



Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

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ACW Newsletter Fall 2021

PRAYER LINKS

October

- ACW members in Tecumseth & Toronto East Deaneries
- The Dioceses of Brandon, B.C. and Caledonia

November

- ACW members in Parkdale, West Toronto and Victoria Haliburton Deaneries
- The Dioceses of Calgary, Caribou, Central Newfoundland
- The Armed forces
- The College of Bishops and Mothers' Union

December

- ACW members in York Mills & York Central Deaneries

COMMUNICATIONS

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

The theme of our AGM "Challenged to Move Forward" is more relevant than we imagined when we first began to plan the 2021 AGM in October 2020. No one envisioned that the pandemic would continue so long, that our activities would be 'on hold' for so long. Now as we plan to resume activities, we must meet the challenge to move forward.

What will Anglican Church Women look like when we re-open? This is the question in the minds of most of us? Will we have meetings as usual, wear masks, be able to have refreshments, organize parish events, or organize fund-raisers? **Don't rush to try to get back to 'normal'!** Now is the time to take a good look at your Parish group and decide what is important for your ministry and your group's ministry. What did you really miss during the pandemic? What do you want more of? What did you not miss during the pandemic? What can you do less of? Should the purpose of your ACW continue to be having fundraisers or should these events become Parish fundraisers where all help? Do you want more hands-on service, more learning or more fellowship? These are difficult questions, but now is the time to reflect on what your ACW ministry should become.

Compassion must be paramount as we move forward. Each of us has our own comfort level and we must be respectful of each other's beliefs and feelings. Some of us will want to continue wearing masks for a while, some won't. Some will want chairs distanced, some won't. We may have to wait a few more months before we feel comfortable sharing refreshments.

Life will be different! Church will be different! ACW will be different! But we can still focus on and continue our special women's ministry.

I wish you many blessings as you contemplate your fall ACW activities and meetings.

Enid Corbett

THE QUIET GARDEN PRAYER

Work in us, Oh Lord Jesus, true gardener
what you want of us,
For you are indeed the true gardener
at once, maker and tiller and keeper of
your garden:
you who plant with the word,
water with the spirit
and give your increase with your power.

—Cistercian Guerric of Igny, 12th century

Happy Fall Everyone!

When I was asked to write a short piece for the newsletter, I thought "What can I write about, especially with the reopening of the churches that has not already been said? My mind went to a recent baptism at St. Paul's. As we read the baptismal promises, I thought, "What powerful words of hope for us in these times."

As I was pondering what to write, I asked myself, "Why not use our baptismal covenant vows to reflect on how we have grown and changed through the pandemic, in this new liminal space we and the church find ourselves. We are not what we used to be and we are not what we will be. Let us reflect on each promise and how we can be faithful to those promises and vows, in a very different time and place. I have changed the word "Do" to "Will" to be more representative of the time we are in now. For more information on liminal space see Rev. Susan Beaumont's excellent book: *How To Lead When You Have No Idea Where You are Going*.

Reflection on the Baptismal Covenant

<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts>

The baptismal covenant as it is expressed in the Book of Alternative services is not the form of baptism that would have been used when most of us were baptized, but it articulates what is implicit in the Prayer Book baptismal service. Each of the promises is expressed below as a question. Take a few moments to prayerfully consider them, one at a time, writing down all the ways you can think of in which you fulfill each promise and how you fulfilled them has changed in the past two years of the pandemic.

Here are the questions asked at baptisms.

1. Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
2. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

3. Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent, and return to the Lord?
4. Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
5. Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?
6. Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
7. Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

Questions for Reflection

*Please resist the temptation to write down how you feel you fail in keeping the baptismal covenant. Try to **focus** on the ways in which you have kept your baptismal covenant promises and how, if so, those ways have changed.

1. How will you "continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers"?
2. How will you "persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord"?
3. How do you "proclaim by word and action the example of the good news of God in Christ"?
4. How do you "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself"?
5. How will you "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"?

Every Blessing

Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark

ACW Chaplain, Diocese of Toronto

My dad said, "One door closes, another door opens."
Wonderful man. Terrible cabinet maker.

A Sign in a shoe repair store:

We will heel you
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you.

A Sign at an Optometrist's Office:
"If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

A Sign In a Podiatrist's office:
"Time wounds all heels."



2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Theme: CHALLENGED TO MOVE FORWARD

Once again, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and emergency measures restricting gatherings, the Diocesan Anglican Church Women's Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday April 17, 2021, by ZOOM. Approximately 81 members were welcomed into our Zoom room for the Annual General Meeting.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from Enid Corbett. The reading of the Indigenous Declaration for our Diocesan Area was given, followed by the Toronto Diocesan ACW Prayer.

Greetings were brought by Bishop Riscylla Shaw on behalf of the College of Bishops. We welcomed our guests and received greetings from: Margaret Warwick, President of our National Board of Anglican Church Women of Canada, Hilarion Mitchell, President of the Catholic Women's League of Toronto, Maxine Hobden, President of the Women's Inter-Church Council Toronto, Anita Gittens, Treasurer of WICC Canada. Past Presidents of Diocesan ACW Gladys McClellan. June Dyer, Marion Saunders and Anita Gittens were welcomed.

The business meeting opened with a devotion by our chaplain, the Rev Joan Cavanaugh, followed by opening remarks on our theme "Challenged to Move Forward". The minutes of the 2020 AGM were presented and accepted. Sandra McPhail, our treasurer, presented the 2020 financial reports, referring to the figures printed in the on-line Annual Report and shown on the Zoom screens. The audited statements were accepted and the auditor for 2021 appointed. The 2021 budget was presented.

June Dyer presented the Nominations report which was displayed on-line. The Board of Directors and members of the Finance Committee were installed by Bishop Riscylla.

Memorial Book

Did you know that there is a Memorial Book displayed in the Diocesan office that records the names of Anglican Church Women honoured by their colleagues. Suggested donation for the inscription is \$20. See the website:

Toronto.anglican.ca/AboutUs/Departments/Anglican Church Women/Forms/Memorial Book Application Form. Copies can also be sent via mail or e-mail from the ACW office.

We are pleased to welcome three new Deanery Reps to the Board, Mavis McKenna (Durham-Northumberland), Marlene Gardiner (York Central) and Martha Waind (Victoria Haliburton) and a new Finance Committee member Janice Hodgson.

Marion Saunders presented the Special Projects report, giving an overview of the 2020 and 2021 recipient organizations. A vote by Zoom poll was then taken to choose the Special Project theme for 2022/2023. The theme chosen is "Mental Health: Children and Youth". Carolyn Atkinson read the names of those women whose names were inscribed in the Diocesan Anglican Church Women Memorial Book in 2020.

Words of appreciation were expressed to the Board for their support during the past year. Special thanks were extended to Sandy McPhail our treasurer (working from Nova Scotia), June Dyer who cheerfully works behind the scenes putting together the newsletter, Rev. Joan Cavanaugh, our Chaplain, Judy, our Office Administrator, and Cheryl Gallagher who acted as co-host manager for the meeting.

The highlight of our meeting was the greetings from and presentation by our Primate, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls. She talked to us about the challenges of the National Church, now in the time of Covid 19 and in the future, as we return to a new normal. Some of the topics touched on were: women's challenges during Covid, domestic violence, building relationships, pastoral care especially to isolated communities, social justice in Canada and in the world, the Lambeth Conference, the work of the Council of the North, the fragility of many Canadian Dioceses, dismantling racism, assisted dying. We were left with much to think, study and pray about. Our meeting closed with a prayer and blessing by Archbishop Linda.

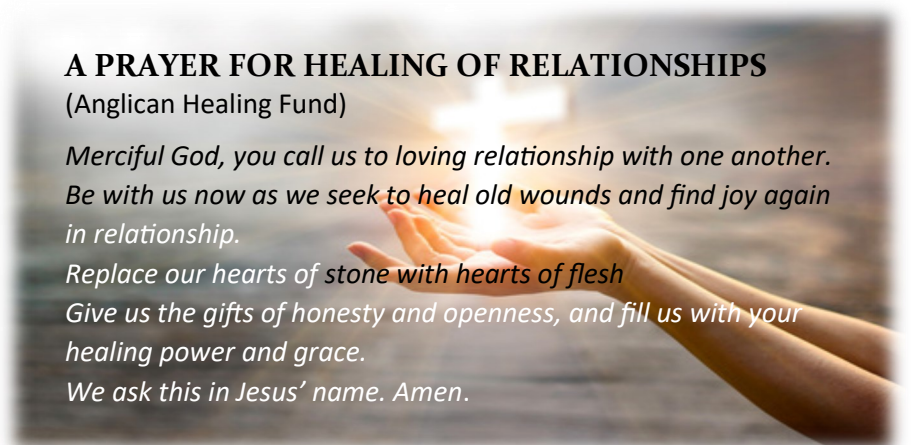
A PRAYER FOR HEALING OF RELATIONSHIPS

(Anglican Healing Fund)

Merciful God, you call us to loving relationship with one another. Be with us now as we seek to heal old wounds and find joy again in relationship.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts of flesh. Give us the gifts of honesty and openness, and fill us with your healing power and grace.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



Homeward Bound Peterborough

By Maisie Watson. Manager

This is a 4-year comprehensive program that helps poorly housed single mothers achieve lasting economic self-sufficiency. It started with 4 women and their children from the Women's shelter and was a joint project of the YWCA and the Housing Corporation of Peterborough. The Y did not continue the partnership.

The program offers fully furnished apartments, on-site day care, upgrading to college level and a 2-year Diploma at Fleming College that will lead to a sustainable living wage job, thus breaking the cycle of poverty for the whole family. There are supports in place all through the program and even after mom moves out to make sure that she and her children have the best chance of success.

In spring 2019, eight moms and their children were enrolled in the program. All moms upgraded their education in time to start Fleming classes that fall. (Technology and Trades programs as well as Paralegal and early childhood education etc.) They lived in community housing until apartments designated for Homeward Bound families were ready in early 2020; later, on-site day care opened.

In spite of having young children and moving to on-line learning without day care for a time because of Covid-19, they all did very well. Many Moms received letters from the Dean of their program, or awards because of their marks. All have grown in confidence, self-esteem and competence. Children are thriving in day care and school. This program changes lives, one family at a time.

The pandemic has presented many challenges for women in this program and for all those managing it. The plan

was to accept four more moms with families in May 2020. When the pandemic was well underway, it was decided to delay these new people because it was suggested that upgrading would prove too difficult given their having been out of school for so long and now having to upgrade on line....so there were no new students to go to Fleming in September 2020. Because of availability of affordable housing being so scarce in Peterborough and so many needing accommodation, the four apartments on Bonacord St. have been leased out. Now there are only 1 bedroom apartments there. The program will proceed when apartments become available with graduating moms finding apartments off site in the community.

In April, three of our women will graduate their programs at Fleming College and be ready to move on to Phase 3 of the program. One woman will graduate from Plumbing, one from Early Childhood Education and the last from Instrumentation and Control Engineering Technician. We are so excited for them.

In May they will begin a 12-week program called Transitions to Success which will teach them skills they will need in order to not only get a job but to be an excellent employee. In August they will be ready to begin a 14-week Internship with an employer where they are mentored and trained in a job. This will lead to a full time, sustainable living wage job. Our goal will have been met, giving single mother-led families the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children and you have been part of making that happen. Thank you.

Five more women will complete their courses of study April 2022.

Update from 360 Kids

Clovis.Grant@360kids.ca

When the lockdowns happened last March, we were forced to temporarily shut down our Home Base drop-in centers, which left youth vulnerable during an extremely scary and difficult time. Although staff quickly pivoted to deliver services in a different way to the youth, the experience taught us that we needed to make more of our 360 Kids services digitally accessible to our young people.

To better serve the youth in our community and connect them with essential items, we have officially launched our Home Base Virtual Store. Available online are items such as Personal Protective Equipment, food, clothing and hygiene kits at no cost to our youth. Check our website for details. Donations are welcomed.

Missionary Appeals

The recipients of our 2021 Missionary Appeal grants have arrived back in Toronto from a visit to their country of origin. This country is one of the 10 poorest in the world and is dealing with political unrest, corruption, high crime rate, HIV/AIDS, poor education and high density living. The majority of the population are farming people. 70% of the population live below the poverty line.

During their time in their home country, our recipients conducted several mission activities, many of which were in partnership with the local Anglican Church. These activities included visiting and caring for the sick in urban areas, food (rice & beans) distribution in rural areas with the help of an international aid organization, and providing encouragement to their home Anglican congregation. They are extremely grateful to the Toronto Diocesan ACW for their generous support toward their service activities

From Council of the North

Dear Members of the Toronto ACW,
On behalf of the Council of the North, I want to thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support. It means so much to the Council members to have partners such as you in these difficult days. This pandemic has shown the kindness and resilience of the church. Your gift has enabled the Council to establish a new Technology Fund to support new on-line worship and ministry. As we look towards in-person gatherings, our Training and Ministry Fund has been expanded to help us connect in physical events. All of this is possible due to your efforts. Your partnership is important to us and we thank you.

God bless.

Bishop of Caledonia, Chair

(The Diocesan ACW sends \$10,000 annually to the Council of the North with your help)



From the Anglican Foundation

Thank you so very, very much for such a generous gift to our Say Yes! to Kids Campaign to support the health and well-being of children and youth in a post-pandemic world. Given that your budget is limited this year, we are even more grateful that you would offer a gift to us for kids in Canada. Please accept my heartfelt thanks to you and to all members of the Anglican Church Women's Board. We are so grateful. With best wishes to you all during these challenging days,.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Judy Rois

"Huge kudos to all supporters of the recent Anglican Foundation's **Say Yes! to Kids** Campaign that exceeded its goal of \$100,000 by \$10,000!! Thanks are extended to the many ACW Boards/Councils in Canada for their support of this important campaign."

Cynthia Pilichos, ACW rep.

(Grant proposals are now being received by the Anglican Foundation for youth-focused programs and initiatives that will serve vulnerable children and youth. We will highlight some of these projects as information becomes available).

NEWS FROM THE EWES (God's female sheep)

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill

St. Mary's Blessings Box.

Spear headed by Lyne Webb and the Outreach Committee, what started out as a Lenten initiative to stock "40 Days-40 Items", has continued on to this day. The Blessings Box is at the front of St Mary's church property on Yonge Street in Richmond Hill. It is stocked with pantry items donated by parishioners. The community is encouraged to take what they need, and some residents have also donated items to the box. This has been a very successful endeavour especially through the lockdown when the need seemed greater.



St. Mary's Virtual Christmas Market & Poinsettia Sale

will be held again this year with final pick-up date November 27, 2021. Proceeds from this event will go towards important community groups like the Richmond Hill Food Bank, Yellow Brick House, Home on the Hill, Hill House Hospice and 360 Kids. We also support our church groups like the Garden Group, Green Team, Outreach which includes the Blessings Box and more!

St. Mary's Garden Group has found getting together during pandemic to take care of the church gardens a blessing. They plan to add a Memorial Garden to honour the victims of Covid 19.

Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - September 30

Orange Shirt Day is a day to remember the impact of the residential school system on hundreds of thousands of Indigenous children in Canada. Thousands of them never returned home; as we have been reminded in recent months, many died of disease, abuse, and neglect and were buried in unmarked graves, while those who survived faced ongoing trauma which was passed down to subsequent generations. Parliament has more about the history of [Orange Shirt Day](#), and visit our [Indigenous Justice page](#) to learn more about residential schools and how you can act and advocate in solidarity.



Every year on **October 4**, Sisters in Spirit Vigils are held across Canada to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, support grieving families, provide opportunities for healing, and create movements for change. See Prayers and Collects, The Anglican Church of Canada



*God, be my resting place and my protection
In hours of trouble, defeat and dejection;
May I never give way to self-pity and sorrow
May I always be sure of a better tomorrow.
May I stand undaunted, come what may,
Secure in the knowledge I have only to pray.*

On-Line Retreats at St. John's Convent - The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

Waking In Heaven - October 1-3, 2021

The title of this event is based on a comment by the 17th century poet and priest. Thomas Traherne – "Your enjoyment of the world is never right until every morning you awake in heaven."

A New Look at Formation – October 5 - 7, 2021

Genuine spirituality is not an individual pursuit but must be anchored in one's local community. This means a constant struggle between freedom and obedience, listening and asserting oneself.

Both sessions will be led by Kathleen Norris. Visit the website www.ssjd.ca for more information, cost & registration.

Easter Greeting and a possible Christmas Greeting

All women at Christ Church Stouffville received an Easter greeting in the mail. It was a sewn 2" x 2" fabric bag complete with tiny handles and filled with a tea bag with this message attached:



*On Easter Day at half-past three, make yourself a cup of tea
And I'll think of you and you think of me.
And when you've finished with your tea, fill your bag with pot pourri
And hang it out for all to see. Then I'll pray for you and you pray for me.*

Thanks to Susan & Eleanor. This could also be adapted to be a Christmas gift!!

From the Council of the North

For more than a century the people of Mayo, Yukon have beautified their church with furnishings that reflect their love for the Creator and for the land, as well as their amazing talent as beaders and crafters. This tradition came to life in 2019-2020 when members of the parish of [St. Mary with St. Mark](#) put their needles to work for their church.

The parish has produced a book called Blessed Beading, Where Cultures Meet; A Century of Traditional Crafts in Mayo, Yukon. The book showcases the work of the beaders and is available for purchase from St. Mary with St. Mark; Box 309; Mayo, YT. Y0B 1M0. The cost is \$12.00 per book.

Youth Without Shelter

This year, with fewer youth staying at YWS to follow safety protocols and procedures from the Shelter, Support, and Housing Authority (SSHA), Toronto Public Health (TPH), and various other groups, we have been able to provide our youth with all they need in order to start their studies in September.

Rather than hosting a Back-to-School fundraiser this year, we are focusing on restocking our food bank to provide healthy foods for our past residents who have relied on our services throughout this pandemic. The need for non-perishable foods for our youth is great, and we are so thankful for those who have reached out to see how they can help support us. A full list of greatest needs can be found on our website along with a YWS Food Bank Shopping List. Please visit <https://yws.on.ca/how-to-help/donate-goods/>