanery
 6. St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto
 7. Christ Church, Deer Park
 8. St. Clement, Eglinton
 9. St. Cuthbert, Leaside
 10. Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto
 11. St. John, York Mills
 12. Anglican Church Women - Dr. Anita Gittens, Diocesan President
 13. St. Leonard, Toronto
 14. Church of the Messiah, Toronto
 15. St. Timothy, North Toronto
 16. Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto

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17. Trinity Church, Aurora
18. St. James, Lisle
19. Diocesan Council
20. St. Paul, Midhurst
21. St. Paul, Singhampton
22. Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach
23. Church of the Redeemer, Duntroon
24. St. Thomas, Shanty Bay
25. Trinity Church, Barrie
26. Nottawasaga Deanery
27. All Saints, Collingwood
28. Christ Church-St. Jude, Ivy
29. Christ Church, Batteau
30. St. George, Allandale
31. St. George, Utopia

- Paul, Newmarket, Jan. 26.
- The Rev. Canon Claire Wade, Regional Dean of Oshawa Deanery, Feb. 1.
 - The Rev. Judith Alltree, Honorary Assistant, St. Anne, Toronto, Feb. 2.

Vacant Incumbencies

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

Trent-Durham

- Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River

York-Credit Valley

- All Saints, Kingsway
- Christ Church, Bolton
- Christ Church St. James, Toronto
- St. Stephen, Downsview
- St. Philip, Etobicoke

York - Scarborough

- Christ Church, Deer Park
- St. Clement, Eglinton
- St. John the Baptist, Norway
- St. Timothy, Agincourt

York - Simcoe

- St. James, Orillia

Ordinations

- The Rev. Monique Taylor was ordained a priest at St. An-

- drew, Scarborough on Feb. 2.
- The Rev. Donald Beyers was ordained a priest at Christ Church, Stouffville on Feb. 12.

Deaths

- The Rev. Arnold Hancock died on Feb. 2. Ordained deacon in 1961 and priest in 1962, he served as assistant curate at St. George on Yonge, Toronto, incumbent of Christ Church, Bridgenorth, rector of St. Monica, Toronto, and incumbent of Christ Church, Scarborough. After his retirement in 1996, he served as interim priest-in-charge of the Parish of Sharon and Holland Landing, and St. George, Scarborough. His funeral was held at St. Hilda, Fairbank on Feb. 8.
- The Rev. C. Donald Wilson died on Feb. 1. Ordained in 1959, he served as assistant curate at St. Timothy, North Toronto, incumbent of the Parish of Coldwater-Medonte, incumbent of the Parish of Roches Point, and then associate priest of St. Paul, Newmarket. After his retirement in 1991, he served as honorary assistant of St. Paul, Newmarket. His funeral was held at St. John's Anglican Church in Elora, Ont. on Feb. 11.

BRIEFLY

Synod planned for Nov. 24-25

The diocese's next Regular Session of Synod will be held on Nov. 24-25 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites, 9005 Leslie St., Richmond Hill. Pre-Synod meetings will be held on Oct. 14 and Oct. 21. For more information, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Workshops held for parish leaders

Parish leadership workshops have been scheduled for each episcopal area. All clergy and parish leaders such as churchwardens and treasurers are encouraged to attend. Topics include insurance and risk mitigation, real property management, parish finances and human resources. The dates for this year's workshops are:

- York-Credit Valley: March 11 at St. John the Baptist (Dixie).
- York-Simcoe: March 11 at Holy Trinity, Thornhill.
- York-Scarborough: April 1 at St. Andrew, Scarborough.

- Trent-Durham: April 1 at St. Thomas, Brooklin.
- For more information, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Deadline for OFOH grants coming up

Parishes and congregations are invited to submit applications to receive Our Faith-Our Hope: Reimagine Church grants in the following areas: leadership development; pioneering ministry; communicating in a wireless world; enabling parishes to become multi-staffed; and adaptive re-use of parish facilities. Spring applications are due by April 15. For more information, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Cricket, anyone?

