

Actors give voice
to homeless

Concert honours
Healey Willan

Toronto Mayor
flips at church



The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

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APRIL 2018

Grant improves lives of women, children

BY JANICE BIEHN

IN the past year, prenatal health in Burundi has improved, more babies were born safely in Rwanda, more people in Tanzania gained access to clean drinking water, more babies were not born in the dark in Mozambique and almost 400 low-income women were able to start businesses and lift themselves above the poverty line.

Those are just a few of the ways that the diocese's \$500,000 Our Faith-Our Hope grant to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) made an impact in Africa last year. The funds also supported an Indigenous midwives program in Canada, Peru and Mexico.

"The funds provided by the Diocese of Toronto have had a real impact on the lives of thousands of people in a very sustainable and lasting way," says Zaida Bastos, director of PWRDF's Development Partnership Program. "The medical equipment, water wells, construction of infrastructure and loans will continue affecting the lives of beneficiaries long after the projects

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A mother and child at a vaccination clinic in the Diocese of Masasi. PHOTO BY PWRDF



Jessica Carrington (right) joins Frances Delsol and the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner after a service at Grace Church, Markham. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Woman heeds call to help

Goods, funds sent to island
after deadly hurricane

BY STUART MANN

HUNDREDS of people on the tiny island nation of Dominica are getting much needed items of clothes, shoes, food and medical supplies thanks to the efforts of a woman in the Diocese of Toronto.

Jessica Carrington, a member of Grace Church, Markham, filled more than 180 boxes of donated

goods and raised \$3,800 for the Caribbean island after it was ravaged by Hurricane Maria last Sept. 19. The category 5 storm killed 40 people and left most of the country in ruins.

"Jessica's efforts made a significant contribution in the lives of Dominicans who otherwise had no options," says Frances Delsol, the island's trade and investment

commissioner in Toronto.

Ms. Carrington was praying in her house early one morning last summer when she felt the urge to respond to those who had lost their homes and belongings to the hurricanes that were sweeping across the Caribbean. "A little voice said to me, 'We can help,'" she recalls.

She was particularly moved by the devastation on Dominica, which

has a population of about 70,000 and is located in the Windward Islands. A native of Barbados, she felt a close kinship to the people and their suffering. "I thought, this has happened to my neighbours, and if it happened to them it could happen to us," she says.

She spoke to her priest, the

Continued on Page 2





JOYFUL PRAISE

The diocese's 23rd annual black heritage service, *A Spirit of Thanksgiving: Joyful Praise!*, was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Feb. 25 during Black History Month. Clockwise from above: members of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform; the Diocesan Combined Choir sings; Jamie Barrow, organist, (left) Archbishop Colin Johnson and the Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan receive plaques honouring their work and ministry; Kanier Hodge-Simon and a member of the Caribbean Dance Theatre perform in a medley of music and dance. Archbishop Johnson preached at the service and Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, presided. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Islanders grateful for supplies

Continued from Page 1

Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, the incumbent of Grace Church, who enthusiastically encouraged her to help out. The following Sunday, the pair spoke to the congregation from the pulpit, asking parishioners to drop off donated items at Ms. Carrington's garage.

Throughout the late summer and fall, parishioners, neighbours and friends dropped off hundreds of items and Ms. Carrington packed them into boxes – so many that they often reached the ceiling. The boxes were put into shipping containers and sent down to Dominica by Ms. Delsol's office.

"Through Jessica's efforts, a lot of people were able to get new clothing, shoes and a lot of food," says Ms. Delsol. Supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap were put into personal care kits for children and seniors.

In addition to the donated goods, Grace Church raised \$3,800 through a karaoke night in October and a donation from the church's ACW. The money was given to Dominica's Hurricane Maria Fund to assist those who lost their homes or belongings or were injured.

Ms. Carrington says she was overwhelmed with joy by the experience. "No words could describe it. I actually had the chills while I was doing it. It wasn't about us. It was about what we could do to help others. That's what we're here for – to help others. And it felt really good."

Ms. Delsol says Ms. Carrington's efforts have not gone unnoticed on Dominica. "I've heard from people who have told me, thank you so much for remembering that we are here and are not forgotten. People are posting on social media that we are getting your relief supplies and we are truly appreciative."



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Actors lament plight of homeless outside church

King Lear comes to public square

BY DIANA SWIFT

HOLY Trinity, Trinity Square's monthly observance for Toronto's homeless on Feb. 13 included a novel component: a performance based on Shakespeare's tragedy *King Lear*.

The bard's words stretched across the centuries as three seasoned actors took to the chilly public square beside the downtown church and raised a call to action for the homeless. They performed "Too Little Care," a short dramatic piece based on the passage where, turned out in a raging storm, the mentally deteriorating old king has a sudden epiphany. He acknowledges the pitiful circumstances of the dispossessed and calls complacency to account.

"Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are, That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm, How shall your houseless heads and unfed sides, Your loop'd and window'd raggedness, defend you From seasons such as these? O, I have ta'en Too little care of this!"

Venerable actor and lifelong social activist Walter Borden played Lear, with Michael Bennett Leroux and Peyton LeBarr in supporting roles. Encouraged to become a chorus, onlookers chanted, "Oh I have ta'en too little care of this!"

"Any thinking, empathetic, sympathetic person could make that same statement about the homeless today," said Mr. Borden, who recently played Lear in a production that portrayed him as having a hallucinatory dementia. "Society as a whole, and the individuals who make it up, have definitely taken too little care of this."

The performance at the Toronto Homeless Memorial, located outside the church, was deliberately planned for the winter, explained Kate Werneburg, an actor who wrote and directed "Too Little Care" and designed it to speak to a deaf-eared and complacent society.

"It became clear the city was not prepared to respond appropriately to the needs underhoused people would have in the extreme cold," said Ms. Werneburg, the church's volunteer coordinator. "We wanted people who are also experiencing dispossession to feel seen and



Actor Walter Borden plays King Lear at Toronto's Homeless Memorial outside Holy Trinity, Trinity Square. At right, he is joined by Michael Bennett Leroux (centre) and Peyton LeBarr. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

recognized."

When Ms. Werneburg herself played Lear back in theatre school, her director told her no acting was required to perform this passage, saying "All you need to do is think about everyone who at this very moment is sleeping on a subway grate on Yonge Street. What have you done about that today?"

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.



Resources help with marriage dialogue

Anglicans encouraged to have conversations with those of differing views

BY STUART MANN

THE diocese's Canon XXI Task Group has posted several documents on the diocese's website to help Anglicans learn about same-sex marriage and to have informed, respectful conversations on the subject leading up to the next regular session of Synod in November. The resources include:

- A history of the dialogues, decisions and key moments in the discernment process in the Church.
- An article outlining the structures of authority in the Anglican Communion.
- Information on processes and decisions in different denominations and attitudes in the Anglican Communion.
- A bibliography of key resources.

The group also plans to have available the names of people who can lead facilitated discussions in churches.

"We want people to talk *with* each other, as opposed to talking *about* each other," says Marge

Watters Knebel, ODT, chair of the group. "We're encouraging individuals and groups to have deep, face-to-face conversations with people who have differing views."

