

Churches journey toward Easter

A little goes a long way



York-Scarborough eyes priorities

The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

www.toronto.anglican.ca

MAY 2018

Anglicans called to pray

Goal is to know, share Jesus Christ

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

FOR 11 days this May, Anglicans are being called to a simple yet powerful task: prayer. From the Feast of the Ascension (May 10) to Pentecost (May 20), Christians around the world will pray together for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

Thy Kingdom Come, started by the Church of England in 2016, has grown into an international and ecumenical movement. Its goal is to encourage Christians to engage in prayer that deepens their own relationships with Jesus and brings others to know Jesus better. In 2017, more than half a million people from 85 countries pledged to pray.

Last year, Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto were among those who joined the global wave of prayer, encouraging each other to commit to daily prayer and hosting special services. "You can make this as simple or as complex as you want," says the Rev. Douglas Woods, associate priest at St. Luke, Peterborough. "We took the simple option: we tied knots in a piece of string to make a 'rosary' to remember people we wanted to pray for each day."

Continued on Page 12



An image from Thy Kingdom Come.



ROCK ON

The cast of 'Get What You Need,' a comedy about a church that tries to raise money for a new roof by hiring the Rolling Stones, rehearses at St. Margaret of Scotland, Barrie on April 5. The play will be performed at St. Margaret's on May 12. The cast and crew are from the Nottawasaga Deanery and the Barrie area. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door and can be purchased from the church. Proceeds from the play will go to the David Busby Street Centre in Barrie. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Nominees at town hall meetings

All invited to meet nominees in leadup to episcopal election

BY STUART MANN

ANGLICANS in the Diocese of Toronto will have an opportunity in May to meet the nominees in the upcoming election for a coadjutor bishop.

Town hall meetings will be held across the diocese May 14-17 so that Anglicans can meet the nominees in person and listen to their viewpoints.

Here are the dates and locations of the meetings:

- May 14 – Meet the Nominees Town Hall at St. John the Baptist, Dixie, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga, at 7 p.m.
- May 15 – Meet the Nominees Town Hall at St. George, Allandale, 24 Burton Ave., Barrie, at 7 p.m.
- May 16 – Meet the Nominees Town Hall at St. Paul, Lindsay, 45 Russell St., W., at 7 p.m.
- May 17 – Meet the Nominees

Town Hall at St. James Cathedral (in Snell Hall), 65 Church St., Toronto, at 7 p.m.

Initial planning had set aside time for a town hall meeting dedicated to youth and young adult members of Synod. Based on feedback received, this separate town hall meeting has been cancelled. Interested youth and young adult members are encouraged to contact Jillian Ruch, chair of the Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team, by email at yorkscarboroughyc@gmail.com to confirm attendance at one of the other four gatherings.

In addition to the town hall meetings, video interviews of the nominees will be posted on the diocese's website on May 7.

The election of a coadjutor bishop will take place at an Electoral Synod on June 9 at St. James Cathedral beginning at 9:30 a.m. The coadjutor bishop would auto-

matically succeed to the See as the 12th Bishop of Toronto on Jan. 1, 2019. Archbishop Colin Johnson, who is the current Bishop of Toronto, plans to retire at the end of December.

The Bishop of Toronto or diocesan bishop is the chief pastor of the Diocese of Toronto, the most populous diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada. The diocese stretches from Mississauga to Brighton and north to Haliburton. It has about 229 congregations and ministries in 183 parishes.

To further help Synod members and Anglicans in general learn about the nominees and the election process, a page has been created on the diocese's website that contains information and a number of resources. They include:

- The Convening Circular, a publication that contains the notice of meeting, agenda,

registration information, and biographical information on each of the nominees who had put forward their names by April 13. (Nominations received after April 13 will be included in a Supplementary Convening Circular.)

- Episcopal Ministry, a document that outlines the responsibilities and gifts required for the ministry of the Bishop of Toronto.
- Video interviews with Archbishop Johnson that highlight the various aspects of being the Bishop of Toronto.
- A Profile of the Diocese, a document that provides information about the diocese. The webpage also includes a list of the nominees that is updated as needed every Thursday. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/upcomingsynod.

JOURNEY TO EASTER

The Anglican sent photographer Michael Hudson to churches to capture the sights of Holy Week and Easter. On this page: Wendy Graham hands out palms on Palm Sunday at St. Anne, Gladstone Avenue, Toronto, and children of the parish take turns reading the gospel, assisted by Shauna Cairns Gundy; palms are attached to St. Anne's processional cross; the Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger and Randy Williams wash feet during the Maundy Thursday service at St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, and Patricia Harquail and Mr. Williams strip the altar after the service; exchanging the Peace at St. Paul's; after the stripping of the altar and sanctuary at St. Paul's, the church is darkened and the cross is carried out.

Opposite page: the Rev. Sherman Hesselgrave of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square speaks during the Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice in downtown Toronto; walkers listen to speeches at Old City Hall, one of the stations on the walk, which explored the importance of the \$15 minimum wage, workers' rights, poverty and the law, and the impact of homelessness on the Indigenous population; the Rev. Margaret Rodrigues of St. John, West Toronto, carries a placard in the walk; Archbishop Colin Johnson lights a candle during the Easter Vigil at St. James Cathedral and baptizes members of the Mandarin Ministry during the service, which included a candlelit procession and singing by the cathedral's choir; members of St. Bride, Clarkson and others from local Baptist, United and Presbyterian churches gather on a beach beside Lake Ontario in Mississauga for a sunrise service on Easter morning.



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Thursday 10th May at 6 p.m.
Ascension Communion (BCP)
plus light supper at 6.40 and talk at 7:

FAITH AND FICTION

Rev. Canon David Brinton discusses theological themes in contemporary fiction by many famous and lesser-known authors, including Muriel Spark, Flannery O'Connor and Marilynne Robinson. As with P.D. James, he's noted for a life-long love of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Canon David retired last year as Vicar and Sub-Dean, after 17 years at St. James Cathedral in Toronto. He is currently the Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas's.

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Thy Kingdom Come



I don't remember how I first learned about prayer or how to pray. I guess it was as a small child. I was taken to church. I went to Sunday School, although could never figure out how someone could ever get a

perfect attendance award – no way!

I learned “Now I lay me down to sleep...” a rather depressing prayer if you think about it for a young child in a society where most children never experience death close-up. The Lord's Prayer was better – but what did “hallowed be thy Name” mean? One school child exclaimed indignantly, “My name's not Harold. I'm Fred!”

