Diocese supports Indigenous programs



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Laity honoured with ODT

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Video showcases worker ministry

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

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From ecological grief to creational hope

Lent curriculum examines biblical narrative for climate hope

BY NAOMI RACZ WITH SYLVIA KEESMAAT

THE Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has created a Lent curriculum suitable for small groups and individuals that explores the climate crisis and ecological grief. With biblical reflections, activities and resources that are suitable for children, youth and adults, the curriculum recognizes that the biblical story is acquainted with climate anxiety, grief and the challenge of hope in bleak times

The curriculum seeks to draw on that ancient wisdom and re-engage participants' love for God's creation and all of God's creatures, not by providing a to-do list, but rather by providing a series of nurturing activities that can grow hope and help participants give voice to our collective grief and anxiety.

"Many of us are carrying grief and anxiety," says Sylvia Keesmaat, one of the co-chairs of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care. "We experience a deep grief for the loss of the creation that we love, and a deeper sense of anxiety for ourselves, our children, and the crea-

tures that surround us, especially as the predictions around the climate crisis become more and more dire. It is exhausting and paralyzing to carry such a heavy burden of grief and anxiety."

Written by Dr. Keesmaat, who is a biblical scholar, the curriculum, entitled "From Ecological Grief to Biblical Hope: A Lent Curriculum for all Ages," will take in the whole sweep of the biblical narrative. Each week will focus on one part of the biblical story: Psalm 104 and cultivating love for our creational home; Noah and the first climate crisis; Jeremiah and creation's undoing during times of war and conquest; Zacchaeus, colonialism, race and climate justice; Paul and learning to grieve faithfully; Revelation and learning to live with possibility.

Each week has a short reflection on the biblical text; questions to guide discussion or personal reflection; activities that are suitable for groups and individuals of all ages; suggestions for action; and further resources, such as books and videos, for those who wish to dig deeper. Options for both inperson and virtual activities are

While there are actions that address individual lifestyles and consumption choices, there is also an acknowledgement that it is our larger infrastructure that must change. To that end, engaging wider-community actions that can change our systems are included, along with an emphasis on creating community-wide transformation in our churches and neighbourhoods.

"Lent is a time when we join Jesus in his walk to Jerusalem," says Dr. Keesmaat. "That walk ended on the cross, but it also ended in new life. The hope of resurrection, of a world restored and renewed, animated all that Jesus did. That is the hope that permeates this curriculum as well.'

The curriculum will be available on the Creation Care web page at www.toronto.anglican.ca/creationcare from Feb. 1.

Sylvia Keesmaat is also offering a six-week Zoom course entitled "Eco-Anxiety and Biblical Wisdom: Torn Between Grief and Hope" for those who wish to delve even deeper into this topic. Go to www.bibleremixed.ca for more information.





Does creation have anything to teach us about grief? PHOTOS BY SYLVIA KEESMAAT.

Sacred Glimpses

New book offers glimpses of church's history

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

A book published by Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa is helping the parish share both its own history and the story of Jesus Christ from the Annunciation to the Ascension. Sacred Glimpses tells the stories of the church's 13 stained glass windows, with large photos, details about the dedication, and quotes from the biblical story portrayed in each window. Video interviews with some of the parish's longest serving members will also be posted online to accompany the book.

The project was inspired by Christ Church's 90th anniversary in 2018. A number of the parish's long-time members are in their 90s, still attending and bringing with them memories of the parish's earlier days. "This book was a way of honouring their contribution and sharing the joy of their faith," says the Rev. Canon Christopher Greaves. incumbent. "We use those stories to remind us of the larger story of the good news of God in Christ."

The idea for Sacred Glimpses was Canon Greaves', but compiling the book was a team effort.



Dolly Lawrence, a member of Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa since 1947, shares stories about the parish in a video interview.

He worked alongside Margaret Wilkinson, the parish archivist, and John Howard, churchwarden at the time, among others. Both grew up at Christ Church with parents who were lifelong members.

AFC April 1 grant deadline approaches

THE Anglican Foundation of Canada's spring grant window is now open and the deadline for applications is April 1. AFC remains best known for supporting church infrastructure projects. However, in recent years, AFC has also become a major partner in innovative ministry and spiritual formation projects, funding visionary programming that reflects an increasingly missional church.

Scott Brubacher, executive director of the AFC, is inspired by all the churches who are doing great work in uncertain times. "There are a lot of people finding courageous and creative ways to do good ministry, and for those who want to branch out, AFC is both a dependable and a hopeful partner. We believe in the vital importance of the Anglican church in our Canadian context, and we're here to invest in that!"

The deadline to apply for AFC's spring grant cycle is April 1, 2022. For more information, visit www. anglicanfoundation.org/apply or email foundation@anglicanfoundation.org.

Justin Greaves, a professional photographer and Canon Greaves' son, took photos of each window. The parish leadership applied to

the Trent-Durham area council for funds to print the book and create the accompanying videos.

Continued on Page 2

Support for PWRDF's Indigenous programs strong in the diocese

BY JANICE BIEHN

IN August 2021, PWRDF launched a new program to support Indigenous-led organizations working to improve community health, take climate action, empower youth and ensure safe water. The Indigenous Responsive Programs began receiving funds that would be given to organizations in the form of grants. PWRDF is happy to report that to date, more than \$75,000 has been donated. Of that, \$12,500 - roughly 16 per cent - has come from individuals or parishes in the Diocese of Toronto.

Three grants have been allocated to Indigenous-led organizations in Eastern Ontario, downtown Winnipeg and Oka, Quebec. The Responsive Programs grant was

created with the involvement of **PWRDF's Indigenous Partners** Advisory Committee. The goal is to broaden our reconciliation efforts by partnering with more Indigenous organizations and provide funds in a way that provides more agency and autonomy to Indigenous groups.

