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The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL www.toronto.anglican.ca OCTOBER 2026



Before the Eucharist celebration at the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection, where the Rev. Canon Maurice Francois was installed as honorary canon. From left to right: The Very Rev. Tatiana Ribeiro (Dean), crucifer, Bishop Mauricio Andrade (Bishop of Brasilia), acolyte, Bishop Kevin Robertson (Toronto), the Rev. Canon Maurice Francois (Toronto), acolyte, the Rev. Pam Trondson (Toronto), acolyte, the Rev. Denilson Olivato (Brasilia), Presbyterian clergy (ecumenical representative), the Rev. Dr. Rodrigo Espiuca (Brasilia) and the Rev. Izaias Torquato (Goaina). PHOTO COURTESY OF THE REV. PAM TRONDSON

Partnership deepens bonds between dioceses

BY THE REV. CANON MAURICE FRANCOIS

The dioceses of Brasilia and Toronto signed a covenant for a seven-year partnership in July 2025. The genesis of this relationship started a few years earlier. Bishop Mauricio Andrade was invited to the diocesan Synod in November 2024, and it was there that this partnership project was first announced. Since then, several monthly Zoom meetings have built a road to dream and learn together.

In July 2026, the first delegation from the Diocese of Toronto visited our sister Diocese of Brasilia. It was winter, but the temperature was between 26 to 28 degrees! Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil, is a futuristic city that is only 66 years old. Brasilia was planned and designed by Oscar Niemeyer. This city is clean, neat, minimalist and even galactical. It was made for government bureaucrats, politicians and diplomats. The city has a population of 3.5 million people, but it is so spacious that there are no traffic jams. Huge and wide avenues where you cannot even see people, cars or public transportation. The city displays another reality outside of the urban ring designed by Niemeyer.

The Cathedral Church of the Resurrection is located in the city core, but the diocese has a strong presence with parish life and social programs in the surrounding struggling neighbourhoods. In Novo Gama and Paranoa, you have Parish Espirito Santo, Parish Santissima Trinidade and Centro Social Anglicano. There we found the heart of this immaculate capital city. In the parishes, we met the hard-working people who earn small salaries by going to work in the city. Their families need support, and the Church is ready to help with serving lunches to children at the community centre, food transported to the homeless and spiritual support for poor people who are rich in faith. To witness the work and to interact with the community is a transforming experience, and it gave us a new admiration for the commitment of the Diocese of Brasilia.

We traveled to Goiana, a city of 2.8 million located 208 km northwest of Brasilia that is also part of the diocese. We went to Paroquia San Felipe, a small property adapted to worship and serving the community. This is another impressive ministry of people with strong commitment but no financial resources to build an actual house for HIV/AIDS patients undergoing treatment. Once again, their leaders and community working in faith is inspirational. The humble property is in poor shape, but it has an altar, bibles, liturgical texts, old furniture and candles. People's faces radiant with joy and hope working and connecting with neighbours, politicians, students, anti-racism movements, ecumenical and inter-faith relationships.

To describe the Diocese of Brasilia is complex because it is huge in geographical extension, a very young diocese and deeply impactful for people from marginalized backgrounds. It is small in human resources and small in budget. How to understand their ministry? The only answer is that their strong faith moves the church ahead. A diocese committed to marginalized people, the LGBTQ+ community, the HIV/AIDS community, immigrants, the displaced, the poor, women, children and environmental issues. It is a diocese with a prophetic voice, a message of liberation and inclusion. It was in this context that I was installed as an honorary canon to the Diocese of Brasilia on July 19, in recognition of 28 years working in the ministry for Portuguese-speaking people in the Diocese of Toronto and for working to build bridges between Brazil and Canada.

Their small team of clergy and lay people highly visible to the people, communities, government, national and international networks. They act with efficiency as the proclaimers of the transforming and liberating gospel. A strong mission and vision is key, and its bishop, clergy and lay people know that with conviction.

During this visit, we were not just exploring and discovering the social challenges of a city and a nation, but we found joy in the great warm hospitality, dancing samba, food, caipirinha (national cocktail), the beauty of the nature (we were lucky to see capybaras) and the great architecture and art in their iconic buildings. We have to wait for the next trip to try the famous piranha soup delicacy from Mato Grosso. It was a greatly transforming trip that opened our eyes and minds to understand that the partnership between Brasilia and Toronto is not an accident, but a blessing for our journeys and pilgrimages.

The Rev. Canon Maurice Francois works with a focus on multilingual and intercultural ministries at St. Paul, Runnymede, St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto and Parroquia San Esteban in the Diocese of Toronto.

ANGLICAN FUNDRAISER HAVING AN IMPACT IN JAMAICA – SEE PAGE 3

Conference explores our call to participate in Christ's liberating work

BY ELIN GOULDEN

From Exodus to the prophets to Jesus' proclamation of his ministry, the liberation of the oppressed and those in captivity is integral to the good news of God's saving work. Nor is this liberation restricted to human beings – in the eighth chapter of Romans, St. Paul declares that creation itself will be liberated and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

As God's people, we in the Church are called to participate in this work. Sometimes (all too often!) individual Christians and the Church itself have been captive to worldly systems and structures that "corrupt and destroy the creatures of God," in the words of the baptismal liturgy. Yet at other times, the Church has also been at the forefront of challenging and overturning these structures, upholding the dignity and worth of God's creatures and sharing the good news of her liberating and life-giving Lord.