The Canon XXI Task Group was formed by Archbishop Colin Johnson last year to assist diocesan Synod to consider the proposed changes to the marriage canon to incorporate provision for marriage of same-sex couples in the Anglican Church of Canada. General Synod voted in favour of the changes in 2016 by the required two-thirds majorities in all three houses (laity, clergy, bishops); the second, required vote is planned when it convenes again in 2019. In the intervening time, the motion was sent for consideration, although not a vote, at diocesan and provincial Synods.

The purpose of the Canon XXI Task Group is to develop a process that will help the diocese have a dialogue about same-sex marriage and the proposed changes to the marriage canon. The diocese's Synod will have a discussion – but

not a vote – on the subjects when it meets on Nov. 9-10.

Ms. Watters Knebel says Archbishop Johnson set the tone for the diocese's dialogue in his Pastoral Statement on Commitment to Diverse Theological Positions in the Diocese of Toronto, posted last September. In the statement, he writes: "All of us need to extend to each other the most generous Christian charity that Jesus Our Redeemer calls us to exercise as we, together, seek to discern and live out God's will."

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, expressed similar sentiments in a pastoral letter to Canadian Anglicans in July 2016: "More than ever, we must make efforts not to turn away from one another; but rather to one another; not to ignore but to recognize one another; not to walk apart but together."

Ms. Watters Knebel says the group is committed to providing resources and a process that will accommodate the widest range of viewpoints. "In his statement, Archbishop Johnson writes about

honouring and safeguarding the diversity represented in our parishes and clergy, and that's what we are trying to do."

In addition to Ms. Watters Knebel, the group includes Chris Ambidge, ODT, the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, Pamela Boisvert, the Rev. Chris Harper, the Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, the Rev. Ian LaFleur, Ryan Ramsden and the Rev. Mark Regis. It is facilitated by Janet Marshall.

The group made a presentation to the diocese's Synod last November and asked members what they needed to have a dialogue. It received 530 suggestions. The primary needs were for facilitated conversations and helpful resources.

"At a high level, people wanted an opportunity to hear and talk more fully about the rationale and convictions held by people with differing views across the spectrum," says Ms. Watters Knebel. "They want opportunities for facilitated dialogue."

To that end, the group will provide the names of people who will

act as facilitators for conversations in churches. "We encourage parishes that want to have a conversation to have a facilitator, preferably a neutral one who is not involved in that parish community," she says.

She encourages people to have informal conversations as well. "I would encourage anyone, if they haven't already done so, to get to know another person who holds a different view. Spend time with that person and find out where they're coming from and where they're at. Sit with another person who shares a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and listen to them talk about what they understand, think and feel."

To read the documents, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca. More information about the work of the Canon XXI Task Group and the dialogue in the diocese will be published as it becomes available. To contact the group or to arrange for a facilitator to lead a discussion in your parish, contact Pam Boisvert, the diocese's Secretary of Synod, at pboisvert@toronto.anglican.ca.

Listen to the leading of the Spirit



In early March, I presided at the election of the Co-adjutor Bishop of Niagara, my last as Metropolitan of the Province. I am delighted that the Rev. Canon Susan Bell, the Canon Missioner of the Diocese of Toronto, was elected in a gracious, Spirit-filled process. I preached this homily at the election and offer it here in anticipation of our own election of a coadjutor bishop in June.

Recently I recorded a video about the work of a bishop. Martha Holmen, my interviewer, asked, "If you were on an elevator with a member of Synod who asked what you would look for in electing a bishop, what would you say?"

"Is it a two-floor trip or 17 floors?" I responded.

My 30-second response was this: "A person of faith in Jesus Christ, able to articulate that faith clearly and fairly simply; the capacity to deal with complexity; able to bridge the sacred and secular realms; open to a variety of theological and spiritual expressions and practices, and the wisdom to discern among them; someone able to extend pastoral care with compassion and still make tough and decisive decisions; one who can preside graciously in leading worship; able to conduct a meeting." You can see the interview online on our diocese's website (www.toronto.anglican.ca).

This was my quick summary of a four-and-a-half page job description! I could have added a sense of humour and a willingness to endure extended periods of boredom interspersed with moments of sheer terror. Lewis Garnsworthy, when he was elected bishop, was advised that he would have to learn to suffer fools gladly and answer his mail. He replied that he would be sure to answer his mail!

An electoral Synod gathers specifically to elect a bishop. It is not a leadership convention – that is going on elsewhere in the province right now. It is not to conduct a popularity contest or establish a party platform. It is not electing someone to deliver on a mandate, nor is it to focus on a

ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

By ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

specific agenda. All of that will get stale in a year, and something else will replace the attention and the anxiety of the community. A bishop is to be one with the apostles in proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus.

What we come together in Synod for is to discern on behalf of the Church of God – not just for ourselves or our parish, not just for our own diocese, but for the good of the Church of God – the person we believe God is calling to be the next bishop.

Discernment is a process of holy listening, not political intrigue.

We do not close our eyes, utter a prayer to God and let God mark down a person's name on a ballot paper, or wait for God to press the right number on an electronic "clicker" using our fingers. It is not magic.

Discernment is about using the perceptions and intuition and resources God has given us. It is about listening – to God, to each other, to the world, to our inner conscience. It is opening ourselves in prayer, expectant silence and mutual conversation. It is about paying attention to the needs and opportunities of the world and to the gifts of the Church.

We are blessed with capable candidates who will allow themselves to be tested and questioned and scrutinized by hundreds of people; candidates who open themselves to God's invitation, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for me?" with the courageous offer, "Here am I; send me" (Isaiah 6).

Each candidate brings many gifts for the ministry of oversight; each brings their weaknesses. Which of them has the specific gifts we need for the Church today?

When the apostles met after the Ascension of our Lord, they were a fragmented, incomplete, uncertain group. They were 11, not 12. In fact, they were not alone. Acts 1 records that there were about 120 present.

Two names were proposed: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Both had accompanied Jesus through

his ministry from his baptism to his ascension. (You will note, it was not just the 12 disciples who were with Jesus.)

Matthias was chosen. Perhaps electors were confused by the other guy who couldn't settle on his own name!

But remember three things.

First, they were named, and they are named together, for all posterity.

Second, they both were equally qualified, both gifted.

Third, after the election, neither of them is heard from again in scripture! Nothing else is known about them.

Nothing except this: We know their names and we can be confident that both continued to follow Christ and serve his Church.

At the episcopal election, one will be chosen as bishop – but the one does not accede to glory and the others fade into oblivion (like political leadership contenders do). All will continue as faithful members of the church of Jesus Christ. All will continue to bring their gifts to the service of Christ. All will join in the central work to which disciples are called – to bear witness with all the saints to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the new life that God offers to all people through him.

Electoral Synods begin with the Eucharist. It is not an incidental add-on – a nod to God – before we get on with the real business at hand. Rather, it is the heart of what we are about. We root ourselves as a eucharistically shaped people – a people called by God and bound together as his people into a community of thanksgiving and love in which Jesus himself is present in the midst. We listen to the Word of God, rehearsing our story, hearing again who and whose we are. We pray for guidance. We are fed by the very life of Jesus, who died for us and was raised for us and bestows on us his own first gift of the Spirit. Then we leave, sent out with joy and hope into the world God so loves, to join in God's work of reconciliation and re-creation.

