

Sisters provide spiritual gap year

Canons installed at cathedral



Memorial passes grim milestone

The Anglican

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Celebrating Chinese New Year

ABOUT 100 people, many from the surrounding community, attended the Chinese New Year celebration at St. Philip on-the-Hill, Unionville on Jan. 26. The event included dancing, music, drumming, singing and a banquet. Almost all of the performers were professionals. Apples, which symbolize a wish for peace in Chinese culture, were blessed by Bishop Peter Fenty, the Rev. Stephen Kern and the Rev. Esther Deng.

Ms. Deng says the annual event is an important outreach initiative to Mandarin-speaking people in the community. "Chinese New Year is a time for family reunions, but not every family member is here with them in Canada, so they can come celebrate with us," she says. "It also gives them a chance to know our church."

The church has been celebrating Chinese New Year since 2016 and some people have joined the church as a result, she says. The church's Mandarin Ministry worships on Sundays at 1 p.m.



A young boy enjoys playing with balloons in the aisle.



Drumming by members of the Paradise Seniors Association in Markham.



Carlynn Reed does a dramatic reading while dancing to the poem *The Creation*.



Airoi Yan Zhao performs Kunqu Opera, an ancient form of Chinese drama.



Rebecca Niu dances to 'Yimeng Minor'.



From left, the Rev. Stephen Kern, Bishop Peter Fenty and the Rev. Esther Deng bless apples before they are given out.

Church to take Jesus to streets

Visual arts help tell Easter story

BY STUART MANN

LIGHT On The Hill, Oak Ridges (also known as St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges) plans to make Jesus known to the surrounding community during Holy Week – literally.

On Palm Sunday, church members will be taking part in a Parade of Triumph through a nearby subdivision and along Yonge Street, singing, praising the Lord, waving palm

fronds and asking neighbours to join them. At the end of the procession, an actor playing Jesus will be riding on a donkey.

The parade will be one of several creative events put on by the church, which will be using drama, music, art, video and audio recordings to tell the story of Christ's death and resurrection. About 60 people will be volunteering their time and talents during the week, April 5-12.

The person behind it all is Adam Furfaro, the executive director of Light On The Hill. A former theatre director, he says drama, music and



Adam Furfaro

the visual arts are an excellent way to tell the story of Jesus, especially to people who are not Christian and do not speak English as their first language.

For Light On The Hill, that is a priority. Located on the northern boundary of Richmond Hill on Yonge Street, the church is close to Canada's largest Farsi-speaking Iranian community and about 18,000 Mandarin-speaking people. There are also smaller groups from Russia, South Korea and other countries.

For the past few years, the church has worked hard to connect with people in those communities, starting a Mandarin ministry, translating services into Farsi, and providing space for other groups to hold worship services and programs.

The hard work is bearing fruit. About 30 people from the Iranian community have joined the church, and a Mandarin service each Sunday at noon attracts about 35 people. The church is open seven days a week and is almost always busy. It has a total membership of about 140.

"We're starting to reflect much more what our community is," says Mr. Furfaro, who has been serving alongside the incumbent, the Rev. Peter Blundell, for the past three years.

Light On The Hill has held innovative Holy Week activities before, but this is the first time in recent memory that it will be holding a Palm Sunday procession through the neighbourhood. "We thought it was time to take Easter from inside

the church to outside the church a bit more," says Mr. Furfaro.

Two weeks before the parade, the church will deliver postcards to residents along the route, inviting them to join the procession and attend the worship service afterwards. The cards will be printed in English, Mandarin and Farsi. Another reminder will be handed out a couple of days prior to Palm Sunday.

The parade will kick off a week of imaginative events and activities, all designed to bring people closer to Jesus. Here are the highlights:

- From Monday to Maundy Thursday, between 6:30-7 p.m., there will be prayer for the community at large.
- Each family will be assigned a

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Gap year gives women space to reflect

Participants live, work alongside sisters

BY STUART MANN

ONE is a music therapist, recently graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont. The second is a spiritual director from Hong Kong. And the third, from Lethbridge, Alberta, is discerning a call to the religious life.

Three women from different backgrounds, but with one thing in common: they are all spending a year living and working at the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine's convent in Toronto.

Since 2016, the sisterhood's Companions on an Ancient Path program has offered a spiritual gap year to women over the age of 21. Fifteen women from across Canada and overseas have participated in the program, and applications are open for the 2020-2021 cohort.

"One of the real gifts of this program is that it opens up space in a woman's life to think, to experience, to create community, to deepen one's faith or maybe struggle with faith," says Shannon Frank-Epp, the program's assistant coordinator. "A lot of women come here and say, 'I don't know what I believe anymore.' And this is a safe space to go deeper."

While at the convent, participants – called "companions" – live, work, pray and learn alongside the sisters. Their room and board is fully paid for by the sisterhood, a Canadian order that was founded in 1884. The sisterhood has received generous grants from the diocese's Our Faith-Our Hope campaign to help fund the program.

Sr. Constance-Joanna Gefvert, coordinator of the program, says the gap year isn't a recruitment

tool for the sisterhood, although a couple of companions have joined the order. "The purpose of it is to help women deepen their spiritual lives and have the tools they need to live a discerning Christian life and a life of discipleship," she says.

Companions need not be Anglican. Many have come from different denominations, including the Pentecostal and evangelical traditions. They have often been referred to the program by their parish priests, chaplains or friends.

For Jasmine Lo, 25, the experience has grounded her in her faith and provided her with valuable work experience. A music therapist, Ms. Lo helps patients at St. John's Rehab, a hospital located next to the convent that was founded by the sisterhood and is now part of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

"Being here, I feel really privileged," she says during an interview at the convent. "We have a sense of peace and a time to be open to God."

Halfway through the year, she says she has learned a lot about herself. "It has nurtured me. I've learned that it's important to just be myself, to be authentic in my therapy practice as well as my faith journey."

Born in Vancouver and raised in Hong Kong, she hopes to return to the former British colony to help those who have been traumatized by the ongoing protests and riots. But she's keeping an open mind. "This is a really interesting journey that I'm on and I look forward to where it is going," she says.

Florence Au, 55, says the pace of life at the convent is a world away from her busy life in Hong Kong.



From left, Florence Au, Jasmine Lo, Shannon Frank-Epp and Kelsea Willis in the library at St. John's Convent. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

"It can be sort of hectic here, but in a nice way that grounds you. You aren't attached to work all the time, like you can be in your other life. Whatever you are doing here, you have to stop and go to prayer. God is at the centre of everything."

A spiritual director back home, she has been able to apply her skills at St. John's Rehab and the convent's guesthouse, where people often stay for retreats. She says living alongside the sisters has been a unique opportunity.

"I can see God through the sisters," she says. "I can see how they age so gracefully and how wise they are and how they live with one another."

She encourages other middle-aged women to apply to the program. "You need to embrace change, whatever stage of life you're in. It's harder when you're older, but you have to try. Some

things I don't want to change in my life, but it's good to be open to possibilities."

Kelsea Willis, 24, is on her second year in the program and is discerning a call to the religious life. "I was very comfortable with the sisters and they were comfortable with me," she says, recalling her first year. "It felt that I wasn't ready to go when the time came, that there was more to be explored here and more to do."

Before being accepted into the program, the native of Lethbridge, Alberta had quit her job and moved in with her mother. "I wasn't living the life I knew I wanted to live or the life I knew I should be living," she says. "I was feeling so disconnected from everything. I was looking for a community or something that would bring together the person I wanted to be and the values I wanted to live out, with the person who I was."

Her parish priest recommended the program to her. "He said, 'I think this would work for you.' It

was in line with some discernment that I was going through at the time, but I didn't know how much fruit it would bear."

As it turns out, it would bear a lot. Ms. Willis beams as she describes her life at the convent. She is the sacristan at St. John's Rehab's chapel, assisting the chaplain, the Rev. Canon Joanne Davies, and also helps out in the convent's chapel. "I've really enjoyed living intentionally and always with the sisters, praying with them and being a member of the community. They are great women, and they are my friends now."

