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The Anglican

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MARCH 2018

Church, school enjoy unique bond

Students learn
about Jesus

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

FOR the past 20 years, volunteers at St. Paul, Lindsay have been teaching local kids about Jesus in an unusual partnership with a nearby elementary school.

The King Albert School program began at Easter in 1998, an initiative of parishioners Ethel Morris and Susan Sindrey. "There was this need and interest in trying to reach out to the local children in the school that's almost behind St. Paul's," says the Rev. Warren Leibovitch, the current incumbent. "King Albert School is for the most part considered an inner-city school. Over 60 per cent of the school is on assistance of some kind, and a lot of the children come from families with difficult situations."

Since then, St. Paul's has run the program twice a year, at Christmas and Easter. At lunchtime on two days in a row, volunteers from the church walk a group of children the few blocks from their school to the church. Though organized by St. Paul's, the school supports the program by coordinating permission slips and providing educational assistants to join the kids. "It's seen as a positive for the children in terms of learning, interaction and stimulation," says Mr. Leibovitch. "They get to have some fun and get an hour and a half away from school."

In recent years, so many kids have signed up that they've been split into two groups, one for grades 1-3 and one for grades 4-6. Activities each year include crafts, story-

Continued on Page 2



QUALITY ASSURED

Members of the men's fellowship group at St. Timothy, Agincourt stand in their woodworking shop behind the church. Since opening in the early 1970s, the shop has produced and repaired countless items for churches and individuals. For story, see Page 7. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

'I'm walking an amazing path'

Indigenous
Native Priest
reflects on
first year

BY STUART MANN

TO gauge the Rev. Chris Harper's level of happiness and fulfillment, you have to check the length of his hair. In Plains Cree culture, he explains, long hair is a symbol of patience, identity and wisdom, as well as a powerful connection to your ancestors, the Creator and the land.

Mr. Harper, who is the diocese's Indigenous Native Priest, used to have two long braids stretching halfway down his back. He had to



The Rev. Chris Harper speaks at a vigil and lament for water at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square on Jan. 17. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

get them cut off when he went to school – a devastating experience, he recalls – and kept them off as a

parish priest.

But his hair is getting long again, enough to make a ponytail – a sure sign that he is settling into his new life and ministry in the diocese. "I'm walking an amazing path where I am allowed to be who I am for the first time," he says. "I'm relishing every moment."

Mr. Harper admits that he was "terrified" when he started the job a little more than a year and a half ago. Coming from a parish in Thunder Bay, where he was the incumbent, he didn't know what to expect. His main task was to serve as a pastor to the diocese's Indigenous population – a tall order by any means. The City of Toronto alone has about 60,000 First Nations, Metis and Inuit people, and about half of them are Anglican.

He was also starting during a watershed moment in Canada's and the Anglican Church's history. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2015 had released

its final report into the history and legacy of Canada's residential schools. Included in the report were 94 "calls to action" urging governments and institutions to address the harm caused by the schools and move forward with reconciliation.

His first priority was to "get the lay of the land" – meeting people both in and outside the Church, to discuss whatever was on their minds. He says it has been a journey of discovery and revelation.

"I've seen it all," he says. "One of the most wonderful things has been to see the amazing diversity of the Church, from people who are willing to embrace new thoughts and ideas about Indigenous peoples, to others who are in outright denial or think that Indigenous peoples don't even exist."

He has visited 36 parishes and is already booked into November. "It's been wonderful," he says. "All

Continued on Page 12



A student dressed as an angel narrates the Christmas pageant at St. Paul, Lindsay and volunteers help kids make Christmas crafts. PHOTOS BY THE REV. WARREN LEBOVITCH

Families form connections with church

Continued from Page 1

telling, music and conversation. "There's always something to take home, and there's always a nutritious meal provided if kids don't have a lunch," says Mr. Leibovitch.

At Christmas, the highlight for the older kids is the pageant, com-

plete with costumes and carols. "They choose what they want to be, if they want to be one of the wise men or Mary or Joseph – that's usually a battle – and there are a couple of narrators usually dressed as angels," he says. The Easter program is similar: there are seasonal crafts, everyone hears the Easter story, and the older kids learn how to make palm crosses. The programs have been running on a three-year cycle of different activities because of the number of

kids who come back year after year.

The initiative has recently taken on an ecumenical aspect. Since Easter 2017, St. Paul's has partnered with The Centre Community Church, a new church plant reaching out to less fortunate families in Lindsay. Pastor Mike Kleinhuis and volunteers from that community help provide leadership and music during the two days. The program is also supported by the local ministerial of churches.

As many religious institutions worry about their declining influence in secular society, Mr. Leibovitch says the St. Paul's community is well aware of how unique this partnership between church and public school is and says he actively encourages the relationship. "I've been very clear to say we have to keep doing this. If we ever miss one season, we could lose that continuity," he says. "The challenge has always been when a principal changes. You always hope the new principal will be brought on board. So far we've been lucky."

Since arriving at St. Paul's in 2008, Mr. Leibovitch says he has heard only positive feedback about the program. "Some of these parents have very little connection with church or have had a 30-year gap of ever being near a church," he says. "The neat thing is the kids go back and share what they learned, so the parents are also learning."

The program can also help families form a lasting connection with the church. "Every time we bump into one of the boys or girls out there in the community, they'll remember seeing us," says Mr. Leibovitch. He credits the Christmas and Easter activities with making St. Paul's more accessible to local kids. "It's not a scary place, it's not just that big building near the school, but a place they can feel comfortable coming into." Some of the older kids have even dropped in on the church's youth group to see what it's about.

As the program comes up on its 20th anniversary, Mr. Leibovitch says he's grateful for the many dedicated volunteers who have given their time and energy over the years. "We know there's a seed that's been planted, that's the most heart-warming part. We're planting seeds, and we just don't know how it will bear fruit in the future. As Christians that's what we're called to do," he says. "I'm hoping it continues for many, many years."

Hurricane service results in donations

A service of solidarity in aid of the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba has resulted in an outpouring of support.

More than \$10,000 has been given by people in the Greater Toronto Area to provide relief to the islands, which were devastated by hurricanes Maria and Irma last September.

The donations are being given to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF), which is working with local partners in the Caribbean to provide food, clean water, clothes and personal care items to the hardest hit islands.

A further \$5,000 US could be coming from Episcopal Relief and Development, an international relief and development agency of The Episcopal Church, for a joint project with PWRDF.

"We are delighted by the tremendous support and compassion showed by everyone who has given so freely to our brothers and sisters in the Caribbean," says Lance Wilson, ODT, a member of St. John the Divine, Scarborough and one of the organizers of the service.

Mr. Wilson says the fundraising is ongoing and much relief work still needs to be done. Donations can be made to PWRDF online at www.pwrdf.org or at PWRDF, 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON, M4Y 3G2. Cheques should be directed to "Hurricane Relief."

The service on Dec. 2 at St. Andrew, Scarborough, was organized by the Toronto Anglican Hurricane Relief Committee, a local group of Anglican clergy and lay members. Bishop Peter Fenty, a native of Barbados and the area bishop of York-Simcoe, told those in attendance that Christians must go beyond sympathy and prayer and lend concrete aid to those struck by disaster.

