

**Black Anglicans form organization**

**Bishop lights up annual dinner**



**Who's on your Christmas card list?**

# The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

www.toronto.anglican.ca

DECEMBER 2019

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

By BISHOP PETER FENTY

### Time to give thanks

I begin this article with a word of profound thanks to Almighty God for the healing I have been experiencing since my surgery in June. My family and I are most grateful to all of you who offered prayerful, loving and moral support to us.

In a pastoral letter to the clergy and people of York-Simcoe, I wrote that my recent illness was a life-altering experience for me. When we face such challenges in our lives, we tend to view life in a very different light than before. I am learning to pay very close attention to the signs and signals that I receive from my body. I encourage others to do the same. Paul reminds us that our bodies are “temples of the Lord.”

Sometimes we receive gifts from family, friends, neighbours and even strangers. Those gifts may vary in quantity and quality, but they are given, in most cases, with a degree of care and generosity. It is important how we receive such gifts, which often are given selflessly and with a genuine desire to be thoughtful and kind. We are reminded of the “widow’s mite” in the gospel story, in which she gave of her all, and although a small gift, it was sacrificial and out of the little that she had. The giving of everything, the sacrifice made, is probably of more value than the giving of much out of abundance. We may thank the giver by words, cards, emails, letters or a telephone call. It really is just as important what we do with the gift, the value we attach to it and the appreciation we have for the generosity of the giver.

At this time in our Christian liturgical calendar, we celebrate the greatest of all gifts: the gift of salvation in the person of Jesus



### FIRST LIGHT

Youth at St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea, practice lighting the Advent wreath. A candle will be lit each week during Advent, followed by the lighting of the middle candle on Christmas Eve. Advent starts on Dec. 1. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Christ. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16). This gift of salvation comes to all of us out of unconditional love, not for a few, but for the world, for all who would receive it. In John’s gospel we also read, “but to all who received him, he gave power to become the children of God... born of the will of God” (John 1:12 ff).

God’s will is that we receive the gift of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life. In receiving Christ and following in His Way, His Truth and His Life, we are given power to love unconditionally as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, and to be compassionate as he is compassionate.

We may claim and own this wonderful gift of salvation in the name of Jesus Christ by living that salvation daily in our lives, work and witness, daily loving others for their sake, going the extra mile to make something

work, and by being Christ-like.

God has come among us in order that we might have life in all its fullness. He chose to come among us, our Emmanuel, to share in our humanity. God has come among us in Christ, in order to reconcile the world to himself. God has come among us in Christ, in order that we may become reconciled to each other. Christ dwells among us to share in our joys and our sorrows, our ups and downs in life, and that we may know that we are all loved by God.

Every day is a God-given opportunity to be reconciled with God and each other. It is an opportunity to tell loved ones, friends, co-workers and the many with whom we share our lives, that they are loved, appreciated and valued by us. Let us not regret missing the chance to share with those whom God has placed in our lives, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all they are and have shared, and all that they mean to us.

Continued on Page 4

## THE BISHOP’S LEVEE 2020

at the Cathedral Church of St. James



Please join Bishop Andrew Asbil and the College of Bishops to offer best wishes and prayers for the New Year.

**January 1, 2020**

Said Eucharist at 12:30 p.m.

Receiving Line and Reception from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. with the ringing of the Bells of Old York

Festive Music at 3:00 p.m.

Choral Evensong at 3:30 p.m. with presentations of The Order of the Diocese of Toronto

King & Church Streets, Toronto

All are welcome.

Nursery care provided.





Youth leaders gather for a photo at the youth leaders summit.

## Youth leaders gather to share ideas

**YOUTH** leaders from around York-Credit Valley gathered at St. John, Dixie on Oct. 5 for the second annual youth leaders summit. About 35 people turned out, building on momentum from last year's summit, and some curious leaders from outside York-Credit Valley attended as well.

Alexandra McIntosh, the youth ministry coordinator for the area, offers these events as a chance to empower and equip youth leaders to be confident agents of change in their ministry contexts. "Youth ministry is so often separated from the life of the parish, relegated to the basement and under-resourced," she says. "There are also few opportunities for youth leaders to network and learn from each other in the same ways clergy can. When youth leaders gather and hear from each other, they get a chance to create valuable networks and learn how to imagine new ways of doing

youth ministry."

An important part of the summit is sharing resources, she says. Many churches offer some funds to their youth leaders for continuing education, books and conferences. Ms. McIntosh brought several of her favourite resources, including her top two recommendations: *Faith Formation in a Secular Age* by Andrew Root, and *Rebooted* by Tim Gough. "These are two short, affordable texts that would strengthen any youth worker's ministry," she adds.

The summit heard presentations from youth leaders engaged in innovative programming in each deanery. Sarah Layman from the North Peel Deanery discussed what it was like to lead youth ministries in two different churches, and how to build holistic goals for the groups. James Noronha from the Etobicoke-Humber Deanery discussed how to meaningfully

engage youth in the life of the parish and stressed the importance of relationship-building and meeting youth where they are. Jenni King-Feheley from Parkdale West Toronto offered reflections on how to authentically listen and respond to the needs of one's community and how to create new ways to give young people experiences of God. Lastly, Bridget Poole from the Mississauga Deanery, who wasn't able to attend in person, offered practical tips on how to involve parents in youth ministry and create intergenerational programming.

