

Church invites  
music star

Clergy honoured  
for service



Anglicans pray  
for peace

# The Anglican

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MAY 2024

## Minecraft camp helps kids learn biblical themes

Church hosts program during March Break

BY MARTHA HOLMEN

**EMBARKING** on a journey where faith meets pixels, seven young people at St. George, Allandale spent their March Break diving into the world of Minecraft to bring biblical themes to life.

The idea to use Minecraft in a faith context first struck the Rev. Ken McClure, incumbent of St. George's, during the pandemic. "I did something online as kind of a digital video utilizing Minecraft with my son. I got a sense that it could be used creatively, biblically," he says.

He got the chance to reflect on that idea last fall when he attended a retreat with the Rev. Lorenzo Lebrija. Mr. Lebrija is the executive director of the TryTank Research Institute, an "experimental lab" for church growth and innovation in the Episcopal Church. Joining other clergy under Bishop Riscylla Shaw's oversight, Mr. McClure participated in workshops designed to explore ways to foster growth and creativity within his community.

"The whole point was to flesh out ideas, the spaghetti-at-the-wall kind of ideas," he says.

Sharing his thoughts with his colleagues at the retreat sparked a well-timed connection. When he heard about what Mr. McClure was planning, the Rev. Dr. Michael

Peterson, priest-in-charge of All Saints, Collingwood, offered up equipment from his parish.

"The good folks at All Saints, Collingwood were generous enough to donate six PlayStation 4s with monitors and controllers and all of that stuff," says Mr. McClure. "Suddenly it was very feasible to be able to do something. So I thought, OK, let's try it for March Break."

With equipment covered, Mr. McClure turned his attention to developing a week-long program using Minecraft to explore biblical themes. Minecraft is a sandbox-adventure video game, which means that players enter a world with no fixed goals and endless possibilities as they explore, gather resources and build. There are also different settings that can raise or lower the difficulty.

"In creative mode, you have access to everything within the game to be able to build whatever you want and do whatever you want within the game. There's no life, there's no death," explains Mr. McClure.

In survival mode, players need to mine and collect resources that they can use to build, with various levels of difficulty. "You can be in Peaceful, in which case you're not being attacked by things and you're not starving, or you can be in Easy and you are being regularly



Kids read stories from the Book of Genesis in the Action Bible, a graphic novel rendition of scripture. At right, using Minecraft to build and explore biblical themes. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. GEORGE, ALLANDALE

attacked by small things and have to eat regularly," says Mr. McClure.

His program paired Minecraft with the Action Bible, a graphic novel rendition of scripture. The group of seven kids started each day together looking at stories from the Book of Genesis before pairing off at desks around the room to build in Minecraft.

The first day focused on creation and the Garden of Eden, and players spent the day in creative mode, with no enemies and endless resources. "Most of them got bored by the end of it, which is exactly what I wanted because it gave them the opportunity to think about the temptation a little differently, the whole consumption of the fruit a little differently," says Mr. McClure.

"They were ready to leave the garden by the end of it, although every single day afterwards they wanted to go into creative when things got difficult, and invariably one of them would say, 'You can't go back to the garden.'"

On the second day of camp, the group looked at the line of descendants out of the garden and their survival. Appropriately, they were playing in Minecraft's survival mode on a harder setting, with frequent enemy attacks and scarce food.

"They had to determine whether or not they were going to work with their partner or if they were going



to work against their partner. Most of them did both. All of them came around to the idea of cooperation by the end, but over the course of the day there was competition in every single group," says Mr. McClure.

Day three began the large-scale projects that the kids would work on for the remainder of camp, tied to the stories from Noah to Abraham. Each group built a structure that reflected a phase of the stories in Genesis: a city, a massive farm, two temples, and a house built into a mountain and filled with every possible kind of animal.

"At the end of the week, they each shared their builds with everyone else, and each of them, without my prompting, identified the themes they were doing within that," says Mr. McClure.

Over the past several years,

many churches around the world have recognized Minecraft as a potential tool for faith formation. Mr. McClure says this is partially a result of the limitless nature of the game.

"It does have this kind of orientation in a form of creation, if you will – a digital representation of creation," he says. "It gives them a really tactile ability to explore the geographical aspects, to play in the story, basically – not to just read it or think, but to play in it."

That approach has received overwhelmingly positive reviews from the participants at St. George's and their parents, all of whom said they'd want to join future camps. Given the high interest, Mr. McClure says he'd like to run a Minecraft camp again, focusing

Continued on Page 2

## Thank you

**THANKS** to our faithful readers, *The Anglican* has received \$36,148 as its portion of last year's Anglican Journal Appeal. The appeal is held each year to raise funds for the national and diocesan newspapers across Canada. The money will help *The Anglican*

continue to tell the story of our great diocese through words and pictures, both in print and online. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.

Stuart Mann, editor



# Church celebrates centenary with concert

## Musician coming to Toronto

BY STUART MANN

WHEN St. Bede's in Toronto was planning its 100th anniversary celebrations, it wanted to give the wider community a taste of south India's rich musical heritage. The church has a thriving music ministry, so this would be a natural way to give thanks and share its love of God with others.

"Most of our members come from south India, so we thought this would be a really good way to blend our love for music and



Clement Sasthriyar

showcase our south Indian tradition to the wider population in

the GTA and beyond," says Tina George, a member of the planning committee.

The church asked Clement Sasthriyar if he would like to come to Toronto to give a concert as part of its centenary celebrations. Mr. Sasthriyar is one of the most popular Christian musicians in south India, especially in Tamil Nadu province, where many members of St. Bede's are from. His music is well known in Tamil Christian communities around the world.

To the church's delight, Mr. Sasthriyar accepted the invitation. He and his band will give a concert in Toronto on May 11. Tickets are free and everyone is invited to attend.

"It's an honour that he's coming to join us for our celebrations," says Ms. George. "It will be a treat for anyone who enjoys music."

The connection between St. Bede's and Mr. Sasthriyar goes back to before the pandemic, when he was performing in the GTA. He needed some band members to support him, and people in the Tamil Christian community recommended the musicians at St. Bede's.

"Our musicians ended up playing with Clement, and he was really impressed with them," explains Ms. George. "We've kept the relationship going since then, so when we pitched the idea to him, he agreed, and St. Bede's musicians, under the leadership of our music director, Samson Davis, will be accompanying Clement at the concert."