For more information on making a donation or to contact the Toronto Anglican Hurricane Relief Committee, contact Bishop Peter Fenty at pfenty@toronto.anglican.ca or by phone, 905-833-8327.

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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 2018. 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.

Please apply in writing to:

Outreach Committee, P.O. Box 88, Sutton West, Ontario L0E 1R0
www.parishofgeorgina.org parish@parishofgeorgina.org

BIG DAY

Archbishop Colin Johnson (centre) stands with the diocese's new vice chancellor, canons and archdeacons at their installation service at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 21. Front and second row from left: Vice Chancellor Brian Armstrong, Canon Mary Conliffe, the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, the Rev. Canon Philip Der, Deacon Canon Jacqueline Boutheon, the Rev. Canon Christopher Greaves, the Rev. Canon Byron Gilmore, the Rev. Canon Joan Cavanagh-Clark, the Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, the Ven. Kyn Barker (Archdeacon of Toronto) and the Ven. Stephen Vail (Archdeacon of Trent-Durham). Joining them are the area bishops, Canon Paul Baston (diocesan registrar), Dean Andrew Asbil and Paul Seddon, ODT, of the cathedral. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Archdeacon Stephen Vail of All Saints, Whitby receives congratulations after the service.



The Rev. Canon Joanne Davies is installed by Archbishop Johnson.



The Rev. Canon Philip Der with family, friends and parishioners of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill.



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BRIEFLY

Nominations sought for electoral Synod

Synod members are called to assemble at St. James Cathedral, 65 Church St., Toronto, at 9:30 a.m. on June 9 to elect a coadjutor bishop, who will assist and ultimately succeed Archbishop Colin Johnson as diocesan bishop. The diocese's chancellor, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, is calling for nominations. Members of Synod may submit individual nominations, or a nomination may be submitted with the signatures of 10 members of Synod. For more details, see the 2018 Electoral Synod page on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Service celebrates black heritage

The diocese's 23rd annual black heritage service of celebration will take place on Feb. 25 at St. Paul, Bloor Street, with music at 4 p.m. and the service at 4:30 p.m. This year's theme is "A Spirit of Thanksgiving: Joyful Praise." The service will include drumming, dancing, steelpan, poetry, a choir and more. For more information, email blaccanglicans@gmail.com or call 416-809-4639.

Safety for women theme of ACW meeting

The diocesan Anglican Church Women will hold its 2018 annual general meeting and lunch on May 12 at Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Toronto. This year's theme is "Embracing Safety for All Women," with guest speaker Barbara Gosse, chief executive officer of the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking.

For more information, contact 416-363-0018 or acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

Bishop hosts town hall

Bishop Kevin Robertson invites the clergy and lay people of York-Scarborough to a town hall meeting on March 3 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2333 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto. This will be an opportunity to share hopes, dreams and practical ideas about ministry in each parish and the wider community, exploring where God may be leading the area.

Youth ministry coordinator appointed

York-Credit Valley will celebrate the appointment of Alexandra McIntosh as its new youth ministry coordinator with a service of commissioning on April 20 at 7 p.m. at St. George on-the-Hill, 4600 Dundas St. W., Toronto. Area youth ministers and leaders, along with church youth groups, are especially invited to attend and should get in touch with Ms. McIntosh at yvc.area.coordinator@gmail.com if they are interested in participating in the service.

CCC seeks general secretary

The Canadian Council of Churches is seeking an individual to fill the roll of general secretary on a full-time basis for a five-year renewable term. The general secretary is the senior executive officer of the council, responsible for the articulation and implementation of its vision, direction and priorities. The deadline to apply is March 15. For more details, visit www.councilofchurches.ca.

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Pilgrims on a journey



Wikipedia defines “pilgrimage” as “a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person’s beliefs and faith.”

There are many classic pilgrimages: a visit to the Holy Land, the increasingly popular Camino de Santiago de Compostela, the historic Canterbury pilgrimage immortalized by Chaucer, or the modern secular pilgrimages to the birthplace of the famous.

Every week as bishop, I make a pilgrimage of sorts to a local parish church. I get up, grab some breakfast, pack my bags and head out on the road. Each week is a journey of faith and insight. Each place is different in outward appearance, and yet at the heart are all the same. There is indeed a visit to a shrine – not the physical building, although some churches are very beautiful and many have been made particularly holy because of the continuous prayer of faithful people for a century or two. Rather, I find that the significant spiritual journey is to meet the “holy people of God,” the ordinary faithful people of any parish who give of themselves to sustain a community of prayer, who are becoming more deeply conformed to the life of Jesus, and who are quietly engaged in God’s mission for the welfare of the community in which they are placed.

Almost universally, when bishops are asked, “What is the most life-giving part of their ministry?” many name their visits to parish churches week in and week out. Bishops are not like most priests or deacons; bishops are itinerant. They move from place to place and – in the words of Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury – do the work of “interpreting the strangeness of one community to the next.” They are “one with the apostles” as they

ARCHBISHOP’S DIARY

By ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ and celebrate the sacraments of redemption.

Bishops get to see a lot. While we must often deal with the thorny problems that others cannot find obvious solutions for, what bishops most often encounter are people from all walks of life – “all sorts and conditions of people” as the Prayer Book prayer says – putting flesh on their baptismal promises to live as disciples of Jesus. This is not the stuff of news headlines or videos going viral on YouTube. It is an unassuming, unglamorous “getting on” with the routine business of living faithfully as Christians-of-the-Anglican-persuasion in the world.

It inspires me. It gives me courage. It gives me hope.

These weekly pilgrimages are journeys that sustain my belief and faith because the parishes, and more precisely the parishioners, are the local face of the Church. They are truly the “vicars of Christ,” the representatives of Jesus on earth, even though it sometimes takes some time to discern that.

There are, of course, some outstanding characters. There are some who are lackadaisical. Most are somewhere in between. But isn’t that true of every organization, and in every age? There have always been saints, and always scoundrels. Saints are hard to live up to; scoundrels are hard to live down; and both can actually be a bit of a pain to live with. In my journeys around the diocese and around the world, what really impresses me are the ordinary folk in the middle who try to make sense of their often confusing and challenging circumstances, who try to live with integrity and faith, who try to find some experience of joy and peace and to share that with someone else. They

are the backbone of our Church. I continue to be impressed and humbled by this.

Now go back through this article and replace the third person “they” with the second person “you.” Hear me say this about you!

We are currently in the midst of Lent – a season, yes, but also a pilgrimage. As you know, part of my Lenten pilgrimage this year is to join with others in the diocese, and specifically with a small group of cathedral parishioners, to walk together to meet Jesus in John’s Gospel. (See www.ssje.org/meetingjesusinjohn/.)

As in all pilgrimages, fellow travellers who weave in and out of your journey are a critical component. You learn their stories as you walk along the way, you may make new friends and discover unexpected insights about yourself. And you find yourself walking with God.

Pope Benedict XVI described it this way: “To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe.”

During Lent, we journey from the penitence of Ash Wednesday through the “training” or “disciplines” that build and stretch our spiritual muscles. We accompany Jesus on his way, from the triumphal entry into the Holy City on Palm Sunday to the betrayals and his sacrificial suffering and death on the cross at Calvary. On Holy Saturday, we temporarily halt the journey and linger to mull over the disillusionment and confusion that Jesus’ disciples must have experienced, and which we all face at various times in our lives.