Bishop Jenny Andison also attended, giving attendees a chance to ask questions about how to walk alongside youth as they personally and corporately deal with the difficulties the Church is going through. "Everyone learned a great deal by listening to what others had to say, and left with a stronger network and community," says Ms. McIntosh.

## Black Anglicans form new group

### Organization focuses on advocacy and networking

BY WILLIAM MCCULLOUGH

A new organization, Black Anglicans of Canada (B.I.A.C.), has been formed following two years of contemplation, collaboration and prayer to encourage a focus on the needs and the vocational and spiritual direction of Black Anglicans.

Members of the Black community in the Diocese of Toronto have been attending Anglican churches and participating in their work and witness for generations. Since the first Black member entered the doors of an Anglican Church centuries ago, the community has been striving for full inclusion, including as participants in the leadership and decision-making of the Church, while remaining committed to active involvement in Church life.

Our Church exists in a time when secular public discourse offers a commitment to cultural sensitivity, inclusion, reconciliation and postcolonial thought. The Church is an active participant and contributor to this discourse. Its work on reconciliation with our Indigenous siblings is one example.

Over the years, Black Anglicans have discussed formally and informally their participation in Church life. The community's yearnings became especially focused following the release of the Rev. Dr. Romney Moseley's report *No Longer Strangers* (1992). The report strongly encouraged the Anglican Church of Canada "to actively promote an identity which is culturally diverse and inclusive at national, diocesan, and congregational levels, especially with regard to worship and leadership." It was the foundation of the Anglican Church of Canada's Multicultural Policy developed in 1992.

Two years later, Mr. Moseley's work sparked a diocesan multicultural initiative also called "No Longer Strangers." As part of this initiative, some clergy and parishioners organized themselves into groups to reflect and respond to Mr. Moseley's challenges to the Anglican Church. In 1995, a group named the Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee was established. Its goals were to advocate on behalf of the Black community, to encourage and support Black clergy and laity in Church ministries, and to foster vocations. The enduring achievement of the Black Angli-

cans Coordinating Committee is the annual February celebration of Black heritage, now in its 25th year. The Black heritage service gathers Anglicans and members of other communities to St. Paul, Bloor Street during Black History Month to learn, reflect and, most importantly, worshipfully celebrate our rich history.

In 2017, Black clergy and lay leaders in the Diocese of Toronto came together to respond to needs in the Caribbean following hurricanes and tropical storms that devastated many communities. The group organized a service and raised funds needed for rebuilding. Such vision and outreach galvanized the group, providing an opportunity to discuss progress made so far in fuller participation and representation within the Church. There was a sentiment in these discussions that more work was needed, and Black Anglicans of Canada (B.I.A.C.) was formed.

This new organization builds on previous work by serving the needs of Black members of the Anglican Church as they continue their Christian journeys, and by enabling opportunities at all levels within the Church. B.I.A.C. will focus on deepening an understanding of historical and current issues Black Anglicans continue to face. It will work to respond effectively to community needs and concerns.

The organization will also serve as a hub that encourages churches to develop and embrace Afro-Anglican liturgy, music, drama, cultural practices and spoken word inside and outside of worship services. It will organize annual conferences and will seek to support members who feel called to ordained ministry as they begin or continue to participate in leadership or support roles within the Church, or while in seminary.

In the spring, Bishop Andrew Asbil accepted an invitation to meet with the organization. He listened to the concerns raised and shared aspects of his own vision for the diocese. "Bishop Asbil assured the group of his support and offered to meet with the group in the future," said the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, who attended the meeting.

This work aims to strengthen our Church family into one that is more inclusive, and reflects and embraces the call of the gospel to create a more just society.

### YOUR ANGLICAN CEMETERIES & CREMATORIUMS IN THE G.T.A.

(NON-DENOMINATIONAL, NON-PROFIT)



**St. John's Dixie  
Cemetery & Crematorium**  
737 Dundas Street East  
Mississauga, ON L4Y 2B5  
Phone: 905.566.9403  
www.stjohnsdixie.com



**St. James'  
Cemetery & Crematorium**  
635 Parliament Street  
Toronto, ON M4X 1R1  
Phone: 416.964.9194  
www.stjamescathedral.ca



**St. John's Norway  
Cemetery & Crematorium**  
256 Kingston Road  
Toronto, ON M4L 1S7  
Phone: 416.691.2965  
www.stjohnsnorwaycemetery.ca

All of our properties offer:

**Casket Graves, Cremation Plots, Niches & Scattering Gardens**

along with the following services:

**Memorial Markers, Monuments, Inscriptions, Memorial Trees with Plaques and Pre-Need Services**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF INTEREST OR VISIT OUR WEB-SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