The Eucharist draws us into our work of discernment.

Listen to the leading of the Spirit.



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The Anglican Church

In the Anglican Communion:

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

Archbishop of Canterbury:

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

In Canada:

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

Primate:

The Most Rev. 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

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The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson

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There is nothing that we cannot face



The wonderful seasons of Easter and spring are with us once again as we anticipate warmer weather, outdoor activities, longer days, gardening and enjoying spring.

The resurrection is at the centre of our Christian faith, in the confidence of eternal life offered in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Easter is not a one-time event that took place many years ago, nor is it just an annual celebration. We are the resurrection community, and our lives in the risen Christ mean new beginnings, hope for those who once had none, hope for those who are ostracized, marginalized or excluded. Life is no longer the same. In the words of the chorus of that wonderful song by the Gaithers:

"Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone,
Because I know, I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
just because He lives."

The resurrection of Jesus Christ led to the birth of the Christian Church. We see a group of men, disciples of Christ, who were once afraid, dispirited and uncertain about

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP PETER FENTY

their future become transformed and filled with the Spirit, boldly witnessing to their experience of their risen Lord and Saviour. They became empowered and were willing to do anything in His name. They faced their future with confidence and courage because He lives. They began a powerful movement, "the Jesus Movement," and set in motion a mighty force that has changed and continues to change the lives of many around the world.

We believe that in Christ, death, oppression, injustice, fear and evil have been overcome and therefore Love conquers and will always win. The spirit of the living God is and will always be available to the Church. God is at work in the world in the name of Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit. By our willingness to join God in God's mission, we come to experience the love, mercy, compassion and goodness of God.

In a time when many are skeptical about the validity of institutions and their "norms," including religion, there is seemingly a lot of

rage in our communities, and the Church has a gospel to proclaim and live out. Amid skepticism and even cynicism, we can share the good news of what God is up to in our communities. We can become so despondent and hopeless in the face of adversity, tragedy and wrongdoing that at times we do not notice the good that is taking place around us.

Remember the words of the song, "Because He lives I can face tomorrow." The resurrection means that there is nothing that we cannot face in the future. Life that the risen Christ offers is refreshing, life-giving, healing, inclusive and redemptive. We have been given new life in Christ. We are given second chances; broken relationships can be restored. We need no longer be imprisoned by jealousy, hatred, pride, envy, selfishness and human indifference. Our communities and places of worship must now be open to welcoming others, especially those who do not look like us or share the same faith, political philosophy or ethnicity. We are called by our Christian vocations to be agents of change.

Archbishop Michael Curry often speaks about the Christ "who came among us to transform the world from the nightmare it

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What does it mean to care for creation?



BY DIANE MARSHALL

The Anglican Communion's fifth Mark of Mission calls us to "strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and to sustain and renew the life of the earth." But what does it mean to be an earth-keeper, that first mandate given by God to humanity in Genesis?

In his reflection, *Falling in Love with The Earth*, professor Stephen Scharper of the University of Toronto's School of the Environment calls us, as Christians, to find a new perspective where we redefine the meaning of creation care. He writes:

"This perspective suggests that the human strives not for domination of, but for harmony with, the rest of the created world, and that we as humans are participants rather than 'master and commanders' within the fabric of creation. This perspective also suggests that we can only be fully human, and fully true to our Christian calling, when the individual and communal elements of our social concerns are integrated to sustain all of creation... We are being invited to relationship – a relationship with all of creation that involves affection, compassion, celebration and joy. We are invited to fall in love with the Earth."

This paradigm shift requires transforming our previous understanding of the concept of "progress," which is our heritage from the industrial revolution and



has resulted in a cultural acceptance of domination of the earth and its resources. Jesus and his disciples travelled light, so we must ask ourselves: are we living in a way that is ultimately sustainable on this earth? What are the moral and ethical dimensions of what it would mean to build a culture and an economy of sustainability?

Increasingly, international development organizations like the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, World Vision and Doctors Without Borders have begun to report that climate change is a major cause of poverty and famine in the developing world – especially in the global south – and that the industrialized world is a major contributor to this.

At a conference on the environment in 2011, Dr. David Atkinson, the retired bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, said, "We

are in bondage to a neo-liberal economic model of perpetual growth." He called us instead to remember God's covenant with us – God's commitment of faithfulness to his promise, and our commitment to follow. The whole created order lives under God's grace and under God's judgement.

In 2011, the Primates of the Anglican Communion, meeting in Dublin, issued a statement on climate change. It included this call: "We encourage all Anglicans to recognize that global climatic change is real and that we are contributing to the despoiling of creation. We underline the increasing urgency of this as we see the impact of climate change in our provinces. We press government, industry and civil society on the moral imperative of taking practical steps towards building sustainable communities."

At a meeting in Canterbury in 2017, the Primates once again addressed our changing climate, speaking about the hurricanes in the West Indies that caused severe destruction to homes, crops and infrastructure. They spoke about extreme weather in other parts of the world, food insecurity in Africa due to draught, and the disappearing islands in the South Pacific due to the melting of ice in the Antarctic. Thabo Makgoba, the archbishop of Southern Africa, encouraged his fellow Primates to think about "caring for where the lambs and the vulnerable are, and to make the linkages between social justice and climate justice."

Our Christian calling is to "speak the truth in love," so the need to speak to

government is part of this justice-seeking. We need to begin to ask ourselves: how do we advocate for the earth and safeguard the integrity of creation? How do we help sustain and renew the life of the earth?

This fight for the integrity of the earth – to wean us off our dependence on oil and develop new technologies for sustainable sources of energy and conservation – is in many respects analogous to the anti-slavery movement in Britain in the 18th century. The Church and the government at the time argued that the economy and people's jobs would be sacrificed if slavery were ended. But justice and truth prevailed, and eventually that evil structure was formally ended.

Today, at a time of climate crisis, we who are people of hope and followers of Christ's call to love justice and seek mercy, must speak out on behalf of the creation. We are members of the "beloved community" that has struggled throughout history for class, racial and gender equality and justice, in the Church and in society. Our voice needs to be heard in advocating for the earth, our island home in the universe.

Diane Marshall is a registered psychotherapist, a member of the Diocesan Creation Matters Committee, and parishioner of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, Toronto. A short form of this article is included in a bulletin insert which, together with other resources for Earth Sunday on April 22, can be downloaded from the diocese's website at www.toronto.anglican.ca/environment.

Here's why the Church needs generous givers



Last month's article on The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Churches garnered considerable interest, as evidenced by the emails and conversations I have had concerning the topic.

It seems that most of us are aware of the changes taking place in the Church and in society. The aging of church membership is paramount – it is evident on Sunday morning and it appears there is more grey hair than any other in our congregations.

Regardless of who is worshipping on any given Sunday, everyone in a church has the capacity to be generous. Let me be clear: the Church needs your financial support. The difference between a parish that is struggling and one that is growing often comes down to the availability of resources.

Struggling parishes suffer from over-extended volunteers, limited ministry

THE STEWARD

BY PETER MISIASZEK

opportunities, a shrinking congregation and giving that is well below average. Members of the congregation feel tapped out. They really want to do better because they can remember a time when their church did much better.

