



ACW Newsletter Fall 2025

Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

135 Adelaide Street East Toronto

■ ON ■ M5C 1L8

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
praying for the ACW's in the Diocese of
Ottawa.

The ACW's in the Diocese of Algoma 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 12, 2025

COMMUNICATIONS

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

THANKSGIVING

Canadian Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on the second Monday of October to express gratitude for the harvest and blessings, with the October date being due to Canada's colder climate and earlier harvest season. Canadian Thanksgiving is generally a low-key event, focusing on family gatherings with traditional foods like turkey and pumpkin pie.

While Canada's Indigenous Peoples have long held such events, the holiday is traditionally said to have gotten its start in 1578, when English explorer Martin Frobisher gathered his men together for a meal that included salt beef, biscuits, and mushy peas. The occasion, which occurred in what is now Nunavut, was to thank God for keeping them safe during their exploration of the daunting Eastern Arctic.

For the next few centuries, it was observed only haphazardly until 1859, when Protestant clergy petitioned for a national holiday to give thanks to God. Canadian Thanksgiving became an annual event two decades later, but bounced around the calendar, moving from April to November. Finally in 1957, thanks to a government decree, it found a permanent home in the month of October.

PRAYER

O God, when I have food, help me to remember the hungry.
When I have work, help me to remember the jobless.

When I have a home, help me to remember those who have
no home at all.

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who
suffer.

And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion, and be concerned enough to help,
by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for
granted.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Janice Hodgson, our Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women President, will be attending the National ACW Presidents' Virtual Conference September 19 and 20. Below is her report to the conference for our Diocese.

Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women Report 2024 – 2025

During 2024 and 2025 our Diocesan ACW as well as our Parish ACWs have had a busy year. Many outreach activities and social events were being held. In June 2024, a Women's Gathering was held at St. James, Orillia where women from 12 different churches came together for a day of fellowship and in October 2024 a Women's Gathering was held at Christ Church, Stouffville with all women from the Diocese invited. The keynote speaker in Stouffville was Ida Morra-Caruso who talked about women and the law. At both gatherings we met old and new friends. It was a great day of fellowship, fun and laughter! In addition, a Deanery Day was held in May 2025 in the town of Ivy hosted by the Nottawasaga Deanery. The theme was growing in faith with an emphasis on remembering the past, celebrating the present and planning for the future.

Most Anglican Church Women are meeting in person after COVID, providing fellowship and support for their members, encouraging ministry and spiritual growth. The number of meetings and events per year, number of groups, time the groups meet, type of activities they wish to be involved in, are all decided by the interests of the women in their Parish.

Our AGM via Zoom took place on Saturday, April 26, 2025. The theme this year was "Ministering With Compassion." Our special guest speaker was Ji-Sook Kyun, Lead Spiritual Health Practitioner, Pastoral Counsellor, Spiritual Care for Lakeridge Health and Ryan Durarte, Feed the Need in Durham.

The Diocesan ACW provides a bursary to the Council of the North supporting their work through a major annual donation. In April 2024 we gave a one-time special appeal grant to the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine for their building campaign.

Our Social Concern and Action Special Projects facilitate increased awareness of social issues in our communities, archdeaconries, the nation and the world. Each of our 5 archdeaconries choose an organization to receive annual Special Project financial support in keeping with the Social Justice theme voted on by the members at our AGM. Many groups invite speakers to address various social issues in their communities.

Each Archdeaconry receives \$1,000 to disburse to groups they feel are most in need. The theme for 2023 was Mental Health for Children and Youth. Organizations that received support in 2023 were: Carea Community Health Centre, The Neighbourhood Organization, New Path and Family Counselling Services of South Simcoe County, and Youth Without Shelter. In 2024 and 2025 the special project theme is Food Insecurity. Organizations receiving support in 2024 were Angus Foodbank; Elmvale Foodbank; Barrie Friendship Centre; Teresa Group and the Infant Formula Program; Feed the Need in Durham; Youth Without Shelter; York Region Food Network; and Feed Scarborough. We are finding that more and more foodbanks, pantries and food closets are finding it hard to keep up with the demand.

We have a newsletter which is published four times a year. The newsletter is sent to every parish in the Diocese earmarked for the women's groups.

We are involved with various ecumenical activities in our Diocese such as World Day of Prayer, Catholic Women's League AGM, and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto as well as interfaith work with members of other faith communities.

The Diocesan ACW is funded mainly by donations from Parish Anglican Church Women groups.

Janice Hodgson, President

Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women

Chaplain's Reflection

Dear Friends in Christ,

As autumn settles in around us—with golden leaves, cooler breezes, and shorter days—we are reminded that God's creation moves in rhythms of both change and constancy. Just as the earth prepares for rest and renewal, we too are invited to pause, reflect, and draw closer to the One who renews our hearts and minds.

After seasons of busyness or perhaps weariness, we are called back to the quiet strength of prayer, to the joy of shared purpose, and to the hope that Christ brings to each new day. This fall, we embrace renewal, not only in nature, but in our faith, our fellowship, and our service.

The Diocese has introduced the Season of Spiritual Renewal program, a program devoted to renewal both individually and in the Church. I highly recommend and encourage you to take advantage of the excellent services and numerous resources available on the Diocesan website. I also invite you to incorporate those prayers and resources into your daily devotions. Imagine the possibilities for us and the world when such renewal happens!!!

Here are some ideas that can be shared as we strive for renewal, in the Church and ourselves. Take the time this season to reconnect with God—whether through scripture, journaling, or silent reflection.

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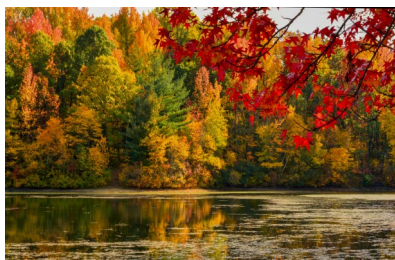
Thanksgiving Prayer

For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything thy goodness sends.
Ralph Waldo Emerson



A Simple Grace For Meals

God, we thank you for this food.
For rest and home and all things good.
For wind and rain and sun above.
But most of all for those we love.



Correction for the June newsletter:
The Northern Retired Clergy Fund was first established in 2022 by the Anglican Church Women of the Diocese of New Westminster.



Chaplain's message cont'd

Create space in your day for the Season of Spiritual Renewal materials and gatherings, which include prayer and personal renewal.

As we prepare for the winter season and Advent (yes, it's coming), let us also renew our commitment to outreach. What new ways might God be calling you to serve? Can we revisit long-standing projects with a fresh vision? Renewal also happens in the community. Let us reach out to members who may be feeling isolated, tired, or spiritually dry. A simple phone call, card, or visit can be a source of profound encouragement.

In Romans 12:2, we are reminded:

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."

May this season be a time of transformation, peace, and renewal in your life. Know that you are prayed for and appreciated.

Thank you for all that you do in Christ's name.

Blessings

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

A Tribute to Ms. Judy Beal (Pasieka) On the Occasion of Her Retirement

Judy Beal Pasieka has been a blessing to the Diocesan Anglican Church Women for almost a quarter of a century. She has worked with a list of ACW presidents, board members, committee members, parish representatives and clergy as well as Diocesan Bishops and staff.

Judy was hired in November 2002 as the Office Assistant and served faithfully until her retirement on August 31, 2025.

She was the “Diocesan ACW Office”. Her role was all encompassing, from her telephone greeting to physical presence in the office, handling all general inquiries, newsletter mailings, minutes of meetings, office supplies, shipping of ACW orders and co-ordination with the Ecclesiastical Needleworkers.

Judy was competent and knowledgeable in handling her financial duties, whether bank deposits, cheque preparation and distribution, monthly receipts and disbursements or preparation for annual financial audits. She was skillful in her book-keeping and data entry.

During my time as President, I truly appreciated Judy’s presence in the office mainly working on her own, her countless hours of preparing hundreds of newsletters for regular mailing (before the days of emailed copies), her work on annual reports, preparation for annual general meetings, registrations and support at AGM meetings when they were in person and in locations across the Diocese. I appreciated her working through necessary computer upgrades and her patience when Zoom board meetings were introduced.

Judy was there through times of transition including renovation, a move from the third floor to the first floor, from in person to Zoom meetings, from snail mail to email.

She will be missed, not only for her professional skills but also for the quiet, reliable and trustworthy person that she is.

Judy’s work was on a part- time basis; however she remained loyal to the Diocesan ACW, and I admired her commitment to her other obligations along with her love for and care of her family.

Our sincere thanks to Judy for the many years of dedication, hard work and her significant contribution to the life of the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women.

May she be blessed in this new chapter of her life.

Canon Dr. Anita Gittens

Past President

Dorothy MacLeod 1939—2025

A life well lived, a servant of the Lord. We first met Dorothy at the 2006 Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women Annual General Meeting held in May that year. During the meeting a request was made for a Treasurer and after the meeting Dorothy volunteered. She was living in Midland at the time, but drove down twice a month to attend the Finance Committee meetings and the ACW Board meetings. She served as treasurer for five years and then continued on the finance committee for another fourteen years, often as its secretary. We will miss her cheerful contributions to our meetings.

More Than Just a Trip, it's a Calling

We Wish to See Jesus! Bwana Jesu Asifiwe!

The Rev Denise Byard received a Missionary Appeals Grant from the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women to assist her on her mission to Tanzania.

After more than three years of communicating, and praying, my mom and I were humbled to experience the movement of the Holy Spirit in Biharamulo, Tanzania, East Africa for two intense weeks with the support of almost 50 different people, agencies, and organizations including the Anglian Diocese of Toronto, the Anglican Church Women (Toronto), and the Anglican Foundation of Canada. We learned from and ministered with the Diocese of Biharamulo Mother's Union Bi-Annual Conference, and the Diocese's anniversary where people encounter God's love and experience His transformative power leading and helping the community place Christ at the Center of their lives! My mom and I were treated as family when we arrived in Tanzania. We ate local food, meat, watermelon and our favourite - egg fries (chips mayai). We made and have developed authentic lasting relationships with clergy and lay leaders, young and old. There were deep discussions, jokes, and laughter. We took two suitcases of supplies to give to our host, courtesy of so many of our sponsors, family and friends.

We participated in the Mother's Union Diocesan Conference with 650 delegates. I encouraged my mom's vocation of storytelling and sharing during the conference. My mom presented "The Essentials of the Gospel" which was well received. We both returned with a renewed sense of mission. I was surprised to feel and experience the tenacity, determination, and creativity as the spirit moves in the Diocese of Biharamulo which has doubled in size and grown to 150 churches, 30 parishes, and 8 deaneries in 8 years! It is one of the fastest growing dioceses in the Communion. Their goal for the next 3 years is to plant 20 new parishes and 3 new deaneries.

We were blessed to witness the presence of the Holy Spirit at this vibrant Mother's Union Conference. There was a joy, energy, and vibrancy which we do not see in our Canadian churches. The spirit of God was present during the weekend. There was a lot of music and dancing. We taught them an English contemporary chorus, and they translated it into Kiswahili for the group to sing together. An Australian missionary assisted our presentation and helped to adapt it to the culture.

Women's ministry is vibrant with lay canons and evangelists, which impacted me the most. They were inspirational, passionate and preached from the heart. They spoke to the spirit of the mothers. We saw the Holy Spirit moving like wildfire in the hearts and lives of the people there. We attended a presentation about church entrepreneur ministry initiated by the mothers and bank partnerships as well as listened to some great choirs. During my curacy, I am looking forward to improving my skills as a preacher to feel free to share the Word as passionately as they do.

The believers in the Anglican Church in Tanzania have an amazing love for the Lord yet are lacking many of the resources that we take for granted. Water infrastructure is vital.

Seventy percent of the population is under the age of 30. Life spans are short due to poverty, hard life and lack of medicines/vaccines. One of the pastors who hosted us contracted malaria the week that we left. My mom and I had the privilege of taking a daily antiviral so that we did not have any major illness incident. Yet, that is not their reality.

Cont'd on page 6

Our host told us that we left a lasting impact with our questions, presentations, and sermon. This trip taught me to trust God and depend on Him. God granted us safety for the trip, strengthened us for ministry and gave us the grace and anointing to do what we were called to do. The whole process and experience were a learning opportunity from start to finish – planning, preparation, logistics, schedules, transportation, accommodations, expectations, risk, patience, and purpose.

It opened our eyes to a whole different world. It was a great occasion to see how God is moving in the newest diocese in the Communion, especially through the women's ministry. We worked with others to spread the news of the Kingdom of God. Living missionally is about discerning and joining God's work in the world, to be a witness to God's kingdom on earth. This trip confirmed that as a child of God, my calling is to inspire people to become closer to God, as an eyewitness and representative of the endless, impactful, and active Good News. We look forward to seeing how and where the Lord will lead. We gained a deeper understanding of global needs as well as appreciation of God's mission in Tanzania as we encouraged and supported diocesan and lay leaders.

We continue to communicate with the leaders in the diocese. My mom and I meet online weekly with a few of the leaders to pray for our Dioceses. They have a wish list of what they hope and pray for their diocese. There are many practical ways to assist and encourage them. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information and/or to join us in prayer for this diocese.

The Rev. Denise Byard

Assistant Curate, St. John, Ida and St. Luke, Peterborough

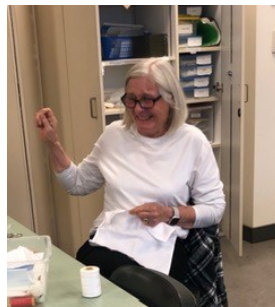
ttdbyard@hotmail.com
(August 29, 2025)

Ecclesiastical Needleworkers

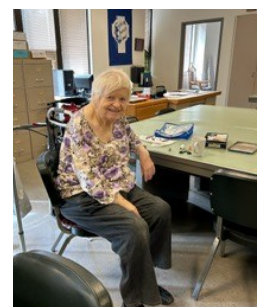
The Needleworkers have been busy over the summer sewing linens, so we now have a number of small linens ready for sale. After seeing what is available online, we seem to be the only ones still using 100% linen. Ours is imported from a mill in Ireland. It wears very well, irons easily when wet, and is easier to get stains out of than most fabric blends. Our linens are all hemmed and embroidered by hand to whatever size you order, and we cost less than any sources we found on line. All money raised goes to support the work of the Diocesan ACW. If you are interested in seeing their work, a visit can be arranged. Please call the ACW office (416-363-0018) and leave a message for the Needleworkers.



Valerie Chambers
working on fine linens



Heather Kaufman
sewing a purificator.



Ann Robson
Linens Convenor