



ACW Newsletter Fall 2023

Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

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PRAYER LINKS

October

Deaneries of Tecumseth & Toronto East
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Brandon,
Caledonia, Athabasca
The Armed forces

November

Deanery of Victoria-Haliburton
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Central
Newfoundland, Algoma
The College of Bishops and Mothers'
Union

December

Deaneries of York Mills and York Central
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of
Fredericton, Mishamikoweesh, Ruperts
Land
Moorelands

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.

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

Deadline for next issue November 15, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS

Website: www.toronto.anglican.ca
(under About Us / Departments)

Shifts in Volunteerism: A Global Phenomenon in the English-speaking world

*-excerpts from an article by Cynthia Pilichos,
Co-ordinator of the ACW Board, Diocese of NS and
PEI, based on a session shared with Louisa Horne
pursuing a doctorate in shifts in volunteerism.*

Membership in volunteer organizations, church and
community, as we know them, has declined significantly
over the space of decades; the majority of those
sustaining the membership are either senior in age or
approaching senior age.

There is limited interest among the younger
demographic in "Joining" organizations styled as we
have been used to. The sense of belonging status, even
a way of life that these organizations in the church and
community offer to long serving members does not
appeal to many under the age of 55.

Connecting for this younger demographic is
predominately electronic and accomplished in a
compressed time frame. There is a desire for less
formality and structure, more of a network with much
more fluidity. That does not mean that a younger
demographic will not be involved at all but involvement
today is likely to be:

- Associated with a cause in order to have impact:
think social justice or climate care
- Be for an identified event, often one that is
generated and promoted through social media
- Be for a specific space of time, not long term
- Have would-be participants steer clear of serving in
an identified "executive officer" position.
- reduced interest in gender-specific organizations

Chaplain's Reflection

Fall Greetings to All

For most of us, the summer never lasts long enough, and we are now at the end of another summer. As I write this letter, I had to go to find a sweater, as I am feeling the chill in the air. We watch as the nights become cooler and the days shorter. Fall is on the way, and God's creation is announcing that it is entering into the liminal space between rest and renewal, as we await God's promises for his creation. I marvel at the fall colours and say, "These are the most beautiful fall colours I have ever seen." I said that in a fall letter years ago. My husband reminds me that I am consistent in saying that every year. It is true. We marvel at the beauty of nature and the creation we have been entrusted with. How can we not!!! What other things could we marvel at but don't, perhaps because we don't always see them as we see the colours of fall? As such, we can often take them for granted. Things that we know are marvelous, such as our Saviour's love and grace for us, the gift of life, or the abundance we have and are bestowed with.

We often forget the marvel of our human bodies and the gift of life that we sometimes take for granted. I have heard some spend more time scrolling on Facebook than keeping fit. We complain, fret, demand, forget to be thankful, want more than necessary, and the list goes on. In all of this, I often sit back and marvel at how forgiving nature and the earth are. Regardless of what we do, nature continues to gift us with the earth's beauty, something that, with climate change, is in itself a reason to marvel.

Life is not meant to be lived without time for relaxation or renewal. Life is not meant to be so busy that not only do we not have time to marvel, but we forget to, or worse don't know how to. We read in Genesis four times the phrase, "And God saw that it was good." But at the end of the sixth day, we read that God saw all that he had made, and God said, "It was very good."

I wonder if God marvelled at the creation. When can we marvel at it? The word marvel means to be filled with wonder or astonishment. What astonishes us about Jesus's love? What do we marvel at in our faith journey? Do we do things that can be a source of marvel to others? Do we share how astonishing salvation is?

Do we marvel at the words of the liturgy that are basked in forgiveness, love, hope, and God's promise of salvation? There is so much to astonish us in the Pascal mystery. If not, how can we learn too? As you look at the beauty of the earth this fall, take time to marvel at the other things that God has given and provided for us. You will find them marvelously astonishing!!!

Blessings

Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark

ACW Chaplain, Diocese of Toronto

The World Day of Prayer service for March 2024 is written by the Christian women in Palestine with the theme, "I Beg You.....Bear With One Another In Love". For more information see wicc.org.

Knitters Attention!

"Moorelands organization has made a decision that they will no longer be accepting Baby Bundles as they focus on their programmes for older children and teens."

St John's Bowmanville

"Kindness Cookies"

More than 75 boxes of "Kindness Cookies" were distributed in June by the parishioners of St. John's Bowmanville. Many hands baked the cookies which were then taken to the church for packaging into boxes which were sealed with specially designed stickers. The cookies were given to anyone we knew of who may have lost a loved one or a pet, to a neighbour who was ill or to anyone we knew of who was going through a hard time, surgery etc. One lady just saw someone walking down the street and stopped to give her a box. She gave a box to a couple doing yard work. One person took a box into Staples and gave it to the person assisting him.



ACW Board members enjoying Tea Party prepared by St Paul's Minden



WHAT HAS CHANGED?

In 1967, Anglican Church Women was formed by the amalgamation of four women's groups: the Women's Auxiliary, the Church Year, Mother's Union and the Chancel Guild.

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 that 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)

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

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)

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)

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. (Mrs Mackay)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends in Christ,

Summer has flown by! I hope that you have had time to relax and refresh and are now ready to resume your "ministry". Fall is a time for new beginnings. For students, a new grade in school, for our parishioners, the resumption of "regular" church services, Advisory Board, committees, choir and new ideas for parish activities and for us, new ideas for our Anglican Church Women to learn, serve and have fellowship. Below is part of my report for the 2023 National Anglican Church Women's Presidents Conference. You may find some 'new' ideas here.

Parish Anglican Church Women Groups returned to in-person meetings. Dinners, luncheons, pot-lucks, fashion shows, high teas, silent auctions and bazaars are once again keeping our women busy. Art, book, bake, jewellery, soup jar, poinsettia and craft sales are resuming. The collection of non-perishable food items at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas for hampers or the food banks continue. Toiletry kits and bedding are being made/collected for shelters. Socks, gloves, knitted hats, scarves for Christmas Warmth Trees continue. St Nick's Shopping Days for children under the age of 12 are held in several parishes. The Prayer shawl ministry is spreading to many parishes. Several parishes collected for the Moorelands Baby Bundles. ACW women assist in the Meal for Seniors Program by taking meal orders, and packing and delivering meals. Some ACW groups are including speakers at their meetings/events to keep informed of current social issues. Our Altar Guilds are continuing their special ministry. ACW Sundays are once again celebrating women's ministry. Most Parish groups were able to continue supporting their chosen charities, most of which serve women and children. Many groups and individuals participated in the World Day of Prayer.

Wow!!! You women are amazing and wonderful!!

I wish you many blessings as you plan your fall Anglican Church Women activities and meetings.

Enid

Trinity Anglican Bradford

Even though this parish does not have a formal ACW the women certainly are active in service to their parish and outreach into the community. In particular **"The Krafty Knitters" Ministry**. This group of amazing women meet twice a month to volunteer their time and talent for this healing ministry. They meet to knit, enjoy a beverage and fellowship. They knit the following: Prayer/Comfort Shawls for healing and comfort, slippers for Southlake Hospital Pediatric Oncology Unit, Happy Critters for children at Southlake Hospital and Animal Hats for children who have lost their hair because of chemotherapy, baby hats for premature babies, Pocket Prayers and Comfort dolls for orphaned and poor children in Africa.

Second Hand Shop

This shop is run by the women of the parish. The community and parishioners are encouraged to donate clothing, household items, costume jewelry, purses, bags, home decor, toys, puzzle and games. It opens every Saturday from 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. This is the most effective ongoing fundraiser for the church! As well as helping with regular expenses, maintenance, and repairs, it enables them to do even more outreach than would be possible otherwise!

St. Mary's Anglican Church Richmond Hill

In May, our ACW participated in Doors Open Richmond Hill. The Chapel, built in 1872, as well as the main church were open. In May, over 35 women and guests gathered to enjoy fellowship, learning, and delicious food at our ACW Annual Pot Luck Supper. We heard a full report of the Diocese Annual General Meeting "Having Faith" prior to dinner. The names of five of our deceased members were inscribed in the Diocesan ACW Memorial Book in 2022. The highlight of the evening was our guest speaker from the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank. The presentation focused our attention on one of the major issues of our time, "Food Insecurity". Our guest was presented with a monetary gift and food donations for the Food Bank.

It is with creative inspiration and renewed energy that we are planning for our Annual Christmas Market to be held November 18th, 10:00am -1:30pm. The Christmas Market is the ACW's largest fundraising event and provides a chance to connect with all our parishioners, our community, and the Town of Richmond Hill – an outreach opportunity!

Christ Church Campbellford **ACW Art Auction**

For the first three Sundays in June, Christ Church, Campbellford held its first, and hopefully not last, Silent Art Auction. The ACW had a number of pieces of Artwork bequeathed to them along with other Art donations. Now what?? How can we best share these beautiful pieces and at the same time, help fulfil our commitment to help our church? We didn't want to sell them at our Rummage or Yard Sales as they were not a right "fit" for that kind of sale. One of our members came up with an innovative idea...why don't we have a "Special" sale like a Silent Art Auction!!

It was a great success!! There was something for everyone and an enjoyable venture for all. Our congregation enjoyed the display each week, and interest piqued as the auction reached the end of its three-week run. The ten happy new owners took their Art treasures home to enjoy for years to come.

Maureen Greenwood

Christ Church Anglican Church Women, Campbellford



Be a PAL

Are you an individual who is not connected to a specific group, but you would like to connect with and support the work of Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of Toronto? Would you like to receive the regular newsletter? Perhaps PAL is the place for you.

PAL stands for Prayer, Action and Learning which are important aspects of ACW. For the cost of \$20 per year, you will receive the newsletter sent out quarterly and be a part of supporting the work of the ACW which includes the Council of the North, theological bursaries and our social concerns and action Special Projects.

St. Paul, The Apostle, Rexdale

ACW members held a Spring Tea Party on May 27th. Those attending were invited to wear their spring hats and spring colors. The spring party was a great success, was very well attended. An afternoon of Food, Fun and Fellowship with a variety of delicious teas and sandwiches, fun games, live and spiritually uplifting entertainment. Many prizes were won including a door prize. We were also quite happy to have our male guests in attendance! Pictured are some ACW members with friends and family who joined with their array of beautiful hats and fascinators!

Margaret Durant

St. Paul The Apostle, Rexdale, ACW



Did you know?

The seven sacred teachings of native spirituality are humility, truth, honesty, respect, courage, wisdom and love.

Things to keep in mind when attending a pow-wow (from a First Nation Cree from Simcoe County)

- remove your hat and stand for Grand Entry
- participate in dancing when invited to do so
- politely ask questions
- offer tobacco to dancers or drummers if healing is needed for yourself, your family or a community member,
- ask before taking pictures of dancers and drummers
- shop indigenous vendors and try indigenous food



Fling into Fall

A spooky but fun event

All women in your parish are
cordially invited to gather at the

Church of Christ the King

475 Rathburn Rd. Etobicoke

Saturday October 28th 2023

10:30 am – 2:30 pm

Please bring a lunch. Drinks and desserts provided.

The event will be a fun and informative
time, for us to gather as women of the
church, not necessarily ACW members

A fee of \$5 each will help to defray expenses

Please RSVP by phone: **416-621-3630**

Or email: **ctketob@rogers.com**

Looking forward to seeing you!!