I watched my grandmother pray by her bed when I visited, and we said grace at meals – but only on Sundays and Thanksgiving or special occasions. Oh, yes, and when the minister came.

As I grew, I learned a bit more about prayer, especially when I really, really needed something or urgently called for help in an impossible situation. I would pray for my family and friends and some of the needs in the world. And, of course, there were long prayers at church that the minister said. (I was not raised in the Anglican Church, so in my church only the minister said the prayers as we bowed our heads.)

I learned a bit more when I was confirmed. But in university, I discovered the Anglican prayer book, and I took off. So many prayers for so many things and situations. I started to pray daily, and have done so for close to 50 years.

But I still had more to learn. The daily office of Morning and Evening Prayer with the Psalms and scripture readings have nurtured my life; they are how I understand

ARCHBISHOP'S DIARY

By ARCHBISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

the God I pray to and the world God loves so profoundly.

In seminary, I learned to meditate in silence and was introduced to the practice of contemplation as ways to listen to God in the (usually oblique) conversation of the heart.

I knew the pattern of prayer: Adoration, Praise, Intercession and Petition, Thanksgiving, Confession, and Oblation, although some were much more frequent in my playlist than others. It took me a while to realize that something I had always enjoyed, classical music, could be an entry point into God's abiding presence. And how did it take me years to understand that the Psalms I was saying daily covered that whole range, and were not simply another passage of scripture to read but the prayer book of Jesus and formed the core prayer of the Church through the ages?

So yes, I can now affirm that my prayer is not only an ever-increasing listing of all the concerns I have for the world, the Church, my friends and colleagues, my enemies, my own needs, my shortcomings and offences for God to quickly fix at my insistence, but also includes adoration of the Trinity and praise of God's graciousness and thanksgiving for God's love.

It's so much more than just me and Jesus having a private chat. Prayer is an ongoing, dynamic dialogue between God and me within the company of the saints, the Church in which we are changed and transformed by the conversation, the encounter.

Prayer makes a difference – sometimes

as dramatic as a lightning bolt, sometimes as nuanced as a shift in light that changes the perspective, sometimes as unnoticed as character shaped by small choices made over a lifetime. But prayer will change things, and it will change you.

This past Lent, I invited you to join with me, and many Christians around Canada, the U.S. and beyond, in a journey of “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John.” Several thousand of you throughout the diocese did. I learned a lot about myself, my colleagues and Jesus.

Now I would like to invite you to join with Anglicans and other Christians throughout the world in nine days of prayer from Ascension Day to Pentecost (May 10-20). “Thy Kingdom Come” asks individuals, families and parishes to pray for their friends and communities to know Jesus. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby wrote, “I cannot remember in my life anything that I've been involved in where I have sensed so clearly the work of the Spirit.”

Resources for prayer, activities for individuals, children and families, suggestions for parishes are available at www.thykingdomcome.global. Take part and you will learn something new about prayer and the power it has to change things – to change you. You'll deepen your relationship with God and share that gift with others.

The thing about a relationship is that you are always learning new things, sharing new experiences, deepening (or not) your commitment. We can never think that we've got God all sorted out. If you do, you have begun to worship an idol – not the living, ever-creative God who is revealed in Jesus and his abiding Spirit, who wants you to know him and rejoice in his love for you and the world.

Our work is resurrection work



God is good.

When I was about 15 years old, there was “the incident of the running cows” that is forever seared in my mind, and on my left palm.

Growing up on a farm was a daily adventure, and this particular muddy, rainy spring day brought me new perspective on the preciousness of life. Down at the soggy bottom of the barnyard, the fence needed fixing, as all the cows were on the other side of it. Going to investigate required me to mingle in among the herd to get right up close to the fence for a good look at the gap. My father had run barbed wire across the top of the page-wire, but these clever cows had found their way through underneath – the grass was definitely greener on the other side.

As I was examining the fence, my brother started driving the tractor over to help repair it and to work on rounding up the loose beasts. The cows were startled and began to run; one of them barged between me and the fence. I was terrified. In sticky mud almost up to my knees, I was not going anywhere fast, except over backwards into the path of the other frightened cows, so I grabbed the nearest (mostly) solid object and hung on for dear life. It was the top wire of the fence – the barbed wire. My hands were a bit torn up, but I lived. Coming out of that experience, the big-

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP RISCYLLA SHAW

ger picture was the sheer will to survive that took over without a moment's thought. “Hang on. Do not let fear take over. Stay alive at all costs.” I came out of that experience a different person, in more ways than one.

We in the established Church are in a time of great transformation, which can feel chaotic, disruptive and deeply unsettling to our accustomed ways of walking together. We are sometimes afraid, and in our tender humanity we feel hurt and betrayed by the changes that leave our comfortable pews behind. I encourage you to hang on, for dear life, and be not afraid. What we are doing together in community is life-bringing, and for many, life-saving. At this time in our calendar year, we come face-to-face with the resurrected Christ. The humanity of Jesus was transformed by his experience of death and resurrection; and his wisdom, his life-bringing teaching, his divine word to us, is this: “My peace I give to you, do not be afraid.”

In the changes that we have to make to accommodate the new times, let us love one another, discerning fresh ways of being disciples together in our beloved and flawed human-made Church. As we share the good news of Jesus, continue to find ways to work

for truth, justice and reconciliation. We are boldly called and radically loved into being by Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to feel and be the intense and radical love of God for all humanity, for all of creation. We are in the doorway, between what was and what is to come. In our Church, it is a time of transition, change, transformation; a time of re-formation and redefining how we worship together, how we allocate resources, how we prioritize our ministries. Learning together how to ask the right questions and by ever asking more questions in faith, we can expand our awareness of this threshold moment we are occupying right now.

From 2 Corinthians 10:15: “Our hope is that as your faith increases, our sphere of action may be greatly enlarged, so that we may proclaim the good news.” Contemplative inquiry will move us forward – as communities, as families, as children of God together – into the future in faith in Jesus, who is the living way. The whole of creation is involved in what God is doing in Christ. Our work is resurrection work, as the gospel touches all aspects of our life together and we develop connections of grace. Jesus is inviting us into new life in him, in vital connection with the Spirit of Life. Even when you have every justification to be afraid, remember these powerful teachings that Jesus shared: *My peace I leave with you. Do not be afraid. I am with you always.* Thanks be to God.