Three grants have been awarded so far, and applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis. A \$10.000 grant was awarded to Métis Nation of Ontario (Highland Waters Métis Council) to reconnect Indigenous food and farming practices to Indigenous culture and knowledge. A \$10,000 grant was awarded to 1JustCity in Winnipeg to fund an elder-in-residence and a harm reduction worker in three downtown neighbourhoods. And a

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grant of \$15,000 was awarded to the Kanien'keha:ka Onkwawen:na Raotitiohkwa Language and Cultural Center (KORLCC) in Kahnawà:ke, Quebec, to support Mohawk language and cultural preservation, with particular emphasis on teaching children of all ages about health and the environment.

Education initiatives

There is growing energy around truth and reconciliation programming in the diocese. PWRDF's Mapping the Ground We Stand On exercise is a case in point. In June 2019, Cheryl Marek was trained as a Mapping Exercise facilitator for the Diocese of Toronto. The workshop involves a massive floor map of Turtle Island. Participants are invited to "walk onto the map" to place name cards of Indigenous Peoples and to reflect the history of colonization and immigration. She presented two workshops in early 2020, and then the pandemic hit. With the workshop being so hands-on, facilitators and PWRDF staff were reticent to move to Zoom.

Then the pandemic stayed, and



Mapping exercise at Camp Huron

the need for deeper connections to our Indigenous brothers and sisters grew more urgent with the discovery of unmarked graves at residential schools. In May 2021, PWRDF redeveloped the workshop for Zoom. Since then, Ms. Marek, along with the Rev. Canon Greg Smith (Diocese of Huron), has presented 15 workshops in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, 13 of them online through church groups.

Ms. Marek attributes the growing demand for the workshop to a groundswell of understanding. "I think it was no longer possible to ignore words like 'genocide' and I think perhaps more Anglicans were thinking about truth and reconciliation as their problem. They're asking how could Canada do this, and they're looking for ways to deal with their hurt. The Mapping Exercise gives a forum for those feelings to be explored with other like-minded people."

Janice Biehn is the communications coordinator for PWRDF.

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

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Memories and light preserved

Continued from Page 1

Sacred Glimpses was published in spring 2021, and since then Canon Greaves has been interviewing some of the parish's long-time members over Zoom. The videos have

captured their reactions to photos of the windows as they share their memories of Christ Church and their own lives of faith.

One parishioner he's spoken to is Dolly Lawrence, 99, who joined Christ Church in 1947 with her husband. She spoke about her sister, Helen Fox, whose children gave a window in memory of Helen and her husband, Cleve. "What I saw in her eyes as she was telling me the story – her eyes just lit up with the joy of remembering her sister as she's looking at this window," says Canon Greaves.

A number of long-serving members have died during the pandemic, so he says it's a particularly important time to record memories of the parish's past. "It has been a joy to have served alongside these people and recorded some of their stories," he says. "The book brought some joy to the people who have seen it, and we're hoping the video series will celebrate not only the past but the good news of Christ and its transforming work in people's lives."

Christ Church is lucky to have its stained glass windows at all. In 1976, the sanctuary was destroyed by fire, but nearly all the stained glass was saved. One of the firefighters who responded to the call was also the church's part-time caretaker. He had a key to the building and was able to direct the firefighters' efforts to save the windows. "We have a sense of the temporality of these things," says Canon Greaves.

As well as helping Christ Church's members share and remember their own stories, he says he hopes Sacred Glimpses will help introduce newcomers to both the parish and the gospel. "People spend so much time looking at glowing screens. Here's a way of moving away from those hours logged in front of that kind of light and looking up, to reimagine the natural light that's shining through these beautiful works of art and to spend time reflecting on the stories they represent in the life of Christ," he says.

Like many churches and organizations, Christ Church has struggled at times to find its footing during the pandemic. "We've had a number of newcomers, but not as many as we would have if the building were open," says Canon Greaves. Still, the parish has built up its online presence over the past two years, offering Alpha courses, bible studies and worship.

Canon Greaves says he hopes the book and video series will continue to help Christ Church share the gospel message in its community. "Stained glass is a vehicle for telling the story - it always has been and continues to be," he says. "Sacred Glimpses has reminded us about the biblical message of hope for the future and for people's lives today."

Copies of Sacred Glimpses are available from the church for \$15 each, with a portion of proceeds going to outreach programs in two nearby schools.

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How do we strategically assess financial stewardship in our parishes?



ecently I've devoted considerable time to thinking about how we can better assess the generosity of donors in parishes. Part of this thinking is motivated by COVID-19, as it has revealed our vulner-

abilities. Another part stems from curiosity. I want to know how averse we are to risk. "Risk? What risk?" you might ask. Well, it seems to me that we are all too familiar with the impact that a slow-down in the economy might have or how a lockdown impacts social interaction, but what might be the impact on the welfare of the immediate parish community if a renter moved out, or the daycare closed, or the top three donors all died in the same month?

Some of these predicaments are unavoidable, but the risk they present needs to be considered.

The diocesan Stewardship Development office addresses these considerations in a new resource, "A Comprehensive Parish Risk Assessment of Generosity." You will find it on the diocesan website later this month. Here are some questions to consider when evaluating the overall health of financial stewardship in our parishes:

- 1. What are your sources of revenue and what proportion is each in relation to total revenue? This question lays bare parish dependence on outside sources of revenue to support church operations. The rule of thumb is that parishes should strive to ensure that at least 70 per cent of funds received come from members of the congregation.
- 2. How many active stewards of treasure does the parish have? I have observed

THE STEWARD

By Peter Misiaszek

that about 30 per cent of our households identified on parish rolls are potential givers of their treasure to support the ministry of the church. This means that currently they haven't fully embraced discipleship or feel incapable of doing so. They are an opportunity for engagement and invitation. Please don't write them off. As is the case in fundraising, a "no" may simply mean "not now."