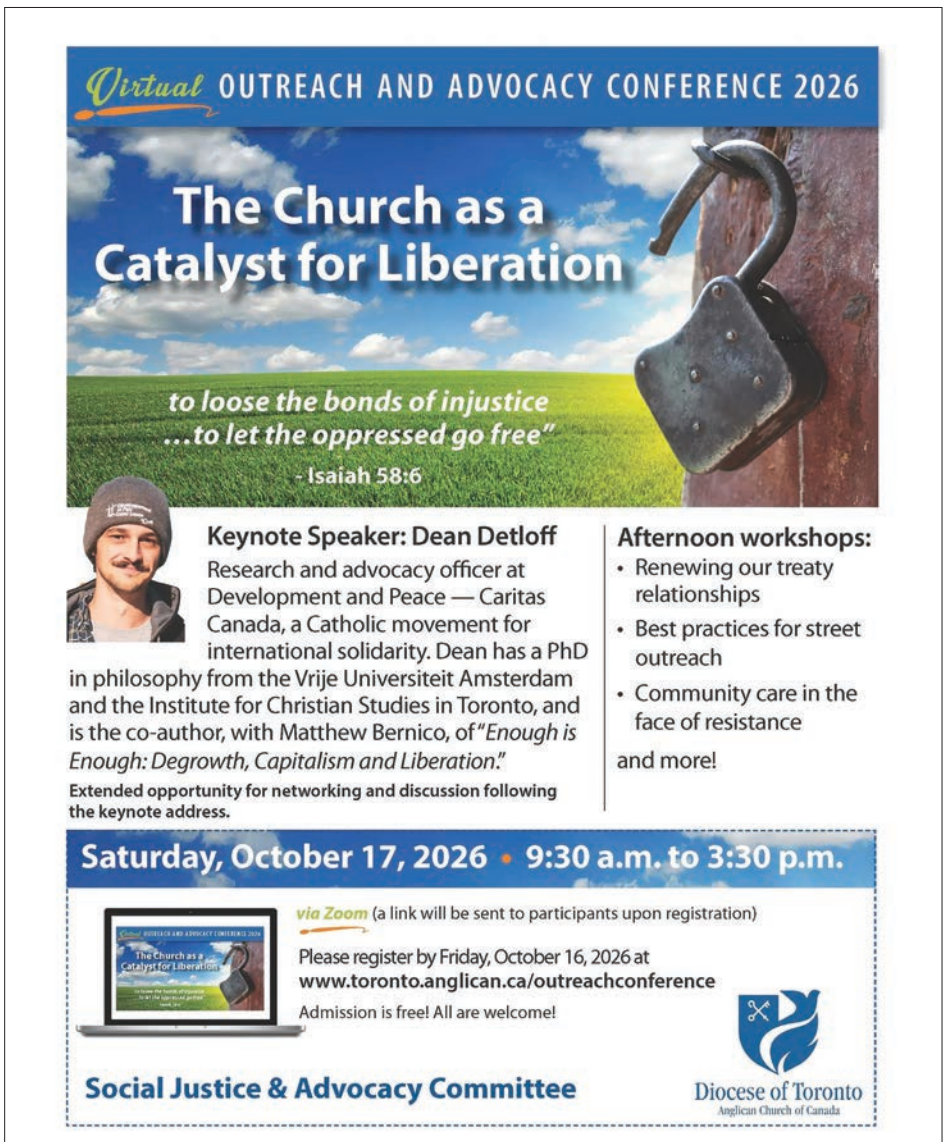
This year's diocesan Outreach & Advocacy Conference, to be held online on Saturday, Oct. 17, will explore ways in which the Church can be a catalyst for God's liberation and new life. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Dean Detloff, research and advocacy officer at Development and Peace – Caritas Canada. Dean is also a sessional faculty member at the Institute for Christian Studies and co-author, with Matt Bernico, of the recent book Enough is Enough: Degrowth, Capitalism, and Liberation Theology. An engaging speaker, Dean brings a fresh perspective to the intersection of Christianity and social justice.

A choice of workshops in the afternoon will feature people around our diocese engaged in bringing this message and practice of liberation to their different contexts. Going beyond performative messages to authentic reconciliation, the Rev. Leigh Kern will discuss the process of renewing the treaty relationships between our diocese and local First Nations communities. The Rev. Angie Hocking, with members of the Toronto Underhoused and Homeless Union, will look at best practices for street outreach from the perspective of those being served. Meeting people on the margins with love and dignity can be especially challenging in the face of dehumanizing rhetoric and policy, but it is even more necessary in such a context, as the Rev. Canon Simon Bell can attest from the experience of faith leaders in Barrie. The Rev. Michael Van Dusen, deacon at St. Aidan, Toronto, will explore how the advancing climate crisis demands a re-examination of our "business as usual" assumptions and practices.

For the seventh year in a row, this day of learning will be held online via Zoom. After last year's conference, the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee sought feedback from past participants to see whether we should return to an in-person event. While some respondents favoured an in-person event, others felt that format would limit their ability to participate, whether because of travel distance, cost or conflict with caregiving obligations. What united respondents was a desire for more dialogue following the keynote address, as well as an opportunity for networking with other participants. The format of the conference has been adjusted accordingly, leaving only one session of concurrent workshops but offering facilitated breakout groups over the lunch period for participants from different parishes to engage in conversation. Parish "watch parties" are also welcome.

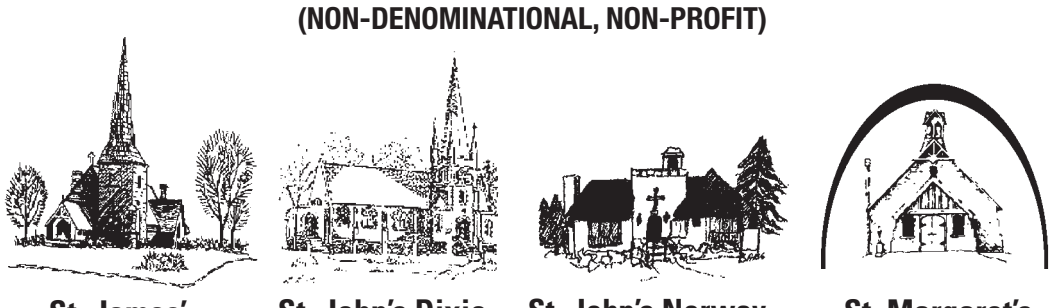
The conference is offered free of charge to participants, who are encouraged to register at www.toronto.anglican.ca/outreachconference. We look forward to spending the day with you!

Elin Goulden is the diocese's Social Justice & Advocacy consultant.



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Jamaica response bolstered by diocesan campaign



All that remains of this building is the foundation. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DIOCESE OF JAMAICA AND THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

BY JANICE BIEHN

HURRICANE MELISSA tore through the Caribbean in late October 2025. In Jamaica, the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands mobilized an extensive emergency relief response to support vulnerable households across affected communities. The diocese provided affected families with food, water, personal care supplies, emergency shelter materials and pastoral support during the immediate response phase through the support of Alongside Hope, Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) in the United States, local partners, congregations and other international donors.

Alongside Hope sent an initial solidarity grant of $10,000 to the Diocese of Jamaica and began accepting donations to a future response. Discussions with the diocese and other agencies of the Anglican Alliance continued to discern what longer-term supports were needed. With immediate humanitarian needs being met, the diocese's Hurricane Melissa Relief and Response Task Force was able to identify shelter recovery as the most urgent unmet need among vulnerable families.

The large Caribbean diaspora in the Diocese of Toronto was keen to make an impact. The Rev. Canon Donald Butler is a member of Alongside Hope's board and a retired priest in the Diocese of Toronto. Born in Antigua, he says that people of Caribbean origin have a track record of responding well to the needs in the wider region.

"A couple of the churches I have been involved with in my ministry pushed me to talk to Alongside Hope," he says, recalling he also helped initiate a response to Hurricane Irma in Barbuda in 2017.

