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The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

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DECEMBER, 2007

Synod elects new bishop

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

THE Rev. Canon Dr. Linda Nicholls has been elected suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto. Canon Nicholls, 53, was elected at St. Paul's, Bloor Street, in Toronto on Nov. 17 by the diocese's synod, its governing body.

Canon Nicholls, who is currently Co-ordinator for Dialogue (Ethics, Interfaith Relations and Congregational Development) with the Anglican Church of Canada, is the third woman to be elected suffragan bishop in the Diocese of Toronto, after the Rt. Rev. Victoria Matthews and the Rt. Rev. Ann Tottenham. "I think that it was quite obvious that the diocese was ready to elect another woman and to indicate that we have a shared ministry that encompasses men and women," said Bishop Colin Johnson.

"Linda is an enormously gifted candidate. I've known her for a very long time, and we have actually shared parishes together, so it's quite marvelous. In fact, in the parish I'm going to tomorrow, the Parish of Georgina, my successor was Victoria Matthews, who was elected bishop, and her successor was Linda Nicholls."

Canon Nicholls said she considered it a great privilege to be invited to share in the leadership of the diocese. "I look forward to that with joy," she said. "I take great delight in being an Anglican, in expressing our faith through our Anglican heritage, and in the knowledge that this church can and will find ways to look into the future with energy and compassion and joy."

She said she is most excited about the chance to work with parishes. "Parishes are the grassroots level of our church," she said.

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The Rev. Canon Dr. Linda Nicholls, in red jacket, is hugged after her election.

Photo by Michael Hudson

God wants us to be found

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

BY BISHOP GEORGE ELLIOTT

Once was lost, but now am found." Most of you will be familiar with these words from the hymn "Amazing Grace." They reflect the faith journey of its author, John Newton, who in the midst of his life as a slave trader in the 18th century was found by God.

It is not always easy to set aside the trappings of the Christmas season to remember that what we celebrate is God's desire to seek us out, to find us, and to open our eyes to the promise that He is truly in our midst. Think back, if you will, to

the accounts given to us by Matthew and Luke. Those gospel passages are filled with visions and dreams, terror and joy, obedience and risk, birth and death. Joseph and Mary respond to God's extraordinary demands on their life together. Shepherds' eyes are opened to God's majesty. Wise men make a treacherous journey to honour a newborn king. Innkeepers complain, yet make accommodation. Herod writhes in anger, finally lashing out to order the death of those we call The Innocents. Yet, at the

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THE BISHOP'S LEVEE 2008

at the Cathedral Church of St. James



Please join Bishop Johnson and the College of Bishops to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and to offer best wishes and prayers for the New Year.

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2008

Bishop-elect brings many skills

Continued from Page 1

"Nothing happens at any other level if it isn't happening at the parish level. The work of the church begins there. That's what I love to do. I've loved my time at the National Church, but I'm really looking forward to getting back to working with parishes again."

Canon Nicholls will be consecrated at St. James' Cathedral on Feb. 2, 2008. She will likely become the area bishop of Trent-Durham, though Bishop Johnson noted that episcopal area assignments still need to be confirmed. Bishop Michael Bedford-Jones, who is currently the area bishop of Trent-Durham, will retire in February.

Canon Nicholls will join the five-person College of Bishops, which



has episcopal oversight of the diocese. "I think Linda will make a wonderful addition to the team," said Bishop Johnson. "She brings liturgical skills, theological skills, musical skills, and she has an experience of the wider church, having served both in the Diocese of Toronto in small and large parishes, at the national church level, and has had international experience. We look forward to all of those gifts coming in to the College."

The other nominees were the Rev. Andrew Asbil, incumbent of the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto; the Rev. A. V. (Terry) Bennett, incumbent of St. James, Orillia; the Ven. Peter Fenty, archdeacon of York and executive assistant to the diocesan bishop; the Rev. Millie Hope, incumbent

of St. Martin's, Bay Ridges; the Rev. Judy Paulsen, incumbent of Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa; the Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois, incumbent of Christ Church, Deer Park; and the Rev. Canon Mark Tiller, incumbent of St. Alban's in Acton.

Canon Nicholls was elected on the 3rd ballot, ahead of Archdeacon Fenty. A total of 665 synod members, both clergy and lay, cast their votes on the final ballot. In a show of solidarity after the election, Archdeacon Fenty moved that synod approve the election unanimously. Synod agreed.

Canon Nicholls was incumbent of the Parish of Georgina from 1987 to 1991, and the incumbent of Holy Trinity, Thornhill, from 1991 until 2005. She holds a Doctorate

of Ministry from Wycliffe College. She is co-chair of the Ecumenical Health Care Network of the Canadian Council of Churches and of the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee.

More visits to MPPs urged

ANGLICANS concerned about affordable housing and poverty issues are being asked to visit their local MPP, following Ontario's provincial election. The Social Justice and Advocacy Board's Housing Advocacy Subcommittee is coordinating the visits.

Affordable housing needs in the diocese remain as acute as ever. "Recent research has shown that up to 75 per cent of seniors on waiting lists for Long Term Care Facilities could continue to live in the community if there were affordable and supportive housing options for them," says Terry McCullum, executive director of LOFT Community Services. "Yet virtually no new supportive housing has been created for seniors over the past eight years, despite promises. As the church, we should advocate for the most needy in our community."

Adds Sue Ann Elite of St. Barnabas, Chester, who organized a meeting with her local MPP in later November, "if we don't keep up the pressure, who's going to do it? We can't leave it to someone else."

The goal is to hold these visits some time before the end of February. To learn more or get involved, contact Murray MacAdam, Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, at 1-800-668-8932, ext. 240, (416) 363-6021, ext. 240, or email mmacadam@toronto.anglican.ca.

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TIME is running out to donate to the 2007 Anglican Journal Appeal. If you have already donated, the *Journal* and *The Anglican* thank you. Your donation will be split evenly by the *Journal* and *The Anglican*, your diocesan newspaper. You may send your contribution to the Anglican Journal Appeal, 80 Hayden St., Toronto ON, M4Y 3G2 or donate online by following the "Donate Now" link at www.anglicanjournal.com; you will be issued an income tax receipt immediately by e-mail.

Since its inception in 1994, the appeal has raised more than \$5 million for the ministry of the *Anglican Journal* and its publishing partners, the diocesan newspapers.

Bishop lauds 'great strides' in outreach

'Be the change you want to see'

BY NANCY DEVINE

CONGREGATIONS involved in outreach work are bridging the gap between where they are as faithful Christians in this society and where they want to be in a more equitable one, said Bishop Colin Johnson at the diocese's annual outreach networking conference on Oct. 13 at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill.

"We have made great strides in areas like affordable housing and advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized, and that would not have happened without the work you do," he told the gathering of 150 people. "I hope we are provoked by what we have learned today. We will go home — and we are lucky we have homes to go to — and we will provoke others to become advocates as well."

Bishop Johnson said it is tempting to give up when a journey progresses by inches, but urged the gathering to pray, work and act towards building a more just society. He added the work must be sustained by faith, not just immediate results.

"Let us be the change we want to see," he said. "Model the change, and by modelling it, you show that it is possible. We are part of a community that believes it is about all of us, and so we must

continue to work against poverty, for housing, and for meaningful work for thousands of people in Ontario. We must continue to push that agenda."

The conference featured a number of workshops aimed at energizing people working on not only social change, but also care of the environment. For the first time, the conference included a youth-centred program. A short dramatic performance by the St. John Youth Players challenged stereotypes about the poor.

The conference opened with a challenging keynote address by the Rev. Rauni Salminen, executive director of the Philip Aziz Centre, a community-based home hospice for people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses in Toronto. She told the gathering that any time human beings are denied love and care, God's heart breaks.

"The God I believe in doesn't create trash — didn't breathe life into junk," she said. "God doesn't favour behaviour as opposed to grace. The ground is level at the cross, and I believe that Jesus died for everyone equally. The question is how do I respond to people? Do I judge them? Do I really know what it is to love people?"