And finally, we arrive at the empty tomb of Easter, which turns out not to be a destination but marks the start of another journey – a pilgrimage that will continue to mould the contours of our life. Eternally.



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

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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.

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Youth ministry needs to be a priority in parishes



A Church without youth is a Church without a future. Moreover, youth without a Church are youth without a future.” *Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria (1921-2012)*

As the parents of three teenage daughters, my husband Tim and I are conscious of how teenagers are not simply the Church of tomorrow, which of course they are, but also the Church of the present. We are also keenly aware of the wonderful opportunity that parishes in our diocese have to help shape teenagers as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Many North American studies indicate that the majority of Christians first began their journeys of faith before the age of 18, and that sharing the good news of God in Christ with others during their childhoods and teenage years can be particularly powerful. This should come as no surprise. During the critical years of late adolescence – a period when individuals are forming their understanding of the world around them, and are really trying to figure out their place in that world – it can be truly life-transforming for a person to hear that God loves them just the way they are (and that because of that love, God has no intention of leaving them

BISHOP’S OPINION

By BISHOP JENNY ANDISON

that way!). I also believe that the message our churches can offer – that there is a God who loves us, and who wants to partner with us to help transform the unjust structures in our society and to help create communities of hope and healing – is something teenagers just might get out of bed for!

We have an opportunity in the coming years to make youth ministry a top priority in our parishes. In the past year, as I have gotten to know the churches of York-Credit Valley, I have seen numerous parishes that already have creative and dedicated ministries for teenagers, and others that currently offer little in this area. No matter where any parish might sit on this continuum, I believe that the Holy Spirit has a great deal in store for any church that decides to refocus its attention, energies and resources onto youth and youth ministry. I also believe that youth ministry needs to be a clear priority, not because of the aging demographics of our churches but because youth are human beings desperately in need of God’s love and mercy. Our strategic plan, *Growing in Christ*, has identified leadership and formation as

one of its key priorities. Let us join in prayer together that we will seek transformative ways to shape in Christian love and wisdom the next generation of young leaders for our Church.

What this means practically will differ from parish to parish. Some might hire a youth minister to strengthen and expand an existing youth program; many denominations that are planting churches in Canada make the hiring of a youth minister the essential second hire after the senior cleric. Our Diocesan Youth Ministry Apprenticeship Program (YMAP) has produced many fine youth ministers currently serving in our parishes, and YMAP can be expanded. Other parishes, which may have a handful of teens, might begin a mentoring program, where older parishioners will befriend teens and begin to read the scriptures with them and look for ways to serve together. And parishes in neighbourhoods where there are currently few teenagers might decide to partner with a parish in the Canadian north, to help financially support its existing youth ministry.

Whatever our context, there is work that God calls each of us to do in sharing with teenagers the joy that is already ours. “For you have been my hope, Sovereign Lord, my confidence since my youth” (Psalm 71:5).

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Seven habits of highly effective parishes



First, the good news: 25 per cent of the parishes in the Diocese of Toronto are experiencing growth in attendance or number of givers – or both. That means that 51 parishes are doing something that

sets them apart from the others.

The inconvenient truth about congregational health, however, is that 75 per cent of our parishes are either not growing or are experiencing decline. For some, the decline is gentle and hardly noticeable; for others, it has been severe – losing 40 per cent or more of their Sunday worshippers since 2009. As the decline intensifies, it leads to low morale among existing congregants and may eventually signal the closure of a church and disestablishment of the parish.

Across the mainline Protestant denominations in Canada and the global West – including Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United churches – the decline has been happening since the 1970s. It is only recently, however, that the pace has accelerated, due to the aging and passing of the first born of the Boomer generation. Other denominations are not immune. Evangelical churches and the Roman Catholic Church are beset with closures.

The reasons for decline are countless – and have been discussed time and again in this column. At the top of the list is societal change. When going to church stopped being obligatory and Sundays became a day just like any other, it was only a matter of time before church worship itself became just another choice.

It is very hard to grow a church, let alone

THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

start one from scratch. They take special leadership, commitment and a knack for thinking outside the box. If we assume that people have spiritual needs beyond a nice walk down a country path, then we need to find a mechanism that captures their attention and engages their participation.

To this end, I have identified seven indicators that lead to church vitality in our diocese. Not every parish that is growing is doing every one of these things, though most are.

1) Giving to church ministry is exceptional. In our diocese, the average gift per year through envelope giving or pre-authorized giving is \$1,325. In our healthiest parishes, the average gift is \$1,800. Our top giving parish has an average of over \$4,000 per giver – and it is not in downtown Toronto.

2) There is a breadth of engagement in outreach. Our top parishes often give more than 10 per cent of their total offertory to outreach initiatives such as food banks, hot lunches, Out of the Cold, after-school clubs, FaithWorks, mission trips to the developing world, etc. Churches need to look beyond their own walls and seek to involve as many parishioners as possible.

3) Newcomers are welcomed and invited to become involved in the ministry of the parish. The role of the greeter should be more than simply handing out the order of

service. We need to present our very best to newcomers: welcome them at the door, interact with them at the sign of Peace and during coffee hour, and then invite them to become involved in some ministry.

4) Clergy are active in promoting discipleship and Christian formation. The Rev. Canon Harold Percy (now retired from Trinity, Streetsville) notes in his book *Your Church Can Thrive* that “the failure to make disciple-making a priority is the basic cause of our current malaise and stagnation.” He contends that churches need to teach the gospel, teach people how to pray, read scripture, forgive, worship, give generously, model Christ in their lives and give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

5) The church makes connecting with young people a priority. Parish leaders often lament the absence of young people in their pews. Connecting with adolescents needs to be part of our core witness. How do we involve young people? Ask yourself: Are they serving at the altar? Do they participate in reading the word of God, singing, playing an instrument, welcoming newcomers or organizing events? Failing to engage with them is a sure way to turn them off Church.

6) The church has a well-maintained website and uses various communication methods. If you are still promoting the strawberry social from 2014, then something has gone amiss. Healthy parishes use their online footprint to communicate with church members and seekers alike. They post sermons, weekly bulletins, ministry opportunities and lots of photos

of church members doing stuff.

7) Healthy churches experiment with new liturgies, music, missional engagement, giving vehicles and roles for volunteers. If we believe that we have already tried that or that a certain idea will not work, then we have no chance of being successful.

Our Church is going to experience unbelievable change over the next decade. We will become a lot leaner and there will be fewer of us worshipping on Sundays in the traditional format. That doesn't mean that the remaining churches cannot be full of energy, vigor and hope. Perhaps worship will take on different forms and be held on different days and in different types of spaces. Perhaps our youth will be engaged in more hands-on ministry. Perhaps our missional engagement will look a whole lot different.

We have seen that while there is a place for traditional ways of doing Church, those that are thriving are doing things differently – they must. It means that stewardship education, too, will need to adapt, becoming more closely aligned with discipleship and faith formation.

Change is unavoidable, but decline can be reversed. Can we, collectively, realign the Church to arrest decline and set our churches on the path to health and growth? Will you take up the challenge to do Church differently in your own worship community and help lay the foundation for a healthy, vital Anglican presence in the years to come?

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



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Beauty breaks me wide open to God

The Rev. Louise Peters is the vicar of St. James Cathedral, Toronto.

