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Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

Social Justice and Advocacy Update December, 2018

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
- Luke 1:50-53*

NEWS FOR DECEMBER 2018

1. **Town Hall on Affordable Housing, Toronto, Dec. 4**
2. **Social Justice Vestry Motion material available**
3. **Outreach and Advocacy Prayer Cycle**

1. Town Hall on Affordable Housing, Toronto, Dec. 4.

University-Rosedale MPP Jessica Bell is hosting an Emergency Town Hall on Affordable Housing on Tuesday, December 4 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Alliance Française, 24 Spadina Rd (at Lowther Ave.). Guests will include Kensington Bellwoods Legal Services, the Federation of Metro Tenants' Association, ACORN, and city councillor Mike Layton. All are welcome. Please RSVP [here](#) or call 416-535-7206.

2. Social Justice Vestry Motion - Standing In Solidarity

Even in our wealthy province of Ontario, more than one in seven still live in poverty. For children, this number is one in five. Recent rollbacks to labour protections for precarious workers, the minimum wage freeze, and re-structuring of Ontario's social assistance system will create even more hardship for those living on low incomes in our province. Our Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2019 calls on parishes to stand in solidarity with people experiencing poverty in our communities. Each parish is encouraged to commit to some way to increase its direct outreach to those in need as well as to some form of advocacy toward changes that will lift people out of poverty. The motion, together with background information and suggestions for action, can be found on our webpage at www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac

3. Outreach & Advocacy Prayer Cycle for December 2018

December 2, Advent 1 - *Pray for* the Advocacy Program of our companion diocese of Grahamstown, South Africa, its work on labour relations issues in disadvantaged communities;

for All Saints Collingwood, its community Coffee, Cookies, and Conversation gatherings, monthly Friendship Dinner, support of the local food bank, refugee sponsorship, and the work of its Green Team in reducing energy consumption;
and for All Saints, King City, its provision of meals for residents of Cross-links Housing, participation in local community outreach, refugee sponsorship, and support of the Pikangikum Water Project;

December 9, Advent 2 - *Pray for* All Saints, Kingsway, its Out of the Cold program, community garden, refugee sponsorship, and involvement in programs at All Saints, Sherbourne Street, Stonegate Ecumenical Ministry, Watoto Schools in Uganda, and Habitat for Humanity;

for All Saints, Peterborough, its food voucher program, support of the Good Neighbour Care Centre and Kawartha Food Share, summer bag lunch program, and advocacy at the municipal, provincial and federal levels;
and for All Saints, Sherbourne Street, Toronto, its daily drop-in and nursing program, weekly breakfast for women involved in the sex trade, and its community agency connections.

December 16, Advent 3 - *Pray for* All Saints, Whitby, its Deacon's Food Cupboard, Christmas outreach ministries, and support of North House Transitional Housing and Durham Community Care-COPE;

for the Anglican-United Refugee Alliance, and for all the parishes and community partners currently involved in refugee sponsorships;
and for the Church of the Ascension, Don Mills, its Café 65 program for seniors and support of a local food bank.

December 23, Advent 4 - *Pray for* the Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, its support of local outreach initiatives, education for reconciliation, and stream regeneration project with Kawartha Conservation;

for the Parish of Belmont, its involvement with Habitat for Humanity and the Pikangikum Water Project, and its advocacy for affordable housing, food security, and poverty reduction;
and for the Parish of Bobcaygeon, its food bank, refugee support, prayer shawl ministry, and support of Sleeping Children Around the World and other outreach initiatives.

December 30, Christmas 1 - *Pray for* Christ Church, Bolton, its support for community outreach services and the Pikangikum Water Project;

for Christ Church, Brampton, its support of local outreach ministries, including Regeneration, Knights' Table, Coldest Night of the Year, and the Ste. Louise Outreach Centre;

and for Christ Church, Campbellford, its school breakfast and lunch programs, its weekly dinners, its Deacon's Cupboard and its support of Warkworth Hospice.

Wishing all of you a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

For more information about social justice activities across the diocese, to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, or to share information on events, please contact me at the email address or phone numbers listed below. If you would like to receive more frequent updates on our activities, consider liking our [Facebook page](#).

In faithful witness,
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