

Doors open  
for homeless

Young people  
bound for Kenya



A question  
of faith

# The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

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MARCH, 2007



Registered nurse Tanja Futter, second from right, holds up the backpack she's taking with her to Meru, Kenya, where she will volunteer at an orphanage. Ms. Futter's mother, Jo-Anne, shows one of 43 quilts made by her neighbourhood quilting group, one for each bed in the orphanage. Family and friends threw a party for Ms. Futter on the eve of her departure.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## Young nurse volunteers at orphanage in Africa

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

**TANJA** Futter, 24, a registered nurse and member of the Church of the Transfiguration, Toronto, is working as a volunteer nurse in an orphanage run by Ripples International in the town of Meru, Kenya. The non-profit organization was started by an African husband and wife team, Chidi and Mercy Ogbonna.

"I fell in love with the orphanage," says Ms. Futter. "(Chidi and Mercy) are just so amazing and wonderful that I think they deserve any help that they can get. They went to Meru and started doing

HIV testing. Then they realized that there was a need for an orphanage, so they built an orphanage. Then they realized that there was a need for a women's shelter, so they built a women's shelter. These people are just phenomenal human beings." Ms. Futter is so enthusiastic about the work of Ripples International that she asked that its website, [www.ripplesintl.org](http://www.ripplesintl.org), be shared with the readers of *The Anglican*.

She says she will work in Africa for two months before deciding whether she wants to stay longer — up to two years. "I'll be working in an orphanage and in a hos-

pital as well, and hopefully in a few months if I do stay and my Swahili gets better — because it's absolutely terrible right now — I'll be able to do home care for HIV patients."

She has represented the Diocese of Toronto as a youth delegate at the International Youth Conference in Oxford, England, and was a youth member of synod for several years. She says the people at Transfiguration have supported her in her preparations for the mission trip: "They've all just been really wonderful, really kind and generous with their time and prayers."

## Ministry tops agenda at synod

Members to be energized and  
equipped for work in parishes

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

**THE** residential session of synod held at Durham College in Oshawa, May 3-5, will offer workshops, Bible studies, music and worship to energize, equip and empower synod members to help their parishes carry out healthy, vibrant ministries.

The topics for the workshops will be inspired by Acts 2:42: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers," and will include: forming of community relationships, worship and prayer, teaching and learning, pastoral care, evangelism and social justice.

Agenda committee chair Evelyn Butler says that the workshops will take place in small groups to take advantage of "people tapping into their experience and learning from others, the sharing and synergy that you get when people come together with common interests, purpose and commitment."

Ms. Butler says that during the business sessions, synod members will have the opportunity to discuss changes to make diocesan structures and processes more flexible and responsive to parish needs.

Synod will not be all business, of course. Organizers are planning lots of opportunities for socializing, including pub nights on Thursday and Friday. The fact that all synod members will be staying on-site will help with socializing. "Because we are all living together, we will have an opportunity to get to know one another," says Ms. Butler. "Everyone will be together, which is part of being community together. It's quite exciting."

Music by groups from across the diocese will play a large role in both entertainment and worship. "The music is going to be very good," says Laura Walton-Clouston, who is working on the social subcommittee. "We have everything from instrumental duets, to trios, to praise groups and soloists. All of them are from our diocese."

The evening gathering on Friday will focus especially on the issue of HIV/AIDS, one of the diocese's advocacy priorities. As always, worship will be an important part

Continued on Page 6

## Pre-synod meetings this fall

**SYNOD** will be held in two parts this year. The first part will be held May 3-5 and the second part will be held Nov. 17. All episcopal areas will hold meetings this fall to prepare for the second part on Nov. 17. Budget, audited financial statements and elections will be on the agenda. Synod members, clergy, treasurers, and churchwardens are encouraged to attend, as certain items, such as the budget, will be discussed in detail only at these meetings, not during the May 3-5 gathering.

The dates of the meetings are as follows:

- York-Simcoe – Oct. 22
  - York-Credit Valley – Oct. 23
  - York-Scarborough – Nov. 5
  - Trent-Durham – Nov. 7
- Locations have yet to be determined.

# Doors open for homeless

## Beach residents show support

BY STUART MANN

**THE** Rev. Canon Hillyard Dixon would have been proud.

The Anglican clergyman, who established a tent church and cared for the poor in the Beach area of Toronto more than 100 years ago, would have smiled on Jan. 22 as St. Aidan's welcomed its first guests to its Out of the Cold program.

On a freezing winter night, the church provided food and shelter to 10 people, seven of whom stayed overnight. The church plans to accommodate up to 12 people on Monday nights until the end of March.

"It was a very gentle, affirming experience," says the Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, incumbent. "Many Anglican churches use the doxology, 'Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.' Well, we just lived a miracle."

The Out of the Cold program at St. Aidan's did not have an easy

time coming into being. Some local residents opposed the plan, citing safety concerns. An anonymous group threatened to launch a lawsuit to stop the program.

However, during the past two months the program's supporters met with residents to address their concerns. The church held an information night on Jan. 16 that drew about 300 people, many of whom went away satisfied that the church was doing the right thing.

"We had a comment sheet and found that 80 per cent were strongly in favour," says Mr. Kirkegaard. "That's a pretty strong mandate from the community."

Indeed, more than 110 people from both the church and the wider community have volunteered to help out. The local tavern, Quigley's, is providing the soup each Monday night while the diners and breakfasts are cooked by volunteers in their homes.

"This is the lay people doing



Greeter Gerald Roper directs a guest to the Out of the Cold facility at St. Aidan's, Toronto.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

their ministry," says Mr. Kirkegaard. "Dr. Michael Chambers, a member of the parish, had this vision and inspired all of us at St. Aidan's to get on board. The whole community has been inspired.

"It shows that a small group of

Christians really can make a difference," he says. "The church's influence can be so great, especially when God starts working through God's people."

## World Day of Prayer needs volunteers

**PARISHES** are invited to host on June 3 one of the 200 delegates from every part of the world who will be in the Toronto area for the quadrennial meeting of the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC). This 11th ecumenical gathering will be held May 30 to June 5 at Seneca College in King City.

The WDPIC meets every four years to share experiences of World Day of Prayer, hold regional meetings, select themes and countries that will prepare the annual worship service, elect an executive, arrange for staff services, and consider ways in which the movement may grow. The meeting will feature worship and work sessions, including an HIV/AIDS workshop in collaboration with women from countries in the Caribbean, South America and Pacific regions. The meetings will not be open to the public; however, a public reception is planned for the afternoon of June 3 when people may meet the delegates.

Hosts will be asked to pick up the delegates at the Seneca College campus in King City, take them to a morning church service, and provide lunch and an opportunity to sightsee in Toronto. Hosts and delegates will return for the public reception. Additional volunteers, including drivers for airport transportation and medical assistance on-site, are also required for the weeklong meeting.

If you or your parish would like to volunteer, contact the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, at (416) 929-5184 or [wicc@wicc.org](mailto:wicc@wicc.org).

### Mary G. Griffith, B.A., M.B.A., L.L.B.

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#### KEN WHITELEY

will be the worship leader. The Gospel story is "*The Pharisee & the Tax Collector*" **Luke 18:9-14**

Ken is an incredibly accomplished musician. He is the host of the monthly Gospel Brunch at Hugh's Room, and is also a roster musician at St. John's West Anglican. Please check out his website: [www.kenwhiteley.com](http://www.kenwhiteley.com)

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# Make God accessible: evangelist

People searching for a place to belong, he says

BY NANCY DEVINE

**ANGLICANS** are intensely uncomfortable with the notion of marketing their churches, says Andrew Weeks, who was in Toronto Jan. 26-27 to present his often humorous and engaging Magnetic Church Conference.