As vicar, I am a member of the clergy team and share in leadership in the rich liturgical life of the cathedral as a preacher, presider and officiant. I work with the cathedral guilds: the Altar Guild and Servers Guild, in addition to the Health Council, the Lay Pastoral Visitors Team, the Outreach Committee and the communications department. The vicar has a quiet role of doing the background detail work for liturgical services – daily worship and larger diocesan events. The vicar provides support to help others pray well. I currently supervise and mentor two curates and one theological student. The vicar provides support to the dean and other members of staff, and is a pastor to the cathedral. What I do most is pray. This duty is a joy.

I am preparing to facilitate “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” with a small group of others from the cathedral during Lent. I love small circles gathered around scripture. I am excited to return to this spiritual discipline. I am also preparing for a Lenten Quiet Day focusing on prayer, privacy and the practice of spending time in solitude. I am working with my colleague James as we prepare and put together his ordination to the priesthood service.

The best part of my job is the people with whom I am privileged to work. They are extraordinary – dedicated, diverse, capable and kind. The cathedral staff and all our volunteers are amazing. They have been graciously hospitable to me as the new vicar. It is hard to name just one “best.” Seeing children at the altar rail and having that lovely moment of a shared



The Rev. Louise Peters in St. James Cathedral. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

blessing – this makes me so happy. The list could go on and on. Being surrounded by the exquisite sound of the cathedral choir – that is the best, too. Beauty breaks me wide open to God. The worst part: Keeping my desk tidy. I have such hopes, and I fail at this daily.

I was born in Mississippi, and my family came to Canada when I was three years old. We settled in London, Ontario, where I grew up and attended all of my schooling (except for the first year of my Masters degree). We were members of St. Paul's Cathedral, attending sporadically

during my childhood. However, on Sunday in my mid-teens, I found the beauty of the ritual and music drew me. I joined the Servers Guild and began, unknowingly at the time, a journey in faith and prayer. I recall serving in 1976 at the first ordination of a woman priest in the diocese where the Rev. Mary Mills, a long-serving deacon, was finally made priest. The dean at the time took me aside before the service and said kindly, “Pay attention.” Over time, I was encouraged by other mentors and clergy to consider pursuing theological study with the intent to seek ordination.

I was ordained in 1985 in the Diocese of Huron, serving first as the assistant to the dean at St. Paul's Cathedral, then appointed as the chaplain of Huron College and the University of Western Ontario and incumbent of the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist. I then became rector of St. James in Ingersoll, Ontario. I left that ministry and went on an extended parental leave for five years, welcoming three children into the world. During this time, I was an honorary assistant at Bishop Crobyn Memorial, in addition to doing private spiritual direction work. Next, my husband and I ventured west and shared ministry as co-rectors of St. Timothy's Anglican Church 100 Mile House, B.C., in the Diocese of Cariboo, where we were privileged to work with Bishop James Cruickshank. I then became the dean of the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior and rector of St. Paul's Cathedral in Kamloops, where I served for 12 years. Then came a term as the executive director of the Sorrento Retreat and Conference Centre in Sorrento, B.C.

Throughout my ministry, I have tried to achieve a spiritual discipline of prayer. What brings me joy is seeing people engage deeply with scripture and discover that they are theologians.

My favourite passage from scripture is Matthew 13:45: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, the merchant went and sold everything and bought it.” I find that this passage holds for me the message about the journey: that the search and the finding is the Way and that when the sought-for pearl of beauty and value is found, it is worth my all. Keep searching, keep finding, and keep giving up all for this Holy Way – this Kingdom of God.

BRIEFLY

Youth invited to national gathering

Registration is open for CLAY, a national gathering of Lutheran and Anglican youth age 14-19 taking place Aug. 15-19 in Thunder Bay. Participants will encounter

scripture in meaningful ways, experience ancient and modern ways of worship, learn together in special interest forums and make connections with youth from all over Canada. To attend, youth must be part of a “home team” group travelling and staying together. Congregations can join to form a home team. For more information, visit the CLAY website, www.claygathering.ca.

Trent-Durham holds Area Day

This year's Trent-Durham Area Day will take place on March 3 at St. Peter, Cobourg with the theme “Church in the Wilderness: Hearing God's Call in the 21st Century” (Isaiah 40:3-5). Register by Feb. 26 to get the early-bird cost of \$20. After Feb. 26, the cost is \$25. To register, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Women spend year in God's rhythm

The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is accepting applications for the 2018-19 cohort of its Companions on an Ancient Path program. Women age 21 and up are invited to explore an expression of new monasticism rooted in the Anglican tradition while living at St. John's Convent. For more information

and applications, contact Sister Constance Joanna at 416-226-2201, ext. 316 or companions@ssjd.ca. Applications will be accepted until June 15 or until the program is full. Learn more at www.ssjdcompanions.org.

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Lent & Holy Week at The Church of St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

Lent 3 - March 4: Choral Evensong at 4 pm

Lent 5 - March 18:
“A Lenten Meditation through Music, Readings & Prayer”

Palm Sunday - March 25: Services at 8:30 and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday - March 29: Service at 7 pm

Good Friday - March 30:
Ecumenical Walk at 8:00 am starting at Our Lady of Lourdes
The Solemn Liturgy at 10:30 am

Holy Saturday - March 31: The Great Vigil at 8 pm

Easter Day - April 1: Services at 8:30 and 10:30 am

We will welcome the Right Reverend Michael Bedford-Jones to celebrate and preach.

Every Sunday
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Shop brings men together for fellowship

No repairs or job too small

BY STUART MANN

IT'S not every day you get asked to build a sedan chair. The elaborate wooden structure, complete with seats, curtains, walls and a roof, was used to carry a bride during a part of her wedding ceremony.

The chair is just one of hundreds of items that have been built or fixed over the years at St. Timothy's Workshop, located in a building behind St. Timothy, Agincourt.

Each week, a group of men gather in the shop to do woodworking, some metal work and other odd jobs. "We take a look at anything that comes in, and if we believe we can do it, we go ahead," says Bill Gibson, the group's spokesperson.

The shop has produced some memorable items. One was the large cross that was used during the diocese's sesquicentennial celebrations in 1989. The wooden cross was displayed in various churches

in the diocese before being carried into the SkyDome (now the Roger's Centre) for a service attended by thousands.

The men have made prayer book racks and have refurbished baptismal fonts, railings and churchwardens' wands. They work on non-religious items, too. Recently they wove the cane bottom of an antique chair. One of the men is building a small lap table so a person can read an iPad in bed. Their current big project is restoring a dining room table.

The shop is fully equipped with table saws, band saws, drill presses, sanders, hand tools and countless other items that have accumulated over the years. But Mr. Gibson stresses that anyone can join the group, whether they're skilled or not.

"If you can sweep the floors and put tools away, you can join," he says. "The group is about fellow-



From left, Ken Page, Bill Gibson and Dave Brown repair a chair seat at the shop. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ship – that's our primary purpose. It's not to make money or anything like that. It's just a good group of guys."

Any money the group earns is given to the church, he says, mostly to pay for the upkeep of the shop building. Most of their orders come to them through word of mouth.

The group first formed in the early 1970s as a men's club and the

numbers have fluctuated over the years. At one time, membership reached 100 but currently there are about 10 men who gather at the shop each week.