The Anglican

The Anglican is published under the authority of the Bishop of Toronto and the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Opinions expressed in The Anglican are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

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Circulation: For all circulation inquiries, including address changes, new subscriptions and cancellations, call the Circulation Department at (416) 924-9199, ext. 259/245, or email circulation@national.anglican.ca. You can also make changes online: visit www.anglicanjournal.com and click Subscription Centre.

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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
Tel: 416-924-9192

In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has 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 Anderson

Trent-Durham:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw

York-Scarborough:

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Parliament of Religions coming here

BY THE REV. CANON GARY VAN DER MEER

When I was first looking for a connection between St. Anne's and a synagogue to learn about Passover, I contacted a rabbi whose synagogue often holds orientation events for Christians.

"I would be happy to help, but from what I have heard you say about becoming a neighbourhood church, it might be better for St. Anne's if you get to know a downtown synagogue," he said.

He recommended Elyse Goldstein, a Reform rabbi at a newly planted congregation on the campus of the University of Toronto. "We are not interested in spiritual tourism," she told me. "It's either friendship or we don't have time for it."

Friendship is what we have done. We met for coffee, then visited each other's services. For our first shared learning event, we brought together roughly equal numbers of Jews and Christians on a weeknight to present, explore and compare our traditions of Chanukah and Christmas.

Our people sat in mixed table groups for the initial "getting to know each other" conversation, followed by our presentations on the traditions and significance of our upcoming celebrations. The conversations grew in volume; we enjoyed hearing each other's experiences and learning together.

Over four years, we have come a long way together and have had a variety of learning evenings and annual sermon exchanges. City Shul comes to St. Anne's and Elyse preaches on the Christian lectionary texts. St. Anne's goes to City Shul and I preach on the synagogue's lectionary texts. I attend Yom Kippur and Elyse comes to Christmas Eve.

We also have a friendship with our local mosque. I met Ilyas Ally, the assisting imam of the Islamic Information & Dawah Centre, at a social justice event. When we realized we were neighbours, we decided to meet for lunch. When St.



The Rev. Gary van der Meer (centre) has coffee with Imam Shabir Ally, founder of the Islamic Information & Dawah Centre, and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, founder of City Shul synagogue, in 2016.

Anne's started its annual Christmas concert, I invited Ilyas to give the closing prayer.

The Christmas concert brings together local people, including many who do not participate in any religious services, and we wanted them to know about the friendship that exists between St. Anne's and the mosque. News and world events often give the negative impression that religion fosters violence and intolerance. Our friendship is always well received. When we announced our shared refugee sponsorship plans, the audience was

excited with us; when we introduced our refugee families the next year, it was to a standing ovation. We have had shared learning events and a shared sermon, but our relationship with the mosque became most real in the meetings of our shared refugee committee.

As the diocese's new Interfaith Officer, I appreciate questions about starting an interfaith friendship between your congregation and communities near you. What has surprised me more has been how many such friendships and partnerships already exist.

We might be tempted to think we just happened on a great idea. What better place to learn about world religions than at our doorstep in multicultural Toronto? What better time to appreciate what other religions can teach us than when "religious nones" are the fastest growing segment in the census?

The time and place are right, but this isn't a new idea. The Parliament of the World's Religions is coming to Toronto in November. The gathering was first held in Chicago in 1893. It resumed in Chicago in 1993 and has since travelled to Cape Town (1999), Barcelona (2004), Melbourne (2009) and Salt Lake City (2015). The Parliament will bring together participants from more than 200 religious, Indigenous and secular beliefs from more than 80 nations. There will be workshops and presentations on a number of subjects, including climate change, women's experiences, Indigenous experiences, youth, and comparing experiences of engaging the next generations across religious traditions.

The coming months will offer many opportunities to organize delegations, plan presentations, volunteer and learn as we host 10,000 visitors to Toronto. The parliament's mandate is "to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world."

In the words of the Rev. John Joseph Mastandrea, parliament ambassador and a minister of Metropolitan United Church in Toronto, the gathering "is more than a symbol – the parliament is an instrument of peace."

The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer is the diocese's Interfaith Officer and the incumbent of St. Anne, Toronto. To learn more about getting involved in the seventh Parliament of the World's Religions, visit www.parliamentofreligions.org or email Canon van der Meer at gary.vandermeer@saintanne.ca.

Effective parishes turn outward



How comfortable is your parish with community outreach? Are you able to easily identify ways that your parish is helping people in the community? Has your parish

thought about starting an outreach ministry but doesn't know how to get started? Or is your parish so focused on survival and keeping the lights on that the thought of outreach seems like an absurd idea?

Regardless of where you may find your parish on this spectrum, community outreach can be an integral and spirit-filled part of faith communities. Henri Nouwen wrote, "Community is, first of all, a quality of the heart. It grows from the spiritual knowledge that we are alive, not for ourselves but for each other." Effective community outreach is one the signs of the vibrancy and spiritual depth of a parish. It can animate a parish in such a way that the abiding presence of Christ is deeply felt and parishioners' feelings of belonging deepen and grow.

The starting point for an effective community outreach ministry is rooted-

THE STEWARD

By PAIGE SOUTER

Following the success of his March column, Seven Habits of Highly Effective Parishes, Peter Misiasek, the diocese's director of Stewardship Development, asked others to write on the subject. This is the first in a series.

ness in the community rather than in the parish. Let me give you an example of what I mean. Imagine parishioners decide to run an after-school program to address bullying at a local school. But they quickly get frustrated because only one or two children participate. If the parish had been connected to the community differently, they may have learned that the critical issue facing the community was food security. We serve our community best when we understand our community by being embedded in it.

The Harwood Institute has developed a five-step process for helping organizations turn outward to the community. I have outlined below how this process

applies to parishes as they seek to live out their faith beyond the walls of the church.

First, parishes begin by understanding the community in which they are situated. This requires that parishes seek to understand the community on its own terms. Through community conversations with individuals, groups and organizations, parishes will be able to identify the challenges facing the community and understand people's aspirations and dreams. These conversations require parishes to keep an open mind, be non-judgemental, and listen deeply. This is not a problem-solving stage.

Second, parishes need to be intentional in turning outward to the community. Old habits are hard to break, so parishes need to continually reflect on how well they are listening and responding from an outward orientation rather than from what makes them comfortable. Parishes need to be willing to work with people and organizations with whom they may have never considered working previously.

Third, parishes and their community partners together need to develop the conditions that are necessary to foster change, rather than waiting for them to

develop. This means starting from the community's current stage of development rather than from where we wish it was. This is the reality-check stage. Ministry outreach will be most successful if strategies are developed based on the resources that are currently available.

