



ACW Newsletter Summer 2026

# Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

135 Adelaide Street East Toronto ▪  
ON ▪ M5C 1L8

## PRAYER LINKS

### July

Deanery of Peterborough  
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Kootenay,  
New Westminster, Eastern Newfoundland &  
Labrador  
Alongside Hope (PWRDF)

### August

Deanery of Scarborough  
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Ontario,  
Quebec, British Columbia  
Women in Diocese of Bungoma, Kenya

### September

Deanery of St James  
ACW sisters in the Dioceses of Western  
Newfoundland, Arctic  
Mission to Seafarers

## 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 September 16, 2026**

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

To obtain your free copy of the newsletter, send  
your email address to [acw@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:acw@toronto.anglican.ca)

## Sacred Seasons of Worship

### Ordinary Time

In order to establish special times of reflection throughout the year, the Christian Church has long followed an annual cadence of worship which follows the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."* Ecclesiastes 3:1

Each season in the liturgical year is focused on key periods in Jesus's life. The annual liturgical year is made up of: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and finally Pentecost. The time between seasons is known as Ordinary Time. Each of the Church Seasons has its own traditions, special days and unique ways to prepare for worship and experience a deeper understanding of the Christian journey.

In the Anglican Church, Ordinary Time is the longest liturgical season, spanning the weeks after Pentecost (early summer) until the start of Advent (late fall). The liturgical color is green. It symbolizes spiritual growth, new life, and the ongoing maturation of the Church.

Rather than focusing on the historical events of Jesus's life (like His birth, death, or resurrection), Ordinary Time emphasizes living out the Christian vocation in the everyday world. It focuses on spiritual growth, everyday discipleship, and integrating Christ's teachings into daily life. It is seen as a time for establishing faithful routines, nurturing faith and "growing in grace".

Often the Season of Creation is observed midway through this long season (in September) with the focus on environmental stewardship and gratitude for God's creation.

It is called "ordinary" because the Sundays are counted with ordinal numbers. *Introduction from Christ Church Stouffville*

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Warmer weather has arrived with vegetables such as lettuce, radishes, kale, spinach, and rhubarb waiting to be picked in our gardens and community gardens. The clients at St. James the Apostle Food Closet look forward to the fresh vegetables every year from June through to the end of September.

We held our Diocesan AGM on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Our theme was Feed My People. Special guests included Bishop Riscylla Shaw; Janet Pike, National ACW President; Kate O'Quinn, Toronto Diocesan Council President, Catholic Women's League; and Janet MacFadyen, Communications Specialist, Women's Inter-Church Council, Toronto. Special guest speakers were Reverend Denise Byard (Bursary Recipient), who spoke about her Tanzania Trip to the Diocese of Biharamulo last summer and Jenifer Pergentile from Support and Hope for Individuals and Families Today (S.H.I.F.T.).

On April 27<sup>th</sup> I attended the Catholic Women's League annual meeting in Ajax. Every year our annual meetings are days apart. Their convention theme was *Ignite Your Passion, Empower His Mission* with the focus on *Blessed are the poor*. Our themes are very much aligned.

The demand on food closets, food pantries and food banks keeps growing. People from all walks of life are finding it difficult to keep up. Life in general makes it harder to feed families, pay the rent and clothe themselves and their children. The individuals I see at the Second Chance Clothing Depot and Food Closet in Sharon are for the most part the working poor or seniors who are unable to make ends meet. This year, for the first time, I have homeless individuals visiting the Food Closet. This is a new reality in our society. Conflicts around the world are increasing the cost of food.

I think it is up to civil society to respond to food insecurity. This is why the Toronto Diocesan Board of Directors have decided to extend our Special Project Food Insecurity Theme for another two years. Lack of good nutritious food can lead to health issues such as anemia, asthma, depression, and other mental health issues. It can also raise the risk of chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

We hear about parents skipping meals so their children can eat; but, in some households the kids are also skipping meals. Each Archdeaconry in the Diocese of Toronto is receiving \$1,000 from the Toronto Diocesan ACW to donate to a charity in their area that works with individuals facing food insecurity. We can all do our part by donating food and money to these charities. Perhaps volunteer to a drop-in meal program or work in a community garden that donates food to help others.

Wishing everyone a safe, happy summer with families and friends.

Sincerely,

Janice

## **WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

Which bride was substituted for her sister at the last minute? (Genesis 29:23)

Who was the woman who dealt in purple goods? (Acts 16:14, 15)

Who was the most thoughtful for her goodness and worked tirelessly for the poor? (Acts 9:36-42)

Who kept watch over the infant Moses when he was set adrift in the reeds? (Exodus 2:4-10)

Who worked hard in the Church of Cenchreae and was a good friend to many? (Romans 16: 1,2)

## Chaplain's Reflection

Dear Friends in Christ,

The first thought I want to share is how amazing I find it that we enjoy, for the most part, nicer weather from May to the end of October, and particularly nice weather for the months of June to August. This is a total of 185 days of warmer weather from May to October. The months of colder weather, particularly from December to the end of April total 181 days, almost equal to the months of warm weather, with each day composed of 24 hours. Why is it the 185 days of warm weather seems to go so much faster, yet the number of days is almost equal?? Does anyone else notice this or is it just me? I can't believe we are more than halfway through June.

We long for summer and when it arrives, we bask in longer days, warmer weather, and opportunities for rest and renewal. We are reminded of God's many blessings, found in the beauty of His creation, which invite us to slow down, enjoy the gifts of the season, spend time in prayer and reflection, and grow in our faith.

The work of the ACW continues to be rooted in such growing faith, fellowship, and service. Throughout the year, the ACW has supported parishes, reached out to those in need, and strengthened one another through friendship and shared ministry. Thank you to all: from our supportive Bishops to parishioners who have contributed to and supported the ACW with their time, talents, and generosity. Summer brings a change of daily rhythm. Some of us will travel, some will welcome family and friends, and others will find quiet moments where they can. Regardless of where we find ourselves in the summer months, we are assured that God walks with us in every season of life.

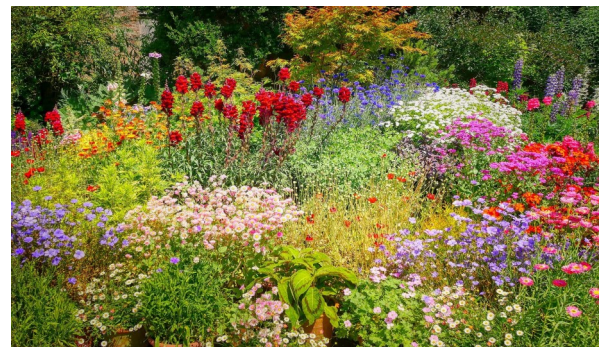
May we hold one another in prayer and take every opportunity to share Christ's love through simple acts of kindness. A visit, a call, a text, a helping hand, or a word of encouragement can make a meaningful difference in someone's day. Do you ever experience that little voice that says, "You should reach out to ---" or someone comes to your thoughts or heart? I experience that feeling often and believe God is sending a message.

As we all enjoy the wonderful blessings of summer may our bodies, spirits, hope and faith be renewed. We look forward to gathering again in the fall with renewed energy and gratitude for all that God is doing among us.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones throughout the summer season.

Blessings,

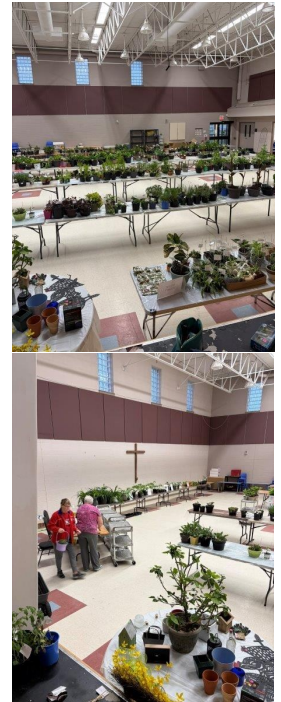
Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh-Clark  
ACW Chaplain, Diocese of Toronto



## Christ Church Stouffville

Christ Church held a Plant Sale in May, organized by Gail Wood. Parishioners were asked to check their gardens for plants that needed splitting, to pot up bulbs and seeds and to bring them to the church on a Friday evening. In spite of inclement weather, there were line-ups at the door on Saturday morning. Plant enthusiasts offered their advice for healthy growing. The parish hall was lined with tables with many kinds of plants. Sales were brisk. Doors opened at 9 and by 9:30 about 2/3 of the plants were sold! Any remaining plants were offered to the congregation on Sunday.

Christ Church is also offering a free Community Meal in the parish hall on a Saturday evening once a month (except July/August). This is open to anyone in the area including those who just like to have someone else with whom to share a meal. Donations are welcome. Meals are prepared in the kitchen and served by helpers. So far, about 100 people have taken advantage of the event which is widely advertised in the community. As well, there are often free fruit and vegetables offered for take-home.



## Ecclesiastical Needleworkers

The Needleworkers have adjourned their weekly work meetings at the ACW Office until September. However some of the workers have taken work home for the summer. Below are two of the red banners they created for Christ the King, Etobicoke and a white pulpit hanging they have just finished. As well as creating new articles, the needleworkers have several gently used fittings, vestments and fair linens looking for good homes. They also repair worn articles. If you are interested in seeing their work, a visit can be arranged. Please contact the ACW office at [acw@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:acw@toronto.anglican.ca) with a message for the Needleworkers.



Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.



The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

## **Launch of World Day of Prayer Centennial** **Toronto, ON**

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto is hosting an introduction to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World Day of Prayer on the morning of Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, at Cumber United Church, Toronto. For more details, contact Ruth Currie – [ruthcurrie09@gmail.com](mailto:ruthcurrie09@gmail.com) and/or follow the social media pages for the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Save the date!!!!

## **Spring Tea Party**

The fourth annual Spring Tea Party, hosted by the Anglican Church Women of St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale, on Saturday, May 23, was a joyful celebration of fellowship, music, and community spirit. Guests delighted in a wonderful assortment of teas, sandwiches, scones, and baked treats, while uplifting performances by Elijah Ellis and guest singer Ms. Sonia Brown added warmth and inspiration to the afternoon. In partnership with the Outreach Ministry, attendees also generously donated non-perishable food items for the church's food trunk to help support those in need in our community.

Margaret Durant, ACW Chair

St Paul The Apostle, Rexdale.



### **A Summer Reflection**

While laying in grasses of clover and hay,  
where breezes make music through all of the trees,  
and birds do their singing among all the leaves,  
I raised up my eyes at the vastness of space,  
and wondered what God thought of His human race.

By Louis Gander

## **Bed in Summer A child's lament!**

Robert Louis Stevenson 1850 – 1894

In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.  
In summer, quite the other way,  
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see  
The birds still hopping on the tree,  
Or hear the grown-up people's feet  
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,  
When all the sky is clear and blue,  
And I should like so much to play,  
To have to go to bed by day?

(This poem is in the public domain.)

## **Celebrating ACW Members**

Do you wish to honour one of your ACW members? A variety of Diocesan Anglican Church Women pins and Chancel Guild/Altar Guild pins are available through the Diocesan ACW office. For more information contact the office at [acw@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:acw@toronto.anglican.ca)



## **2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **Theme: MINISTERING WITH COMPASSION**

The Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women Annual General Meeting was held by Zoom to allow for easier access for women throughout the Diocese. We also continue to encourage Women's Gatherings for Fun and Fellowship being held in person in various parts of the Diocese during the year. This year the Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday April 25.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from our President, Janice Hodgson ODT, the reading of the Indigenous Declaration by Stephanie Cryer and the Toronto Diocesan ACW Prayer.

We welcomed our guests and received greetings from: Janet Pike, National ACW President, Kate O'Quinn, Toronto Diocesan Council President, Catholic Women's League and Janet MacFadyen, Communications Specialist of WICC (Women's Inter-Church Council of Toronto).

The business meeting opened with a devotion by our chaplain, the Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh, followed by opening remarks on our theme "Ministering With Compassion". The minutes of the 2025 AGM were presented and accepted. Enid Corbett presented the Nominations report which was displayed on-line. The Board of Directors and members of the Finance Committee were installed by Bishop Riscylla Shaw. Sandra McPhail, our treasurer, presented the 2025 financial reports, referring to the figures printed in the on-line Annual Report and shown on the Zoom screens. The review engagement statements were accepted and the 2026 budget was presented. Special Guest, the Rev. Denise Byard, shared with us her appreciation for receiving our Missionary Appeal Grant.

Margaret Durant presented the Special Projects report, giving an overview of the 2025 recipient organizations. The theme for Special Projects for 2024/26 was "Food Insecurity". Due to increasing food insecurity, it has been decided that "Food Insecurity" will be the theme for Special Projects for 2026/2028. The Rev Canon Joan Cavanaugh read the names of the many members whose names were inscribed in the Diocesan Anglican Church Women Memorial Book in 2025.

Anita Gittens congratulated Judy Beale on her retirement. She was our office administrator for 23 years. Anita also recognized two former members of the Finance Committee, Dorothy MacLeod and Lyn Hall who passed away this year. Their names will be entered into the Memorial Book in 2026.

We were privileged to hear from our guest speaker Jenifer Pergentile, the CEO of S.H.I.F.T (Support and Hope for Individuals and Families Today) who shared with us how our Special Project money has helped their organization address the various needs in South Simcoe. Their work includes overnight emergency shelter, daytime drop-in programs including meals, hygiene and warmth.

Words of appreciation were expressed to the Board by Janice Hodgson for their support during the past year. Carol Cryer was thanked for her many years of serving on the Board. Special thank you's were extended to Sandy McPhail our treasurer (working mostly from Nova Scotia), the Finance Committee who meet monthly, Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh, our Chaplain, June Dyer and Enid Corbett who work on the quarterly newsletter and Cheryl Gallagher who acted as co-host manager for the meeting.

Our meeting closed with a prayer from our Chaplain and the saying of the Grace.