Building on the success of last year's Cricket Day, organized by the parishioners of St. Thomas à Becket and St. Peter, Erindale in Mississauga, the organizers are planning the second annual Church Picnic and Cricket Day on July 22. Church of the Holy Family, Heart Lake, Brampton is also joining this year's event that aims to bring the church community together for fun, food, fellowship and a day of cricket. If you're interested in attending this event, either as a player or spectator, contact Peter Marshall of St. Thomas à Becket, judipeter@hotmail.com.

CANADA BRIEFS

Renewed hope for Huron cathedral

LONDON - The ongoing restoration of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ont., is nearing its end, according to the Project Jericho leadership team.

Project Jericho, which has been working on the restoration of the cathedral since May 2015, said it expected restoration work to be completed by mid-February.

The team said the restoration efforts provided an opportunity to "re-invigorate not only our church's structure, but also its worship, its role in the city, its relationship among its parishioners and the diocese, while always remembering and celebrating that the story of the cathedral is the story of its people."

At the time Project Jericho was launched by Archdeacon Nancy Adams, then priest-in-charge of the cathedral, no one realized how extensive damage to the 175-year-old building was. While the eavestroughs, bricks and mortar in the north transept were being fixed, it became clear that the water damage was greater than anticipated. *Huron Church News*

Study group holds Pipe Ceremony

VANCOUVER - Members of All Saints Anglican Church in Agassiz, B.C., held a traditional Pipe Ceremony on Nov. 16 as part of their Wrongs to Rights book study group. The ceremony was led by Cree elder Frank Surprenant, who was given the right to share this ceremony with others by two Cree elders 50 years ago, as a form of teaching about the culture and spirituality of Indigenous people.

Before the ceremony began, participants were given instructions on the correct protocol. The pipe, which contains tobacco, was lit and passed around the circle, with participants being invited to speak from the heart when their turn came around. Those who chose not to inhale were encouraged to touch the pipe to their shoulders, head and heart with the pipe stem.

The ceremony, which was at times accompanied by drumming, singing and smudging, was also an opportunity for Mr. Surprenant and the other participants to talk about the removal of Indigenous people from the land - a piece of history that Mr. Surprenant said was "difficult for me to lay out there, and difficult for you to hear."

Elder Eddie Gardner also told stories related to the relationship between prayer and the ceremony. "It is good to come together and pray," he said.

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Christians, Jews reach out to Muslim neighbours

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"I don't think there's anywhere that Christ tells us to just sit back and let things happen," she said. "We're called to be voices and get out there and express what we believe in through our presence. That's why we're Christians. I've always believed that if you can, you should. You make whatever effort you can."

The "ring of peace" outside of the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre on Bloor Street – one of seven held in Toronto on Feb. 3 – was organized by the Rev. Gary van der Meer, the incumbent of St. Anne's, and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein of nearby City Shul synagogue. It was held with the support of the mosque.

"We want to be in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters, to express our common humanity, and we've invited our neighbours to come and do that with us," said Mr. van der Meer. "We're here to greet Muslims as they come in with a smile or a handshake or to say hello. We're here to say we support you and to be in solidarity with each other."

The idea was inspired by a group of Muslims in Oslo, said Rabbi Goldstein. In 2015, as Jewish communities across Europe were reeling from anti-Semitic attacks in France and Denmark, Muslims organized to stand guard around the synagogue in Oslo while those inside offered Sabbath prayers.

"I was very moved by that and I said it's time for us to pay it forward," said Rabbi Goldstein. "The Jewish community has to come out and be in support of the Mus-

lim community. I think the world thinks Muslims and Jews should not be supportive of each other and we needed to break that stereotype."

Many in the crowd carried signs that read "We Stand with our Muslim Neighbours," "Interfaith Support for All" and "Jews and Christians United." The line of supporters stretched down the sidewalk and continued on the other side of the street. Cars and trucks honked their horns in support. Among those in attendance were 40 pupils from a Jewish day school.