Mr. Gibson says it's a great opportunity for men to "get out of the house" and take up a hobby. In addition to woodworking, they also make wine and have lunch together. "Our primary focus is on

fellowship," he says. "We all enjoy each other's company."

The shop is open on Monday and Tuesday mornings until noon, and occasionally on Thursdays. The church and shop are located at 4125 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto. For information about joining the group or enquiries about items that need to be made or fixed, call the shop at 416-438-4055.

EASTER AT ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

HOLY WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

A COMPLETE LISTING OF HOLY WEEK LITURGIES IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

MARCH 29 | MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00pm Institution of the Lord's Supper and Stripping of the Altar; Watch at the Altar of Repose until 10:00pm

MARCH 30 | GOOD FRIDAY

The Three Hour Devotion
12:00noon Choral Mattins
1:00pm Ante-Communion & Reading of the St. John Passion
2:00pm Choral Evensong & Veneration of the Cross

MARCH 31 | IN THE HOLY NIGHT

9:00pm The Great Vigil of Easter

APRIL 1 | EASTER DAY

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

LITURGIES



LECTURES

Truth & Reconciliation

INDIGENOUS SPIRITUALITY & ART IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

with Chief Lady Bird

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

6:00pm Service (Cathedral)

6:30pm Light Supper (Cathedral Centre)

7:00pm Lecture, Q&A (Cathedral Centre)

"The Breath Between Us"

THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF LISTENING, SILENCE, AND STORYTELLING

A Lenten Lecture Series

WEDNESDAYS, FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 14

6:00pm Service (Cathedral)

6:30pm Light Supper (Cathedral Centre)

7:00pm Lecture, Q&A (Cathedral Centre)

ART SHOW

"The Breath Between Us" PUBLIC ART DISPLAY

ON IN THE CATHEDRAL UNTIL MARCH 26

Weekdays and Sundays, 7:00am-5:30pm

Saturdays, 9:00am-5:00pm

Church partners with parents network

BY DAN O'REILLY

THE clergy and parishioners of Christ Church, Bolton decided a few years ago to focus on getting out into the neighbourhood and exploring missional ministry. Ideas were to come from the congregation and were seen as experiments.

"The hope was that whatever was explored would lead to deepening relationships with people in Bolton who were not going to access the church in typical ways, like attending Sunday morning services," says the Rev. Ruthanne Ward.

(Ms. Ward was appointed the church's missional partner in 2014 and priest-in-charge in 2017. She is now the priest-in-charge of the Church of the Annunciation, Port Perry. The Rev. John Wilton is currently Christ Church's interim priest-in-charge.)

A number of ideas were explored, including a hiking church – a group of people who worship God on Sunday mornings by prayerfully walking local trails and inviting



Members of Christ Church, Bolton and Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI) gather for a photo at their third annual Christmas dinner this past December at the church. CAFFI advocates for young adults with intellectual and development disabilities. PHOTO BY PATRICIA FRANKS

others to join them. That concept took root and, once a month during the warm weather months, a group of parishioners get together for a hike.

Perhaps the best example of the church's outreach is the special partnership it has forged with Caledon Area Families For Inclusion (CAFFI), a local parent network that advocates for improved housing, employment and other opportunities for young adults with intellectual and development disabilities.

"(The young adults) get cut out," says the group's founder, Patricia

Franks, referring to the number of government support programs that end when young adults reach the age of 21.

Through the efforts of a parishioner and CAFFI member Sian Leyshon-Doughty, the church has been providing free meeting space for the last few years. During the meetings, church members often undertake activities such as baking or making crafts with the young adults, allowing their parents to be more engaged in the discussions. The minutes of those meetings are taken by a parishioner, who previously was

not aware of the daily challenges the developmentally disabled face.

Other links between the church and CAFFI have also been formed. This past December, the congregation and CAFFI co-celebrated their third annual Christmas dinner. A pivotal component of those dinners has been the contribution of the young adults from CAFFI, who assist the church volunteers with cooking and setting up the hall.

Another example is a talk Ms. Franks delivered at a Sunday morning service in late January on housing and financial obstacles that persons with intellectual

challenges face. She was invited to speak by the church's social justice committee.

Through these events and others, parishioners have become increasingly aware and personally invested in the issues facing CAFFI members. "This relationship will continue to evolve as different people become involved, as CAFFI's needs change and as, hopefully, our community becomes more inclusive and supportive of all people living with developmental disabilities," says Ms. Ward.

Dan O'Reilly is a freelance writer.



William Greenidge (above centre) and Cyriline Taylor (at right) speak during table group discussions to prioritize ministry areas and activities in York-Credit Valley. The Rev. Susan Climo and Bishop Jenny Andison (above left) summarize ideas from the discussions. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Town hall meeting sets priorities for episcopal area

ON a wintry Saturday morning, lounging on the couch with a hot beverage and the weekend paper is what many folks aspire to do. Not so for almost 70 dedicated laity and clergy in York-Credit Valley, who braved frigid weather to gather at St. John, Dixie in Mississauga for a town hall meeting

on Jan. 13.

The meeting, hosted by Bishop Jenny Andison, was a follow-up to her first town hall on Sept. 19, 2017. At that gathering, participants were asked what aspects of current ministry in York-Credit Valley excite them and what forms of ministry require additional attention. At the

Jan. 13 meeting, attendees (who represented 32 parishes from across York-Credit Valley) reviewed the responses gathered in September and participated in an exercise to narrow them down by identifying, in their opinion, the priority ministries for the area.

The exercise revealed that the top



three forms of ministry the group wishes to continue are nurturing worship and prayer, evangelism, and service to others. In her closing remarks, Bishop Andison observed

that these three closely mirror the fundamental activities of the early Church as described in Acts; they reflect ways in which the Church,

Continued on Page 11

Skit highlights meager funds for needy

Group presses city to honour commitments

BY STUART MANN

EFFIE Trinket, the shallow character from the popular movie *The Hunger Games*, came to Toronto's City Hall on Jan. 10 for a "reaping" – choosing which groups would be pitted against each other for a share of the city's social service funding in 2018.

Ms. Trinket, in full costume and elaborate hairstyle, was played by the Rev. Andrea Budgey, the chaplain at Trinity College. She was assisted by two "peacekeepers" from the dystopian movie – the Rev. Maggie Helwig, the incumbent of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, and Leah Watkiss, the program director for Social Justice, Peace and Care of Earth for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto.

The women put on the skit outside Mayor John Tory's office as about 25 members of the interfaith group Faith in the City looked on. The group, which is made up of Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists, advocates for better social programs and services for the poor and marginalized.

Her voice full of enthusiasm, Ms. Trinket welcomed everyone to Toronto's first ever Hunger Games and performed a reaping – drawing the names of two city strategies out of a bowl that would fight each other for funds. (In the movie, Ms. Trinket chooses two young people from her district to fight other teens to the death in the dominant city of the Capitol.)

With great compassion, she reassured those watching that they would get their chance to compete for funds as well. "Don't worry: every equity-seeking group will have the chance to fight for its life before it's all over," she said. When the 10-minute skit ended, she and her helpers left with a flourish, to the applause of those present.

Elin Goulden, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, said Faith in the City put on the skit to show how the city was not fulfilling its commitments and was making groups fight each other for what little money was available.