- 3. What is the profile of donors in your parish? Consider ranking active givers in five tiers based on amount of offertory revenue (if the total offertory revenue is \$150,000 for example, separate each tier into \$30,000 brackets). Then ask a series of very important and telling questions: how many donors comprise each tier? What is the estimated age of donors in the upper two revenue tiers? What are the top three donor amounts in the parish? Would the parish face financial difficulty if it lost its top three donors?
- 4. If we were to segment donors based on the way they give, what would we observe? Is at least 50 per cent of your giving base coming from Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)? This is a critical question for every parish in the diocese. We have found that those parishes that are best able to manage the turbulence of the pandemic have a greater number of givers using PAG over envelopes. Regrettably, as good as the intentions of envelope users may be, rarely do they make up

for the times that they are not physically present at church.

5. Does church leadership give? We assume our clergy, churchwardens and $\,$ treasurers are givers. We certainly hope they are good givers. But are they? What if they didn't give? Those who give to a cause are more committed and apt to engage in volunteer activities. Some mistakenly believe that time and talent alone are sufficient when it comes to giving. If we applied that principle to a great many causes, they would certainly lack the financial resources necessary to fulfil their mission.

There are a series of other questions in the resource. The exercise isn't meant to be onerous or approached with dread. Rather it is designed to be an inciteful opportunity to evaluate those aspects of giving in the parish that require more attention than others. Perhaps your parish needs to focus on promoting PAG, while another really needs to look at the gifts of time and talent that members of the congregations must give. Still others might identify gaps in their public relations

This new tool, I believe, is the next step in how we introduce year-round stewardship education in our parishes. For the last few years, the stewardship office has employed a cookie-cutter approach without giving much consideration to those areas that need to be targeted in any one parish. This needs to change. By assessing the current state of generosity in your parish we can better concentrate our efforts on those areas that will have the greatest and most lasting impact.

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

The Anglican

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Canon Stuart Mann: Editor

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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 Indi nous peoples

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Quietly working to support diocesan ministry

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BY LAURA WALTON

he Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario was established in 1912 and covers the civil province of Ontario along with a small part of Quebec. It is one of four ecclesiastical provinces in Canada and is made up of seven dioceses: Algoma, Ontario, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara, Huron and Moosonee. Moosonee is a mission area of the province, with the Metropolitan serving as its diocesan bishop. This province is a subtle part of the Canadian Anglican church whose ministry covers thousands of miles. As the theme of our most recent synod stated, "In All Our Relations: Love One Another" and that is what the ecclesiastical province aims for in all it does.

While the ecclesiastical province's work is often understated, it is important and tackles many topics that stem from the secular government of Ontario's work. Provincial Anglican input on the regulation of cemeteries, historical building designation and the legalities around clergy counselling have all been part of our province's work. We are blessed that our boundaries generally align with the secular province of Ontario, allowing us to participate in discussions around policy formation.

The ecclesiastical province also finds collegial ministry within its College of Bishops in these unprecedented times. While colleges of the past worked well, our current college has



Archbishop Anne Germond

in a united and supportive way. They maneuvered to deal with shutdowns, changing liturgies and parishioner care. The ecclesiastical province's pandemic work has been critical to the everchanging situation in parishes. The ability to access the required medical input along with spiritual insight and opinions allowed the dioceses to learn together and adapt. This collegiality has allowed for ministry to

continue in new and changing ways. Along with the College of Bishops, Provincial Council also offers both mission and ministry. The priorities it has set throughout decades of work include social justice issues such as creation care, child poverty, water rights, elder care and homelessness. There is a working group specifically targeting elder care and elder abuse that is creating provincial resources that will include the social and legal aspects of advocating and protecting our seniors within the provincial boundaries.

The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's executive officers of the seven dioceses are also collaborating by aiming to streamline workload and reduce costs. They are working together on multiple fronts so all dioceses, no matter their financial and personnel strength, have access to resources that will support ministry and mission in even the most remote areas of the province.

The chancellors are another provincial team working together. They have begun the process of building and training a safe church resource team to aid the dioceses with unbiased investigations and care. They can be called to anywhere in the province as needed to offer quick and unbiased support.

The ecclesiastical province quietly works to enhance and support diocesan ministry while looking ahead to the changing times enveloping our dioceses. Its ministry and mission come from a desire to find new and supportive ways of not only sharing the gospel but allowing work to happen in a way that enriches the parishes in every corner of the province. Focus has shifted over time as the needs and outreach of the provincial church have changed. While the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario's ministry isn't flashy or high-profile, it is humbly tangible and adaptive and continues to work as a support for all the dioceses housed within it.

Laura Walton is the provincial prolocutor of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

Laity receive Order of

ORDER OF DIOCESE OF TORONTO

Award honours outstanding service over the years

The Order of the Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, honours members of the laity in the diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry. We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people who, in the exercise of their baptismal ministry, have demonstrated that "their light shines, their works glorify." In 2021, the recipients came from the following deaneries: Durham/Northumberland, Etobicoke/Humber, Holland, and Scarborough.

Leonora Benjamin, ODT

Christ Church, Scarborough Ms. Benjamin has been nominated by Christ Church, Scarborough for 47 years of faithful leadership as churchwarden, chorister, selection committee member, fundraiser, parish board member, Women's Committee member, reader, intercessor and lay member of Synod. She is a successful organizer of fundraisers and helped to spearhead the first Black History service in Scarborough 20 years ago. Born into an Anglican family in Barbados, she settled in Scarborough with her family, bringing with her an abiding faith and love of God that is an encouragement to others.

Margaret Blackie, ODT

Trinity Church, Aurora Mrs. Blackie has been nominated by Trinity Church, Aurora for her faithfulness to God and community. A lifelong member of Trinity, she is at the church daily, quietly serving as co-coordinator of the altar guild and flower guild, ensuring everything is beautiful for services. She oversees the operation of the Clothes Closet program and parish gardens, prepares the sanctuary and cleans up after services, always working with a smile.

Bruce Cameron, ODT

St. Timothy, North Toronto Mr. Cameron has been nominated by the bishop for his civic and parish contributions. At his parish, he has chaired the successful Our Faith-Our Hope campaign and served as churchwarden, and currently chairs the parish board while a member of the outreach committee and finance committee, supporting the parishsponsored refugee family, and serving as an intercessor. He is a member of the diocesan FaithWorks Allocation Committee, volunteers at Churches-on-the Hill Food Bank and at the Stop Community Food Centre, and is a staunch supporter of Indigenous initiatives.

Norma Campbell, ODT

St. Dunstan of Canterbury Mrs. Campbell has been nominated by St. Dunstan of Canterbury in recognition of her long-standing volunteer service in the parish and community. For the past four decades, she has served in many parish leadership positions - a dedicated and exemplary parishioner who works to engage



Bishop Andrew Asbil delivers the sermon at Evensong on Jan. 1. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

others in the important work of outreach, pastoral care and Christian education. A 2020 recipient of the Government of Canada Award for helping the Scarborough Health Network, her contributions to her community and parish are treasured.

Phyllis Dennis, ODT St. Jude, Wexford

Ms. Dennis has been nominated by St. Jude, Wexford for her dedicated faith and compassionate care of others. Many ministries and even more people have been impacted by her wise counsel and desire to increase the reach of what the parish can do in the community. A nurse of 35 years at Michael Garron Hospital, she continues to volunteer at St. Jude's wherever she is needed, a living example of the parish motto "Our Cause is Hope."

Lynne McDowell Dryla, ODT Parish of Georgina

Ms. McDowell Dryla has been nominated by the Parish of Georgina for consistently showing leadership and quiet strength in her Anglican parish and its work. From a place of Christian faith that began in childhood, she has served as treasurer, lay reader and intercessor, fundraiser and altar guild member, and has recently taken the lead in learning the technical aspects of broadcasting services virtually. As a credit to our Church, she continues to develop ways in which to fulfill her discipleship.

Gwen Duck, ODT

St. Mark, Port Hope

Ms. Duck has been nominated by St. Mark, Port Hope for her steady Christian hand. When COVID-19 hit, she thoroughly investigated all the protocols and became the go-to person for keeping the parish together, safely. In the parish and centres of learning for young people and adults, through hard times she embodies a hopeful spirit, saying, "we'll get through this." Taking leadership in all forms, she brings calm in the face of fear and uncertainty. Her caring and empathetic Christian

heart is a blessing.

Andrew Duncanson, ODT Grace Church on-the-Hill

Mr. Duncanson has been nominated by the bishop for his outstanding leadership in developing and sustaining vibrant and successful stewardship at his parish, which is inspiring to the diocese. Working with the diocesan Stewardship department, he has offered mentoring to parishes in developing their stewardship functions. Embracing diversity and encouraging active volunteerism, his work, and the genuine warmth and enthusiasm he brings, has had a direct and positive impact on the healthy operations, culture and infrastructure of the Church.

Gordon Glandfield, ODT

Christ Church St. James Mr. Glandfield has been nominated by Christ Church St. James for walking in Christ's footsteps to enable the parish to become a missional and outreach centre in the community. Beginning with teaching Sunday School, he continued with the men's group, chair of the housing committee, deanery council and churchwarden, and after successful installation of accessibility functions, was promoted to property manager. As the parish representative for Stonegate Ministry and overseeing the parish food bank ministry, his passion and care for service have excited others to join the church and love their neighbours.

Stanley Bruce Gleeson, ODT

St. Matthew, Islington

Mr. Gleeson has been nominated by St. Matthew, Islington for 45 years' service in the ministry of the Church. Through his work in children's discipleship, singing, churchwarden, cooking, cleaning, driving, property and chancel, he is a continual embodiment of the parish motto, "Sharing Jesus' Love." Bruce is a gift to his parish, and the people of St. Matthew, Islington believe they are most fortunate to have him as a member of their community.



ODT award recipient Leah Springford. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

Robert Hart, ODT

St. James Cathedral

Mr. Hart has been nominated by the bishop for exemplary diocesan volunteer service as a Parish Selection/Transition facilitator, bishop's envoy, clergy coach, and leadership mentor. A gifted educator and polyglot, he works bilingually, currently helping San Lorenzo-Dufferin develop Spanish-speaking deacons. He is a former cathedral churchwarden and Stewards founding member, high school teacher, vice principal and principal. His work ethic, inclusive nature, discretion, kindness and integrity earn him the most complex diocesan volunteer assignments.

Janice Hodgson, ODT

St. James the Apostle, Sharon Mrs. Hodgson has been nominated by St. James the Apostle, Sharon for being a dedicated volunteer who so generously gives of her time, expertise and resources. Always accepting the mantle of leadership when asked, she has served as treasurer, churchwarden, chair of the outreach committee, director of the clothing depot and food closet, ACW member, chair of the mission and strategic planning task force, safe place ministry, and fundraiser. Giving her whole self to tasks, specifically with vulnerable people, she is a gift to St. James, Sharon and the wider community.

Arienne Johnson, ODT

Nativity, Malvern

Ms. Johnson has been nominated by Nativity, Malvern for exemplifying the character of commitment to the Church. From a young age, she has served in Sunday worship and volunteered with the day camp. She became a youth group leader, member of the worship team and outreach ministry, and part of the Steel Angels church steel pan band. During the pandemic she has become the coordinator of the audiovisual team, learning and teaching others to improve live streaming with humility and patience.

Gareth Kellett, ODT

Parish of Minden-Kinmount Mr. Kellett has been nominated by the bishop for eight decades of devotion and support to the Church. Instrumental in the process for St. Paul, Minden receiving historical designation, he has supported the church properties and all clergy who have served them, including a couple of bishops. Always available at a moment's notice to help with services or events or "situations," his exemplary faith and dedication is an encouragement to the parish, clergy and the diocese.

the Diocese of Toronto

Judith Matthew, ODT

St. Margaret in-the-Pines

Mrs. Matthew has been nominated by St. Margaret in-the-Pines for over 40 years of outstanding membership in her parish. Fulfilling many roles, including envelope secretary, website maintainer and Parish Selection Committee member, she is always positive, forward-thinking and supportive to the team. During the pandemic she has led the technology team that has allowed the parish to reimagine its online presence, continue to worship together and build the community.

Linda McGlade, ODT

San Lorenzo-Dufferin

Ms. McGlade has been nominated by San Lorenzo-Dufferin for 23 years' service since the Latin American community became part of the Anglican family in the Diocese of Toronto. Integrating the Latin American community in the Canadian multicultural mosaic, she co-founded projects Caravan of Hope Aid, San Lorenzo Latin American Community Centre, and CHHA 1610 AM Radio Voces Latinas. She is a person of faith, integrity and solidarity with the most vulnerable.

Elizabeth Ndzibah, ODT

St. Joseph's Anglican Church Ms. Ndzibah has been nominated by St. Joseph's Anglican Church for her consistent and dedicated service to the ministry of St. Joseph's. Regularly contributing even when travelling, and present with active participation in services, the church choir and women's fellowship, she serves with tenacity and substance. Especially during these hard times of pandemic, she is ever-present and a constant encouragement to her parish.

Katya Park, ODT

St. John the Baptist, Norway Mrs. Park has been nominated by the bishop for exhibiting servant leadership as a bridge-builder between young and old. Assisting with liturgy, accepting the mantle of churchwarden, and supporting children's ministry and advocating for a youth minister, she has been a champion of building church community. With visionary energy and open eyes to see the will of God in ministry, she has provided leadership to her parish in a time of transition and is a gift to the Church.

Ruth Pengelly, ODT

Christ the King

Mrs. Pengelly has been nominated by Christ the King for her untiring work for the ACW at both the parish and diocesan levels. Her organizational skills and creative approach to fundraising have led to many fun-filled events, fostering fellowship opportunities especially appreciated during pandemic isolation. Funds raised by her efforts have been of benefit to many organizations within the Diocese of Toronto and the wider community.

Timothy Ralph, ODT

All Saints, Whitby

Mr. Ralph has been nominated by the bishop for outstanding service as a diocesan volunteer consultant and seven-time Parish/Transition Committee facilitator. Former Durham District high school principal, now its Board Innovation Officer, he presciently dragged the Volunteer Corps into the digital world of Zoom six months before the first COVID-19 lockdown. Rivalling Jimmy Fallon in talk-show hosting



Bishop Andrew inducts Robert Rhodes into the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

skills and known for Christmas pageant livestock herding skills, he continues to graciously lend all of his skills to building up the Church.

Helen Patricia Reynolds, ODT

All Saints, Kingsway

Mrs. Reynolds has been nominated by All Saints, Kingsway for exceptional volunteer ministry within the parish. As churchwarden, lay visitor, chancel guild member and member of strategic planning and hospitality committees, she is an example of someone who truly lives her faith. Instrumental in developing and implementing the parish nurse and seniors support programs, she is widely respected for her contributions to the life of her parish.

Robert Rhodes, ODT

Holy Trinity, Guildwood

Mr. Rhodes has been nominated by Holy Trinity, Guildwood for his contribution to the vitality and spirit of Holy Trinity. In worship, he has served as lay reader during five incumbencies, long-time choir member and participant in chancel drama. As a fundraiser, he spearheaded the stewardship Faith in Action, Our Faith-Our Hope and Joyful Giving campaigns, and has helped organize the annual Scarborough Prayer Breakfast and charitable work of the Anglican Worship Resources Society.

Lethel Shand, ODT

St. Andrew, Scarborough

Mrs. Shand has been nominated by St. Andrew, Scarborough for true witness and faithful servanthood to the Church and various local charities and community organizations over the last 70 years. She has willingly devoted significant amounts of time and energy to raise funds for her church and has been actively involved in pastoral care, bible study and youth ministry. Approachable and friendly, she is able to pray for anyone, anywhere, on the spot and without hesitation - always ready to be called upon and share her faith with the world.

Audrey Shepherd, ODT

Christ Church, Scarborough

Ms. Shepherd has been nominated by the bishop for extensive leadership as





Top: ODT award recipient Sandra Wilson poses for a photo following the service. Bottom: ODT award recipient Arienne Johnson. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

Diocesan President of the ACW, associate editor of *The Anglican* newspaper, member of the organization committee of General Synod, and Anglican representative on the National Action Committee on the Status of Women. Recipient of two Queen's Jubilee Medals for service to our

country and province, she has served alongside her husband, the Rev. Roy Shepherd, in over 20 interim ministries, tirelessly giving her gifts and passionate service to the Church, to its people and to God.

Continued on Page 8

New video showcases migrant worker ministry

Durham Region responds to migrant worker needs

BY NAOMI RACZ

AT the helm of the Durham Region Migrant Worker Ministry is the endearingly enthusiastic Rev. Augusto Núñez, incumbent at St. Saviour, Orono since 2017. Mr. Núñez's ministry was inspired by the Durham Region Migrant Worker Network, founded in 2013, which brings together organizations working to respond to the needs of migrant workers in their community and includes St. Paul, Beaverton and St. John, Bowmanville.

Mr. Núñez's ministry provides culturally appropriate food and clothing to the workers, as well as recreational activities and spiritual direction. Around 5,000-6,000 migrant workers arrive in Durham Region each year in the spring, with 70 per cent coming from Mexico and the rest primarily from the Caribbean. The workers pick and package fruits and vegetables at farms across the region.

Mr. Núñez felt that there was a need for a video to help highlight the work of the ministry and the important role the migrant workers play in the community. "They contribute so much," says Mr. Núñez. "They feed our communities; they are a blessing. It's not an easy job, it's back breaking and pays minimum wage. It's challenging to be away from family. Some farms are in isolated locations and there are language barriers. The workers are looking for a spiritual connection and sense of community."