Ms. Salminen said her work with HIV/AIDS patients has taught



Participants learn how to strengthen their parish outreach. The Rev. Rauni Salminen, below, says that any time human beings are denied love and care, God's heart breaks. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

her many valuable lessons, including that it doesn't matter how they became infected. "It really doesn't matter. What matters is compassion. If we can bring them care and compassion, then we glorify God."

She said that over the 12 years that it has been part of the community, the Philip Aziz Centre — named for a man who died of AIDS-related complications in 1991 — has reached out to hundreds of families, demonstrating God's love in practical ways like helping with household chores, listening to them, and spending time with them.

"These people aren't necessarily church-goers — some of them have never seen a church or a

Bible — except through the compassion of the volunteers. The volunteers walk in when others have walked out," she said. "We are the vessels — each of us — which God uses to express his love to those who need it most. The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference."

"The good news we Christians profess is love, love, love. At the end of the day, when we face Jesus, he will not ask us how good our sermons were, or how much our congregations grew. The question will be: how did we respond to the sick, to the imprisoned, the homeless and the orphaned? Jesus tells us, 'Go and serve them, love them — and I'll take care of the rest.'"



Think before you buy, says young activist

BY NANCY DEVINE

THOSE running shoes cost \$100, and you've just got to have them. The worker, labouring for 20 hours in an Indonesian sweatshop, got four cents to make them. Still like the way they look?

Rosemary MacAdam, a student at Trent University, led a workshop at the outreach conference. She wants people to think about what they are supporting when they go on a shopping spree.

Ms. MacAdam became interested in the plight of sweatshop workers when she did a project on the issue in Grade 8. Throughout high school, she was involved in the Maquila Solidarity Network, an organization that advocates for labourers and women's rights in Mexico, Central America and Asia.

Last summer, Ms. MacAdam went to El Salvador to help a group attempt to organize unions in factories. She heard the work-



Rosemary MacAdam

ers' stories and became even more committed to the cause. Now, she speaks to her peers, urging them to stand in solidarity with the workers.

"Boycotts don't work — in fact, they end up putting people out of work," she said. "They need the

jobs, but they just need to do them in better conditions. Usually, the work day starts at 7 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m., but there is always overtime and it isn't optional. These places are hot, not well ventilated, and the workers often don't get bathroom breaks.

"This is not about just one country," she said. "Our clothes are made all over the world now. Sweatshops are places that exploit people, and it is really cruel what happens. Say, for example, a contract comes in for a huge order of bathing suits. I heard first-hand that people worked for 20 hours a day for a month to meet the order. They were allowed to go home for dinner, but they had to come back. They slept under their machines for four hours and then had to get right back to work. They earn about \$151 per month. Even in El Salvador, that is not a living wage. But they are supporting families on that, so even a lit-

tle money is better than nothing."

Sweatshops are also a hidden part of Canada's economy, she said. These 'home workers' are paid well below minimum wage for each completed garment. Many times, these workers are illegal immigrants who are too fearful of being removed from the country to say anything about their situation.

"They are willing to take whatever work they can get, and so they just shut up and work at a sewing machine night and day," she added. "No matter where they are in the world, sweatshops are a violation of human rights, and an injustice to individual rights."

She acknowledged it is nearly impossible to completely avoid wearing clothes that have been produced by sweatshops, but it is possible to make intelligent decisions about clothes. She said people can advocate that schools and organizations order uniforms from factories which have a proven

track record of ethical labour practices. One organization that offers tips on how to get started is United Students Against Sweatshops, a U.S.-based organization.

"It sounds depressing that we have such a detrimental and exploitative system to produce what we wear, and you might think you can't do much about it," she says. "But, get aware. Make better choices when you go to the mall, look for alternatives where you can. One of the things my friends and I do is have swap parties, where you take the clothes you don't want to wear anymore and trade with your friends — and you can also learn to make some of your own clothes."

She adds: "The movement is not saying that sweatshops have to close. The jobs are important to people, but they don't want to be exploited. If we stand with them and educate other people, then change can happen."

Jesus will hear your prayer

Continued from Page 1

centre of it all is an act that plays itself out endlessly throughout human history: A mother gives birth to a child.

Now, you and I know that this particular birth was anything but ordinary. It marks for us God's penultimate act of reaching out to those who are lost, opening the door for all to be found. In the mystery of the Incarnation, that child, Jesus, was both God and human person. No longer was God to be the distant one, reaching into the activities of human beings from afar. That barrier was shattered forever, in a stable behind an inn, in the village of Bethlehem, in the Roman territory of Palestine over 2000 years ago. God was indeed with us! "In the beginning was the word... and the word was made flesh and dwelt among us."

As the gospels unfold, so does

the ministry of Jesus, leading always to a wooden cross and then an empty tomb. That final victory over death and the pouring forth of the Holy Spirit unleashed the relentless love of God that will forever seek out the lost and bring them home. Even more amazing is that you and I, with God's grace, are sent into the world with the same mandate to seek out the lost and invite them to experience God's love for them.

However, the ministry and mission of the church have been and will continue to be predicated upon one simple reality. It is God who seeks us out, because it is God's desire for us to be found. God has acted. At the beginning of time, God's love brought everything that is into being. God's love fills the annals of the Old Testament, seeking the lost who all too often turned a deaf ear to God's call. Finally,

God spoke to us with a child. "I am with you now, even to the end of time" — words of hope and promise to all who are lost and to those of us who have been found.

I want to leave you with two questions to think about and act upon as you make your way through this Christmas season. The first is: Can you identify one area in your life where you feel lost? Our journey of faith is anything but static. God is constantly re-shaping and molding our lives, breaking down barriers that keep us from living fully into His promises to us and to all of creation. If you can name one area in your life where you feel lost, then simply take a moment to offer it up to God. I can't promise instant results or a bells and whistles experience. I can, however, offer the assurance that Jesus will hear your prayer

and that it is God's desire that no one remain apart from God's loving embrace.

The second question is: Can you identify one person in your life who you feel is lost in some way? Again, if you can, offer up that person and his or her needs to God in prayer, asking for guidance and discernment to help you in reaching out to them with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Christmas is in part about giving — giving in response to God, who has sought us out, found us, and now walks with us as our Saviour and our friend. As we celebrate with carols, festive foods, good company, and joyous worship, may the one who comes to us as a child in Bethlehem lead us forth with hope and empower us with love to proclaim aloud, "I, too, was lost, but now am found!"

LETTERS

Obituary

I would like to add to your obituary about Helen Gough (September). Both of us attended Jarvis Collegiate Institute in Toronto from 1945 to 1950 and we graduated in the same year. I did not know her that well, but she was always cheerful and pleasant. Also, I had no idea about the hard life she had to deal with when she was growing up. It never showed at JCI. *The Anglican's* obituary was far better than the one that appeared in *The Toronto Star*, and I appreciate Vivian Harrower's tact in writing it.

Isabel Macnab
Toronto

Thank you

Re: Mission trip engages heart and mind (October). I would like to thank the people of St. Luke, East York, who organized the accounting for the Kenya Mission, as well as the congregations of Holy Family, Heart Lake (Brampton), St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux, and all individuals, schools, and organizations that donated toward the mission's projects. They were absolutely instrumental to making the mission work. Without their support, much less would have been possible.

The Rev. Canon Kim Beard
St. Paul's on-the-hill,
Pickering

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By LAURA WALTON-CLOUSTON

Build memories for children at Christmas

The Advent season is a great time for teaching in children's ministry. We can teach about the Sundays of hope, peace, joy and love, about the Advent wreath, a new liturgical colour, or giving and outreach. We have an opportunity for pageants and the telling of the Christmas Story, new music and crafts. So much to teach, so little time!

Advent is also a chance to

build memories for our children. It is a time to build links and good feelings about our church and its ministry. It is an opportunity to show the warmth of our church community, and how we embrace the birth of Jesus Christ and all the blessings that are given to us as individuals and as a community of faith.

Most of us can recall at least one Christmas pageant where children made us laugh. There are always angels with wonky wings, the baby Jesus doll, missed lines, or a furtive wave from a shepherd to a parent in the audience.