On Feb. 27,, Bishop Andrew Asbil called on churches in the Diocese of Toronto to designate their Lenten givings, with the goal of raising $50,000 for Alongside Hope's Hurricane Melissa response.

The campaign surpassed Bishop Asbil's challenge, raising $74,822. With a $50,000 matching grant from FaithWorks, the total allocated to Alongside Hope was $124,822.

"Alongside Hope is grateful for the generous support of the Diocese of Toronto," says Will Postma, executive director of Alongside Hope. "The support allows us to grow the relationship with the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and strengthen the implementation with program staff, all with the shared commitment to respond to current needs and build community readiness to respond should there be other hurricanes. We are grateful for the financial supports from the Diocese of Toronto that make possible the carrying out of work and the strengthening of relationships. Truly, the Church in action."

In March, staff from Alongside Hope and ERD met with the task force. In June, Alongside Hope and ERD staff travelled to Jamaica to visit affected areas. With the final funding allocation, the task force has proposed a project to support long-term recovery and community resilience.

Jackie Koster, director of Programs and Partnerships at Alongside Hope, reflected on her visit. "As we stood together, representing three Anglican provinces, there was a profound sense of solidarity and shared purpose. In moments of crisis, we are reminded of what it means to be part of a wider community. The immediate support of tarps, supplies and emergency assistance is invaluable, as is the commitment to long-term recovery. Equally important is the reassurance that distance does not diminish our connectedness. Even across great distances, we remain united in care, prayer and action."

The task force found that many families were unable to pay for home repairs and therefore remain highly vulnerable to future weather-related events. Further, a significant number of these families continue to live in unsafe structures that were either destroyed or severely compromised by the hurricane.

Continued rainfall, deteriorating building conditions and ongoing exposure to future weather events have made vulnerable families even more vulnerable, particularly the elderly, people with disabilities and families headed by women, with young children or living in extreme poverty. Temporary measures, including tarpaulin coverings, provide short-term protection but are insufficient to restore long-term safety, dignity and resilience.

The project will restore safe and dignified living conditions for households most severely impacted by Hurricane Melissa while strengthening community resilience against future disasters. Through a combination of new construction and housing repairs, the project will provide secure shelter, improve living conditions, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable individuals and families who remain at risk from future climate-related disasters.



Members of the Diocese of Jamaica Task Force visit and assess damage. From left to right, Vilya Thomas, Claudette Marshall, Anna-Marie Ewan, Archdeacon Patrick Cunningham and the Very Rev. David "Tony" Reid.

"This shows me that when you have a grass roots movement it can create possibilities," says Canon Butler. "Alongside Hope was not active in Jamaica when the hurricane struck, but they rose to the occasion by encouraging people to give to a future response."

The Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands remains committed to implementing this project with the highest standards of accountability, stewardship, transparency and community participation. Comprehensive selection procedures of participants, financial controls, monitoring mechanisms and project reporting systems will ensure that resources are directed to those most in need and that donor investments will result in measurable and sustainable recovery outcomes.

It will be of the utmost importance, says Canon Butler, who noted on a recent visit to Jamaica that buildings and houses need to be rebuilt to withstand hurricanes. "Conversations about resilience will continue to be important in the region. These disasters are going to become even more regular. We need to learn how to prepare effectively."

— With files from the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands

Janice Biehn is Alongside Hope's communications officer and a member of St. Olave, Swansea.



Trees and houses were devastated by the hurricane, shown here in Southfield (Lacovia).

Making magic happen under the stairs

BY THE REV. JUDITH ALLTREE

The Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario is thrilled to announce the opening of our brand-new station at the cruise ship terminal in the east Port Lands. Yes, folks, there is a cruise ship terminal in Toronto, because cruise ships have been coming to Toronto since before 2003. Back then it might have been only one ship visit a year; now it's 45. That means there are a lot of seafarers coming to Toronto on a fairly regular basis, and that's also why our new station, which opened on May 20, is located in the cruise ship terminal.

The seafarers who work on cruise ships are very underserved. They work incredibly hard while on board – passenger service is 24/7, so someone is always on duty. Because their shore leave time is counted in minutes, not hours, any welfare centre has to be located as close to the ship as possible so seafarers don't have to waste valuable time just getting to the centre. The space available to us, under a four-storey staircase, is in a bright, sunny spot located 25 seconds' walk from the gangway. The seafarers are thrilled!

Their favourite things: the huge leather-covered sectional sofa, squishy and comfortable (donated from the Furniture Bank); the jar of tiny chocolate bars on top of the shelf unit; hot, freshly made microwave popcorn; and free Wi-Fi. But their favourite is the baskets of knitwear lovingly made by a battalion of amazing people in this diocese who spend all year knitting for them.

The Viking Polaris is an expedition class cruise ship, with a passenger complement of about 378, as opposed to the huge Caribbean cruise ships with 5,000 to 6,000 passengers. This class of ship can sail into the tiny bays and harbours in places like the Arctic, the Antarctic and South America, as well as some of the more inaccessible places on the Great Lakes. On July 5, Polaris, her passengers and crew set sail for Greenland. And the crew was in a flat panic! Most of them were from countries like the Philippines, Malaysia, Ecuador and India, with only a few of the officers being Norwegian and used to the cold.

When the young crew members told me their concerns, I pulled out the baskets from our shelf unit to show them the hats and scarves, and they went nuts. "Is this for us?" they kept asking. When I explained that it was, and also free, gifted to them by people who don't know them but have been knitting for them all year, their next question was, "How can we meet a knitter?" In most of their cultures, only people who know you and love you would make you something by hand. That someone would devote their time and energy to making something for someone they don't know is a huge gesture of love for them. They wanted to meet and thank one of the knitters directly.



The purser and receptionist from Victory II take a tour on the mission's opening day. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE REV. JUDITH ALLTREE



Vyvyan Ruth Webb has been knitting and volunteering for the Mission to Seafarers for more than 25 years.

So on Polaris's next visit, I asked one of the battalion of knitters if she was able to visit with them. She was thrilled, as were the seafarers. It's not often you get those full circle moments, where you can see God's

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Lessons from a "churchless" season

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Martha Holmen

Through the vagaries and circumstances of life, I have found myself officially "churchless" for the past 18 months. Or, to put it more accurately, "congregation-less." Since last Easter, my family and I have continued to attend Sunday services regularly without belonging to a specific group of Anglicans.

While I'm looking forward to the next phase of life when I'm rooted once again in a particular community, this season hasn't been without its charms. And of course, as with all things, I've gained a few insights along the way.