Overall, freewill offerings in the diocese in 2016 declined by about one per cent (\$312,125) from 2015 to \$32,508,379. These gifts do not include special collections, FaithWorks, additional outreach, capital giving or immemorial donations. In the last six years, the number of givers across the diocese has declined by 17.45 per cent – a loss greater than the previous 10 years combined. On a per donor basis, the average annual offertory gift increased to \$1,393 in 2016, up from \$1,314 a year earlier.

When average household income is

adjusted for inflation, the percentage of gross family income designated to offertory increased to 1.71 per cent in 2016. What we lack is the median gift number. This would provide a true indicator of giving, as it eliminates the impact of those who give very little and those who gift a lot.

The diocesan average is only a barometer with respect to how individuals within a parish are performing compared to other parishes. However, aggregate giving is a poor indicator of generosity because many high-income donors give well above the diocesan average but the proportion of their giving is relatively small.

We have found that parishes need to strive for an average annual gift per person of about \$1,750 to remain healthy. This figure represents optimum giving – a level of support consistently found in our most successful parishes. Those parishes – both urban and rural – that have a variety of relevant ministry opportunities, experience numeric growth in the number of

worshipping members, offer meaningful worship and are present to the missional needs of their communities have a level of giving that is consistently well above average.

Giving that is exceptional is not limited to parishes with very wealthy congregants. Of the 25 per cent of parishes that are growing in the diocese, many are in communities where incomes are ordinary. But members give – and give well – because they have been disciplined effectively and schooled in the benefits of generous living.

Optimum giving leads to sustained and innovative ministry that empowers an enthusiastic base of volunteers who are committed to missional outreach and a welcoming spirit of hospitality. This provides the necessary foundation that helps foster numeric growth in the congregation.

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

Good is taking place around us

Continued from Page 4

often is, into the dream God has." The Church must always provide room and welcome all, irrespective of their perspective or understanding of God. Paul understood this when he wrote to the Galatians: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" 3:28. One of the great challenges of our times is how can we be more inclusive in our nation, provinces, communities, organizations and churches.

The ability to live in community with many different views to life, politics and religions, is both a challenge and a rich gift. Our communities continue to become very diverse. We do not all need to think and speak alike. God has wonderfully made us for God's self and each other. When we are unable to be respectful of those who are different from us, life can become very difficult and intolerable. That is why we hold to the belief and understanding that ultimately it is the

love of God that seeks to save our world, as found in John 3:16.

Let us embrace God's love and work together in providing for harmony and co-existence as God's beloved. As believers of the resurrection community, may we by our living model what we promise in our Baptismal Covenant, "to respect the dignity of every human being."

We, the people of God, can point the way forward that reveals the unity that we are given, and can celebrate the

strength that we can bring each other and others. We can provide the example of how we can love those who differ from us and give attention to improving our brokenness. The resurrection means the setting free of all that once imprisoned us and living in the hope and comfort that "because He lives I can face tomorrow." The Christian witness we carry out is in the Name of our Loving, Liberating and Life-giving God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

I dived into the Anglican Church

The Rev. James Liu is an assistant curate at St. James Cathedral, leading the Mandarin Ministry.

Working with Morning Wang, who is soon to be ordained a deacon, I have established and continue to develop the Mandarin Ministry, serving all Chinese people in the Diocese of Toronto. I also assist with the cathedral's English language services and pastoral work.

As a theology student and a Chinese person, I started to reflect on trans-cultural ministry and how to bring the gospel to more people in Toronto's multicultural environment. I believe that all ministry development should be based not only on clear theological thought but also on research and a detailed plan. Many of the Chinese people we meet who are new to Toronto have no Christian background, so we developed what I call the "cathedral model" of ministry. This involves the traditional Anglican treasures of scripture, tradition and reason, but also liturgy, architecture, spiritual devotion and teaching the basics of Christianity and Anglicanism.

Using this model, we started the Mandarin Ministry in 2014, first meeting at the local Tim Hortons and then in the second-floor kitchen at the Cathedral Centre, then the boardroom, then the lecture room, and now we have our service every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the cathedral's sanctuary.

Our congregation started with one person and now averages



The Rev. James Liu (left) with people from the Mandarin Ministry after his ordination to the priesthood at St. James Cathedral. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

about 50 on a Sunday. After the

service, we have a time for theological education and training. We also have a Sunday School and a choir. Each year, more than 10 people are baptized. This model of ministry has brought more people to know Jesus and join the Church, entering God's presence and love through his blessings.

The Mandarin Ministry also offers Taize services in English and Mandarin on the first Tuesday of every month at the cathedral and on the first Thursday of every month at St. George on Yonge, Toronto. Both services start at 7

p.m. and all are welcome. In addition to the Mandarin Ministry congregation at the cathedral, there is one at St. George on Yonge and another that has started at St. Thomas, Huron Street, led by Michael Liu.

The spiritual growth of our brothers and sisters in Christ is evident, and their Anglican identities are confirmed. From loving God to loving Church to loving neighbours, we have become a healthy, growing church.

At my ordination service, the

Very Rev. Douglas Stoute, the former Dean of the cathedral, taught me three words or identities to remember: watcher, interpreter and weaver. I think these are especially important aspects of my ministry. How to watch for people? No one can exist alone by himself. But it is very difficult to establish a core team. How to interpret our faith from one culture to another, or to people who have no background of Christianity? How to weave a big family together from a more inclusive theological grounding? These are all the challenging topics that I am dealing with at the moment.

I was born in Tianjin, China and started my own IT business during university there. I also joined a church and took a leadership role in the choir. Later, I taught at a Christian training centre in Fujian Province, China. While there, I studied liturgy and found that the Anglican faith was the best expression of faith for me. At the same time, I started to seek confirmation. I went to Singapore and Malaysia to be confirmed in the Anglican Church, but my attempts failed because no bishop knew me. When I came to Canada, I was confirmed and dived into the Anglican Church. I studied theology and was ordained to the priesthood in February of this year. I believe that God's calling for me to serve in the Anglican Church is clear and strong.

Over the next five years I'd like to improve my knowledge of theology. I'd also like to share the "cathedral model" of ministry with others, so that more and more Anglican churches can reach new people and grow.

In John 9, after the blind man receives his sight, he says, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." That is my favourite verse from scripture. I think we're all in a process of seeing more clearly. Through Christ, our lives are transformed.



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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.

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Elisa Mateus (right) converted her living room in Mozambique into a café and now employs five people.



Midwives from Mexico, Peru and Canada meet at the International Congress of Midwives in Toronto. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PWRDF

Grant makes impact in Africa, Americas

Women, children helped

Continued from Page 1

are over. PWRDF is very thankful to the diocese for its generous gift and the lasting impact it is having towards alleviating poverty in target countries.”

PWRDF used the grant for its maternal, newborn and child health program called All Mothers and Children Count. The \$500,000 grant was matched by \$3 million from Global Affairs Canada, which gives \$6 for every \$1 that PWRDF contributes to the program. The program is being implemented in Rwanda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Burundi with local partners who are focused on health and food security.