She said city council has approved 12 action plans and strategies in recent years to combat poverty and improve the quality of life for Toronto residents. These plans include improved access to child care, more affordable housing, expanded nutrition programs for students, free transit for children and lower fares for low-income residents, and enacting the city's climate change plan. Council unanimously adopted a Poverty Reduction Strategy in 2015 and Mayor Tory has said tackling poverty is one of the most important commitments of council.

However, the city had provided



Effie Trinket, played by the Rev. Andrea Budgey, reads out the name of a social service program that has to fight for funding during a 'reaping' outside Mayor John Tory's office. She is flanked by 'peacekeepers' the Rev. Maggie Helwig (left) and Leah Watkiss. At right, Elin Goulden, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, talks to the CBC after the skit. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

just \$9 million in its preliminary 2018 budget to pay for the programs – far short of the \$41 million needed to fund them. Citizens and not-for-profit organizations made deputations to the city's budget committee in early January to recommend how the \$9 million should be spent.

"We believe that the budget process pits groups and citizens against each other to fight for scarce funding for programs that city council has already approved, and that shouldn't be the case," said Ms. Goulden. "If city council has approved it, they should find the funding for it."

She added: "Who's to say that students in need of nutritional supplements are more deserving than homeless people? It's pitting people against each other and creating angst and a sense of scarcity."

Faith in the City called on the city to fully fund the programs, plus additional actions that have been approved by council but were not in the preliminary budget. They also wanted the city to set clear targets and timelines for reducing poverty and waiting lists for housing, child care and recreation programs.

Members of Faith in the City and



other social justice advocates met with city councillors and staff and made their concerns known at the budget deputations. In late January, the city's budget committee indicated that more money would be put into the 2018 budget to pay for the programs.

Ms. Goulden described it as a "win" for advocacy. "I think, given that this is an election year, and given the amount of publicity the city has been getting around failing to fund their programs, that they decided to find the money for these programs, at least for this year."

She expressed a note a caution, however, that the funding would

continue. "The problem is that the funding for these measures – some from borrowing, some from taking money from reserve funds, and relying on a hot housing market to generate sufficient Land Transfer Tax – isn't really sustainable long-term. If this is just an election-year sop, and we go back to austerity next year, we won't be further ahead. So looking at a modest increase in property taxes and other revenue tools is what's needed."

She said Faith in the City will be urging council to provide sustainable long-term funding for the programs and to create a better

budget process. "We want to keep holding their feet to the fire, saying that we're not forgetting what they've promised and we do intend them to live up to their promises."

She urged Anglicans in the city to talk to their councillor. "We have a municipal election coming up this fall, and I think if enough people make it clear to their councillors that they want to see these actions funded in the future and are prepared to see a modest increase in their property taxes over the cost of inflation, we could start to see council implement these strategies." City council was expected to vote on the 2018 budget in February.

Anglicans busy at bridal show

More than 400 people stopped at the diocese's booth at Canada's Bridal Show, held Jan. 5-7 in Toronto. Their questions included: Will a minister come to our venue to marry us? Can a minister marry us if one of us is divorced? Do you have information about marriage classes?

Clergy have staffed a booth at the show since 2013. "Each year has been different and the change this year seemed to be the surprise that Anglican clergy would go to the wedding site and not limit weddings to the church building," says the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, incumbent of St. Peter, Erindale. "A few brides said how great it would be to have a blessing on their marriage." She was contacted by couples after the show and referred others to local churches.

Joining her at the booth were the Rev. Andrew MacDonald of St. Luke, Dixie South, the Rev. Jeffrey Brown of St. Francis of Assisi, Meadowvale West, the Rev. Bill Mok and Catherine Zheng of St. Elizabeth, Mississauga, the Rev. Mark Gladding of St. Margaret, New Toronto, and the Rev. Clement Carelse and Roshni Jayawardena of St. Peter, Erindale.

Store owner helps to deliver turkeys

St. Bede, Scarborough donated 52 turkeys to the Flemingdon Park Food Bank over Christmas, thanks to the efforts of a local No Frills store owner.

"I want to place on record my appreciation for Tom Hui, our neighborhood No Frills owner, who went above and beyond his call of duty to help us make this happen," says Tina George, a member of the church.

As money started to come in to buy the turkeys, Ms. George realized that the church didn't have the ability to buy, store and transport that many turkeys to the food bank, which needed them



The Rev. Andrew MacDonald of St. Luke, Dixie South, and the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid of St. Peter, Erindale field questions and hand out flyers at the bridal show. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

delivered on a specific day. "After seeking logistical help from a couple of sources without success, I reached out to Tom to see if he could help us. He blew me away with his excitement, compassion and generosity."

Mr. Hui gave a generous discount on the price of the turkeys so that the church could buy more of them, then stored them in his facility until the delivery day. He got additional turkeys to be delivered to his store and absorbed the cost of transportation. On the day of the delivery, he joyfully delivered the turkeys to the food bank – making two trips because his vehicle couldn't hold all the turkeys in one go.

Flemingdon Park Food Bank, located in Don Mills, is one of the busiest in the GTA and serves many new Canadians from south Asia, Africa and eastern Europe.



No Frills store owner Tom Hui (centre) helps to deliver turkeys to Flemingdon Park Food Bank before Christmas.

ACW gives to hospice campaign

The Anglican Church Women (ACW) of All Saints, Peterborough has given \$5,000 to Hospice Peterborough to help build a hospice care centre for people in the city and the surrounding area.

Karen Sadler, the ACW president, presented the cheque to Linda Sunderland, executive director of Hospice Peterborough, at a meeting at the parish hall on Jan. 15. The ACW also donated funds in 2015 and 2016.

"I need to emphasize the significant difference each and every donor, volunteer and funder has made during the Every Moment Matters campaign," said Ms. Sunderland.

A new hospice building is needed to give a different choice for end-of-life care and to provide room to expand hospice programs. Hospice care is less expensive than hospital palliative care, she said.

All Saints' ACW raises money from its sale of Easter eggs each spring. The sale has been a well-known local event for more than 50 years. Each year the group donates money to non-profit organizations whose programs benefit Peterborough citizens. Other groups that have benefitted include VON Adult Day Centres, FaithWorks, Meals on Wheels and The Warming Room. Funds are also used for church projects such as upgrading washrooms and replacing the dishwasher.

Small church's efforts recognized

The efforts of St. Saviour, Orono to help Syrian refugees have

been recognized by the provincial government. The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration has given the Orono and Community Refugee Sponsorship Committee the Champion of Diversity Award for its sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family in 2016. The award recognizes groups for "playing a crucial role in promoting immigrant success, economic growth, cultural diversity and inclusion in Ontario."

"Our committee could not have achieved this award without the amazing response from the community," says Stan Squires, ODT, chair of the group and a member of St. Saviour's. More than 300 individuals and businesses donated and contributed to the effort.

"We hope that this award will demonstrate that our (parish's) strategic plan and focus on social justice missional work in the com-

munity through the Five Marks of Mission can be very successful, and that even the smallest church in rural communities can contribute in a meaningful way," he says.