Mr. Sasthriyar's concerts appeal to a wide range of people, she says. He often talks about the meaning of his songs in English before he sings them, making them more relevant

and accessible to North American audiences. He performs traditional Tamil Christian hymns and praise songs using contemporary instruments and arrangements, to great effect.

"He makes the songs very relevant to the modern-day crowd, which has been a blessing to people both young and old," she says.

St. Bede's has been raising funds to bring Mr. Sasthriyar over and is spreading the word about the concert. A freewill offering will be taken at the concert to support the church's ministries. Due to the expected large crowd, the concert will be held at the Markham Chinese Alliance Church at 1 Chatelaine Dr., Markham.

For more information and complimentary tickets, visit St. Bede's website, [www.stbedesanglican.ca](http://www.stbedesanglican.ca).

## All invited to cricket festival

CHURCH teams and individuals are invited to the Anglican Church

Cricket Festival (ACCF), held on July 13 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Creditview Sandalwood Sports Complex, 10530 Creditview Rd., Brampton.

"At ACCF 2024, you'll witness fun-filled cricket and have the opportunity to learn about this fascinating sport," says Ranil Mendis, ODT, one of the organizers and a member of St. Thomas a Becket in Mississauga. "It's an experi-

ence where people come together, united by their love for cricket."

The organizing committee is happy to announce that all preparations for the festival are in full swing. The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields of St. James Cathedral has put together a team, Clergy & Friends XI, to play in this year's event for the first time. Brampton mayor Patrick Brown will also be

Continued on Page 4

## Priest urges parishes to try new ideas

Continued from Page 1

on a different set of stories to build on the foundation of Genesis. He's also open to putting together a group that meets regularly, including parents.

"It's one of those games that parents do play with their kids, so potentially utilizing it as some kind of activity to form a family group, maybe once a month," he says.

When he thinks about how quickly he was able to get the camp off the ground, he says he's grateful to Bishop Shaw for offering the clergy retreat that helped bring his idea to life, and for her ongoing support. "It really kind of lands home how impactful that stuff is, that some excellent things can come of out

of those moments," he says.

His advice to other parishes considering an idea like his is simple. "Do it. Try it. Talk about it with other parishes. You don't know who has something, who's going to be able to help you out," he says.

He also encourages church communities to help each other, like All Saints, Collingwood helped St. George's. "See what you can do to help when you hear about something like this. If you have something you can throw at them, throw it at them," he says. "It's wound up being fairly easy to do because there was just this availability of support. So try."

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# Clergy honoured for service

Bishop Andrew Asbil presented stoles to clergy celebrating their 25th and 50th years of ordination to the priesthood at the diocese's annual Blessing of Oils and Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows of Bishops, Priests and Deacons service at St. James Cathedral on March 26. After the service, clergy received consecrated oil for anointing and healing. A Ministry of Reconciliation was also offered in the cathedral's chapel.



Clergy celebrating their 25th anniversary of ordination stand with Bishop Andrew Asbil. From left: the Rev. Dr. John Oakes, the Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy, the Rev. Canon Maurice Francois, the Rev. Canon Nicola Skinner, the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen, the Rev. Dr. Peter Robinson, the Rev. Canon Jacqueline Boutheon and the Rev. Canon Hernan Astudillo. Not shown in photo: the Rev. Ray Dobson, the Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas, the Rev. Helga Elliott, the Rev. Marilii Moore, the Rev. Mary Pataki, the Rev. Mary Ryback, the Rev. Karen Sandell and the Rev. Janet Sidey.



The recessional.



Bishop Asbil with clergy celebrating their 50th anniversary of ordination. From left: the Rev. Canon John Hill, the Rev. Robert Gorman and the Rev. Canon Harold Nahabedian. Not shown in photo: the Rev. Fred Carson, the Rev. Donald Downer, the Rev. Michael Li and the Rev. David Mulholland.



The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating receives consecrated oil.



Matthew Waterman pours consecrated oil for the Rev. Johanna Pak and the Rev. Jeff Nowers.



The Rev. Canon Greg Carpenter receives consecrated oil.



# Growing deeper in our love for God



## The Anglican

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**Canon Stuart Mann:** Editor

Address all editorial material to:  
The Anglican  
135 Adelaide Street East  
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1L8  
Tel: 416-363-6021, ext. 247  
Toll free: 1-800-668-8932  
Fax: 416-363-7678  
Email: editor@toronto.anglican.ca

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The Most Rev. Christopher Harper 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 a large population of Indigenous peoples.

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BY THE REV. CANON DR. JUDY PAULSEN



In January our diocese began a journey that Bishop Andrew Asbil believes could be life-changing for us all. This journey will formally last from Epiphany 2024 through to Epiphany 2026, but we hope its effects will be felt for many decades to come as people across our diocese grow deeper in their love for God.

The four foci of this endeavor include: widespread prayer for spiritual renewal; a richer knowledge of and engagement with Holy Scripture; a deeper commitment to worshipping God together; and a joy-inspired sharing of faith with the people around us.

As coordinator of this Season of Spiritual Renewal, here is a brief update on what has been happening during the first few months of this season.

### Invites issued for steering committee

Bishop Asbil has been personally inviting a small group of leaders to serve on a committee that will support this season of renewal through their prayers, creative planning, guidance and wisdom. Our hope is that this group of ordained and lay leaders will form a team rich in a shared love for God and drawing from a variety of Anglican expressions, including different ethnic and liturgical backgrounds.

### Potential resources researched

As coordinator, my primary work in this preliminary period has been to research a variety of prayer, scripture and discipleship resources, compiling them into a collection that parishes can choose from as they participate in this diocesan-wide initiative. Such resources include beautiful prayers from across the centuries, bible-reading plans for various ages, online and print resources to help us know the big-picture story of scripture, and resources that will help us use ancient practices of prayer, meditation and journaling as we delve into scriptures focused specifically on drawing closer to God.

### Variety of workshops explored

One of the most encouraging aspects of these first few months has been talking with potential workshop leaders who are excited to share their experience in using various resources, from discipleship programs to ways to engage with and serve the communities around them. We hope to offer many one-hour online workshops that will help all our churches learn about how to use various resources on prayer and the study of scripture, how to enrich their worship, and some simple and winsome ways to share their faith with the people in their everyday lives.

Later, we plan to assist churches that want to start their own discipleship programs, by providing some leadership training. And for smaller churches that can't



A hiker, like the diocese, starts a journey of renewal. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

offer these programs themselves, we'll be offering some of these programs on-line and led by skilled leaders.