With funding from the Diocese of Toronto, Mr. Núñez has been







Top: The Rev. Augusto Núñez speaks about the Durham Regional Migrant Worker Ministry in a still from the new video. Bottom left: Migrant workers pack asparagus. Bottom right: The Rev. Augusto Núñez distributes food to migrant workers.

able to realize his vision of a well-produced video. However, the pandemic did present some obstacles. "It would have been nice to show the dinners, get-togethers and sports events we used to have. We were limited in terms of being able to show all that we do, but it's still been a good year, we have adapted, and we were able to hold services at the farms."

Despite the limitations presented by COVID-19, Mr. Núñez is using

the video at every opportunity. It was showcased at last year's Outreach and Advocacy Conference and Mr. Núñez says he's been hearing good things about the video. "I'm really pleased with the video. Hopefully it will get more partners and volunteers to support us, and it will encourage other Anglican parishes to initiate similar outreach programs. The theme of Synod 2021 was 'Love Thy Neighbour;' the workers are

our neighbours. The bible says to be good to the stranger. We have to be caring, especially towards migrant workers." As Mr. Núñez says at the end of the video: "If you see any of the migrant workers in your town, your community, say to them, 'hola.' That will make them feel welcome and special."

The new Durham Region Migrant Workers Ministry video can be viewed on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCJXxC7zVl8.

Ping pong relay sets new record for church

St. Christopher, Richmond Hill raises over \$37,000

BY NAOMI RACZ

ON Saturday, October 23, 2021, St. Christopher, Richmond Hill hosted its 4th annual ping pong relay for FaithWorks.

For several years, the church has hosted ping pong events every day except Monday, for parishioners and members of the wider community. In 2018, the church decided to put those hours of practice to use by raising money for FaithWorks. As FaithWorks was supporting 18 charities, the church decided to play ping pong for 18 hours, non-stop over two days, with each person playing for one to two hours. The goal in that first year was to raise \$6,000. The church ended up raising \$8,000.

It is a pattern that has continued ever since, with the ping pong relay exceeding the fundraising goal every year, despite some setbacks. In 2019, St. Christopher again decided to set the goal at \$6,000 and this time they raised \$10,000. So, the following year, 2021, the goal was \$10,000 and a date was set for March.

Of course, as the pandemic emerged it became clear that the event couldn't go ahead. But many parishioners had already collected donations, so instead of cancelling, the church decided to get creative. The relay was postponed until November, when it was hosted on Zoom. Participants could no longer play ping pong against one another, so instead, they had to play "keep up" with a paddle and ball in their own homes. Once again, the relay exceeded its fundraising goal and raised \$18,000.

In 2021, to meet the challenge for FaithWorks's 25th anniversary of increasing its giving by 1 per cent, St. Christopher increased its target to \$24,500

Twelve players, ranging in ages from 14 to 89, took part. The relay began with opening remarks from Bishop Andrew Asbil, prayer



A parishioner of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill plays "keep up" with a frying pan.

and a video about FaithWorks. Then the relay began, as did the hijinks. "Fundraising has to be fun!" said the Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der, incumbent at St. Christopher. There were challenges and games throughout the relay, including bible phrases to recite. One participant set himself the "challenge" of praising his wife throughout the relay, while another used a frying

pan in place of a ping pong paddle.

In just two hours, \$5,622 had been raised. After adding up all the pledges, the church had reached over \$32,000 by the end of the day alone. Donations continued to pour in after the event. The next day, during worship, the offering plates were so full that many donation envelopes fell to the floor after the sidesperson raised the

plates during the presentation of the gifts. The final amount raised was \$37,411.

"We all witnessed how amazing God is," said Canon Der. "Truly God's blessing overflowed our cup. St. Christopher's appreciates and supports all our frontline workers. We are grateful that we can bring more blessings to many who are in need!"

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PRAYER CYCLE

FOR FEBRUARY

- 1. St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg
- 2. St. Paul, Newmarket
- 3. Trinity Church, Aurora
- 4. The Rev. Canon John Anderson, Canon Pastor & the Rev. Susan Haig, Deputy Canon Pastor
- 5. The Diocesan Response Team 6. Bishop's Committee on Interfaith
- Ministry
- 7. Holy Spirit of Peace
- 8. St. Bride, Clarkson
- 9. Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
- 10. St. Elizabeth Church, Mississauga
- 11. St. Francis of Assisi 12. St. Hilary (Cooksville)
- 13. Mississauga Deanery
- 14. St. John the Baptist (Dixie)
- 15. St. Peter (Erindale)
- 16. St. Thomas a Becket (Erin Mills South)
- 17. Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit
- 18. Trinity, Streetsville
- 19. All Saints, Whitby
- 20. Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
- 21. Family Ministries

SPACE FOR RENT

Please email office@ trinityguildwood.org 416-261-9503

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

FEB. 6 - Accession Evensong at 4 p.m., marking the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with Music for Royal Occasions and a short talk by historian Dr. Jim Leatch. Join in person at St. Olave, Bloor and Windermere, Toronto, or online on YouTube. For more details, please call 416-769-5686 or go to stolaves.ca.

FEB. 20 - Black History Month service at 10:30am with guest speaker and special music. For more details, please call 416-261-9503 or go to trinityguildwood.org.

FEB. 21 - Drive Thru Family Day Winter Fair at 1 p.m. with music, a community scavenger hunt, prizes and more. This event is suitable for all ages, from babies to seniors. Join us at Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildwood. For more details, please call 416-261-9503 or go to trinityguildwood.org.

22. The Clergy of the Diocese of **Toronto**

- 23. Ascension, Port Perry
- 24. Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa
- 25. St. George Memorial, Oshawa 26. St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)
- **27. BLACC Anglicans**
- 28. St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Beverley Williams, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese, Jan. 1.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges, Jan. 21.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Canon Mary Conliffe.

Bishop's Direct **Appointment Process**

- (receiving names):
- · All Saints, King City
- · Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach
- Havergal College Chaplain

Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):

- · Christ Church, Bolton
- Holy Trinity, Trinity Square
- · Holy Trinity, Thornhill · Nativity, Malvern
- St. Dunstan of Canterbury
- · St. Cyprian
- St. Peter, Erindale

Second Phase - (receiving names via Area Bishop): N/A

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names): N/A

Celebrations of New Ministry

(Dates pending) **Trent Durham**

· The Rev. Alvardo Adderley

– Incumbent of the Parish of Fenelon Falls & Coboconk

- The Rev. Stephanie Douglas-Bowman – Incumbent of St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering
- · The Rev. Peter Gachira -Incumbent of the Parish of Lakefield
- The Rev. Benjamin Gillard – Priest-in-Charge of St. Thomas, Brooklin
- The Rev. Lee McNaughton Priest-in-Charge of St. Paul, Brighton
- The Rev. William Roberts Priest-in-Charge of St. Mark, Port Hope
- The Rev. Jennifer Schick Incumbent of All Saints, Whithy
- The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt Incumbent of St. Paul, Lindsay

York-Credit Valley

- The Rev. Jacqueline Daley -Incumbent of St. Margaret, New Toronto
- The Rev. Robert Hurkmans - Incumbent of Trinity, Streetsville
- The Rev. Pam Prideaux Incumbent of St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea

York-Scarborough

- The Rev. Sherri Golisky Priest-in-Charge of St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole
- The Rev. Alison Hari-Singh Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew by-the-Lake
- The Rev. Andrew Kaye Incumbent of St. Margaret in-the-Pines
- The Rev. Andrew MacDonald - Priest-in-Charge of St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff

- The Rev. Michael Perry – Priest-in-Charge of Transfiguration
- The Rev. Dr. Irwin Sikha Priest-in-Charge of St. Bede

York-Simcoe

- The Rev. Eyad Ajji Priest-in-Charge of Evangelists, New Tecumseth
- The Rev. Gregory Fiennes-Clinton - Priest-in-Charge. Parish of Lloydtown
- The Rev. Ian LaFleur Incumbent of St. Stephen, Maple
- The Rev. Ken McClure -Incumbent of St. George, Allandale

Retirement

· The Rev. Joan Wilson's last Sunday at St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese was Dec. 26, 2021.

Deaths

- Mrs. Marie (Mari) Pryce died on Jan. 1, 2022. Mrs. Pryce was the widow of the Rt. Rev. Taylor Pryce, Suffragan Bishop of Toronto from 1985-2000. Her funeral took place at St. George, Allandale (Barrie) on Jan. 4.
- The Rev. Jeffrey Donnelly died in January in British Columbia. Ordained in the Diocese of California in 2006, he served as incumbent at the parish of St. Peter, Oshawa from 2010 to 2015 before moving to take up a new ministry in the Diocese of Kootenay. A service was held on Jan. 8 at the parish of Kokanee in Nelson, BC.

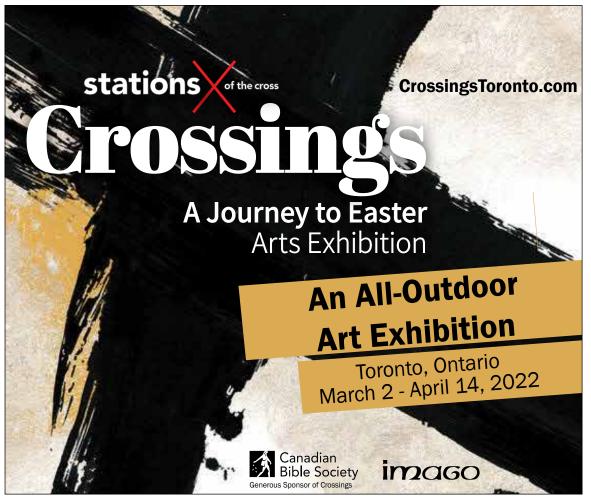






"PURSES FOR A SISTER"

For much of November 2021, the parish of St. Paul, Newmarket filled up its rectory rooms with purses for women in need. The initiative, "Purses for a Sister," gathered new and gently used purses, which were then filled with supplies. Teams of volunteers either brought in purses, or various supplies and toiletry items to fill the purses in what quickly became an assembly line. Around 266 purses were stuffed full of personal products and a few extras. The filled purses were then loaded into a van and delivered by the local police, who volunteered their time to collect and distribute the purses to women's shelters in the area. St. Paul, Newmarket would like to thank the parishioners and many women from the wider community who we were able to support this outreach ministry. PHOTO BY CHRIS PARSONS.



Sisterhood of St. John the Divine expands its ministry online

Zoom retreats and virtual quiet days garner attendees across Canada

BY NAOMI RACZ

THE Sisterhood of St. John the Divine is a monastic community founded in Toronto in 1884 and the Mother House, St. John's Convent, is still based in Toronto. The Sisterhood offers several paths into exploring the spiritual life and monastic community. Those looking for a longer-term commitment to the Sisterhood can become an associate or oblate, and there's also the companion program that allows women to spend a year living and praying with the sisters and offering their service to the community. Through their "food for the soul" program the sisters offer regular workshops, courses, multi-day retreats and quiet days.

At one time the Sisterhood had branch houses across Canada, as well as in New York. However, the last remaining branch house, St. John's House in Victoria, closed in 2020 due to the pandemic restrictions. The guest house at St. John's Convent also had to close to visitors, and the sisters were no longer able to travel to facilitate retreats and quiet days. But Sister Doreen McGuff who has been in communion since 1965, can see the positive side of this situation. "We had to close our guest house but, in a sense, we have opened it up. We now have an online guest house that attracts people around the world who wouldn't otherwise have been able to get involved or attend our events."

Thanks to the Sisterhood's drive to serve the needs of their community, and with some help from their postulants, they are now able to offer a wide range of online workshops, retreats and quiet days. Their companion program is also available online and they have been livestreaming evensong, with a growing congregation in attendance.

Sister Doreen has run four virtual quiet days on Zoom and though she recognizes that not everyone is willing to use Zoom, the experience has been overwhelmingly positive. The quiet days begin with admitting the 30 to 40 participants into the Zoom call. This can take a long time! Participants then have the chance to meet each other. There is typically 30 minutes of conversation time, and participants have commented to Sister Doreen on how wonderful they've found meeting people from other provinces and countries. There is then a quiet day address followed by 30 minutes of silence, then another address, followed by one hour of silence and finally a third address and another 30 minutes of silence. At the end there's time to talk and reflect as well as prayer.