### Mary G. Griffith B.A., M.B.A., J.D.

**Barrister & Solicitor (Ontario)  
Attorney & Counselor-at-Law (New York)**

Maclaren Corlett LLP  
3500 - 2 Bloor St. East,  
Toronto, ON  
M4W 1A8

Wills, Trusts & Estates, Business, Real Estate

Tel: (416) 361-3094  
Fax: (416) 361-6261

www.maclarencorlett.com

E-mail: mgriffith@macorlaw.com





**WEST INDIES NIGHT**

Guests enjoy the 33rd annual Bishops Basil Tonks and Arthur Brown Fundraising Dinner at St. Andrew, Scarborough on Nov. 2. The dinner, hosted by the Canadian Friends to West Indian Christians, raises money for Anglican churches and ministries in the Caribbean. Clockwise from above: Bishop Andrew Asbil is joined by Elsa Jones, the evening's MC, and Arthur Downes; guests enjoy Bishop Asbil's speech, which he began by singing the first two verses of 'When the Saints Go Marching In'; the Rev. Canon Derek Stapleton speaks about the Rev. Canon Bill Kibblewhite; Panist Zarina Adams entertains guests; delicious food of the Caribbean is as popular as ever. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



**A Special Tribute  
THANK YOU!**

Lively guests gathered at the 58th Annual Bishop's Company Dinner held on October 18, 2019 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel.

The evening honoured the memory of The Reverend Dr. Margaret Fleck with a special tribute.

Photography by Michael Hudson.



THE BISHOP'S COMPANY





# Justice is church work: speaker

## Workshops cover range of issues

BY MURRAY MacADAM

THE “radical, revolutionary” message of Jesus can sustain us when the signs of the times can cause us to lose hope, said Thea Prescod, the keynote speaker at the diocese’s annual Outreach Conference, held Oct. 19 at Havergal College in Toronto. More than 100 Anglicans from across the diocese attended the event, which featured a range of workshops and an opening prayer by Bishop Andrew Asbil.

Ms. Prescod, a street nurse and member of Toronto’s Sanctuary community, confessed that when she learned the theme of the conference was “Church as a Centre of Resistance and Hope,” she was tempted to withdraw as keynote speaker since she experienced Christ in this way, but not the Church. “Christ has been my source of resistance and hope,” she said.

Yet upon reflection, she realized that “justice work is real Church work.” She cited the courageous witness of Stephen in the Book of Acts as an example of a faith-filled person doing the work of Christ.

Ms. Prescod’s work with marginalized people is extremely challenging. Eighteen people helped by Sanctuary have died this year, including a friend of Ms. Prescod who was murdered only three days before the conference. Yet she has also seen people who had stopped breathing after drug overdoses come back to life. “I experienced Lazarus,” she said.

She says she could not have survived 17 years of work among marginalized people without prayer from a supportive parish.

If it seems like one’s church community is not responding to local justice issues strongly enough, the solution is to find new allies within the congregation, she said. For example, a pharmacist could be asked to give Naloxone training as a response to the opioid crisis (Naloxone is a medication used to counter the effects of opioid overdose).

Workshops at the conference covered a wide range of issues. In a workshop on rural and small-town outreach, Patricia Sinnott outlined how dogged perseverance and collaboration with community partners enabled parishes in the Port Hope-Grafton area to win approval and funding for a 27-unit



Angela Elzinga-Chen and the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford (at right) lead a workshop on building parish resilience through eco-partnerships at the diocese’s annual outreach conference. At right is keynote speaker Thea Prescod. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

affordable housing project through an organization they founded called Community Housing Northumberland. Now the group has set its sights on building a 54-unit building in Port Hope. The need for affordable housing is urgent, with a scant 0.3 percent vacancy rate in Northumberland County.

The key to success, said Ms. Sinnott, has been to keep pushing despite setbacks along the way. “You have to have faith. It’s all about finding connections, about talking and partnerships.” Prayer support is important as well. St George, Grafton has a circle of prayer whose members pray each week for the needs of the community.

Three conference workshops dealt with environmental concerns. A workshop on how to respond to grief over environmental harm noted that some couples are choosing not to have children due to deep pessimism about the impacts of climate change. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross’s famous book, *On Death and Dying*, was cited as a resource that can help people come to grips with the death of the world as we’ve known it.

A worship and educational series called Season of Creation has sparked activity at Toronto’s Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. Sunday worship services have opened with people processing into the church carrying beautiful silk panels depicting images from creation. The series has also featured presentations, discussions, a concert and a film on the global fashion



industry’s environmental impact, resulting from a new parishioner’s fashion industry experience. “We are rich in resources,” said workshop leader Grant Jahnke.

The Rev. Christian Harvey, deacon at St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough and founder of Warming Room Community Ministries in that city, told a workshop on homelessness how we need to embrace the awkwardness of relationships with people very different from ourselves, such as homeless people. After the local homeless shelter closed, St. John’s allowed some homeless people to camp on church property during the summer and encouraged parishioners to get to know homeless people and work with them on their needs. We need to truly listen to people on the margins of society, then amplify their voices, said Mr. Harvey. “As Anglican churches, we’re so worried about the system not taking us seriously,” he said. “The gift of losing our relationship to power means we can be bold and prophetic.”

The thorny issue of racism in Canada came to the fore in a

workshop called Turning Tables: Anger, Injustice and Solidarity. Participants discussed the black-face incident with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and a powerful article called “Why I hate being a black man.” Author Orville Douglas noted, “There is so much negativity and criminal suspicion associated with being a black male in Toronto.” A survey found that one in four Canadians were victims of racism in 2017.

A workshop led by and for youth looked at how to teach discipleship and the role of young people in justice and advocacy work. There’s a lot more to God than just going to church.

In a closing summary, Mr. Harvey noted that Anglicans focus much of their energy on ways to keep parishes from dying. Yet the message of the cross is that life comes after death. “The body of Christ is not going to die with us,” he said. “We’re called to courage, to take a stand. How do we pick up the cross?”

Murray MacAdam is a freelance writer.



## TheAnglican

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.

Canon Stuart Mann: Editor

Address all editorial material to:  
The Anglican  
135 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1L8  
Tel: (416) 363-6021, ext. 247  
Toll free: 1-800-668-8932  
Fax: (416) 363-7678  
E-mail: editor@toronto.anglican.ca

**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](http://www.anglicanjournal.com) and click Subscription Centre.

Annie Fenn: Advertising

Address all advertising material to:  
Fenn Company Inc.  
P.O. Box 1060  
King City, Ontario L7B 1B1  
Tel: 905-833-6200, ext. 22  
Toll free: 1-800-209-4810  
Fax: (905) 833-2116  
E-mail: [anglican@churchadvertising.ca](mailto:anglican@churchadvertising.ca)

## 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. Linda Nicholls, 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 a large population of aboriginal peoples.

### Bishop of Toronto:

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil

### York-Credit Valley:

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Andison

### Trent-Durham:

The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw

### York-Scarborough:

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson

### York-Simcoe:

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty

### The Diocese of Toronto:

135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5C 1L8  
1-800-668-8932/416-363-6021  
Web site: <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca>

# Thanks to God for the gift of salvation

Continued from Page 1

My hope this Christmas season is that we would be intentional in expressing thanks to Almighty God for life and the gift of salvation in his Son Jesus Christ.

I also hope that we would show and express gratitude to those whom we can so easily take for granted: family, friend, co-worker, neighbour and the person who may never be able to give us

anything in return.

While tributes to loved ones and friends at retirement functions and funerals are fitting and appropriate, let us not lose the opportunity to tell them while they are

with us, how much they are loved and cherished.

In this season of love, peace, joy, hope and goodwill, as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ in our churches, at meals with family, friends

and others, may we be reminded that we are called to love God and neighbour, as we love ourselves.

A blessed and happy Christmas to you and all with whom you share your lives.



# Dinner raises funds

## Bishop sparks annual event

BY STUART MANN

**GUESTS** at the 58th annual Bishop's Company Dinner enjoyed food, friendship, speeches – and an impressive display of fire eating by Bishop Andrew Asbil.

The diocese's annual fundraiser, held Oct. 18 at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel, was attended by 375 people and raised \$135,000. The funds will help clergy and their families in need and provide scholarships for theological students.

Among the guests were the diocese's suffragan bishops – Peter Fenty, Riscylla Shaw, Kevin Robertson, Jenny Andison – and several retired bishops, including Michael Bedford-Jones, Ann Tottenham, George Elliott and Patrick Yu. The master of ceremonies was Stephen Vail, the rector of St. James Cathedral and Dean of Toronto.

The dinner's presenting sponsor was Jim Fleck and his family in memory of the Rev. Dr. Margaret Fleck, a priest of the diocese who passed away last January. Mr. Fleck spoke about his life with Margaret and how she touched the lives of many people, as a pastor and friend. Dr. Fleck served at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle, St. Luke, Church of the Annunciation, St. Paul, L'Amoreaux and St. Augustine of Canterbury. Guests watched a short video of parishioners at St. Augustine recalling Dr. Fleck's warmth, compassion and openness.

Bishop Robertson, who first met Dr. Fleck in 1982 when she was a curate at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, described the Flecks as "exceedingly generous" in their philanthropy, supporting the arts and education, health care, and the advancement of religion and public policy. "They gave leadership (in the Church) in often quiet and unassuming ways, not only in their home parish of St. Augustine of Canterbury, but across the diocese and the wider Church," he said. He thanked Mr. Fleck "for a lifetime of generosity and commitment to the Church in our diocese, and for your example of faithful discipleship in the name of Jesus Christ."

In his keynote address, Bishop Asbil spoke about his upbringing as a "preacher's kid" and the role that bishops played in his early life. His father, Walter Asbil, served as a priest in the dioceses of Niagara, Ottawa and Montreal before becoming Bishop of Niagara in the 1990s.

"For the longest time, bishops came in and out of our lives, moving like bishops on a chessboard – di-



Bishop Andrew Asbil gets ready to perform fire eating at the Bishop's Company Dinner. Photos by Michael Hudson



Guests enjoy each other's company.



Jim Fleck speaks about his wife, the Rev. Dr. Margaret Fleck.

agonally, on a little bit of an angle, coming in and going out," he said. "I didn't really understand what a bishop did until my father became one, and then I watched him age 10 years in three, and what it meant to carry the mantle of leadership, and how hard it is to wander and chase after the one lost sheep, or the two lost sheep, or wonder if we're somehow all lost sheep."

He expressed gratitude for all the bishops he has known, including the late Archbishop Terence Finlay, Archbishop Colin Johnson, the retired bishops of the Diocese of Toronto and the current suffragan bishops.

He thanked the Bishop's Company and the generosity of its members, saying that their support over the years has helped the bishops of the diocese in many ways. "It is important for you to know that when a family is in crisis and needs a hand, to be able to offer a tangible gift to support and uphold them is one of the greatest gifts that you have been able to give to us," he said.

He said he is deeply grateful for the life of the Church, for "the undertone and narrative that weaves bishops, clergy, rectories, chancels, sacraments, hymn book and prayer book together. It is the narrative of



Jill and Mike Daley of Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., perform at the dinner.

love – the love of God – that weaves each one of us together and helps us to breathe together in unison as a people created on this earth."

He spoke about the "great company of the saints in light" that greet Anglicans in church each Sunday – people such as John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene, Mary, Martha, Ruth, Thomas, Paul, Peter and Elizabeth – "ordinary men and

women who have done their very best in their lifetimes to stand in the face of change and uncertainty, knowing they could stand on the shoulders of others in faith and always have courage in uncharted waters that at times are precarious."

He said Anglicans in this generation, like their ancestors in the faith, are called to stand like the prophet

Elijah, "to face the earthquakes and the fire, the wind and the cracking stones, and to be perfectly still, and to know the time for us to move together."

He closed by "showing, not saying" and then lit two small torches, extinguishing them with his hands and mouth. The astonished and delighted guests gave him a long round of applause.



# Who's on your Christmas card list?



Everyone loves to receive a letter. Even at a time when fewer people send letters, and email and text are the preferred vehicles of communication, receiving a letter – especially a personal one – is always appreciated.

When you look at your Christmas card list, who do you usually include? We often think of people we haven't seen in some time – those who are hundreds of miles away or across the ocean in a far-off land. These people tend to be at the top of our family's list.

It would never occur to anyone by looking at, or trying to pronounce, my surname that I would include Wales as part of my family heritage, but it is indeed the case. My mother was born and raised in north Wales and immigrated to Canada in 1964. As a result, I have an extended family some five time zones away. Though we are in regular contact through Facebook, I still make a habit of sending a card and a photograph of our children every Christmas.

Many churches in our diocese stay connected with parishioners throughout the

## THE STEWARD

By PETER MISIASZEK

year via newsletters, email and invitations to events. But how often is our communication limited to regular attendees or donors? If we dig a little deeper into our membership rolls, we can find many people who don't fall into the "regulars" category, including shut-ins, infrequent attendees, those who have moved or fallen away, seniors, singles, families that participated in sacramental preparation, and so on. The list of "others" can be lengthy.

It's the "others" that I am most interested in connecting with. In our diocese's donor database, we have a record of more than 30,000 individuals, stretching back to the 1990s. Often, we use language like "renewals" or "lapsed" to organize our mailing list; these tend to be the people that we focus our attention on retaining or increasing their gift amount. But the "others" – the people who are part of the myriad of connections that we have acquired over the years – shouldn't be neglected.

There is a school of thought in fund-

raising that says if a donor hasn't given in the last three years, they may as well be considered brand new – as if they had never connected with us before. A competing viewpoint is that all donors – even the ones that are dated – should be retained. I am more inclined to embrace the latter, not only because they are people who know us and thought enough of us at one time to donate, but it is more in line with our Christian attitude that all are welcome and none are forsaken, even when they have fallen away. Think of the prodigal son or the lost sheep as examples in scripture.

The stewardship office is applying these principles to our Advent mailings this year. We are reconnecting with, and inviting, donors who have fallen off the radar screen in recent years. That means we are inviting friends who may have given to the Bishop's Company or FaithWorks some five to seven years back who we've lost contact with, or they may have forgotten to include us in their annual giving to charity.

This pattern can be applied to our parishes as well. With Christmas just a few weeks away, perhaps we should consider inviting everyone on our membership lists and the immediate neighbourhood to

celebrate the birth of Jesus. I think we can take for granted that people know that services are offered at Christmas time. Consider how it might be received, however, if everyone on our list – even those we have lost contact with – received an invitation to celebrate in this joyous event. It might even open the door to renewed friendships, connections and church participation.

In fundraising parlance, "if you don't ask, you don't get." So many have fallen away and simply stopped coming. Some will never return. But some want to come back and are looking for an opening. Let's personally invite them.

I don't believe it is enough for a church to simply be present. Just because it's Christmas and our church has a big sign on it with service times, that's not enough to incline many to grace our doors; they need more of a prompting. How about a personal invitation? Now that's a big deal. Everyone loves to get a letter. Why not personally invite everyone to experience Jesus' birthday party this year? And do it up fancy – for some, it's the most anticipated day of the year.

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



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Bishop Jenny Andison is joined by Holy Family, Heart Lake's current and past incumbents, including Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson of Calgary (third from right), and church members at the Brampton church's 40th anniversary celebrations on Oct. 27. After the service, about 240 people gathered for a celebratory luncheon. Holy Family, Heart Lake is one of the most diverse churches in the diocese, with members from more than a dozen countries, annually celebrating South Asian Heritage Month and Black History Month. PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLY FAMILY, HEART LAKE

## Church to provide emergency shelter in York Region

**HOLY** Trinity, Thornhill is taking seriously its commitment to stand in solidarity with those living in poverty. In a special meeting on Oct. 20, its vestry voted to authorize the use of the church's facilities to host a pilot emergency shelter project with Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold on eight Friday evenings from the end of November to January. This follows from the 2019 social justice vestry motion, through which Holy Trinity's vestry resolved to support those living in poverty through prayer, outreach and advocacy.

The emergency shelter is a scaled-down version of full-service shelters offered deeper into the winter. The parish will provide the space and the volunteers to make the emergency shelter possible. Mosaic Interfaith will provide the mattresses, blankets, security and transportation for guests, as well as the funds.

This opportunity came to the parish because of provincial funding cuts that have negatively affected the work of Mosaic Interfaith. The organization needed more shelter nights to secure a certain level of funding. Rehana Sunar, executive director for Mosaic-York Region, described the problem for the parish at a town hall meeting in held in the spring.

Poverty and homelessness have been increasing in York Region. It's estimated that more than 2,800 people are in shelters in the region, yet there is a limited number of permanent shelters. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that the majority of shelters are in the



Rehana Sunar

north end of the region, while the majority of the population is in the south.

The committee at Holy Trinity responsible for overseeing the pilot will report to the annual vestry meeting in 2020 when, depending on the results, the vestry may be asked to decide whether to host the program on a more permanent basis in the future.

Unwavering **SUPPORT**  
and **HOPE**



**LOFT**

To help people with complex mental health challenges get back on their feet, recover dignity, leave homelessness behind, it only takes two things: unwavering support and hope.

**LOFT offers the Unwavering Support.**

**You provide the Hope.**

**Please include LOFT in your Will.**

For more information, or to receive a free estate planning brochure, contact Mona Lee-Tam at 416-979-1994 x2027 or mlee-tam@loftcs.org.

LOFT Community Services  
15 Toronto Street, 9th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5C 2E3  
www.loftcs.org



TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 ext. 22 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA

**REAL ESTATE**

Award-winning real estate in Toronto for over 25 years

**Carolyn McIntire Smyth**

Sales Representative  
Chestnut Park Real Estate Limited, Brokerage

Helping Sellers obtain the best prices for their homes.

416.925.9191

I look forward to hearing from you.

**CHURCH WINDOWS**

**SUNRISE**



Est. 1979

Memorial Windows - Restoration  
Protective Storm Glazing  
Custom Woodworking

97 Wharnclyffe Rd. S.  
London, Ontario N6J 2K2  
(519) 432-9624  
Toll Free 1-877-575-2321  
www.sunrisestainedglass.com

**COUNSELLING**

**DAVID A.S. WRIGHT**  
B.A. M.Div.  
Registered Psychotherapist

- Pastoral Counsellor
- Individual / Couple Psychotherapy
- Psychoanalysis
- Supervision / Consultation

204 St. George Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5R 2N5  
Tel. 416-960-6486

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Music & Worship

**NOV. 27** - Evensong on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. at Trinity College Chapel, 6 Hoskin Ave., Toronto. A meditative service in the beauty of Trinity College Chapel, featuring some of the most beautiful music written for the church.

**DEC. 1** - Advent lessons and carols with the choristers of St. Peter, Erindale, 11 a.m. at the church, 3041 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga.

**DEC. 1** - "Christmas Lights," Choral Evensong for Advent Sunday with Voices Chamber Choir, 4 p.m., followed by Christmas Tea. At 5 p.m., St. Olave's Arts Guild presents light music and light entertainment, including drama, poetry, music and songs. All at St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto.

**DEC. 1** - Advent carol service, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

**DEC. 4 & 18** - Organix Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke. Recitals Dec. 4 & 18. Admission is free but a free-will offering will be accepted.

**DEC. 7** - "Healey Willan Singers Follow the Star," with organist John Stephenson, conductor Ron Ka Ming Cheung and Christmas music by John Rutter and Bob Chilcott, 8 p.m., St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto. Tickets \$20 for adults and \$15 students and seniors.

**DEC. 8** - Sing and ring in the Christmas season with a family concert featuring handbell ringers, band and choir, 3-4 p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto.

**DEC. 8** - Advent carol service, 7:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto.

**DEC. 8** - Community Carol Sing, 7:30 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough, featuring the church's junior and senior choirs along with several instrumentalists. Admission is free. There will be a free-will offering at the end of the program with all proceeds donated to the

Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities Food Bank. Refreshments following in the church hall.

**DEC. 14** - "Voices Chamber Choir Christmas Rose," with organist John Stephenson, conductor Ron Ka Ming Cheung, featuring Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols and music by others, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets \$20 for adults and \$15 students and seniors.

**DEC. 15-25** - Advent and Christmas services, including nativity play, St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto. For more information, visit www.stolaves.ca.

**DEC. 15** - Christmas lessons and carols with the choristers of St. Peter, Erindale, 7 p.m. at the church, 3041 Mississauga Rd., Mississauga.

**DEC. 22** - Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:30 a.m., St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, 2182 Kipling Ave., Toronto.

**DEC. 22** - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

### Sales

**NOV. 30** - Christmas Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Peter and St. Simon, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Crafts, baking, café, children's area, music.

**NOV. 30** - Christmas bazaar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. David, 49 Donlands Ave., Toronto.

**NOV. 30** - Christmas bazaar with stocking stuffers, hostess gifts, baked goods, lunch room and more, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of the Ascension, 266 North St., Port Perry.

**DEC. 7** - Holly Berry Fair, with tea room, crafts, knitted goods, Santa Claus and more, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., St. Luke, 904 Coxwell Ave., Toronto.

### Workshops & Gatherings

**DEC. 1** - 7th Annual Celtic Family Christmas featuring Sandy MacIntyre at the Port Credit Legion, 35 Front St., N., 2-4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 10. The event also has a silent auction, shortbread and more. Tickets can be purchased by calling Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit at 905-278-1992.

**DEC. 6-22** - The Christmas Story, a Toronto tradition since 1938, featuring professional musicians and a volunteer cast presenting an hour-long nativity pageant, Holy Trinity, 19 Trinity Square, Toronto (on the west side of the Eaton Centre). Dates are Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22. Suggested donation: \$25 adults; \$5 children. Visit www.thechristmasstory.ca to reserve or call 416-598-4521, ext. 301.

### IN MOTION

#### Appointments

- The Very Rev. James Merrett, Interim Associate Priest, Parish of Fenelon Falls, Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Pamela Lucas, Honorary Assistant, St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto, Nov. 3.
- The Rev. Canon James Woolley, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Elizabeth, Mississauga, Jan. 1.

#### Area Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- St. Hilda, Fairbank
- St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
- Church of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth
- St. Paul, Newmarket
- St. Mary and St. Martha, Toronto

#### 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):

- Parish of Lakefield
- All Saints, Whitby
- Trinity, Streetsville
- Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
- St. Thomas, Huron Street
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit

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

- Christ Church, Stouffville
- Parish of Fenelon Falls
- Church of the Incarnation, Toronto
- St. Christopher, Richmond Hill (Associate Priest)
- St. Martin, Bay Ridges
- St. Margaret in-the-Pines, Toronto

#### Conclusions

- The Rev. Richard Dentinger has concluded his role as Director of Human Resources. He remains a priest in good standing in the Diocese of Toronto.
- The Rev. Mark Andrews concluded his ministry at St.

### Pastoral Counsellor Registered Psychotherapist



**Susan E. Haig**  
LL.B., M.Div.

110 Eglinton Ave. W., Suite 303D  
Toronto, ON M4R 1A3

416.605.3588

Thomas, Huron Street on Nov. 24. He will be taking up a new ministry appointment in the Diocese of Niagara.

#### Retirement

- The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford's last Sunday at Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale will be Dec. 22.



### BENCH STRENGTH

The Rev. Samantha Caravan (far right) and Deacon Suzanne McMillan (far left) join members of All Saints, Peterborough at a bench in a park near the church. During a Blessing of Animals service in the park on Oct. 4, Ms. Caravan also blessed the bench and a table that the church had helped to pay for. A plaque on the bench thanks the church for its contributions to the park and includes a hotline to call for people in distress. The church raised money for playground equipment and provided meeting space for a local community association. The church has also purchased a garden plot in the park, providing another opportunity for parishioners to work alongside their neighbours. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL SAINTS, PETERBOROUGH



Your friends at  
The Anglican  
wish you a blessed  
Advent & Christmas.





**WINNING EFFORT**

An exhibit created by youth in St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope's Vacation Bible School this past summer illustrates the themes 'a caring community' and 'caring for creation.' The exhibit, which includes a painting of The Sower and the Seed, won a prize in the Port Hope fall fair. Youth aged three to 16 worked on the exhibit together. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PORT HOPE



**INSPIRING VISIT**

Members of Christ Church, Campbellford and St. Christopher, Richmond Hill, gather for a photo at Christ Church on Aug. 24. Members of St. Christopher travelled to Christ Church for the day, where they enjoyed a picnic lunch, then a service of praise and thanksgiving in Cantonese, with members of Christ Church in attendance. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIST CHURCH, CAMPBELLFORD

**CANADA BRIEFS**

**Four congregations become one**

HALIFAX - Four congregations on Nova Scotia's South Shore have merged after an 18-month discernment process. "Our people realized it was

impossible to continue to operate as four congregations with five councils, four buildings, four worship teams, five treasurers and so on," says the parish's rector, the Rev. Michelle Cockell. "The realities of aging congregations left a smaller group to do the work of the church. People were tired just trying to keep up with the physical stuff, with not much left for being, and making, disciples."

The four congregations will now meet as Grace Anglican Church, in

Chester Basin. The three remaining churches have been deconsecrated, and two have accepted offers of sale.

"Our people are dreaming dreams again, imagining what God is calling us to do and to be now that we're together," says Ms. Cockell. Among other ideas for mission, she says, the new congregation is considering reaching out to isolated seniors and the working poor.

*The Diocesan Times*

**Dean of Niagara retires**

HAMILTON - Peter Wall, who served as rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and dean of Niagara since 1998 and held numerous positions with the Anglican Church of Canada, retired on Sept. 30. Dean Wall's service to the Church over his 30-year ministry included membership in General Synod, the Council of General Synod, and the national's church's Faith, Worship

and Ministry Committee.

A reception for Dean Wall was held at the Hamilton cathedral Sept. 22 and was attended by church leaders, including Archbishop Fred Hiltz, former primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, and Bishop Susan Bell of Niagara. Dean Wall was also a member of The Three Cantors, a Canadian Anglican vocal trio. *Niagara Anglican*

**Diocese helps with medical coverage**

EDMONTON - Parishes in the Diocese of Edmonton are raising funds to support an initiative in their companion diocese of Buyé in Burundi. Through the "\$5-5 Ways Challenge," parishes are raising money in support of an initiative by the Buyé Mothers' Union, which helps seniors and low-income families purchase a \$5 medical card that grants them 80 per cent medical coverage for

a full year. This is the second year donating to the project. In 2018, the diocese raised \$5,460, enough to provide medical cards to 1,092 seniors in 20 parishes. The total for the 2019 giving is still being tallied. *The Messenger*

**Leader presented with key to the city**

OTTAWA - Canon Sue Garvey, who recently retired from her role as executive director of Cornerstone Housing for Women – a community ministry of the Diocese of Ottawa – was presented with the key to the city of Ottawa on Sept. 12. Ottawa mayor Jim Watson called Canon Garvey a true leader and exceptional role model for ending homelessness and expanding affordable housing in the city. The ministry also threw its inaugural Purple Tie Gala fundraiser at the Ottawa Art Gallery on Sept. 14, raising close to \$50,000. *CrossTalk*

*The Christmas Story*  
82<sup>ND</sup> YEAR AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

December 6-8, 13-15 & 20-22, 2019

Matinees and Evening shows available

To order tickets on-line or for more info visit:

[thechristmasstory.ca](http://thechristmasstory.ca)

OR CALL: 416.598.4521 x301

**PRAYER CYCLE**

FOR DECEMBER

1. St. James Cathedral
2. The Founders and Benefactors of the Diocese of Toronto
3. The Anglican Foundation
4. The Diocese of Toronto Foundation
5. All Saints, Sherbourne St.

6. Holy Trinity, Trinity Square
7. Mission to Seafarers
8. St. James Deanery
9. Parroquia San Esteban
10. Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St.
11. San Lorenzo Ruiz Anglican Church
12. St. Andrew by-the-Lake
13. St. Bartholomew
14. St. Paul, Bloor Street
15. The Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
16. St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle
17. Trinity East (Little Trinity)
18. All Saints, King City

19. Christ Church, Holland Landing
20. Christ Church, Kettleby
21. Christ Church, Roches Point
22. Holland Deanery
23. Parish of Georgina
24. St. James the Apostle, Sharon
25. Christmas Day
26. St. Stephen, Maple
27. St. Paul, Newmarket
28. St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg
29. The Members of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto
30. St. George, (Clarke) Newcastle
31. St. George, Grafton

**ST PETER & ST SIMON'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

**1 DEC, 4 PM - ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**  
A choral liturgy with the music of Holman, Ledger, Near, Carter & Bruckner; refreshments to follow

**15 DEC, 4 PM - ONCE UPON A STARRY MIDNIGHT**  
Children's Musical Production

**22 DEC, 4 PM - NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**  
A beloved Christmas tradition with music by Chilcott, Sirrett, Holman, Vaughan Williams, Ives & Rutter

**24 DEC, 5 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Communion Service with Carols and the Christmas Story for Children

**24 DEC, 10 PM - CHRISTMAS EVE**  
Candlelit Festal Eucharist

**25 DEC, 10 AM - CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Joyful Celebration, sung Eucharist

the Church of St Peter and St Simon-the-Apostle  
525 Bloor St East, Toronto, ON M4W 1J1  
p: 416-923-8714  
e: office@stpetersimon.ca

*Tafelmusik*  
Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir  
Elisa Citterio, Music Director

2019/20 Season

Experience the humanity and goodwill of Handel's beloved choral masterpiece.

Directed by Ivars Taurins

Dec 17-20, 2019  
KOERNER HALL, TELUS CENTRE

TICKETS FROM \$39  
[tafelmusik.org](http://tafelmusik.org)