Here’s a summary of how the Our Faith-Our Hope grant made a world of difference:

Medical equipment in Burundi
Village Health Works, a partner of PWRDF, operates in 18 villages in the provinces of Vyanda and Rumonge. They used the funds to buy a polymerase chain reaction machine (PCR), as well as to help build a nutrition centre and a house for nurses. The PCR machine, located in the main clinic in Kigutu, is the only one of its kind in Burundi. It is essential in helping assess the status of HIV/AIDS patients and their treatment protocol, especially in pregnant women and children with HIV/AIDS. The housing facilities for nurses have allowed the clinic to retain more skilled health staff, who are providing around-the-clock service for patients. The new on-site nutrition centre diagnosed and treated 2,233 children for malnutrition last year.

Solar panels in Tanzania
PWRDF’s partner in Tanzania is the Diocese of Masasi. Funds were used to equip 12 rural clinics in the district of Tunduru with solar panels, which provide reliable, affordable and clean energy. The

clinics can deliver services around the clock, including night births. More than 400 pregnant women were referred to receive services.

New water wells are making safe drinking water available to more than 33,000 people in 20 villages in Tunduru. Women and girls must no longer walk for hours each day to fetch water, which exposes them to risk of rape and other violent attacks; now it takes about 20 to 30 minutes, and girls can go to school.

The grant also enabled PWRDF to organize a trip to Tanzania to see the work in Masasi first-hand. The delegation included a videographer who produced two videos (both available for viewing on PWRDF’s YouTube channel), as well as Elin Goulden, the Social Justice and Advocacy consultant for the Diocese of Toronto.

Equipment for Rwanda
PWRDF partner Partners in Health/Inshuti Mu Buzima used the funds to buy equipment such as an anesthesia machine, fetal monitoring machine, hospital beds and incubators. The equipment was distributed to 43 health centres and three hospitals in Burera, Southern

Kayonza and Kirehe districts. The agency also bought an ambulance and assigned it to one of the remotest districts, so women could safely get to a clinic to deliver their babies.

Solar suitcases in Mozambique
PWRDF partner EHALE used the funds to buy and install 30 solar suitcases in rural clinics that do not have electricity. In the past, nurses and midwives would hold cellphones in their mouths and use its light to help them see to deliver babies in the dark – sometimes as many as 10 in a night. The risks of infection and obstetric complications were very high. A solar suitcase – mounted to the wall and attached to solar panels on the roof – provides medical lighting and power for mobile communication, laptop computers and a fetal doppler with rechargeable batteries. Clinics with solar suitcases registered 7,161 nocturnal births last year, and 31 babies were resuscitated. EHALE was also able to equip 27 health clinics with baby scales, patient beds and mattresses, sterilizers and other medical disposal products.

Micro-finance in Mozambique
The Our Faith-Our Hope grant provided funding for 392 women to start or run a business through CCM Pemba, a micro-finance initiative in Pemba, Mozambique. The loans have enabled women to build and expand businesses that include restaurants, convenience stores,



Diane Jacovella, Canada’s deputy minister for International Development (centre), learns how a solar suitcase is helping to improve medical care for mothers and their newborn children in Mozambique.

food stands, catering, hairdressing and more. Some of the women are now paying university fees for their children. Other women are able to cover medical expenses and improve their housing. Many have become employers, contributing to the development of the local economy. The loans range from \$500 to \$2,000 with an interest rate of 4 per cent, compared to the local bank institutional rate of 25 per cent or more. The delinquency rate is 0.0 per cent.

Indigenous midwifery in Americas
Ryerson University’s Aboriginal

Initiatives is working with KINAL Antzetik in Mexico and CHIRAPAQ Indigenous Women group in Peru to develop a midwifery curriculum that affirms and validates Indigenous midwifery best practices throughout the Americas. The grant enabled partners to compile examples of Indigenous midwifery curricula developed by and for Indigenous learners in Nunavik, Manitoba and Six Nations in Ontario. Partners also presented findings in Toronto at the International Congress of Midwives last April.

Janice Biehn is the communications coordinator for PWRDF.



Indigenous midwives in Mexico participate in a workshop.



Villagers in Tunduru in Tanzania celebrate the opening of a water well.



DEFT HAND

Toronto Mayor John Tory flips pancakes on Shrove Tuesday at St. Cuthbert, Leaside as local councillor Jon Burnside looks on. Mayor Tory deftly flipped pancakes while fielding questions from the media, then chatted to guests about issues of the day. The event included entertainment and the ever popular “pancake flipping” races around the room. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Anglicans look to wilderness for inspiration

Cobourg church hosts area day

BY MIKE WINTERBURN

ANGLICANS from parishes across Trent-Durham looked to the wilderness for inspiration during their annual area day discussions at St. Peter, Cobourg on March 3. The theme was “Church in the Wilderness: Hearing God’s Call in the 21st Century.”

In her homily, Bishop Riscylla Shaw challenged participants to see how a wilderness experience can lead to transformation and testimony. “The favour of God will change lives,” she said. “Do you believe it?”

In a session on “Finding God and Ourselves in the Wilderness,” Sylvia Keesmaat asked people to brainstorm stories from scripture where people found themselves there. When they put these exam-

ples on a timeline, it quickly became apparent that the wilderness is a recurring theme throughout the entire Bible. “The story continually goes to places of deep darkness, but it’s in these places where God works for redemption,” she said.

The Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, led a discussion on “Prayer and Spiritual Practices in the Wilderness.” He emphasized the importance of really wanting to be with God. “It shouldn’t just be, in the words of our lovely Prayer Book, ‘bounden duty and service,’” he said.

As well, he spoke of the value in understanding which activities are most meaningful for us as individuals. “It is important to grasp what really works for us. Is it music? Is it walking? Is it poetry? Is it serving in the soup kitchen? Our lives are

Clockwise from top left: Sylvia Keesmaat leads the workshop, ‘Finding God and Ourselves in the Wilderness’; area day participants take part in the Eucharist at St. Peter, Cobourg; the Rev. David Bryan Hoopes, OHC, speaks about prayer and spiritual practices; Bishop Riscylla Walsh, area bishop of Trent-Durham; Barbara Raymond of Christ Memorial, Oshawa speaks while holding the Talking Piece, from a First Nations tradition of holding a feather to be the only one who can talk, during a workshop. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

our prayer.”

In the discussion circle on “Parishes in the Wilderness,” Bill Bickle, ODT, and Anne Martin discussed techniques they use to encourage restorative discussions in churches facing disagreements. “Just like our relationship with God is a conversation, so is our relationship with a congregation,” said Mr. Bickle.

The area day’s 104 attendees benefitted from an area-wide team of organizers led by the Rev. Bryce Sangster and about 15 local volunteers from St. Peter’s. “We’ve got a great facility and we’re glad to host,” said the Rev. Canon Richard Miller, priest-in-charge.

Mike Winterburn is a member of St. Martin, Bay Ridges in Pickering.





Organist Simon Walker acknowledges choristers in the organ loft as, from left, Canon Giles Bryant, Andrew Adair and Matthew Larkin look on. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Tribute to Healey Willan strikes right note

Evening devoted to composer's church music

BY DIANA SWIFT

THE ascetic apse of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, dominated by its immense rood cross, supplied a striking backdrop to *Willan 50*, a musical tribute on the 50th anniversary of the death of Healey Willan, the influential Anglo-Canadian composer.

Born in 1880 in Balham, England, Dr. Willan moved to Canada in 1913 and bequeathed a prolific multi-genre legacy of some 850 musical works. In addition to appointments at the University of Toronto, the then Toronto Conservatory of Music, and St. Paul, Bloor Street, the virtuoso organist served for 47 years as music director of St. Mary Magdalene, for which he composed a large body of liturgical music.

"Willan was a humble genius and is considered the dean of Canadian composers," said Canon Giles Bryant, a former organist and music director at the church and the master of ceremonies at the packed Feb. 16 concert. Drawing on a biography by Frederick Clarke, Canon Bryant included lively observations on Dr. Willan's life as an artist and interspersed them with his own expert commentary.

Over his artistic life, Dr. Willan turned his versatile hand to opera, orchestral and band music, tone poems, string quartets and at least 66 songs. "Tonight, though, on this anniversary we celebrate his achievement as a preeminent composer of music created for the

beautification and enhancement of church services," said Canon Bryant.

The program featured three genres: choral music, organ compositions and Gregorian plainchant. According to Canon Bryant, Dr. Willan loved plainchant and led the way in its return to Anglican liturgy in Canada.

The concert opened with Dr. Willan's choral piece for the Feast of Dedication, "Behold, the Tabernacle of God Is with Men," and closed with the vocal prelude and fugue "Gloria Deo Per Immensa Saecula," sung by choristers from St. Mary Magdalene and St. Thomas, Huron Street and conducted by the latter church's music director, Matthew Larkin.

The program also featured Dr. Willan's beautiful setting of Isaac Watts's 18th century hymn "Christ Hath a Garden."

Mr. Larkin performed the first organ work on the program, Dr. Willan's "Prelude and Fugue in C Minor," published in 1909 in Novello's series of virtuoso organ works. Thanks to a large video screen, the audience was able to follow the complex keyboarding of the double-fugue composition, described by Canon Bryant as "a grand, sweeping piece with huge drama borne along with very, very confident harmony and daring chromatic inflections."

From the organ loft, the gallery and ritual choirs of St. Mary Magdalene chanted Gregorian plainsong,

including the Candlemas introit, "We Have Waited, O God."

After the choir sang Dr. Willan's melodic rendition of the mystical Revelations-based anthem "I looked, and Behold a White cloud," the second featured organist, Simon Walker, played the composer's "Introduction, Passacaglia, and Fugue in E flat minor," which has been called the most significant example of the genre since Bach.

According to Canon Bryant's biographical account, Dr. Willan was challenged to write this work after a companion at a recital featuring a German passacaglia said that only a Teutonic mind was capable of a composition of this type, which consists of a set of variations above a fixed-pedal bass line. "His reaction was apoplectic," said Canon Bryant, and the result was this Bach-like "staggeringly marvellous work... with 17 variations of incredible ingenuity... and a fugue using the same subjects as the passacaglia," he said.

Noting that Dr. Willan's music remains integrally woven into the fabric of worship at St. Mary Magdalene, the Rev. Canon David Harrison, incumbent, read praise for Dr. Willan's achievements from the Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, a former governor general of Canada. He also read an affecting account of her father's last hours by his only daughter, Mary Willan Mason, from her memoir *The Well-Tempered Listener*, and introduced



Healey Willan's eldest grandson Peter Willan (centre left) and great grandson enjoy the concert.



Canon Giles Bryant shares anecdotes about Healey Willan's life and music with the audience.



Matthew Larkin conducts the combined choirs of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto and St. Thomas, Huron Street.

Dr. Willan's eldest grandson and his great-grandson.

Andrew Adair, the music director at St. Mary Magdalene, played the third organ composition, Dr. Willan's "Passacaglia and Fugue in E Minor," written in 1959 and reminiscent in technique to the C minor composition of 1909.

"Gloria Deo," the closing vocal piece, was written in 1950 and, inexplicably, commissioned by the Village of Forest Hill's community

centre. "I have absolutely no idea what provoked them but, by God, they got a wonderful piece out of it!" said Canon Bryant. Dr. Willan apparently composed the fugue after a comment by a fellow organist that no one could write in five parts any more. "Well, poppycock," the supreme contrapuntalist allegedly replied, and the result was this transporting polyphonic fugue.

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.

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. For more information, visit the CLAY website, www.claygathering.ca.

Archbishop's Easter message on video

Archbishop Colin Johnson will share his thoughts on Easter through video again this year. His Easter message will appear on the diocese's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube channels during Holy Week, as well as on the home page of the diocesan website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. This is the fourth year in a row the Archbishop has filmed an Easter video. Previous years' messages have focused on Easter morning, Good Friday and Maundy Thursday. Last year's video was viewed more than 24,000 times.

Videos explore episcopal ministry

The diocese's Synod will convene on June 9 at St. James Cathedral to elect a coadjutor bishop, who will succeed Archbishop Colin Johnson as Bishop of Toronto upon his retirement. To help members of Synod discern God's call for the Church, the Nominations Committee has developed *Episcopal Ministry*, a document that outlines the responsibilities and gifts required for the ministry of the Bishop of Toronto. It will be accompanied by a series of video clips highlighting the various aspects of episcopal ministry. For more details on the nomination process, the list of nominees and key dates leading up to Synod, visit the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

**MEETING JESUS**

Anglicans share their thoughts on Jesus Christ at St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto on the first night of Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, a six-week Lenten journey of prayer, reflection and drawing closer to God. Hundreds of people across the diocese in February and March took part in the program, either in groups in churches or on their own. The series, created by the Society of St. John the Evangelist and Virginia Theological Seminary, included a short daily video, prayers and journaling. In private devotions, study groups and online, participants focused on the words of John, renewing their acquaintance with the crucified and risen Messiah and deepening their understanding of God's redeeming love for humanity. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Leaders urged to attend workshops

Clergy and parish leaders (churchwardens, treasurers, etc.) who have not already attended one of the diocese's parish leadership workshops are encouraged to do so. Topics include insurance and risk mitigation, real property management, parish finances and human resources. The dates for the two remaining workshops are:

- York-Scarborough: April 7, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough.
- York-Credit Valley: April 7, 12:30-4:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dixie.

For more information, visit the Parish Leadership Workshops page on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Good Friday walk explores poverty

This year's Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice will begin at 2 p.m. on March 30 at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, Toronto. The theme is "Dimensions of Poverty." The Rev. Maggie Helwig, incumbent of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, author, poet, activist and chair of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Committee, will be the closing speaker. Holy Trinity is

located behind the Eaton Centre.

Conference explores the Eucharist

Liturgy Canada is hosting "Real Presence: Sharing the Meal," the fourth of five conferences on renewing eucharistic worship from gathering to sending. It will take place on April 28 at 9 a.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dixie, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga. The cost is \$35 per person, \$125 for a parish team of up to five people (\$25 for each additional member) or \$25 for students. Learn more on the Liturgy Canada website, www.liturgy.ca.