"We are not trying to market a product," he told the participants at St. John, York Mills. "We are not trying to satisfy a consumer demand. We are trying to make God more accessible. We are a niche, not a mainstream market."

A cradle Anglican who was born and raised in Montreal, and who has since moved to the United States, Mr. Weeks stumbled across Christ Church (Episcopal) in Rhode Island.

He was not looking for God, but for community, he says. There are significant portions of the population in both the U.S. and Canada who are looking for the same thing, despite what pundits say about the 21st century being a post-religion era.

"In both countries, about 17 per cent of the population claim no religious affiliation, and there are about seven per cent who have declared themselves Anglican. These are loyal. They might not attend St. Andrew's every Sunday, but they know they will be buried

from there one day. Both those segments of the populations are available to us."

Mr. Weeks said it is a lot to expect congregations to convert that many people. However, if everyone in a congregation offered a personal invitation to one other person, it would eventually make a dent in the number of people who have no faith community.

"We have what they want," he says. "We can offer a sense of community, a sense of belonging."

He adds churches can offer personal connections in a world where many people don't have a lot of opportunity to interact with others. They are online more than they are out meeting people.

"In the U.S., it is estimated that 64 per cent of people go online at least once a day, and about 20 per cent of them say they go online to find out about churches," says Mr. Weeks. "It makes sense then to make sure your church is there, offering a welcome to them. It doesn't cost a ton of money, and it is money well spent. People will tell me they don't have the computer smarts to do it. Well, just ask one of the kids in the youth group. They know exactly what to do, and they are eager to help."

Advertising and marketing a church need not be costly, or even complicated, he says. One church



Andrew Weeks talks to 140 people from 36 parishes at the Magnetic Church conference at St. John, York Mills. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

he visited gives members four or five business cards each. Members are encouraged to pass them along to others – "even as scrap paper. People can jot down notes on the blank side and give them to others. Chances are they will turn the card over at some point."

Mr. Weeks also advocates "littering for the Lord." He encourages church members to "accidentally forget" copies of church publications, like *The Anglican*, *The Journal* and Sunday bulletins in doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms, beauty salons and other public areas. He says it is free advertising, and all the waiting may as well have a higher purpose.

"Those things hardly ever get thrown out, but even if they do, some people likely read them before the end of the day," he says.

He urged participants to look at the liturgy with fresh eyes, and

understand that a person who has never seen an Anglican service might be overwhelmed.

"Picture it: you're in a building you've never seen before, there is someone playing music you've never heard before, and suddenly, everyone stands up and people wearing medieval outfits parade in. Yes, the service is meant to be set apart, but it is not meant to be inaccessible. So let's take a minute or two to explain ourselves."

Whether they have attended service every Sunday since birth, or they are in church for the first time, humans all want the things that a giving and welcoming congregation can provide, no matter how large or small it is.

"People want to believe that life has a meaning, that they are a part of a community, that they are appreciated, that they are being listened to and heard, that they can grow spiritually, and that they will get spiritual help," he says. "They show up to be engaged and challenged. Youth want essentially the same things and, most impor-

tantly, they want to be trusted and supported, not tolerated."

Churches that can understand and respond to those needs will be successful, he adds – and good theatre never hurts.

"A good service provides an experience of God and connects us to each other. How many of the 5,000 came to see Jesus and how many were there for the fish and chips? Liturgy will not take the place of rock-solid theology, but it is important," says Mr. Weeks. "A service conducted with passion and energy is vastly different from one where everyone is aware you are just walking through it. Lay reading, for example, is a responsibility. Give Bible readings to someone who is prepared to read it properly."

Two more Magnetic Church Conferences are planned this year: Feb. 23-24 at St. Bride's, Clarkson in Mississauga; and April 27-28 at St. John the Evangelist in Peterborough.

For more information, visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).



The Rev. Canon Betty Jordan, second from right, enjoys a moment with staff and visitors at Flemingdon Park Ministry. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

## Director moving on

**THE** Rev. Canon Betty Jordan will complete her appointment as director of Flemingdon Park Ministry in May. During the past 10 years under her leadership, the storefront ministry in Don Mills has grown from serving 240 individuals to 2,000. The ministry, which is funded by FaithWorks, offers worship, Christian counselling, programs for women and children, employment assistance, settlement assistance, and a food bank. "We thank her for her dedication and tremendous work with this important ministry," said Bishop Colin Johnson.

## Priest to speak about church growth

**TWO** parishes will host the Rev. Alice Mann, author, lecturer and Episcopal pastor, in March. Ms. Mann will speak about "Growing the Community of Faith," at Grace Church, Markham, on March 2, from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased by mailing a cheque to Grace Church Tickets, 19 Parkway Ave., Markham, ON, L3P 2E9. For more information, call (905)

294-3184. She will also speak at St. James, Orillia, on "Barriers to Church Growth and Transition Struggles," on March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided and participation is limited to 200 people. The cost is \$40 per person; groups are welcome to request special rates. Call the office at (705) 325-2742 or mail to St. James Church, Box 272, 58 Peter St. N., Orillia, ON, L3V 6J6.

# Time to reflect on our priorities



**P**riorities. As I write this, the RRSP season is in full swing and companies with a good track record (note: not all of them have a good track record!) are extolling the virtues of setting aside money for retirement. We are told that middle-class Canadians will need something in the order of \$1.5 million in an RRSP account to maintain a comfortable lifestyle in our dotage. They seldom point out that the tax man, like an obstetrician, is waiting for the RRSP pregnancy to be delivered so that the deferred tax can be paid. Newspaper articles pop up from time to time speculating that the Canada Pension Plan will be in huge financial difficulty as the baby boomers hit early retirement age and create a massive drain on the system. Corporations are realizing that company pension plans are very expensive to maintain and are reverting to the immoral practice, in my opinion, of hiring people on a contract basis to avoid having to pay all the usual benefits. All of this leads to an obsessive societal worry about financial things and great fear about our future. It leads to our society's increasing ethic that life is "all about me and all about my security."

In my eyes, this flies in the face of the Gospel we claim. We say that the poor and marginalized have a preferential place in the

## BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP PHILIP POOLE

heart of God, but society conveniently ignores them, preferring academic debates to actually paying a fair minimum wage and providing a fair welfare payment to those in need. We say a labourer is worthy of his or her hire, but society finds ways of focusing on bottom lines. We say that the Gospel mandates us to give and give generously of our income (10 per cent is the biblical mandate), but the average individual gives pocket change. It amazes me that the poorest areas of our country invariably lead in Canadian charitable giving. We say our security is rooted in our faith in God, but society says it is rooted in the vagaries of the Toronto Stock Exchange. We say life is about others, but society's message is that life is about "me." We claim meaningful work is connected to the dignity of human beings, but society says "only" six per cent unemployment is something to take pride in. We claim child poverty is anathema, but governments are willing to sacrifice that on their altar of broken promises.

The season of Lent offers us a time to step back and reflect on our personal priorities.

In what I think of as one of the finest pieces of writing in the Book of Common Prayer, the exhortation for Ash Wednesday (BCP page 611)

invites us in the name of the church "to the observation of a Holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting and self-denial, and by reading and meditation upon God's holy Word." We are invited to reflect on our priorities as we actually live them out.