I remember being a young child at a Christmas pageant at St. James the Apostle in Brampton. Two people dressed up as a camel, making the congregation giggle as the "animal" approached the manger. Then we laughed out loud as it bustled its way through the shepherds and animals, taking care not to fall off the stage. I remember being a teenager and sitting at a Christmas Eve service with my Grandpa on one side and my brother on the other, not always behaving but certainly enjoying the sights and sounds that are now warm Christmas memories.

Some children do not come to Sunday school, but do visit a church at Christmas. They may find a way to connect to the Gospel through the music, the pageant, the readings or, more importantly, the warmth of the church community. This experience can link a child to his or her church community for life. At Christmas, we can give a child a memory that touches their heart.



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

In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 285 congregations in 217 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, Korean and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole

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Volunteers key to campaigns, says expert

Training, recognition are vital

BY NANCY DEVINE

TRAINING and recognizing volunteers for their efforts is vital to the success of any stewardship campaign, says Marilyn MacKenzie, whose career has included several volunteer management and training posts.

Speaking at the second annual Celebrating Authentic Stewardship Conference at St. George's, Pickering, on Oct. 20, Ms. MacKenzie said she is not an expert on stewardship. "But if you scratch any stewardship issue in a parish, at its base is a volunteer recognition problem."

She said it is important to build a solid leadership team that will not only set the goal for the campaign, but will also make sure the volunteers know the messages they will be bringing to the parish community. She recommends team members include those with sales, communications and recruitment backgrounds, as well as a leader who will empower, not micro-manage, people.

"It is true that many hands make light work, but finding the right skills, attitude and knowledge makes for a successful campaign," she said. "Once the team has come up with a plan, they can then mobilize the volunteers to go and tell a story about where the church is now, and where, with God's help, it will be in future. The leader will give the team the freedom to work toward that clearly defined goal."

She added: "The clergy can play a key role in establishing a

climate for stewardship. They can generate awareness – creating a buzz and helping people get excited about the opportunity to give to the cause."

The ultimate goal, she said, is to create a passion about giving that enlivens the congregation to give in joy, not guilt. Ideally, the buzz will "make them get off their behinds and over to their cheque books."

Recruiting volunteers in such a climate is much easier – more so if you can approach them with a well-defined job description and a reasonable estimate of time commitment.

Once the goal is set and the narrative is clearly defined and the volunteers are trained and ready to go, it is important to formally commission them in a Sunday service, she said. The congregation should continue to pray for the team and the volunteers during the duration of the campaign.

"They are trying to bring God's kingdom to the community and the world," she said. "They need our prayerful support as well as our money."

Throughout the campaign, the parish as a whole – and volunteers in particular – need to get constant updates of their progress.

"There is a psychological paycheque in volunteering," said Ms. MacKenzie. "It is the feeling of being a part of something much bigger. Volunteers are usually results-oriented people, so they want to know. At the end of the campaign, celebrate. Celebrate and



Jeff Pym uses a hammer and other tools to illustrate his points in his workshop on planned giving in parishes. Marilyn MacKenzie, below, says a campaign team should include volunteers who can send the right messages to the rest of the congregation. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

write a personal note to the volunteers. There are people who have done hundreds of hours of volunteer work in our parishes and have never received a thank you note. A simple thank you note means so much to people."

She shared a story about a church where an elderly parishioner had died. While they were going through his home, his children found a box containing \$1,000 in \$10 bills. The family decided to give it to the church. While the priest in charge could have put the donation in the coffers, she decided instead to make the donation a central point of a sermon on stewardship.

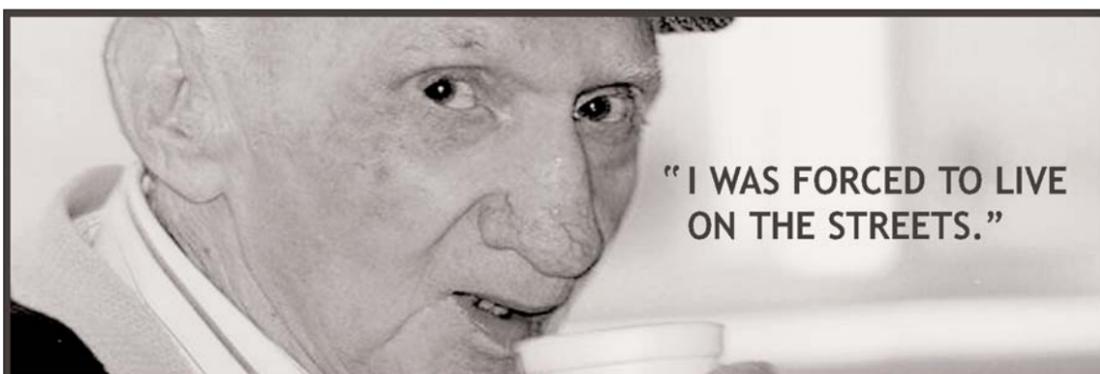
"One Sunday, she preached about stewardship (Matthew 25: 14-30). At the end of the service,

she gave each family \$10 from the donation and asked them to increase that \$10 in whatever way they could think of, and that the money would be used for a project in the parish. She created a buzz about stewardship. People made jam, they did home tours – all kinds of things. At the end of the year, the parish had \$100,000. When God is involved in a stewardship project, we really do get back more than we can ask or imagine."

About 75 people attended the conference, which included workshops on drafting and presenting an effective narrative budget, planned giving for congregations, and marketing parishes to the community. The conference was created for those who seek to cre-



ate vibrant faith communities and who want a greater insight into stewardship as a lifestyle.



"I WAS FORCED TO LIVE ON THE STREETS."

Jack — who's now 78 years old — was a former probation officer and clergyman. He was homeless for five years. He was forced to live on the streets because of health reasons and not enough income to maintain housing. Living at LOFT Community Services' St. Anne's Place has been the turning point of Jack's life during his senior years. He now has a place to call home and staff care that enables him to live a life with dignity and hope.



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Area holds service

THE first-ever York-Credit Valley Area Service was held at Trinity, Streetsville, on Sept. 23, with the theme "Out of Our Abundance." The service was coordinated by the Rev. Ann Smith, regional dean of Mississauga, and brought together 218 people in worship.

The music, led by the worship team of Trinity, Streetsville, included Joy in the Morning from St. Luke's, Dixie; the youth drama group from St. Francis of Assisi; the Youth Covenant Choir from St. Stephen's, Downsview; and a music group from San Lorenzo.

Bishop Philip Poole preached on the theme using illustrations from his visits to South Africa earlier this year. He observed that

the South African church seems to articulate a theology of abundance in the midst of scarcity, while North Americans tend toward a theology of scarcity in the midst of abundance. The mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion, told the gathering of her initiative, Hazel's Hope.

More than \$1,700 was raised for the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in the area of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

York-Credit Valley is hoping that these opportunities to worship together will become an annual event. Plans are underway for a service next year featuring a massed robed choir.

visit www.toronto.anglican.ca

“I want to challenge you to grow your own parish by two per cent a year. That is modest, and it’s achievable, sustainable and measurable. For congregations of 50 worshipping people, that’s one new person. Could you do that? Could you invite somebody to ‘come and see?’”

— Bishop Colin Johnson in his charge to synod in May, 2007

‘Grace space’ a growing place

Laity encouraged to use gifts

BY STUART MANN

IT’S a small but telling point. On the front cover of its Sunday bulletin, where many churches list the names of their clergy, the Church of the Ascension in Port Perry prints something different. “Ministers: Every Member.”

Those three words go a long way to explain the Rev. Dr. Brent Stiller’s philosophy on how to be a church. It’s also one of the reasons why Ascension is growing.

“I may get into trouble for saying this, but I think clergy by and large get in the way,” says Mr. Stiller, incumbent. “Whether it’s at a conscious level or not, we tend to usurp ministry opportunities. Part of getting out of the way is to let (lay) leaders lead.”

The church’s lay members are certainly doing that, with surprising results. Almost every Sunday, the church, which seats 130, is full. Remarkably, about 50 children are enrolled in the Sunday School, plus another 35 teenagers in the junior and senior youth groups. In the past five years, the church’s outreach budget has grown from \$400 per year to \$16,000.

In addition to the regular Sunday morning services, the church holds a contemporary service on Sunday evening that includes a full musical band, scriptural readings, and creative ways of leading the prayers. The service is kept to one hour to allow parents to get their kids home and into bed on time.

In order to keep up with the growth, the church has hired a youth minister and an ordained pastoral assistant. In keeping with the church’s ethos, the pastoral assistant not only visits parishioners, but enables and equips lay members to be pastoral visitors.

The growth has not just come from Anglicans moving into the area or coming back to church. The newcomers come from different denominations and faiths. Most of them come from Port Perry, a town located on the shores of Lake Scugog, but some of them come from Peterborough or north Oshawa.

With that kind of growth and change happening, it was important for the church to have a strong, clear focus, says Mr. Stiller. “We’re a very eclectic parish and we knew



Youth minister Simon Bell and his wife Anne, centre, cut a cake after his Celebration of a New Ministry service at Church of the Ascension. Joining the couple are the Rev. Dr. Brent Stiller and parishioners.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

that we needed to have some sort of focus and mission that came from the parish – that is, it wasn’t going to be myself and the wardens who just planted a grid mission statement on top of the parish community for the sake of having a mission statement,” he says. “We needed something that actually came from within.”

At a special weekend meeting, an outside consultant “pulled back the layers of who we thought we were, what we were about, what our purpose was and why we came to church,” he says. “We really had to think about what was unique about this parish and what we thought God was calling us to be.”

At the end of the weekend, they defined their mission in a single line: “To passionately celebrate and share the love, light and hope of Jesus Christ.”

That statement has become the filter through which all the church’s ministries, programs and ideas pass. Parishioners are encouraged to carry out the church’s mission in their own way, with unique results.

Allowing parishioners to use their gifts – and to be accepted for who they are – is part of a concept called “grace space,” says Mr. Stiller. “That is simply to provide a place where people can come in and we make no assumptions about who they are, where they’ve been, what they’ve done and who they’ve slept with,” he says. “It doesn’t come easily, but we want to be a place where people can come in and just be who they are, with the assumption that we want to im-

merse ourselves in the biblical narrative. That’s our story. We each have a ton of stories, but our story is the narrative of scripture, particularly as we follow Jesus.”

The church offers plenty of opportunities to grow in the faith, from Bible study groups to overseas missions, but perhaps the most important way it does this is through fostering an atmosphere of openness. Both newcomers and regular parishioners alike are encouraged to ask questions, no matter how strange or simplistic.

“Whether it’s through programs or conversations, we try to nurture this place so that people can ask tough questions and just be who they are. My experience has been that in some churches, if people don’t talk the talk – if they don’t use certain church vocabulary – we shut them down. We may not do it consciously, but we marginalize them. We try not to do that here.”

Another important building block in the church’s growth was to have an external assessment. The church was moving from being pastoral-sized (50-150 people on an average Sunday) to program-sized (151 to 350 people on an average Sunday.) It’s often a difficult transition for churches to make because it involves changes in roles and expectations.

Mr. Stiller said doing an external assessment was a leap of faith, but it had to be done in order to manage and sustain the growth that was happening. “We knew that we needed to be brutally honest with ourselves, to put

everything under the microscope, and say, ‘Where are we in terms of leadership, worship, spirituality, structure?’ External assessment demands a high degree of vulnerability, but we were at the point where we had to do it. We could have continued to coast, but we probably would have gone back into a maintenance mindset.”

The church used the Natural Church Development program, which helps churches assess the health of their ministries. The assessment showed that Ascension scored lowest in the area of passionate spirituality and highest in the area of empowering leadership. (Canadian Anglican churches typically score lowest in the area of passionate spirituality.)

As a result of the assessment, the church has started a series on prayer called Beyond Mechanical Frustration, which looks at what prayer is and isn’t. In the new year there will be a renewed emphasis on scripture and discipleship.

“We’re really good at getting things done and we’re really good at ‘corporate worship’, but we don’t do so well in the area of our personal life and faith. We want to be comfortable with scripture and a life of personal prayer. We want to be comfortable in sharing our faith with others.”

For Mr. Stiller, being comfortable with scripture and sharing the faith with others is at the heart of it all. “It all comes back to the biblical narrative: what’s the story?”

A beacon of hope

BY THE REV. RENATE KOKE

THROUGHOUT its history, St. Margaret’s, New Toronto, has not lost sight of its mission origins, passion for God and love for its ever-changing community. As an area with many newcomers and those who struggle to make ends meet, St. Margaret’s continues to welcome all, exploring ways to live out the transforming power of the gospel and striving “not to let the hope of the poor be taken away.” This happens in many ways, including responding to the needs of our neighbours with warm and welcoming hospitality, and an invitation to join us in creating a genuinely inclusive church community. It means our services are sometimes a bit messy, but God is present and we are witnesses to lives being changed.

Over the past couple of years, we have started to build ministry geared to different age groups: children, youth and seniors. With more children and youth, our next priority is strengthening ministry among young adults and couples. Of course, we have our challenges: although our offerings continue to grow, we are having difficulty keeping up with the maintenance bills of our heavily used century “home.”

I am truly thankful for being called to work alongside the people of St. Margaret’s. I have never experienced such dedicated, hardworking, and fun-loving people – Christians who, like St. Margaret, embody the gospel call.

The Rev. Renate Koke is the incumbent of St. Margaret’s, New Toronto.

How are you growing?

IS your church growing? If so, tell us how. Keep your submission to 500 words and email it to editor@toronto.anglican.ca. Thank you.

Church wins heritage award

St. Paul's, Bloor Street, in Toronto, received the Award of Excellence in the William Greer Architectural Conservation and Craftsmanship Award at the annual Heritage Toronto Awards on Oct. 15.

St. Paul's worked with Black and Moffat Architects and J.D. Strachan Construction to transform the old church, new church and Cody Hall into one accessible facility that retains the historic architectural design. Extensive restoration was done on the masonry, roof and stained glass windows of the old church.



Jane Horrocks, right, and warden Betty Romanchuk, co-chairs of the restoration campaign at St. Mary's, Richmond Hill, inspect work that is being done on the steeple of the 140-year-old chapel.



Kirk Vandezande plays piano for diners in the Great Hall at St. Paul's, Bloor Street. The church completed a four-year, \$23-million restoration and expansion project in 2006.

Cathedral's creche exhibit opens

The annual exhibit of "Crèches from Across the World" opens in the Archives and Museum of St. James' Cathedral on Nov. 29, and will continue to be open to the public every day, seven days a week, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 22, and again on Dec. 29 and 30.

The show has become a Christmas tradition for families from across the Toronto region and beyond. About 150 crèches from more than 50 countries will be on display. This year, the Cathedral's growing collection will be supplemented by those of Father Vito Marziliano and Father Gregory Ace of All Saints and St. Padre Pio Catholic Churches.



Jill Walkingshaw embroiders a figure that will be part of a crèche, one of about 150 on display at St. James Cathedral's Archives and Museum in December.

Special activities for children are available and group tours may be arranged. Crèche exhibit tours can be combined with a tour of the Cathedral. The Archives and Museum is located in St. James' Cathedral Parish House, at 65 Church St., Toronto. General admission is by donation. For further information or to book an appointment for a group tour, call Nancy Mallett at (416) 364-7865, ext. 233.



BLESSED

The parishioners of St. Paul's, Beaverton, show off their animal friends at the Blessing of the Animals service in September. Besides humans, the service was attended by four cats, 15 dogs, two roosters, a chinchilla, and a horse. PHOTO BY BRYAN COARD.

St. John's celebrates harvest

St. John the Baptist, Norway, celebrated the fall harvest on Sept. 29-30, with a One Hundred Mile Meal and Harvest Thanksgiving service.

The Rev. David Bowring, honorary assistant, challenged parishioners to contribute to the pot luck meal on Saturday evening with dishes featuring a main ingredient grown within 100 miles of Toronto. Parishioners responded with baked squash, fresh apples, stuffed peppers, fruit salads, wine, free-range chicken, carrots, tomatoes, green beans, and more, served in simple but delicious ways. Supplies were purchased from outdoor markets and local retailers. Fair-trade coffee, tea and chocolates were served.