Rabbi Goldstein said it was important that faith groups responded to the Quebec City massacre. "If we don't love our neighbour as ourselves, who's going to?" she asked. "It's that simple. We're the ones who preach this, and if we don't practice it, then the world is in a sorry state."

She spoke for many in the crowd when she said, "This is Canada. These are our values. We have to pray with our feet and make it happen. It's beautiful to see everyone come out. It's really beautiful and respectful – the way things are meant to be."

Both Mr. van der Meer and Rabbi Goldstein were invited into the mosque to speak to worshippers before prayers began. Mr. van der Meer spoke about "the inappropriateness and impossibility of walls" and the need to take them down.

Like St. Anne's, churches throughout the diocese responded to the attack in Quebec city with love and support for the



Supporters form a 'ring of peace' on both sides of Bloor Street outside the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre in Toronto's west end. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

At right, Aviva Burt, 6, lights a candle during a vigil at St. Peter, Cobourg on Jan. 31 to remember one of the six victims of an attack on a mosque in Quebec City. PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHUMBERLAND NEWS.



Muslim community. As news of the tragedy spread on the morning of Jan. 30, dozens of churches took to social media to post messages of prayer for the dead, the wounded and the wider Muslim community. Information about interfaith events and vigils happening in cities and towns across the diocese was also shared widely among Anglicans online.

Bishop Peter Fenty joined in the outpouring of grief and support, sharing a statement of solidarity on behalf of the diocese:

"We believe that 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, ... love never ends' (1 Cor. 13: 7-8). Hatred does not win, and we must by our living overcome hatred with love.

"We stand in solidarity with the Muslim community in Quebec City, here in Toronto and in all our communities, as we grieve

with them. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are obligated 'to strive for peace and justice among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.' Let us model that behaviour every day with the hope that others may be inspired and influenced in the same way."

Some Anglicans also reached out directly to their Muslim neighbours. The Rev. Canon Eric Beresford of St. Timothy, North Toronto and the Rev. Daniel Brereton of St. John the Baptist (Dixie) in Mississauga each wrote a letter to his local mosque, offering support and prayer. After Mr. Brereton hand-delivered his letter, a Muslim man asked him to stay and join him in his prayers.

Along with messages of support, churches such as St. Mary, Schomberg and Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. opened their doors for anyone who wished to stop in and pray. Many others in Mississauga, Uxbridge, Fenelon Falls, Peterborough, Toronto and beyond planned prayer vigils in the following days.

One such church was St. Peter, Cobourg, whose members organized a candlelight vigil of reflection and prayer on Jan. 31. Candles were lit for each of the six victims, and their names were read aloud. The vigil was sponsored by Interfaith Northumberland, a group that includes representatives from local Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities.

"Many came from different

faiths and from many denominations of Christianity," said Suzanne Lawson, a member of St. Peter's who helped organize the vigil. "All this happened when the word went out at noon on Tuesday, and the vigil was at seven, thanks to social media."

The Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, coordinator of chaplaincy services for the diocese and honorary assistant at St. John, West Toronto, was among those who attended a vigil near Gerrard St. E. and Coxwell Ave. in Toronto on the evening of Jan. 30. "My neighbourhood mosque is small, hidden away on a side street off the always-busy Gerrard Street," he said. "With only a few hours of notice, over 1,000 of my neighbours gathered in front of that mosque in a rally of solidarity and grief."

Imam Noor Irkakar offered blessings to the crowd, who held candles or carried banners of peace, solidarity and support for immigrants and refugees. Religious leaders from many of the nearby communities of faith were present.

"These were my neighbours who came out on a cold winter's night to show love and compassion for their neighbour, regardless of land of origin or faith. But were we also standing witness to the value of being each other's neighbour," said Canon Graydon. "It was for me a reminder that love always triumphs over hate, and that we as a neighbourhood, or nation, value all people."



The Rev. Gary van der Meer and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein hold up a sign outside the mosque. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON