



ACW Newsletter Advent 2023

Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

135 Adelaide Street East Toronto

■ ON ■ M5C 1L8

PRAYER LINKS

January

Deaneries of Durham-Northumberland
and Eglinton

ACW sisters in Diocese of Huron, the
Territory of the People
Council of the North, LOFT

February

Deaneries of Etobicoke-Humber, Holland
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Montreal,
Moosonee

Evangelical Lutheran sisters in Diocese
of New York

March

Deanery of Huronia

ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Niagara,
Nova Scotia & PEI

Canadian Mothers' Union

NATIONAL PRAYER PARTNERS

The ACW's in the Diocese of Toronto are
to pray for the ACW's in the Diocese of
Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

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

Deadline for next issue February 14, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS

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

The Anglican Consultative Council, ACC-18

Accra, Ghana



The Canadian Delegates with the Archbishop of Canterbury: The Rev. Marnie Peterson, The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, The Most Rev. Justin Welby, Dr. Anita Gittens and The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw.

The Anglican Consultative Council, ACC is a consultative body. Its stated role is "to facilitate the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchange information between the provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organization and structures of the Communion and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission, including ecumenical matters". The 18th Anglican Consultative Council was hosted in Feb. 2023, by the Church of the Province of West Africa, in Accra, Ghana with representatives from 165 countries across the Anglican Communion and I was blessed to be the Canadian Lay Delegate.

The gathering was wrapped in prayer, the Opening Eucharist held at Christ Church, Legon was a grand liturgy with wonderful choirs and singing. On a typical day, there was Morning Prayer, a Eucharist around midday, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer. The ACC-18 theme was "The Five Marks of Mission, Today and Tomorrow".

Each business day included a Bible Study, with a reflection on one of the Five Marks, table discussions, sharing experiences of the Marks, reports from the Networks and Commissions of the Anglican Communion, resolutions on matters of common concern, meeting and getting to know others from other parts of the Anglican Communion.

(cont'd page 2)

Anglican Consultative Council Cont'd

Highlights included the Presidential Address by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Church Commissioners' Event. The Church Commissioners reported on the research into the Church of England's historic links to the Transatlantic Slave Trade and shared findings confirming the connection.

The Archbishop of Canterbury apologized and spoke of the decision to make a monetary commitment towards investing in the future of communities that were impacted the most by the Slave Trade. It was an unforgettable moment! Below are his words from an earlier press release.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, who is also Chair of the Church Commissioners, said:

"The full report lays bare the links of the Church Commissioners' predecessor fund with transatlantic chattel slavery. I am deeply sorry for these links. It is now time to take action to address our shameful past."

I encourage you to check the link below for more information on the findings, including a video.

https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/church-commissioners-england/who-we-are/church-commissioners-links?mc_cid=d409b4696e&mc_eid=UNIQID

On the Trip Day, we visited the Cape Coast Castle, which was the largest of the slave castles in West Africa. It was a profound experience to see and to stand in the dungeons where slaves were kept without food or water for weeks, possibly months before being packed in and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean. Also, to hear the stories that were told by our guide. I was struck by the inhumanity of it all and the total disregard for other human beings.

After the visit, there was a Reconciliation Service at Christ Church Cathedral. The confirmation of the Church of England's historic links to the slave trade, the experience of the Cape Coast Castle, the knowledge that modern day slavery continues around the world, in the form of human trafficking, were all cause for deep reflection, prayer and action. A strengthened resolve to fight for social justice! The Closing Service at St. George's Garrison was another grand service. Over all, ACC-18 was a wonderful, eye opening experience.

Anita Gittens ODT

President's Message

Our season of bazaars, dinners, teas and craft sales is coming to a close and we now can focus on Advent. Our new church year is beginning! Advent is a uniquely joyous and hopeful season. We light candles amidst the darkness. We find warmth in the cold, dark winter season. We come together as friends and family to celebrate the coming of our Saviour. As we prepare for Christmas this year, may we make time to slow down and to reflect on the themes of the four weeks of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love. This is especially relevant now as we read and hear of the turmoil around the world.

