



ACW Newsletter Lent 2023

Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

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PRAYER LINKS

April

Deaneries of North Peel, Nottawasaga
ACW Sisters in the Dioceses of
Kootenay, Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of
Mishamikowiesh, Montreal
Threshold Ministries, The Anglican
Foundation of Canada

May

Deaneries of Oshawa, Parkdale-West
Toronto
ACW Sisters in the Dioceses of
Moosonee, New Westminster, Niagara,
The Council of the North

June

Deaneries of Peterborough, Scarborough
Our ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Nova
Scotia & PEI, Ontario, Ottawa
Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Episcopal Church in the USA

NATIONAL PRAYER PARTNERS

The ACW's in the Diocese of Toronto are
to pray for the ACW's in the Diocese of
Ottawa.

The ACW's in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle
are praying for the ACW's in the Diocese
of Toronto.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women 2022

Christ Church Stouffville recognizes the amazing
achievement of parishioner, Hope Franklin, who was
chosen as one of the 100 Accomplished Black
Canadian Women for 2022.

Hope Franklin's over 40-year journey as a dedicated
volunteer, can be traced back to her early days as a
Girl Guide in Kingston, Jamaica, and continued in
Canada as she worked as a Protection and Social
Services worker and continued to volunteer for
organizations helping women and victims of domestic
abuse and as an ESL teacher for newcomers to
Canada

She is a founding member of Black History Month
Committee for Christ Church, and has organized
several educational events, speakers, and cultural
celebrations, shining a bright light on the historical
and contemporary contributions of Black women and
girls for over two decades.

In November 2013, she was
honoured as the recipient of
the Christ Church Anglican
Church Women (ACW)
Woman of the Year Award.

For more information see the
100ABC Women website:
100abcwomen.ca



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

Deadline for next issue September 15, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ

The theme of this year's Annual General Meeting is "Having Faith". The ancient meanings of faith are being used – faithfulness and trust. As Marcus Borg says in his book *"Speaking Christian"*, faith "liberates us from anxiety" and "frees us for transformation in this life". "Faithfulness leads us to pay attention to our relationship to God".

The guest speaker for our AGM will be the Venerable Lydia Constant from the Henry Budd College for Ministry in The Pas, Manitoba. She has been involved at the College in various capacities since its founding in 1980. She will be interviewed by the Reverend Dr Kara Mandryk, Coordinator of the College, to talk about how, during her faith journey, she has related Christian tradition with her own culture. This is part of all the courses at the College. Lydia serves as the College elder and is a faculty member. Ordained in 1987, she has served in Parish ministry as well as ministry to the community. She also serves as a consulting elder in the Cree language for the Opaskwayak Educational Authority.

"Having Faith" can also be a focus for this year's Lenten journey. During Lent through prayer, charity and self-sacrifice (to reduce distractions and to focus more on God), we can focus on our need for God's forgiveness, repenting and receiving God's mercy and love. As we follow Christ's journey of His ministry and His path to the cross, His sacrifice on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter can be even more meaningful.

May you and your family have a blessed Lent and a joyous Easter!

Enid



Garden of Gethsemane



Jesus praying

Chaplain's Reflection

Easter Greetings

Soon we will begin the journey to Easter Sunday. We will be bombarded with Easter eggs, chocolate bunnies, Easter egg hunts, and many other images and stories utterly irrelevant to the Easter message of Jesus' resurrection. The Bible contains no stories that tell of a long-eared cotton-tailed Easter Bunny, children painting eggs, or hunting for baskets overflowing with Easter goodies. Why are these traditions so ingrained in Easter, and what relevance do they have to Jesus' resurrection? Absolutely nothing!!! These all stem from pagan roots and were incorporated into the Easter celebration, entirely separate from Jesus' resurrection. I am not opposed to the game of hunting Easter eggs, and my children enjoyed such many times. Sometimes a gospel message was hidden in them with a little treat, but it was just a game!!!

Where and when did stories of "bunnies" become equated with Easter? The University of Florida's Center for Children's Literature and Culture states the origin of the Easter bunny can be traced to the 13th century, pre-Christian Germany, when people worshiped several gods and goddesses. Such legends and traditions were brought to the United States in the 1700s by German immigrants. The Teutonic deity Eostra was the goddess of spring and fertility, and feasts were held in her honour on the Vernal Equinox. Her symbol was the rabbit because of its high reproduction rate. Bunny legends were documented in the 1500s, and by 1680, stories of bunnies laying eggs and hiding them in gardens were published. Millions are spent at Easter to promote stories of "magical bunnies," stories that create fun and make many happy. Not a bad thing, but the problem is when these stories replace the real story.