Fourth, we can't do everything. Parishes need to decide where they can make a difference alongside their community partners and develop strategies that align with that sphere of influence.

And finally, parishes and parishioners need to commit. A parish outreach ministry will only be effective if there is a commitment to engage in the ministry together.

Outreach ministry is transformational for both the community and the parish. The community will feel Christ's love as a healing presence as its needs are addressed and its aspirations are honoured. And parishioners will deepen their relationship with Christ and affirm their vocational calling to act with charity and justice in the world.

Are you ready to turn outward?

Paige Souter is the diocese's Manager of Annual Giving.

"I WILL GIVE YOU THANKS FOR YOU HAVE ANSWERED ME." PSALM 118:21

2017 Faithworks Results: The Diocese of Toronto's annual FaithWorks Campaign successfully raised \$1,292,169 in support of Anglican-affiliated ministries throughout the diocese and around the world.

GENEROSITY ABOUNDS!

By Paige Souter, Manager of Annual Giving

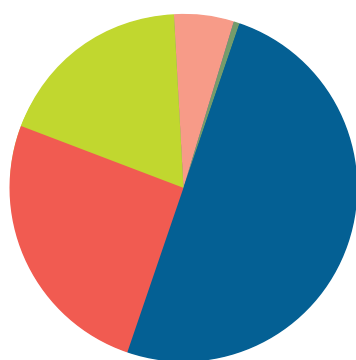
Every year, FaithWorks calls on the Lord to help us feed, shelter, nurture and befriend people who face some of the most difficult challenges that life can present, and once again he answered – through YOU!

"I will give thanks for you have answered me." Psalm 118:21

Thank you to every one of our FaithWorks donors, individuals, parishes, corporations and foundations. Because of your generosity, the 2017 FaithWorks Campaign raised \$1,292,169 and will be able to support over 30,000 people in need this year. "God's generosity is evident in the abundant giving of FaithWorks donors," notes Archbishop Colin Johnson. "They are a powerful witness that God's generous love changes lives."

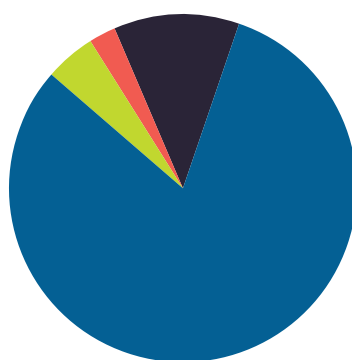
Through FaithWorks we see the tangible presence of God in our community. We see faith-filled people answering the cry of those who are homeless, hungry, at-risk of violence, lonely, sick, or afraid. Shelagh McPherson, Chair of the FaithWorks Allocation Committee shares her thankfulness for people who answer the call for help. "I am always so inspired and filled with deep gratitude for the people who continue to open their hearts and support this ministry of love."

FaithWorks believes that it is possible to transform the lives of people who are most vulnerable. We believe it is possible to build communities of hope, compassion, peace and justice. We believe that God's love will change the world. Thank you for believing too!



Where the money comes from

- Parishes: \$648,555
- Corporate: \$328,000
- Individuals: \$237,686
- Trusts: \$74,000
- Other: \$3,928



Where the money goes

- 2018 Ministry Allocations*: \$1,064,452
- Parish Retainer: \$60,535
- Area Grants: \$32,428
- Campaign Expenses: \$151,885

*\$17,231 in surplus funds from 2016 were used in ministry allocations

"Two years ago, I found the courage and left my very controlling and abusive husband...I cannot thank Samaritan House enough for touching every part of our lives, such as housing, support, encouragement, hope, vision for the future, stability, strength and courage, safety and a whole new future I would never had thought possible."

Ashley, Samaritan House client

PARISH CAMPAIGN

Henri Nouwen once wrote that "compassion always reveals itself in community." We know this to be true in the 145 parishes who so generously supported FaithWorks. Together, they raised \$648,555 to support outreach ministries both in the Diocese and around the world. Parishes were able to keep \$60,535 to support their own outreach ministries within their local community. The parish campaign also made \$32,428 available for Area Ministry Grants.

Thank you for being a compassionate presence in our community.

FAITHWORKS MINISTRY PARTNERS

Our FaithWorks Ministry Partners are love in action. Each and every day they share the transforming power of Christ's love with thousands of people in need. We thank our Ministry Partners for being powerful witnesses to the love that is changing lives and changing the world.

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YOUR IMPACT

Because of your generosity, FaithWorks' Ministry partners are able to have a transformative effect in the lives of thousands of people. Here is the impact that you made possible in the lives of people in need last year.

32,452

people were fed, sheltered, nurtured and befriended



109,327

clients visited drop-in, shelter and outreach programs

6,625 people touched by the prison system were provided with community reintegration, housing and employment supports



3,021 families were supported

5,206 refugees and new Canadians were provided with settlement support, drop-in and food security programs

1,187

at-risk women, children and youth accessed safe and supportive housing



712 children and youth were enrolled in programs that help to develop life skills and build self-esteem

7,362 young adults living with mental health challenges were supported



10 families in the Pickangikum First Nations community were provided with clean water and sanitation services

303

people impacted by HIV/AIDS received bereavement and spiritual care support



430

Indigenous Peoples were provided with pastoral, outreach, and mentoring supports

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"I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our family for being there until the end. Thank you for bringing the strength of faith back into my brother's life. He is finally resting."

Sister of client, Philip Aziz Centre

"I was introduced to the Bridge Program while I was in OCI...Through this amazing experience I have obtained the tools to help me cope with negative feelings and thoughts...The Bridge also helped me with things like getting me on Ontario Works, get into school, get OSAP, provided clothes that have been donated and provided some school supplies. If I did not have this program available to me, I would not be going to college."

Matthew, The Bridge client

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Works of faith
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TORONTO SINCE 1996

I am a bit of a church geek

Janice Biehn is the communications coordinator at The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and a member of St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto.

I write about the life-changing work that PWRDF supports in Canada and around the world. This includes development and relief programs as well as the inspiring and tireless efforts of our many volunteers in parishes across Canada. Then, once I write the stories, I publish them on our website, social media, in newsletters and more. I also worked on the World of Gifts guide this past year.

I'm currently working on the June issue of Under the Sun, PWRDF's newsletter that is distributed with the Anglican Journal three times a year. This October marks the 60th anniversary of the Springhill, N.S. mining disaster that led to the formation one year later of what would eventually become PWRDF. So we will be rolling out some special projects over those 12 months, including an e-book and a travelling exhibit.

