

Christians in peril in Middle East

Special report on mission & ministry



Church completes \$1.6 million reno

The Anglican

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

BY BISHOP PHILIP POOLE

Time to be very present

It has been a year of comings and goings in my family. Just before Easter, we welcomed a new granddaughter into our family. Baby Verity was born on the Tuesday in Holy Week. What a gift she is! Karen and I fell in love with her immediately and spend every moment we can with her. Each visit reveals great change as she explores the new world into which she was born. There are so many firsts – first smile, first time rolling over, first laugh, first sitting up. Of course, she is absolutely reliant on her parents for everything in her life. She could not survive without them, and to watch the bond between parent and child is an awesome thing. It always amazes me that the smallest person in a room captivates the attention of everyone and turns rational, articulate, reserved adults into maniacs making funny faces and uttering weird sounds, all to attract the attention of this new being.

In September, we brought Verity to church to baptize her and mark her as Christ's own forever. In her baptism, as in all baptisms, she participated in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Out of crucifixion comes resurrection, out of death comes new life. In her baptism, as in all baptisms, God gave her the gift of membership into a wider Christian family. As Archbishop Rowan Williams is fond of saying, baptism brings you into the neighbourhood of other Christians.

In his recent book, *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*, Archbishop Williams notes that the New Testament is very clear that being with Jesus is to be in the



LIGHTING THE WAY

From left, Phillipa McCaffrey, Jaxon Malcolm, Gemma Bennett, Cory Douglas, Marcus Douglas and Ty McDonald practice lighting the first candle on the Advent wreath at Grace Church in Scarborough. A candle will be lit each week during Advent, followed by the lighting of the middle candle on Christmas Eve. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

neighbourhood of other Christians. At every baptism, the gathered Christian community vows to do all in its power to support those who have just been baptized into their Christian journey. As an aside, I invite you to reflect on exactly how you live out that vow. So Verity is now a part of the great Christian family.

Three weeks before Verity's baptism, our family gathered to celebrate the remarkable gift of life of Karen's father. He had been ill for some time and died with courage and grace in the face of some very difficult health challenges. He was very clear he was ready to die; he wanted to die and was frustrated that he could not die. He shared with the family, who were by his side holding his hand as he breathed his last, that he had made his peace with God and prayed that God would receive him into life eternal. On what would be his last best day of health, he met his great-granddaughter at the hospital. What a precious mo-

ment that proved to be for all of our family. Birth and death. The cycle of life continues.

In a few days we will celebrate Christmas, the annual reminder of the birth of the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Many of us will celebrate with family and friends, enjoy good times and create new memories.

Jesus, God Incarnate, was born into a family. He was utterly dependant on Mary and Joseph to provide for his every need. It is amazing to reflect on the fact that God in Jesus was utterly dependant on his human parents for his very survival. The Divine relied on the human! Jesus would be raised in a family – a family of faith – and would be schooled in the Jewish traditions. He would learn to pray and to participate in the worship of God. In his family, he learned what mattered and reflected that in his adult life.

Christmas has become a kind of once-a-year "time out" in the midst of frenetically busy lives,

Continued on Page 6

THE ARCHBISHOP'S LEVEE 2015

at the Cathedral Church of St. James



Please join Archbishop Johnson and the College of Bishops to offer best wishes and prayers for the New Year.

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Syrian priest describes war in homeland

Christians will ‘vanish’ if violence continues

BY STUART MANN

WESTERN nations have to help the people of Syria start talking about peace or face an endless stream of extremism flowing out of the Middle East.

That was one of the messages from an impassioned talk by Fr. Nadim Nassar, an Anglican priest from Syria who was speaking about the plight of Christians in the Middle East at St. James

Cathedral on Oct. 30. Fr. Nassar, who is based in London and is head of The Awareness Foundation, was in Syria the previous week and said the destruction and violence in his homeland is indescribable.

“My country is bleeding to death,” he said. “The violence and cruelty and monstrosity of it is beyond imagination. The despair and lack of hope, for both Muslims and Christians, is heart-stopping.”



Fr. Nadim Nassar speaks about the plight of Christians in the Middle East as interviewer Mark Kelley looks on. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Fr. Nassar was interviewed by Mark Kelley of CBC’s The Fifth Estate in front of a crowd of about 130 in Snell Hall. The event, held over the lunch hour, gave people a

chance to hear about the war in Syria and to donate to The Awareness Foundation, an international Christian charity that provides programs of peace and reconciliation for young people in the Middle East.

Fr. Nassar said there is no future for Christians or any other religious minorities in Syria as long as nations continue to arm the warring factions and try to use force to stop groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).

He said the violence is dividing the Middle East into sectarian nations, which will eventually squeeze out Christians and other religious minorities. This would be a disaster, he said, not only for the minorities but for the entire region.

“If it continues like this, all the minorities will vanish,” he said. “We don’t want to empty the Middle East of Christians and other minorities. Minorities are the glue that holds the Middle East together.” He reminded the audience that St. Paul had his conversion on the road to Damascus, the capital of Syria.

He had strong words for governments that are trying to stop groups such as ISIS with force. “ISIS cannot be defeated by force,” he said. “It can only be stopped by drying up the veins that feed it.”

In a question-and-answer session with the audience after-

wards, he said ISIS has become such a powerful force in the region because governments in the Middle East are financing it. “Why is nobody asking who is supporting ISIS? All we hear is air strikes. Using air strikes to defeat ISIS is a joke. It won’t work. We need to stop the business of death now. No more ‘boots on the ground.’ No more force.”

He said the only thing that will stop the bloodshed and the rise of extremism, both in the Middle East and the rest of the world, is a concerted effort on the part of the regional and world powers to establish peace in the area. “Why isn’t anybody talking about a peace process among Syrians?” he asked. “Until that happens, we will continue to see war and the export of extremism and fanaticism. I say shame on the politicians. You should not arm people. It is evil. As long as this happens, there will be no peace.”

He pleaded with Christians in Canada to take action to bring about peace in the Middle East. “Help us. Ask your politicians the difficult questions they don’t want to answer.” He also asked the audience to financially support The Awareness Foundation. “We’re trying to rebuild trust in the region. If you want to be a light in the world, support us. We need help to run programs for young people and children that will bring hope back into their lives.”

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Laity to learn about planting new churches

Special day helps Anglicans share Gospel

BY CAROLYN PURDEN

ANGLICAN lay people will soon have a chance to gain some hands-on practice at planting churches.

The opportunity will arise at the Vital Church Planting Conference, to be held at St. Paul, Bloor Street from Jan. 29 to 31. The last day of the conference – a Saturday – is specially designated for teams of laity.

Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Toronto and the Wycliffe College Institute of Evangelism, the conference offers an exploration of fresh expressions of church and church planting.

If anyone looks at the changing culture and feels helpless or confused and wonders about the future of the church, they will find this conference encouraging and educational, says the Rev. Ryan Sim, one of the organizers.

“They will learn about exciting things that are happening in Canada to reach new people, and they will learn some of the steps that have brought about those new forms of church,” he says.

In previous years, the conference looked to the United Kingdom for inspiration, since the Fresh Expression movement began there. However, this year there is a change.

“Enough is happening in Canada in terms of fresh expressions of church and people pioneering new forms of ministry to reach new people that we can have an entirely Canadian focus,” says Mr. Sim, who is the priest-in-charge of Redeemer, Ajax, and a church planter himself.

The conference will showcase a variety of fresh expressions of church, new church plants and other pioneering forms of ministry that are happening across Canada. It will include plenary sessions and workshops.

Providing education and support to lay people is important because many fresh expressions of church bubble up from the grassroots and are led and sustained by lay people.



Jared Siebert, national director of church planting for the Free Methodist Church in Canada, will be one of the speakers at the conference.

Although the Saturday will be devoted to lay people who come in parish teams or individually, clergy are also encouraged to take part. Jared Seibert will be the speaker for the day. The parish teams will get together for hands-on practice of some of the skills they will need to start something new back home.

One focus will be on missional listening. Teams will be sent out to walk the neighbourhood around St. Paul’s, to understand its context and what God is doing there. Then they will return to the church and discuss the trends and needs they see in the community, and consider how to serve those needs in a way that builds community and makes disciples.

“I hope people will walk away from this conference saying, ‘I know how to do that now,’” says Mr. Sim. “I hope it’s not just passive learning, in terms of listening to a speaker and then going to a workshop where they listen to another speaker. They’re going to listen to a speaker and then try out what they’ve learned.”

“This conference will help them dream about some creative ways to spread that good news,” he says.

For more information and to register, visit www.vitalchurchplanting.com.



The staff and volunteers at *The Anglican* wish you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.



GREETING INSIDE EACH CARD:

May the Spirit of God be born anew in your heart that God’s love for you might overflow abundantly in love for your neighbour.

BIBLICAL QUOTE INSIDE EACH CARD:

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[Luke 1:35]

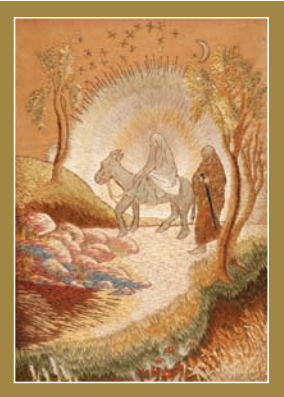
Image by Shelby, grade 5, St. Peter’s Anglican Church, Erindale

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Voice of Jays shares faith

Fundraiser
assists clergy,
families in
need

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

MORE than 200 guests from York-Credit Valley and beyond gathered on Nov. 4 to support clergy and their families in times of need. The York-Credit Valley Bishop's Company Dinner, held at the Mississauga Grand Banquet & Convention Centre, featured a delicious meal, a silent auction and a performance by the choir of the Church of South India. The event raised more than \$20,000 for the Bishop's Company Fund.

Jerry Howarth, long-time radio broadcaster for the Toronto Blue Jays and a parishioner of St. Philip, Etobicoke, gave the keynote address. Mr. Howarth spoke about his spiritual journey, including the many people who have shaped his life as a Christian.

Among them was Gary Lavelle, a born-again Christian and pitcher for the Blue Jays in 1985. "When I heard Gary speak so lovingly and personally and so genuinely about his love for Jesus Christ, I began to tune in," said Mr. Howarth, who grew up in a Catholic household.



At Mr. Lavelle's suggestion, Mr. Howarth bought a Bible and began to read one Proverb each day. "The seed was planted. I didn't know where it was going, but I liked that relationship with Christ that Gary had," said Mr. Howarth.

Mr. Howarth also spoke about his favourite biblical verse, Romans 3:23: "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

"We all fall short of the glory of God," he said. "I do every day. But in the big picture, the seeds have been planted, and I try to love, praise and serve the Lord with my life, my career, the friends that I have right here, the people that I'm talking to right now. That's my journey."

The Rev. Canon Allan Budzin, incumbent of St. Philip, Etobicoke, introduced Mr. Howarth, his friend of many years. "Not many folks know that throughout the season, Jerry offers each broadcast not only to the Blue Jays fans, but also to God. Jerry Howarth is a man who practices his Christian faith with as much dedication as he practices his craft," said Canon



Jerry Howarth, the radio broadcaster for the Toronto Blue Jays, speaks about his faith journey at the York-Credit Valley Bishop's Company Dinner. Above left, guests enjoy the evening's speeches. At right, members of the Church of South India choir sing. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Budzin.

Bishop Philip Poole, area bishop of York-Credit Valley, thanked everyone for attending and supporting the work of the Bishop's Company. He spoke about the importance of the Bishop's Company in helping clergy and their families in ways they could never imagine.

The silent auction, with items

ranging from Toronto Raptors tickets to a Book of Common Prayer signed by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, raised \$4,300.

The dinner was sponsored by Hugessen Consulting, Ward Funeral Homes and Turner & Porter Funeral Directors, along with 18 supporting parishes.

CANADA BRIEFS

Poor children could fill stadium

VICTORIA – Christ Church Cathedral hosted a two-day conference, From Charity to Social

Justice: Addressing Child and Family Poverty, on Oct. 2 and 3. Keynote speaker John Greschner, deputy representative for children and youth with the British Columbia government, told the audience that 93,000 children in the province now live in low-income families, a number he pointed out that would fill BC Place stadium, with 50,000 lined up outside.

Adrienne Montani, provincial co-ordinator of First Call BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, suggested the government increase the child tax credit, stop clawing back family maintenance payments from those on income assistance and develop a provincial, non-partisan poverty reduction plan. The conference ended with a visioning and action planning session to come up with some short- and long-term goals.

The Diocesan Post

Congregation worships in RCMP building

WINNIPEG – St. Simon's in Lynn Lake, Man., lost its church building to arson in 2012, but reports that the congregation is now enjoying services in a building purchased from the RCMP and renovated. Many individuals and other churches helped get the congregation back on its feet.

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The Anglican Church

In the Anglican Communion:

A global community of 70 million Anglicans in 64,000 congregations in 164 countries.

Archbishop of Canterbury:

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Lambeth Palace, London, England SE1 7JU.

In Canada:

A community of about 600,000 members in 30 dioceses, stretching from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland and north to the Arctic Ocean.

Primate:

The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Church House, 80 Hayden St. Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

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. Philip Poole

Trent-Durham:

The Rt. Rev. Linda Nicholls

York-Scarborough:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu

York-Simcoe:

The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty

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Archbishop’s Message



Archbishop Colin Johnson

My brothers and sisters in Christ:
The Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 reminds us that we are accountable for how we use God’s bountiful gifts entrusted to us. Just as the servants in the parable were apportioned treasure – some more than others – so we too have been gifted with resources to carry out the work of the Master. We use these “talents” to invest in growing the Kingdom. All we do should focus us missionally as individuals, as parishes and as a diocese – increasing our capacity to respond as vibrant partners with God’s creative activity in the world. Some of it will be direct mission and some of it will provide the essential infrastructure through which mission is enabled.

I am delighted to be able to provide this special financial update in *The Anglican* – a “reckoning” to the people of the Diocese of Toronto – to serve as a narrative mid-term accounting between Synods. I think you will be as moved and delighted as I am by what we as a Church are doing with our resources – our gifts from God’s hand. I hope you find, as you read through the various activities of our diocesan departments that support our diocesan ministry, that we are truly engaged in Christ’s mission through Compassionate Service, Intelligent Faith and Godly Worship.

The four strategic areas of focus in the Diocese of Toronto are: Strengthening Local Parishes; Building the Church for Tomorrow; Revitalizing Our Inheritance; and Giving to Others. As a diocese, we celebrate the best of our tradition in providing both a framework and the tools needed to build our future in faith – a Church where God is worshipped, people are cared for and justice is proclaimed.

I encourage you to read the following pages with grateful hearts. We know that much is expected of us who have received much (Luke 12:48). I pray that we will continue to be faithful stewards of God’s goodness, through faithful ministry and the proclamation of Good News of life in Christ, to every corner of our diocese.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Rev. Colin Johnson
Archbishop of Toronto

REVENUE

\$8,217,826



Allotment (Income From Parishes)

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$5,746,161	\$5,781,000	\$5,711,354

As Christians, we are called to live open-handedly and generously, acknowledging that we are merely stewards of God’s creation and that all things come from God. In this spirit of gratitude, we give to our Church so that mission and ministry may be carried out at the local, area, diocesan, national and international levels. It is through this work that Anglicans can extend the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ to all.

In our diocese, parishes contribute to the work of the Church through their annual parish allotment. With these funds and other revenue, the diocese is able to provide leadership and support in many areas, including the episcopacy, clerical development, Synod, human resources, congregational development, stewardship, chaplaincy, communications, social justice and advocacy and property support. The work in these areas is described in these pages.



Other Revenue

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$2,471,665	\$2,431,000	\$2,398,987

In addition to Parish Allotment, the work of the diocese is supported by revenue from investments, endowments and donations, fees for administering investment funds, and transfers from funds such as FaithWorks and Our Faith-Our Hope for specific projects as determined by Diocesan Council.

Learn More

For detailed information about the Financial Budget and the Priorities and Plans of the diocese, visit the diocese’s website, www.toronto.anglican.ca and search under “Priorities and Plans.” For further questions, email finance@toronto.anglican.ca.

The mission of the Diocese of Toronto calls us “to worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody – in word and action – God’s reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation, through which knowledge of God’s reign is extended.”

EXPENDITURES

\$7,948,039

All funds received from parish allotment and other sources of income are subsequently invested in the following categories: Leadership and Governance, Support for the Wider Church, Diocesan Departments and Ministries, and Episcopal Areas. Please read on for highlights about each of these important areas.



Episcopal Expenses and
Episcopal Area Budgets

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$2,045,216	\$2,045,000	\$2,076,228

The Diocesan Bishop and Suffragan (Area) Bishops of our diocese have a multi-faceted ministry: to proclaim the faith through teaching, including preaching and by example; to make provision for pastoral care and the sacramental life of the church; to provide oversight of the mission of the church within the diocese; to defend the vulnerable in society; and to participate in the leadership of the whole church.

A core component of the diocesan budget is the support of episcopal ministry and associated staffing for the benefit of the whole diocesan family. There are 10.7 staff positions in this area, which includes the bishops and their assistants, and the area youth coordinators. The budget also includes support for the Bishop’s Committees, travel and office costs, the expenses of the regional deans and their meetings, and leadership development. Regional deans receive a small honorarium and travel allowance, as do the Ecumenical Officer and the Interfaith Officer.

Some of the important diocesan events of the year include the Pre-Lenten Day for clergy and lay workers, the Archbishop’s Levee at St. James Cathedral on Jan. 1, and the presentation of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto, also held at the levee.

In addition to amounts budgeted for operating the episcopal areas, each area bishop and their area council is allocated an amount to be spent on area ministry and initiatives. In 2014, these initiatives included ministry to youth, Christian education and formation, and new forms of communication.



Bishop Philip Poole baptizes an infant at St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Developing and Supporting
Clerical Leadership

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$1,007,458	\$832,000	\$946,458

The diocese is committed to the development and support of its clergy. To do this, it provides training and mentoring, including professional development and conferences, assistance with grants and relocation, and support during a crisis. The diocese has a mandate to provide clergy to parishes, and it does that by providing grants to theological students, mentoring postulants and curates, providing grants to parishes for curacy placements, and providing training and development programs for newly ordained priests. As well, the Postulancy Committee engages in the selection and formation of new vocations to the priesthood. There are 1.5 staff positions in this area. This comprises part of the staff time for both the Diocesan Bishop’s office and for the Human Resources staff.



CAO Office and Synod

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$358,011	\$340,200	\$428,502



The Rev. Canon Ted McCollum speaks to Synod about missional ministry at St. Paul, Beaverton. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The staff at the Diocesan Centre serve the diocese in four ways: by providing support to the Diocesan Bishop and Area Bishops for the leadership of the diocese; by carrying out administrative and corporate functions as may be required by Synod, Diocesan Council or the bishops; by overseeing corporate compliance and government reporting; and by providing services to parishes and other ministries. It is through the collective and mutually supportive effort of councils, boards, committees, the College of Bishops, staff and many volunteers that the priorities of the diocese are brought to life and the needs of the diocese are fulfilled.

Much of the work of the Diocesan Centre is carried out under the leadership of the CAO (chief administrative officer) and Secretary of Synod. There are 2 staff positions in this area. The CAO reports to the Diocesan Bishop and has oversight of the Diocesan Centre.

One of the most important tasks of the CAO Office is to convene and support sessions of Synod, meetings of the Executive Board, the Trusts Committee and Diocesan Council. Regular Sessions of Synod are held every two years. Although there is no Synod meeting planned for 2014, there are plans to hold Synod forums in the spring of 2015 to discuss significant proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons that will effect Synod membership and mandatory retirement. The next Regular Session of Synod will be held in November 2015.

As a not-for-profit corporation, Synod is our corporate governing body made up of all the licensed clergy, lay members from all congregations, bishop’s and youth appointees, ex-officio members and the bishop. It is at Synod that members determine, at a high level, the priorities for Diocesan Council and its boards and committees, and refocuses the mission of the church throughout the diocese. Synod gatherings are a time of worship, inspiration and education, as well as a forum for affirming the direction of our ministry together.



The Rev. Lisa Newland, surrounded by parishioners, cuts the cake at her induction service at St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

“Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can

Glory to God from generation to generation, in the C

(Prayer after Communion, Book o



Diocesan Centre Operations

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$1,136,882	\$1,134,000	\$1,154,193

Diocesan Centre Operations, which includes Finance, Payroll, Office Services, Facilities and Archives, provides a number of essential services to the diocese and parishes, including the administration of the payroll for all parish clergy, the administration of parish accounts and trusts, the management of the diocese’s finances and investments, and management of the diocese’s Archives. In addition, it provides information systems and technology, custodial support and staffing for the maintenance of the Diocesan Centre, including its offices, meetings rooms and grounds. There are 7.7 staff positions in this area.

As well as overall support offered to diocesan staff and committees, the teams strive to strengthen local parishes by offering advice and support on financial and risk mitigation issues. In addition, the staff in Archives is responsible for maintaining the central files of the diocese and the archival records of the diocese and parishes. Archives are unique, original records that have a continuing and permanent value – for example, to fulfill legal requirements or for informational or evidential value. The Archives, located in the Diocesan Centre, is the official repository for the records of Synod, its officials, clergy, parishes and organizations. The facility provides safe, secure, and controlled storage for non-current parish records as well as historical records of the diocese and parishes. These records are available for personal review in the reading room during our open hours for the public, or by consulting the staff.



Support for the Wider Church

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$1,551,071	\$1,544,000	\$1,551,071

The diocese supports the work of the Primate, General Synod and its staff and committees. In addition to funding, the diocese supports General Synod through the work of our bishops, staff and volunteers for General Synod committees, working groups and the Council of General Synod. They provide expertise in such areas as pensions, investments, communications, stewardship, and doctrine and worship. The diocese has also undertaken to contribute a tithe of 10% of all contributions to the Ministry Allocation Fund (MAF). Since tithing MAF receipts in 2009, the diocese has made tithes totaling \$1,014,231, in additional contributions to the wider church. The diocese also supports the work of Provincial Synod in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. This includes our diocese’s contribution to the Metropolitan’s office and grants to the Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education.



Archbishop Colin Johnson with teachers and seminarians in Harare, Zimbabwe.



Human Resources

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$148,857	\$148,000	\$152,960

The Human Resources department is responsible for hiring, performance management, compensation and benefits, leaves of absence, endings, professional development, clergy wellness, health and safety, screening, and the Sexual Misconduct Policy, including training lay and clerical leadership. There are 1.25 staff positions in this area. The Human Resources team works not only with congregational leaders but also the College of Bishops and other Diocesan Centre staff in addressing congregations’ concerns. The diocese’s mandate to provide a safe, supportive environment for all members of our communities led to the development of two policies: the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Responsible Ministry: Screening in Faith. The budget also provides for expenses related to ongoing support of these policies, including the salaries for the Canon Pastor and Assistant to the Canon Pastor. Additional work carried out by Human Resources includes workshops, one-on-one contact with parishes, the delivery of resources and information through the diocese’s website, working with the Postulancy Committee and screening new postulants.



Congregational Development

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$448,547	\$454,500	\$441,351



Reading from the lectern at St. George on Yonge, Toronto, during a commissioning service for a new ministry to Mandarin-speaking people. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

The Congregational Development team provides support and resources to congregations in the midst of change and growth. In addition, volunteers are recruited and are active in various ways to respond to congregational needs. Staff and volunteers work not only with congregational leaders but also the College of Bishops and other Diocesan Centre staff in addressing parish concerns. There are 4.25 staff positions in this area.

Through the work of Congregational Development, congregations have access to people who are trained and equipped in processes related to change and growth, including visioning, conflict resolution, benchmarking, strategic planning, demographic and community needs assessment and leadership development. Included in this area is support for the diocesan volunteer network, youth ministry, diversity initiatives, and the Area Resource Fund, which is available to the College of Bishops to support strategic parish initiatives.

Congregational Development is also active in NCD, Fresh Start, parish reconfiguration and parish selection committee facilitation. As well, Missional Transformation is a two-year program that helps parishes to learn to listen for missional opportunities in their neighbourhoods and to respond with experiments that seek to re-engage with their community in partnership with God.



Stewardship Development

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$174,124	\$174,000	\$177,488

The Stewardship Development team and volunteers are active in various ways to strengthen stewardship at all levels of the church. Key areas of work include the Our Faith-Our Hope campaign, the annual FaithWorks campaign, the Bishop’s Company and the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. In addition, Growing Healthy Stewards is a unique program designed to engage parishes in a consistent process of education and invitation into a deeper understanding of discipleship. The program operates under the premise that all parishes have the capacity to be healthy and joyful worshipping communities. The results of this program among the participating parishes have been very positive. They include: increased PAG participation, increased giving of pledges, the development of annual narrative budgets, regular preaching on stewardship education, a commitment to increase volunteer recognition, and the promotion of legacy giving. In addition to these activities, the Stewardship Development team shares in initiatives with other dioceses to strengthen stewardship in Anglican churches across Canada. There are 2 staff positions in this area, comprising part of the staff time for the Stewardship Development team.



Staff and volunteers from North House Shelter, North Durham, work on a community garden. North House is a FaithWorks partner. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Chaplaincy

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$307,077	\$307,000	\$316,015

The diocese has a mandate to promote and advocate for Anglican chaplains. The Chaplaincy Committee supports chaplains in a variety of capacities, within a wide range of facilities across the diocese. There are 3 staff positions in this area, which includes 4 chaplaincies supported by the diocese, and the coordinator of Chaplaincy Services. The budget also provides for training for non-parochial ministries, advocacy regarding emergency response and resiliency planning, the support of parish nursing, lay pastoral visiting ministries and the work of the HIV Network.



The Rev. Judith Alltree, executive director and chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers in Southern Ontario, stands with Andre Hamel on the bridge of a lake freighter in Toronto harbour. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Communications

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$278,753	\$278,000	\$283,154

The Communications department proclaims the good news of our faith and supports the work of the clergy and laity through *The Anglican*, the website, social media and media relations. In 2014, the Communications team and volunteers began a number of important initiatives to equip clergy and laity for mission and ministry in the digital age: they optimized the website for mobile devices, led workshops on social media and websites, and launched the Parish Website Pilot Project, which equips strategic parishes with engaging, easy-to-use websites and effective social media strategies. There are 2 staff positions in this area.



Social Justice and Advocacy

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$431,944	\$432,000	\$434,762

The Social Justice and Advocacy department supports the work of outreach ministries, advocacy groups and those working to advance issues of social justice. The Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant works closely with the Bishop’s Office and with the Provincial Synod Office on advocacy initiatives. In addition, volunteers are active in carrying out work that addresses such urgent and important issues as homelessness, child poverty, and HIV/AIDS. The Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant works with a part-time Parish Outreach Facilitator in the York-Credit Valley episcopal area. Together with volunteers, they support the outreach and advocacy efforts of the diocese and parishes by developing workshops and training, providing resources and working with several volunteer committees to develop capacity around specific key issues. Another significant area of work is the annual Outreach Networking Conference. By supporting outreach ministries throughout the diocese and encouraging Anglicans to respond to inequality in our world, advocacy efforts directly address the diocesan priority to give to others. There is 1 staff position in this area. This budget includes the ministry of All Saints, Sherbourne Street.



Clergy and parishioners of St. Anne, Toronto, advocate for a better world. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Property Support

Budget 2014	Forecast 2014	Budget 2015
\$60,099	\$89,000	\$63,159

Diocesan Council (on the recommendations of both the Trusts Committee and Executive Board) is responsible for the overall real estate planning processes, as well as for canonical and statutory oversight of all diocesan lands (including cemeteries) and buildings. This work is carried out on a day-to-day basis by staff in the Property Support department, in consultation with a variety of qualified professionals. There are 1.5 staff positions in this area. This broad scope of property and legal work also includes supporting parishes that undertake capital improvement projects, and with their real property matters. The department also works closely with the diocese’s treasurer & director of Finance, Marsh Canada Ltd. and Ecclesiastical Insurance in the management of the diocese’s insurance portfolio. The Property Support team also handles sales of surplus property, in addition to managing vacant land and a number of disestablished churches that are not surplus.

The mandate of the Property Support department, in relation to the diocese’s priorities, is to protect and maintain the value of real property assets and diocesan rights and interests, realize income from diocesan properties where possible, ensure good diocesan and parochial stewardship, and maximize proceeds of sale from surplus property. This is done in order to enable current and future parish and diocesan ministry.

Conference draws record crowd

A conference that helps Sunday school teachers develop discipleship in children drew a record attendance this year. More than 100 people, many from outside the Anglican tradition, gathered at St. John, York Mills in November for the Fourth Annual Children's Ministry Conference.

The one-day conference, which is sponsored by the Centre for Excellence in Christian Education (CECE) and St John's, aims to give Sunday school teachers the tools and inspiration to develop discipleship among children.

This year's gathering, entitled "Making It Easier to Serve," started with a keynote presentation by Janie Robertson, who spoke on, "Making it Stick! Practices that Shape a Child's Faith." Archbishop Colin Johnson and Bishop Patrick Yu, the area bishop of York-Scarborough, also made remarks.

During the day, the teachers attended workshops on diverse topics, participated in worship led by Second Chance worship band, networked and socialized.

The conference also recognized excellence in volunteer children's ministry through the Sladen Award. Archbishop Johnson presented the award to this year's winners: Barbara Patterson from Christ Church St. James, Joyce Walton from St. Paul L'Amoreaux, and Tammy Delahey from St. Barnabas.

This year saw several new developments in the conference. For the first time, it was live-streamed in its entirety on YouTube. Although a few diocesan worship services have been live-streamed on the Internet in the past, this is the first time that a conference in the diocese has been broadcast in this way.

As well this year, conference organizers partnered with Tynedale Seminary to bring in several new workshop presenters and broaden the Christian representation at the conference. As part of its mandate to equip children's ministers, whenever possible CECE videotapes its workshops and makes them freely available on its website, www.thecece.org.

Next year's conference, which will be held on Nov. 7, 2015, will feature a keynote address by the Rev. Stephanie Douglas Bowman, who will continue on the theme of faith formation at home and in the church.

Fair showcases outreach organizations

Holy Trinity, Thornhill held an Outreach Fair in October to inform parishioners about the organizations to which the parish outreach committee and Anglican Church Women make donations. The fair was organized by Linda Robertson with the support of the outreach committee and the Rev. Canon Stephen Fields, incumbent.

Participating in the fair were LOFT, Eva's Place, Jessie's, L'Arche Daybreak and Evergreen



DAY OF DISCOVERY

Pastor James Liu gives visitors a tour of St. James Cathedral on Nov. 9. The Mandarin ministries of St. James Cathedral and St. George on Yonge, Toronto, invited Mandarin-speaking people to the cathedral to attend the Governor General's Horse Guards Memorial Service, followed by a luncheon. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Hospice. Sleeping Children Around the World was represented by Marilyn Olivares, who has delivered bed kits in the Philippines and Uganda. The Diocese of the Arctic was unable to send a representative, but did send information and books used in the diocese. The Out of the Cold and Christmas Assistance programs in the Thornhill community were also represented.

At the Sunday morning service preceding the fair, David Steeves, a retired engineer and executive member of the Pikangikum Working Group, spoke about work that the group is undertaking with a First Nations community.

The Pikangikum Water Project is helping to bring clean running water to Pikangikum in northern Ontario. So far, it has brought water to 13 of the 450 homes in the

village. The project is also training some community members to do plumbing and electrical work so that they can maintain the system and perhaps get jobs working in other communities.

"The intention is not to give the village a hand out, but to give them a hand up," said Mr. Steeves. He supplemented his presentation with a slide show of some of the work being done.

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WORLD BRIEFS

Attendance increasing despite Ebola

LIBERIA – In the capital of Monrovia, churches are among the few places where people congregate, due to the fear of Ebola. At Trinity Cathedral, more people have started coming to services since the outbreak, says the Very Rev. Herman Browne. Dean Browne, who was in quarantine for three weeks along with his wife and a family friend, has been preaching the message of preventing Ebola in his sermons. *National Public Radio, USA*

Anglicans, Oriental Orthodox make history

UNITED KINGDOM – Theologians in the Anglican Communion and Oriental Orthodox Churches have signed an agreement on their mutual under-

standing of the incarnation of Jesus Christ. A division over how to interpret the incarnation led to the Oriental Orthodox leaving the Church of Rome in 451 AD. The question was how the two natures, divine and human, are united in one being, Jesus Christ. *Anglican Communion News Service.*

Tutu calls for alternative energy sources

DENMARK – Speaking by video link to a service at Copenhagen Cathedral to mark the release of the UN Climate Change Report 2014, Archbishop Desmond Tutu told the congregation, which included scientists and politicians, that God has provided ways of generating electricity other than using fossil fuels. "You know if we turn to making all things new we can get our energy needs from today's energy resources like the sun, the wind and the ocean currents." *Anglican Communion News Service.*

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To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 3. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar, at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Worship and Music

NOV. 30 - A Procession with Readings and Carols for Advent, p.m., St. Peter, Erindale, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga. Featuring the music of Wood, Britten, Bruckner and Goldschmidt, with the parish choir.

DEC. 6 - Voices Chamber Choir presents An English Christmas, featuring music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst, John Rutter and many more. John Stephenson, accompanist; Ron Ka Ming Cheung, conductor, 8 p.m., St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets at the door: \$20 adults, \$15 seniors/students.

DEC. 7 - St. Martin-in-the-Fields annual Advent Carol Service at 7:30 p.m. The choir presents the music of Chilcott, Paul Edwards, James MacMillan and more. Directed by Jack Hattey, with Tom Fitches, organ, and Nancy Nourse, flute. Free-will offering. Reception follows. St. Martin's is located at 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Wheelchair accessible.

DEC. 7 - Peterborough Community Carol Sing, 2:30 p.m., at the Salvation Army Temple, Peterborough. Special offering for the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Fund.

DEC. 7 - Christmas Sing and Ring Concert at St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto, from 3 to 4 p.m. Handbells join the band and choir for a family-friendly concert. Free-will offering in support of Anglican Missions and World Vision.

DEC. 7 - St. Anne, Toronto, presents Cantâte: A Neighbourhood Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. in support of the Youth Scholarship Program of the Division 14 Community Police Liaison Committee. Featuring St. Anne's choir, The Junction Trio, and other guests. The program includes Vaughan Williams' classic Fantasia on Christmas Carols, excerpts from Handel's Messiah and other favourites, along with a caroling. Tickets are \$15 at the door. St. Anne's is located at 270 Gladstone Ave., Toronto.

DEC. 11 - Annual Christmas Concert at 7:30 p.m., presented by the choir of St. John, Craighurst, 3191 Penetanguishene Rd., Craighurst. The concert will end with Evensong. Free-will offering. Refreshments afterwards.

DEC. 13 - Christmas Cantata "Appalachian Winter" presented by the combined choirs of Grace Church, Scarborough and The Barbados Ex-Police. At 6:30 p.m. at Grace Church, Scarborough, 700 Kennedy Rd. Tickets \$20 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under. Tickets available at the door or call 416-755-5316.

DEC. 14 - Christmas Jazz Vespers, 4 p.m., St. Philip, Etobicoke, 25 St. Phillips Rd. Featuring Mark Eisenman Quartet.

DEC. 14 - Annual Community Carol Sing, 7:30 p.m., St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough. Free-will offering for

The Kids for Peace. Refreshments following. Call 416-283-1844.

DEC. 21 - The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as celebrated at King's College Cambridge at 7 p.m., St. Thomas, Huron St., Toronto.

DEC. 21 - A Service of Readings and Carols for Christmas, featuring the music of Pettman, Matterson, Carelse and traditional carols, 7 p.m., St. Peter, Erindale, 1745 Dundas St. W., Mississauga. With St. Peter's Singers, St. Peter's Handbell Choir and St. Peter's Parish Choir.

DEC. 21 - An organ recital of Christmas music by Thomas Fitches at 3 p.m. at St. Clement, Eglinton, 70 St. Clements Ave., Toronto. Noels by early French composers and performance of the second book of Noels dedicated to Thomas Fitches by Italian composer and organist Eugenio Fagiani. Free-will offering.

DEC. 21 - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 7:30 p.m., St. Olave, Toronto, at the corner of Bloor and Windermere. Contributions appreciated. Call 416-769-5686.

DEC. 24 - Christmas Family Service at 4:30 p.m. and Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long at 7:30 p.m., Church of Christ the King, 475 Rathburn Rd., Etobicoke. Wheelchair access through south doors. Call 416-621-3630.

DEC. 24 - Children's Christmas Eve Service, 4 p.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5686.

DEC. 24 - Candlelight Service of Holy Communion at 10:30 p.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5686.

DEC. 25 - Holy Communion with Anointing at 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere. Call 416-769-5686.

Christmas Bazaars

DEC. 6 - St. Nicholas Day Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Philip's Parish Hall, 60 Dixon Rd., Etobicoke. Christmas crafts, food, fun, raffle.

Advent Catechesis

DEC. 6, 13 AND 20 - At St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the Saturdays of Advent. A new resource from the Church of England helps Anglicans re-claim and grow into the basics of the Christian faith and deepen in their knowledge and contempla-



SPOOKY FUN

Girls enjoy hot cider at St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, on Oct. 31 during the church's first Hallowe'en Open House. Parishioners decorated the church with pumpkins carved by the youth group and offered treats and hot apple cider to trick-or-treaters. While at the church, visitors could leave the names of the departed, to be remembered on All Souls' Day. A chorister sang Gregorian chant and more than 120 kids visited, plus parents. 'It was a very effective witness to the neighbourhood,' said the Rev. Canon David Harrison, incumbent. 'It said to people - we are here, we are normal, we are welcoming, and we are fun.' One little boy was overheard to say, 'My friend Josh goes to church; maybe I could go to church.'

tion of Jesus Christ. Call 416-923-8714 or email office@stsimons.ca.

Theatre & Pageants

DEC. 5-6 - Dickens' A Christmas Carol at St. George Memorial, Osawa. Performances at 7 p.m. on Dec. 5, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 6. Carol sing-along after each performance. Tickets for adults are \$18, for seniors and children 17 and under, \$15. Half the net profit goes to St. George Memorial Church.

DEC. 12-13 - The St. Thomas, Huron Street and Poculi Ludique Societas annual co-production, A

Medieval Christmas, takes place at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 12, and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 13. The production is based on Kim Yates's and Chet Scoville's modern translation of the York Cycle Nativity sequence. The play, Joseph's Trouble about Mary, is also presented. Bumbling shepherds, noble kings, and a frightening Herod perform with a new score from Toronto Masque Theatre's Larry Beckwith. Tickets for students are \$10, for seniors, \$15, for adults, \$20.

DEC. 13 - The sixth annual reading of A Christmas Carol at 7:30 p.m. at

St. Theodore of Canterbury. Tickets \$10 at the door. All proceeds to benefit North York Harvest Food Bank. Call 416-222-2461.

DEC. 14 - 31st annual Christmas Pageant (Junior Church Nativity Play) at 10:30 a.m., St. Olave, Toronto, corner of Bloor and Windermere.

Christmas Display

DEC. 6-7 - Display of Nativities at St. Mark, Port Hope, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 6, and from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 7. Call 905-885-1960.

Reflect on what really matters

Continued from Page 1

to tend to those whom we can so easily take for granted. We live remarkably full and busy lives while complaining that we don't have the time to do the things we want and be with the people we wish to be with. Life has a way of being taken for granted, as does the gift of family and our relationship with God. Often it takes a shock, either good or bad, to jolt us into reflection on what really matters. Family matters. Faith matters. Relationship matters.

I hope that Christmas will be a

time for us to be very present to what truly matters in life – present to friends and family, present to the Christian community, present to the needs of others and, above all, present to God in Jesus Christ. May Christmas be a time to refocus and seek the balance in life for which many yearn. May it be a time for great thanksgiving for God's gift of the cycle of life.

One final thought. At Christmas, God bent down and kissed the world with God's love, expressed most fully in Jesus. God

loves you unconditionally. God loves you, and told you so in the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

My observation is that while we love others deeply, some of us are reluctant to tell those closest to us that we love them. A bishop friend of mine in the United States is famous for telling everyone that he meets – and I do mean everyone – that he loves them. When he ends a phone conversation, a meeting, an interview or a social gathering, he tells each person, "I love you."

When I queried him about that practice, he said, "Well Phil, God has told us to love God, love others and love ourselves. I am just following what I have been asked to do."

"I love you" are among the three most important words we can say. May I encourage you to tell someone you love that you love them, using your words and not just your actions. Saying "I love you" matters. At Christmas, God says that to us. Now whom do you need to tell that to this Christmas?

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READING THE BIBLE

BY THE REV. CANON DON BEATTY

The Psalms written over 1,000 years

Do you like to sing Christmas carols? I think most people do. One of the major complaints I have heard over my 50 years in ministry is, "We don't sing enough Christmas carols before Christmas!"

The Anglican Church has tried to maintain the season of Advent, the four Sundays prior to Christmas, as a time of preparation for the birth of the Christ-child. Advent means "the coming," and we leave the singing of Christmas songs during this period to the broadcasting industry and the marketplace. There are a number of beautiful Advent hymns that we sing during this season, remembering that music is an important part of our worship.

The ancient Hebrew people were aware of the importance of music, too, and they produced the Psalter as the songbook of the temple worship. That book, which we know commonly as the Psalms, is a remarkable book of prayers, meditations and poems about their God and what He meant to their daily life.

The Psalms are probably the most varied collection of writings in scripture, having been composed over a period of 1,000 years. Some may actually date back to King David and his son Solomon. Others were written during the Exilic Period (586 BCE and later). Some were written in the post-Exilic Period, after 538 BCE, when the Hebrew people returned to Jerusalem. As such, the Psalms give us a good overview of the developing theology of these ancient people.

The longest psalm is the 119th, covering some 176 verses. Each stanza begins with a succeeding letter in the Hebrew alphabet. The shortest psalm is the 117th; it has only two verses. The most popular psalm is probably the 23rd. Most people in my age bracket learned it by rote, either in public school (when that was allowed!) or in church school.

I remember visiting my father-in-law for the last time in hospital. He was a cradle Anglican, attending church as a young child in his native Ireland and then as a teen in Canada. Pat was a founding member of St. Elizabeth, the Queensway, and served there as a churchwarden and a

lay reader. His first request to me in the hospital that day was to read to him the 23rd Psalm. As I began to read, he said the words along with me without missing a word. At the end of the psalm, he had the appearance of absolute peace and contentment. He knew the Good Shepherd, he knew where he was going, and he had absolute faith in the power of God in these last hours. He died shortly after we left the hospital that day, but he did so in the sure and certain hope of his place in heaven. That is the power of the 23rd Psalm for many of us!

My personal favourite is the 84th Psalm, having written a term paper on it in seminary more than 50 years ago. This is one of the processional psalms, written for major harvest festivals. As I read it, I could visualize the priest and people singing it as they wound their way through the streets of Jerusalem, making their way up the temple mount to the majestic temple. Here they would celebrate the great festival of harvest, singing a number of these harvest psalms.

If you haven't read the Psalms lately, I would urge you to do so, especially in preparation for the birth of the Christ-child. Start with the 84th Psalm, and then proceed to the "Kingship Psalms" of 93 to 99. These are the ones set aside to be sung during our services on Christmas Day. You may also want to look at Psalm 100, one of the "Praise Psalms," and then conclude with your favourite, Psalm 23, or whatever one you prefer.

If you attend a church that traditionally sings these psalms week by week, then you are most fortunate. We have a couple of young people who are cantors and they sing the Psalms for us each week. Fortunately, we also have a music director who gets the best out of his students. The congregation enters in with the refrain, and it is most beautiful.

The Psalms were the hymn book of the ancient people; can we do less? Enjoy the dialogue and have a holy Advent and a blessed Christmas.

The Rev. Canon Don Beatty is an honorary assistant at St. Luke, Dixie South, Mississauga.

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PRAYER CYCLE

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6. St. Martin, Bay Ridges, Pickering
7. St. Matthew, Oshawa
8. Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre
9. St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering
10. St. Paul, Uxbridge
11. St. Peter, Oshawa
12. St. Thomas, Brooklin

13. Diocese's Finance department
14. The Downsview Youth Covenant
15. Chaplaincy Services of the Diocese
16. Mission to Seafarers
17. Camp Couchiching
18. The Community of Deacons of the Diocese
19. Wycliffe College
20. Bishop Strachan School
21. Holy Trinity School
22. Samaritan Community House, Barrie
23. Lakefield College School
24. Christmas Eve
25. Christmas Day
26. Trinity College School
27. Haverhill College

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Rylan Montgomery, Priest-in-Charge, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Toronto, Nov. 1. This is in addition to his current appointment as Incumbent at St. Simon-the Apostle, Toronto.
- The Rev. Ruthanne Ward, Associate Priest (Missional Partner), Christ Church, Bolton, Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Julian Aldous (Diocese of Fredericton), Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ the King, Toronto, Nov. 21.
- The Rev. Dr. P.J. Carefoote, Honorary Assistant, St. George on-the-Hill, Toronto, Nov. 2. This is in addition to his

appointment as Honorary Assistant at St. James Cathedral.

- The Rev. Jeanette Lewis, Incumbent, St. Peter, Carlton St., Nov. 9.

Ordained

- The Rev. Megan Jull was ordained a priest at All Saints, Kingsway, on Nov. 2.
- The Rev. Jason McKinney was ordained a priest at Epiphany and St. Mark, Parkdale, Toronto, on Nov. 23.
- The Rev. Graham McCaffrey will be ordained a priest at Grace Church in Scarborough on Dec. 14.

Vacant Incumbencies

Clergy from outside the diocese

with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Diocesan Executive Assistant, Mrs. Mary Conliffe, mconliffe@toronto.anglican.ca.

Trent Durham

- St. Matthew, Oshawa

York – Credit Valley

- St. Matthias, Bellwoods
- Trinity, Streetsville

York – Scarborough

- Christ Church, Scarborough
- St. Christopher (Associate Priest)

York – Simcoe

- Grace Church, Markham

WORLD BRIEFS

Continued from Page 9

Church property sold to Muslim community

UNITED STATES – The former Christ Episcopal Church in Farmington, Connecticut, has been sold for \$1.1 million to a local Muslim Centre. The church, vacant since 2012 when the congregation dissolved, will now be used for the local Muslim community, which has been looking for a place for prayers, teaching

and community programs. The Muslim Centre leased the property beginning in 2013, and since then has grown. Bishop Ian Douglas said the church held a meeting with community leaders and interested residents to discuss how the property could be used "as an asset to God's mission of restoration and reconciliation." Bishop Douglas said there has been a growing relationship between the Episcopal Church and the Muslim community in the area.

Anglican Communion News Service.

BRIEFLY

Parishes switch deaneries

After consultation with both parishes, the parishes of St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff and St. Bede, Scarborough, have moved from Scarborough Deanery to Toronto East Deanery as of Nov. 1.

Date set for next Synod

The next Regular Session of Synod will be held on Nov. 13-14, 2015, at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North (600 Highway 7 East, Richmond Hill).

Email your letters to the editor at editor@toronto.anglican.ca

www.toronto.anglican.ca

\$1.6 million renovation a ‘labour of love’

Church updated for new century

BY THE REV. DR. CATHERINE KEATING

“ON budget and on time!” These were the captions on the two cakes that helped the congregation of St. John, York Mills celebrate the rededication of the recently renovated church on Nov. 2.

St. John’s is the oldest Anglican parish church in Toronto and will be celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2016. In preparation for continued service to the community, it recently completed a \$1.6 million renovation. In doing so, it has realized its dream for new gathering and worship spaces that are both welcoming and reverential.

Although many renovations and two extensions had taken place over the years, the main portion of the building – the sanc-

tuary – had changed very little. Updating it for the 21st century was a labour of love for the congregation. It was also important so that St. John’s could accommodate its growing programs for children and teens.

The church building is now refreshed, refurbished and re-imagined after nearly nine months of construction work, during which time the congregation worshipped in the basement auditorium. The renovated and brightened foyer is very welcoming, and the new social area and meeting room, still called the Garnsworthy Room (after the late Archbishop Lewis Garnsworthy), has been conveniently re-located to just off the entrance to the church; it now has a much larger kitchen. The beautiful sanctuary seems bigger than before, and the



Clockwise from lower left: Youth and adults play handchimes and handbells at the rededication of St. John, York Mills; the renovated sanctuary; cakes say it all; the Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald speaks to the congregation. PHOTO BY SYLVIA MCCONNELL AND PAUL HEERSINK

light and brightness is uplifting to all who enter.

On the morning of the rededication, the chancel was busy with musicians – choirs, worship team, band, bell choirs and young chimers. The children led the congregation in singing “Standing on the Promises of God.” All joined together to raise prayers to God in thanksgiving for the newly renovated church, His home, which is now more accessible and open.

Archbishop Colin Johnson presided over the rededication

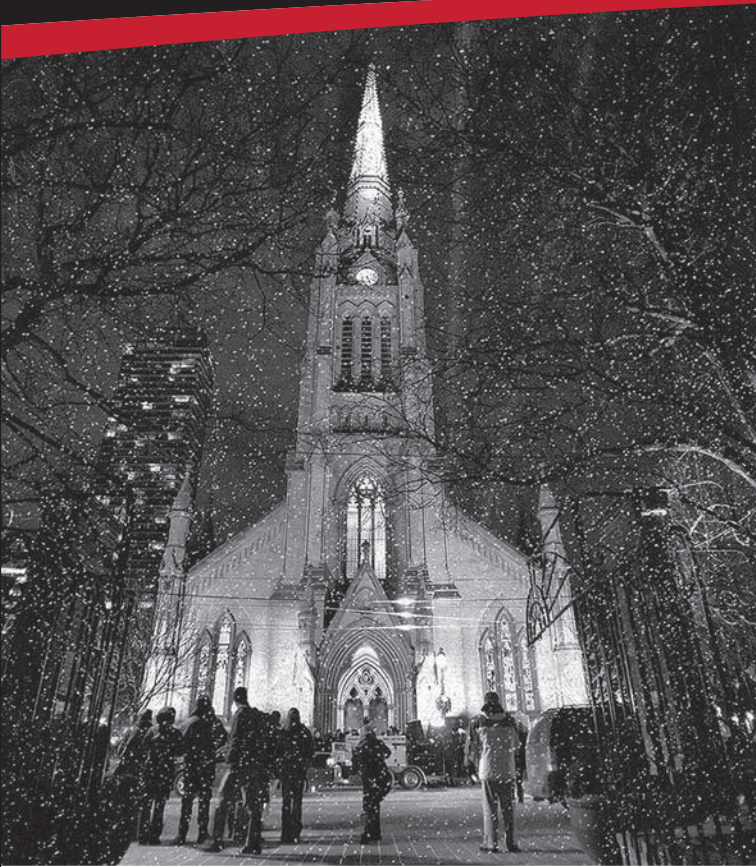
service. It was encouraging to hear him speak about how the new space was already being used; he referred to the church as a place for worship and learning. Also during the service, the Rev. Canon Dr. Drew MacDonald, incumbent, extended the congregation’s appreciation to those involved in the renovation.

St. John, York Mills is a teaching church, and now it has a more congenial space to hold its many events. On Nov. 1, the Leading Children’s Ministry Conference,

held in the new space, was able to livestream the sessions on the Internet because of the technical updates; this enabled more people to benefit from the conference, even though they could not attend in person. With the front pews now replaced with chairs, and the new technology, St. John’s will be able to host and record a wider variety of musical and theatrical events.

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating is a deacon at St. John, York Mills.

CELEBRATE WITH ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL



HANDEL’S MESSIAH

December 12 | 7:30pm

The Choir of St. James Cathedral in concert with The Talisker Players Orchestra
Soprano Erin Bardua, Mezzo Soprano Rebecca Claborn, Tenor Andrew Haji, and Bass Giles Tomkins
Conducted by Dr. Vicki St. Pierre
Tickets \$40/35, available online

MESSIAEN’S LA NATIVITÉ DU SEIGNEUR

December 20 | 4:00pm

Organist David Briggs
Donations welcome

CANTATAS IN THE CATHEDRAL

December 3 | 6:00pm

“Wachet! betet! betet! Wachet!”
BWV 70, J.S. Bach
Admission is Pay What You Can
“Cantatas” are offered monthly at St. James

CATHEDRAL LITURGIES

Christmas Eve

4:30pm A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
7:30pm Choral Eucharist & Procession to the Creche

Christmas Day

8:00am Said Eucharist
9:00am Sung Eucharist
11:00am Procession & Choral Eucharist

The Naming of Jesus: New Year’s Day

12:30pm Said Eucharist
1:30pm Archbishop’s Levee
3:00pm Festive Music for Brass & Organ
3:30pm Choral Evensong & Presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

WHEN CHRISTMAS IS A DIFFICULT TIME

December 13 | 11:30am

A service of prayer and reflection

A COMPLETE LISTING OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS LITURGIES IS AVAILABLE ONLINE.