At Synod last week, votes were held on Constitution and Canon changes that will make the new Diocesan governance changes permanent. The changes have been piloted over the last two years. The Diocese will continue to grow into its new structure which will be comprised of five archdeaconries instead of the traditional four episcopal areas. The Diocesan ACW Board will be investigating changes needed to reflect the new Diocesan structure.

At Synod, we were also delighted to hear that our Diocesan ACW Past President, Dr. Anita Gittens ODT was named to become an Honorary Canon of St. James Cathedral in January 2024. This is a well-deserved honour.

Have a Blessed Advent season and a joyous healthy Christmas!

Enid



Chaplain's Reflection

Christmas Greetings to All

The Christmas season is upon us. Everywhere we see signs of the celebration that will take place on December 25th. The words and traditions of Christmas have very different meanings for people. For Christians, Christmas celebrates the birth of our Saviour. We prepare our hearts and minds for the gift of God's Son. The church celebrates the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas, as we prepare for the Holy night. For others Christmas has a different context and meaning. Yet, regardless of people's beliefs, there is a commonality that Christmas is a time to extend goodwill and sharing, as is seen in the outpouring of giving and helping during Christmas. We reach out to the stranger, the poor, the destitute, the hurt, the sick, and the lonely during Christmas. We remember our families, our sons and daughters, relatives, friends and neighbors and extend to them the welcome, warmth, compassion, love, healing and caring of Christmas. Christmas is a time of welcome and a time of hope and healing. We welcome healing in any form and look for ways for hope and healing to be part of our lives, communities and the world, not just at Christmas but always. Christmas can be a time to reach out and offer hope and healing to others who feel the pain and separation of rifts, hurts, indifference, separation of families, and quarrels that need to be healed.

My prayer is that all we do as individuals and a community at Christmas will continue throughout the year. Let us remember, as we reach out to others, that many of us could, by any turn of events, be in need of help. As God sent his Son to save, help and care for us, it is through helping and caring for others that we do God's work. In actions and word, let us also share the true story of Christmas through telling the story of Christ's birth and the reasons for our hope and joy. Speak the message to Christ's love through words of hope, faith, and healing to a broken world. Listen with understanding and respond with love. Welcome the birth of the Christ child as an event that can not only renew our hope in the world, but also as our hope for the present. We are all members of Christ's Body, and as we gather, welcome, and worship the Christ child let us remember that together we are richer and stronger. Share with others how much Christ and the Church miss them – and how happy we are when they join us. I pray that a welcoming spirit will pervade our hearts and homes. A spirit that will welcome the hurt, the lonely, the poor and the estranged, and we all become the light of Christ that shines and welcomes all.

Blessings

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

World Day of Prayer 2024 Festival Day Zoom Event

Location: Your Computer

On Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm EST, the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada will be hosting an online, Canada wide, World Day of Prayer 2024 Festival Day featuring the country of Palestine and the theme "**I Beg You – Bear with One Another in Love**".

Register for this great opportunity to learn more about World Day of Prayer and how to get involved. Festival Day is one of our most popular events of the year. Don't miss it and invite your friends! We will share key components of the service - music, Bible study, service video, devotional speaker, grant stories and much, much more.

Register online for the Zoom link at wicc.org/get-involved/events.

ECCLESIASTICAL NEEDLEWORKERS

A group of dedicated women (plus one man) meet weekly at the Diocesan ACW office to do their special work. Not only do they produce fine linens for the altar, but they embroider frontals for the altar, pulpit and lectern hangings, and vestments.

Below is a picture of the part of their current project. It is the embroidered portion of the Humeral veil, the Peace of Christ symbol.



NATIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN PRESIDENTS' VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2023

The 2023 National Conference was held by Zoom Friday October 13 and Saturday October 14, with the Diocese of Algoma as host. The theme of the conference was "Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". Since there were minimal conference expenses, the vice-presidents of each Diocese were invited to attend as non-voting participants. Janice Hodgson, our executive Vice-President attended as a guest on Friday and as our voting delegate on Saturday. 33 participants attended, with 15 Dioceses being represented. Our Past President Anita Gittens was also in attendance Saturday.

Special guests included Archbishop Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle, the Rt. Rev David Lehmann, Chair Council of the North, Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, Anglican Foundation of Canada, Janice Beihn, PWRDF Communications & Marketing Director, Archbishop Anne Girmond, Bishop of Algoma and Moosonee and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and the Rev. Marion Lucas-Jefferies, team leader of the Environmental Network, Diocese of NS & PEI.

Our conference began with worship, "A Service of the Word" at St Luke's Cathedral, Sault Ste. Marie, ON. The officiant was The Very Reverend James McShane, Dean of Algoma and the preacher was Archbishop Anne Germond. Their choir led the hymns and ACW members were lectors and litanist. The service can be found on You Tube, under St Lukes Cathedral and then scrolling to National ACW Presidents Service. (I could not find it using any shortcuts). Many participants felt the sermon was one of the best ever!

After a brief break and a welcome from the National ACW President, Rosemarie Kingston (Diocese of Fredericton), we listened to the presentations of our guest speakers.

Dr. Scott Brubacher focused on the big picture, the transformative ministry that the Anglican Foundation of Canada promotes – enabling connections through grant programs, fostering innovation in ministry and outreach, stewardship of resources as trusted partners of other funds and connecting donors with special needs. Their five impact zones are: community ministries, indigenous communities, leadership & education, sacred music & liturgical arts, and diverse infrastructure.

The Rt Rev David Lehman chairs the Council of the North which is comprised of 9 jurisdictions (7 Dioceses and 2 regions). One quarter of Canada's population live in this sparsely populated area which covers well more than half of Canada. Northern Dioceses face higher costs and receive less financial aid. This past year wildfires and floods affected many areas. He was looking forward to the following week when the Council would be discussing the first grants from the new Retired Clergy Fund which was initiated by the New Westminster Diocesan Anglican Church Women.

Janice Beihn gave an informative presentation on the work of the PWRDF. Currently they are involved with 76 projects in 33 countries. Their vision statement is: *Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world*. Their focus is development programs and humanitarian response (floods, war, drought).

Archbishop Anne Germond introduced us to the Diocese of Algoma, which started in 1873. Until 1959, the Bishops were missionary Bishops, travelling the Diocese first by water, then by trains and now by roads and air. Bishophurst, her residence, which was built in 1875, is designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. It has been home to 11 bishops. There are 5 Deaneries in the Diocese, each covering a considerable area. Blueberries, honey and sunflowers are what Archbishop Anne thinks of when reflecting on the land in her Diocese.

Rev Marian Lucas-Jeffries, spoke about the Environmental Network mission: *"To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth"*. She encouraged us to find our Diocesan person responsible for green initiatives and learn what we as ACW can do to make significant, life-giving changes in how we relate to all God's creation.

Prayer Partners for 2023/24 were chosen. The Diocese of Western Newfoundland will be praying for the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Toronto will pray for the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023 CONT'D

The business meeting which followed included the receiving of the minutes of the 2022 National Presidents' Conference followed by a virtual message from the Primate, the Most Rev Linda Nicholls. She emphasized the need of the Christian community to be witnesses of the love of God.

The day's session ended with closing prayers.

Day 2 of the conference began with a presentation on the financial statements for the year September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023. The General Fund has a balance of \$27,232.34 and the Titley Fund has a balance of \$6,552 making a total year-end balance of \$33,784.34. There was a motion to approve the year-end financial statements. The motion passed by the members present.

A discussion took place with regard to the Titley Fund (1996) and the ACWC Trust Fund (2012). The motion to merge the two funds was approved. The name of the fund will be the Anglican Church Women Trust. The Anglican Church Foundation will continue to manage it. The motion was approved by those present. The interest must be withdrawn annually or it will be reinvested.

The September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024 proposed budget was presented. A discussion took place with regard to the motion, "That the conference fees for the primary delegates for 2024 be increased from \$1,300 to \$1,700 and for secondary delegates the cost be increased from \$500 to \$700 to reflect the increased accommodations and travel costs." The motion passed after changes were made to the budget to reflect changed income. A balanced budget was voted on and approved by the members present.

The guest speaker was Archbishop Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle. He gave a very interesting and informative presentation on his beliefs as a Plains Cree person. He talked about Faith + Hope + Prayer = Courage and Strength and that ACW members are Prayer Warriors who prayerfully navigate the unsure waters of change. He said, "Women raise up the next leaders." We live in a changing and scary world right now where there is increased conflict and concern. Individuals are receiving a lot of information that is divisive rhetoric with differing truths. He believes it is a season of misinformation. Archbishop Harper thinks we should seek consensus and talked about the Indigenous Ministry of direction found in the Grandfather (Seven) teachings. They are Truth; Love; Respect; Courage; Honesty; Humility; and Wisdom. This is how we should all live our life. Everyone should be welcome to the table—bring your own chair and we will all sit together.

Archbishop Harper talked about the change happening within the church and how "church" hasn't adjusted well with change. He believes that change demands a reset of thought, word, and deed. He says that, "church" is the people and money is not the answer or the problem—people are. He asked us to reflect on the following question, "What can the ACW prayerfully do today, to affect the future Ministry of tomorrow." A very thoughtful and enlightening presentation which gave everyone a lot to think about.

A general discussion then took place about how ACW members work together. Is there someone who, "pulls you up?;" "pulls you down?;" or "pulls you along." We were asked to reflect on "how are you pulling up your ACW sisters?;" and "how are your ACW sisters pulling you up." Food for thought and a great way to end the conference.

Enid Corbett (President)

Janice Hodgson (Executive Vice-President)

SAVE THE DATE

Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday APRIL 20, 2024



SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN'S GATHERING

All women are invited to gather at

St. James Orillia

for

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Saturday June 1st, 2024

Registration information to follow in the Spring

Christ Church Stouffville

Thirty-six persons came out to enjoy a Muffin Breakfast on October 22 before church. There were many varieties of muffins and tea biscuits to enjoy while listening to our speaker, Beth Bowman, relate her experience with a brain injury following a car crash twelve years ago. She spoke movingly of the strength she received from church friends, and from reading scripture and gave praise to God for help in her ongoing struggle. Beth is the daughter of former Diocesan Board member, Karen Bowman.

On Sunday, November 12, the speaker at our ACW Sunday service was Mary Asbil, wife of Bishop Andrew Asbil. The service was followed by a luncheon for the parish.

OUTREACH—CAN YOU HELP?

To date, we have received only \$300 towards our goal of \$4000 to help support 4 agencies working on Youth Mental Health: Carea Community Health Centre, The Neighbourhood Organization, New Paths (Simcoe) and Youth Without Shelter. Another \$10,000 will be needed to support the Council of the North. If you can help, send your donation to Toronto Diocesan ACW, c/o 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto M5C 1L8

Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking light.
To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!".
Amen.

St James Orillia

The St James Orillia ACW teamed up with the church thrift store, The Pennywise Shoppe, to host a fashion show and high tea on Saturday, September 23, 2023. The Pennywise Shoppe arranged for 7 ladies who modeled three outfits each, using articles donated to the thrift store. The ACW arranged for the servers (and bakers!) to deliver tiers of scones, cookies, tarts, squares and other sweets along with lots of tea to the tables. A silent auction table was set up for perusal during the 2 intermissions. A great afternoon, enjoyed by an attendance of almost 90 people.