Mr. Bowring read the call to harvest thanksgiving from Deuteronomy 26 and explained the importance of food choices as expression of Christian faith. One parishioner reported that when she asked if the produce came from less than 100 miles away, the retailer said that was the third time she had been asked that day. Another family showed a map illustrating where the 100-mile boundary falls. All were excited about the learning and the good taste of the food.

The next morning the church was decorated with fresh fruits and vegetables, which were later donated to St. Monica's Food Bank. The Rev. Canon Brian Prideaux preached on "The bread that comes down from heaven." Quoting from John 6, he contrasted the true satisfaction of following Christ with the temporary pleasures of material wealth. The congregation thanked God with harvest hymns.

Campaign raises funds for new roof

St. Mary, Richmond Hill, is busy with a major restoration project.

They are replacing the roof on the main church and the chapel, as well as restoring the steeple and inside of the chapel. The total cost of the project will be about \$240,000. "Over the past five months, we have raised over 90 per cent of our goal from donations, bequests, and a grant from the Town of Richmond Hill," says the Rev. Mark Kinghan, the incumbent. "This is a tremendous achievement given the campaign was run over the summer months, usually a slow time for donating."



CONFIRMED

Young people at St. Andrew's, Alliston, pose with Bishop George Elliott and the Rev. Kim McArthur, incumbent, after their confirmation on Sept. 24. PHOTO BY PAM ALDERSON.



HARVEST THANKS

Annabel Graham, left, Marilee Reeder and Brian Scheffelmaier of St. John's, Mono, share a smile on the steps of the church on the day of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on Oct. 14. "The setting and perfect weather made it an enjoyable event for all," says the Rev. Barb Hammond, incumbent.

Gala, service cap 100th year

Ministry, outreach celebrated

BY ELSA JONES

ONE hundred years ago, the Rev. Canon William Brain gathered Anglicans in Toronto's St. Clair West neighbourhood for the first time. In that gathering, the church of St. Michael and All Angels was born.

Our parish proclaims the love of God within a neighbourhood full of wonderful cultural diversity. We have a rich history of ministry and outreach to the community. Our 100th anniversary celebrations during the past year have given us an opportunity to honour those who founded and those who have sustained the church through the years.

The centennial celebrations began on Sept. 24, 2006, at a service of confirmation, with Bishop Patrick Yu as the celebrant and preacher. Throughout the year, past members of the clergy were invited to preach on various Sundays. We were fortunate to have among our guests the former Primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison; Bishop Arthur Brown, who paved the way for many immigrants in this parish; and Archbishop Terence Finlay, who preached during Holy Week and on Easter Day.

We enjoyed excellent concerts and a number of evensong services with contemporary music. One of the social highlights of the year was a boat cruise around Toronto Harbour, organized by people's warden Derek Croft.

On the final weekend, Sept. 28-30, 2007, we hosted a homecoming

reception on Friday evening. It was refreshing to see some familiar faces and to sit back and enjoy looking at the historic memorabilia. On Saturday, our church membership, alumni and friends enjoyed an elegant evening at our Grand Gala Banquet and Dance at the Holiday Inn in Yorkdale.

Arthur Downes, a long-time member of the parish, toasted Her Majesty the Queen and Canada. Our incumbent, the Rev. Jeffrey Brown, circulated from table to table greeting parishioners and guests. In his address, Father Jeff spoke of the strength and love of the people of the parish. He reminded us of who we are today — a faith community that supports each other in good times and in bad, that reaches out to those in need, and that welcomes into our midst people from all walks of life who are seeking a spiritual home.

Our guest speaker for the evening was Hazel McCallion, mayor of Mississauga. She spoke of the positive influence the Anglican Church has played in her life. She said her participation at St. Mike's, especially with the Anglican Young People's Association (A.Y.P.A.), had created the foundation from which she went forward into the business world and eventually into politics.

Sunday morning, we ended the centennial year with a service of praise and thanksgiving. Bishop Colin Johnson was celebrant and preacher. In his inspiring and thought-provoking sermon, Bishop



Dancers from the Ngoma Drum Ensemble perform at St. Michael and All Angels' anniversary gala. At right, guests include, front row from left, Stacey Payne, Keli Dixon, the Rev. Lance Dixon, Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion and the Rev. Jeffrey Brown, incumbent. Back row from left: Desmond Harry, Elsa Jones, Michael Brown, Claire Brown, Matthew Brown.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



Johnson paid tribute to St. Mike's and its rich legacy of faithful witness to the community. He reminded us of the many talents that each of us brings to the church. He challenged us to use our gifts collectively, to welcome their va-

riety and diversity, and to embrace the changing face of the church.

Following the service we enjoyed a sumptuous meal as only St. Mike's can prepare. Our spirits were light and the camaraderie was superb. May St. Mike's con-

tinue to enjoy abundant blessings as we move into another century of service.

Elsa Jones is the rector's warden at St. Michael and All Angels in Toronto.

Beach's shelter back again

The Beach Out of the Cold Program at St. Aidan's, Toronto, opened in November this winter, after a successful two-month trial run last winter. The program will run until early April.

"We are going to open on Monday evenings," said Dr. Michael Chambers, chairperson for the program and a member of the parish. "We are going to host 24 people for dinner, and 16 of them will sleep overnight."

Visitors sleep in the church's gymnasium, with mats and blankets provided by Dixon Hall. The program has more than 100 volunteers, who are divided into teams. Among other duties, volunteers cook meals at home and bring them to the church at mealtime. Local restaurants also donate food.

Dr. Chambers says he was prompted to start the program when he saw people sleeping in makeshift tents and on benches in the parks in the Beach area. Along with other volunteers, he guided the program through ini-



Catherine Dorkin, a member of St. Cuthbert's, Leaside, holds her cat Jazz for a blessing by the Rev. Beth Benson.

tial opposition from some of the church's neighbours. "I've been telling people that there is not a Berlin Wall at Woodbine and Queen," he says. "People who are

downtown are citizens of this city, and they travel everywhere in this city. We can't exclude them from our neighbourhood because they are here."

Christmas story staged outdoors

This year's outdoor Christmas Story presentation at St. John's, York Mills, has a brand-new script. The annual performance, now named "Meet Me at the Manger," still features the traditional story of Christ's birth, but now includes new scenes and characters. It is produced in cooperation with Lansing United Church and will be staged Dec. 8. Groups will be led through a 30-minute performance, starting every five minutes, from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

The audience follows the magi, angels and shepherds to the manger, enjoying choral Christmas music and beautifully costumed, enacted scenes along the way. "Many members of the audience and actors look on this production as a significant part of their Christmas season," says Sally Armour Wotton, the director of drama at St. John's. "For the actors playing the Holy Family with their own infant, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. One year, the baby was sleeping peacefully in his mother's arms

and an audience member said, 'How disappointing — it's just a doll.' The mother, unable to contain herself, replied, 'No, no, he's a real baby!' Probably Mary would have said the same."

All are invited. St. John's, York Mills, is located at 19 Don Ridge Dr., North York (near York Mills subway and 401). Admission is by donation. For more information, call (416) 225-6611 or email wotton@sympatico.ca.

Blessing of animals a first for parish

The green outside St. Cuthbert's, Leaside, was teeming with four-legged friends on Sept. 30, as dozens of parishioners brought their beloved pets to be blessed. The Rev. Beth Benson, priest-in-charge, presided at the simple outdoor service marking the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a first for St. Cuthbert's. Ms. Benson remarked that all the dogs and cats seemed to sense the holiness of the occasion and sat quietly through the service.

Changes mean auditors must be licensed

Legislation affects churches

BY ROB SAFFREY

It has become apparent that there is quite a bit of confusion with regard to the audit requirement for congregations and parishes. Most recently, in the spring, parishes were reminded that auditors need to be appropriately qualified and licensed.

In this article, we will look at various issues related to the audit of the churchwardens' accounts.

For many years, churches in the Diocese of Toronto have been required to have an annual audit of the churchwardens' accounts – that is to say, an audit of the congregation's financial statements. This requirement is part of the diocese's Constitution and Canons and has not changed since the 1920s.

Also, for many years, provincial legislation (*The Public Accountancy Act*) has stipulated that only individuals who are licensed to perform audits may do so. In 2002, the Ontario government announced a review of public accounting licensing in Ontario, and from that point forward, there were numerous studies and consultations which led to the development of *The Public Accounting Act, 2004*.

Under the old legislation, there was an exemption from licensing requirement if a person was providing public accounting services without receiving a fee or other reward, i.e., doing this work only on a volunteer or charity basis. However, starting in May 2007, every person who provides any assurance services must hold a public accounting licence whether

or not the services are provided without fee.

Churchwardens should neither ask nor allow any person to audit their accounts unless the person is properly licensed.

In addition to these legislative changes, changes in auditing standards have increased the time required to complete an audit. Some parishes will have seen the effect of this in an increase in audit fees.

While many parishes are already in compliance with this canonical audit requirement, some are not. The diocese encourages all parishes to comply with the audit requirement, as the canons set out that requirement as part of good parish governance.

Churches should contact a licensed professional in their local community to audit their books. Other local churches and non-profit organizations may know of licensed professionals who will do this work and are sensitive to the cost issue as they focus on serving charitable organizations.

The diocese recognizes that changes over the past five years have created a situation where audit services are more expensive than in the past. The diocese has raised this concern with the Institute of Chartered Accountants and is in discussions with members of other organizations, such as the Canadian Council of Christian Charities, to examine possible alternatives. In the mean time, no changes will be made to the canons regarding the need for an audit.

Rob Saffrey is the diocese's treasurer and director of Finance.



TIMELY ADDITION

The Rev. Canon Robert Shields, left, Dr. Donald and Jacquelin Petrie, and the Rev. Jason Prisley stand in front of the new sundial at Christ Church, Stouffville. The sundial, donated by Dr. Petrie, is one of only two on Anglican churches in Canada. Sundials were mounted on the walls of churches in Europe for centuries as a way to help the local community keep track of time.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Proper audit brings clarity: priest

BY STUART MANN

"A good audit is not just about money," says the Rev. Canon Milton Barry, incumbent of Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto. "It's an audit of the functioning of the whole parish – its governance and how decisions are made."

Canon Barry said a discussion between an auditor and the incumbent and churchwardens can have a long-lasting and positive impact on a parish. "The auditor will raise all the questions that make for best practices, not only in the handling of money but how decisions are made about the spending of money."

He says there are a few key reasons why an audit is important. "First, it shows everybody that the whole system has been looked at and been found to be good and worthy and transparent."

Secondly, an audit reflects well on the staff and volunteers who

lead the church. "It's a wonderful thing for the people who are handling the money and making the decisions," he says. "If there are stories about surrounding churches where fraud has taken place, it always casts aspersions on you, so when you have a proper audit it just makes everybody, including volunteers, feel better because things are being done well."

He recommends that churches which cannot afford an audit on their own join forces with neighbouring parishes. Grace Church on-the-Hill, for example, is part of an ecumenical group which uses one chartered accountancy firm. The result is a lower cost for each audit.

"Churches should consider talking to other local churches or Anglican churches in their deanery. Rather than going out and searching for an auditor on your own, you can become part of a larger group or even a whole town of

churches. As with all volume buying, this will render savings."

He said it may be hard for churches to part with someone who has been auditing their books for many years, but without a licence, that person will now be breaking the law. "It's illegal for them to sign an audit unless they're licensed. They're liable both in terms of breaking the law and also for giving assurance for something for which they are not qualified to give assurance. And they understand that."

He said churches which do not do a proper audit are turning a blind eye to reality. "Most parishes assume fraud has never happened, but the truth is that there have been a number of cases of fraud in churches. Churches may think that getting a proper audit is a waste of money, but fraud happens and it's happening more frequently."

Questions and answers about new audit requirements

What has changed?

The exemption from licensing when providing public accounting services for free has been eliminated. Since May 2007, provincial law stipulates that all audits must be done by a person who is licensed and there are no exemptions for those who provide services only for a charity and receive no fee. This change applies to all groups, including churches.

Why has this change been made?

This change is one of a number of changes made during the last five years, aimed at enhancing governance and addressing public confidence within the public accounting area.

How does this affect my church?

It means that only a person who

is licensed to perform audits should audit your church. In the past, many churches have relied on chartered accountants or other individuals to audit their books on a volunteer basis. Now, only those people who are licensed public accountants may do this work. Churches are urged not to ask anyone to audit their books unless they are licensed.

Does my church need an audit?

Under the diocese's canons, all congregations and parishes are required to have an audit each year. Having an audit can be both good stewardship and good governance. Having an audit can be as much a benefit for churchwardens as it is for the congregation, in getting reassurance about financial matters and confirmation

of the churchwarden's financial report to vestry.

Will the diocese enforce compliance?

While the diocese expects every parish to have their books audited, the diocese is not a "watch dog." There is an overarching expectation that parishes will govern themselves and manage their affairs in a way that is consistent with all the laws within which we carry out ministry together – including canon law.

How do I find someone who is licensed to perform an audit?

Contact local accounting firms and ask for the help of a licensed professional. They will be able to advise you on cost and other issues related to an audit. Other

churches or charities in your community may be aware of a licensed professional who has cho-

sen to focus on charitable organizations. Talk to your neighbour.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Items for Looking Ahead should be emailed to hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the January issue is Dec. 1; for the February issue it's Jan. 1. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website. Visit www.toronto.anglican.ca, click Calendar, then click Submit an Event

Services

DEC. 1 – A vigil for meditation, prayer and reflection on World AIDS Day, at St. James Cathedral, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At 12:30 p.m., visitors are invited to join the Saturday Eucharist in St. George's Chapel, for special prayers, music and the reading of the Book of Remembrance. A member of the Health Council will be at the Cathedral to assist those attending the vigil. For more information, call (416) 364-7865.

DEC. 2 – Advent Choral Evensong at St. Olave, Swansea, with St. Olave's Choir and organist Tim Showalter. The service starts at 4 p.m., followed by Christmas cake and a Charles Wesley hymn sing with a brief look at his life and works. St. Olave's is located at 360 Windermere Ave. (Bloor and Windermere). Contributions appreciated. For more details call (416) 769-5686 or visit www.stolaves.ca.

DEC. 9 – The annual Advent Carol Service for St. Martin in-the-Fields will be held at 8 p.m. Choir will present music by Britten, Rachmaninoff, Vann, Gardner and Redford. Collection will be taken and donated to a charity in the parish. St. Martin's is located at 151 Glenlake Ave., one block north of Bloor St. and one block east of Keele St. All are welcome. Call (416) 767-7491.

DEC. 16 – Christmas Jazz Vespers featuring the Graham Howes Quartet at St. Philip's, Etobicoke, 25 St. Phillips Rd., at 4 p.m. For information, call (416) 247-5181.

DEC. 16 – Christmas Vespers at Christ Church, Deer Park, 1570 Yonge St., Toronto, with Barlow Brass and Drums, at 4:30 p.m. For further information, visit www.christchurchdeerpark.org.

JAN. 27 – Jazz Vespers at St. John's Convent, North York, Sundays at 4 p.m. Tim Elliott and other musicians. Free will offering. Talking supper \$10 (reservations required). St. John's Convent, 233 Cummer Ave., Toronto. Call (416) 226-2201, ext. 305, or visit www.ssjd.ca.

Christmas Events

DEC. 7 – Christ Church, Brampton, and the CBC will again be hosting a dramatic reading of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, at 7 p.m. Admission is \$15 at the door. For more information, phone (905) 451-6649 or email christchurchbrampton@bellnet.ca.

DEC. 7-9, 14-16, 21-23 – The Christmas Story at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square in Toronto. A Toronto tradition since 1938. Professional musicians and a volunteer cast present this charming hour-long nativity pageant. Friday and Saturday evenings, 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees, 4:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$15 adults, \$5 children. To reserve, call (416) 598-8979. The Church is wheelchair accessible. American Sign Language interpretation at selected performances. For more information, visit www.holytrinitytoronto.org or email christmasstory@holyltrinitytoronto.org.

DEC. 8 – Meet Me at the Manger: The Christmas Story, an outdoor production at St. John's, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., North York (near York Mills subway). 30-minute tours every 5 minutes from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is by donation. For more information, call (416) 225-6611 or email wotton@sympatico.ca.

DEC. 8 – Annual St. Nicholas Festivity for children and families at St. James Cathedral's Parish House, 65 Church St., Toronto, from 2 to 4 p.m. Come celebrate the spirit of the saint beloved by children of all ages. Fun, food, games, and music of the season. Please bring an unwrapped new toy for a child of any age. Donations will be given to the Hope for Children Foundation. For more information, call the cathedral office at (416) 364-7865.

DEC. 15 – St. Paul's, Midhurst, 5 Noraline Ave., is hosting its first "Christmas in the Village" at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of Christmas music, songs, and stories in the church, followed by hot mulled cider and holiday treats in the hall. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, call (705) 721-9722.

DEC. 19 – The Social Club of St. Paul's, Midhurst, is sponsoring a Carol Sing. Meet at the church at 6 p.m. and travel to Whispering Pines Retirement Home in Barrie to sing for our friends there. Then, if weather permits, sing at



LIGHT OF HOPE

Teena Vahey, a survivor of domestic violence, lights the Pascal candle as the Rev. Cathy Stone looks on. In recognition of the Week Without Violence, the Rural Outreach Committee held the annual Peace Walk and Ecumenical Service of Hope in Buckhorn on Oct. 21. The walk, right, began at St. Matthew/St. Aidan Anglican Church and finished at the local community centre, where an ecumenical service was held. Students from 11 schools took part, and Ms. Vehey spoke of her journey from domestic violence to safety.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

homes of more senior parishioners and finally back to Noraline for refreshments. For more information, call (705) 721-9722.

Music

DEC. 1 – The Parish of St. Matthias (Bellwoods), 45 Bellwoods Ave., Toronto, invites everyone to an unforgettable evening of song with The Marion Singers, an a cappella 16 voice ensemble, directed by Tony Browning. The concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. at St. Matthias', 45 Bellwoods Ave., just north of Queen St. W. Complimentary wine and cheese reception to follow. Tickets are \$20. Buy them at the door or order by leaving a voice message at the parish office at (416) 603-6720. Visit <http://www3.sympatico.ca/saintmatthias/>.

DEC. 1 – St. Patrick's, 1087 Lillian St., Toronto, presents The Mega City Men's Chorus, from 7 to 9 p.m. This exciting and very talented group has performed at



various venues including Roy Thompson Hall, Casino Rama and on television and radio. The chorus will perform in concert with St. Pat's choir, singing a variety of Christmas music and a selection from their varied repertoires. The evening will also include a bake sale and refreshments. Tickets are \$15. Call (416) 225-5151.

DEC. 1 – Join the choir of St. George's, Barrie and musicians from the community, at an all-day concert, Arts for Aids 2, at the Kozlov Centre, 400 Bayfield St., Barrie, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Funds raised will benefit Mchinji Home of Hope in Malawi. For more information, call Carol at (705) 726-3961.

DEC. 6, 13 – St. Paul's, Bloor Street, holds Thursday Organ Recitals at 12:10 p.m. Dec. 6 – Christopher Ku; Dec. 13 – Sandra McArthur. For more information, call (416) 961-8116.

DEC. 7-9 – The Pax Christi Chorale presents Handel's Messiah, with soloists and full orchestra, at Grace Church on-the-Hill.

The Dec. 7 & 8 performances are at 7:30 p.m.; the Dec. 9 performance is at 3 p.m. Bring along a non-perishable food item for the Daily Break Food Bank. For tickets, call (416) 491-8542.

DEC. 9 – The choir of the parish of Christ the King in Etobicoke presents "A Song of Bethlehem," at 7 p.m. The parish is located at 475 Rathburn Rd. Call (416) 621-3630.

DEC. 13 – The St. James Cathedral Choir, the St. James Singers, the Talisker Players and conductor Andrew Ager present "Christmas in Venice." Vivaldi's "Gloria" and "Winter - The Four Seasons," poetry, favourite carols, seasonal refreshments. The concert takes place at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, 65 Church St., Toronto. Come and experience the merriment and passion of "Christmas in Venice." Tickets are \$30 (\$25 for students/seniors), available in advance at the parish office at 65 Church St. or at the door. For more information, call (416) 364-7865.

Continued on Page 12



Ardith Breffitt is at right.

ACW member dedicated to beauty, service

BY DONALDA MCTAGGART

ARDITH Elise Breffitt (nee Birch) died on July 21, 2007. She was born in Leatherhead, England, on Oct. 16, 1919. Her family immigrated to Canada and established roots in Schreiber, Ontario.

In the 1930s, Ardith moved to Toronto to work as a hairdresser. Here she met her future husband, Wilfred. They married on July 19, 1941. Following Wilfred's service overseas with the 1st Hussar Regiment, a tank corps, the couple settled in Agincourt.

Ardith and Wilfred were active

OBITUARY

members of St. Timothy's, Agincourt. After Wilfred's death, Ardith devoted herself to her family and her church. She believed that love, expressed by concern and care for others, was essential to personal and community well-being.

Ardith left her mark at St. Timothy's. She worked on the beautification of the church building, taught embroidery and flower arranging, and managed preparations for liturgy. St. Timothy's owns many items made by Ardith, including vestments, embroidered

antependia and frontals, as well as the St. Timothy's banner at the entrance of the church.

She was a member of the Anglican Church Women (ACW) and the ACW Needlework and Linen group. She was involved in many projects for churches and in the creation of an instruction manual for altar guilds that is used throughout the province.

In 1986, she was made warden of St. Timothy's, a position she held for three years. She initiated programs that involved the parish membership in caring for God's house and each other. Ardith was

named "Woman of the Year" by the Fast Friars of St. Tim's and received a roasting and a marvelous caricature of her done by Terry Iles.

After her retirement, she moved to Niagara on-the-Lake, becoming an active member of St. Mark's Anglican Church and a friend of Grace United Church. She was involved with W.I.N.G. (Women Interested in New Growth) and a local reflective group. She was also an area captain and canvasser for the Heart & Stroke Foundation's door to door campaign.

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ACW names new board

THE following are the board members of the Diocesan Anglican Church Women for 2007-2008: Marion Saunders, president; Anita Gittens, vice-president; Dorothy McLeod, secretary-treasurer; Enid Corbett, nominations; Sue Baston, Chancel Guild; Carolyn Heads, public relations; Lorna

Krawchuk, parish development; and Marilyn Tibbles, website. The area vice-presidents are Valma Hay, Dorothy Gummersall and Judith Fredette. Vacant positions include chair of the Social Concern and Action, and Trent-Durham vice-president.

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Welcoming visitor from Uganda

At its October meeting, the Diocesan Anglican Church Women (ACW) Board was pleased to welcome Robinah Kanya, wife of Bishop Samuel C. Kanya of the Diocese of West Buganda in Uganda. Mrs. Kanya, known at home as "Bishop Mama," shared insights from her ministry among the women of her diocese, both as secretary of the Mothers' Union for 18 years and as founder of a group supporting clergy wives and female clergy.

Clergy stipends depend solely on the Sunday collection, so Mrs. Kanya has developed a credit loan system for small projects which generate income for the women. As well, she has developed a nursery school, with more than 80 children gathering in an old building in urgent need of repair. Mrs. Kanya noted that she can "joyfully say that we have made a difference." The Board plied her with questions

ACW
 BY MARION SAUNDERS

and enjoyed her quiet and uplifting presence.

On Oct. 13, more than 70 women gathered at St. James Cathedral for the annual Chancel Guild Corporate Communion, celebrated by Bishop Patrick Yu. The Rev. Anne Moore, ACW Chaplain, delivered the homily. Following lunch, Pat Brown spoke candidly of "Life as a Chancel Guild Worker," noting that when she was a young woman, there was "no place for women close up" and chancel guild was a place where you could go to be close. She encouraged women to undertake their work prayerfully, to learn to talk to God, and to learn to listen.

Anna Chambers gave a presentation beginning with a description of Biblical flowers, continuing with hints on practical

floral arrangements, stain removal, and suggestions on how to recruit and sustain chancel guild members. After a brief question period, the group moved to view the exquisite work of the Monday Needleworkers.

The ACW Board is most grateful to all who support its many outreach ministries, which include pension supplements to former WA workers, the Special Projects, the work of the church in the north (Fair Share commitment), special appeals and theological bursaries (Thank Offerings). Donations received up to the first week of January will be credited to the 2007 budget. The Diocesan ACW Board wishes everyone a joyous, peaceful Christmas.

Marion Saunders is the president of the Anglican Church Women in the Diocese of Toronto.

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Hollis Hiscock, Interim Priest in Charge, St. John's, Weston, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Gordon Sheppard, Interim Priest in Charge, St. Paul's, Newmarket, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Phelan Scanlon, Interim Priest in Charge, Parish of Perrytown, Oct. 1.
- The Rev. Catherine Miller, Associate Priest, All Saints, Collingwood, Oct. 15.
- The Rev. Mary Pataki, Honorary Assistant, St. Margaret's, New Toronto, Oct. 17.
- The Rev. Arthur Bromley, Priest in Charge, St. John, Emily, and St. James, Emily, Nov. 1.
- The Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, Incumbent, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, Dec. 1.
- The Rev. Ruth Knapp, Incumbent, Christ Church, Campbellford, Jan. 1, 2008.

Third Phase - Parish Selection Committee Interviewing
 (via Area Bishop):

- Holy Trinity, Trinity Square (York-Scarborough)
- St. Timothy, North Toronto (York-Scarborough)

Conclusions

- The Rev. Bruce McCallum has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at Holy Trinity, Ajax, was Sept. 23.
- The Rev. Douglas Woods has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. George's, Peterborough, was Oct. 28.
- The Rev. William Robert Gorham has voluntarily relinquished his office as priest in The Anglican Church of Canada effective Oct. 17.

Death

- The Rev. James (Jim) Hunt died on Oct. 5. He was ordained in 1962 in the Diocese of Rupert's Land and served in the parishes of St. Richard of Chichester, Etobicoke; St. Patrick's, Willowdale; and St. Thomas, Huron Street, in the Diocese of Toronto. The funeral service was held Oct. 11 at St. Thomas, Huron Street.
- The Rev. Canon John Paterson-Smyth died on Oct. 22. Ordained in 1951 in the Diocese of Toronto, he served at Christ Church, Deer Park; Belmont and Norwood; St. Cyprian, Toronto; St. Alban-the-Martyr, Toronto; St. Chad, Toronto; St. Cuthbert, Leaside; and as Honorary Assistant at Grace Church on-the-Hill. The funeral service was on Oct. 25 at St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto.

Vacant Incumbencies
Clergy from outside the diocese with the permission of their bishop may apply through the Ven. Peter Fenty.

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

- Parish of Orillia South
- Parish of Lakefield

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee Receiving Names (via Area Bishop):

- St. Paul, Lindsay (Trent-Durham)
- St. George, Pickering (Ajax) (Trent-Durham)
- St. Andrew, Scarborough (York-Scarborough)

'Boot camp' in York-Simcoe gives leaders a workout

ABOUT 75 leaders from 19 parishes in York-Simcoe participated in the first-ever Parish Leadership Boot Camp, held at Canadian Forces Base Borden on Nov. 3. The event was sponsored by the area council and hosted by Bishop George Elliott.

The parish leaders listened to a talk from Ward McCance, a member of St. Peter's, Cobourg, on the basics of parish structure and administration. Mr. McCance is the author of the book *Parishworks*, released last year by the Anglican Book Centre and now in its second printing. There were also two sessions of workshops on parish financial systems, parish legal structures and reporting requirements, human resources, and buildings and real estate. In the afternoon, Geoff Haddock from AON, the diocese's insurers, led a workshop on risk management.

"I had a number of people tell me how valuable the day was," said Bishop Elliott. "We will definitely do this again."



Church leaders attend a workshop at Canadian Forces Base Borden. The event featured workshops on parish structure and administration, parish financial systems, and more.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

References and Resumes to:
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 St. Luke's Anglican Church
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Anglican archivists meet in Toronto

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

Anglican diocesan archivists from around the country gathered in Toronto Nov. 2-3, for the Anglican Archives Network Meeting hosted by the General Synod Archives and the Diocese of Toronto Archives.

"Traditionally, we try to meet once a year, the East group and the West group, but as far as we know, this could be the first time we've met together as one national group in Toronto," says Mary-Anne Nicholls, archivist for the Diocese of Toronto. "So it was quite exciting to have people here from across the country. Many of them are volunteers and many of them only work part-time, so it's really wonderful to get together and be able to coordinate some of the things that we do."

On Nov. 1, some of the participants attended a session on residential school records, followed by a joint dinner with members of the Canadian Church Historical Society at St. Paul's, Bloor Street, with Primate Fred Hiltz as guest



Mary-Anne Nicholls, archivist for the Diocese of Toronto and the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, speaks to the gathering.

speaker. On Nov. 2, participants gathered at the synod office of the Diocese of Toronto for round table discussions. They also toured St. James Cathedral's archives and the General Synod archives. Nov. 3 was devoted to a tour of the Diocese of Toronto's archives and presentations on topics ranging from personnel records and privacy, to records retention schedules, to electronic records.

Says Ms. Nicholls: "We are all grappling with a lot of the same issues, so it's really helpful to get together and hear how people have dealt with it, or what they've done in their diocese."



Nancy Hurn, left, archivist of the General Synod Archives, gives a presentation at Church House. At right, the group gathers outside the Diocese of Toronto's synod office for a photo. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



LOOKING AHEAD

Continued from Page 11

DEC. 16 – Community Carol Sing at St. Dunstan of Canterbury, 56 Lawson Rd., Scarborough, at 7:30 p.m. Free will offering. For information, contact the church office at (416) 283-1844.

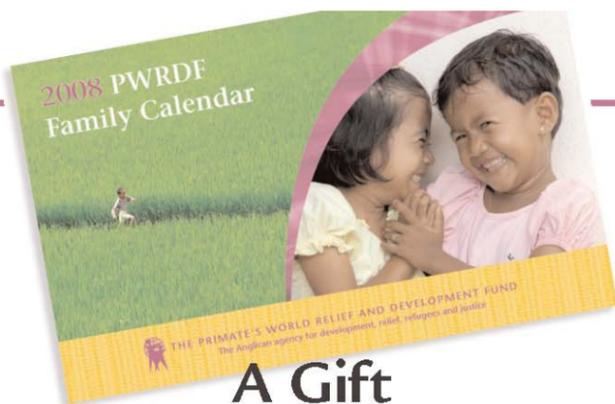
Sales

DEC. 1 – Annual "Red Hat" Christmas Bazaar at St. Joseph of Nazareth, 290 Balmoral Dr., Brampton, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tea parlour, baking, deli table (jams, pickles, etc.), treasure trove, toys, crafts, handmade knitted and sewn items, prize draw, fun and fellowship for everyone. Call (905) 793-8020.

DEC. 1 – Art Show and Sale at St. Clement's, Eglinton, 59 Briar Hill Ave., Toronto, from 1 to 7 p.m. Original watercolours, oils, acrylics, and photographs. Contact Marian or Donald Holmes at (416) 226-6081 or email deholmes@sympatico.ca.

DEC. 2 – Advent Bake Sale at St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E. (east of Sherbourne), from 12 noon until 3 p.m. Wonderful traditional seasonal baking and cooking, Christmas ornaments and decorations. For information, call (416) 923-8714 or e-mail office@stsimons.ca.

DEC. 8 – Christmas Sale at St. Hilda, Fairbank, 2353 Dufferin St., from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Baked goods, strawberry jam, preserves and knitted items. Call (416) 781-6621, ext. 236.



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