Petition urges Canada to sign nuclear treaty

Canon Phyllis Creighton, who spoke briefly at Synod about banning nuclear weapons, is urging Anglicans to sign Petition e-1402 to the House of Commons. The petition reads: "Whereas the use of any nuclear weapons would have catastrophic consequences; and nuclear weapons are the only weapons of mass destruction not yet prohibited by international agreement, we, the undersigned, residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to sign and ratify the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons." The petition is available at <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1402>.

"Reckless U.S. and North Korean threats, high U.S.-Russia tensions, and the renewed arms race with the modernization of nuclear arsenals, put us at greater risk of nuclear catastrophe than in the Cold War," writes Canon Creighton. "Expert studies and three humanitarian conferences have shown no effective emergency response to a nuclear attack is possible. Even small-scale nuclear war could bring nuclear winter, famine, and two billion deaths. With the nuclear weapon states scoring disarmament, the International Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a milestone – a sign of hope recognized by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons for its work in achieving the ban treaty last July."

"You can help avert disaster and create hope. We have to change Canada's opposition to the ban treaty. Write to the Prime Minister and sign the online petition to the House of Commons. We can make a real difference – we must!"



Karen Sadler, president of All Saints, Peterborough's ACW (left), presents a \$5,000 cheque to Linda Sunderland, executive director of Hospice Peterborough.

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LOOKING AHEAD

*To submit items for Looking Ahead,
email editor@toronto.anglican.ca.
The deadline for the April issue is
March 1. Parishes can also pro-
mote their events on the diocese's
website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.*

Music & Worship

MARCH 4, 18 - Jazz Vespers on March 4 at 4 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, 31 St. Philip's Road, featuring Laura Fernandez, vocalist and host of Café Latino on Jazz FM.91. Jazz Vespers on March 18 at 4 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto, featuring the Tom Reynolds Trio.

MARCH 11 - Mothering Sunday with blessing and distribution of the Simnel cake during 10:30 a.m. service of Morning Prayer, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MARCH 14-MAY 23 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. March 14, John Laing, organist and director of music at Church of the Ascension, Hamilton; March 28, Matthew Whitfield, organist and director of music, St. John the Baptist, Norway, Toronto; April 11, Eric Hanbury and Anita Gaide, organ duo; April 25, Ian Grundy, organist; May 9, Mark Himmelman, organist and director of music, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Waterloo; May 23, Richard Spotts. All concerts are free admission with a free-will offering accepted. Program details and biographies are found at www.organixconcerts.ca.

MARCH 18 - Rock Eucharist featuring the music of The Tragically Hip, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto. **MARCH 21** - "Transformative Women of the Bible," a Lenten study combining humour, insightful scholarship and stimulating discussion, 7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MARCH 25 - Palm Sunday with blessing and distribution of palms during the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services of Holy Communion, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. The Rev. Dr. Pearce Carefoote, interim head of Rare

Books and Special Collections at the Thomas Fisher Library at the University of Toronto, will be the guest speaker at the 10:30 a.m. service.

MARCH 25 - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MARCH 25 - "The Bishop is coming!" Meet the bishop at our Not Your Average Service, 10:30 a.m., contemporary worship followed by reception, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MARCH 29 - Maundy Thursday with a service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altars, 7 p.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MARCH 30 - The Cross of Christ, a service of readings and music for Good Friday, 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MARCH 30 - Good Friday "Eggstravanza," 10:30 a.m., worship service for adults, plus food, egg games, painting, decorating and colouring for children, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

Sales

APRIL 14 - Spring rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Bargains on household items, clothing, linens, books and toys. Call 905-294-3184.

MAY 5 - Spring Market Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, 101 Winchester Rd. E., Brooklin. Bake sale, book sale, tea room, vendor tables and more. Call 905-655-3883

Workshops & Gatherings

MARCH 1,3,4 - Creation Care 2018 at St. Cuthbert, Leaside, 1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. on March 1; environmental fair with over 20 exhibitors, special speakers, and children's program, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 3; Choral Eucharist with Bishop Kevin Robertson, 10 a.m., March 4.

MARCH 27 - "Spirited," food and drink for the body and soul, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., located at Ace's Place Bar and Grill, 113 Guildwood Parkway. This is an opportunity to relax as well as enjoy some spiritual conversation. Hosted by Holy Trinity, Guildwood.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MARCH

1. St. George-the-Martyr, Parkdale
2. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (National Director - the Ven. Paul Feheley)
3. St. Hilda, Fairbank
4. Parkdale-West Toronto Deanery
5. St. John, West Toronto
6. St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto
7. St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto

8. St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto
9. St. Matthias, Bellwoods
10. St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto
11. Diocesan Council
12. St. Olave, Swansea
13. St. Paul, Runnymede
14. St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto
15. St. Thomas, Huron Street
16. All Saints, King City
17. Christ Church, Holland Landing
18. Holland Deanery
19. Christ Church, Kettleby

20. Christ Church, Roches Point
21. Parish of Georgina
22. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
23. St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg
24. St. Paul, Newmarket
25. Sunday of the Passion
26. Monday in Holy Week
27. Tuesday in Holy Week
28. Wednesday in Holy Week
29. Maundy Thursday
30. Good Friday
31. Holy Saturday

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Ruthanne Ward, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, Jan. 7.
- The Rev. Canon Ann Smith, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. George, Newcastle, Jan. 8.
- The Rev. Ted Bartlett, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax), Jan. 29.
- The Rev. Canon Anthony Jemmott, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. George, Newcastle, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Megan Jull, Priest-in-Charge, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto, Feb. 15.
- The Rt. Rev. Patrick White, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Aurora, March 5.
- The Rev. Susan Haig, Associate Priest, Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, March 15.
- The Rev. Anish Matthew George, Priest-in-Charge, Church of South India, May 1.

Ordinations

- The Rev. Philip Josselyn-Hamilton was ordained a priest at Trinity Church, Aurora on Feb. 2.
- The Rev. James Liu was ordained a priest at St. James Cathedral on Feb. 11.
- The Rev. Philip Stonhouse will

be ordained a priest at St. Bride, Clarkson on Feb. 25 at 4 p.m.

- The Rev. Vinaya Dumpala will be ordained a priest at St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea on March 25 at 4 p.m.

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):

- St. John, Bowmanville
- St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga
- St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South
- Parish of Churchill and Cookstown
- Trinity, Aurora
- St. Andrew, Scarborough

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

- Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford & Burnt River (Trent-Durham)

Celebrations of New Ministry York-Scarborough

- The Rev. Megan Jull, Priest-in-Charge, St. Augustine of

Canterbury, Toronto, March 4 at 4 p.m.

Conclusions

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Dawn Davis will conclude her ministry at Trinity, Aurora on March 4. She will be taking up a new ministry appointment with the Diocese of Niagara.
- The Rev. C.J. Adams concluded her ministry at St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) on Jan. 28.
- The Rev. Douglas Clark concluded his ministry at St. George, Newcastle on Jan. 31. He has taken up a new ministry appointment with the Department of Corrections as duty chaplain.
- The Rev. George Jacob will conclude his ministry at the Church of South India on April 30.

Retirement

- The Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga, will be May 20.
- The Rev. Canon James Woolley has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South will be June 24.

Thoughtful discussion yields suggestions at town hall

Continued from Page 8

though always changing, is also, at its core, very much the same. Four ministries were prioritized for increased attention (two tied for third ranking, so both were included): youth ministry, children's ministry,

lay leadership training and innovative "non-Sunday" forms of worship and ministry. Bishop Anderson observed that all these ministries could be grouped together as faith formation activities; the exercise clearly identified a need in York-Credit Valley for greater focus on

building faithful disciples of all ages.

The final activity at the town hall was a brainstorming session on ideas for moving forward in each of these identified priority ministries. Thoughtful discussion at each table yielded many pages of suggestions, which were shared in a closing

plenary session. Bishop Anderson indicated all the results from the meeting would be collated and organized for distribution through the area's webpage. She also said the newly redesigned Area Council would be using the results as a foundational resource in planning

its work, and invited interested participants to become involved in potential working groups on the priority ministries.

The Rev. Susan Climo is the incumbent of Holy Spirit of Peace, Mississauga.



Send your parish news and photos to editor@toronto.anglican.ca

Priest humbled by journey

Anglicans 'live true' to Christian calling

Continued from Page 1

the churches have been gracious and welcoming."

When he's invited to a church, he usually preaches. "I stay true to my calling as a priest – I preach the gospel," he says. "I don't preach the gospel of the TRC or the gospel of Indigenous ministry. I try to bring it under the lens of what we can be – how the gospel speaks to all nations and is a hope for everyone."

He will spend as much time at a church as he is needed, whether for one service or three. He will also speak at informal parish events. "One of the greatest things I've been doing is simply speaking with people and answering questions – often questions they've always wanted to ask but were afraid to. In those situations, I always say that you can't offend me, so go ahead and ask anything."

In addition to parish visits, he has led workshops, seminars and a clergy retreat. "I'll speak on whatever the organizer is looking for. Usually it's about what Indigenous spirituality is and what it could be. I'll also speak about the TRC – what's now happening and where it is now."

When he's discussing the TRC, he often touches other subjects as well, such as Canada's missing and murdered Indigenous women and the Sixties Scoop, the name given to the practice in the 1960s of taking Indigenous children from their families and placing them in foster homes or up for adoption. "I try to bring everyone into the history of where we have been as a Church



The Rev. Chris Harper performs a smudging ceremony at the beginning of the sixth annual Keepers of the Water Vigil of Lament and Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square on Jan. 17. The service, co-sponsored by the Toronto Urban Native Ministry and the diocese, celebrates the Earth and its water, and laments their exploitation. At right, Mr. Harper receives a hug at his induction as the diocese's Indigenous Native Priest last April. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

and as Canadians," he says.

He has been humbled by what he has seen and heard on his travels. "I've discovered that the people of this diocese live true to their Christian calling – they are a people of hope, and there is the potential for something wondrous to happen. I think what the churches are saying and realizing is that they need to allow the Holy Spirit to move, even when they want to resist."

A number of churches across the diocese have made efforts to learn about Indigenous issues and respond to the TRC's calls to action. These have included field trips to

reserves, holding a Blanket Exercise, inviting a speaker, joining an advocacy group, visiting a former residential school, donating goods for remote communities, taking part in a demonstration, going on a youth exchange and saying prayers on Sunday.

Indigenous spiritual practices are much more prominent in the diocese than they were a few years ago. Smudging ceremonies are increasingly common, as is the practice of acknowledging that a service or meeting is taking place on traditional First Nations land. Clergy and lay people are involved



in reconciliation efforts at the national, diocesan and parish level. The diocese recently gave \$100,000 to the national church's Healing Fund.

"This is an exciting time to be in the Church and to see what the Spirit is doing among us," says Mr.

Harper. "Change is huge because it stirs the stagnant water, but it's also good and I want people to see that."

Looking ahead, he is excited about the creation of a national Indigenous church within the Anglican Church of Canada, possibly as early as 2019. He also sees the potential for an Indigenous congregation forming in the diocese within the next five years, possibly sharing space with another church or on its own.

"I think people in the diocese are starting to understand that one way of doing things is not the answer for all peoples," he says. "We have a great diversity of churches, and each one speaks to a certain people. They listen and say, 'Yes, this is my home.' Indigenous people have not found that yet within the Church."

One of the things he hopes to do more of in 2018 is visit rural churches. "I'd like to see what's going on and help them in their ministries, especially as they relate to the TRC."

His second goal is to get out on the land, something he hasn't been able to do much of since moving to Toronto. "I've always been in rural parishes and places where I could step out into nature. A city park just doesn't cut it. I'd like to connect to the land and re-energize my batteries."

Most of all, however, he looks forward to continuing to meet people. "As Indigenous Native Priest, I've discovered that my calling is to work with the churches and to help them embrace diversity and change. I try to get people to see that we don't need to be held back by fear and trepidation, but that we can walk bravely forward into the future that is in the plan and movement of the Spirit."

He adds: "It's all about embracing people around us. We've hugged ourselves for too long and it has become a straightjacket. We need to open our arms and welcome others into the Church."

CANADA BRIEFS

Mission delivers presents to seafarers

VANCOUVER - A Mission to Seafarers team, along with a CBC intern doing coverage for an afternoon radio program, boarded a water taxi on Dec. 22, 2017. With them they carried almost 400 gifts that would be delivered to the 18 ships at anchor in Vancouver's harbour. A total of 1,000 gifts are distributed annually as part of this seasonal ministry of the Mission to Seafarers. In preparation, participating

churches organized the donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, toiletries, chocolate, socks, hand-knit toques, gloves, and more, which were wrapped in gift boxes and given to seafarers who found themselves far from home during the Christmas season.

The group made contact by radio with each of the ships to be visited, then maneuvered the water taxi into position for the ship's gangway to be lowered. Senior Port Chaplain the Rev. Peter Smyth then asked how many were on the ship's crew, and the appropriate number of gifts were brought onboard.

Most of the ships were bulk cargo ships from around the world. The group met crews from the Philippines, Ukraine, Myanmar and China.

Topic

Bowlers fight childhood hunger

FREDERICTON - A bowling fundraiser in the Diocese of Fredericton is hoping to raise \$100,000 to fight childhood hunger in New Brunswick. The organizer of the tournament, the Rev. Kevin McAllister, decided to expand the tournament, which last year brought in more than \$7,500 to help build a library at Bishop McAllister College in Uganda.

This year, the tournament will take place in three cities – Fredericton, Moncton and Saint John – with the goal to raise \$33,000 for each city. These funds will be designated to a local charity in each city that addresses childhood hunger.

Mr. McAllister says he was inspired to combat hunger by the di-

ocese's Stewardship Day workshop last year, when diocesan Bishop David Edwards spoke about child poverty. "I didn't realize it was that bad," he said. "As a dad and a priest, I don't think it's right that people should be hungry, especially kids." The tournament will take place April 21.

The New Brunswick Anglican

Faith groups share housing ideas

EDMONTON - More than 80 people representing 16 different faiths and 13 community organizations, front line agencies and community stakeholders met this past November for the Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative Plenary. Participants were greeted

by Bishop Jane Alexander of the Diocese of Edmonton, as well as Archbishop Richard Smith of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and pastors Bonnie Hodge and Keith Taylor of Beulah Alliance Church, which hosted the workshop. The group discussed the possibility of faith groups opening their doors as part of a city-wide network of safe access points, and the creation of a database of churches willing to offer their places of worship as safe spaces and spiritual care for front line workers. The group will develop a timeline for implementing the action items raised at the plenary.

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