### Communications platforms planned

As the research and development phase of this season of renewal progresses, we've also been considering how to best share resources with everyone in our diocese, and how to brand all this material so that it is clearly identifiable. To that end, we're working with a graphic artist and have also created a holding space on the diocesan website especially for the Season of Spiritual Renewal. This is where information and many of our resources will be available to everyone with the simple click of a cursor.

We're also exploring what platforms will work best for the scheduling and delivery of the many workshops we plan to offer over the next two years. Stay tuned for more information about this.

### Administrative supports now in place

As someone once wisely said, "Every good idea results in work for someone," and this season of renewal is no different. We have been seeking just the right person to take on the key role of providing administrative support for this initiative. We're thrilled to announce that Jacqui Hance, who formerly worked in an administrative role for the Archbishop of Canterbury's office, has agreed to take on this part-time role. Together with a great heart for the gospel, Jacqui brings a wealth of experience in resource sharing, event planning, and workshop and webinar logistics. As coordinator, I am very excited to be working with her!

### Spreading the word

Finally, the first meetings were held to introduce this season of renewal, and I'm thrilled to say the responses have been so encouraging. Our diocese seems hungry for a deeper walk with God, and I've had several conversations with clergy who have told me God seems to be bringing new life back into their churches.

A preliminary meeting with the diocesan archdeacons and regional deans was held in early March. These leaders of our diocese were invited to share the information presented at that meeting with colleagues throughout their deaneries. One regional dean reflected, "This feels new," and asked if the slides could also be shared with the lay leaders in his parish. Another mentioned that they loved having a choice of resources to explore with their church, while several others mentioned resources that they had used that could be shared with other churches.

It was also a real pleasure to meet with the priests and deacons of the Peterborough deanery in mid-April, and more of these deanery-based meetings will happen going forward. A presentation followed by a Q&A introduced the Season of Spiritual Renewal to Synod Council on April 18.

Together with articles in The Anglican, we hope all of these communication strategies will spark curiosity and engagement in the season of renewal and help cultivate in everyone across our diocese a deeper love for God, and a passionate desire to serve him in the world he is reconciling to himself.

*The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen is the coordinator of the Season of Spiritual Renewal.*

## Cricket festival welcomes all

Continued from Page 2

at the event.

The ACCF was established with the aim of creating opportunities for Anglican parishes and individuals from across the GTA to come together and build connections.

"It's about fostering relationships, sharing meals, having fun, and enjoying Christian fellowship," says Mr. Mendis. "There are opportunities for women, men, children of all ages, seasoned cricket players as

well as absolute beginners." The festival uses modified rules with the objective of giving all players a chance to bowl, bat and field.

Whether you're interested in playing in a combined church team,

being part of your own church team or just attending as a spectator, you are welcome at the festival. For more information, contact Mr. Mendis at [rmendis1@gmail.com](mailto:rmendis1@gmail.com).



# Parishes urge governments to advance human right to housing



BY ELIN GOULDEN

Last summer, at an event held outside St. James Cathedral to raise awareness of homelessness in Toronto, passersby were invited to participate in an interactive quiz on housing and homelessness. One of the questions was, “Is there a human right to housing in Canada?” Most of the responses were along the lines of “No – but there should be!”

Those who gave that answer were, technically, mistaken. There is indeed a human right to housing in Canada: not only in international treaties Canada has ratified, but also enshrined in the National Housing Strategy Act itself. But in a deeper sense, the quiz participants were correct. We have only to look around us to see that Canada is a long way from realizing the human right to housing. Small towns and major urban centres alike are seeing burgeoning homeless encampments as the number of people without housing exceed the capacity of local shelters. Tenants are feeling the squeeze as rents climb more rapidly than incomes, with more and more people frequenting food banks. And despite the number of construction cranes on the skyline, many of us know people who have had to leave our communities due to rising housing costs. We are not building our way out of the problem.

Decent, secure and affordable shelter is a foundation for dignity, security, community, stable education and employment, and improved physical and mental health. As Christians, our scriptures recognize the human need for shelter, security and dignity, and call us to care for the vulnerable and those in need among us.

Accordingly, the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee proposed that the 2024 social justice vestry motion call on all levels of government to protect and advance the human right to housing. Drawing on recommendations from the Federal Housing Advocate and other advocacy groups, and after consultation with the College of Bishops and the regional deans, the motion put forward four policy measures:

- calling on the federal government to ensure that federal subsidies and incentives are targeted to those developers and projects that demonstrably address housing need and uphold the human right to housing by

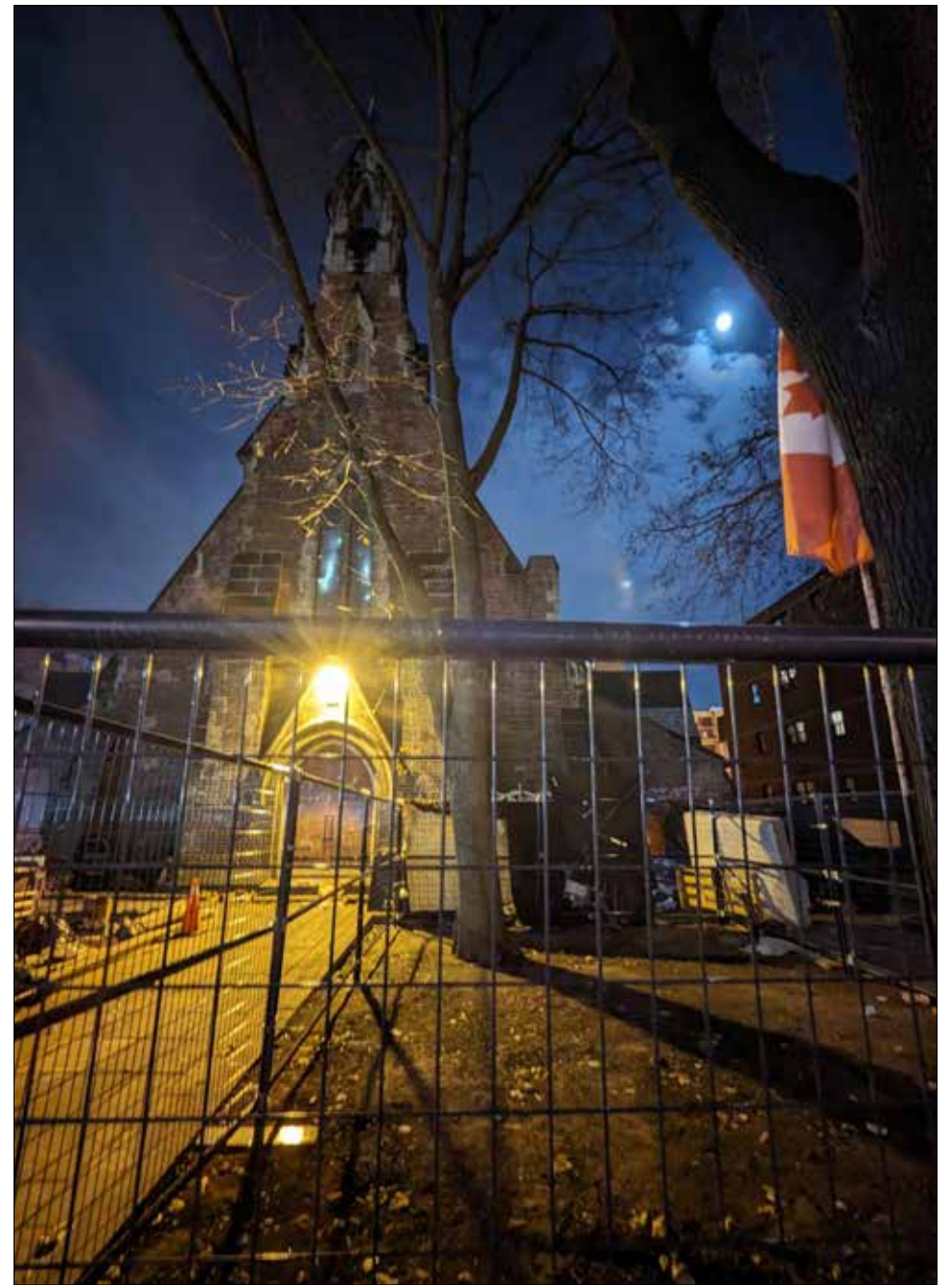
meeting clear conditions on affordable rents, non-displacement policies and eviction prevention measures;

- calling on the federal government to end the favourable tax treatment of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and tax them at the regular corporate rate, with resulting revenues being directed toward the creation and preservation of affordable housing;
- calling on the provincial government to enact rent controls and vacancy controls on all rental housing and put restrictions on above-guideline rent increases; and
- calling on the provincial government to work with municipal governments to enact and enforce restrictions on short-term rentals to protect rental housing stock.

Parishes were provided with a background and links for further reading. Members of the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee and Housing Advocacy subcommittee responded to questions in a Q&A video posted on the diocesan YouTube channel. Some also made virtual or in-person presentations to interested parishes.

As always, parishes had the flexibility to amend the motion as they saw fit, but parishes that passed an amended motion were asked to send the final version to me as the Social Justice & Advocacy consultant.

By the end of March, I had heard directly from more than 50 parishes that had passed a version of the motion. Combined with information from the Incumbents' Annual Statistical Returns, a total of 128 parishes, or 66 per cent of the parishes in the diocese, passed some form of this year's vestry motion. The overwhelming majority of those parishes passed the motion as it was originally presented. Two parishes maintained the call to all levels of government to take measures to protect and advance the human right to housing but removed the specific policy measures outlined in the original motion. Two other parishes removed only the call to change the tax treatment of Real Estate Investment Trusts, and one removed only the call for vacancy control. However, 123 parishes, or 63 per cent of the diocese, supported all the calls outlined in the original motion. Some parishes added to the motion; for example, calling on the local municipality to require a certain percentage of affordable units in private developments, or calling for the construc-



The City of Toronto installs a fence outside St. Stephen in the Fields after clearing away an encampment of unhoused people in November. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN IN-THE-FIELDS

tion of new co-op housing. One parish used the opportunity to commit itself to supporting local outreach and advocacy around housing initiatives.

This year's motion was somewhat complex, and several of the policies outlined attracted vigorous debate, even if the motion ultimately passed. There was discussion about the role and impact of Real Estate Investment Trusts, the impact of rent control measures on the construction of rental housing, and what restrictions on short-term rentals might mean for parts of the diocese whose economies rely heavily on tourism. Overall, discussion is encouraging, because it means that people are engaging with the issues and grappling with the implications of what various measures would mean for themselves and their communities. The need to realize the human right to housing demands to be addressed – but we must also recognize what addressing this issue will ask of us.

Another encouraging sign this year was the number of people, both lay and

clergy, who asked, “What happens after the motion?” The Social Justice & Advocacy Committee uses the results of these vestry motions in our communications with government leaders, such as our pre-budget submissions and our responses to the provincial budget, and in letters to and meetings with cabinet ministers. Demonstrating that we have the support of Anglicans across the diocese for our concerns gives our communications added weight. We also share the results of these motions with other members of ecumenical, interfaith and community justice coalitions working on the same issues.

We encourage parishes and individuals who support the motion to write and visit their elected representatives. Several parishes have already written to their MPs and MPPs, and template letters can be found at [www.toronto.anglican.ca/vestry-motion](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/vestry-motion). We are also hoping to set up a series of meetings with local MPPs. Anyone interested in participating can contact me, Elin Goulden, at [egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:egoulden@toronto.anglican.ca).



Photo adapted from Fizkes/Shutterstock

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I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU GAVE  
ME FOOD.

I WAS THIRSTY  
AND YOU GAVE  
ME SOMETHING  
TO DRINK.

I WAS A  
STRANGER  
AND YOU  
WELCOMED ME.

MATT. 25:35

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## IT IS PERSONAL.

By Peter Mentis, FaithWorks Campaign Manager

The mission statement of FaithWorks is from the Gospel according to Matthew 25:35,36,40.

*Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick, and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." ... and Jesus finishes, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

**It is personal**, for Jesus. God's love for us is vast and limitless, but not impersonal and faceless. Jesus takes on our individual struggles for food, shelter, and safety, for companionship and community. He makes them his own too.

**It is personal**, even though we hear of vast numbers of victims of conflicts around the world, thousands who struggle for food and shelter in Canada, and so many caught in the tragedy of addiction. Those numbers hide the faces of individual people who hurt, people like Amber and Cliff. Each struggling person has their own story.

**It is personal**, for us, when we offer support; a donation, volunteering our time, a shoulder to cry on. We too can make someone else's struggle our own personal struggle when we offer more than is comfortable.

**Thank you** for your support of FaithWorks. Each and every donation makes a difference, as each and every person impacted by Faithworks matters.

**Thank you** to all our donors, large or small, new or ongoing, individual, parish, corporate or foundation. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers in parishes and at the Diocese. Thank you to our ministry partners who struggle to bring well-being and security to so many.

**Jesus taught us how to change the world. We do this one person at a time.**

**It is personal.**

The impact of your donation to FaithWorks was felt across the Diocese and throughout the world. The need for the services provided by FaithWorks' ministry partners increased by 32% last year and almost 70% over the last 2 years. This presents us with a greater challenge than before.

**In 2023, over 36,000 people were served, including:**

**22,050**

people who were fed, sheltered, nurtured and befriended

**4,163**

refugees, new Canadians and migrant workers who received support

**2,047**

young adults living with mental health challenges

**2,998**

people touched by the prison system



Works of faith  
for over 25 years

**THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION DONORS**

Thank you to our Corporate and Foundation Donors who contributed \$474,000 to FaithWorks in 2023. Your generosity makes it possible to improve the lives of thousands of individuals and families.

**\$100,000 – \$150,999**

Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation  
Wilson Family Foundation

**\$50,000 – \$99,999**

BMO Financial Group  
Fast Foundation

**\$20,000 – \$49,000**

The Hayhoe Family Foundation  
New England Company  
VPC Group

**\$15,000 – \$19,999**

Anglican Foundation – Apostolic Catholic Trust  
Burgundy Legacy Foundation  
Letko, Brosseau & Associates

**\$5,000 – \$14,999**

Rogers Gardham ODT  
Manulife Investment Management Holdings

**\$1,000 – \$4,999**

Aqueduct Foundation  
The Foster Hewitt Foundation  
Margaret Sisley Foundation  
Nursing & Homemakers Inc.  
Ridley College  
Society of St. John the Evangelist in Canada

**THANK YOU TO OUR PARISHES**

As communities of compassion and hope, our parishes are the heart of the annual FaithWorks campaign. 88% of parishes participated in the 2023 campaign. Contributions from our parishes were \$835,700. Parishes retained \$107,055 for local outreach ministries. Grants to the Archdeaconries for outreach totaled \$42,050.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING COMMUNITIES OF LOVE AND HOPE.**

**THANK YOU TO OUR MINISTRY PARTNERS**

Our FaithWorks Ministry Partners struggle tirelessly each and every day to share the transforming power of God’s love with thousands of people in need. We thank our Ministry Partners for being powerful agents of the love that is changing lives and changing the world.

A Place Called Home, Lindsay  
All Saints Church Community Centre, Toronto  
Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA)  
Flemingdon Park Ministry, Toronto  
Jubilee House, Orillia  
Migrant Worker Ministry, Durham

North House, Durham  
One City Peterborough  
One Roof Community Centre, Peterborough  
Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care, Toronto  
Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)  
The Foot Care Clinic at St. James Cathedral, Toronto  
St. Stephen in-the-Fields – Outreach program, Toronto  
Samaritan House Community Ministries, Barrie  
The Dam, Mississauga  
Toronto Urban Native Ministry

**4,449**

Indigenous people who received pastoral, outreach and mentoring services

**8,996**

families who received assistance

**503**

people impacted by HIV/AIDS

**2,955**

women, children and youth who received life skills and housing support



*“We welcome everybody. It doesn’t matter what colour skin you are, what race you are, we always welcome people with open arms.”*

*“With the food situation it is getting kind a sticky out there. We need to have places that is willing to help out with more food so that people that’s homeless can eat. Hopefully we get that because every year there’s more and more people that’s becoming homeless.”*

– Cliff from One Roof in Peterborough



*“I am homeless and there is not enough money in the month from OW, Ontario Works, to pay for all my meals to get me through the month. I come here to eat.”*

– Amber from One Roof in Peterborough

Photography courtesy of Wayne Eardley, Brookside Studio, assisted by Wendy van Monsjou



# Hatred is not a Christian value



BY MURRAY MACADAM

**I**'m not used to this level of hatred."

The newspaper headline still haunts me, months after the fact.

It referred to an episode early this year in which the prime minister showed up at a pub in the eastern part of our diocese with a local candidate for a federal by-election. Once the news spread, the pub owner was inundated with hundreds of hate-filled emails and phone calls, castigating him for allowing his pub to be used for this event. Threats were made. It was clearly an organized campaign that stunned the non-partisan pub owner, who made the comment mentioned above.

"You're going to go bankrupt." "We can't wait for you to go out of business." "I wish somebody had burned down your building." These were a sampling of the comments and threats made against him.

This episode disturbed me deeply for several reasons. First, my late father-in-law lived in this riding, and when he

turned 100 he received a warm handwritten note of congratulations from the former local member of parliament, whom my father-in-law had never met. Secondly, I've been actively involved in politics for more than half a century, and while partisan politics have been par for the course during that time, the level of vitriol and outright hatred, as well as the risk of violence that we see today, marks an ominous new trend. Could we have imagined 20 years ago that we'd see posters and signs on vehicles and around homes with the prime minister's name linked to an obscenity, as we do today?

This disturbing trend speaks with a special urgency to Christians. After all, despising people who think differently about public issues flies in the face of the message of Jesus. His basic command to "love your enemies" is truly counter-cultural in our society, where online hate, in particular, is widespread. The gospel is full of messages of tolerance and respect, such as these: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away... along with all malice." (Ephesians 4:31) "Love your enemies and

pray for those who persecute you." (Matthew 5:44)

How can we be inspired by our faith to respond to extreme intolerance?

An essential response is that if you hear or see something that smacks of intolerance, or outright hatred, speak up. The current situation, in which many people feel emboldened to express hatred for politicians and others, could not have developed without widespread tolerance or indifference. The good news element involving the pub incident is that once news broke about the torrent of abuse directed at the pub owner, some local residents took action. They showed up at the pub to stand with its owner, who was greatly encouraged by their support.

The second part of an action strategy to counter hate is more difficult. It involves trying to have a respectful dialogue to find out why some people are lashing out so vehemently at politicians and others with whom they disagree. Putting yourself in your "enemy's" shoes is one of the most effective ways to show love for them. Seek to understand their perspective and try hard to recognize where they're com-

ing from. Is there an underlying reason for their attitude and actions?

The fact that times are tough for many people and that the pandemic has disrupted our lives is one reason frustration has spilled over into hatred. As well, modern technology makes hatred much easier to express than before. It's easier to hide behind a computer screen, perhaps using a false name, and make hostile comments than to make those comments to a person face to face.