The best part of my job is telling people's stories of strength and resilience in the face of real adversity, and then seeing how those stories engage people to volunteer or donate. I find it exciting to motivate Anglicans to put their faith into action. It's also very humbling to work in the international development and humanitarian sector. I'm working with people who are devoted to making the world a better place, one community at a time. I read the paper and keep up on world events, but working "on the inside" has opened my eyes. And that brings me to the worst part of my job – feeling like I can't possibly do people's stories justice in a few hundred words. There are days when I feel no story I write is going to move the needle a smidge. Part of my job is to follow other humanitarian and development organizations on Twitter, and some days the news can be pretty overwhelming.

I was born in Sarnia and raised in London, Ont. I went to Huron College at Western University in London and studied English and French, then on to Ryerson in Toronto to do a graduate degree in journalism. That's where I



Janice Biehn with Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. PHOTO BY THE REV. JESSE DYMOND

met my husband, Craig Douglas, and we never left Toronto. I worked at various magazines and newspapers in Toronto, and for the last seven years I was editor of ParentsCanada magazine. I loved that job, but it was time for a change. Then I found this job at PWRDF and feel so blessed to have been hired.

I'm a cradle Anglican, so my faith journey is rooted in the pews. I grew up going to St. John the Evangelist in London, where the late Terry Finlay was the rector and a family friend. My parents are still active members there. As a child I enjoyed the rituals of the service and the music especially. I remember spending a few minutes before each service reading through the bulletin and marking the readings with the silky ribbons in the BAS or dog-earing the

well-worn pages of the BCP. As a teenager, I often worked Sunday mornings, so my church attendance waned. At 20, I decided to get confirmed. The classes clicked with a lot of the literature courses I was taking. (To paraphrase the great Northrop Frye, all literature has its roots in the Bible.)

After we got married and settled in Toronto, my husband and I started attending St. Olave's in Bloor West Village. Like most, the church was more than 100 years old with well-established traditions and rhythms that were familiar to me. In high school I had participated in a rich choral music program and I was eager to rekindle that skill, so I joined the church's choir. Singing in the choir has become a big part of my spiritual discipline. My fellow choristers

range in age from 14 to 87. We're quite a crew!

Over these past 22 years at St. O's, my faith journey has intersected with being a parent (teaching Sunday School), my career (developing parish communications) and a passion for leading (being a churchwarden). I feel very fortunate to be able to do this work. Bringing together a disparate group of people that has little in common other than their love of the gospel, this church (and singing) – that's what I'm passionate about.

I admittedly am a bit of a church geek. I'm always reading about ideas for growth, looking for exciting events to stage and innovative forms of communication to try. In truth, it's my love for community and communicating that moves me. Before I became involved in parish leadership, I applied the same focus to my kids' school and in our neighbourhood. My husband and I also love movies and every summer "curate" our own outdoor film festival in our backyard for neighbours and other friends. We love to travel and have been blessed to do a lot of it, with and without our two daughters (who both attend Dalhousie University in Halifax). We love entertaining and being entertained by friends and family. We love exploring Toronto, skiing, walking our dog and discussing at great lengths why some TV commercials work and others miss the mark. We also rarely miss an episode of Jeopardy! and both feel if team Jeopardy! were a thing, we'd crush it.

Five years from now, I pray I'm still at PWRDF, with a few visits to our overseas projects under my belt and by then an expert in the latest forms of communication, some of which probably have yet to be invented.

My favourite passage from scripture is Matthew 6:34. "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." My mom always told me that things will work out the way they should, and this passage aligns with her sage advice. Now that I am a parent, I see the wisdom in those words and I think of them often.



LOFT Community Services

Annual General Meeting

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2018

**6:30PM - Business Meeting
7:30PM - General Meeting**

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL CENTRE
SNELL HALL
65 CHURCH STREET
(KING & CHURCH)
DOWNTOWN TORONTO

For more information on attending,
please contact: Christopher Walker
416-979-1994 ext. 2032
cwalker@loftcs.org

www.loftcs.org
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LOFT

Announcing the Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music



The Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music

will be awarded to encourage creative musical/liturgical experimentation with the aim of fostering full liturgical participation by all age-groups of the 'people of God'.

The bursary will be awarded annually in the anticipated amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), to a part-time musician currently working within a parish in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to further the musician's own liturgical training or provide creative liturgical enrichment in the musician's ecclesial setting. Applicants should outline how they intend to use the Bursary consistent with the Bursary's purpose.

**Apply with full proposal to
cowlingbursary@gmail.com by June 29, 2018**



Receiving their diamond jubilee stoles for 60 years of ordained ministry are the Rev. Canon Dr. Graham Cotter (left) and the Rev. Dr. Peter Slater. Missing from the photo are the Rev. Neville Bishop, the Rev. Canon Thomas Crawford and the Rev. Paul Gibson.



The Rev. Susan Climo of Holy Spirit of Peace, Mississauga receives consecrated oil for anointing and healing after the service.

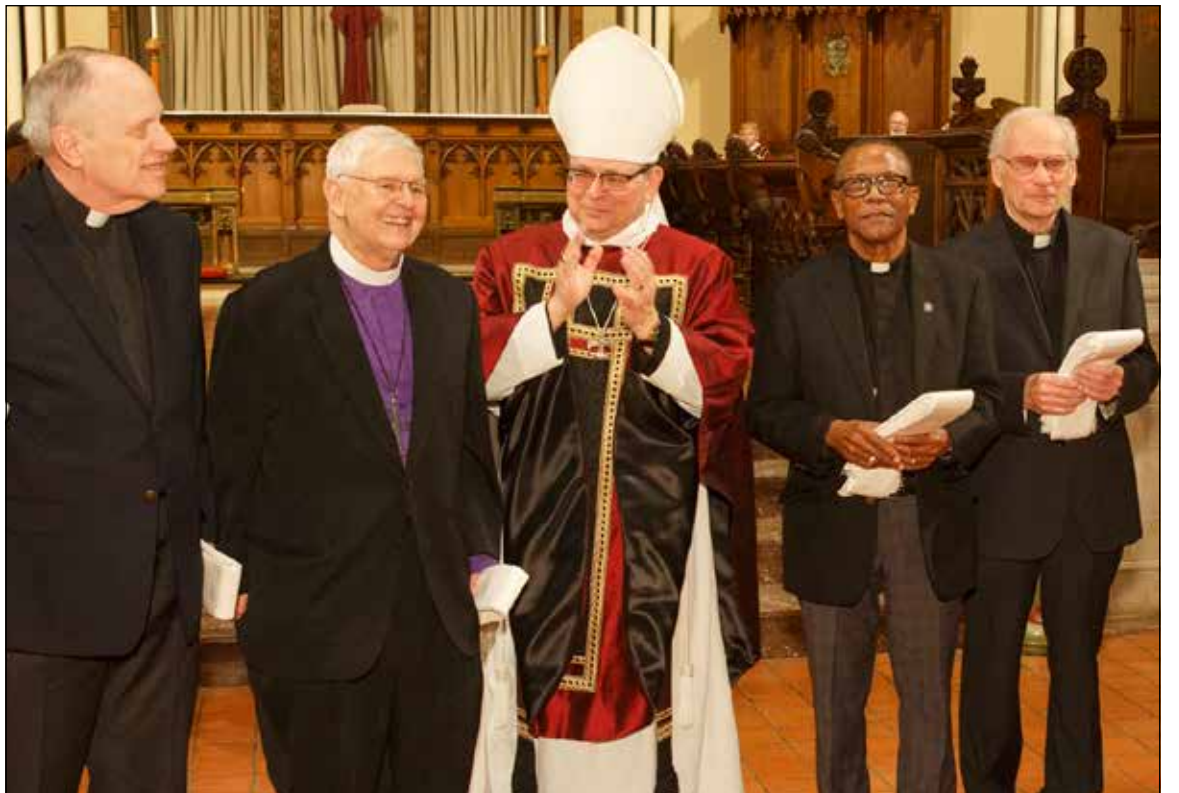


The Rev. Vernon Duporte receives consecrated oil as the Rev. Michelle Childs-Ward looks on.



JUBILEE

Archbishop Colin Johnson presents silver, golden and diamond jubilee stoles to clergy at St. James Cathedral on March 28. Receiving silver jubilee stoles for 25 years of ordained ministry are, from left, the Rev. Theodore Bartlett, the Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew Sheldon, the Rev. Catherine Waugh and the Rev. Canon Barbara Hammond. Missing from the photo are the Rev. Mark Andrews, the Rev. Gillian Ball, the Rev. Mary Louise Meadow, the Rev. Canon Dr. Dean Mercer and the Rev. John Runza. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Receiving their golden jubilee stoles for 50 years of ordained ministry are, from left, the Rev. Randal Johnston, Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, the Rev. Derek Stapleton and the Rev. Canon David Clark. Missing from the photo is the Rev. Canon James Garland.

Bursary honours innovator

BY DIANA SWIFT

In memory of the late Douglas Cowling – musician, writer, scholar, and revitalizer of the sacred drama of divine worship – his family and friends have established a new bursary in liturgical music.

To be awarded for the first time this fall, the annual \$5,000 bursary is a tribute to Mr. Cowling's bold experimentation and commitment to breathing new life into worship in the diocese. Known as an inter-generational connector of people, Mr. Cowling died in January 2017.

"He was someone who had an absolute passion for liturgical reform that would involve the entire congregation in song and music," says the Rev. Canon David Harrison, incumbent of St. Mary Magdelene, Toronto, where Mr. Cowling was a parishioner.

While he championed unorthodox reform and renewed congregational engagement, Mr. Cowling was at the same time an erudite and precise scholar of music and musical history.

A founding member of Toronto's Renaissance-focused Tallis Choir,

he served as a music director and organist at several parishes in the diocese. He was also a scholar of medieval English and was once a member of Poculi Ludique Societas, the University of Toronto's medieval drama troupe.

Starting this fall, the annual Douglas C. Cowling Bursary in Liturgical Music will go to a musician working part-time in a parish in the diocese. Its aim is two-fold: to encourage creative musical and liturgical expression that fosters full participation by the people of God of all ages, and to further the

recipient's own training to enrich the musician's ecclesiastical setting.

The Cowling family has committed to giving at least \$5,000 a year for five years to a fund managed by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. The bursary fund currently stands at \$38,700, and donations are being accepted by the Foundation at <https://goo.gl/xcu7Ss>.

Applicants for the bursary should send full proposals by June 29 to: cowlingbursary@gmail.com. The date for announcing the 2018 award has not yet been decided.

BRIEFLY

All invited to cricket festival

The second annual Anglican Church Cricket Festival is coming up and church teams and individuals in the diocese are invited to take part, no experience necessary. The festival will be held on June 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Credit Valley/Sandalwood Park, 10530 Creditview Rd., Brampton. Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley, will be the special guest. For more information, contact anglican.cricket.festival@gmail.com.



Students at St. Matthew's Anglican School in Pomona, Belize stand with bags of rice, beans, chicken and split peas for the school's lunch program.

Parish provides food, trees in Belize

A fundraising campaign in the Parish of Ida and Omeme that raised \$5,700 has gone a long way to help the residents of a town in Belize.

On a recent mission trip to Dangriga, located south of Belize City, the Rev. Peter Mills and four others from the parish were able to use the money to buy paint for the local Anglican church and 3,326 pounds of food for four schools and two families. They also bought 260 fruit trees for local farmers and

provided bursaries for students to attend high school or college.

The group helped the congregation and local volunteers paint the exterior of Christ the King Anglican Church in Dangriga. Mr. Mills preached on the second Sunday he was there and helped to build a handicap ramp at the church.

The mission trip was part of an ongoing effort by Andy Harjula, a member of St. John, Ida, who has been travelling to Belize to provide



Members of Christ the King say thanks after their church receives a fresh coat of paint.

assistance for the past seven years.

"We saw Andy's commitment to the people there, and it was very moving," says Mr. Mills. "I saw the value of cultivating relationships of trust."

Mr. Harjula and his wife, Maureen, accompanied Mr. Mills and his wife, Trish, on the trip. Also taking part was a resident of Ida.

EARTH HOUR

Environmentally concerned members of St. Martin, Bay Ridges, Pickering observe Earth Hour on March 25 with a potluck meal, games and storytelling once the lights were turned off for an hour at 8:30 p.m. PHOTO BY EUGENE FARRUGIA



Fund helps needy near church

A bequest from two long-time parishioners of All Saints, Peterborough is helping disadvantaged people who live close by.

Sisters Kay and Edna Lee, who died in 2010 and 2012 respectively, left a bequest to All Saints that became The Doris Fund, named in honour of their older sister. The bequest specified that the funds should be used to help people who live in close proximity to the church.

The fund made a donation to the New Canadians Centre to support newcomers who are facing emergencies. "I had some dental work done in Lebanon but it was not good," says Hayja Abosaba, a refugee. "My tooth got infected and it was causing me so much



Dalfaa and Hayja Abosaba (centre) stand with, from left, Wendy McNab, Diana Gregg and Tracy Gemmiti of The Doris Fund.

pain. When I came to Canada, I went to a dentist right away and they repaired my tooth and treated the infection."

During 2017, the Doris Fund provided assistance for the breakfast programs at two primary schools. It also supported Collective Kitchen cookery classes for area residents and provided emergency financing through the Peterborough Housing Resource Centre to help those in crisis stay in their homes and avoid eviction.

As members of All Saints, Edna

and Kay Lee lived their faith daily. When a member of the parish needed help with her two-year-old quadruplet sons, Edna was one of a team of volunteers who drove two of the boys to nursery school four days a week. Both sisters visited nursing homes to read to residents. They taught in the church's Sunday School for years and drove people to church who would not otherwise have been able to attend.

Submitted by All Saints, Peterborough.



Members of five churches follow the cross into St. Barnabas, Toronto. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BARNABAS

Good Friday walk draws large crowd

St. Barnabas, Toronto was part of the annual Good Friday Ecumenical Walk on Danforth Avenue on March 30. Five churches – Riverdale Presbyterian, Holy Name Roman Catholic, Eastminster United, the Danforth Church and St. Barnabas – walked from church to church, following the Stations of the Cross. The 300-plus walkers followed the cross into each church, then, after 15 or 20 minutes, walked on to the next one. The final church was St. Barnabas.

This year, St. Barnabas was pleased to have the Rev. Dr. Anita Gaide of the East Toronto Latvian Lutheran Church and members of

her congregation as part of the St. Barnabas presentation. The Latvian Church congregation has worshipped at St. Barnabas for 50 years.

St. Barnabas served hot cross buns and beverages to all who took part in the walk, which has been held for nearly 20 years. Each year, the number of participants increases. "To be part of the walk and worship with other churches and to see each church filled to capacity was an amazing experience for all who took part," says Helen Taylor, the assistant churchwarden at St. Barnabas. The church will be celebrating its 160th anniversary in June.

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To connect, visit
www.toronto.anglican.ca



LIGHTING THE WAY

Members of St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto, take part in Archbishop Colin Johnson's video message for Easter. Posted online during Holy Week, the video focused on the Easter Vigil. It reached more than 75,000 people in its first week and received about 470 likes, shares and comments, making it one of the most watched videos produced by the diocese. To watch the video, visit the diocese's YouTube page, www.youtube.com/tordio135. VIDEO IMAGE BY NICHOLAS BRADFORD-EWART

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MAY

1. Christ Church, Brampton
2. The Postulancy Committee
3. Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton)
4. St. James the Apostle, Brampton
5. St. James, Caledon East
6. New Curates of the Diocese

7. Wycliffe College
8. Trinity College
9. St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea
10. AURA – Anglican-United Refugee Alliance
11. Trinity Church, Campbells Cross
12. St. Jude, Bramalea North
13. Peterborough Deanery
14. All Saints, Peterborough
15. Christ Church, Campbellford
16. Christ Church, Norwood

17. Christ Church, Omemee
18. Parish of Belmont
19. St. Barnabas, Peterborough
20. Bishop's Working Group on Intercultural Ministry
21. St. George-the-Martyr, Apsley
22. St. George, Hastings
23. The Bishop's Company
24. St. James, Emily
25. St. James, Roseneath
26. St. John the Baptist, Lakefield

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Colin Bowler, Assistant Priest, Parish of North Essa, March 18.
- The Rev. Andrea Budgley, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Theodore of Canterbury, Toronto, April 2.
- The Rev. Susan Spicer, Priest-in-Charge, St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax), May 1.

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, Mississauga
- St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South
- Parish of Churchill and Cookstown
- Trinity, Aurora

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via

Area Bishop):

- St. Andrew, Scarborough

Ordinations

The following individuals will be ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 6 at 4:30 pm:

- Jeff Boldt
- Alison Hari-Singh
- Roshni Jayawardena
- Ken Johnstone

- Andrew Kaye
- Johanna Pak
- Shelley Pollar
- Brian Sugg
- Morning Wang

Celebrations of New Ministry York-Scarborough

- The Rev. Jennifer Schick, Priest-in-Charge of St. Bede - May 27, 2018 at 4 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

Music & Worship

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.

MAY 6 - Rock Eucharist: The Music of Aretha Franklin, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MAY 9 – JUNE 20 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, May 9, May 23, June 6, June 20, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St., W., Toronto. Details at www.organixconcerts.ca.

MAY 10 - Celebrate Ascension with Bach, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MAY 12 – Special organ concert, 7 p.m., to celebrate the 70th anniversary of St. Matthew, Islington, 3962 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke. Thomas Gonder will be performing on the new Phoenix Digital Organ. The concert will include vignettes of the history of St. Matthew's and its hopes for the future.

MAY 12 - The Toronto Welsh Male Voice Choir performs at St. Aidan, 70 Silver Birch Ave. at Queen Street East, Toronto, 7:30 p.m. Contact the church office for tickets, \$25 each. Call 416-691-2222 or email staidan@eol.ca

MAY 27 - Rock Eucharist: The Music

of Blue Rodeo, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

Sales

MAY 5 - Flea market, rummage and bake sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Christ Church, Scarborough Village, 155 Markham Rd., Scarborough.

MAY 5 - 38th annual spring sale, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

MAY 5 - Garage sale, 8 a.m. to noon, St. John the Baptist, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga. Furniture, clothing, toys, books and more.

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 6 - Art fair and bake sale in the garden, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto, in support of PARC's music program. The Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre provides services to community members who may be dealing with issues such as homelessness, addiction, mental health, and poverty.

MAY 12 – Spring sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Jewelry table, baked goods, bistro and more.

MAY 26 - Plant sale, 9 a.m. to noon, Christ Church, Stouffville, 254 Sun-

set Blvd., Stouffville.

Indoor sale of perennials, annuals, house plants, cement mushrooms and stepping stones.

MAY 26 - Yard Sale Day, 8 a.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Ave., Toronto.

Workshops & Gatherings

APRIL 28 - Spring fair, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Cuthbert, Leaside, 1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto. Art gallery, barbecue on the green, baked goodies and more. Profits from the fair support St. Cuthbert's and its outreach programs.

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.

MAY 5 – Spring tea party, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Grace Church in Scarborough, 700 Kennedy Rd. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$5 for children under 12. Lots of fun, prizes and surprises. Wear your favourite hat.

MAY 5 - Spring fling, Caribbean dinner and dance, 6:30 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. Cash bar, door prizes and more. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance (none available at the door). Call 416-283-1844.

MAY 10 - Ascension Communion at 6 p.m., followed by light supper. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Rev. Canon David Brinton discusses theological themes in contemporary fiction by many famous and lesser-known authors, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto. **MAY 25** - "Broadway on Yonge," a night of song and dance presented by The Yorkminstrels Show Choir, 7:30 p.m., St. George on Yonge, 5350 Yonge St., Toronto. Tickets \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. Email lbaille@rogers.com or call the church office at 416-225-1922 for tickets or information.

MAY 29 – Handbell workshop, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

JUNE 9-10 – 160th anniversary of St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. If you were a member of St. Barnabas in the past or have family connections with the church, contact office@stbarnabas-toronto.com. There will be a dinner and variety show at 6 p.m. on June 9 and the anniversary service at 10:30 a.m. on June 10.

Large turnout in York-Scarborough

Area begins to identify priorities

BY STUART MANN

OF all the good news that came out of York-Scarborough's town hall meeting on March 3, the most impressive fact may be the most overlooked: that 110 people from across the episcopal area gathered on a Saturday morning to talk about Church.

The crowd that filled St. Andrew, Scarborough's parish hall was a clear sign that Anglicans are not only passionate about their churches but also willing to share ideas with Anglicans from other parishes to build up the body of Christ.

"It's one thing to get excited about what's happening in your own backyard, but to get excited about what's possible with other Anglicans in other parts of York-Scarborough – that's really great," says Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop.

The gathering was part of a year-long effort by Bishop Robertson to get to know the clergy and laity of his area – "their needs and concerns, their joys and struggles," he says.

Bishop Robertson, who was consecrated in January 2016, has been meeting with clergy in deanery clusters and with laity on parish



The Rev. Claire Goodrich Dyer (centre) speaks during a table group discussion at York-Scarborough's town hall meeting. PHOTO BY HEATHER GIFFEN

visits, but this was the first time everyone had a chance to come together to talk about mission and ministry.

"I felt it was important to take those conversations I've been having to the whole group in all 59 parishes, or at least those who wanted to come out, and ask them what they saw as the needs of the Church in their own local setting and in York-Scarborough," he says.

The morning was divided into three sections: two table-group discussions followed by an open forum. Participants sat with others from different parishes, then were asked the first question: As you look around your neighbourhood and community, where do you see God at work, and where are the needs?

After a discussion and a short break, they were asked: Based on

the needs that were identified, how would you prioritize what your church should be doing to respond? What is your church doing well and not well? What does your church need to start doing, continue doing and stop doing?

The questions produced lots of conversation and ideas – enough to fill about 60 flip-chart pages. The group identified three main priorities: finding new and better ways to

engage with neighbours, especially those who don't know about the Church or the Christian faith; youth ministry and children's ministry; and meeting the needs of a multi-cultural, multilingual society. The open forum also produced several good ideas, including developing a local catechesis program.

Bishop Robertson says the event surpassed his expectations. "One of the clergy told me afterwards that he came to the town hall because he thought he had to, but walked away feeling that we had a great conversation and was encouraged about ministry in the area."

Bishop Robertson plans to bring the information to York-Scarborough's clergy conference in Niagara Falls on May 9-10, then to develop a mission plan for the area. "I'd like the area to set out some concrete steps to address the three priority areas, in really specific ways," he says. "I'm hoping we can do that over the summer and into the fall. Then we can call the whole town hall group back together and make sure we've set out some benchmarks for what success will look like." He hopes parishes will create mission plans as well.

As the only episcopal area in the diocese that is located entirely within a city, York-Scarborough has a unique opportunity to create a plan for urban mission and ministry, he says. "I'm really intent on moving along this understanding of what it means to be an urban church. I don't know where that's going to lead, but I think some really good stuff is possible."

Women knit dolls for kids in Cuba

BY ANNE BAILLARGEON

THE Craft Club at St. Timothy, Agincourt is a group of ladies who meet every Tuesday morning to create hand-crafted items to sell at their annual Christmas event, or to donate for outreach.

Our most recent project was the production of 415 knitted "comfort dolls" for outreach. The son of one of the group's members went on his fifth trip to Cuba in early April. The people whom he visits are extremely poor and are very grateful for his friendship and the items that have been donated for them. This year, at one of the events he attended, 300 children were present.

Around Christmastime, when he asked his mom if she could make some knitted dolls to be given to the children, she said she could perhaps manage to make 70 at most. When another member of the



Doris Micks (far left) and members of St. Timothy's Craft Club with their 415 knitted dolls. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. TIMOTHY'S

Craft Club heard about his request for dolls, she told the group, which agreed to join in the project.

Since early January, our Tuesday mornings have been a lovely time of fellowship, with flying fingers and the click of busy knitting needles to the accompaniment of warm, friendly chatting. While some of us knit dolls, others stitched facial features on ones that had already been fin-

ished. Most of the knitters were St. Timothy's parishioners, but there were also several friends and neighbours of members as well. We were very grateful for everyone's contributions to this project.

Since we surpassed the original target of 300 dolls to be given at the children's event, the extras were also donated to give to other children whom he might encounter

while in Cuba.

On March 18, all the dolls were taken to the 10 a.m. service, where they were the subject of the Children's Talk and were blessed by the Rev. Andrea Christensen, St. Timothy's incumbent, before beginning their journey to new homes and families in Cuba.

Anne Baillargeon is a member of St. Timothy's Craft Club.

Anglicans encouraged to pray

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Mr. Woods promoted Thy Kingdom Come at St. Luke's last year and coordinated his efforts with other churches in the diocese. He says one of the things he likes best is its focus on prayer as central to Christian life. "You can pray wherever you want. It's nice to get together with other people to share the time of prayer, but if that's not possible, you can just pray wherever you are," he says.

Thy Kingdom Come's website includes free resources for individuals, families and churches. Family activities range from blowing bubbles to launching prayers into the sky, while churches can find liturgical templates and ideas for prayer walks, stations and labyrinths. To learn more and sign up, visit www.thykingdomcome.global.