1. Visiting new churches is life-giving. This has been the biggest blessing of the past many months. It didn't surprise me, but it was nice to be reminded again of the many gifts congregations can offer – and we barely scratched the surface!

It's a joy to belong to a community, and it's a joy to see how other Anglicans worship. During this churchless year, my family has returned to congregations familiar to us where we were sure of a warm welcome, but we've also stepped through new doors, not always knowing what to expect. Rooted in a familiar liturgy, we've observed the different ways communities live out their call to worship God and serve the world.

Not everything was to our personal tastes; nor should it be. The congregation with unfamiliar music had the warmest welcome. The one with very few kids had the best activity bag. No congregation was perfect, no congregation was the same, and yet in every one we found a community of faithful people praising God.

Familiarity is good. It's comfortable and comforting. It provides a safe space to ask questions, and companions with whom to learn to follow Jesus. But it's also valuable beyond measure to get out of that bubble every now and then, to remind ourselves that our way is not the only way, and that we are part of something much more vast than our little corner of God's kingdom.

2. It can be a gift to stay home. There are weeks in all our lives that are packed with activity, when we arrive at the weekend breathless and exhausted. And for families with kids, weekends can be just as busy, with swimming lessons, birthday parties, dance recitals and family gatherings. And then there's a subway shutdown.

For several years, my daughter and I would walk down the street to church in-person every Sunday, come rain or shine or snowpocalypse, my husband having left home hours before to lead the early service. Interruptions to the pattern, usually caused by illness, were less breaks than long hours of pure survival mode.

So this past year we decided, on occasion, to give ourselves a real break. Often we tuned into livestreamed worship, a wonderful outcome of the pandemic that many congregations have continued to invest in. And sometimes we didn't. Some weeks, we gave ourselves a slow morning to simply enjoy time at home with each other. We knew church would be there next Sunday.

The weekly rhythm of worship is important, and faith grows stronger in the context of a community. But the freedom to choose not to go to church, when exercised judiciously, is no bad thing.

3. Giving doesn't have to stop. Despite not attending the same church every week, we've still been able to give to ministry we feel called to support. Tools like pre-authorized remittance and CanadaHelps make it easy to give even when we're not physically in church, and to give to more than one congregation. Electronic giving also lets us support the communities we're visiting when we don't think to bring cash, which is almost always.

No doubt the amount and direction of our gifts will shift with the changes in our lives, but it's a comfort to know that we can find easy and predictable ways to give no matter where we are.

4. Faith formation needs to happen at home. This also wasn't a new thought, but it did become more real. During our churchless year, my daughter morphed from a kindergartener with rounded edges to a gangly first-grader, all sharp knees and elbows. Her curiosity and critical thinking have taken off, and she has started to appreciate that her Christian faith is something that most of her friends don't share.

Relying solely on Sunday School to teach my daughter about God and Jesus was never the plan, still less so when we're not visiting the same place every week. She's at an age when she wants to learn from her parents and share her thoughts. For now, at least, we are the most important people in her life. And her faith won't deepen if we don't take the trouble to help deepen it. Just as we need to help her practice reading and writing, math and problem-solving, we need to help her practice her faith.

It's not always comfortable, and there's still part of me that feels unqualified to disciple anybody, but it's much too important to neglect. We shouldn't leave our faith behind at the church door on Sunday. It should follow us home, shape how we grow, the choices we make, the ways we live our lives. There's no way to predict what decisions my daughter will make about faith as she grows up, but I can hope that providing a space where we ask questions, have tricky conversations and grow together will help nurture in her a faith that is curious and active.

This nomadic year wasn't something I had planned, and I didn't necessarily welcome it. And yet, there have been valuable experiences that I can't regret having, and valuable insights that I can't regret knowing. I may not have another year like this again in my life, but I hope to remember that faith is formed not only where we put down roots, but also whenever God invites us to look beyond them.

Mary G. Griffith B.A., M.B.A., J.D.

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Brasilia trip reveals resilient faith

BY THE REV. PAM TRONDSON

How can I reflect fully on a 10-day trip spent in Brazil, in an amazing diocese, with incredible people? I can only offer highlights of my "takeaways" (not the food kind…although the food there was great!). These are some key observations from my experience.

Some background

On July 12, the 7th Sunday after Pentecost, I preached for the first time, with a translator relaying in Portuguese. I was the homilist in the Church of the Holy Spirit in Brazil! There is a strange waiting period, a time lag between speaking and when the listeners actually hear the words in their language. I wish I knew Portuguese better. The gospel was the parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. Upon reflecting on that passage, I didn't think I could preach on the goal of being "good soil." With the history of the colonization of Brazil, and preaching there for the first time, the message couldn't be, "do better." I noted the fact that like a flower growing in the crack in a sidewalk, there is a sense of hope against hope that something good will happen even in the places that aren't the best for seed-growing. The realm of our generous God happens even in the hard places.

I quoted liberation theologian Gustavo Gutierrez from, The God of Life. "Despite a long history as victims of systemic violence, the people of Latin America are able to proclaim the good news of salvation and have learned how to 'talk about a God who is revealed as love in a situation characterized by poverty and oppression.'"

I want to acknowledge the people caught up by the love of God, the people of faith and action in the Diocese of Brasilia.

The people

The stories of struggle and faith were palpable. I was reminded of the figures of faith in Hebrews 11.

Who are these people? One is a person who grew up in a Roman Catholic Church, felt called to be a priest from a very young age, but was not allowed to because he was gay. He waited and waited for over 25 years to fulfill that call. Who, late in life, found and joined the Anglican Church, was "priested" and is now doing amazing ministry leading his small church in devoted faith and in reaching out to the vulnerable. Together they cook and deliver 100 hot meals in the streets each week.

For LGBTQ+ people who looked and had no place to find community to support their journey and their faith. Who have found belonging in churches in the Diocese of Brasilia, with many attending the cathedral.

Stories of sacrifice. One priest, already ordained, chose to complete a nurse technician degree in order that he could be the remarkable coordinator of Casa A+ House and undertake the ministry of advocacy and support for people living with HIV/AIDS.

I learned of a church choosing to downsize its space by moving into a smaller building so that they could be in the inner core of the city and reach out to the vulnerable more readily. They are planning to refigure their small space in order to provide hospitality and to house new immigrants and LGBTQ+ individuals for short periods. This same church advocates for the protection of the building and people in the local mosque, as they have faced hate crimes and discrimination.

I was impressed that there are 25 people in the Diocese of Brasilia in a discernment process, considering what way they are called to ministry.

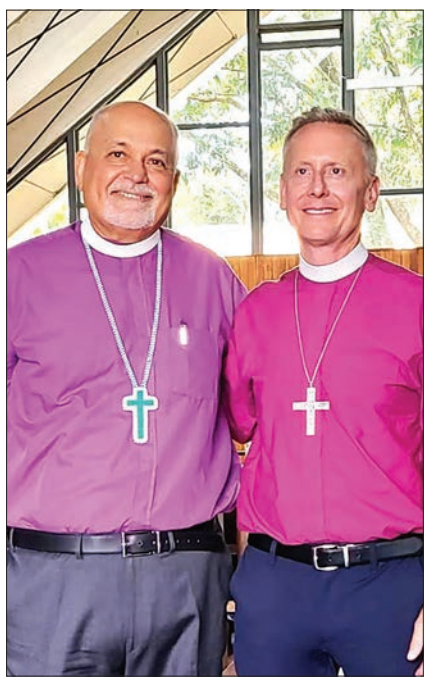
Their ability to be flexible was readily noted, given that churches are small numerically. On the first Sunday we were present, two parishes closed down their own services so they could worship with the visitors from Toronto. On the last Sunday, three churches joined with the cathedral to hear Bishop Kevin Robertson's fabulous sermon and to celebrate the Rev. Canon Maurice Francois becoming an honorary canon to the Diocese of Brasilia.

It was poignant to see the high walls around a church, denomination not disclosed, called, "Mary, Mother of the Poor," which does little social action. Many denominations are not involved in that way. This puts pressure on the Diocese of Brasilia. With ecumenism sparse, working together for the common good is not an option. The resources of the diocese are spread in incredible ways and they constantly work under a deficit budget, looking in faith for provision.

After listing many stories of faith in Hebrews 11, the writer says, "And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about," and I don't have time to tell about the resilience and encouragement of Bishop Mauricio Andrade and of the outreach school that Sandra, his partner, runs; or of the wider work of Rev. Rodrigo Espiuca as the Communion Forest facilitator; or of theologian Paulo Ueti; of the Rev. Tatiana (Tati) Ribeiro, Dean of the Cathedral Church of the Resurrection, for the hours she commits to support young people; or of Walster, an enthusiastic young server at the Church of the Holy Trinity or other dedicated lay people who so generously give their time.

I am so grateful to the people of the Diocese of Brasilia for their faith and hospitality. The time with them helped encourage my faith. I am also grateful to our Diocese of Toronto for entering into this companionship with them and allowing me to have this incredible experience.

The Rev. Pam Trondson is the incumbent of Holy Trinity, Trinity Square









Bishop Kevin Robertson, the Rev. Canon Maurice Francois and the Rev. Pam Trondson visit parishes throughout the Diocese of Brasilia. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE REV. PAM TRONDSON

Following Jesus, renewing his Church

Chinese congregations meet, learn together

BY THE REV. CANON DR. PHILIP DER



More than 200 Anglicans from St. Elizabeth Church, Mississauga, St. John, Willowdale, St. Christopher, Richmond Hill and All Saints, Markham attended the joint conference in late June. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER, RICHMOND HILL

The triennial Four-Parish Joint Conference was held June 27-28 at Durham College. Every three years, the four Chinese-background Anglican churches – St. Elizabeth Church, Mississauga, St. John, Willowdale, St. Christopher, Richmond Hill and All Saints, Markham – gather to be inspired by featured speakers, learn from one another and reconnect with both new and old friends. This year, it was St. Christopher's turn to host the conference. Our theme continued the Diocese of Toronto's 2023–2025 Season of Spiritual Renewal: "Following Jesus, Renewing His Church."

During the opening ceremony, I had the honour of welcoming the 235 participants. I recalled that the conference was first initiated by St. Elizabeth, Mississauga in 2006. As ethnic congregations, we face many similar challenges, including adapting to a new environment, ministering to the second generation and reaching out to our communities. With the support of the other three congregations, the first joint conference was held in 2007 at Appleby College in Oakville.

We were delighted to have Bishop Andrew Asbil as our featured speaker this year. He delivered three keynote talks over the weekend. In the first, "Spiritual Renewal – Building Up Disciples," Bishop Asbil illustrated how sharing our faith stories with the next generation inspires us to continue proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus often shared the faith over meals, including at the Last Supper, during breakfast by the Sea of Galilee and in the breaking of bread on the road to Emmaus.

Likewise, the history of our four Chinese parishes is filled with testimonies that should be passed on to new generations of believers. This includes the story of St. John, Willowdale, which began in 1973 as a fellowship at St. Paul, Bloor Street, before becoming an official congregation at the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St. In 1984, the Rev. Canon Kenneth Fung and his team planted All Saints, first in Scarborough and later relocated to Markham. In 1991, the Rev. Canon Edmund Der and his team planted St. Christopher-on-the-Heights in Downsview. St. Christopher later established St. Christopher Centre at Leslie and Finch in 1994. The outreach centre became St. Christopher, North York in 2007. The mother church moved from Downsview to Richmond Hill in 2008, becoming St. Christopher, Richmond Hill. Meanwhile, in 1992, the Rev. James Chu planted St. Elizabeth in Etobicoke. Following a fire in 1999, the parish relocated to Mississauga in 2000.

After the first talk, we divided into 21 small groups in Cantonese, English and Mandarin. Each group consisted of members from three or four congregations within the same age group. As we discussed what we had heard and shared our own faith stories, the bishop's message sank more deeply into our hearts. We also spent time praying for one another. It was a wonderful time of Christian fellowship, as we experienced God's presence, joy and peace.

On Saturday afternoon, we offered seven workshops led by our pastoral staff on various topics, from youth ministry and small group ministry to spiritual renewal and contextual bible study.



Attendees identified Bishop Andrew Asbil's talks as being the most appreciated part of the conference.



Small group discussions in between presentations.

Each workshop attracted between 20 and 50 participants, and many shared how much they appreciated the opportunity to learn and grow.

Bishop Asbil's second talk, "Spiritual Renewal – Commitment to Ministry," began by sharing stories from his family's farming background. The rocks on the family farm reminded him of generations of family history and the values they had inherited. One lesson was the importance of living for others. Jesus taught his disciples the same lesson in the feeding of the five thousand. Rather than telling his disciples to look after themselves, Jesus challenged them to care for the hungry crowd. In a world that often tells us to put ourselves first, Jesus calls us to serve others.

Bishop Asbil illustrated this through the story of Monica from Redeemer, Bloor St., who began by preparing peanut butter sandwiches for people experiencing homelessness. Over time, the parish grew this ministry into serving more than 30,000 meals each year. Commitment to ministry requires time, sacrifice and perseverance. Yet it all begins with Jesus' question to Peter: "Do you love me?" Jesus asks him three times, moving from friendship love (philia*) to unconditional love (agape).

In the evening, we enjoyed a 45-minute "Dialogue with Bishop" session. It provided an opportunity to ask questions ranging from theology to practical ministry. The conversation brought us closer to Bishop Asbil as he thoughtfully addressed the issues that concerned us. Afterwards,the Rev. Andrew Johnson and the Rev. Carol Shih from St. John, Willowdale led us in Evening Prayer to conclude the day.

On the second day of the conference, All Saints, Markham prepared the Eucharist, which Bishop Asbil presided over. During the children's message, Bishop Asbil told a story about a puppy that was deeply loved by a farmer, even though all the other animals in the barn believed they were the most important. In the same way, every child is precious in God's sight.

Bishop Asbil delivered his third talk, "Spiritual Renewal – Equipping Tomorrow's Leaders." He introduced three key words: "Listen, show and tell." He recalled meeting a parishioner at a subway station whom he had been thinking about for some time. The parishioner shared that he had prayed for Bishop Asbil the previous night. This was an example of listening to God's prompting. We all learned "show and tell" during our school years, but Bishop Asbil reminded us that we must also learn to listen to God.

Using Genesis 22:1-14, the account of Abraham offering Isaac, Bishop Asbil acknowledged that many preachers avoid this difficult passage. Yet the story reveals that, unlike the gods of many ancient Near Eastern religions, the Lord did not require child sacrifice. Rather, it demonstrates the intimate relationship between God, Abraham and Isaac. Abraham listens to God. Isaac listens to his father. Abraham demonstrates unwavering faith, while Isaac willingly carries the wood up the mountain. In the same way, Jesus carries His own cross to Golgotha. Throughout the journey, Abraham trusts God, quietly believing, "God will provide." And indeed, the Lord provides a lamb. Throughout Scripture – from Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Mary and Peter – we see the same pattern of listening, showing and telling.

Bishop Asbil also shared his own experience during a major capital campaign. He, then a curate, and a ministry partner met with a parishioner named Jim to invite him to make a significant gift. After presenting the diocesan vision, Bishop Asbil nervously suggested the possibility of a $100,000 donation. Jim immediately replied, "I'd be happy to do that." Three months later, Bishop Asbil asked Jim how he had been able to make such a generous commitment. Jim answered, "When you believe in something so much, it is a joy to give." Bishop Asbil reflected on the phrase, "Give until it feels good, not until it hurts." Indeed, as Paul reminds us, "God loves a cheerful giver."

Before the conference concluded, each parish gathered separately to reflect on what we had learned and what we hoped to bring back to our own congregations. We were inspired by Bishop Asbil's messages in many ways, including strengthening our online ministry, embracing the principles of "listen, show, and tell," reaching out to youth and young adults, offering workshops on sharing personal testimonies, encouraging parents to share their faith journeys with their children and inviting senior members to pass on their faith stories to the younger generation.

During the closing ceremony, our co-chairs, Violet Sae and Stephen Ho, presented Bishop Asbil with a token of appreciation. I thanked the Rev. Canon Simon Li for his clear and concise interpretation from English to Cantonese. We also greatly appreciated the organizing committee and all the volunteers for their hard work in making the conference possible. Finally, members of St. Christopher passed our new 3D conference logo to the host of the 2029 conference, All Saints, Markham.

We thank God for this opportunity for spiritual renewal, for the Christian fellowship shared among the four congregations, and for the opportunity to learn from one another. Let us bless the Lord!

The Rev. Canon Dr. Philip Der is the incumbent of St. Christopher, Richmond Hill.



Seafarers take a break on the mission's comfortable couch.

Seafarers grateful for warm welcome

Continued from Page 4

grace like a shining rope, wrapping itself around these young seafarers so far from home, and a woman who has devoted perhaps thousands of hours in more than 30 years to knitting for seafarers.

As the Viking Octantis, sister ship to the Polaris, was preparing to leave on July 13, one of the pursers gave us her thanks and said, "Now we have a home away from home in Toronto!"

All that we hoped this centre would be is being realized: a safe, comfortable, quiet place, steps from their vessel. Your gifts of knitting are wrapping themselves around the necks of many seafarers, and your hats are keeping their heads warm in Arctic seas. We have been called the "ministry of small gestures," and this tiny space under the stairs has confirmed that for me.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at the new station, email me at glutenfreepriest@me.com. Check out the cruise ship arrival schedule on the Toronto Port Authority website (under cruise ships). Come and join us under the stairs!

The Rev. Judith Alltree is the vice-chair of the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario and the Port Chaplain for the various departments that make up the Port of Toronto.



Seafarers load food onto the Victory I.



Seafarers from the Viking Polaris model handmade knitwear ahead of their journey to Greenland.

New toolkit helps parishes fund mission

Every parish treasurer knows the feeling. The roof needs attention. The outreach program is growing faster than the budget. A vision for a new community hub has captured the congregation's imagination, but no one quite knows how to begin turning prayer into a plan. Ministry is abundant; the practical tools to sustain it, too often, are not.

That gap between aspiration and capacity isn't a sign of weakness; it's a familiar season in the life of almost every faithful congregation. And it's the gap that the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation has moved to close. The foundation's new Parish Fundraising Toolkit arrives at a pivotal moment – equipping congregations to raise money not as an end in itself, but as an act of faithful discipleship.

A diocese discerning its future

The timing isn't accidental. The toolkit emerges from one of the most significant seasons of collective discernment the Diocese of Toronto has undertaken in years. Through Cast the Net, a visioning process that engaged more than 1,000 clergy and lay leaders, parishes surfaced a shared longing to embrace God's future together with courage, creativity and concrete action. That process yielded 20 Calls to Action, a living map of how the diocese intends to grow, serve and plant in the years ahead.

Following Cast the Net, the diocese launched a diocesan-wide Planning Feasibility Study in 2025, inviting all Anglicans to offer feedback on a preliminary case for support. The study asked a profound and practical question: are we, as a community of faith, ready to resource the mission God has placed before us? The response revealed parishes brimming with vision and hungry for the tools to make that vision financially sustainable. The toolkit is the foundation's answer to that hunger.

A practical companion

The Parish Fundraising Toolkit is a pastoral resource as much as a practical one. It was designed to meet congregations wherever they find themselves – whether a small church preparing its first capital appeal, a suburban parish seeking to deepen its annual giving culture, or a large congregation cultivating relationships with legacy donors in anticipation of a major gifts campaign.

The foundation deliberately avoided the language and logic of the corporate fundraising world. Instead, the toolkit frames every act of giving as an expression of faith – a response to grace, a participation in something larger than any single congregation. It draws on the deep Anglican tradition of stewardship as spiritual formation, and it speaks directly to the clergy, churchwardens, council members and lay leaders who carry the practical weight of sustaining parish life.

"Parishes are not lacking in vision. They are lacking in practical companions for the journey. This toolkit walks alongside them, from the first conversation about a campaign to the final word of thanks to a legacy donor," says Mary Lynne Stewart, the foundation's executive director.

The toolkit is comprehensive without being overwhelming. Its six components work together to support a complete fundraising ministry.

The campaign planning guide provides a step-by-step framework for launching and managing a parish fundraising campaign from beginning to end, opening with vision-casting and prayer, moving through donor cultivation and solicitation, and closing with the kind of thoughtful stewardship that builds lasting relationships. Parishes don't need prior campaign experience to use it; the guide assumes nothing and explains everything.

The case for support templates give parishes customizable frameworks for articulating their unique mission, community need and anticipated impact. A well-crafted case for support is the heart of any campaign, and these templates help parish leaders find their own language – local, specific and compelling.

The donor communications kit removes one of the most common barriers parishes face: knowing what to say and when to say it. Ready-to-use letters, bulletin inserts, email templates and pulpit scripts accompany every stage of a campaign, each written in a way that is warm, honest and worthy of the Anglican tradition. The legacy and planned giving resources add seasonal materials and pastoral framing designed to normalize legacy conversations, inviting donors to see a bequest not as a transaction but as a final act of faith and love for the community they have served.

The stewardship program guide takes a longer view, offering year-round practices for cultivating a culture of generosity that doesn't begin and end with a campaign. And the training and workshop modules give clergy and churchwardens facilitated session materials they can deploy directly in their communities, grounding the whole effort in shared learning and shared commitment.

Rooted in a 25-year mandate

The Parish Fundraising Toolkit reflects something the foundation has been doing since its incorporation in 1999: resourcing the diocese and its parishes as they plant and grow bold strategic initiatives for the future of God's Church. In the past five years, the foundation has distributed more than $3 million across its key funds, supporting clergy formation, Indigenous ministry, liturgical music, lay education and the work of FaithWorks. Today, the foundation stewards more than $14.8 million in assets in service of that mission.

The Rev. Adrienne Clements, the foundation's board chair, has spoken of the toolkit as a natural extension of what the foundation exists to do: not merely to hold and distribute funds, but to actively build the capacity of parishes to be financially healthy and mission-focused.

The toolkit also positions parishes well for the conversations ahead. Parishes that have already begun cultivating a culture of generosity – and that have the language and structures to support a major campaign – will be far better prepared to participate meaningfully in whatever the diocese discerns together as its next steps.

An invitation to begin

No parish is too small, too stretched or too uncertain to begin. The Parish Fundraising Toolkit asks only that a congregation bring its honest sense of calling and its willingness to have the conversation. Whether a parish is wondering how to make payroll or dreaming of a building that serves the whole neighbourhood for another century, the foundation wants to walk alongside that discernment.

Mary Lynne Stewart and the foundation team warmly welcome enquiries from clergy, churchwardens and lay leaders across the diocese. Reach out to learn more, request access to the toolkit or explore how the foundation can support your parish's fundraising journey. Together, parishes and the foundation are sowing seeds for a future that belongs, first and always, to God.

The Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation is the key charitable arm of the Diocese of Toronto. Connect with the foundation at adtf@toronto.anglican.ca or visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/foundation.

TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA

LOOKING AHEAD

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the November issue is October 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

OCT. 18 – Rock Vespers, featuring the music of Dolly Parton, 4 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road.
NOV. 4 - Holy Communion in the Octave of All Saints (BCP) at 6 p.m., followed by a light supper. At 7 p.m., the Rev. Dr. James Leatch will present an illustrated feature talk about the HMCS Swansea. Join in-person at St. Olave, Bloor Street West and Windermere Avenue. For more details, call 416-769-5686 or visit www.stolaves.ca.
NOV. 1 – Join the Choir of St. James Cathedral, Toronto and Orchestra, conducted by Thomas Bell, for a beautiful candlelit performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem, 4:30 p.m. Admission is free and donations are welcome. Join to remember and give thanks for those who have departed.
NOV. 14 – Delicious baked goods, crafts Christmas treasures, collectibles, books, jewellery and more at the Sugar Plum Christmas Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be in the Internet cafe, St. Margaret in-the-Pines, 4130 Lawrence Ave., Scarborough.
NOV. 21 – Holly Berry Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough, featuring handicrafts, jewelry, homebaked goods, gently used china, crystal, tools, books and puzzles. There also will be a cafe and community craft vendors. Free admission and parking. For more information, call 416-283-1844 or email parishadmin@stdunstan.ca.
NOV. 21 – Old Fashioned Festival of Christmas, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., luncheon 12- 1 p.m., Holy Trinity, Thornhill, 140 Brooke St., Thornhill. Baked goods country store, raffle, jewellery, gifts and more. For more information and luncheon tickets, call 905-889-5931.
NOV. 21 – Join Nativity, Malvern for the Annual Grande Festive Market, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 10 Sewells Rd., Scarborough. Fashion and craft vendors, baked goods, holiday gifts, toys, health products and more. Visit www.nativitymalvern.ca or call 416-284-2728 for more info.
DEC. 12 – Join the choirs of St. James Cathedral, Toronto and Trinity College, U of T, with orchestra and soloists, for this beloved Christmas tradition, 7:30 p.m. Experience Handel's timeless masterpiece, from "Comfort Ye" to the majestic "Hallelujah" chorus. A beautiful evening of music and celebration! To learn more, visit www.stjamescathedral.ca/messiah2026.

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https://give.willfora.com/charities/anglican-diocese-of-toronto-foundation

Mary Lynne Stewart
Executive Director of Anglican Diocese of Greater Toronto Foundation
416-505-6537
adtf@toronto.anglican.ca

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BRIEFLY

Diocese celebrates women's ordination

The Diocese of Toronto is marking the milestone 50th anniversary of women's ordination to the priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada by hosting two events. On Oct. 15 from 12-3 p.m., a service of Holy Eucharist will be held at St. James Cathedral for ordained women priests (active and retired), followed by a catered lunch in Snell Hall. Confirm your attendance at the lunch and any food allergies by emailing Aimen Akbar at aakbar@toronto.anglican.ca. On Oct. 18 at 4:30 p.m., there will be a joyful service of Evensong at St. James Cathedral open to all, with a light reception to follow.

Registration opens for Outreach conference

The diocesan Outreach & Advocacy Conference will be held on Oct. 17. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Dean Detloff, the research and advocacy officer of Development & Peace – Caritas Canada and a sessional faculty member at the Institute for Christian Studies. He will address the theme of "The Church as a Catalyst for Liberation." To register, visit the diocesan website at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Bishop's Company Dinner coming up

The 65th annual Bishop's Company Dinner will be held on Nov. 20 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites. Funds raised by the Bishop's Company support the Bishop of Toronto's ministries, provide emergency care for clergy in need and give bursaries for religious education. This year's speaker will be the Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop of Algoma and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. For full details, visit www.bishopscompanytoronto.ca.

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Bryce Sangster, Honorary Assistant, Regional Ministry of South Georgian Bay, Aug. 13.
- The Rev. Sharon Sangster, Honorary Assistant, Regional Ministry of South Georgian Bay, Aug. 13.
- The Rev. Bob Bettson, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John, Whitby, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Martha Gordon, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Philip on-the-Hill, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Amy Pauley, Associate Priest, Regional Ministry of South Georgian Bay, Sept. 1.
- Major (Rtd) The Rev. Canon David Warren, CD, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Regional Ministry of Huronia, Sept. 8.
- The Rev. Dana Dickson, Priest-in-Charge, Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River, Oct. 15.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Canon Mary Conliffe.

Bishop's Direct Appointment Process - (receiving names):

Please contact Bishop Riscylla Shaw for
- St. James, Orillia and Huronia Regionalization
- St. George, Haliburton

Parish Selection Committee Process

First Phase - (not yet receiving names):
- Resurrection

Second Phase - (receiving names via Area Bishop): N/A
Third Phase - (no longer receiving names): N/A

Ordinations

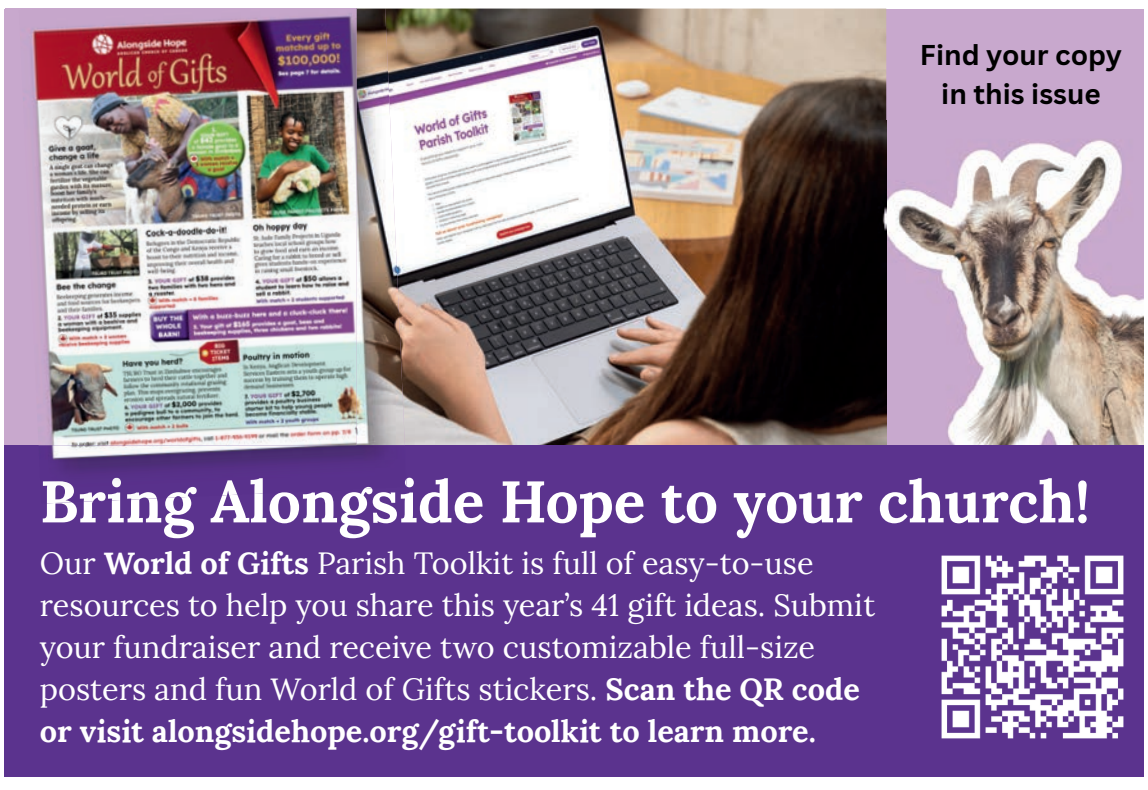
- The Rev. Anne Lane was ordained a deacon at Ascension, Port Perry on Sept. 26.
- Kit Woods will be ordained a deacon at All Saints, King City on Oct. 17 at 2 p.m.
- Murray McCarthy will be ordained a deacon at St. Aidan, Toronto on Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.

Celebrations of New Ministry

- The Rev. William Welch, Incumbent, St. Paul, Innisfil, Oct. 2 at 7 p.m.
- The Rev. Yohan Dumpala, Incumbent, Grace Church in Scarborough, Oct. 4 at 10 a.m.
- The Rev. Moumita Biswas, Priest-in-Charge, St. James, Fenelon Falls, Oct. 24 at 2 p.m.
- The Rev. Alexandra McIntosh, Incumbent, St. George on Yonge, Oct. 25 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. David Malina, Incumbent, St. Mark, Midland, Nov. 7 at 2 p.m.
- The Rev. Jacob Cunliffe, Incumbent, St. Andrew, Scarborough, Nov. 8 at 10 a.m.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR OCTOBER 2026
1. St. Paul, Innisfil
2. St. Thomas, Shanty Bay
3. Trinity Church, Barrie
4. York Central Deanery
5. Habitat for Humanity
6. South Georgian Bay Regional Ministry
7. All Saints, Markham
8. Christ Church, Stouffville
9. Christ Church, Woodbridge
10. Emmanuel, Richvale (Richmond Hill)
11. Foodbanks and food sharing ministries
12. Farmers and food providers
13. Grace Church, Markham
14. Holy Trinity, Thornhill
15. St. Christopher
16. St. John the Baptist, Oak Ridges
17. Social Justice & Advocacy Committee
18. Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries
19. Health Care Chaplains
20. Diocesan Parish Nurse Network
21. Lay Pastoral Visitors and Lay Anointers
22. St. Mary, Richmond Hill
23. St. Philip on-the-Hill
24. Christ Church, Bolton
25. North Peel Deanery
26. Christ Church, Brampton
27. Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton)
28. Trinity College
29. The Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – Bishop Carla Blakely
30. Wycliffe College
31. Children's Ministry Conference



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