Hatred is demeaning. Rather than affirming the fact that we are all made in the image of God, hatred involves turning our fellow human beings into objects. Encouraging a more respectful climate of political discourse is more important than ever now, as Canada inches closer to a federal election. Will we be able to model Jesus as we debate the issues our country faces with a tone of mutual respect, even if we disagree on how to tackle them?

Civility is a Christian value. Hatred is not.

*Murray MacAdam is a member of All Saints, Peterborough.*

 THE Cathedral  
Church of St. James

## HAYDN: NELSON MASS & TE DEUM

with choral music by **Mozart,**  
**Wesley** and others

The Choir of St. James Cathedral  
in concert with orchestra

**Saturday, May 11**

**7:30 p.m.**

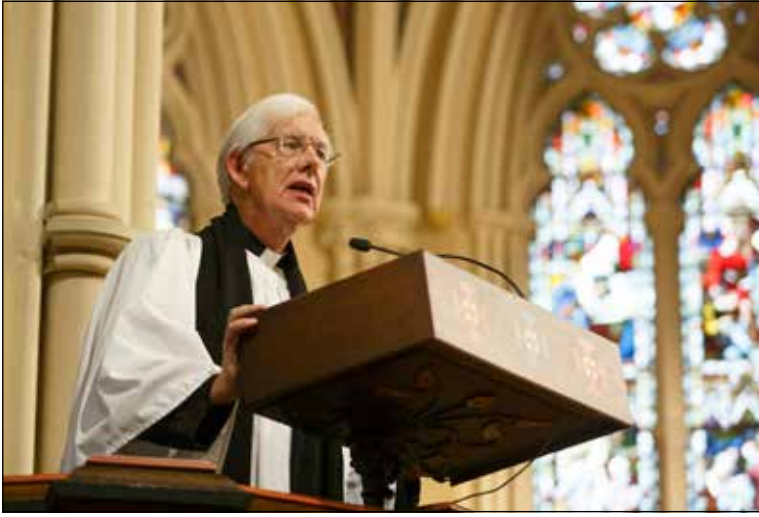
St. James Cathedral,  
Toronto

Tickets: \$30

**TICKETS:**

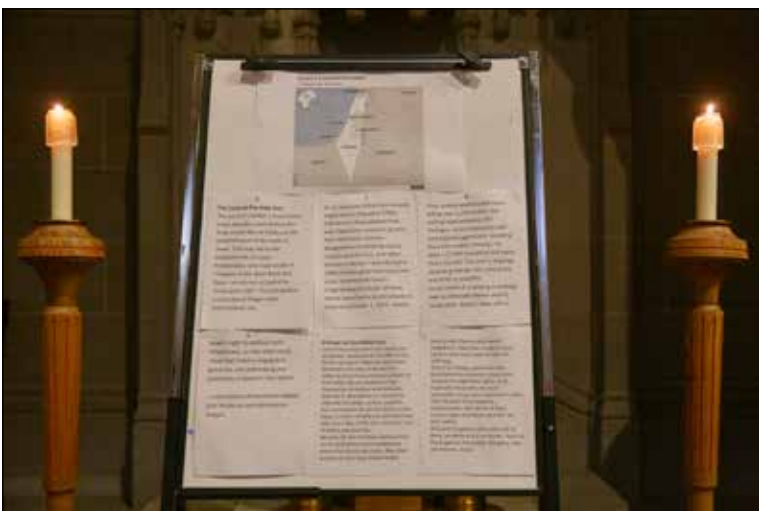






### PRAYING FOR PEACE

A vigil for peace and justice in the world is held at St. James Cathedral on March 17. The vigil, preceded by a choral Eucharist and refreshments in Snell Hall, was held in observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Justice. The Very Rev. Dr. Robert Willis (top left) gave the homily and led the vigil, helping people pray for war-torn parts of the world, including the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, South Sudan and Haiti. Dean Willis is the former dean of Canterbury Cathedral and became known around the world for his Morning Prayer videos during the pandemic. The vigil was co-hosted by the Bishop's Committee on Interfaith Ministry. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON





# Swedish, Anglican congregations form bond

## Newcomers breathe new life into church

BY STUART MANN

**WHEN** the Rev. Megan Jull was ordained an Anglican priest, she never thought she'd be given informal permission to preach and preside at Swedish Lutheran worship services.

That's one of the happy outcomes of a warm relationship that has developed between the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto and St. Augustine of Canterbury, an Anglican church on Bayview Avenue.

The Swedish church has been worshipping and carrying out ministry at St. Augustine's since last October. During that time, the two congregations have drawn close together.

During Lent and Holy Week, they celebrated Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday together. Earlier in the month, they welcomed Bishop Erik Eckerdal of the Church of Sweden. He was joined by Bishop Michael Pryse of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Bishop Andrew Asbil of the Diocese of Toronto.

Bishop Eckerdal was visiting Swedish Lutheran congregations in North America. While here, he officially installed the Rev. Maria Scharffenberg as the pastor of the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto. In a sign of the strong bond between the Swedish Lutheran and Anglican churches, both Ms. Scharffenberg and Mrs. Jull were given informal permission to preach and preside at each other's services.

The arrival of the Swedish congregation has breathed new life into St. Augustine's, says Mrs. Jull. "It's been a shot in the arm to our congregation. Instead of the church being empty on a Sunday afternoon, it's full of another worshipping community. The building is being used and there are cars in the parking lot and the stained glass windows are lit up on Wednesday nights when the Swedish choir is rehearsing. The building was designed to do ministry, so having more of it happening here is good stewardship of our resources and honours the commitment and gift of the people who founded it."

Ms. Scharffenberg says her congregation has been warmly welcomed by the Anglican congregation. "It's been wonderful. We've become best friends."



**Clockwise from above: the Swedish Lutheran Church in Toronto and the congregation of St. Augustine of Canterbury gather for a picture after the Good Friday service; the Rev. Maria Scharffenberg hammers a nail into the cross during the service; Ms. Scharffenberg and the Rev. Megan Jull. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON**

Although the congregations worship separately on Sundays and speak different languages, they have much to gain by being together, she says. "We express ourselves differently, but we worship the same God and use the same bible. At our core we are the same, and I see that as a great strength."

There are about 30 Swedish Lutheran congregations outside of Sweden. The one at St. Augustine's is the only one in Canada, and has parishioners from as far away as Elora, Guelph and Huntsville. Its worship services, which are held at 4 p.m. on Sundays, are primarily said and sung in Swedish. In addition to worship and ministry, the church seeks to preserve the Swedish language and culture.

The two congregations have participated in a number of activities in the last six months. During the winter, they held a joint fundraising project, raising \$10,000 to install a commercial dishwasher in the church's kitchen. They held a Mardi Gras together



and participated in a bilingual carol service. Ms. Scharffenberg also held a clericus meeting for Lutheran clergy in the GTA.

The churches plan to do more things together in the future, including shared worship services, community events and possibly faith formation study groups. "It's been a really positive experience," says Mrs. Jull.



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[www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca)



TO PLACE AN AD CALL 905.833.6200 ext. 22 OR EMAIL ANGLICAN@CHURCHADVERTISING.CA

## LOOKING AHEAD

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

### Gatherings

**MAY 4** - St. George on Yonge presents a special concert featuring The Yorkminstrels Show Choir, celebrating its 50th anniversary. Broadway favourites and much more. Reception to follow. Tickets \$20 per person. Group rates available. Contact the church office for additional information at office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca or 416-225-1922.

**MAY 4** - May the Fourth Be With You Night, featuring bar, dinner and entertainment, 6 p.m., Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto. Admission is \$55 per person, \$300 for a table of six. Net proceeds support food cupboard, and community and youth initiatives. Call 416-261-9503 or visit office@trinityguildwood.org.

**MAY 4** - Spring Sale, All Saints, Kingsway, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

**MAY 5** - A Season of Growth, a spring concert featuring the Canadian Sinfonietta Youth Orchestra and the choir under Ran Kim, 4 p.m., St. George on-the-Hill, 4600 Dundas St. W., Toronto. Tickets \$30 each, children under 12 free. Call 416-239-2341.

**MAY 10** - Holy Communion for Ascensiontide, 6 p.m., followed by a light supper and at 7 p.m., an illustrated feature talk about a recent yacht trip from Ireland to Canada, with Sally and Noel Lien. In person at St. Olave, Bloor Street West and Windermere Avenue. For details, call 416-769-5686 or visit www.stolaves.ca.

**MAY 11** - Blessing of Bicycles, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Free safety check, tires filled, a free hotdog and a blessing.

**MAY 11** - Spring Bazaar, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Holy Wisdom, Scarborough, 776 Brimley Rd. Bake sale, vendors, jewelry, silent auction, gently used clothing and much more. Lunch of barbecue, chicken, soup and more. Visit www.holywisdom.ca or call 416-267-2741.

**MAY 11, 25** - Free seminars for seniors and their supporters about planning for later life and end of life care, 2:30-4:30 p.m., St. Luke, East York, 904 Coxwell Ave., Toronto. Contact Victoria Martin at 416-424-3074 or email V\_martin@rogers.com.

**MAY 12** - Handbells, chimers, band and soloists invite you to participate in some of the all-time favourite songs, including Dancing Queen, Hallelujah, YMCA and many more, at the Let the Music Move You concert beginning at 3 p.m. at St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Admission is free but a freewill offering will be collected with proceeds to benefit Sleeping Children Around the World and the church. Suggested donation is \$20. For more information, call 416-225-6611.

**MAY 18** - Annual Caribbean night dinner and dance, a fundraising event at St. Thomas a Becket in Mississauga. Tickets are \$45. Contact the church office at 905-820-2719 or email office@stabc.ca.

**MAY 25** - Healing ministries refresher day at All Saints, Whitby. Visit the Events section of the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

**JUNE 1** - Voices Chamber Choir with conductor Ron Cheung, St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets at the door: \$20 adults; \$15 students/seniors. Cash only.

**JUNE 1** - Annual yard and bake sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Saviour, Don Mills, 1 Laurentide Dr., Toronto. Quality, nearly new donated items, including jewelry, baked goods and coffee, toys, plants, books and more. Community donations of items can be dropped off May 30-31 between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

### IN MOTION

#### Appointments

- The Rev. Samantha Caravan, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke, Peterborough, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon Ted McCollum, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. James, Fenelon Falls, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Canon Darrell Wright, Canonical Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John, East Orangeville, April 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Arthur Boers, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Brampton, April 21.
- The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Deer Park, May 1.
- The Rev. Martha Gordon (Diocese of Johannesburg), Incumbent, Grace Church on-the-Hill, May 1.
- The Rev. Ali McIntosh, Associate Priest, Christ Church, Deer Park, May 1.
- The Rev. Nico Montalbetti, Priest-in-Charge, St. Mary, Richmond Hill, June 1.

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

#### Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- (receiving names):
- Our Saviour

- St. Christopher (Associate Priest)
- St. John, York Mills (Associate Priest)
- Parish of Fenelon Falls and Coboconk
- St. Paul, Newmarket
- St. Paul, Uxbridge
- St. Barnabas, Chester
- Trinity-St. Paul, Port Credit

#### Parish Selection Committee Process

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

- Christ Church, Brampton
- St. George on-the-Hill

**Second Phase** - (receiving names via Bishop):

- Holy Trinity, Thornhill

**Third Phase** - (no longer receiving names):

- Christ Church-St. James
- St. Martin in-the-Fields

#### Ordinations

- The Rev. Hannah Johnston will be ordained a Priest at St. Anne, Toronto on May 26 at 4 p.m.

The following individuals will be ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 5 at 4:30 pm:

- Oliver Lim
- Amy Pauley
- Ajith Varghese
- Matthew Waterman
- Becca Whitla
- Mackenzie Wolf

### PRAYER CYCLE

#### FOR MAY

1. St. John the Evangelist, Port Hope
2. St. John, Bowmanville
3. St. Mark, Port Hope
4. St. Paul, Brighton
5. New Curates of the Diocese of Toronto
6. Wycliffe College
7. Trinity College
8. St. Paul, Perrytown
9. St. Peter, Cobourg
10. St. Saviour, Orono

11. The Chapel of St. George, Gore's Landing
12. The Diocese of Jerusalem
13. Bishop's Committee on Healing Ministries
14. Christ Church, Scarborough
15. The Postulancy Committee
16. Grace Church in Scarborough
17. Holy Trinity, Guildwood
18. Holy Wisdom
19. The Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry
20. Nativity, Malvern

### Deaths

- The Rev. Canon William (Bill) Kibblewhite died on March 19. Ordained deacon in 1972 and priest in 1973, he served as curate of St. Michael and All Angels and incumbent of the Parish of Coldwater-Medonte, Holy Trinity, Ajax, St. Matthew, Islington and St. Andrew, Scarborough. In retirement, he served as interim priest-in-charge of Holy Spirit of Peace and honorary assistant of St. Peter, Erindale. His funeral was held on April 9 at St. Peter, Erindale.
- The Rev. David Burrows died on March 22. Ordained deacon in 1982 and priest in 1983, he served as curate of All Saints, Peterborough, incumbent of the Parish of Bobcaygeon & Dunsford, and incumbent of St. Olave, Swansea. His funeral was held on March 28 in Brampton.
- The Rev. Robert Hartley died on March 21. Ordained deacon in 1963 and priest in 1966, he served as curate of St. Hilda, incumbent of St. Athanasius, Orillia, incumbent of St. Paul, Lindsay, associate priest of Christ Church, Oshawa, and priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Campbellford. His funeral was held on April 13 at Compass Community Church in Orangeville.

## Not glamorous but always fulfilling



BY THE REV. JUDITH ALLTREE

Over 90 per cent of the world's trade is carried by sea, thanks to the nearly two million seafarers working globally to ensure that we all have what we need; yet seafaring is one of the most dangerous professions. Between wars, piracy, challenging working conditions and dangerous weather, seafarers are among the most vulnerable workers in the world. They spend months away from their homes, work tirelessly with minimal pay, witness the effects of global warming in rogue

waves, melting icebergs and glaciers, and sail around small continents' worth of garbage.

A local example: a fire in the engine room of a small cargo ship in Montreal erupted as the ship was leaving for Portugal. Four days later, the fire was still not out and the accommodation in the wheelhouse had been destroyed. The ship is now underway, being towed to Halifax. The crew will be housed in a local hotel there – not abandoned this time – and the mission staff and volunteers in Halifax will step in with their unending and caring support. The ship will be sent to “the breakers,” where she will become razor blades. It is difficult not to hear on the news of the many tragedies these seafar-

ers face each day.

When seafarers are allowed to come ashore, they need our support, friendship and understanding. That is what the Mission to Seafarers' centres provide in more than 200 ports in 50 countries around the world: support, friendship, encouragement and understanding. Sadly, in the winter of 2019 the iconic Toronto mission building was destroyed in a flood and demolished completely later that year. So how do we bring “comfort and joy” to seafarers arriving in Toronto when there is no actual place for them to visit?

We do it the way it was done from the beginning of this ministry: we visit the ships. Ship visiting is still the number one

way to meet and communicate with arriving seafarers. It is not about the building; it's about the seafarers themselves. Certainly, it was great to have our building on the east side of the port for all those years – until it wasn't. The cost of maintaining the building became overwhelming, and we couldn't keep up. We had been in the process of moving the building when the flood happened. God clearly had another plan.

So, in Toronto we are back to ship-visiting: face to face, meeting seafarers where they live and work. Climbing the gangway, carrying bags of chocolates (a very welcome tradition), along with our friendship, support and hospitality. God has called us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked,

take care of the sick and visit those in prison. This is what we do as ship visitors for the Mission to Seafarers. Not glamorous, sometimes heartbreaking and demanding work, but very much needed and always fulfilling.

Join our crew at the Mission to Seafarers and help us make sure our seafarers feel at home when they are far from theirs. The hourly commitment is small and flexible, but the impact can be life-changing.

To learn about volunteer opportunities with the Mission to Seafarers, email volunteer-MTSSO@gmail.com or visit www.mtssso.org. The Rev. Judith Alltree works with the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario.





**WATCH PARTY**

St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff hosts a neighbourhood eclipse watch party on the front lawn of the church on April 8. The church handed out free eclipse glasses, snacks and drinks. PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. NICHOLAS, BIRCH CLIFF



**TOGETHER AGAIN**

Members of four churches on Danforth Avenue in Toronto take part in a Good Friday walk. The walkers began at East End United Church, then proceeded to St. Barnabas, Chester and Riverdale Presbyterian Church. The last stop was at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church. Pieces of a cross were carried by various walkers, and the cross was assembled at Holy Name. After the service, refreshments were served to all. It was the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that the four churches had come together for the walk, which is usually held annually. About 180 people took part. PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY HELEN TAYLOR



**SPECIAL GUESTS**

Anne Oram and the Rev. Johanna Pak of St. Mark, Port Hope are joined by Fletcher Banner (left) and Dean Robert Willis at the church on March 19. Dean Willis, the dean emeritus of Canterbury Cathedral, was leading a Quiet Day for churches in Durham-Northumberland during a visit to the diocese. Dean Willis became famous during the COVID-19 pandemic for his videos of Morning Prayer from the garden of Canterbury Cathedral. Dean Willis and Mr. Banner, his partner, produced more than 900 videos, bringing hope to people around the world. PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. MARK, PORT HOPE

**The Companions Program  
September 2024 – June 2025**

The **residential Companions** program is an immersive opportunity to experience a contemporary monastic community rooted in the Benedictine tradition. It is open to women aged 21 and up regardless of Christian denomination.

Companions live, work, and pray alongside the sisters, learning from them but also sharing each companion's own gifts with the sisters and their ministries. They will:

- Learn to cultivate peaceful and creative ways of living in a diverse intentional community
- Appreciate silence and solitude as well as community and service for a healthy life
- Put down deep roots of spiritual intimacy with God and each other
- Develop a personal path to ongoing spiritual growth
- Discern individual gifts and vocations.



Application start & end (both programs):  
January 1, 2024 – May 15, 2024



Open to women of all Christian expressions, **Companions Online** is an opportunity to become "monastics in the world," living a Benedictine rhythm of prayer, work, study, and recreation. Online Companions learn to develop practices that support and nurture their spiritual life from the comfort of their homes.

They meet regularly for classes and discussion groups, and commit to times of personal prayer at home. They share in book studies, participate in online worship and screen films relevant to spiritual growth and self-understanding. Online Companions also develop spiritual disciplines that follow the liturgical year.

**Cost:**

**Residential Companions:** sugg. \$100.00/month.

**Companions Online:** sugg. \$50.00/month.

If cost is a hindrance, assistance is available.

To learn more about either program, or to apply, email Shannon Epp, Program Coordinator, at companions@ssjd.ca, or phone St. John's Convent: 416-226-2201, ext. 342

**The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine**