

New scholarship honours Primate

Bishop's dream closer to reality



LGBTQ youth get a safe place

The Anglican

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SEPTEMBER 2018

Andrew Asbil elected coadjutor bishop

Will become next Bishop of Toronto

BY STUART MANN

THE Very Rev. Andrew Asbil, rector of St. James Cathedral and dean of Toronto, has been elected coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Toronto. He will become the 12th Bishop of Toronto when Archbishop Colin Johnson, who currently holds the position, retires at the end of the year.

"I am overwhelmed," he said to about 600 Synod members after his election at the cathedral on June 9. "And I am humbled. To my core. Never in a million years would I have imagined this moment. But I am deeply grateful for it."

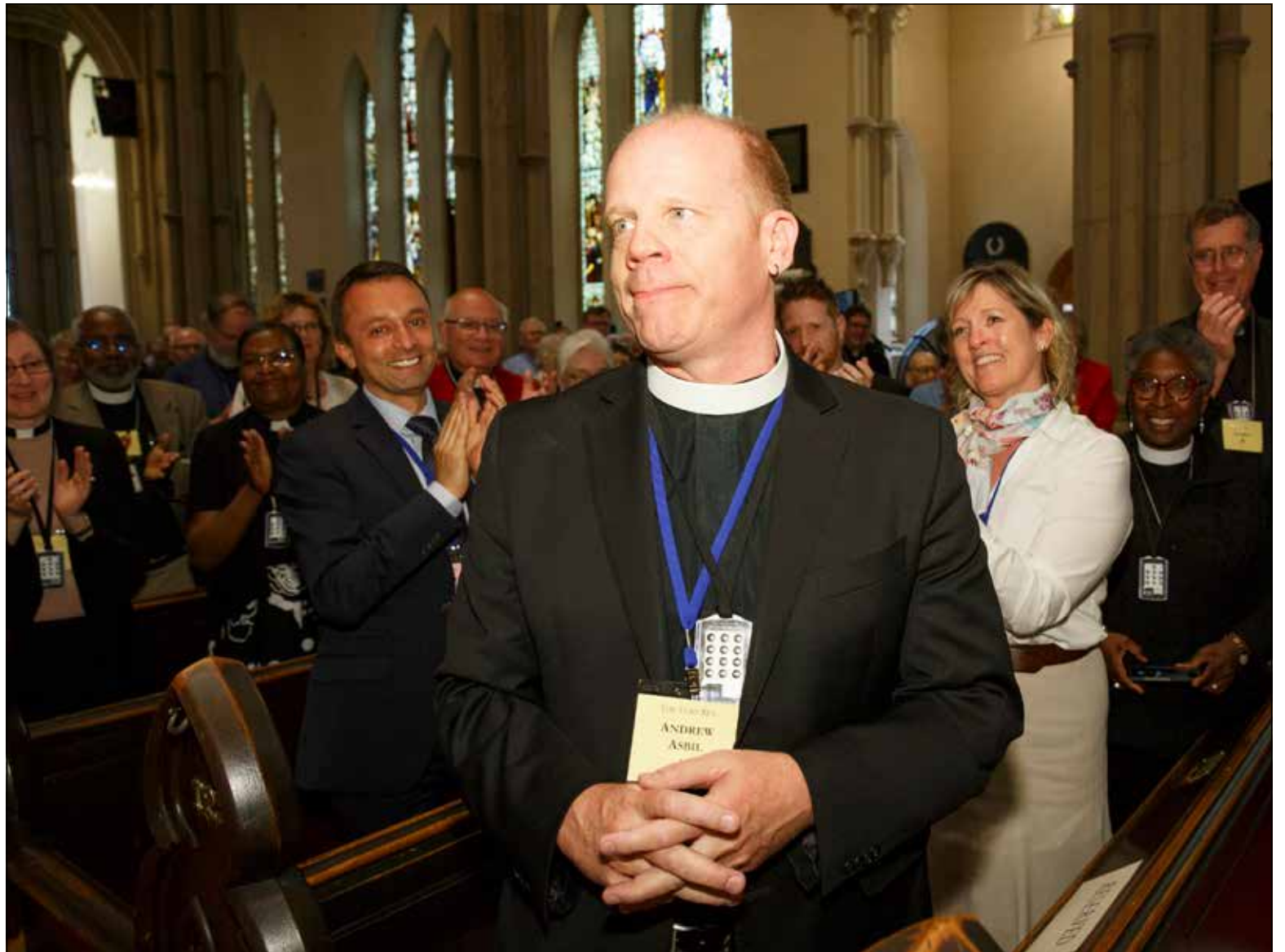
Bishop-elect Asbil, 57, was elected on the third ballot, ahead of Bishop Victoria Matthews, the former diocesan bishop of Christchurch, New Zealand and a former suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto.

The other nominees in the election were Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley; the Rev. Canon David Harrison, the incumbent of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto; Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Scarborough; and Bishop Riscylla Shaw, the area bishop of Trent-Durham. They withdrew after the second ballot.

Bishop-elect Asbil received 167 votes from the clergy and 198 votes from the laity on the third ballot. Bishop Matthews received 120 votes from the clergy and 106 votes from the laity. They required 145 votes from the clergy and 153 votes from the laity to be elected. Afterwards, Synod passed a motion to declare the election unanimous.

The election has been confirmed by the bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. A consecration service for Bishop-elect Asbil will be held on Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at the cathedral. All are invited. His installation service as Bishop of Toronto will take place in January. He will automatically become Bishop of Toronto on Jan. 1, 2019 after Archbishop Johnson retires on Dec. 31, 2018.

After the election, Bishop-elect



Bishop-elect Andrew Asbil receives applause from his wife Mary and Synod members after his election at St. James Cathedral. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Asbil praised and thanked his fellow nominees and said he was looking forward to working with them. He then addressed Synod:

"A word to the clergy of this diocese: I am overwhelmed at how gifted a group you are – how talented and faithful, serving at a time when it is very difficult to be a shepherd of the faith when faith seemingly is not talked about much in the market square. I pledge to walk with you if you will walk with me, to pray for you if you will pray for me, that we will move together and bring faith deeply into the world and the market place.

"To our laity: I have always learned the most important lessons of ministry from lay leaders, who are deeply honest and know what it means to be disciples of Christ, especially in these tumultuous times. I will pray for you if

you will pray for me."

He thanked the congregation of St. James Cathedral, where he has served since 2016. "We were just getting warmed up," he said.

"As I move across the way (to the Diocesan Centre), know that our relationship will continue in a new way and we will always walk together." He thanked his wife Mary and their five children.

Finally, he said, "This world needs the Church – desperately. This world that so often settles for second best with cynicism and putting others down needs to hear from us what it means to be a community of love and compassion, of being transformed by the gospel of Christ. In a province that has just changed politically, when the winds of change happen and the most vulnerable so often fall into the cracks, it is for the Church

to look into those cracks and to help lift up the broken-hearted so that they have hope and are not forgotten."

He added: "I may be a little frightened right now. In fact, I may be really frightened. But I know that if you walk with me and I walk with you, we will be one always in Christ. And may God give us that glory and hope."

In an interview afterwards, he said he is looking forward to working with and learning from Archbishop Johnson in the coming months. "I've long admired his leadership and the way he's been able to create space for the entire diocese. It's an ethos that I share with him. It's one thing to admire that from a distance, but now suddenly I have to imagine slipping

Continued on Page 11

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As we begin another season of *The Anglican*, please consider making a donation to the Anglican Journal Appeal (an envelope is tucked inside this issue for your convenience.) This will ensure that the paper continues to carry photos and stories of Anglicans in our diocese who are living out their faith in so many different and fascinating ways. Thank you for your support of this important ministry.
Stuart Mann, Editor

New scholarship honours Primate

Clergy, laity can study in Jerusalem

BY STUART MANN

A major new scholarship fund has been created to help clergy and laity attend courses at St. George's College in Jerusalem, one of the leading centres of continuing education in the Anglican Communion.

A \$250,000 grant from the Diocese of Toronto's Our Faith-Our Hope campaign has established The Most Reverend Frederick James Hiltz Scholarship Fund, named after the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

"I'm enormously grateful for the generosity of the diocese to establish this scholarship," says Archbishop Hiltz. "It's a wonderful act and it's very humbling to have my name attached to it. My prayer is that the scholarship will prove to be a great blessing for the people who receive it and have the opportunity to go to St. George's."

Four to five scholarships will be awarded annually. All active clergy of the Diocese of Toronto, members of religious orders, postulants and laity, including Diocesan Centre and parish staff, are eligible to



Archbishop Fred Hiltz takes part in the Children's Talk during a visit to St. Olave, Swansea in Toronto in 2017. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

apply. Preference will be given to applicants in the Diocese of Toronto but others across Canada can apply as well.

The scholarships will cover the full cost of tuition and related expenses for programs at St. George's College, which offers a variety of courses on Jesus, early Christianity, the Holy Land, the Bible and Muslim-Christian relations. Several courses combine classroom learning with visits to key sites in the Holy Land.

Archbishop Hiltz says he was

surprised that the scholarship was named after him. "It came right out of the blue. It's beautiful." Although he has visited St. George's College many times, he has not actually studied there – a situation he hopes to remedy soon. "To do a course there is on my bucket list," he says.

He is pleased that the funds will allow people to visit the Holy Land, which he says can be a life-changing experience. "Most people who've been to the Holy Land, particularly the Diocese of Jerusalem and St. George's College, say it flavours forever the way they read the scriptures and the way they preach. When you've walked the land and met the people, your view of the Church's witness there is enhanced."

The scholarship fund was named after Archbishop Hiltz because of his deep commitment to the college and the Diocese of Jerusalem, says Bishop Philip Poole, a retired suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto and one of the people responsible for creating the award. Since Archbishop Hiltz was elect-

ed Primate in 2007, the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Jerusalem have undertaken several initiatives to strengthen ties with each other. Canadian Anglicans observe Jerusalem Sunday each spring. The Companions of Jerusalem was established to support the Anglican Church in the Middle East. Archbishop Hiltz and national church staff have visited the diocese five times and Archbishop Suheil Dawani of the Diocese of Jerusalem has come to Canada on several occasions.

Archbishop Hiltz says the scholarship fund is a recognition of the close ties between the Canadian and Jerusalem churches. "In many respects, when I look at the scholarship with my name attached to it, it's very humbling. For me, it's a recognition of the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to the Diocese of Jerusalem and St. George's College."

One of the college's most popular courses is a 10-day program called The Palestine of Jesus, which gives people the opportunity to study at the college and then explore the major holy sites in Israel. While there, students can worship at St. George the Martyr Cathedral in Jerusalem, which has a Sunday service in both English and Arabic.

"We hope that people who take these scholarships will come back and spread what they've learned and experienced throughout our Church," says Bishop Poole. Application forms are available from the bishops' offices in the Diocese of Toronto, he says.

St. George's College is located in the cathedral close, which also houses the office of the Bishop of Jerusalem. The Diocese of Jerusalem covers five countries – Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria – and is home to about 30 parishes. It has four main priorities: hospitality, healthcare, education and reconciliation.

BRIEFLY

Conference focuses on making disciples

Registration is open for Discipulus'18, a new national conference on discipleship and evangelism being held in Toronto on Oct. 18-19. The event will focus on how churches can make disciples in their own communities who will be energized to share their faith with others. In addition to a keynote speaker, there will be workshops on strategies, tools and resources for evangelism and disciple-making. The cost is \$250. Learn more at www.discipulus.ca.

Web page explores Indigenous justice

A new page on the diocese's website explores Indigenous justice and reconciliation in the diocese and beyond, including forms of territorial acknowledgement. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/Indigenous.

Registration open for outreach conference

The diocese's annual Outreach and Advocacy Conference will take place on Oct. 27 at Haverlag College, 1451 Avenue Rd., Toronto. This year's theme is "Transformed Hearts, Transforming Structures," featuring a keynote address by André Lyn, an Anglican who works with the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to implement the Ontario Black Youth Action Plan. There will also be a full range of workshops, opportunities for networking and fellowship, and a time for worship. The registration fee of \$30 (\$15 for students and the unemployed) includes lunch. To register, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Fall youth retreat held in Muskoka

ReCharge, the annual diocesan youth retreat, is scheduled for Sept. 21-23 at Muskoka Woods, a Christian camp on the shores of Lake Rosseau. It will include music, inspiring worship, speakers and friendship. The cost is \$90 per person until Sept. 1 or \$105 after Sept. 1. An optional bus to and from North York will be available at a cost of \$30. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

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The Bishop's Company 57th Annual Dinner

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Location: Reception and Dinner
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THE BISHOP'S COMPANY

How the creeds shape us



Texting is a non-negotiable aspect of staying in touch with our teenage daughters, and so I've adopted many of the abbreviations that make texting such an efficient method of communication – LOL, BTW, TTYL, etc. These short-forms are quick and easy ways to say something bigger and more complex. And in much the same way, it occurred to me a few Sundays ago, when I was reciting the Apostles' Creed for maybe the 5,000th time in my life, that the creeds – the Apostles' and the Nicene – are fabulous abbreviations – short-forms, if you will – of all the wonder and beauty that we have come to know in Jesus Christ.

In an age when the last fumes of Christendom are floating away, and we are re-learning how to be evangelists and missionaries within our own culture, keeping the historic creeds of the Church as a regular part of our public worship together has never been more important. "A creed is a symbol of something larger – and ultimately, of Someone we love, Someone who makes us who we are," writes Scott Hahn in *The Creed: Professing the Faith Through the Ages*.

When we say the creeds, week in and week out, we are reminded who that Someone is: that the God of mercy and abounding grace is to be truly known in the particularity of the Jew from Nazareth. The Confession reminds us, in much the same way, of who we are: people desperately in need of God's love and redemption.

Since I can't be counted on to even

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP JENNY ANDISON

remember to bring my reusable cup to the coffee shop each morning, I certainly need to be reminded, week in and week out, that God is not far off and distant, but is a God who is involved not only in history but also in the tragedies and triumphs of my own day-to-day life. We need the memory aid of the creeds – this is who our God is! – in our distracted and fractured age.

The creeds also sweep us up into the activity of God through the ages and remind us that we are part of a story that is much bigger than ourselves and our own fleeting lives. We are part of a family story that goes back to the dawn of time: part of a long line of people seeking after God's face, from Sarah and Abraham, to King David, Mary Magdalene and now us. By joining in the creeds, we also have a chance to expressly link ourselves with other Christians around the world – in South Sudan, Honduras and North Korea, to name but a few places – as we share our common faith not only with all the saints who have gone before us, but also with other Christians alive today, both young and old, rich and poor. The creeds remind us that we are not at liberty to cut ourselves off from them, either in profession of faith or in practice.

The creeds are a rallying cry of rebellion against the destructive values of our culture that seek to negate and twist all the good of God's creation. With the passing away of

Christendom – a culture that ostensibly supported (or actually undermined, depending on your view) some semblance of Christian norms – the Church has now been freed to joyfully proclaim the Gospel in fresh ways, without being encroached upon by an idolatrous desire to be thought well of by our culture. When we say the creeds, we are boldly declaring that the world is not as it should be and that God has acted decisively in Jesus Christ to renew all of creation. It is this kind of public witness that is the root of all Christian ministries of justice, peace and reconciliation; if you want to start a rebellion against all the evil and repressive structures of the state, just start saying the creeds in the public square.

Humans are wonderfully creative, and there are many ways to use the creeds. As a parish priest, I frequently used the Q&A version of the Apostles' Creed from the baptismal service, and there are many engaging musical settings. People have often told me that they don't believe every line of the creeds, and I always told them not to worry – God still believed in them, and they could step into the family story whenever and wherever they liked. Conscious of the diverse nature of the congregations I visit, I will sometimes introduce the creeds with an invitation: "Mindful of our questions and doubts, please join me if you are able in this statement of Christian hope."

The creeds are a short-form for something much larger. They endure and unite us, and they remind us – and announce to the world – that in Jesus Christ, God is saying ILYSM (I love you so much).



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Primate:

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Church House, 80 Hayden St. Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2
Tel: 416-924-9192

In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

The Archbishop of Toronto:

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson

York-Credit Valley:

The Rt. Rev. Jenny Anderson

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Weekend fosters communities of transformation



Welcoming is important, foundational, gospel. But what's next? How do we

welcome the curious, the exiled, the returning, the seeker, and create a space to encounter Jesus, to build relationship, to help discern the transformative path of dying with Christ and sharing in his resurrection?

Mainline churches experience growth through the common societal practice of infant baptism, people moving from one church to another, or people who "return" to church for one reason or another. We do not have much of a track record of drawing in the newcomer, the one starting from "ground zero". Our demographic reality is often such that two or three generations of people have never experienced or participated in church – ever. We can no longer rely on people coming back to church because they were never here.

A warm, inclusive community and a strong welcome are critical, but welcoming is only the first step in the miraculous

GUEST COLUMN

By THE REV. GREGOR SNEDDON

journey of becoming the story we tell. To be the Church, do we have any choice but to receive seekers and nurture a path of relationship, forging a creative space of encounter, experience and discernment? Belonging to the body is, after all, a *metanoia* – a "turning around". To come to the font is a freely chosen act of great courage. This "Passover" entails life-long conversion, turning from the idols and addictions of our age and embracing a whole new way of being. We become the hands of Christ in the world, nourished at his table. Christian communities are called to become communities of listening and discernment as we walk with new friends. Surely it is our vocation to cultivate a path of exploration for those listening for the call to join him in his death and so share in his resurrection.

This Oct. 26-28, "Journey to Baptismal Living," organized by The North American Association of the Catechumenate, will

offer an intensive weekend of experience and training for parish teams to help foster such communities of transformation. The weekend, hosted by the Anglican Studies Program of Saint Paul University in Ottawa and St. Matthew, Ottawa, and supported by the Diocese of Ottawa and the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, will include: the sharing in and leadership of liturgical rites; small group formation skills; theological reflection; formation for leaders' skills; faith conversation and listening skills; and fellowship and opportunity for ongoing access to resources and community dialogue.

Parish teams of three or more are encouraged to participate and experience this renewed vision of the Church. For more information, visit journeytobaptism2018.eventbrite.com.

The Rev. Gregor Sneddon is the incumbent of St Matthew, Ottawa. He serves as the chair of Liturgy Canada and is a council member of Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission and a member of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation.

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FRIENDLY STOP

Bishop Rob Hardwick of the Diocese of Qu'Appelle (holding bicycle) stopped at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on June 30 during his cross-country ride to raise funds for the Anglican Healing Fund and Indigenous ministries. Joining Bishop Hardwick and his wife Lorraine (in purple shirt in front of him) are riders and friends, both clergy and lay, from the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Hardwick, who started the day in Hamilton, also stopped at St. Margaret, New Toronto. His ride from Hamilton to Toronto raised \$7,600. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



PROUD

Members of St. James Cathedral, top, and the Parish of Coboconk and Fenelon Falls, above, walk with other Anglicans in the 38th annual Pride Parade along Bloor Street and down Yonge Street in Toronto on June 24. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



ON A MISSION

Young adults from the Diocese of Fredericton gather outside the Yonge Street Mission in Regent Park, Toronto during a week-long mission trip to the Diocese of Toronto in early May. While here, they worked with non-profit organizations and shelter programs, and visited the Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, Ont. The week was devoted to learning, serving, and sharing the love of Christ through discipleship. Last year, they visited Boston. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



We always seem to be cooking up plans

Jillian Ruch is an Area Youth Ministry Coordinator for the Episcopal Area of York-Scarborough and chair of the Archbishop's Youth Ministry Committee (AYMC).

If I told you only that AYMC is a committee that meets monthly to strategize about youth ministry in the diocese, that would be true but probably a little boring! We are so much more than that. Every time we meet, we lessen the kilometres between us and recognize that as youth leaders in different churches, we get excited and struggle about the same things. Our strength comes from our collective sense of humour and mind. We are a strong committee with a membership of about 12 people, including the four other youth ministry coordinators (Ian Physick, Alexandra MacIntosh, Nancy Hannah and the Rev. Christian Harvey) and seven volunteers. At the heart of our meetings, we share in our love of Jesus and youth and have many laughs along the way. As chair, I am a link between the committee, the Diocesan Centre and the youth ministers on the ground doing the work. I also meet with Bishop Jenny Andison, our link bishop.

We always seem to be cooking up plans that will help build capacity in our diocese for youth ministry to flourish. We are about to go on retreat to Muskoka Woods at the end of September, which always proves to be exciting, hilarious, tiring and inspiring – all at the



Jillian Ruch describes her spiritual journey as a winding one.

same time. We are also working on Interface, a social justice event planned for Oct. 13. Lastly and probably most importantly, we are working together to form a strategic plan for how we can equip those who are working in youth ministry, how we can engage the wider church in bolstering youth ministry, and how we can communicate all the awesomeness that our youth ministers are doing while harnessing the power of our youth to enact change in our church communities.

It's so hard to choose the best thing about working with youth because there are so many. They ask incredibly honest questions about their faith and about why we do what we do every Sunday. They are insightful beyond their years and ask the questions that adults on a regular Sunday would never ask, like

"Who really wrote the Bible?" or "Why are there so many names for things in our church?" Youth have been called by many the "research and development department" that inform our church practices.

One of the hardest things about working with youth is that they are often committed to other things in their already very scheduled lives. This can prove difficult as they can't always commit until the very last minute to come to an event. But, when they are supported by their families, youth have the intrinsic ability to become valued, engaged and sparkling members of their congregations.

I was born in Toronto and have lived in many places since then, from Calgary to Pearl River (New York), London (United Kingdom) and have settled back in Toronto. I have a social work degree and my current full-time position is as a child welfare supervisor in Toronto. Prior to that position, I also worked in various settings such as group homes, camps and schools for children with behavioural issues.

My spiritual journey has been a winding one. I now know that God was always knocking but I did not open the door to Him until I was 23. The most

important milestone was when I walked into a church and asked to speak to a priest. After patiently answering my many questions, the priest invited me to an adult confirmation class; I accepted, was confirmed and became a part of my church's community, volunteering with our youth group. I found my volunteering experience overwhelmingly positive and gained so much knowledge from the youth, through learning about their faith journeys and listening to their questions. I began asking harder theological questions myself. This, along with my own discerning, led me to begin a Master of Theological Studies to really understand my faith on a deeper level. I am now only five courses away from graduating, which is really exciting. My faith now is as deep as it has ever been and I truly understand, through my life experiences, that it is only through God's strength that I can move through my every day.

Five years from now seems very far away! I find this a difficult question as my life is going through a transition period with the sudden death of my mother in December 2017. But in five years, I will be the mother of two teenage boys, and we will still have our sailing boat and will have enjoyed a few more long-distance cruises on Lake Ontario. As for career plans, in five years I will be a child welfare supervisor and still enjoying my area coordinator job, even more than now, as youth ministry will be thriving and a firm network of youth ministers will have been built across the diocese.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 is my favourite passage from scripture. This became my favourite passage in March, 2015. I was in a season of sadness, having just lost my grandmother and experiencing a difficult incident at work. I went on a silent retreat at the convent for some stillness in the midst of a lot of external noise. During contemplative prayer in the morning, Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 was the selected reading. God gave me the gift of hearing a passage I did not know, at the exact time that I could hear and use His words. This passage stays with me as I am going through another season and have the confidence to know that this season shall also come to an end and the cycle will continue, all with God's help and guidance.

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Across the Diocese of Toronto parishes respond to Christ's calling of wholeness and health in a variety of ways. Please consider attending this Oct. 17th event where participants will be encouraged to share the wisdom and experience of their healing ministries with each other.

Our goal for the day is to build an informal network of parish nurses and others engaged in healing ministries where skills development and learning activities can be planned.

For information and to register contact;

Lanadee Lampman, RN, Parish Nurse,
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At right, Ellen Johnson, the Rev. Beverly Williams of Flemingdon Park Ministry and Archbishop Colin Johnson walk in a candlelight procession along Danforth Avenue in Toronto during the vigil. Above, people gather at Alexander the Great Parkette. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Church responds to shooting spree

Cleric helps plan vigil

BY STUART MANN

ARCHBISHOP Colin Johnson and his wife Ellen joined thousands of people for a vigil on Danforth Avenue in Toronto on July 25 after a man shot and killed a young woman

and a girl in the neighbourhood four days earlier.

The shooting spree, which injured 13 others, took place outside St. Barnabas Anglican Church on Danforth Avenue. “We were right

in the middle of it,” said the Rev. Jeanette Lewis, priest-in-charge.

The church was open the next day to help people cope. About 50 people showed up. “Some just wanted to sit quietly, others wanted to talk,” said Ms. Lewis. “For a lot of people, it brought up some really sad things. They were going through difficult things and they just needed someone to talk to.”

Ms. Lewis and other local clergy met with community leaders to

organize the vigil, which started near Danforth Church and ended at nearby Alexander the Great Parkette. Among those in attendance were Premier Doug Ford, Mayor John Tory and police chief Mark Saunders. It included prayers, songs and speeches.

Ms. Lewis says she was glad her church could help the community begin to heal. “It’s how we should shine as Church – by being there for people. It has been exhaust-

ing emotionally and physically but it feels good to be able to do something.”

She said the neighbourhood was rallying. “It’s a very tight knit group.” Some local residents made cookies and brought them to the church on the day after the shooting, for people who dropped by. “People just needed to be together and talk. There’s such compassion in this neighbourhood and this has really brought it out.”



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WITH GRATITUDE

The Rev. Leigh Kern, associate priest of St. James Cathedral (centre), hands out cups of water for a water ceremony on the Lake Ontario shoreline during the Niiganni-gichigami (Lake Ontario) Gratitude Walk and Festival on June 8 in Toronto. The ceremony was led by Indigenous elder Wanda Whitebird. After prayers of gratitude and for the health of the lake and all the waterways connected to it, participants walked to St. James Park, beside the cathedral, for a community barbecue with music and activities. The festival was organized by the Niigaani-gichigami Collective, Toronto Urban Native Ministry and St. James Cathedral. June was National Aboriginal Month. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Diocese supports new Indigenous health centre

Grant reflects ongoing commitment to healing and reconciliation

BY STUART MANN

THE Diocese of Toronto has given a \$250,000 grant to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation to help build a new Indigenous health and cultural centre in Toronto. Diocesan Council approved the funding at its meeting on May 24.

The gift will come out of the diocese's Ministry Allocation Fund, 10 per cent of which is tithed to projects or ministries outside the diocesan budget. Previous grants have included \$100,000 to the Diocese of Athabasca to help youth after the fire in Fort McMurray, \$500,000 for refugee sponsorship, and \$100,000 to replenish the national church's Anglican Healing Fund.

The new centre, which will be built near Front and Cherry streets in the city's West Don lands, will include healing gardens and outdoor therapeutic spaces, meeting and counselling space, a Family, Child and Youth unit, expanded

services for LGBTQ clients and palliative care services.

The centre will be owned and operated by Anishnawbe Health Toronto (AHT), which provides traditional health and healing programs for First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and their non-Indigenous family members in Toronto. Founded in 1987, AHT is Canada's first fully accredited Indigenous community health service.

"We're really excited to have this tremendous support from the Anglican Church," says Julie Cookson, the executive director of the Anishnawbe Health Foundation, the fundraising arm of AHT. "We're grateful that this has come forward and we're hopeful this campaign is the start of a friendship between AHT and the Indigenous community and other groups across the city."

Toronto has about 70,000 Indigenous people, the largest and most diverse Aboriginal community in

Ontario. According to a recent study, 90 per cent of the community lives at or below Canada's low-income line and one-third are precariously housed or homeless; chronic health issues such as diabetes, asthma and arthritis are much more prevalent than in the general population. Mental health issues affect 80-90 per cent of AHT's clients.

AHT currently provides services at three locations in Toronto, including its main centre at 225 Queen St. E. The organization plans to move all its services to the new building in the West Don lands. Construction is expected to begin in 2019 with completion by the end of 2020.

The total cost of the project will be \$31 million, with \$17 million coming from Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's capital program, an estimated \$4 million from the sale of AHT's Queen Street property and other government sources, and \$10 million from a

public fundraising campaign. The land was a legacy gift of the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games, held in Toronto in 2015.

Ms. Cookson says the new building will convey the cultural richness of the Indigenous community and foster reconciliation through the reclamation and restoration of traditional healing practices. One of the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action (#61) calls on churches, in collaboration with Indigenous organizations, to establish funding for healing and reconciliation projects at the local level.

She says the four-storey building will be part of an "Indigenous hub" for the city. "It will be space where the Indigenous community and the city can come together and recognize the strength and beauty of Indigenous culture."

Archbishop Colin Johnson said he was pleased that Diocesan Council approved the grant. "It recognizes the ongoing commitment of the Diocese of Toronto to

healing and reconciliation – in this case specifically with Indigenous populations that live in the City of Toronto and beyond," he said. "The urban Indigenous population is one of the most underserved, and this reaches out using money that we have raised through the sale of property to support people for whom connection to the land is so important."

As part of its commitment to healing and reconciliation, the diocese contributed \$5 million to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement and created the Robert L. Falby Memorial Endowment for Aboriginal Ministry. The diocese's Our Faith-Our Hope campaign gave a \$500,000 grant to the Council of the North and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People for healing work with clergy and caregivers in remote communities. The Rev. Chris Harper, the diocese's Indigenous Native Priest, serves as pastor to the diocese's Indigenous population.



Blake Goldring, ODT (left), Archbishop Colin Johnson and Stephen Rodaway, ODT, enjoy the launch of The John Strachan Trust. Top left: the marquee outside the Eglinton Grand welcomes guests to the gala. At right: Archbishop Johnson joins members of the team that produced the film: from left, Michael Cassabon, Martha Holmen, Sunita Miya-Muganza and Nicholas Bradford-Ewart. PHOTOS BY HEATHER GIFFEN



New trust launched at film gala

Fund aims to fulfil Bishop John Strachan's dream

BY STUART MANN

MORE than 160 years ago, Bishop John Strachan wrote to the clergy and laity of the Diocese of Toronto, expressing his hope of establishing an endowment that would fully fund the office of the Bishop of Toronto.

The endowment, he wrote, "will lay a sure foundation for the Church of God in Canada for all future time, and also provide for her rapid increase."

Bishop Strachan, who was the first Bishop of Toronto and the founder of the diocese, did not live to see his dream realized. But a new trust fund may see it come true after all.

The John Strachan Trust, named after the indefatigable bishop who left a lasting mark upon the city and province, had its official kickoff on May 23 at the Eglinton Grand, a former movie theatre and historic landmark in midtown Toronto.

The gala evening, attended by about 100 people, included a short film, comments by Archbishop Colin Johnson – who is the 11th and current Bishop of Toronto – and a cameo appearance by Bishop Strachan, played by actor John Rammell, a member of St. James Cathedral.

The evening began with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by opening remarks by Stephen Rodaway, ODT, chair of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation's board of directors. The foundation is the diocese's key fundraising arm and manages several endowments, including The John Strachan Trust.

It also provides support and consultation to parishes for legacy giving and parish endowments.

The centrepiece of the evening was a film that showed Archbishop Johnson carrying out his ministry as the Bishop of Toronto – leading Synod, teaching and preaching, celebrating the Eucharist, advocating on behalf of the poor, instituting clergy into their new parishes, meeting laity and more.

The film was shot over six months by videographer Nicholas Bradford-Ewart with the support of Martha Holmen, the diocese's Digital Communications Coordinator, and Michael Cassabon, the diocese's Manager of Major Gifts and Legacy Giving.

"Our goal isn't just to raise money – it's to help people understand what the Bishop of Toronto does, and we thought a great way to do that would be to make this video," says Mr. Cassabon. "We wanted to do something really fresh and engaging that captured the diversity of the Bishop of Toronto's ministry."

The film opens with an evocative scene of Bishop Strachan, played by Mr. Rammell, writing his letter to the people of the diocese, circa 1854. It then fast-forwards to the present with scenes of Archbishop Johnson, who narrates the video. It ends with a stunning aerial shot of St. James Cathedral and the Toronto skyline.

The film was shown on the theatre's big screen and watched by the guests from their seats. The art deco theatre, built in 1936, was the ideal venue for the gala. "We

wanted it to be fun and whimsical," says Mr. Cassabon, who organized the event. "We wanted to do something that would perhaps intrigue people and pique their curiosity enough to get them to come out and see what it was all about."

In his comments following the film, Archbishop Johnson reflected on his final year in office – he is retiring at the end of the year – and the importance of establishing a firm financial footing for those who will follow him in that role. "I am only the 11th Bishop of Toronto since 1839, and I hope there will be 111," he said. "But it's not about me – it's about the office of the bishop. It's my hope that as I leave office and as another bishop takes office in this long line of continuity, we may be well on our way to realizing John Strachan's dream of a fully funded endowment for the perpetual sustainability of the work and ministry of the bishop."

He added: "The world is changing and will continue to change, but the mandate of the Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to form disciples, and that will remain because it is the mandate given to the Church by Christ himself. At the end of the day, this campaign is about ensuring there are funds to do the work that Jesus calls us to do as a Church and as a diocese."

The Bishop of Toronto is the chief pastor of the diocese, providing oversight to some 230 congregations and ministries in 183

parishes. The office of the Bishop of Toronto is currently funded by an endowment and a portion of the diocese's operating budget. The John Strachan Trust seeks to raise \$2.5 million, of which about \$800,000 has already been pledged or received. If the trust reaches its goal, the costs of the office of the Bishop of Toronto will be offset in the diocesan operating budget by income from the trust rather than parish assessment.

Mr. Cassabon is confident the trust will reach its target. "As

Bishop John Strachan wrote, we can raise the money if we make people 'fully alive to the importance of the measure,'" he says.

For more information on The John Strachan Trust, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca/foundation or contact Michael Cassabon at 416-363-6021, ext. 242, or email mcassabon@toronto.anglican.ca.

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Sally Hicks (right) and others make prayers, contemplative thoughts or wishes as they tie wool threads to the trees in the prayer garden. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Sally Hicks shares a moment with Bishop Riscylla Shaw, the area bishop of Trent-Durham.



A statue of Pan reclines under a tree.



The Rev. Edward Cachia blesses the labyrinth.

RARE GIFT

ON the morning of June 2, about 75 parishioners and friends of St. George, Grafton gathered for the opening of the St. George's Gift Garden, located at the home of Sally Hicks, who lives about a 10-minute drive north of the church. The garden, set into a gentle southern slope of the Northumberland Hills, includes an orchard, a labyrinth, a prayer garden, a wild flower garden and a pond with a small waterfall. It is a calm and therapeutic oasis for members of the community who need a quiet place for reflection and meditation. The Rev. Edward Cachia, the interim priest-in-charge of St. George's, blessed the garden and its different sections. The visitors enjoyed a lunch that was organized by the church. The garden was open every Friday until Labour Day. Ms. Hicks said the produce from the orchard and vegetable garden would be given to charities.



Praying in the orchard.

Play brings history to life

BY SUSAN WOODS

NOT many small Anglican churches have been in continuous ministry for 180 years. And not many can boast that the story of their founding can be discovered in the journals of a woman whose descendants still worship there. The church is St. Thomas, Shanty Bay. *The Journals of Mary O'Brien 1828 to 1838* recount Mary's and husband Edward's efforts to build a community in the Upper Canada wilderness.

Theatre by The Bay, a Barrie-based professional company, had approached the church with a proposal to produce an original play based on Mary's journals. It would be set in Shanty Bay and presented in our church hall – surely a unique way to celebrate our important anniversary.

Leah Holder, actor, director, and screenwriter, had discovered Mary O'Brien's story and became deeply committed to transforming it into a play. In Leah's mind, the observations of this articulate, 19th century woman are social history, far too infrequently presented.

St. Thomas members had little idea of what was in store. The parish hall was taken over with stage lights, a sound system, risers for



Isaiah Kolundzic (Southby Gapper), Siobhan O'Malley (Fanny Gapper), Leah Holder (Mary O'Brien) and Cesare Scarpone (Edward O'Brien) are pictured inside St. Thomas, Shanty Bay. Theatre by The Bay's production, *Mary of Shanty Bay*, completed a sold out run in June. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. THOMAS, SHANTY BAY

seating the audience, and blackout curtains all around. Coffee hour was adjourned to the porch for three Sundays!

There were 17 performances in all, and *Mary of Shanty Bay* was acclaimed a sold-out hit. The four actors were outstanding, bringing the O'Brien family's story to vivid life in the very location where it all happened. The opening night champagne reception was over-subscribed by friends and neighbours, all showing their support

for St. Thomas.

For us at St. Thomas this meant that we were able to welcome hundreds of people to our historic site, introduce them to our founding story, show them around the church and even the graveyard where the principals are buried. On top of this, we met and became friends with the cast and crew whose work inspired us all.

Susan Woods is a member of St. Thomas, Shanty Bay.



The Nobleton Children's Theatre Company performs at St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg at the start of the festival.

Parish holds festival to mark anniversary

THE Parish of Lloydtown hosted a festival June 15-16 to celebrate 175 years since the first dedicated church – St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg – was built in the parish. The festival included a display of vestments and demonstrations of spinning, quilting, pottery-making, painting and bee-keeping. There were games and crafts for children, and the Nobleton Children's Theatre

Company performed *An Historical Musical*, an abridged version of their production of a *History of King*. There was also lunch and a dinner. The festival concluded with a service on Sunday at Christ Church, Kettleby, followed by a reception with a birthday cake celebrating the parish's 175th anniversary. Bishop Peter Fenty, the area bishop of York-Simcoe, presided at the service.

'This world needs the Church'

Bishop elect looks forward to new role

Continued from Page 1

into his shoes and taking on the leadership and that's somewhat overwhelming and intimidating and yet exciting. This is an opportunity for me to enter into a time of deep listening and building trust with the diocese and for the diocese to build trust with me."

Archbishop Johnson said he was delighted with Bishop-elect Asbil's election. "He is very capable, with a lot of depth in the life of the Church. He will bring a huge number of gifts to the ministry of bishop."

He said Bishop-elect Asbil will join him full-time at the Diocesan Centre by the end of September. "I will spend time working with him, to help him learn some of the ropes and see some of the parameters of the job. I will also ask him to spend some time going to the parishes in the diocese and getting to know them."

Before the election started, Chancellor Clare Burns announced that Synod had received a formal protest with regards to two of the nominees. She said the Nominations Committee was satisfied that all the nominees were clergy in good standing and that the Synod could proceed. Bishop John Chapman of the Diocese of Ottawa, who presided, ruled that the Synod could and should proceed.

Bishop-elect Asbil is a graduate of Huron College in London, Ont. He served as a parish priest in the Diocese of Niagara before becoming the incumbent of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor St., in Toronto in 2001. In 2016 he became the rector of St. James Cathedral and the dean of Toronto. He is the chair of the diocese's Remuneration and Compensation Working Group and has served on Diocesan Council, the diocese's Executive Board and many other committees and boards. His father, Walter Asbil, was the Bishop of Niagara in the 1990s. "My father and I have always shared the same kind of visions for ministry, and to find myself now in the same office is a deep joy – beyond words," he said.



Bishop-elect Andrew Asbil speaks to Synod after his election. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Synod members proceed to St. James Cathedral.



Bishop John Chapman of Ottawa celebrates the Eucharist.



Electronic voting begins.



Archbishop Colin Johnson receives a standing ovation in honour of his leadership.



Sandy Richmond, ODT, enjoys lunch on the cathedral lawn with, from left, the Rev. Naomi Miller, his daughter Melissa Lappin and granddaughter McKynlee Lappin.



Synod members sing a hymn during the opening service.



Bishop Peter Fenty (second from left) and Bishop-elect Andrew Asbil applaud the nominees. They are, from left, the Rev. Canon David Harrison, Bishop Victoria Matthews, Bishop Kevin Robertson, Bishop Riscylla Shaw and Bishop Jenny Andison.



The Rev. Richard Dentinger records the results of the first ballot.

Visit our website at www.toronto.anglican.ca



Faith groups share beliefs over dinner

Christians, Jews, Muslims enjoy food, friendship

BY THE REV. MARIA NIGHTINGALE

LAST summer, St. Peter, Erindale, Solel Synagogue in Mississauga and Masumeen Islamic Centre in Brampton joined forces to offer an Interfaith Peace Camp for children in their congregations. On the last day, a get-together was held for the parents and children. There were many positive comments from the parents, including a few who wished something similar could be done for adults. Out of this the idea was born for a dinner that would move from one place of worship to the next.

This dinner was held this year on May 5. We began at the Masumeen Islamic Centre for a tour of the mosque. All the visitors were greeted with a heartfelt "Salaam alaikum," which means "Peace be with you." We saw the classrooms, gym and prayer halls for the men and women. Sheikh Jaffer H. Jaffer explained the important foundational beliefs of Islam: belief in one God whose presence is everywhere; reverence for the prophets from Adam to Mohammed; and the Day of Judgement at the end of time when all souls will be divided into heaven or hell based on their actions on earth. He also spoke about the obligations to pray five times a day and to fast during Ramadan. After sharing appetizers and more conversation with one another, it was on to St. Peter's and a dinner of vegetarian lasagna.

At St. Peter's, the Rev. Canon Jennifer Reid, incumbent, led a tour through the worship space and shared some of the basic beliefs of Christianity and the foundational stories of Christmas and Easter

with the group. She did an admirable job of condensing 2,000 years of history into 10 minutes to explain why there are so many Christian denominations. We were treated to a short demonstration of the pipe organ. Our guests enjoyed exploring the space and engaging in conversation with parishioners. Ringing the bell in the tower was a highlight for a number of people.

We finished at Solel Synagogue with dessert and conversation with Rabbi Audrey Pollack and Arlene Botnik, the director of education at the synagogue. Rabbi Pollack greeted us with the words "Shalom Aleichem," pointing out the similarity of the Hebrew greeting to the Arabic greeting, and talked about the Torah and Jewish identity. We had an opportunity to see the beautiful hand-written Torah scroll and hear her chant a portion of it. Mrs. Botnik talked about the history of Solel Synagogue and took us on a tour of the kosher kitchen, explaining the laws of *kashrut*. The evening ended with Rabbi Pollack leading the blessing prayers to close the Sabbath. She also explained the meaning of each blessing of light, wine, and spice, as symbols of the sweetness of the Sabbath.

It was a wonderful evening exploring the three Abrahamic faiths and getting to know our neighbours. Although there are differences of belief between the three groups, there are also many similarities including a desire for peace, and service to the community.

The Rev. Maria Nightingale is the associate priest and chaplain to seniors at St. Peter, Erindale.



GODSPEED

Members of Contemplative Fire, a fresh expression of church, pray for the Rev. Anne Crosthwait and her husband Hugh Crosthwait (seated) during the community's 10th anniversary celebration on July 29 at St. Leonard, Toronto. Ms. Crosthwait founded Contemplative Fire in the diocese in 2008. She and her husband were moving to British Columbia. The Toronto community continues to meet. It offers a monthly worship gathering called 'Way Beyond Religion' on the last Sunday of the month as well as two smaller group gatherings - 'Finding Stillness' each week and 'Deep Listening' once a month. For more information, visit www.contemplativefire.ca.

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New book explores Harold Percy's ministry

A new book that explores the ministry of the Rev. Canon Harold Percy, a priest of the diocese whose work and ideas influenced the Church at the local, diocesan and national level, will be launched on Sept. 15 from 2:30-4 p.m. at Trinity, Streetsville, 69 Queen St. S., Mississauga. All are invited.

Good News Church: Celebrating the Legacy of Harold Percy, edited by John Bowen and the Rev. Michael Knowles, contains 18 essays exploring the lessons and impact of Canon Percy's ministry on evangelism,

discipleship, worship, preaching, prayer, mentoring, congregational outreach, financial stewardship, and more. Authors include the Rev. Canon Judy Paulsen, Bishop Linda Nicholls, Peter Patterson, and David and Diane Toyen.

Canon Percy was a long-time incumbent of Trinity, Streetsville and is currently an honorary assistant at Christ Church St. James, Toronto. He will be at the book launch. For more information, visit www.haroldbooklaunch@gmail.com.

Church gives LGBTQ youth a safe place

Teens can be themselves without being harassed

BY STUART MANN

In a conversation with his mother and aunt in 2015, Mylo Woods talked about how difficult it was to be a trans youth. "Everyone was bullying me, using homophobic slurs, making me feel angry and depressed, even suicidal," he recalls telling them.

During the conversation, Mylo said he wished he had a place to get away from it all. "I just wanted something for me and other kids where we could be ourselves and forget worrying about those things anymore," he says.

His comment struck a chord. "In my world, if a child asks you if you can build a safe space for them, you say yes," says his aunt, the Rev. Erin Martin,

the incumbent of St. James the Apostle, Sharon, located about 50 km north of Toronto.

Ms. Martin and Mylo's mother, Kit Woods, had an idea. What about creating a safe place for LGBTQ youth and their friends at the church? The women, who are sisters, asked some parishioners if they would like to help. They said yes, and in 2016 A Safe Place was born.

Held in the parish hall, the twice-monthly gathering gives LGBTQ youth and their friends an opportunity to hang out together and be themselves. There is no structured program. Sometimes they simply shout out "I'm gay!" or "I'm trans!" or "I don't know what I am!" It is a release for some of the kids because they can't say it at home. Often they share stories about



Kit and Mylo Woods hug at A Safe Place. PHOTO BY THE REV. ERIN MARTIN

their lives such as being misgendered or rejected because they are gay. Then they rally around each other for support. It isn't all serious – they have a lot of fun as well.

Mylo, 14, says it has been a lifeline for him. "I've gotten to know so many other kids like me who have gone through what I have, so they get it," he says. "A Safe Place has cool people and we do cool things like normal people."

Since it started, A Safe Place has grown from four youths to about a dozen. It is for youth aged 12 to 18. Once they reach 18, they're asked to be mentors to the younger kids.

The youth come from the surrounding area and as far away as Markham. Some have come out to their families and others haven't. Some do not tell their parents exactly where they are going. "They've told their parents they're going to a youth group at a church, but they haven't revealed what kind of youth group it is," says Ms.

Martin. "It's still not a hundred per cent safe for them in their families."

A Safe Place has mostly grown through word of mouth or by the youth bringing their friends. Ms. Martin gets calls from organizations across Ontario wanting to learn more. Recently the RCMP's headquarters in London, Ont., asked if it could raise money for the group.

"We're just a tiny group but apparently there are not that many like us out there," she says. There is a similar group in Newmarket but not many others outside of Toronto.

In addition to financial support from the church and outside groups, A Safe Place received a \$5,000 Reach Grant from the diocese to get started. Reach Grants help churches try innovative forms of ministry to connect with people who aren't yet attending church.

Ms. Martin says St. James the Apostle and the surrounding community have been very supportive. In recognition of

Parents get support, too

BY STUART MANN

LGBTQ youth and their friends aren't the only ones who go to St. James the Apostle, Sharon for a safe place to talk – their parents do, too.

When A Safe Place started, some of the parents stayed at the church after dropping off their kids. Their kids had come out to them and they didn't know what to do. They were confused and had questions.

Kit Woods, the mother of a trans youth and one of the founders of A Safe Place, had been through it herself and knew what they were feeling. "Because I had experience, I'd say 'Do you want to step outside and talk for a few minutes? I've been where you are.'"

Ms. Woods saw that the parents needed a safe place as well, so the church provided one. A group of parents now meet once a month to talk. "We don't have to temper our words or thoughts for people who might not understand," she says. "We just get to talk like real people who share an experience."

She says her son's experience and creating A Safe Place has opened up a new world for her and her sister, the Rev. Erin Martin. "We now have a passion for LGBTQ youth and adults and being true allies," she says. "It's something we're so grateful for because we absolutely love being a part of it. These are incredible, creative kids that are a joy to be around."

A Safe Place's efforts, she was asked to be the grand marshal of the York Region Pride Parade on June 16 and the group was given an honoured place in the parade.

She praises her parishioners. "Even those people who didn't totally understand what LGBTQ kids were going through could understand that children need a safe place. No matter what anybody believed individually, everybody believed that they wanted St. James to be a place of safety."

She believes strongly that churches should be places of safety, especially for people who are marginalized and need to have a voice. "We need to be advocates for them," she says. "Also, we need to be more visible about saying to LGBTQ people, especially kids, we love you and accept you."



Youth and friends from A Safe Place walk in the York Region Pride Parade last year.

BRIEFLY

Synod planned for November

The diocese's 158th Regular Session of Synod will be held Nov. 9-10 at the Sheraton Parkway-Toronto North Hotel & Suites in Richmond

Hill. More information will be published as it becomes available.

Dinner honours Archbishop Johnson

The Bishop's Company Dinner on Oct. 19 will be an evening of celebration and storytelling to honour Archbishop Colin Johnson before his retirement at the end of the year. The dinner will be held

at the Toronto Marriott hotel in downtown Toronto. For tickets, visit www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Our Faith-Our Hope deadline Sept. 15

Applications for the diocese's Our Faith-Our Hope grants must be submitted by Sept. 15. There are five categories of grants that parishes and congregations can

apply for: adaptive re-use of parish facilities; communicating in a wireless world; enabling parishes to become multi-staffed; leadership development; and pioneering ministry. Grant amounts have ranged from \$1,400 toward the tuition for a professional development course to \$418,000 for major renovations to a church building. The last chance for parishes and individuals to apply for grants will

be September 2021.

Stories sought about flu epidemic

St. James Cathedral is presenting an exhibit of the 1918 worldwide flu epidemic. If you have a story of how your family was affected, contact Nancy Mallett, the cathedral's archivist, at archives@stjamescathedral.ca.



NOTE PERFECT

The youth choir from St. Clement, Eglinton, directed by Kaili Kinnon, performs at the Reaching Out Through Music's 10th anniversary concert at Eglinton St. George's United Church in Toronto on May 12. Reaching Out Through Music provides musical opportunities for children in St. James Town, one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Toronto. Some of the proceeds from the concert went to the St. James Town Homework Club, Moorelands Camp and a school in Haiti. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

'Castaways' learn that Jesus will rescue them

BY SHEILA DICKSON

St. Andrew, Alliston transformed itself into a deserted island during the week of July 9-13 while it offered a Vacation Bible School for local children.

The program was called "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus." Each morning, 52 children (the castaways), 20 adults and 17 teenagers would meet at the morning "Castaway Sing & Play" to learn a Bible point and a key Bible verse.

The program was designed to emphasize to everyone involved that when life causes you to feel like you have been shipwrecked, Jesus has promised to rescue you. The theme was reinforced as the children travelled from one station to another. These stations included: "Imagination Station," where children learned, through engaging science experiments, how God can make the impossible possible; "KidVid Cinema," a daily video clip featuring children living out their faith and having an opportunity to explore their own lives and faith; and "Ship Rec Games," fun-filled games that allowed the children to celebrate their outdoor voices and God-given energy.

To describe how lives, both young and old, were enriched throughout the week could fill a novel. We listened to children share some of the difficulties they have experienced



Participants in the Vacation Bible School at St. Andrew, Alliston, gather for a photo outside the church. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANDREW'S

in their young lives. At the beginning of the week, they tentatively asked questions such as, "Is God real?" and were grinning from ear to ear when they were told that God loves them.

It was music to our ears to hear the children singing the songs and dancing with their crew leaders with no inhibition. The teenagers who were volunteering this summer were outstanding.

A highlight was our ability to give each child and teenager their own Bible to take home with them. The Bibles were provided by the Canadian Bible Society. The older

children received a copy of Spark magazine, provided by Gideons International. We would like to thank both organizations for their generous contributions.

To celebrate the Vacation Bible School, the participants' families were invited to a Sunday worship service that included testimonials from children, teenagers and adults, as well as music and video clips from the week. A barbecue lunch was held after the service.

Sheila Dickson is the youth and family coordinator at St. Andrew, Alliston.



ANNIVERSARY

Archbishop Colin Johnson meets children at St. Barnabas, Chester on June 10 during the church's 160th anniversary celebrations. The weekend included a dinner with entertainment. The church welcomed past members and clergy and members of the Latvian community, who have been worshipping there for more than 60 years. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. BARNABAS CHURCH



Ken Fulford presents a cheque to Cathy Gutowska of The Benny Club. Joining them is the Rev. Eileen Steele, priest-in-charge of the Parish of Penetanguishene and Waubaushene. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIST CHURCH

Participants sought for Parish Website Project

THE diocese's Communications department is seeking parishes interested in participating in its Parish Website Project, which helps parishes develop professionally designed, custom-built websites on WordPress, an easy-to-use platform. At the end of the project, parishes will be given training and assume

control of their own websites. Interested parishes should have two to four team members who are prepared to think strategically about the purpose of their website and write content. Each parish is asked to contribute \$500 toward the total cost. The next round of parishes will start in late September or early Oc-

tober. To date, more than 20 parishes across the diocese have taken part in this program, which is funded by a grant from the Our Faith-Our Hope campaign. To learn more or express interest, email Martha Holmen, the diocese's Digital Communications Coordinator, at mholmen@toronto.anglican.ca.

Waubushene drop-in donates to charities

CHRIST Church, Waubaushene's weekly drop-in soup luncheon provides a hot meal and friendship to anyone in the community. Under the direction of Ken Fulford, volunteers from Christ Church prepare soup, sandwiches, desserts, tea and coffee for about 18 people each week. Mr. Fulford obtained a grant from the diocese to upgrade the church's kitchen and to buy supplies. The cost

of a meal at the drop-in is a freewill donation, with the proceeds going to local charities.

This past summer, the drop-in donated \$791 to The Benny Club, a local charitable organization, to send five children to camp. The drop-in also gave \$1,000 to Warm and Cozy Children's Charity, which provides needy youngsters with good quality winter clothing.

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LOOKING AHEAD

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

Music & Worship

SEPT. 18 - Messy Church (for infants to 99 years old), an introduction to faith with "A Wrinkle in Time" adventure through time and space, 5-7 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

SEPT. 29 - Consecration of Coadjutor Bishop-elect Andrew Asbil, 10:30 a.m., St. James Cathedral, Church and King streets, Toronto. All invited. Please be seated by 10:15 a.m.

SEPT. 30 - This year marks the diamond anniversary (60 years) of St. John the Divine, Scarborough. All are invited to the 11 a.m. service on Sept. 30. There will be a guest speaker, a photo and archives display and a luncheon with live music. For more information, visit www.stjd.ca.

SEPT. 30 - Choral Evensong for Michaelmas, 4 p.m., with the choir of St. Peter, Erindale, followed by Peach Tea, during which the choir's director, Clement Carelse, will discuss the dramatic changes in church music that resulted from the Oxford Movement, beginning with Victorian composers such as Samuel Sebastian Wesley and Thomas Attwood Walmisley. At St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

SEPT. 30 - Modern Worship Service with special guest the Rev. Don Downer, 10:30 a.m. Music, choir and children's program with barbecue at noon. Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

over the past 29 years have raised over \$25,000 for church projects. Visit www.stbarnabas-toronto.com.

OCT. 13 - Fall rummage sale, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Bargains on household items, clothing, linens, books and toys. Call 905-294-3184.

NOV. 3 - Bazaar with bake table, café, jewelry and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Joseph of Nazareth, 290 Balmoral Dr., Brampton. Call 905-793-8020.

NOV. 3 - Annual Christmas Bazaar featuring a lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and dessert, a silent auction, an art sale, handmade jewelry and more, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. James the Apostle, 3 Cathedral Road, Brampton. Call 905-451-7711.

NOV. 5 - Christmas Market, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto.

NOV. 10 - Christmas Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Grace Church, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham. Featuring antiques, baking, knitting, sewing, lunch and more. Call 905-294-3184.

DEC. 1 - Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar with lunch room, homemade home décor and gift items, baked goods and more, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Church of the Ascension, 266 North St., Port Perry.

PRAYER CYCLE

- FOR SEPTEMBER**
1. Secretary of Synod's Office and Synod Planning and Agenda Team
 2. Archbishop's Youth Ministry Team
 3. Citizens for Public Justice
 4. Teachers and students
 5. Bishop Strachan School
 6. Holy Trinity School
 7. Royal St. George's College School
 8. Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
 9. School Chaplains

10. St. Clement's School
11. Lakefield College School
12. Havergal College
13. Kingsway College School
14. Order of the Holy Cross
15. Trinity College School, Port Hope
16. Bishop Jenny Andison
17. Christ Church, Deer Park
18. Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto
19. Church of the Messiah, Toronto
20. St. Augustine of Canterbury, Toronto
21. St. Clement, Eglinton

22. St. Cuthbert, Leaside
23. Eglinton Deanery
24. St. John, York Mills
25. St. Leonard, Toronto
26. St. Timothy, North Toronto
27. Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto
28. Parish Administrators
29. The College of Bishops of the Diocese of Toronto
30. Tecumseth Deanery

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Canon Richard Miller, Incumbent, St. Peter, Cobourg, May 1.
- The Rev. Catherine Gibbs, Honorary Assistant, Christ Church, Deer Park, May 6.
- The Rev. Dorothy Lancaster (Diocese of Ontario), Honorary Assistant, Christ Church, Deer Park, May 6.
- The Rev. Janet Stephens, Honorary Assistant, St. George Memorial, Oshawa, May 6.
- The Rev. Ruth Adams, Honorary Assistant, St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough, May 13.
- The Rev. Elivered Mulongo, Priest-in-Charge, St. Chad, Toronto, June 1.
- The Rev. Monique Taylor, Associate Priest, St. Andrew, Scarborough, June 1 to Sept. 30.
- The Rev. Vernon Duporte, Priest-in-Charge, Our Saviour, Toronto, June 1.
- The Rev. Chris Horne, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Donlands, June 1.
- The Rev. Leigh Kern, Associate Priest, St. James Cathedral, June 1.
- The Rev. Canon Jerome Khelawan, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. James, Caledon East, June 4.
- The Rev. Terry Noble, Associate Priest, St. John the Evangelist, Peterborough, June 1.
- The Rev. Richard Webb, Associate Priest, St. Clement, Eglinton, June 1.
- The Rev. Derek Stapleton, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Theodore of Canterbury, Toronto, June 18.
- The Rev. Janet Mitchell,

- Honorary Assistant, Trinity, Barrie, June 25.
- The Rev. Canon Dr. Jack Roberts, Honorary Assistant, Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, July 8.
- The Rev. Joan Wilson, Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese, Toronto, July 16.
- The Rev. Ken McClure, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Haliburton, Aug. 1.
- The Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, Associate Priest, Trinity East, Aug. 15.
- The Rev. Jeff Nowers, Associate Priest, St. Aidan, Toronto, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Don Beyers, Social Justice Officer for the York-Credit Valley Episcopal Area, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Gregory Fiennes-Clinton, Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Newcastle, Sept. 1.
- The Rev. Monique Taylor, Priest-in-Charge, St. James the Apostle, Brampton, Oct. 1.

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

First Phase - Parish Selection Committee in Formation (not yet receiving names):

- St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga
- St. Thomas à Becket, Erin Mills South
- St. Andrew by-the-Lake, Toronto Islands (Half Time)

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- St. Andrew, Scarborough

- St. John, Bowmanville
- All Saints Church-Community Centre, Toronto

Third Phase - Parish Selection Committee Interviewing (no longer receiving names):

- Trinity, Aurora

Celebration of Ministry

- The Rev. Joan Wilson, Priest-in-Charge, St. David, Donlands and St. Andrew, Japanese (York-Scarborough), Sept. 16 at 4 p.m.

Conclusion

- The Rev. Carol Hardie's last Sunday at St. James, Orillia was July 1.
- The Rev. Catherine Gibbs will conclude her ministry as Chaplain of Bishop Strachan School in Toronto on Aug. 31.

Death

- The Rev. Neville Bishop died on May 8. Ordained deacon in 1957 and priest in 1958, he served as deacon assistant at St. John, Weston, assistant curate at St. Hilda, Toronto, rector of St. Margaret, New Toronto, rector of the Parish of King, incumbent of St. Chad, Toronto, and regional dean of Etobicoke, York, and Toronto West. He retired in 1997. His funeral was held at St. Thomas, Huron Street on May 11.
- The Rev. Canon Sonjie Pearson died on April 25. Ordained deacon in 1984 and priest in 1985, she transferred from Los Angeles to the Diocese of Toronto in 1989 and served as incumbent of St. Andrew, Japanese until her retirement in 2000. Her funeral was held at St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener on June 24.

Workshops & Gatherings

SEPT. 14 - Youth drop-in with fun and games, 4-6 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Junior high school (13-year-olds) to college students are welcome.

SEPT. 16-DEC. 2 - Christopher Leadership Course, designed to enhance your leadership and communication skills, and your confidence, 3-6 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Register by calling 416-410-7776 or 1-800-418-8925 or email clctorontoeast@gmail.com.

SEPT. 20 - Authors' Dinner at The Balmy Beach Club, hosted by St. Aidan, Toronto. Featuring presentations, book sales and signing by Maureen Jennings of the TV show Murdoch Mysteries and author of *Let Darkness Bury the Dead*. Also J. Shayne Randall, author of *The Pepper Kid*, and Maia Caron, author of *Song of Batoche*. Tickets are \$75 must be purchased in advance. Call 416-691-2222 or email staidan@eol.ca.

Sales

OCT. 12-13 - Riverdale Art Show and Sale featuring high quality original art at modest prices, generally in the \$50 to \$500 range, at St. Barnabas, 361 Danforth Ave., Toronto. Open Oct. 12 from 6-8 p.m. and Oct. 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is the 30th anniversary of the show, and the church is celebrating its 160th anniversary this year. Total sales

BRIEFLY

Summit brings area youth leaders together

Bishop Jenny Andison and Alexandra McIntosh, the York-Credit Valley youth ministry coordinator, are hosting a summit for area youth leaders to network, ask questions, share ideas and plan collaboratively for the future of faith formation ministry in York-Credit Valley. The summit will take place on Sept. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Dixie, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga. The event is open to paid, volunteer, clergy and lay leaders in youth ministry. Clergy involved indirectly in

youth ministry in their parishes are also welcome. For more information, contact Arleane Ralph at 416-363-6021, ext. 223 or aralph@toronto.anglican.ca.

Save the date: Social Media Sunday

The 2018 edition of Social Media Sunday is scheduled for Sept. 30. This annual event is a day to demonstrate the power of social media to help Christians around the world be and do church online and in between times of formal worship. Parishes and individuals are encouraged to participate in ways that make sense for them, such as live-tweeting the sermon, inviting friends to church online, checking in at church on Facebook, or sharing a photo or video, all using the hashtag #SMS18.

Church celebrates Season of Creation

BY ELIN GOULDEN AND
HEATHER BENNET

IN 1989, Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I declared Sept. 1 as a day of prayer for creation in the Orthodox Church. Since then, Christian churches of various traditions around the world have been celebrating a "Season of Creation" between Sept. 1 and Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Archbishop Justin Welby has encouraged Anglicans to participate, and the Creation Matters network of the Anglican Church of Canada has collected resources to guide Canadian Anglicans in observing this season.

One Toronto parish, the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street, is making ambitious plans of its own. From Sept. 23 through Oct. 14, Creation Matters @ Redeemer invites you to join with them and with Christians around the world to pray and reflect during a "Season of Creation." Shifting the observation of the season a little later so as to encompass the Thanksgiving weekend, Redeemer has planned evening and morning services, music, panel discussions and guest speakers, including National Indigenous Anglican Bishop Mark MacDonald, Primate Fred Hiltz, and former United Church of Canada moderator Bill Phipps. For more details, see www.theredeemer.ca.

"Season of Creation" is a time to celebrate and give thanks to the Creator for the lakes, rivers, ravines, trees, and parkland we enjoy; for the abundance of food and the rich diversity of living things sustained by the Earth. It is also a time to consider how individually and collectively we are carrying out our baptismal promise to "safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth."

Elin Goulden is the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant and Heather Bennet is a member of the Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street.

BRIEFLY

Program helps churches lower energy costs

Faith & the Common Good, a national interfaith network, is starting an energy benchmarking project for churches in Toronto, York Region, and Halton Region. The project will help parishes establish a baseline for their energy use and identify areas for improvement to lower energy costs. Several parishes in the diocese have already signed up. Learn more at www.faithcommongood.org.



St. Peter, Erindale's team poses with the trophy after winning the final match 41-40 against Holy Family, Heart Lake at the Anglican Church Cricket Festival. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



The Rev. Julie Meakin (second from left) and members of Holy Family, Heart Lake, cheer on their team.



Ravi De Mel of St. Thomas à Beckett, Erin Mills South, bats.

Rain no match for cricketers

RAIN couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of cricketers and fans who turned out for the annual Anglican Church Cricket Festival in Brampton on June 23. The team from St. Peter, Erindale won for the second straight year.

Bishop Jenny Andison, the area bishop of York-Credit Valley, said the opening prayer and then joined the crowd in singing the hymns *Be thou my vision*, *This little light of mine*, *How great thou art* and *Amazing Grace* inside the park's pavilion while waiting for the rain to cease. Brampton Mayor Linda Jeffrey also welcomed everyone.

The rain eventually let up, leading to an enjoyable day of cricket, food and music. Teams from nine churches took part: St. Thomas à Beckett, Erin Mills; St. Peter, Erindale; Trinity, Streetsville; Holy Family, Heart Lake, Brampton; Church of South India, Toronto; St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea; St. James the Apostle, Brampton; St. Jude, Brampton; and St. Bede, Scarborough. A tenth team, called All Angels, was made up of individuals from churches that did not send teams.



Gunveer Singh Chani (left) of Holy Family, Heart Lake, receives the Most Valuable Player award from tournament organizers Ranil Mendis (centre) and Peter Marshall.