Anglicans gather for conference on prayer

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (AFP) is hosting a conference called "Oh My God!: The Priority of Prayer" from June 4-8 at St. John's College, Winnipeg. Participants will discern the ongoing mission and ministry of the AFP and share in conversation with Primate Fred Hiltz and many local leaders. Registration costs \$250, which includes accommodations and some meals. Travel costs exceeding \$500 will be reimbursed for one representative per diocese. Registration closes May 1. Visit AFP's website, www.anglicanprayer.org.



Bishop-elect Susan Bell preaches at St. James Cathedral in 2017. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Toronto priest elected next Bishop of Niagara

THE Rev. Canon Susan Bell, the diocese's canon missionary and a former chaplain at Havergal College in Toronto for 10 years, was elected coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Niagara on March 3. She will succeed Bishop Michael Bird as the 12th Bishop of Niagara when he steps down in June.

Born and raised in Hamilton, Bishop-elect Bell will be the first woman to serve as Niagara's diocesan bishop since the diocese was founded in 1875. She was elected on the fifth ballot during an electoral Synod at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton.

As the results were announced,

Bishop-elect Bell was presented to those gathered as they broke out into a jubilant singing of the hymn "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." In her remarks to the Synod, she focused on words of gratitude, beginning by thanking all candidates who let their name stand for election.

Bishop-elect Bell was ordained in the Diocese of Toronto in 1997 and, in addition to her role as canon missionary, is an honorary assistant at St. James Cathedral and an associate priest at St. Martin in-the-Fields, Toronto. She is also a Ph.D. candidate in Church History at St. Michael's

College within the Toronto School of Theology. She is married with four children.

In an interview with the *Anglican Journal*, Bishop-elect Bell said her election was a "full-circle moment. My family are all from, and still in, Niagara... I know and love that region in the Church."

Her consecration is tentatively set to take place May 5, followed by a transitional period, after which she will assume the full responsibilities of diocesan bishop on June 1. Her election was unanimously confirmed by the House of Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

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

- St. Andrew, Scarborough

**Celebrations of
New Ministry**
York-Credit Valley

- The Rev. Daniel Brereton, Incumbent, St. John the Baptist, Dixie, Mississauga, 4 p.m., April 22.
- The Rev. Don Beyers, Incumbent, Christ Church, Bolton, 4 p.m., June 3.

Retirement

- The Rev. Mark Gladding has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Margaret, New Toronto will be April 28.

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LOOKING AHEAD

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

Music & Worship

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.
APRIL 1 - 8 a.m. sung Eucharist;
10:30 a.m. procession and sung
Eucharist, at Holy Trinity, Guildwood,
85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.
Followed by the Guildwood community
Easter egg hunt for children at noon.

APRIL 7 - Bach Rediscovered with
Voices Chamber Choir, 8 p.m., St.
Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake
Ave., Toronto. Tickets \$20
adults, \$15 students/seniors. Call
416-519-0528 or email voiceschamberchoir@yahoo.ca.

APRIL 14 - Special fundraising concert,
7:30 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood,
85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.
Featuring Robert Graham and
his band The Fairest and Best
together with talented students
and ensembles from Sir Wilfrid
Laurier Collegiate Institute.
APRIL 21 - Community Spring Concert
featuring world-renowned
performers, 7 p.m., St. Andrew,
Scarborough, 2233 Victoria Park
Ave. Tickets \$25 for adults and \$15
for students. Call 416-447-1481 or
visit www.st-andrew-anglican.ca.
APRIL 28 - Women and Songs IV
with Healey Willan Singers, 8
p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151
Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets \$20
adults, \$15 students/seniors. Call
416-519-0528 or email healeywillansingers@yahoo.ca.

APRIL 29 - A Bluegrass Eucharist
featuring selections from "The
World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass"
by Carol Barnett, 7 p.m., Church
of the Redeemer, Bloor Street
and Avenue Road, Toronto. Music
led by the Redeemer Choir and a
bluegrass band.

MAY 5 - Opus 8 presents "What Is
Our Life?" at 7:30 p.m., St. Martin
in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave.
Toronto. Opus 8 asks the eternal
questions of the human condition
through a program of ravishing
choral music. Admission is pay-
what-you-can-afford donation.
Cash bar.

MAY 6 - MusicFest 2018: Magical
Music from the Movies, including
handbells, band and choir, 2
p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don
Ridge Dr., Toronto. Proceeds aid

Sleeping Children Around the
World and the church. Tickets
for adults \$15, children \$5. Call
416-225-6611 or email musicfest@sjym.ca. Children dressed as their
favourite movie character get in
for free.

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.

APRIL 21 - Spring rummage sale,
9 a.m. to noon, Holy Trinity, 140
Brook St., Thornhill. Children's,
ladies' and men's clothing, jewelry,
household items and more.
available.

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.

MAY 26 - Plant sale, 9 a.m. to noon,
Christ Church, Stouffville, 254
Sunset Blvd., Stouffville. Indoor
sale of perennials, annuals, house
plants, cement mushrooms and
stepping stones.

Workshops & Gatherings

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.

APRIL 11 - Evening Prayer for Eastertide
at 6 p.m., followed by light
supper. From 7-8 p.m., the Rev. Dr.
Schuyler Brown leads the first of
four weekly discussions that explore
the emotional power of the
King James Bible's poetry and its
heightened language. At St. Olave,
Bloor Street and Windermere
Avenue, Toronto.

APRIL 15 - St. Cuthbert's 2018 Environmental
Film Festival presents
"Tapped," moderated by Stefan
Hostetter of Green Majority, noon
to 2 p.m. at St. Cuthbert, 1399 Bayview
Ave., Toronto. A light lunch,
the film and discussion.

APRIL 22 - Choral Evensong for St.
George's Eve at 4 p.m., followed
by St. George's Tea. At 5 p.m., St.
Olave's Arts Guild and their guests
present drama, poetry, music and
songs to continue the church's
year-long celebration of Canada
150. At St. Olave, Bloor Street and
Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

APRIL 28 - Blessing of the Bicycles,
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Martin
in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave.,
Toronto. Come for a safety check,
a hot dog and a blessing for a safe
season.

MAY 5 - Boogie in your grooviest '70s
threads at Saturday Night Fever
Gala, 7:30 p.m., St. John, West
Toronto, 288 Humberside Ave.
Cash bar, silent auction, food and
more. Tickets \$35 per person or \$20
ages 19 to 25. Partial proceeds to
fund fees for campers at St. John's
Summer Discovery Camp. Visit
www.sjwt.ca.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR APRIL

1. Easter Sunday
2. St. Stephen, Maple
3. Trinity Church, Aurora
4. Ascension, Don Mills
5. Incarnation, Toronto
6. Our Saviour, Toronto
7. St. Cyprian, Toronto
8. York Mills Deanery
9. St. George on Yonge, Toronto
10. St. John, Willowdale
11. St. John's Convent
12. St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole
13. St. Theodore of Canterbury, Toronto

14. The Incorporated Ministry of Flemingdon Park
15. Diocesan Regional Deans
16. Christ Church, Waubashene
17. Good Samaritan, Port Stanton
18. Parish of Elmvale
19. Parish of Penetanguishene
20. St. Athanasius, Orillia
21. St. David, Orillia
22. Huronia Deanery
23. St. George, Fairvalley
24. St. James, Orillia
25. St. Mark, Midland
26. St. Luke, Price's Corners
27. St. John, Waverly
28. St. Paul, Washago
29. North Peel Deanery
30. Christ Church, Bolton

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, Interfaith Officer for the Diocese of Toronto, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon David Brinton, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Thomas, Huron Street, Feb. 1, for the duration of the Incumbent's Sabbath leave.
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald, Assistant Liturgical Officer for York-Credit Valley Area, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon David Clark, Associate Priest, St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax), Feb. 5.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Henderson, Honorary Assistant, St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto, Feb. 13.
- The Rt. Rev. Michael Pollesel,

Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew, Scarborough, Feb. 22.