She encourages other women to give the program a try. "Go for it. If it feels right, you'll know. I've learned that if there's something you really want to do, and you feel that it's the right thing to do even though you have to change your entire life to do it, it's worth doing."

For more information about the Companions on an Ancient Path program, email Sr. Constance Joanna Gefvert at cj@ssjd.ca or visit www.ssjd.ca.

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(Micah 6:8)

Through a generous legacy gift, the church that Jean and William Balfour cared so deeply about will continue to touch many lives in the years to come.

For information about making a legacy gift to your parish, FaithWorks, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation or another diocesan ministry or program contact:

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William Francis Albert Balfour, 1921-2019
Jean Eleanor Balfour, 1921-2008

As lifelong Anglicans Bill and Jean cared deeply for their church, community and children. As an inside postal worker for over 40 years and a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for six years, Bill knew a thing or two about service. So too did Jean, his wife of 60 years, raising two boys on Belsize Drive in Toronto. Walking with God was more than a weekly stroll down the street to church - it meant taking your spiritual life seriously.

Like many of us, Bill and Jean, supported the ministry of the church faithfully. It was more than duty, it was an honour to give back to God, the community and to those in need. Their "living legacy" of over \$500,000 to the church is a testament to their faith, their love of family and their hope that the church will continue to transform lives through ministry. We are very grateful for the generosity of Bill and Jean.

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- The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation
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Turning point came through listening



Nicodemus went under cover of darkness. The Samaritan woman left her jar at the well to go back and tell the others. With mud in his eyes, the man born blind went to the pool of Siloam to wash. And Lazarus came

back to life.

In Year A of our liturgical rhythm, these are the characters that accompany us through the season of Lent. Their encounters with Jesus are a foretaste of what is to come on Easter Day. And these encounters would surely challenge their understanding of life, of themselves and of God. Questions like, who am I now, where am I going, what is my purpose, must have bubbled to the surface in these moments of change. We too ask these questions when striving to understand our place, our call, our vocation in this life.

We have four children in university and one in Grade 10. The number of occupants in our home expands and contracts throughout the year. At Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and during summer vacation, the number of pairs of shoes at the front door grows, as does the grocery bill. During the school term, it's nice and quiet. We enjoy both times of plenty and times of calm. Our children are not only attending to scholastics, expanding their horizons, learning to live away from home – they are also striving to discover their own place, purpose and vocations.

When I was their age, I didn't have a clear

BISHOP'S DIARY

By BISHOP ANDREW ASBIL

idea of what I wanted to do when I grew up. I had an inkling in about Grade 7 that priesthood might be for me, but that's not something you talk about with your friends at that age. I kept it close. In Grade 12, we filled out a career aptitude test that would make recommendations for occupations to pursue. My classmates received recommendations to be lawyers, doctors, nuclear physicists, politicians and teachers. Me, I was told to consider being a bricklayer or a tugboat captain. What? That didn't make much sense to me. Not to say that there is something wrong with being a bricklayer or a tugboat captain – these are worthy occupations. It's just that to that point in my life I had spent no time in construction and barely a moment in a boat.

I went off to university to study biology because it was my highest mark in high school. I loved the sciences and imagined that by doing more in-depth education, something would stick. By third year, I knew that biology and chemistry, while interesting to me, were not my passions. All my friends were falling in love with their courses and finding their way, and I was losing mine. I tried environmental studies, economics, political science and even French history.

The turning point came through listening. I listened to friends and family who knew me

well. I listened to my heart, my hunger, and I listened for God. By third year of my undergrad, I was praying again, a practice that I had left behind when I had left home. On a very cold winter night, I looked out my bedroom window upon the snowy and windswept field that reflected the state of my soul, and I prayed... Loving God, I have no idea what I am supposed to do, please, please, please... help me. That was a turning point for me. Through a series of serendipitous moments, I found myself going back to the idea of ordained ministry. This is the calling that makes my heart sing.

When I think about it now, that high school aptitude test did get it right. I spend much of my ministry tugging, pulling and guiding the Church that I serve to find secure passage, open water and safe harbour, like a tugboat captain. Laying down visions and dreams, mixing the mortar with prayer and faith to bind, to strengthen and build the Kingdom of God day after day after day, like a bricklayer, fills me with hope.

Jesus chose fishers and tax collectors, carpenters and tentmakers. He moved Nicodemus, the woman from Samaria, the man born blind and Lazarus to a deeper life of faith. And Jesus calls you and me through our baptism to use the gifts that God has given us to make more than a living. We are called to bring life to others, no matter our vocation.

You may be one like many others wrestling with the idea of ordained ministry. Listen. Listen to your heart, listen to your hunger. Listen to those who know you well. Listen for God.



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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.

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Despite statistics, our calling remains the same



"The report of my death was an exaggeration." *Mark Twain, ending a letter written in 1897 to a newspaper journalist, in response to reports that he had died.*

The latest set of demographic statistics for the Anglican Church of Canada has recently been issued, including the projection that the last Canadian Anglican will turn out the lights in 2040. With that projection, some feel it is now time to turn down the sheets and plump the pillows of the deathbed.

I am not going to spend time here unpacking these statistics in detail, nor argue that the numbers presented should not cause serious concern or grief. I firmly believe that the Anglican tradition is a theologically robust and personally life-giving vehicle for historic Christianity and that its death would represent a significant loss for the Body of Christ and its witness here in Canada. In this season of Lent, I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic, as I believe Christians have a sacred obligation to adopt a posture of *hope* towards the future; and in light of that posture of hope, I offer some observations.

What concerns me most urgently, as a bishop, is spiritual growth, or what we used to call sanctification. Are people growing in devotion to Jesus? Are their lives increasingly marked by holiness, prayer and sacrifice? Of course, such things cannot be plotted on a graph, yet we must acknowledge that if someone *is* maturing in their Christian faith, it will naturally lead to loving, culturally sensitive and effective evangelism. In my own experience of parish ministry, when the piety of a congregation was being intentionally challenged and nourished, numerical growth usually followed.

Second, the Christian Church has always been one generation away from extinction,

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP JENNY ANDISON

and so each generation (with ours being no different) needs to ask itself afresh, "How are we going to share, with people who have never heard it – starting with our own children and grandchildren – the good news that we have come to know in Jesus Christ?" We have been in a catechetical crisis in our Church for several generations now, and the chickens have come home to roost. And so there has never been a more critical time to be equipping Christian parents to form living faith at home with their children, and for clergy to take the lead in creating opportunities for lay people to be deeply disciples – either through ready-made programs, one-on-one discipleship, rules of life, or small group ministry.

Third, we need a revival in our prayer lives, both personally and in our parishes. Even a cursory glance through Church history will reveal the key role that prayer has played in bringing about revival and renewal in different generations. Prayer is not a program, it costs nothing in the parish budget, and the new believer and seasoned veteran alike may enthusiastically participate. If every ounce of energy that we (myself included) spend fretting about institutional decline was spent instead on our knees, I wonder where we would find ourselves.

Fourth, we must keep an eye on vocations to the religious life, the diaconate and the priesthood. Whenever I have the privilege of officiating at an ordination, I remind the congregation that this ordination is a sign of hope for the Church. For as long as our Heavenly Father keeps raising up faithful women and men to serve in the Church, then God still has work for our branch of the catholic Church to accomplish. There may come a time when God no

longer chooses to use the Anglican Church of Canada for God's glory and purposes, but until and unless there are no more ordinations, that time is not upon us. We must be intentional in encouraging a diverse range of people in our parishes to consider such a vocation.

And finally, there are gifts hidden in the decline, if we have eyes to see them. As resources become scarcer, we are being pushed into local and national ecumenical collaboration and dialogue in a fresh way. Surely this delights God. If our own numerical decline means that we decide to get serious about reclaiming our apostolic calling to be missionaries to our culture and encourage church planting, fresh expressions of church, and reshaping our parishes for mission, then it's about time. If these statistics light a fire under us to keep re-imagining ministry in our neighborhoods in fresh and creative ways beyond the traditional parish model, then excellent. And if the decline means that we are more ready to acknowledge our own sinfulness (personally and institutionally) and come to God in great humility and repentance, asking to be led forward by the Holy Spirit, then bring on the bracing statistics!

While our diocese will presumably (not discounting the possibility of God bringing revival) be smaller in the coming years, if we are smaller but better formed in the "faith which was once delivered" (Jude 3) then we can still be used for God's transforming purposes for many generations to come. Small, diverse and well-disciplined congregations may well lead the renewal of the Anglican Church that my grandchildren, God willing, could be a part of.

While the reports of our death may be premature and exaggerated, our calling remains exactly the same: to proclaim the good news of Easter in season and out, to the glory of God.

Adapted from an article by Bishop Andison published in The Living Church in December 2019.

Has your regular giving become stuck?



I set out with a twenty-dollar bill in my pocket. Attending the Christmas Lessons and Carols service at a nearby parish on the last Sunday of Advent is a tradition my

daughters and I have had for many years. This year, as always, I made sure I set out with my offering ready to be put on the plate.

But as we walked to the church, I realized that, for many of those years, my offering had been the same: twenty dollars. There is inflation every year and my income had increased, but I was still “stuck” on twenty dollars. One crisp bill. Simple. Straightforward. Convenient.

On our way, we passed a bank machine. I decided to stop and withdraw some cash. And when it came time for passing the plate, I offered more than my usual amount. My annual Lessons and Carols offering had become “unstuck.”

“Sticky numbers” is the topic of this guest column on stewardship – the suggestion being that sometimes in our charitable donations we get “stuck” at a

THE STEWARD

BY THE REV. CANON DAVID HARRISON

certain amount, even when our circumstances have changed.

Cash donations are prone to getting stuck. Whether it's a ten, a twenty, a fifty or even a hundred-dollar bill, it is easy to get into the habit or not to go to the trouble of adding a second bill, or some loonies and toonies. For years, I gave twenty dollars at Lessons and Carols. Period. But the Bank of Inflation calculator (a very useful website!) tells me that, with inflation, that twenty dollars should be more like twenty-five dollars now.

And the same holds true for pre-authorized givings. Most parishes encourage their donors to use pre-authorized giving because it is more convenient and efficient, and also because it assures a steady stream of income, even when folks are not in the pews. This is all well and good. But it is easy for the amount of our monthly donation to get stuck and not take into account inflation or any change in our

circumstances.

Even a “status quo” parish budget is going to increase year over year. The Diocese of Toronto encourages parishes, as good employers, to increase compensation for clergy and lay employees each year by at least the cost of living. Utility bills, maintenance costs, repairs – all these costs creep up, and if our offerings to support our parish's ministries get “stuck,” it becomes harder for parishes to make ends meet. And if a parish is looking to step up its ministry, “stuck” givings make it even more of a challenge.

How can we “unstuck” our givings?

Awareness is the first step – asking ourselves if we have reconsidered our charitable-giving level recently and adjusted it according to changes in our income. (And, yes, there are times when income may decrease, and we need to consider reducing our givings.)

For parishes that use pre-authorized giving (which is, hopefully, every parish!), making it easy and efficient for donors to change their givings is key. Why not send out an email with a link to a form every December or in early January? The more

complicated the process of changing the monthly amount, the less likely it is that a donor will respond. Similarly, a thank-you letter to donors who use envelopes and an invitation for them to consider their pledge for the upcoming year is a way to discourage sticky numbers.

And cash. We increasingly live in a cashless society. Visitors, prospective newcomers and occasional parishioners are less and less likely to carry cash with them when they come to church. Some parishes are now offering alternatives – the capacity for on-site credit card donations, a link to Canada Helps, even a custom-designed app for giving. All these strategies make it easier for donors to choose the appropriate amount of a gift.

I'm glad there was a bank machine between my house and those lessons and carols. It felt good to get “unstuck.”

The Rev. Canon David Harrison is the incumbent of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. He was invited to write this column by The Steward's regular columnist, Peter Misiaszek, the diocese's director of Stewardship Development.

A province where all can thrive and participate

This is a summary of “Building Ontario Together,” a brief submitted to the Provincial Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs by Bishop Andrew Asbil and the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee. The full brief is on the diocese's website at www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjac.

As we live out our Christian convictions, our congregations are regularly engaged in meeting immediate needs in our communities, from Peel to Peterborough. At the same time, our faith calls us to raise our voices and our influence on behalf of, and in solidarity with, the most vulnerable in our society.

Your government's theme of “Building Ontario Together” resonates with our values. We have a vision for a province in which all people are able to thrive and participate in society. But the reality falls far short of this goal. A growing number of Ontarians – whether employed or on social assistance – struggle daily to meet their most basic needs for food, housing, and healthcare, much less to be able to move forward with their lives.

We call on your government to keep these issues in mind as you prepare the upcoming budget:

Income Security – Social Assistance
In November of 2018, your government proposed changing the definition of disability for eligibility to the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP). We are concerned that aligning the disability definition for ODSP eligibility with that used to determine access to federal

programs would exclude many people with conditions that are shorter-term or episodic in nature, forcing them onto the much lower rates of Ontario Works (OW). They would fall deeper into poverty, resulting in worse health outcomes, greater risk of homelessness, and even less ability to participate in employment, leading to an even greater burden on our provincial economy. The fact remains that social assistance rates are, quite simply, inadequate: not only OW but ODSP rates fall well below the poverty line. We join with many agencies and organizations in calling for a meaningful increase in social assistance rates, to allow recipients to meet their basic needs.

Income Security – Employment

We agree that a job should be a pathway out of poverty. However, for many Ontarians working at low wages and in precarious conditions, having a job – or even several jobs – is no guarantee of income security. Over the past three years, there has been a 27 per cent increase in the number of employed people relying on foodbanks in Ontario.

Measures to protect precarious workers were rolled back in this government's Bill 47, “Making Ontario Open for Business Act.” While reducing these protections for precarious workers might attract business, it does not create quality jobs that provide a pathway out of poverty. We call on your government to reinstate employment protections for precarious workers, including the restoration of two paid personal emergency days for all workers.

Healthcare

We welcome this government's expansion of dental coverage to low-income seniors and call on you to expand this benefit to all individuals on low incomes. Oral health is closely linked with overall health; lack of access to dental care sends people to the emergency room, and to attempts to control oral pain through addictive drugs. In addition, visible dental problems create stigma and present a barrier to employment for job seekers. As the opioid crisis continues to devastate communities across Ontario, we urge this government to lift the restriction on the number of life-saving overdose prevention sites, and to provide them with provincial funding.

Housing

We have been glad to see the province commit to matching federal funds through the National Housing Strategy, including investment in the repair and construction of community housing and the creation of the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. While this investment is welcome, housing affordability remains a concern. Rents continue to grow faster than income, not only in Toronto but across the province, while vacancy rates have been at historic lows. Ontario is desperately in need of new rental housing, yet new rental housing is explicitly exempted from rent control, as are vacant units. We urge your government to continue to invest in creating and maintaining affordable housing for Ontarians, and to prioritize non-profit

and cooperative housing providers, so as to keep housing affordable over the long term. We also call on your government to extend rent controls to all rental properties, including those built since November 15, 2018, and institute protection against “renovictions.”

Environment

Climate change is already having a serious effect on Ontarians, contributing to extreme weather events, damaging infrastructure, and spreading pests and waterborne pathogens. In light of this, the provincial government's ongoing legal challenge to the federal carbon tax is both misguided and a waste of \$30 million of taxpayers' money. We urge your government to drop the fight against the carbon tax and invest these funds in climate solutions that will create jobs, stimulate the economy and move Ontario toward a carbon-neutral future.

As one of Ontario's oldest religious institutions, we know the importance of building up our common life. Our parishes are hubs for our communities, strengthening bonds not only between fellow Anglicans but among our neighbours regardless of creed.

We also believe that addressing poverty, the opioid crisis, the housing crisis, and climate change are key to building the health, resilience, social cohesion and economic viability of this province. We urge you to develop a budget that addresses these concerns, so that we can all contribute to building Ontario together.

BRIEFLY

Lay anointers invited to training weekend

The annual Lay Anointers Training Weekend will be

held on May 8-10 at St. John's Convent. This event is for individuals recommended by their clergy to be trained and equipped for lay anointing in the parish. To attend, registrants require a letter of support from their supervising clergy. For more details,

visit the Lay Anointers page on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

ACW gathers for annual meeting

The annual general meeting and luncheon of the diocesan

Anglican Church Women will take place on April 25 at St. Thomas, Brooklin. The theme is “Hope” with guest speaker the Rev. Maisie Watson of Homeward Bound in Peterborough. For more details, visit the ACW page on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

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I keep rubber shoes under my desk

The Rev. Beverley Williams is the executive director of Flemingdon Park Ministry in Toronto.

Flemingdon Park Ministry (FPM) is a Canon 29 ministry of the Diocese of Toronto. We are a boots-on-the-ground gospel mission in one of Toronto's most diverse neighbourhoods, and we live out the promises made in our baptism in a tangible way. We serve and love all of God's people, we clothe the naked and feed the hungry, and we seek justice and the well-being of all of God's people and God's creation in all we do.

As ED, my primary responsibilities are visioning and program planning, human resources and offering leadership to our small staff team, fundraising and grant writing, as well as pastoral and spiritual care. Despite the fact that each of the seven staff members has various roles, we truly operate as a team. Each of us will pitch in as needed and I would never ask the staff to do something that I myself would not do. I keep rubber shoes under my desk so when the toilet gets plugged and overflows, as it always does in an old building open to the public, I go in and clean up. It's all part of what is in our ordination vows – "and to carry out other duties as assigned."

FPM's mission is to fight food insecurity and the barriers of social isolation, and we do that through various projects and programs. We have some new programming for seniors and others for health and wellness that will bring people together and out of the isolation of their apartments. But I am most excited for our urban farm and market project, The Common Table. It launched in 2017 and in 2019 we became a fully functioning urban farm with over 32 beds, producing almost 3,000kg of fresh vegetables. This year we are launching The Common Table Learning Hub. We will be offering new programs as well as a couple of weeks of kids' camp, all geared around urban farming, ways to grow your own food, nutrition, and maybe even a little cooking. There will also be new discipleship opportunities as we explore the themes of growing, planting and feeding in the scriptures.

Another exciting endeavour we are undertaking at FPM is providing lead-



The Rev. Beverley Williams in her office at Flemingdon Park Ministry.

ership and oversight of the community gardens in Flemingdon Park. The city wanted to plow the 72 plots under because they were becoming unmanageable and unkempt. We were able to convince the city to give us a shot, and the garden plots were saved. These urban farmers will be able to continue to grow their own food! We are currently putting together a resident-led steering committee, but FPM will continue to walk alongside the residents to offer help in grant applications, administrative work and conflict resolution. But the farmers will self-govern.

Very exciting!

The best part of my job is the people. People from all over the world walk through our doors – refugees, new immigrants, asylum seekers and folks who have lived here for generations. We hear their stories and learn first-hand what is happening beyond our Canadian borders. Our community is made up of Muslims, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, atheists and agnostics, just to name a few. We strive to find our common ground and not dwell on our differences. One Muslim

brother described Jesus as "the soul of God" and to me, that's simply beautiful and ever so close to incarnation. This too is the best part of my job at FPM.

The hardest part of my job is dealing with hurt and fear. When Islamophobia rears its ugly head, especially after some event that has hit the news, the people here hurt. They are afraid. They isolate

themselves further. This is why we strive for our common ground when it comes to faith and remind our friends and neighbours that we are all God's children. We are all made in God's image. We want people to know that they are loved and that they gain a sense of hope and belonging.

I came to FPM in 2016. My prayer was to serve a community where I would get my hands dirty as we lived out our gospel call. I had no idea that it would lead me to literally getting my hands dirty in farm work, but it has truly been a blessing to serve here. And this is what keeps me here. How we live out our baptismal promises and my call to service in my ordination is grounding and tangible. Many of my Sundays are spent preaching at different churches and I do miss being part of a regular worshipping community, but I'm hoping to find a home base very soon.

I have lived and worked around the GTA my whole life. I was raised in the Pentecostal Church but began worshipping in an Anglican church when I was about to be married in 1990. This is where I first learned of God's unconditional love. From the pulpit of an Anglican church, I first heard of God's unconditional love for me. I was blown away. I had always thought I had to be perfect and to earn God's love, but there it was. God loved me with all of my faults and foibles. In 2006, I was ordained a priest and have served in the Diocese of Toronto since that day. The journey between the years of 1990 and 2006 is a very long story but one filled with joy, uncertainty and affirmation as I discerned the call to ordained ministry. I am so very grateful to mentors and friends who walked alongside me during that time.

Without sounding too pious and uber-spiritual, five years from now I hope to still be serving in a capacity in which God has called me. As far as FPM goes, when I do leave this posting, I hope to leave a thriving mission that is financially sound with a solid and hopeful future that the next director can just take, put their own mark on it and make it soar. FPM is a beacon of God's light, and I am confident that the next director will make it shine even brighter.

My favourite passage (from scripture) by far is John 4 and the story of the Samaritan woman at the well. The story is so layered with cultural and gender divides and yet Jesus breaks through all of that and speaks directly to the heart of the woman. He shouldn't have been there talking to a woman, and she was only there at that time of day because she was an outcast in her community. She was a sinner. She was "one of those women" and yet Jesus tells her exactly who he is! It's an amazing story. Here the outcast of her community becomes the evangelist. Jesus redeems her reputation with her community, but more than that...he redeems her very being. I just love it.

The Anglican Church Cricket Festival 2020

A space through cricket for the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of young and old, churched and unchurched, skilled cricketers and enthusiastic amateurs!

Come join your fellow Anglicans across the GTA for a day of cricket lovely cricket! Meet new friends, enjoy food, fun and fellowship. All are welcome.

Date: June 27, 2020

Time: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm (Official ceremony 9:00 am - 9:30 am)

Location: Creditview Sandalwood Sports Complex
10530 Creditview Rd, Brampton, ON L7A 0G2

Special Guests: Bishop Jenny Andison, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown

For more information contact:

Ranil Mendis - rmendis1@gmail.com | Peter Marshall - judipeter@hotmail.com



SUMMER CHAPLAIN Anglican Parish of Georgina

The Anglican Parish of Georgina is now accepting applications for its 10 week **Summer Outreach Chaplaincy** position commencing late June 2020. The candidate should have strong interpersonal skills for working with people of all ages, and will work closely with the Priest and the Outreach Committee. The primary focus of the chaplaincy is a Ministry of Presence at **St. George's Church, Sibbald Point** on Lake Simcoe. Working flexible hours, the successful applicant will be front-line outreach. You'll be a self-motivated individual who enjoys the outdoors. Living accommodation in a camper trailer is provided. Ability to ride a bike and willing to get around to the village of Sutton (3 km), nursing home, community dinners and youth shelter a definite asset.

Please apply in writing to:
Outreach Committee, P.O. Box 88, Sutton West, Ontario L0E 1R0
www.parishofgeorgina.org parish@parishofgeorgina.org

Church uses art, drama to make Jesus known

Continued from Page 1

day during the week to meet and pray as a family for their neighbours and those who do not yet know Jesus.

- Each day of the week, a prayer email will be sent to everyone in the church, asking them to share the email with friends and family. Each email will contain a word associated with Holy Week and a short reflection on that word.
- A “reflections table” will be set up in the sanctuary throughout the week, and visitors and members of the congregation will be encouraged to share a thought, scriptural passage, drawing, image or written prayer.
- In the sanctuary, an audio loop of songs, hymns and recorded monologues in remembrance of Jesus will be given by characters from the New Testament, including Mary,



Adam Furfaro (centre) with members of the Creative Arts Ministry at Light On The Hill. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Peter, the Roman Soldier, the Thief on the Cross, Pontius Pilot, Mary Magdalene and Nicodemus. Visual images of Holy Week, prayers and reflections will play on two large video monitors and a rear projection screen.

- On Good Friday, “stations of meditation” will be set up throughout the church. Each room will have its own theme. The “Cross Room” will feature images of Jesus and offer an opportunity for visitors to figuratively and literally nail their sins (written on paper) to a large wooden cross in the centre of the room. The “Meditation Room” will

feature works of art associated with Jesus, scripture and Holy Week. The room will include Bibles and contemporary worship videos.

- On Good Friday, the church’s kitchen will feature “A Taste of Jerusalem,” a small tapas-style tasting experience with olives, eggs, dates, unleavened bread and small skewers of lamb.
- The church’s Good Friday service, called “Victory at Calvary,” will feature music, monologues and meditations reflecting on the day of Jesus’ death and ending with the hope of the resurrection.
- Easter celebrations will commence at 10 a.m. with a

live portrayal of Mary’s return from the empty tomb.

Mr. Furfaro says the activities reflect the artistic talent of the congregation. “We are blessed with a massive amount of creative and artistic-minded people here,” he says. Those helping during the week will include professional musicians, actors, visual artists and people with backgrounds in video and television.

He says planning and putting on the week is a “complete immersion” experience for those involved. It’s also an opportunity for people to be together for more than a few hours on a Sunday morning. “It builds community within the church,” he says. “Af-

terwards, more people are inclined to stay involved, joining things like the worship team or the drama ministry team.”

In addition to making Jesus known, he hopes the week’s activities will give people a deeper understanding of the Christian story. “There’s such an arc to the week,” he says. “We want to create a trajectory where we go through Jesus being vilified and his victory on the cross and his vindication on Sunday. If we can do that, it creates an amazing tie between Jesus’ birth at Christmas and his death and resurrection at Easter. We want people to understand that you can’t have one without the other.”

Bishop to host conversations

BISHOP Andrew Asbil is hosting a conversation on five symbols – light, water, food, shelter and community – each Tuesday evening in March and invites you to join him on this Lenten journey. Here are the dates, times and locations of the gatherings:

- March 3, 7-9 p.m. at All Saints, King City

- March 10, 7-9 p.m. at St. Martin, Bay Ridges
- March 17, 7-9 p.m. at St. Barnabas, Chester
- March 24, 7-9 p.m. at Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton)
- March 31, 7-9 p.m. at the Cathedral Centre

The conversations are part of “Signs of Life,” a program from

Virginia Theological Seminary and the Society of St. John the Evangelist that explores the riches of our worship traditions, liturgy and sacraments, as well as the art and architecture of our sacred spaces. For more information and to register for the talks, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

BRIEFLY

Session equips churches for Messy Church

Is your church looking for a way to reach families who aren’t in church on Sundays? Messy Church aims to create the opportunity for adults and kids to enjoy expressing their creativity, gather for a meal, experience worship and have fun as they learn to follow Jesus. There will be a session on what Messy Church can offer on April 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto. Participants

will take away the knowledge, skills and materials to get started with Messy Church. The cost is \$30 per person, or \$25 per person for a group of three or more, which includes lunch, crafts and handouts. To register, contact Jenni Feheley at 416-200-8091 or royalstories@gmail.com. To learn more, contact Sue Kalbfleisch at 905-648-0302 or info@messychurch.ca.

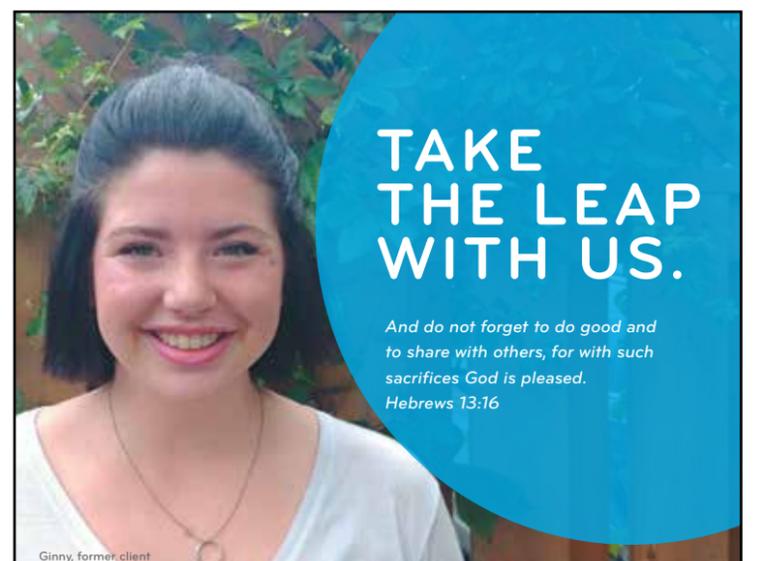
Walk commemorates opioid victims

All Saints Church-Community Centre’s Good Friday walk, The Way of the Cross in the Opioid Overdose Epidemic, will be held on April 10, beginning at 10 a.m. at the church and continuing around the neighbourhood,

stopping at places where people have died of overdoses. The walk will last about three hours and end at All Saints. The church is located at 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto. All are welcome.

Walk focuses on shared public places

The Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice will begin at the Church of the Holy Trinity at 2 p.m. on April 10. The theme of the walk will be “Praying for the Defense of our Shared Public Spaces.” The stations will be in parks, squares and gardens to highlight the increased pressure put upon the city’s common spaces and the people who look to them for survival. All are welcome.



LOFT stands for “Leap of Faith Together” and we’re there every day providing support and hope to people with serious mental health challenges, addictions and dementia. Often, they are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Our goal is to help them live safely at home or with us.

Your gift today enables us to be there for those who need us the most.

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HAPPY DAY

Newly installed honorary canons of St. James Cathedral join the diocese's bishops, bishop's chaplains and dean after the service on Jan. 19 at the cathedral. At left of photo, beginning second from left, are the Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine, the Rev. Canon Gloria Master, the Rev. Canon Hernan Astudillo, Canon Brian Armstrong, ODT (back row) and the Rev. Canon Ruthanne Ward. At right of photo, from right to left, are the Rev. Canon Paul Walker, the Rev. Canon Lucy Reid, the Rev. Canon Darrell Wright, the Rev. Canon Richard Dentinger (back row), the Rev. Canon Judy Allen, the Rev. Canon Joyce Barnett and the Rev. Canon Eric Beresford. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



The large congregation applauds the new canons.



The Rev. Canon Geoffrey Sangwine of St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle in Toronto waits to be installed.



The Very Rev. Stephen Vail, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, gives the homily.



After the service, friends and family members surround the new canons, including the Rev. Canon Hernan Astudillo of San Lorenzo-Dufferin Avenue.



Homeless memorial adds 1,000th name

MANY Anglicans were among the nearly 200 faith leaders, advocates, frontline street workers and community members who gathered outside Holy Trinity, Trinity Square at noon on Jan 14. As happens every month, the names of those who died without a home that month were read out; for the first time ever, the list now numbers more than 1,000. The Rev. Dr. Alison Falby remembered two of the recently deceased as parishioners of All Saints, Sherbourne Street – Ugo (Victor) Milani, a gentle musician who enjoyed cooking and gardening, and Dorothy Larsen, a 68-year-old woman, only recently homeless, who had knit a hat for the new baby of one of All Saints’ staff.

The Rev. Dr. Alison Falby, the priest-in-charge of All Saints, Sherbourne Street, speaks to a crowd outside the Toronto Homeless Memorial. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Indigenous activist Cathy Tsong Deh Kwe is part of the Giwaabamin Street Patrol, which means “I see you” in Anishnabemowin. She reminded attendees of the importance of truly seeing the person in need when they notice a homeless person on the street. As we remember each person who has died, may our eyes also be opened to see those who are still alive and in need of shelter, support and love, she said.

After the memorial, participants, led by street nurse Cathy Crowe, marched to City Hall where they read the full list of 1,000 names and presented a petition signed more than 25,000 people urging the city to create 2,000 shelter beds and prioritize affordable housing. Participants then staged a “die-in” in front of the mayor’s office, among 1,000 cut-outs representing each homeless life lost.



The Toronto Homeless Memorial outside Holy Trinity, Trinity Square.



Maxine Smith and other social justice advocates present a petition to a staff member of Mayor John Tory’s office at City Hall, calling on the mayor to take action on homelessness in Toronto.

CANADA BRIEFS

Homeless invited to ‘pray and stay’

VICTORIA - An Anglican congregation in Parksville, B.C., has invited area homeless to sleep in its historic St. Anne church as part of an ecumenical shelter program. In early December, St. Anne and St. Edmund Anglican Church opened the doors of St. Anne to homeless individuals for a “pray and stay” prayer vigil, which offered a warm and safe place to sleep in the absence of a cold-weather shelter in the town this winter.

St. Anne and St. Edmund Anglican Church is part of the Oceanside HEART Society, formed along with several other local churches. HEART stands for “homelessness ecumenical advocacy response team.” Churches started the pro-

gram in the fall of 2019 after the opening of the 52-unit Orca Place housing complex for the homeless, which did not include a planned cold-weather shelter.

The congregation at St. Anne and St. Edmund currently has two buildings. Worship takes place in St. Edmund church, a more modern building with a hall, kitchen and washrooms. The older wooden building, St. Anne, is a popular venue for summer services.

In 2019, St. Anne celebrated its 125th anniversary with the installation of a new heater, which the congregation thought could allow them to hold Christmas, memorial and funeral services in their old building again. Instead, they began using the building as a homeless shelter.

Since the beginning of the vigil, between four and 15 people have been sleeping in St. Anne’s each night, supported by staff and volunteers who manage the shelter and provide food. The community’s plan as of late December was to have a rotating shelter, with other

churches taking a turn until March. *Diocesan Post*

Land used for seniors’ housing

FREDERICTON - An affordable housing complex for seniors has opened across from St. Paul’s Anglican Church in Hampton, N.B., on property formerly owned by the congregation. DeMille Place officially opened its doors on Dec. 22 at an open house, which showcased its 21 accessible and near-accessible apartments for seniors, including one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments.

The parish of Hampton donated the land for the complex, while the Diocese of Fredericton donated \$35,000.

The parish originally acquired the land after the DeMille family, which owned a dairy farm encompassing the property, donated the land to the church. For almost two decades, parishioners had been wondering what to do with the property. Initial plans called for building a new

church. The parish raised funds but ultimately chose not to move forward with the project. It used the money to buy more land further up the hill, but parishioners were uncertain what to do with the land.

Desiring a project that would fit into the neighbourhood, the parish decided to focus on seniors’ housing after doing a survey. It undertook a feasibility study and sought funding. In the end, parishioners managed to secure subsidies from the provincial and federal governments, as well as individual donations and a \$60,000 grant from the Town of Hampton.

A building manager, property management company and maintenance worker will operate DeMille Place, with the church board and company meeting on a monthly basis. *The New Brunswick Anglican*

Weekly café offers welcoming space

HALIFAX - A rural parish in Nova Scotia is bringing many newcomers

into its church hall by hosting a free weekly Community Café. The café takes place every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. John’s-in-the-Wilderness Anglican Church Hall, located in the Parish of New Germany. Anyone is welcome to come in and enjoy a hot cup of coffee, a homemade muffin, hospitality and good conversation.

Parishioners Clair and John MacInnis host the Community Café each week. Ms. MacInnis first organized the mission-oriented initiative as a way to create a welcoming space to get to know her neighbours and respond to their needs. In the fall of 2018, parish council approved use of the church hall for the café, which first took place that November. The café has quickly grown in New Germany, where there is no coffee shop. Four people attended the first café, and the gathering now attracts an average of 30 people each week. One café saw 55 people attend.

The weekly drop-in primarily attracts new residents and some tourists. *The Diocesan Times*

Big changes coming to Toronto's port

BY THE REV. JUDITH ALLTREE

LAST year will not go down as our favourite year, but as it's now 2020, I think we can say that we made it through, so there is something positive and hopeful ahead for the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario.

In May 2019, our iconic mission building in the Port of Toronto was demolished to make way for a service road to the Cinespace/Netflix studios at the former Warehouse 51 building. In October, we were able to lease new space at Warehouse 52, and we can move in once the flooring has been replaced – but don't ask me how long I've been waiting!

This year will see some big changes at Toronto's port. There will be more cargo ships coming to Pier 51. The usual complement of "sugar ships" will begin arriving at Redpath's "Sugar Dock" in early April. We continue to need Ship Visitor Volunteers at both Pier 51 and the Sugar Dock. For those interested, there are online courses and on-site train-



The Rev. Judith Alltree, executive director of the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario, at Toronto's port in 2019. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

ing available. The most important thing to know about being a Ship Visitor Volunteer is that you have to be able to climb up a three- or four-storey gangway (staircase) between the dock and

the deck!

If you aren't able to climb the heights, there is another option. Great Lakes Cruising has caught the attention of Royal Viking, whose two passenger ships will

be dedicated to the lakes and will begin sailing in 2021. In the meantime, there will be more cruise ships in and out of Toronto this year, beginning in May. While we are often limited by security reasons from boarding the cruise ships, we will begin operating a "stationary station" at the end of the gangway this spring to assist the ships' crews. This is a role for volunteers who are unable to climb a gangway but might be available, with a vehicle, to help a crew member get some quick shopping done. The turnaround for cruise ships can be just a few hours and their crews have a very limited amount of time to get a lot done. This is a ministry of presence, which is a very important role for us.

In the Port of Oshawa, we have a dedicated group of volunteers at our Terry Finlay Seafarers Centre. They are knowledgeable and hard working and continue to humble me whenever we get together. We are hoping to add to our comple-

ment of volunteers this spring and summer. They help in so many ways, including visiting the ships, keeping the station open in the afternoons and evenings, and driving seafarers into town. Unlike Toronto, whose docks are located downtown, Oshawa's port is isolated from the town itself, so our volunteers spend a lot of time driving the incoming seafarers to the local shopping malls for groceries, to exchange money, and for general shopping.

Of course, just to be able to talk to someone is often what the seafarers need the most, to get help and support. Being good listeners is often the best role we play.

The Rev. Judith Alltree, an Anglican priest, is the executive director of the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario. To volunteer for the mission in either Toronto or Oshawa, contact her at gluten-freepriest@me.com. The Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario also operates in Hamilton.

Church hosts town's first Repair Café

Event to reduce waste, bring neighbours together

St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope is hosting the town's first Repair Café on Feb. 22. The church is organizing the event along with Port Hope for the Future (PHFTF), a local citizens group that is concerned about climate change.

People are encouraged to bring their broken items from home, and volunteers with expertise will be on hand to repair them. Anything broken is welcome, including toasters, lamps, hair dryers, clothes, bikes, toys and crockery.

St. John's and PHFTF hope the event will help reduce waste. "We throw away piles of stuff in Canada, even things that practically have nothing wrong with them and could easily be used again after a simple repair," says Penny Nutbrown, the church's Sunday School teacher and organizer of

the event. "Unfortunately, many people have forgotten that they can have things repaired. Repair Café wants to change all that."

Repair Café is also meant to put neighbours in touch with each other and to discover that know-how and practical skills can be found close to home, she says. "If you repair a bike or a pair of trousers with an unfamiliar neighbour, you look at that person in a different light the next time you run into them on the street. Jointly making repairs can lead to pleasant contacts in the neighborhood." Repairs can save money and resources and can help minimize CO2 emissions, she adds.

The Repair Café concept arose in the Netherlands in 2009. The Repair Café Foundation provides support to local groups around



Repair Café volunteers gather for a photo in the church hall. At right, signs made by children to point visitors to repair stations. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

the world wishing to start their own Repair Café. The foundation also supports the Repair Café in Port Hope.

St. John's and PHFTF have high hopes for the first Repair Café in Northumberland County. If all goes well, it may become a seasonal event. The event on Feb. 22 is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will be held at St. John's parish hall, 33 Pine St., Port Hope.



The Diocese is on

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and YouTube.

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LOOKING AHEAD

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

Music & Worship

FEB. 23 - Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., at St. Philip, Etobicoke with the Kirk MacDonald Quartet. Pay what you can.

MARCH 1 - "Lentsong: A meditative service of song and prayer," featuring guest artists Calcedon, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MARCH 4-APRIL 29 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m., free admission, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. Recitals on the following dates: March 4, March 18, April 1, April 15, April 29.

MARCH 22 - Rock Eucharist featuring the music of David Bowie, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MARCH 28 - Voices Chamber Choir; Sorrowful Song, 8 p.m., an evening of choral music for the season of Lent, St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto.

Sales

APRIL 4 - Spring rummage sale with bargains on household items, clothing, linens, books, toys and more, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham.

APRIL 25 - Spring fair with barbecue, baked goods, books and many other treasures, plus free kids' activities on the green, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Cuthbert's, 1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto.

MAY 2 - Spring market bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Brooklin.

MAY 9 - Spring Fling Bazaar with bake sale, barbecue, costume jewelry, books and more, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Church of Our Saviour, 1 Laurentide Dr., Don Mills, Toronto.

Workshops & Gatherings

MARCH 1 - Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent at 4 p.m. with the Healey Willan Singers, followed by light refreshments and a talk at 5 p.m. by historian and liturgist Dr. Jesse Billett of U of T, explaining and illustrating the gradual transition from the plainsong of Gregorian chant to the Anglican styles of today, at St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto.

MARCH 4-APRIL 1 - Each Wednesday for five weeks, Evening Prayer at 6 p.m., followed by light supper and a talk at 7 p.m. by Rob Mitchell and Alexandra Pohlod, exploring the details of traditional Anglican worship, including the structure of Prayer Book

services, the items used in worship, the clothing worn by the clergy, and other features that make Anglican services so beautiful, St. Olave, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto.

MARCH 22, APRIL 26 - Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, 31 St. Phillips Rd., Toronto. Pay what you can. Amanda Tosoff on piano, Morgan Childs on drums and Jon Meyer on bass.

MARCH 28 - Time, Talent and Trivia Night with catered dinner and silent auction, 6 p.m., tickets \$25, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

APRIL 4 - Lenten Quiet Day: Sacred Pauses in a Holy Lent, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, 2182 Kipling Ave. Join us for a few hours of peace and quiet, and leave the hustle, bustle and pace of your life behind for a morning. Bring friends, family and neighbours. No cost to attend. Linger as you like in one of our 10 Lenten Quiet Stations. Coffee, tea, light snacks provided. Call 416-743-1993.

APRIL 10 - All Saints Church-Community Centre's Good Friday walk, The Way of the Cross in the Opioid Overdose Epidemic, begins 10 a.m. at the church and continues around the neighbourhood, stopping at places where people have died of overdoses. The walk will last about three hours and end up back at All Saints. The church is located at 315 Dundas St. E., Toronto. All welcome.

APRIL 25 - The Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women's annual general meeting and luncheon will be held at St. Thomas, Brooklin. The theme is "Hope" with guest speaker the Rev. Maisie Watson of Homeward Bound in Peterborough. Tickets \$35 per person, lunch included. For further information, call 416-363-0018 or email acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

MAY 8-10 - The Bishop's Committee on Healing Annual Lay Anointer Refresher Day, 7 p.m. on May 8 to 2 p.m. on May 10, at St. John's Convent in Toronto. For individuals recommended by their clergy to be trained and equipped for the ministry of lay anointing in the parish. Registration on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca, closes on April 20. To attend, registrants require a letter of support from their supervising clergy in advance or at time of registration, to be sent to the Chair of the Bishop's Committee on Healing, c/o the Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger, 26 Bellehaven Cres., Scarborough, ON M1M 1H4 or by email at j.billinger@rogers.com. For more information, visit the event calendar or the healing ministries page on the diocese's website.

MAY 8-9 - "Episcopal Evangelism 101," a regional workshop to teach Episcopalians and Anglicans how to be evangelists in their communities, held at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Bath, New York. The event is for all clergy and laity who want to learn how to discuss faith with others appropriately and respectfully. To learn more and to register, visit www.stthomasbath.org/evangelism-101.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MARCH

1. Bishop Andrew Asbil
2. New Hope Anglican Mission
3. Archbishop Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario
4. The Compass Rose Society
5. The Ordinands of the Diocese
6. The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (National Director - The Ven. Paul Feheley)
7. The Bishop's Committees of the Diocese

8. Anglican Church Women (Enid Corbett, Diocesan President)
9. FLAME and AWARE Renewal Programs
10. St. John the Baptist (Dixie)
11. The Warming Room Community Ministry
12. St. Peter (Erindale)
13. St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South)
14. Trinity - St. Paul, Port Credit
15. Council of General Synod
16. Trinity, Streetsville
17. Holy Spirit of Peace
18. St. Bride, Clarkson

19. St. Elizabeth Church, Mississauga
20. St. Francis of Assisi
21. St. Hilary (Cooksville)
22. Mississauga Deanery
23. Church of the Ascension, Don Mills
24. Church of the Incarnation
25. Miriam Dobell Healing Centre
26. Our Saviour
27. St. Cyprian
28. St. George on Yonge
29. York Mills Deanery
30. St. John, Willowdale
31. The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, Scholar in Residence, Trinity East (Little Trinity), Sept. 1, 2019.
- The Rev. Shelly Pollard, Incumbent, St. Martin, Bay Ridges, March 1.
- The Rev. Kenute Francis (Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador), Priest-in-Charge, St. Hilda, Fairbank, May 1.

Area Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- St. Elizabeth, Mississauga
- Church of the Evangelists, New Tecumseth
- St. Paul, Newmarket

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):

- Trinity, Streetsville
- Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale
- St. Thomas, Huron Street
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
- St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea
- St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering

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

- All Saints, Whitby
- Christ Church, Stouffville
- Grace Church on-the-Hill (Associate Priest)
- Parish of Fenelon Falls
- Parish of Lakefield

- St. Christopher, Richmond Hill (Associate Priest)

Third Phase - No Longer Receiving Names:

- Church of the Incarnation
- St. Margaret in-the-Pines

Ordinations

- The Rev. Alexandra Pohlod was ordained a priest at St. Olave, Swansea on Jan. 26.
- The Rev. Benjamin Gillard was ordained a priest at St. John the Baptist, Norway on Feb. 2.
- The Rev. Philip Gearing was ordained a priest at Church of the Ascension, Port Perry on Feb. 9.
- The Rev. Orvin Lao was ordained a priest at Trinity East (Little Trinity) on Feb. 22.
- The Rev. Michelle Jones will be ordained a Priest at Christ Church, Brampton on March 1 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. Michael Perry will be ordained a Priest at St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle on March 25 at 7 p.m.
- The Rev. Sherri Golisky will be ordained a priest at St. Cuthbert, Leaside on March 29 at 4 p.m.

Celebration of New Ministry

- The Rev. Irina Dubinski, Priest-in-Charge, Our Saviour, Don Mills, March 1 at 4 p.m.

Retirement

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald's last Sunday at St. John, York Mills will be April 19.

Deaths

- The Rev. David Alan Julien died on Jan. 3. Ordained dea-

con in 2007 and priest in 2008, he served as assistant curate at Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa, then assistant curate and later associate priest at St. John, York Mills. He went on to serve as interim priest-in-charge for a time at St. George, Allandale (Barrie), and then priest-in-charge at St. Bede, Toronto, until 2017. Most recently he served in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as interim pastor at Redeemer Lutheran in Toronto and then at St. Paul's Lutheran in Richmond Hill. His memorial service was held at St. John, York Mills on Jan. 17.

- The Rev. Canon Dr. Walter Bryce "Duke" Viperman II died on Jan. 3. Ordained in the Diocese of Huron in 1983, he came to the Diocese of Toronto in 1991 to serve as associate priest at Trinity East (Little Trinity), later becoming incumbent at the Church of the Resurrection, Toronto from 2000 to 2016. He also served as the missional coach for the Diocese of Toronto from 2000 to 2016, encouraging parishes and coaching leaders to become more missional. His funeral was held at the Church of the Resurrection on Jan. 11.
- The Rev. Frederick Etherden died on Jan. 17. Ordained deacon and priest in 1959 by the Bishop of Niagara, he transferred to the Diocese of Toronto in 1975 where he served as honorary assistant to St. Jude, Wexford and St. James Cathedral, while teaching at Seneca College as Dean of the Finch Campus. He served as interim priest-in-charge at the following parishes from 1996

onwards: St. Peter and Simon the Apostle, St. Bartholomew, St. Margaret, North Toronto,

and Church of the Transfiguration. His funeral was held at All Saints, Whitby on Jan. 25.

Poverty maze builds empathy, dispels myths

Lineups part of exercise

BY ELIN GOULDEN

THE newly formed Uxbridge Poverty Coalition hosted a “Poverty Maze” last November to raise awareness of the realities of life below the poverty line in north Durham. Some 25 people, including local residents, politicians, Durham Region police officers and media, took part in the exercise at St. Paul, Uxbridge.

The Uxbridge Poverty Coalition was formed last June when St. Paul’s incumbent, the Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, Beverly Northeast of the Salvation Army, and Mona Emond, executive director of North House, invited local residents to examine the issue of poverty in the community. North House, which provides a range of housing supports in the townships of Brock, Uxbridge and Scugog, is one of the diocese’s FaithWorks ministry partners.

“We wanted to invite people to see what poverty looks like in Uxbridge, and dispel some of the myths around it,” said Canon Kinghan, noting that Uxbridge is a relatively affluent town where it is easy to think of poverty and homelessness as an urban problem. “What homelessness looks like here is someone sleeping on a friend’s couch, or a family with kids moving into a grandparent’s apartment and trying to make ends meet between Ontario Works and the grandparent’s pension.”

Jessica Barbuto, a community outreach and housing support worker with North House, developed the three-hour exercise based on a similar “Homeless Maze” activity in Oshawa. Participants met upstairs in the church to be assigned the scenario of a particular person living in poverty, each with a checklist of needs related to that individual scenario. They then went down to the basement, where representatives of different organizations, including North House, the local Ontario Works office, the Boys and Girls Club and the local food bank, were stationed at tables around the parish hall. Each participant had to visit the tables to obtain the supports listed on their checklists. Sometimes, after

standing in line waiting to reach one table, participants would be directed to another agency – and have to wait in its line – to obtain another service (such as ID) before coming back to the original table. When the exercise closed, some people were still standing in line.

“The whole point of the exercise is to make you frustrated at the process,” says Ms. Emond, noting that in real life, the “maze” is complicated by the distance between the service organizations, the lack of public transportation options in the region, and limited accessibility. She would like to hold a Poverty Maze in the summer that would actually involve going between the offices of the various agencies, but noted it would take much longer than three hours.

The exercise concluded with a debriefing session back in the church nave, during which participants related their sense of frustration, as well as the anxiety and indignity they felt waiting in line and sharing their story over and over. For some, it hit close to home – making them realize that in only slightly different circumstances, they could find themselves in a situation much like the scenario they played out.

In addition to building empathy on the part of local residents, politicians, media and police, Ms. Emond remarked that the Poverty Maze was valuable in bringing the various support organizations together. “Some organizations didn’t have a clear idea of the services and supports available from other agencies before this exercise. The networking and connections formed through participating in the Maze create a synergy that will help us make better referrals and work together as part of a bigger team.”

She wants to build coalitions in the other communities served by North House, and to introduce the Poverty Maze there as well. The first meeting of the Scugog Poverty Coalition was scheduled for Feb. 12 at Church of the Ascension, Port Perry.

Elin Goulden is the diocese’s Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

of the Church, with liturgical innovation, creativity and joy. This year’s preacher will be the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, the incumbent of Holy Trinity, Thornhill and the founding chair of the Black Anglicans Coordinating Committee. It will include a combined choir, liturgical dancing and the traditional procession of the flags. All are invited. For more information, contact blaccanglicans@gmail.com.



Dr. Edric Sum tests out the acoustics of a Roman amphitheatre in the Holy Land with a rousing rendition of “Amazing Grace.” PHOTO BY DORA LI

In the footsteps of our Saviour

Dr. Edric Sum and his wife, who are parishioners of St. John, Wilfordale, traveled to Israel and Jordan last October with a group from St. Christopher, Richmond Hill. Here he reflects on the trip.

BY DR. EDRIC SUM

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land had been on my mind for a long time, but I had always been concerned about security and that a local conflict might quickly escalate into a full-blown war. I am so thankful that St. Christopher’s organized this

trip. It was perfect for me because I always want to go in a church group, with people I knew.

My overall impression was how real the Bible stories are. We saw how a rock can roll over to reveal a cave. We saw a storm sweep over the Sea of Galilee. We retraced some of the footsteps of our Saviour. And we had a very knowledgeable guide who helped us achieve a deeper understanding, although I had a few quibbles with her explanations!

The most memorable moment for me was attending a service at

St. George’s Cathedral, our Anglican cathedral in Jerusalem. It is hard for me to describe this experience. I felt much closer to God. I had a warm feeling and I had a strong sense of belonging. It was a bit odd because it was not my home and native land. I will remember that feeling for a long time.

It was a wonderful trip, but not an easy one. There was a lot of walking and the sun beat down in the 40-degree Celsius heat! But I felt perfectly safe. I saw and felt the presence of God.

Cricket festival in June

BY RANIL MENDIS, ODT

THE Anglican Church Cricket Festival Committee is pleased to report that planning for this year’s festival is well underway and the event is scheduled for June 27 at Creditview/Sandalwood Park in Brampton. Invitations to the Bishop’s Office and the Mayor’s Office have been sent, and the committee looks forward to welcoming everyone.

The festival evolved from a friendly cricket encounter in 2016 between St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South and St. Peter, Erindale. It is now one of the most fun and engaging community events on the diocesan calendar. Last year’s gathering, attended by Bishop Jenny Andison and Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown, saw nine Anglican churches fielding 10 teams. At the recent Bishop’s Levee at St. James Cathedral, Bishop Andison highlighted the importance of community engagement events



A batter readies for the ball at last year’s Anglican Church Cricket Festival. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

such as this in letting our light shine and works glorify.

With more than half of the GTA’s population born outside of Canada, the importance of globally popular sports such as cricket has been recognized by policy makers in schools and municipalities. The annual cricket festival was built with the objective of providing opportunities for Anglicans from the GTA’s diverse communities to get to know each other as a church community and build relationships, enjoy food, fun and good Christian fellowship. There are opportunities for women, men, children from all ages, seasoned cricket players as well as absolute beginners, as the festival uses

modified rules with the objective of giving all players a chance to bowl, bat and field.

The following churches took part in last year’s event: St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South, St. Peter, Erindale, Trinity Church, Streetsville, Holy Family, Heart Lake in Brampton, St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea, St. James the Apostle, Brampton, St. Jude, Brampton, Christ Church, Brampton and St. Bede, Scarborough.

Ranil Mendis, ODT, is a member of the Anglican Church Cricket Festival Committee. If you are interested in playing as an individual or as a team, email him at rmendis1@gmail.com.

BRIEFLY

Service celebrates Black heritage

The 25th annual diocesan Black Heritage service will take place on Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Bloor Street. For 25 years, this service has been a source of affirmation for Black members