Sister Doreen believes the at-home quiet days serve a useful purpose: "People need to get used to using their own homes as a quiet space. There will always be distractions, even in a church, the hard pews can be distracting." The online quiet days seem to be working well. "Zoom doesn't provide the intimacy to relate in a close way, but it gives me the opportunity to help more people than if I had to travel."

Dorothy Dahli lives in Victoria and became an associate of the Sisterhood in 2011. She has since deepened her commitment and is now an oblate. As part of her commitment as an oblate, Ms. Dahli is required to be in retreat at least five days annually. She used to attend retreats and quiet days at St. Johns House in Victoria and enjoyed the experience of a very personal quiet time in communion with others, but she has embraced the online quiet days since the pandemic started.

"They are very similar to the ones we had in-house. It's very personal; there are no breakout rooms, you say 'hello' and then you are muted. You don't need to have anything to say at the end of the day. The sisters bring reflections that readily speak to each of the attendees personally. Sister Doreen makes you feel gathered. It's a blessing to have a day like that.'

Ms. Dahli echoes Sister Doreen's sentiments about the need for creating a quiet space at home "We need to be able to have these kinds of quiet times in our own homes, we don't often create that space... A few people have said they'd lost the discipline of doing prayer, bible readings and quiet time. The online quiet days have gotten people back into that rhythm." She also believes it is important to continue offering retreats and workshops online. "I like the idea that anyone can join whereas before it was only a few people. I hope we can get together in-person again but considering how difficult travel is I also hope they will continue online.'

The Sisterhood certainly seems to be committed to offering its workshops, courses, retreats and quiet days online, with online events advertised on their website through May 2022. "I really think we will never go back to not having things online," says Sister Doreen. "I see the convent in Toronto as available for people nearby. But what about all the people not nearby? People would travel around to do quiet days and retreats, but you didn't have the chance to meet as many people. We are a community for the Canadian church. We need to be 100 per cent enthusiastic about that. Covid forced us to be available to people all over the place. It's been a blessing. I hope it stays this way; it has to be."

We give thanks to God for the work and witness of these faithful people

Continued from Page 5

Leah Springford, ODT

All Saints, King City Mrs. Springford has been nominated by All Saints, King City for her unique ministry of prayer - using Zoom to create a spiritual sanctuary and prayer centre for the parish during the pandemic. Having served for almost 40 years as chorister. churchwarden, catering team member and lay anointer, she emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic as a spiritual leader who nourished the parish's life of prayer and maintained its hope and sense of community. A calm and wise lay leader, her luminous spirituality is a beacon of

Janet Stapleton, ODT

encouragement for all.

St. Peter, Cobourg

Ms. Stapleton has been nominated by St. Peter, Cobourg for her steadfast commitment to guiding children towards Jesus through engaging lessons, creative Vacation Bible Schools, and a lively kids' club. During the pandemic, she has ensured the children keep learning through emails and packages of activities delivered to their doorstep on Sunday mornings. Skillfully and energetically leading volunteer teams to cook and deliver weekly meals to 130 people for the parish's Thursday Night Light ministry, her love of Jesus and creativity make miraculous things happen.

Verna Stellinga, ODT

Parish of Roche's Point Ms. Stellinga has been nominated by the Parish of Roche's Point for being a consummate lay reader and liturgical assistant and outstanding nursing home volunteer. Calling her volunteer work



Attendees applaud the ODT recipients. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

"her life," she has always been willing to serve, sharing her beautiful voice and remarkable diction. She has been faithful to the call to inspire her hearers, developing relationships and ensuring paths are made to get people to worship services.

Ann Wainwright, ODT

St. Clement, Eglinton

Ms. Wainwright has been nominated by the bishop for active service and leadership in the Church for 61 years and counting. As the first female churchwarden at her parish in 1979, she continued serving as administrator of the board of management for Holy Trinity, Bishop's Court Clerk, diocesan Secretary of Synod, and member of St. David's Towers Corporation. Underlying her many practical achievements is her steadfast care of others, ready to respond when

anybody is in need.

Michael Shane Watson, ODT

St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope Mr. Watson has been nominated by St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope for humbly demonstrating servant leadership within the parish, deanery, diocese and community. He helps others in deepening and sharing their faith through worship, Christian education and spiritual development. Actively involved in the St. John's community spiritual park and garden project and Green Wood Coalition street level organization, he is responsive to God's calling to mission by serving organizations that address social justice and the needs of the marginalized.

Joycelyn Williams, ODT St. Margaret in-the-Pines

Mrs. Williams has been nominated by the bishop for exceptional service as a diocesan volunteer consultant and Growing Health Stewards coach, and for her leadership in liturgical dance. Designing a course called "Good Sense Money Management" for her parish to bring it back to financial and administrative health, her ministry and commitment to her faith may be summed up in her personal message: "We are given gifts and talents to share with others, and if asked it's my pleasure and joy to serve my Saviour and his people; especially the wider Church."

Sandra Wilson, ODT

St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale Mrs. Wilson has been nominated by St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale for generously giving her time and talents to church ministry for over four decades. Auditor, reader, greeter, counter, lay anointer, lay pastoral visitor, book club leader and trainer, she is always available to help with parish events and outreach. Prayerful, faithful and grateful to God, she is a respected and loved member of her parish who visibly lives out the gospel message.

Betty Ann Wood, ODT

St. Saviour, Orono

Mrs. Wood has been nominated by St. Saviour, Orono for her leadership and service spanning six decades. With deep Anglican family roots, her children have grown to serve in their churches and communities, as she led and served children in the parish and community and took on every role the parish had to offer alongside her husband, Tony. With warmth extending to every person in the church and local community, her smile lights our way.