- The Rev. William Craven, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Bolton, Feb. 27.
- The Rev. Jennifer Schick, Priest-in-Charge, St. Bede, Toronto, April 15.

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
- Parish of Haliburton
- St. Hugh and St. Edmund,

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Ancient truths in a noisy world

Women invited to spend year with Sisters

BY THE REV. FRANCES DROLET SMITH

SINCE the sixth century, St. Benedict's Rule has guided individuals and groups of people to live well in community by engaging members in a balanced life of prayer, work, study and leisure. St. Benedict invites his readers to "listen with the ear of your heart," an invitation that is welcomed in a noisy world. This early monastic rule is part of the wisdom tradition of Christianity and is firmly rooted in, and inspired by, the scriptures. Despite its antiquity, it remains fresh for our time, for it is primarily a guide to daily life lived in Christ; it is a call to live such a life extraordinarily well with others.

Living is often a hectic existence. Despite being instantly connected to people and events half-way around the world through technology, individuals can feel increasingly disconnected from others. While the internet offers an online community for every interest, it lacks tangible, in-depth human interaction. Though products such as FaceTime and Skype offer visual community in real time, the warmth of human proximity remains illusive.

Today, many Christians are seeking fresh ways to express ancient truths. The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine (SSJD), an Anglican



The labyrinth and chapel at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine's convent in Toronto. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

order based in Toronto, is planting new seeds of community life and mission, renewing the monastic life both in the church and for the church.

The 11-month Companions program, an initiative of SSJD begun in 2016, invites women of any denomination, age 21 and up, to spend a year in spiritual formation – learning to pray, serving others and studying while living among the Sisters in intentional community at their convent.

Why would anyone, much less a woman in her 20s or 30s, want to embark on such an adventure? The experiences of those who embraced the program in its inaugural year

bear witness to the program's inimitable value.

Christine Stoll, a former math teaching assistant, found the Benedictine balance of the Sisters' life formative. "I think living here, for me, has been good and healing," she said. "In terms of discernment, I wasn't expecting to have everything all figured out at the end of this year, but I think I have a clearer sense of what it is I need to do."

Another participant, Amanda Avery, a director of a program for low-income children in Halifax, described her time in the program as "exciting, stressful... yet joyful." She went on to say, "The experience has changed me and has given me

new insights and new ways to look at not just God, but myself and my community and the people who are in my community."

Those who participate in the Companions program step into a challenging daily rhythm of prayer, study and service – and no doubt, participants will be surprised by what they discover about themselves. Alongside their personal spiritual quest, a key aspect of being a Companion is committing to a life lived fully, faithfully and authentically with others. Community life, both inside a convent or out in the world, calls us to be our best selves. Where better to discern gifts and explore call than within a



community already engaged daily in those very things and who have insights to share?

The 2018-2019 cohort begins in September. A woman interested in exploring the Companions program may request a program description, application and further information from the Companions' coordinator, the Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, by emailing cj@ssjd.ca or phoning 416-226-2201, ext. 316. Applications will be considered anytime before June 15.

The Rev. Frances Drolet Smith is the rector of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Dartmouth, N.S. and an oblate of SSJD.

CANADA BRIEFS

University chaplain draws throngs with pets

VICTORIA - An Anglican chaplain at the University of Victoria, B.C., says she has been attracting students to the university's Interfaith Chapel with a weekly event centred around animals.

Since Sept. 6, 2017, Ruth Dantzer has been operating what she calls a "Pet Café" – a one-and-a-half-hour time slot when people are free to drop in to be with therapy animals brought by volunteers. To her surprise, the opening of the Pet Café drew nearly 200 students, she says.

"Students lined up to get in and

they all crammed into the lobby of the Interfaith Chapel – all to pet some animals!" she says. The Pet Café has been maintaining its popularity since it opened, she adds.

Ms. Dantzer says the "overwhelming" response to the café has made her realize that university students "need effective gateways to help release some of the stress they carry, either through socializing or through the hands-on experience with the pets."

She adds, "The animals provide a natural 'icebreaker' and, as a result, the atmosphere is one of relaxation, peace and emotional connection."

Ms. Dantzer says the event has allowed her to make contact with students and let them know she's there if they need support. But it has great value in itself, too, she says. "There is something spiritual happening at each Pet Café – the hospitality that is extended, the connections that are being made

and the healing that is happening by way of the therapy animals." *Diocesan Post*

Warming centre open all week

MONTREAL - A warming centre run by a Montreal mission is open more days of the winter this year, partly as a result of donations to an appeal by the diocese. St. Michael's Mission, an agency that provides services to Montreal's poor and homeless, is operating its warming centre seven nights a week this winter, from 9 p.m. until 6 a.m., Dec. 1 to April 30. In previous years, the centre was open only when temperatures fell below -20 C, which worked out to about 25 nights last year.

The mission is located in St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church and is supported by the Diocese of Montreal. Last year, the mission was facing a deficit partly because of the loss of \$70,000 in

government support and private donations. But the mission was named as one of the beneficiaries of 2016's Bishop's Action Appeal, an annual call for donations to the diocese, and it was able to extend its nights of operation.

The centre welcomes an average of 95 people or more per night, depending on the weather.

Homeless people in Montreal sometimes avoid sleeping in shelters that do not allow them to leave once they have been accepted for the night. But the warming centre at St. Michael's Mission is unusual in that it allows its clients to leave and return during the night, if they wish.

Montreal Anglican

Diocese commissions first lay evangelists

EDMONTON - The Diocese of Edmonton has commissioned the first graduates of its fledgling program in lay evangelism. Alison Hurlburt,

of Edmonton; Corinna Kubos, of Fort Saskatchewan, Alta.; and Jenny Stuart, of St. Albert, Alta., were commissioned as licensed lay evangelists at a service at Edmonton's All Saints' Cathedral in January.

In a homily, the Rev. Tim Chesterton, the diocese's warden of lay evangelists, said Anglicans have not always been enthusiastic about evangelism, which, he said, is a gift of Christ. "Some people see evangelists as a nuisance, or an embarrassment, or a theological anachronism. But we're here to receive that gift and celebrate it together," he said.

The three new lay evangelists will serve as volunteers in their home parishes in a number of outreach activities, he said. Mr. Chesterton designed the course after visiting three Church of England dioceses in 2012. He plans to start the next course in the Diocese of Edmonton in fall 2018.

The Messenger

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca