



Anglican Church Women Diocese of Toronto

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ACW Newsletter Spring 2021

PRAYER LINKS

March

- The deanery of Huronia
- ACW sisters in Dioceses of Niagara, Nova Scotia, PEI and Ontario
- Canadian Mothers' Union
- Mission to Seafarers
- Women in Diocese of Bungoma, Kenya

April

- Deanery of Mississauga
- Deanery of North Peel
- ACW Sisters in Ottawa, Qu'Appelle, Quebec
- Threshold Ministries (formerly Church Army)

May

- Deanery of Nottawasaga
- Deanery of Oshawa
- ACW Sisters in Saskatchewan, Saskatoon
- Episcopal Church in the USA
- Chaplaincies in Diocese of Toronto

National Prayer Partners

- The ACW's in the Diocese of Toronto are to pray for the ACW's in the Diocese of Central Newfoundland.
- The ACW's in the Diocese of British Columbia are praying for the ACW's in the Diocese of Toronto.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website: www.toronto.anglican.ca
(under Departments and Ministries)

Please send us your photos and news of your women's activities.

Deadline for next issue: September 15, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends in Christ

As we enter the season of Lent, we are reminded that this is a time to prepare for Holy Week and Easter through study, prayer, contemplation, repentance, or doing penitence or denial. Let us use our time and the resources available to us, to help us in our Lenten journey. There are some suggestions in this newsletter.

Our virtual Annual General Meeting will be held on April 17, 2021 by Zoom. Our Special Guest will be the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls. All participants except those who attend by land line telephone will need to register. Details are found elsewhere in this newsletter. The theme is "CHALLENGED TO MOVE FORWARD".

As we emerge from our Covid 19 restrictions, we will be challenged to "move forward". Take time now, to think about what you value most about your ACW. This is what we want to do more of. Things of lesser or no value can be left behind. Going forward may involve new ways of ministry, new ways to reach out, new ideas and new methods of achieving our goals. We have learned from our Covid 19 experience that we can change and embrace the 'new'.

There are vacancies on the Diocesan ACW Board and also on the Finance Committee. We encourage you to prayerfully consider joining us once a month for this interesting work. Please contact us by leaving a message at the office by email or telephone.

I wish you and your families a blessed Easter.

Enid Corbett

Annual General Meeting (via Zoom)

Saturday April 17, 2021 10:00 a.m.



Special Guest: The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls

Details on page 3

Who could have imagined last January when we first started hearing of the coronavirus, our lives would so drastically change, and for so long? Who would have imagined in March 2020, when a lockdown was mandated, and we waited until September to gather to worship, that in just a few months, and just as the waiting of Advent, and waiting for the Christ child to be born was over, we would begin the waiting again?

Waiting – that is what the year 2020 became. Waiting for a hug, waiting to attend a birthday party, or a wedding, baptism, confirmation, visit a sick friend, share a glass of wine, and many other things that bring us joy and are part of our lives and culture. And while we wait for the wait to be over, we wait for a vaccine. Now we wait to see if we will begin another Lent under the shadow of COVID, and we are tired of living in the shadows of the waiting! But shadows change, move and lift, and the shadow of COVID is lifting. There will be an end, but for now we still wait for that end to come.

We live in a culture of impatience, and instant gratification, in almost all areas of our lives, and sometimes in our faith. We want God to answer our prayers immediately, not tomorrow but now!!! We expect COVID to be over, to be done. We have little patience for things that disrupt our routine and expectations, and we have a new understanding of what it means to wait in all areas of our lives and faith. I have a deeper experiential understanding and appreciation for the courage, commitment, and faith of those who have gone before me, and how they faced the waiting, trials, and promises of their lives with endurance, grace, and unwavering hope.

This Easter let us look to those who have gone before

us, whose stories guide and encourage us through times of waiting. The readings for the first Sunday of Lent tell of Jesus' trials in the desert as he waited for the 40 days of temptation to end. In the Easter story we hear of how long people waited for the coming of the Saviour. We hear of those who waited patiently, as Noah waited for the flood waters to recede, the Hebrew exiles waited in Babylon, Zechariah waited for his voice to return, Sarah waited many, many years for a child, and Mary and Joseph waited for a baby who would bring salvation. In all these stories we hear of how their faith guided and sustained them in their waiting and deepened their relationship with God.

May this time of waiting allow us to deepen our relationship with God and our spiritual practices. Although we are tired of waiting, that does not change the fact that wait we must, because the reality is, other than keeping ourselves safe and following the guidelines, waiting is all we can do. Let us wait together as the people of God, and in our waiting, turn to scripture and our God, who is always with us in the waiting. In Jesus, we find inspiration and encouragement for these times, and the trials we are facing. In Matthew 4:1-11 we read of the trials Jesus faced as he waited for his days of temptation in the desert to end, but in the last line of the passage we read, "Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him." Imagine the angels coming to wait with us as the shadows grow shorter.

Have a blessed Easter.

Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark
ACW Chaplain, Diocese of Toronto



**Friday March 5, 2020
World Day of Prayer**

service video available
at wicc.org
after Feb. 15, 2021

A one hour World Day of Prayer service video has been created to view at home and churches. It is based on the worship bulletin prepared by the women of Vanuatu and then edited by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Perhaps folks can gather in small groups (as restricted) to view the video.

Some Lenten Ideas

- Sow some flower seeds on Ash Wednesday and later give the plant(s) to parish shut-ins.
- Create Easter candles by drawing Lenten/Easter symbols with felt pen on small piece of tissue paper (palm, basin and towel, crown of thorns, nails, cross, coins, e.g.). Spray candles with glue (or paint with white glue) and press symbols to the candle. The tissue disappears and the symbol shows.
- Plan a Good Friday Walk to a place where you can meditate on Jesus' journey to the cross.
- Learn how to make hot cross buns or how to make palm crosses. Share with a neighbour.
- Read an inspirational book.
- Whether by text, e-mail or card, send a greeting to someone who might need encouragement.
- The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has produced a resource for Anglicans who want to undertake a fast during Lent that focuses on creation and issues related to the climate crisis. **A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021** provides a fast for each week of Lent, which begins on February 17 and ends on April 3. toronto.anglican.ca

2021 Annual General Meeting

Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women **Annual General Meeting** will be held by Zoom April 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. with Special Guest The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls.

Participants must register in advance unless attending by land line telephone. Registration link will be emailed to each church on March 12, and available from the Diocesan website. Please share the Zoom phone #, meeting ID and password with ACW members who plan to join by phone.

The Annual Report & Financial Statement will be posted on the website as soon as they are available. To access: go to 'toronto.anglican.ca', click on About the Diocese, Departments, Anglican Church Women, Annual Report & Financial Statements.

Greetings from across Canada

The Toronto Diocesan ACW is just one small part of a much wider organization, The Anglican Church Women of Canada. Many messages have been sent to you, the ACW members in our Diocese.



HAPPY VALENTINES

An idea for a Valentine Tea from Christ the King Etobicoke
(to be shared with a friend or by yourself)

Valentines Day is here and will be
A wonderful time for a "Phantom Tea"
To raise our funds and be work free.
No cookies to bake, no silver to lend,
No tickets to buy or sell to a friend.
Just give with a smile - it's the modern trend.
No worry of having "nothing to wear",
Parking our cars, won't give us a care.
Into a wee envelope please place your share;
And return it by way of the church office where
We will add it to the ACW account
No matter how large or small the amount
To be used in our Outreach is our Valentine Plan
With your help to raise as much as we can.

Paraphrased from a poem written by Patience (Pat) Crawford, Saint John NB for the United Church Women.

A message from our National President Margaret Warwick:

*My dear Sisters in Christ,
I write to you at this time, to send each of you my thoughts and prayers for the best New Year possible – may the Grace of God give you the health and strength to face each day with the resolve that there really are 'Better Days Ahead'.*

Here are a few other greetings we received from across the country:

- New Year's Greetings from our ACW Diocesan Council. We hope that the year ahead will bring plenty of welcomed gatherings of fellowship and activity. Please stay safe and follow all Covid 19 restrictions.
- The women in our Diocese send blessings and good fortune to all for 2021.
- May God keep you and your loved ones in the palm of His hand as we venture out into the year 2021.
- Blessings to all and may 2021 bring us back to a "new" normal. Best wishes for a happy, healthy year.
- Every Blessing for a healthy and successful 2021! My prayer is for Peace for our country!
- May 2021 be filled with the gifts of Advent: *hope, peace, joy, and love* . . . along with doses of much laughter.

In Memoriam

Former ACW Board member, **Gertie Gowan** has died. In 1995/96 and 1997/98 she represented Nottawasaga Deanery on the Board. Gertie was to celebrate her 90th birthday in mid-December with a 'Drive-by greeting' in Creemore but died with a sudden heart attack just short of that time.

"I knew Gertie when we were in Creemore Continuation School and of course we always touched base at other times," writes Gladys McClellan. "She was always at the Annual meetings and Deanery Meetings. A member of St. Luke's Anglican Church in Creemore, she was a very active lady in the community."

Sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

360° Kids – York Simcoe Special Project for 2021

During the Covid-19 crisis, we have had to change the way we support our youth. Face to face counselling sessions have become virtual as have our employment classes. We continue to house youth and provide daily meals, while following social guidelines. Our food bank is being used now more than ever due to difficult economic times. We hope you will help us to continue to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable youth in York Region. Here are a few of our program:

Nightstop provides a safe place to sleep, access to laundry & bathroom facilities, 3-meals (dinner, breakfast and a packed lunch), as well as transportation support. Nightstop relies on community to provide their homes for an overnight stay, providing a safety net to those forced to leave home.

HOPE program provides transitional housing and wrap-around services for female survivors of human trafficking aged 16-26 in York Region.

Youth Residential is a voluntary program that offers a combination of housing and support for youth, primarily 16-19 years of age, who are facing a housing crisis.

Supportive Transitional Apartments for Youth (STAY) builds on the skills youth currently have and assists them in becoming successful as they continue on with their life’s journey.

Every Bite Matters (EBM) is a 16-week paid employment program for youth who face barriers to employment and have an interest in culinary skill development.

Home Base Centres serve more than 150 youth each month who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

YSS Employment Counselling assists youth in reaching their employment goals who either do not require the support of a formal program or do not meet the eligibility criteria of our formal programs.

March 4, 2021 marks the eighth annual **360°Experience**, a signature event of 360°Kids. We encourage participants to spend the night outside your home, in your car or on your balcony in an effort to raise funds and awareness for youth. On March 4, participants will start their experience from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am. The event will be informative, educational and challenging. For more info on the extensive program, visit **360Kids.ca**

ACW supports this organization through donations to ACW Special Project Fund.

Youth Without Shelter – York Credit Valley 2020/2021 Special Project

Words cannot express just how grateful we are to have received such tremendous support from you, our donors, and supporters within our community this past Christmas season. Our goal was to raise enough to house our YWS youth for an entire month as they each discover their unique path to safe and affordable housing. The Home for the Holidays campaign was to help funding the wrap-around supports and programming at YWS, from **Life Skills** department to **Housing and After-Care**. Funds raised was also to provide nutritious meals for both current and former residents, and provide a safe, warm bed for those in need of shelter. We were able to surpass our original goal of \$40,000, and raised **\$47,287.48!** More info at yws.on.ca.

Baby Bundles for Moorelands

In December, the ACW at Church of Christ the King Etobicoke held a virtual Baby Shower for the Moorelands Baby bundle program. It was a good way to remain involved when we cannot meet in person. Now we are working to have a virtual Valentine Afternoon Tea in February to connect again and hopefully continue our support of the diocesan ACW programs.



Supplies for Hill House Hospice

A Wish List of Items in the Hill House Newsletter prompted Christ Church Stouffville to get into action. An e-mail was sent out with a request for specific items with a one-

hour drop-off time in the church parking lot. Items were then delivered to a grateful hospice on the coldest day of the winter.



Imposition of Ashes

To ancient peoples ashes took on important meaning. Job sat down in ashes to mourn and do penance. Those who wished to do penance dressed in sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads. To those people, ashes represented their own lowly state in contrast to the greatness of God. Ashes meant helplessness, a dependency on God who could do all things.

However, in our diocese, there will not be imposition of ashes this year. Bishop Asbil writes, "The Imposition of ashes is not a sacramental act, and the primary focus of the Ash Wednesday rite should be on the acts of confession and absolution. As we are called to "rend our hearts, and not our garments" (*Joel 2:13*), let us enter into this Penitential Season with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, anticipating with hope and thanksgiving the events of Holy Week and Easter, and the glorious saving work of Christ."

Black Anglicans Canada

Black Anglicans Canada is an emerging organization that envisions the Anglican Church of Canada as a faith community that values and respects the rich diversity of Black people who are empowered to enjoy equitable participation, representation and a sense of inclusion in the mission of Jesus Christ and in the full life of the ACC. Anita Gittens, past Diocesan ACW President, is part of the new leadership team.

Black Heritage Service

The diocese's annual Black Heritage Service will be held on Zoom on Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. The theme, "God's People: Grounded in Faith, Filled with Hope, Called to Action," reflects the context of the Anglican Church's response to the issue of anti-Black racism and bias. A new feature of the celebration will be a moderated dialogue between Bishop Andrew Asbil and two young members of Black Anglicans of Canada, Aleshia Johnson and Brittany Hudson. The service, sponsored by Black Anglicans of Canada, will also stream live on YouTube

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

Prayer for this time of pandemic:

Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.

Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours

Let us take advantage of living together as a family.

Let us attend to moments of prayer.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope.

Amen

A Psalm of Salt

Blessed are they who are worth their salt,
who are pillars of strength and integrity,
who are valuable and valued,
on whom the world depends

Blessed are they who are salt of the earth,
who never lose perspective,
who carry on and carry through
and always do a lot more **than intended**.

Taken from the internet:

There's an evening class at Stanford University, in which the last lecture was on the mind-body connection - the relationship between stress and disease.

The speaker (head of psychiatry at Stanford) said, among other things, that one of the best things that a man could do for his health is to be married to a woman; whereas for a woman, one of the best things she could do for her health was to nurture her relationships with her girlfriends.

At first everyone laughed, but he was serious. Women connect with each other differently and provide support systems that help each other to deal with stress and difficult life experiences. Physically this quality "girlfriend time" helps us to create more serotonin - a neurotransmitter that helps combat depression and can create a general feeling of well-being.

Why is a car's windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. Look ahead and move on.

One should keep one's words soft and tender because tomorrow you may need to eat them!

A smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.





**THE ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN
DIOCESE OF TORONTO**



invite you to the

**Annual General Meeting
(via Zoom)**

**SATURDAY – 17 APRIL 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Theme:

“Challenged to Move Forward”

**Special Guest: The Most Reverend Linda Nicholls
Primate, The Anglican Church of Canada**

The invitation with the registration link will be
emailed to each church by March 19, 2021

The registration information will be on the
Diocesan website effective March 22, 2021

For further information

Phone: 416 363 0018

E-Mail: acw@toronto.anglican.ca

toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/departments/acw