During Christmas, stories of St. Nicholas are told, and as there was a real St. Nicholas, the story has meaning and truth. Jesus told stories called parables, allegorically designed to illustrate or teach a reality, truth, or spiritual lesson. In the stories, concrete objects were often used to represent an abstract meaning. For example, Jesus often used small everyday objects common and contextual to the culture, such as seeds in the earth, a pearl inside an oyster, a buried treasure, or a lamp under a bushel, to impart the message of hope, love and faith in people. Jesus was an amazing storyteller. His stories are compelling and are an integral part of our past and form our future. Even though I enjoy the legends and stories of our culture, I need to know, hear, and depend on true stories, such as stories Jesus shared, lived and spoke throughout his ministry. The Bible stories that tell of the Saviour's coming birth, death and resurrection, are stories that change lives. We are changed by telling and sharing the stories of Jesus' teachings, love and presence, simply and meaningfully, through the rhythms of our everyday lives. And when we tell these stories, the fulfillment of "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven" comes closer. PS: Just saying!! Bunnies don't lay eggs!!

**MAKE A SPIRIT BRACELET
TO CELEBRATE
PENTECOST SUNDAY on May 28, 2023**

*You will need a pipe cleaner (or heavy
yarn),*

1 large bead and 8 small ones

Thread 4 beads on the pipe cleaner.

Add a large centre bead.

Then add the remaining 4 beads.

Bend the pipe cleaner around your wrist,
(or have someone tie the yarn).

The 9 beads remind us of the fruits of the
SPIRIT:

**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control. Gal 5: 22-23**

St John's Church, Port Hope

We have successfully resumed our second hand "store" called 'Treasure Trove' which has been run for many years and recently held our first successful Christmas Bazaar since Covid began.

We have a Spiritual Garden which grows food in the summer for the Food Bank etc.

We have an active VBS during the summer, as well as one for Ukrainian children.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- March 3/4, 2023

A 55-minute video of the World Day of Prayer 2023 service, featuring women and men from across Canada, has been created to view at home and in churches.

It is based on the worship bulletin prepared by the women of Taiwan, and then presented by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Also available is a 24-minute Kids Pray Too! video with youth host, musical performances, story time and craft session.

For more information see wicc.org

News from the Ewes

Washago

Our parish, Washago Prices Corners, with St Paul's Washago leading the effort, collected 89 pounds of food and over \$300 for the Sharing Place food bank in Orillia. We delivered socks and underwear to the Lighthouse for both men women and children. Our January project will be toiletries etc for Green Haven and Jubilee house in Orillia. We are no more than 20 in attendance on Sundays so we have really put in some loving efforts.

St John's Church

Bowmanville Prayer Shawls

These Prayer Shawls, Pocket Prayer Squares and lapgans have been given to friends, to the mental health patients, cancer patients and people in nursing homes, who need comfort either for a time of loss or a time of celebration. St. John's joined this ministry in 2007

Other ministries are making and tying quilts for Mission to Seafarers and the Children's Aid Society and Christmas boxes.



NOTICE OF BY-LAWS REVISION

To be in compliance with the Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, 2010, which takes effect October 2024, the By-laws of Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women must be revised and then receive Ministry approval.

The revised bylaws will be posted on the website shortly as well as being sent by e-mail to every church in the Diocese.

For further information:

Telephone: 416-363-0018 (leave message)

e-mail: acw@toronto.anglican.ca

Diocesan website: toronto.anglican.ca

WHAT HAS CHANGED? (from Archives)

In reading the article "Focus on Anglican Church Women" in the Toronto WA Bulletin from May 1967, I asked myself "Has anything really changed in the last 56 years?". Very little it seems. We still are challenged with change, renewal, flexibility, social concern and action, spiritual needs, using our full potential, mutual support.

Here are quotes from the bulletin.

If Anglican Church Women is to justify supplanting the existing organizations for women in the Church, it will have to acknowledge the right of every woman to develop her full potential. This means granting her freedom to choose whether she lives the Christian life within the institutional structure of the Church or outside the structure. (Mrs. Salter, President)

The ACW must insert itself in all areas of human spiritual needs and we must make a responsible response to change. (Mrs. Fowle, W.A.)

Although the Chancel Guild is a highly specialized work which should be a deeply spiritual experience, if members are to witness, they must be flexible and outgoing and ready to adapt. The hope is that members of the Chancel Guild will take their place in the diocese with Anglican Church Women which will take part in the whole mission of the Church. (Miss Gray, Chancel Guild)

As women of the church we must adapt to change. "How can we strengthen one another?" She suggested that we must have prayer groups, study groups and discussions to explore all stages of family life. We must continually assess how to challenge women. (Mrs. Corras, Mother's Union)

We were reminded that our new organization should be centred in Renewal; we must look out and see where Christian love can be taken into the world; we need to be well informed; we are concerned about the problems around us.

Christ Church Stouffville



A successful poinsettia sale was held in December.

St. Peter's, Cobourg

St Peter's Health and Wellness Ministry Team has a very active Knitting and Crocheting Ministry. Prayer Shawls, hats, scarves and other items are crafted with care and then blessed. They are a sign of God's healing presence and abiding love.

Prayer shawls have been gifted to members of the parish and to many in the Cobourg community. Our great joy has been to give prayer shawls and baby blankets to the mothers and babies at the baptisms held during the year. This past summer, prayer shawls were given to the recently arrived Ukrainian mothers whose children were attending an English Bible camp.

Members of this team have also been knitting and recruiting creative hands to create mitts and hats for our partners at Transition House who will provide the items to guests using St Peter's warming room during the cold months.

Recently, the Women of St. Peter's hosted a Women of Faith Gathering, *What's in a Name*. Over 60 women enjoyed a delicious continental breakfast and enjoyed Fran Richardson's Presentation, "Many Marys". Participants donated money to support our Knitting Ministry or food items to support our Thursday Night Light Community Dinner.



St James, Orillia

30 Christmas Cheer token gifts were prepared and delivered to Pastoral Care for delivery to their parishioner list. (shut-ins, hospitalizations, seniors homes, etc).

A new venture was undertaken this year in partnership with the Pennywise Shoppe (our thrift store) - a Fashion Show and High Tea. The Pennywise Shoppe provided ensembles and arranged for the models. The ACW arranged for sandwiches, baked goodies, tea, and servers.

St Nick's Shopping Day returned this year. This is a morning available for children 12 and under to shop for Christmas presents for their family, all by themselves, with no family adults in the room. "Elves" helped the wee little ones with their lists, and all items cost from \$0.10 to \$2.50.

Our annual Christmas Wish Gift Project continued this year. 24 families comprising of 100 individuals (68 children and 32 adults) were accepted. Fundschrift cards were ordered from (3) grocery stores, as well as Walmart.

St. Mary's, Richmond Hill

Our Christmas Market was held on Saturday, November 19, 2022. Our first in-person event since the pandemic was a huge success. Our luncheon was sold out, our shoppers came ready to shop and our volunteers are the best. Our sales tables were: Baking, Sewing, Knitting, Plants & Urns, Christmas Décor & Gifts, Jewelry, Raffle, Kids activities, a Luncheon and Poinsettia sales. We donated funds to five groups within our parish including the private sponsorship of a refugee family and outreach to seven groups in our community also including the Toronto Diocesan ACW and the Memorial Book.



PRAYER

Christ in my mind
that I may see what is true;
Christ in my mouth
that I may speak with power;
Christ in my heart
that I may learn to be touched;
Christ in my hands
that I may work with tenderness;
Christ in my soul
that I may know my desire;
Christ in my arms
that I may embrace without fear;
Christ in my face
that I may shine with God.

Christ the King, Etobicoke

Christ the King parish in Etobicoke was busy during Advent. They celebrated the first anniversary of Virginia Gabriel to the Diaconate. They had 15 members out to enjoy an ACW luncheon on Dec. 13 with edible table centres together with carol singing accompanied by Nigel Rouse, a member of the choir. They made the usual collection of items for Baby Bundles at Moorelands. The congregation were very generous and were invited to come and view the layettes on Jan 8th after church. A second formal live coffee hour was held at that time and for once things began to take on a new normal atmosphere. A good ending to 2022 and a beginning to 2023.





THE ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN DIOCESE OF TORONTO



invite you to the

Annual General Meeting (Zoom)

SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Theme

“HAVING FAITH”

Special Guest: Archdeacon Lydia Constant

Elder and Faculty: Henry Budd College of Ministry
The Pas, Diocese of Brandon

The invitation with the registration link will be emailed to each church by March 27, 2023
Also registration information will be on the Diocesan website March 27, 2023

For further information:

Telephone: 416-363-0018 (leave message) e-mail: acw@toronto.anglican.ca

Diocesan website: toronto.anglican.ca

SAVE THE DATE!! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

WOMENS' GATHERING FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

SATURDAY APRIL 29, 2023

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, THORNILL

Further details will be emailed to your church and on the ACW website in March