Self-examination is an intense practice to reflect on whether or not we are living into the values we proclaim; repentance acknowledges our faults and makes amends to those we have injured; prayer is to wait upon God and be reshaped in our relationship with God; fasting is an ancient practice of denying something physical to go deeper into our relationship with the Divine; self-denial is an ancient practice to help us reflect on the self-denying and self-giving life of Jesus for us; and reading and meditating upon God's holy Word instructs us in the will of God as expressed in our holy writings.

I invite each of us to make use of the ancient practice of the disciplines of Lent as we journey into the depths of our faith as disciples of Jesus, tracing the footsteps of His Passion which obtained for us the security for which we long. It is a tough challenge in the face of the cacophony of voices to the contrary, but we can remain confident that our loving and gracious God, the source of our security, will not abandon us and is with us every single step of the journey. May Lent be for us a rethinking of our priorities.

## BRIEFLY

### Training for new churchwardens, treasurers

The Diocese of Toronto is offering training and orientation sessions for churchwardens and treasurers in each episcopal area. Although seasoned churchwardens and treasurers are welcome to attend, the sessions will be geared to those who are new to the roles.

Topics covered will include: finance, real estate, Trusts Committee, human resources, legal, and constitution and canons. Dates are as follows:

- York-Simcoe  
Mar. 5, at St. Margaret, Barrie, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
To register, contact Jennipher Kean at (905) 833-8327.
- York-Credit Valley  
Mar. 6, at St. Matthew, Islington, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
To register, contact Susan Finlay at (416) 503-9903.
- York-Scarborough  
Mar. 8, at St. Timothy,

Agincourt from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
To register, contact Carol Brunton at (416) 497-7550.

- Trent-Durham  
March 1, 2007 at St. John, Bowmanville from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
To register, contact Heather Bennett at (905) 668-1558.

### Show colours at synod

Parishes are invited to bring their banners to the residential synod, May 3 to 5, and to arrange for someone to carry them in procession for the Eucharist. Additionally, parish banners may be dis-

played in the synod meeting space. If your parish would like to participate, contact Sue Baston at sbaston@sympatico.ca, with the word "Banners" in the subject line. You will be added to the list and will be contacted with further details as synod approaches.

### World Day of Prayer focuses on Paraguay

March 2 is the World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical celebration on the theme "United Under God's Tent." This year's service was prepared by the women of Paraguay. Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Paraguay. A number of churches in the Toronto area will host services. For host churches, call Marilyn at (416) 291-3428 or Maxine at (416) 245-8848.

### Thousands tune in to webcasts

The webcast of the First Evensong of Christmas and the Blessing of the Creche at St. James' Cathedral has been viewed 3,000 times, including 650 who watched it live on Dec. 24, 2006. The Lessons and Carols service at Christ Church, Scarborough on Dec. 3, 2006 has been viewed 1,000 times. The services are available for viewing on the diocese's website, [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).

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## The Anglican Church

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### Archbishop of Canterbury:

The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams, Lambeth Palace, London, England SE17JU.

### In Canada:

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### Primate:

The Most Rev. Andrew Hutchison, Church House, 80 Hayden 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.

### The Bishop of Toronto:

The Rt. Rev. Colin Johnson

### York-Credit Valley:

The Rt. Rev. Philip Poole

### Trent-Durham:

The Rt. Rev. Michael Bedford-Jones

### York-Scarborough:

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### York-Simcoe:

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# Caring for the clergy

They are our spiritual leaders, our counselors with words of wisdom. They provide a gentle word in a time of need and a calm presence during periods of uncertainty. They celebrate our triumphs, welcome us, and bring the joy of the love of Jesus Christ to us each day. They nurture us through life's stages and take part in our rites of passage. They do this quietly and selflessly — it is their calling.

They are the clergy of our diocese — women and men who give their lives in service to others as a witness of God's unwavering presence in our world. They give so much, and through the Bishop's Company we lay people have an opportunity to give back out of our abundance.

Founded in 1960 during the episcopacy of Bishop Fred Wilkinson, the Bishop's Company provides a pool of discretionary funds for the diocesan bishop to support emergency needs of clergy and their families. The Bishop's Company endeavours to raise awareness of the wonderful work carried out in the diocese by the clergy and to support them in times of difficulty. In recent years, the Bishop's Company has met some significant financial targets, due in large part to the dedication and commitment of lay people from across the diocese who care deeply about the well-being of our clergy.

The annual Bishop's Company Dinner, one of the focal points in the diocese's calendar, raises the single largest pool of funds in sup-

## THE STEWARD

BY PETER MISIASZEK

port of the Bishop's Company's operations. The chair of this year's 47th annual Bishop's Company Dinner is Elizabeth Hill. I asked her a few questions on why she got involved with the Bishop's Company several years ago. **PM:** Elizabeth, what is it about the Bishop's Company that attracted you in the first place? **EH:** I was first invited to join the Bishop's Company executive by Archbishop Terence Finlay. I've always had great respect for the archbishop and was intrigued by his idea of hosting a series of breakfasts. The focus of a Bishop's Company Breakfast was not to raise funds but to provide an opportunity for people to meet with the archbishop in a casual and intimate setting. I had a great deal of fun assisting in the organization of the breakfasts with a great team of people. **PM:** Why chair the Bishop's Company Dinner? **EH:** Well, once again, the bishop approached me — this time Bishop Colin Johnson. I had attended the dinners for many years so I knew something about the format. Bishop Johnson is hard to say "no" to — so here I am! **PM:** Tell me a little bit about the Bishop's Company Dinner. **EH:** The dinner is an annual event, this year being held on Apr. 23. We start with a fabulous reception, hosted by Holy Trinity, Trinity

Square, near Eaton Centre. It's a marvelous venue, a significant part of our Anglican heritage, and a great way to begin the evening. We then move to the Marriott Hotel for the dinner. We are expecting over 425 people, so it's quite an event!

**PM:** Can you give some examples of how funds have been used in the past few years?

**EH:** The bishop is always very discreet about this. In my time with the Bishop's Company, he has never revealed any details about the recipients of the fund. He has communicated that the Bishop's Company has, over the years, provided seed money for new programs that eventually became part of the diocesan operating budget, including the Employee Assistance Plan, curacy training for newly ordained clergy, funding for an aboriginal priest working in downtown Toronto, scholarships for advanced training, and a ground-breaking Clergy Wellness Study.

**PM:** If someone wants to attend the Bishop's Company Dinner or participate in the activities of the Bishop's Company, whom should they contact?

**EH:** By the time you read this, you might think it's too late to attend the dinner — but it's not! We would love to see you there. Please contact Sheryl Thorpe at (416) 363-6021, ext. 243 or call 1-800-668-8932, ext. 243.

*Peter Misiaszek is the diocese's director of Stewardship Development.*

## LAY READER IN TRAINING

BY NANCY DEVINE

# Not for the faint of heart

Dear Diary:

So far, we've gone through lectionary readings and picked out themes for sermons. I have to confess, I feel really bad about all the times I've let my mind wander during sermons and homilies.

This is hard work, and we had an easy topic. All the readings appointed for the first Sunday of Advent talked about the hope and promise of salvation and the coming of Jesus Christ. Fair enough. The subject matter is easy, but the trick of a ripping good Sunday sermon is to make it relevant on Monday morning.

Try preaching about hope in the Messiah to someone whose misanthropic boss seems to lie in wait for them with stacks of impossible and possibly useless assignments. Endless platitudes about the promise of life eternal ring false and flat to those who are barely coping with the challenges of this present life.

Preaching is not for the faint of heart, but I like the idea of doing it in the same way I think it would be fun to skydive — I'm just not sure what I'll be like when I strap on the parachute.

The beauty and joy of the scriptures is that there are a thousand roads to travel before you hit the wisdom of the message. The journeys are necessary because they take you to places you've never been. Like any journey, you may not love the places you visit, but they are instructive nonetheless.

In our discussions about the readings, we eventually found common ground and took a run at writing a sermon by committee. It is a challenge to give depth to your words and wrap them into a package suitable for giving to your fellow travelers.

I'm not sure how we did. The point of the exercise was more about sales and service than public relations.

In our next meeting, we will be looking at ways to make intercessory prayer more effective. I am turning that over in my mind right now. How do we pray for people? How do we come before God and ask for a little bit more than the grace we have already been given? These are two large and daunting questions for me.

So, Anglican prayer beads in hand, I try and focus my mind on things above. In the meantime, the earthly things like deadlines, the family, and that mountain of laundry everyone is ignoring fight for my attention. I guess my first prayer is for a universal mute button.

God and I need to talk.

*Nancy Devine attends All Saints, King City.*

# Trip sheds light on what matters

Little Miss Sunshine has been described as "hilarious" by some critics, but while I enjoyed the movie very much, I am not sure I would classify it as a comedy. An opening scene sees Sheryl Hoover rushing to the hospital to pick up her brother, Frank, who tried to commit suicide. The lonely and fearful Frank has to move in with Sheryl, her husband Richard, their children, Olive and Dwayne, and the children's grandfather. Grandpa is addicted to cocaine and has been kicked out of a retirement home. Richard is obsessed with a self-help program he has developed and is trying to market. Dwayne is fascinated with the writings of Nietzsche and refuses to speak. Olive, the youngest, has entered a beauty contest to be the next Little Miss Sunshine. The family lives in New Mexico. The contest is in California. They pile into their Volkswagen van, and the journey begins.

Despite some humorous moments, this family seems to be driving towards disaster. They argue about everything from ice cream to the meaning of the phrase "a la carte." Only Dwayne and Frank have a clue about what is happening as they see the family relation-

## THROUGH A CHRISTIAN LENS

BY THE REV. MICHAEL CALDERWOOD

### Little Miss Sunshine

ships spinning out of control. Richard wants his daughter to succeed because he has built his life on the creed that people are divided into winners and losers. But Olive isn't buying it. She dances her way through the chaos, reminding us that life is not about winning and losing.

After numerous delays, the Hoovers arrive at the contest. Olive is ready to compete, but neither she nor her family is prepared for the façade of the beauty contest culture. Yet this lie becomes a catalyst for the family's self-examination and conversion. As the contest unfolds, Richard slowly opens his eyes. Dwayne and Frank see the façade clearly because they have known it all along. Dwayne desperately declares that life — school, work, family — is just one big beauty pageant. He cannot stand the games. It hurts too much and makes him

angry. Frank, however, suggests that the pain and suffering lead us into something new. Dwayne and Frank grow in the film, as Dwayne uncovers strength by seeking forgiveness and Frank gives himself permission to connect with others in a spirit of joy and hope.

It would be simplistic to see Olive as the character who brings sunshine and life into her family. The sun shines throughout the entire movie. Frank and Sheryl just cannot see it. They have everything they need; they just need to stop striving so hard.

The acting is excellent and the script is engaging though there is quite a bit of swearing. This is a powerful film, echoing stories where Jesus heals a man born blind, speaks with a woman at a well, or has that midnight chat with Nicodemus. During this season of Lent, we remember how Jesus peels back the darkness and sets us free. Little Miss Sunshine is about freedom, about the standards by which we live our lives, dancing along the path illuminated by the elegance of simplicity.

*The Rev. Michael Calderwood is the incumbent of St. Paul's, Brighton.*

# We do care

## EDITOR'S CORNER

BY STUART MANN

She was sitting on a bench, rocking back and forth, her baby clutched to her chest. She wouldn't let anyone come near her. Even passers-by were met with a hard stare and a muttered threat.

A closer look revealed that her

baby was a stuffed teddy bear, wrapped in a little cloth. The rickety baby carriage beside her was in fact a collapsible shopping cart, its contents hidden by a faded blanket.

She was sitting in a crowd of mostly men who, like her, were homeless. The ravages of street life were carved into her face. I couldn't imagine what she had seen in her life, or what she was thinking now.

So this is where it goes, I thought. The money that we put on the collection plate each week or give to FaithWorks — a part of it pays for places like this, a

warm room where men and women, many mentally ill, can escape from the cold. They can eat a hot meal and talk to someone who will actually listen to them. For a few hours they can live with some sort of dignity.

Good on the church, I thought. Despite the busy-ness of life, the demands on our pocketbooks, and our own ambitions, we still find the time and the money to care for the lost and forgotten.

\*\*\*

You will have read already that St. Aidan's in Toronto's Beach community is opening its doors to the homeless one night each

week. Some residents had complained that they were not consulted properly and threatened to close the program.

The real story, however, is how many local residents did support the program. A friend of mine who lives in the Beach has now started calling St. Aidan's "my church" even though she is a life-long United Church member. Another friend has started volunteering at St. Aidan's — and telling her friends about it.

It just goes to show that people still want to help others, and many consider the local church to be the place where that should happen.

# Young mission-goers treasure friendships

Relationships with people in other parts of world motivate youth to travel

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

A family in Juarez, Mexico, has Andrea Brandt's wedding picture. Maybe they've stuck it in the family album or perhaps it's on the bedroom wall, along with other family mementos. The Mexican family is not related to Ms. Brandt, 28, a registered nurse who is a member of Trinity, Barrie. They are new friends she made when she was in Juarez on a week-long mission in 2003.

"On my last mission trip, we were building houses for families," says Ms. Brandt. "I actually got close to the family that we were helping. We really got attached and although there was such a language barrier, it didn't matter, we were so close. My sister went back the next year — unfortunately, I was not able to — and they were asking about me. They sent pictures back to me, and my sister happened to have one of my wedding pictures on her, so she gave them that."

When you ask young people about their mission experiences, do not expect to be regaled with self-congratulatory stories of houses they helped build or patients they treated. Those things are important to them, of course. But the part they are really interested in telling you about, the part you sense inspired awe and gratitude in them, the part they treasure, is the relationships they made with people in other parts of the world, the glimpses they got into lives very different from their own.

Tony Crasto, 28, still gets daily

## MISSION TRIP TO KENYA

*In July, the Rev. Canon Kim Beard will lead a group of more than 90 people on a mission trip to Kenya. Join staff writer Henrieta Paukov in future issues of The Anglican as she follows the group on their journey of transformation through service and learning.*

emails from friends he made on a three-week mission trip to Odessa, in the Ukraine, in November 2006. His mission group was there to help finish building a church with local Christians. Mr. Crasto, a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Oshawa, explains that now that Ukrainians are free to express their religious beliefs, after decades of Communist suppression, the country has many Christians and not enough churches. His group was warmly welcomed by their Ukrainian hosts.

"They actually sent people from the church to the airport to welcome us, so there was a bit of a welcome party at the airport," he says. "We really knew they were happy to have us there. Prior to that we received emails from them. They were so excited we were coming, they moved their thanksgiving service, which is usually in September, to November, because they wanted to celebrate with us. It was a huge service, with lots of skits, acting, and singing. Then they cleared out the church and set up long tables parallel to each other, and we all had a

thanksgiving meal together.

"They worked alongside of us during the week as we built," he says. "The hardest part was that they spoke Russian and another language; none of them spoke English. We needed a translator, so it was really quite difficult, but at the same time it didn't matter that we couldn't speak to each other. There was already a bond and a familiarity there because we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. So it wasn't as much of a barrier as I thought it might be, not being able to communicate directly with someone."

Mr. Crasto says that young Ukrainians were very involved with the life of the church, while the older generation was more reserved, perhaps because of the persecution they had had to face in the past. "When I noticed that, I started to try to get to know them and hang out, and they wanted to get to know me and what we do at home with the youth," he says. "We actually became quite tight and a real friendship developed there."

"The last day I didn't want to leave because of the friendships I made with them. They were my age, and we are all passionate about Christ. It was definitely hard. That's where the language barrier came in again. There were only two guys who could speak English and Russian so I had to speak through them. There was one guy who didn't speak a bit of English and a couple of nights we didn't have translators, so we just kind of hung out. I would have thought it would be impossible, but I look



**Clockwise from above: Tony Crasto (far left) socializes with the young people he met and worked alongside on his trip to the Ukraine in 2006; Mr. Crasto shares a bottle of bubbles with a little girl he met on a mission to Guatemala; Andrea Brandt, left, shares a smile with a family from Juarez, Mexico, where she helped build houses on a mission in 2003.**



back and I think that he's one of my closest friends. When I was leaving, he delivered this message through the translator to me, saying: 'I know you are going back home and I may not see you but we're brothers in Christ and when we get to heaven, I'll find you and we'll be able to see each other again.' It was a really emotional thing."

Both Ms. Brandt and Mr. Crasto will join the mission group led by the Rev. Canon Kim Beard, which is traveling to Kenya in July. Ms. Brandt will work as a nurse at an orphanage in Nairobi and Mr. Crasto will do children's ministry. Both are inspired to go on this trip by the positive experiences of their past mission

trips. Other young people who are going on this mission, like Emma Bradbury, 29, a member of Wishing Well Acres Baptist Church, are new to mission travel and are motivated by a simple desire to help others.

"I had a feeling about this time last year that I needed to do some-

## Synod set for May

Continued from Page 1

of synod. There will be an opening eucharist on Thursday evening and a closing eucharist on Saturday morning, at which the bishop will deliver his charge to synod.

Youth synod will take place at the same time and venue as diocesan synod, allowing youth to be involved in synod in more ways than ever before. "There will be several fundamental differences in youth involvement in this synod," says Simon Chambers, the diocese's youth ministry consultant. "First, youth synod as a body will be interacting directly with diocesan synod. We will be worshipping together, youth synod members will participate in some of synod's discussions, and youth will be part of the Bible study and concurrent sessions on Friday afternoon, when the dreaming and

visioning will take place.

"Young people will also lead community-building exercises with both bodies on Thursday night, and will be participating in the HIV/AIDS education process on Friday night. They are welcome and invited to all activities being planned by the social subcommittee."

Youth synod's memorials and motions will be brought directly to diocesan synod, allowing the larger synod to know what the youth have discussed even before the sessions are over. Adds Mr. Chambers: "These concurrent synods represent an enormous opportunity for the youth of the diocese and the diocese's governing body to interact, pray, and dream together."

For more information on synod, visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca) and click on Synod.



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we realized that the themes were actually very similar. So she lent me *Hotel Rwanda* and after I watched that, I felt incredibly helpless and yet I wanted to help.

"I went through the process of talking to the Red Cross to see if there was something I could do in the community and nothing seemed to fit quite right. And then this came up and I thought this is what I want to do." She says she doesn't know yet whether this trip to Kenya, where she will work with children, will satisfy that craving to do something. "I don't know. I think that it's a step. I hope that it's not the only step I take."

There is no doubt that Ms. Bradbury and her fellow mission-goers will learn a lot in Kenya. Those who have been on missions before express an appreciation for the opportunity to view their Canadian lives from a new angle. Hayley Pettapiece-Phillips, 16, another member of the Kenya mission team and a member of St. Paul's on-the-Hill, Pickering, says: "On my mission to the Philippines, I learned so much. A trip like this gives a person perspective, especially for teenagers, because teenagers are all about materialistic things. We don't really know anything

about the world. I learned about how people live and how even though they do not have anything, they have each other and that's the most important thing. They care for other people so much. It's not the same at all in Canada and I wish it could be, because we all have so much and we don't appreciate the people. They are the total opposite."

Ms. Brandt had a similar experience in Mexico. "You get touched by so many things, so many aspects of the way they live in other places, you learn so much about different cultures and about what's really important in life," she says. "They focus so much on family and God. It's just a different culture and they welcome you into it. And although you are doing something for them, they are doing so much for you as well. You don't think, 'I'm going to go and help them, and oh, wow, I'm a great person because I built a house for someone, or I went and worked as a nurse for someone who really needed it.'" You say, "Wow, I was able to help them, but did they ever open my eyes to this, this and this. So it's not like you are just giving. You are giving and taking at the same time."

Mr. Crasto says that mission



thing," says Ms. Bradbury. "I just didn't know what. What brought it about was a Christmas gift from my Dad. He bought my mom and me a DVD for Christmas in 2005. I got *Schindler's List* and my mom got *Hotel Rwanda*. We each watched our movie, and then

## Churches begin creative journey

**MORE** than 100 people gathered at St. Wilfrid's, Islington, on Feb. 6 to mark and celebrate two conversations which are taking place between churches in York-Credit Valley.

Seven congregations in the North Etobicoke-Weston area and five congregations in the Mimico-Lakeshore area are talking and working together to create faithful, effective and sustainable ministry.

"These two groups have launched out on a scary and creative journey to dare to ask what it is that God is calling the Anglican Church to be in those areas," said Bishop Philip Poole in a homily at St. Wilfrid's.

"It is scary because the needs of these areas are enormous and the task ahead is a real challenge

for those of us who believe that Jesus Christ calls us to make a difference in the community in which we live and move and have our being," he said. "It is exciting because we are in this together; we are not isolated ships floating on our own; we're part of a family which includes our brother and sister Anglicans."

Representatives from each congregation in those areas have formed a steering committee to "dream new dreams, imagine new possibilities and see new paths on which Anglicans might journey," he said. They will make their recommendations in June to Bishop Poole, Diocesan Council, and their own parish vestries.

Similar conversations are taking place between congregations in Parkdale deanery and

along the St. Clair Avenue West corridor, both located in York-Credit Valley.

Bishop Poole said he is impressed with the willingness of parishes to undertake these conversations. He said the process leading up to the recommendations will be collaborative and consultative. He also promised that a decision will be made on the recommendations.

"These are pioneering discussions which may serve as a model for other (episcopal) areas of the diocese as we seek faithful, effective and sustainable Anglican ministry," he said. "There was a positive and realistic spirit at St. Wilfrid's as people recognized both the realities and the possibilities their churches face."

## Go on virtual mission with online journal

**S**hare in the exciting buildup to the Kenya Mission through the written word, photos and a map on a blog — a personal online journal others can read and comment on — kept by staff writer Henrieta Paukov, who will accompany the team to Kenya. Here's an excerpt from her latest entry:

"As soon as I accepted this assignment, I became very curious about the topic of missions. Why do Christians go on missions, anyway? What can we accomplish in the short time that we spend in a developing nation?"

"I talked to Alice Schuda, co-director of the Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries which prepares people for cross-cultural mission and ministry. She told me how important it is to go into the mission experience with humility and a willingness to learn. Mission-goers should not expect to solve the challenges their hosts face in the two or three weeks that they are visiting. Something she said really resonated with me: 'The product

of the mission experience is really in our transformed faith. We are transformed by that experience, and therefore we come back and live transformed lives in our congregations.'

"I really love the idea that missions can not only have a positive impact on the host country, but can also inspire positive change right here in our own communities. The idea of transformation also comes up over and over in my conversations with members of the team who have been on missions before. I wonder what transformation I can expect in my own thinking and in my own faith? Will the experience shake me out of my complacency and challenge the comfortable self-centeredness of my days?"

To reach the blog, go to <http://kenyamission.blogspot.com> or visit [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca) and click Kenya Mission: A Blog. You are invited to use the Comment feature to share your comments and observations.

travel has also helped in the development of his faith. "I think we compartmentalize the Lord," he says. "We shrink Him down a bit. It just kind of happens. We think He's just in our church, or just in our city, or just in Toronto, or just in Canada. Or at least I do. And going abroad to these places reminds me that He's working in so many different areas in

the world and along different lines. Maybe He's doing something here in Toronto, but it's totally different from what He's doing in Central America and what He's doing in Europe. Mission travel has broadened my awareness of what he is capable of. It reminds me that I cannot shrink him down, that He's so big and He's doing all these great things."

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# Fund for businesses winds down

Helped low-income earners turn ideas into action

BY MURRAY MACADAM

**"WE** made a difference in many lives. Let us go with heads held high for what we accomplished."

Angela David ended her final report as chair of the Anglican Community Development Fund with those words. They serve as a fitting tribute to the work of this unique institution.

Until recently, it was difficult for low-income earners to start their own businesses, because banks and credit unions generally would not lend them the money to get started. That led a group of Anglicans to see what they could do in response.

"The Diocese of Toronto was one of a very few groups providing seed funds for new community initiatives," recalls Ann Keating, who worked for the Community Ministries Board, which helped launch the fund.

With \$35,000 in start-up funding from the diocese, the Anglican Community Development Fund was born in 1994. In the decade that followed, the fund made loans to more than 35 small businesses, with a payback success rate of 60 to 65 per cent. Loans ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000, at low interest. Applicants needed a good busi-

ness plan and had to show they had been turned down for a bank loan. Thanks to careful stewardship, the fund totalled \$41,000 by the time it was wound down.

Some businesses launched were quite successful, such as Bofa International, an importer of specialty locks, and Canadian Profile, a manufacturer of children's clothing for stores such as Creed's.

Key to the fund's success was the active involvement of business people on the board. Some of them acted as mentors to the fledgling entrepreneurs, providing badly needed advice and moral support. "It involved people in the business world who wanted to help other people get a leg up and be independent," says Ann Abraham, who played a leading role since the fund's inception. "The business community made a tremendous contribution."

Affluent Anglicans in business who might have never met a disadvantaged person came to work directly with low-income people on practical business issues. "We provided a ministry to the community that reached people who were at times difficult to reach," says Ms. David.

In recent years the number of



Dillvan Johnson works in his wood-working shop after receiving a startup loan in 1995. At right, the fund's board gathers for the last time. From left are Bishop Johnson, Kerry Lawson, Sheila Goulet, Ann Abraham, the Very Rev. Duncan Abraham, Janet Carnegie, Jim Bacon, Peter Stinson, Peter Baker, Angela David. Missing from photo is Carla Cassidy.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND DAVID LAURENCE



loan applications declined, along with the quality of the businesses involved. Those factors, plus the fact that banks and credit unions were doing more to help low-income businesspeople, led the fund's board to conclude that the project had made its contribution and it was time to wrap it up.

Bishop Colin Johnson thanked board members for their dedicated service at a farewell worship service and luncheon held Dec.

18. "Thank you for the idea of the fund, the energy and the difference you made in people's lives," he said.

## What's in a name? A lot, to kids

**M**om, what was Noah's wife's name?" my then five-year-old daughter Michaela asked as she and her brother Matthew played with a toy ark and its animals.

"Who?" I replied.

"Noah's wife."

"I don't know – the Bible never tells us her name."

"Well, I'm going to call her Grace."

And so it began: the naming of those who weren't named. My children gave names to Noah's wife, then the shepherds who came to see baby Jesus, then the soldiers who took Jesus to the cross. Each time a Bible story was read and someone was unnamed, one of my children named them. To my children, names made the people in the stories more real, more personal.

Names are so important. We all have one, and we would like others to know it. Ministry is about knowing a name – personally getting to know someone. It is about the relationship we create as we allow others to know us, too.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BY LAURA WALTON-CLOUSTON

The foundation of good children's ministry is centered on healthy relationships – getting to know a child and building trust and mutual respect. A church community needs to be a place where a child feels needed, loved and understood. The community needs to emphasize that not only does it want to know the child, but to help the child learn about his or her relationship with God and Jesus Christ. The community is integral in showing a child that he or she is a child of God – his beloved.

Those working in the field of children's ministry are meeting a new generation of church-goers with a new generation of children. The way we have done children's ministry in the past is evolving. We've been handed down many wonderful gifts to work with, but we need to re-focus and re-create. We need to look beyond Sunday

School and create programs that nurture children's relationships with those in their church, thus bringing them into a closer relationship with Christ. We all know that the days of all families going to church every Sunday morning are in the past. Our ministries now have to consider hockey, soccer, shift work, single-parent families, overworked families, financial strains and time challenges. We need to equip not only our children's ministry staff for these dynamics, but the families of the children as well. We can do this through the creation and strengthening of relationships at formal and informal gatherings.

Programs that bring us into contact and help us support young children and their families will build these bridges and enhance relationships. By learning a name,

meeting a family or offering a handshake, we create a passage to new beginnings. Sunday School programs need to be flexible, fun and informative. Programs such as homework groups, outreach for kids, movie nights and easy-to-follow worship services all create an environment that enhances children's ministry and lets us build relationships that work with this new generation of children and their families. Really, it's as simple as asking a child how school is going, how their hockey team is doing or what their doll's name is. So get down on one knee, ask a child their name, remember it and start to build a new relationship with the child and their family. Warmly welcome them and bring them home to your church community.

*Laura Walton-Clouston is the diocese's Children's Ministry Network Coordinator. She attends Christ Church, Batteau in the Parish of Batteau, Duntroon and Singhampton.*



**Skiers, snowboarders welcome at service**

“We finally have snow and lots of it!” says the Rev. Heather Stacey, incumbent of All Saints, Collingwood. Every Saturday night during the ski season, the parish invites visiting skiers and snowboarders to join in a candlelight eucharist at 5 p.m., followed by wine and cheese in the parish hall. Dress is casual and people are welcome to come straight from the hills.

“The communion service is geared to be meditative and reflective — an opportunity to sink into the experience of being in the presence of God,” says Ms. Stacey, who credits the Wednesday night liturgy at St. George’s on-the-Hill in Etobicoke with providing the blueprint. “There’s no need for prayer books because it is too dark to see. It is beautiful Anglican worship straight from the Book of Alternative Services. The music is magnificent — Taize chanting, instrumental violin, flute and piano contribute to the reverential mood.

“We at All Saints’ think we have a unique opportunity in this diocese to minister to the many guests and visitors to this beautiful part of the province. We have celebrated an after-ski service here for the last 10 years. This year we are quite delighted with the attendance — between 25 and 40 — and that was before we had snow. Please come and see.”

**Primate visits for anniversary**

St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto, welcomed Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate, and his wife Lois on Jan. 14, as the parish began a year of celebrations marking its centennial. The Primate celebrated and preached at the 11 a.m. service.

“In his inspiring sermon, the Primate reminded us that 100 years is a joyful miracle, a miracle of tremendous abundance,” says parishioner Elsa Jones. “It is God’s outpouring of the abundance of his love to each of us in this worldwide communion.” After the service, visitors and parishioners enjoyed lunch and socializing.

**St. Hilda’s Towers celebrates 30 years**

St. Hilda’s Towers, a retirement residence associated with St. Hilda’s, Fairbank, kicked off its 30th anniversary celebrations with a Tropical Festival. Over 100 of St. Hilda’s residents, as well as friends, family and guests from the community, were treated to an evening in the tropics featuring “Band Bacardi,” a five-piece Latin band that kept the party-goers dancing.

St. Hilda’s Towers opened its doors to seniors in 1977, after the Bishop of Toronto challenged all parishes in the diocese to develop unique programs beneficial to their local communities. St. Hilda’s, Fairbank, recognized the growing need for affordable housing for seniors. A proposal was placed before the congregation, which approved the demolition of the original church and the construction of St. Hilda’s Towers and a



**From top: visitors and parishioners at All Saints, Collingwood enjoy wine and cheese after the candle-lit eucharist; residents of St. Hilda’s Towers enjoy a celebration during its 30th anniversary year; Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate, poses with the Rev. Jeffrey Brown, incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels, far right, and choir members.**

**BOTTOM PHOTO BY STEVE BLACKBURN**

new church. Since then, St. Hilda’s Towers has been striving to provide seniors with a high quality of life, independent living and freedom of choice.

All are invited to 30th anniversary celebrations at St. Hilda’s Towers throughout 2007, including St. George’s Day, a Canada Day barbecue and Oktoberfest. For more information, contact (416) 781-6621, ext. 216.

**Parish of Georgina turns 150**

The Parish of Georgina is celebrating its 150th anniversary throughout 2007 with special services, guest clergy, and events. All former parishioners are invited to the celebrations. For further information, contact the church office at (905) 722-3726, or St. James Anglican Church, Box 88 Sutton West, Ontario, L0E 1R0, or visit [www.parishofgeorgina.org](http://www.parishofgeorgina.org).

**St. George’s, Pickering celebrates anniversary**

St. George’s in Pickering will celebrate its 175th anniversary with a dinner and dance on May 5, as well as a reunion service and luncheon on Nov. 4. The parish was founded at Duffin’s Creek in 1832. In 1856, villagers began to build a church on the present-day site. The building was built by local craftspeople in a style they brought with them from England.



Today, the 145-year-old church is one of the oldest and best preserved churches in the Durham region. In 2002, the parish began renovations on the original parish hall to include new accessible washroom facilities, a bright kitchen area, a quiet room for parents of young children, and a large worship area that can accommodate about 400 people.

St. George’s, Pickering, invites all current and former parishioners to come and celebrate the history of the parish throughout 2007. For more information, contact Mary Jane Tiller at (905) 683-3637 or the church office at (905) 683-7981, or visit [www.stgeorgeschurch.ca](http://www.stgeorgeschurch.ca).

**Bishop to lead mission in Barrie**

Bishop Malcolm Harding of Manitoba will be conducting a Holy Week Mission at Trinity Anglican Church in Barrie at the end of March. Bishop Harding, who is the ambassador for Anglican Renewal Ministries, will be sharing his thoughts on “how we are



saved to serve.” This will take place beginning on March 31 at the Men’s Breakfast and continue through Holy Week until Good Friday, April 6. There will be special lunch-hour talks and evening addresses by Bishop Harding, all of which are outlined on the church website, [www.trinitybarrie.ca](http://www.trinitybarrie.ca). All are welcome to come and learn to be “Spirit led and Spirit filled” at this mission. For

more information, call the church at (705) 728-2691.

**Share your news**

Do you have parish news you’d like to share with readers? Email your stories and photos to Henrieta Paukov at [hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca) or mail them to The Anglican, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5C 1L8.

# Synod brings youth, adults together

**P**lease put the following date in your calendar: Thursday, May 3, 2007. On this day, ministry in our diocese will take a large step down the path called "intergenerational ministry."

From May 3 to May 5, our diocesan synod and youth synod will be meeting concurrently at Durham College in Oshawa. This will be an exciting chance for many generations of Anglicans to gather, share, worship, and learn about how our fellow Anglicans are involved in mission and ministry in our parishes, our diocese, Canada and the world.

The phrase "intergenerational ministry" has become something of a buzzword in the church in recent years. We know we want it, but we aren't exactly sure what it is. Within youth ministry, intergenerational ministry involves integrating youth, children, and adults into the life of the

## BEYOND YOUTH GROUP

BY SIMON CHAMBERS

congregation. It is about building strong, Christian relationships between all the members of God's family to aid them in living out God's mission in the world. It is a wonderful vision. But how do we begin?

I hear from many parishes that youth ministry is an area they wish to focus on, and that youth are important to the parish. I also hear from youth, particularly at youth synod, that they want to be more involved in the life of their parishes and to build meaningful relationships with adults. The will is there on both sides. It is taking the first steps that can be daunting.

That is why this synod will be so important. Close to 1,000 adults and youth will be building relationships with each other

through the course of the three days of synod. I am very excited about the concurrent sessions process, which will join adults and youth in studying the Bible together and building an understanding of how we as Anglicans in the Diocese of Toronto can discern and live out God's call to us in the future.

Youth synod members will be present for and able to speak to some of the motions being addressed by diocesan synod, and youth synod's motions will be brought directly to diocesan synod for their reception. There will be time to socialize each evening, as well as time to worship with each other.

There will also be time for each body to

do its own separate work. Youth synod will meet to formulate and discuss the motions that are of particular interest to its members while diocesan synod discusses its motions. But much of our time will be spent with both bodies combined as we attempt to model what intergenerational ministry is all about.

So please mark May 3-5 in your calendar! Encourage youth in your parish to attend youth synod. If you are a member of diocesan synod, make a point of greeting and welcoming youth synod members. On May 6, ask those who participated about the event. I am sure you will hear stories of how God is at work in our diocese, helping us to build communities of hope and compassion.

*Simon Chambers is the diocese's consultant in youth ministry.*

## LOOKING AHEAD

Items for Looking Ahead should be emailed to [hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca). The deadline for the May 2007 issue is April 1.

## Services

**MAR. 4** — The Rev. Canon Bill Kiblewhite is the guest preacher at the 11 a.m. service at St. Michael and All Angels, 611 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, as the parish continues the celebration of its 100th anniversary. Call (416) 653-3593.

**MAR. 18** — Jazz Vespers featuring the Bob DeAngelis Trio at St. Philip's, Etobicoke, 25 St. Phillips Rd., at 4 p.m. For information, call (416) 247-5181.

**MAR. 31** — U2charist at St. Thomas, Brooklin, at 7 p.m. A clash of high church liturgy with contemporary rock music and video. The offering from this liturgy will go to the ONE campaign for HIV/AIDS. For more information, call (905) 655-3883.

**APR. 15** — Jazz Vespers featuring Roselyn Brown and Maracatu Nunca Antes (saxophone and Brazilian drums) at St. Philip's, Etobicoke, 25 St. Phillips Rd., at 4 p.m. For information, call (416) 247-5181.

**APR. 29** — Bishop Patrick Yu joins the Rev. Anthony Bassett and the congregation of St. Margaret, North Toronto, at the 11 a.m. service, as the parish celebrates its 75th anniversary. A reception follows the service. The parish warmly welcomes all former parishioners to attend. For information, call (416) 783-7680.

## Conferences/Social

**FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28** — A series on the early Christian church, at St. Olave, Swansea, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto. Evensong at 6 p.m., followed by light supper and discussion with the Rev. David Burrows. For more details, call (416) 769-5686.

**MAR. 3** — Join the parishioners at St. Theodore of Canterbury, 111 Cactus Ave., Toronto, at 6 p.m. to celebrate Chinese New Year. Cost is \$20. Call the church office at (416) 222-2461.

**MAR. 17** — Water: A Sacred Gift, An Aboriginal Perspective, pre-

sented by Sr. Priscilla Solomon of the Anishnaabe (Ojibway) Nation from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at St. Barnabas, Chester, 361 Danforth Ave. (at Chester subway), Toronto. Sponsored by the Toronto East KAIROS Committee for Development and Peace. Free Admission. Call (416) 466-0566.

**MAR. 20** — The Church of the Redeemer invites you to An Evening with Mark, a novel way to experience and understand the Gospel of Mark through stories, music and reflection, from 7 to 9 p.m. The church is located at 162 Bloor St. W. at Avenue Road. There is no charge but participants must register by Mar. 16. To register, call (416) 922-4948, or visit [www.there-deemer.ca](http://www.there-deemer.ca) and select News/Information. Childcare may be arranged during registration. A community meal will be available for \$5 per person in the parish hall from 6 to 7 p.m.

**APR. 27-29** — AWARE conference at Geneva Park near Orillia. All women are welcome. Deepen your relationship with God, enjoy workshops and small groups, discover your personal gifts and learn how to use them, and experience creative corporate worship. The fee is \$270 if paid in full before Mar. 15; \$285 after Mar. 15. For more information and registration, visit [www.awareconference.org](http://www.awareconference.org) or call the registrar, Valerie Wilson at (905) 428-0295.

**APR. 29** — The second annual tribute dinner in memory of the Most Rev. Edward (Ted) Scott, O.C., will be held at St. Simon-the-Apostle, 525 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Evensong will be at 5 p.m., followed by reception and dinner, with guest speaker the Hon. Bill Graham. Free-will offering to support the Stephen Lewis Foundation and PWRDF; charitable receipts will be issued. Tickets go on sale in March. For more information or to reserve, call (416) 923-8714 or email [stsimon@on.aibn.com](mailto:stsimon@on.aibn.com).

**MAY 4-6** — AWARE Elim Lodge offers an excellent speaker, small group discussion, and inspiring music with time for solitude, fun and fellowship. The speaker is the Rev. Judy Paulsen, incumbent of Christ Memorial, Oshawa, and the chaplain is the Rev. Ruth Knapp from St. Mark's, Midland. Music



## SIGNING COVENANT

The Rev. Maurice Francois, priest in charge of San Esteban, a Spanish-speaking congregation in Toronto, signs a covenant with Holy Trinity, Trinity Square as Bishop Philip Poole and Holy Trinity wardens Vivian Harrower and Steven Loweth look on. San Esteban began worshipping at Holy Trinity on Jan. 7. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

will be provided by Catherine Hawley and her group. The contact is Linda Finigan at (905) 668-4969 or [blfinigan@rogers.com](mailto:blfinigan@rogers.com). Registration forms are available at <http://www.geocities.com/awarepeterborough/>.

## Sales

**APR. 14** — Grace Church, Markham, 19 Parkway Ave., will hold its famous semi-annual rummage sale from 9 a.m. until noon. Bargains galore, including clothing for all sizes, linens, household goods and small appliances, books, toys, and much more. Call (905) 294-3184.

**APR. 21** — St. Margaret's, North Toronto, 53 Burnaby Blvd., is holding a spring sale from 1 to 3 p.m. Enjoy a books and baking bonanza. Gently used clothing will also be sold. For further information, call (416) 783-7680.

## Drama and Poetry

**MAR. 24** — The Real Inspector

Hound performed by St. John's Seasoned Players at 7:30 p.m. A Tom Stoppard "whodunit" set in an old English Country manor. Tickets \$15 at Ticketmaster, (416) 872-1111 or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), or in person at the Toronto Centre for the Arts box office, 5040 Yonge St., Toronto.

**MAR. 24 & 25** — Beauty and the Beast performed by the St. John's Youth Players at 2 p.m. For the whole family! Tickets \$15 for adults and \$12 for children at Ticketmaster, (416) 872-1111 or [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca), or in person at the Toronto Centre for the Arts box office, 5040 Yonge St., Toronto.

**MAY 19** — The St. Thomas Poetry Series launches Poetry as Liturgy: An Anthology by Canadian Poets, at St. Thomas', 383 Huron St., Toronto, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, email [dkent@centennialcollege.ca](mailto:dkent@centennialcollege.ca), or visit [www.sthomas.on.ca](http://www.sthomas.on.ca).

## Music

**MAR. 11** — A Sunday afternoon

organ recital at St. John's Convent, home of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Hear Bruce Kirkpatrick Hill on the new Hal Gober tracker-action organ. The recital begins at 4:15 p.m., followed by evensong at 5 p.m. Free-will offering. To reserve your spot for the talking supper afterwards (cost \$10), call (416) 226-2201, ext. 305.

**APR. 22** — VocalPoint Chamber Choir presents "Finzi and Friends," a program featuring music by Finzi, Vaughan Williams and Britten, at 3 p.m., at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Rd., Toronto. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students. Purchase at the door or call (416) 484-0185.

**MAY 6** — Musicfest — "Oh Canada" at St. John's, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto, at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. A lighthearted look at the artists and music of Canada with audience participation featuring voice, instruments and handbells. Call (416) 225-6611. Adults \$15; children \$5.

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**deadlines**

May 2007  
Deadline Apr. 1/07

June 2007  
Deadline May 1/07

September 2007  
Deadline Aug. 1/07

## IN MOTION

### Appointments

- The Rev. Simon Li, Incumbent, St. John, Toronto, Jan. 1
- The Rev. Dana Dickson, Incumbent, St. Paul, Uxbridge, Feb. 1
- The Rev. Maryann Somerville, Priest-in-Charge, St. Columba and All Hallows, Feb. 1
- The Rt. Rev. Douglas Blackwell, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John, York Mills, Feb. 1
- The Rev. Brian Flower (Rupert's Land), Incumbent, St. Leonard, Toronto, Feb. 14
- The Rev. Canon David Barker, Incumbent, St. Simon-the-Apostle, Toronto, Mar. 1
- The Rev. Beverly Hall, Honorary Assistant, St. Matthew and St. Aidan, Buckhorn
- The Rev. Mary Ryback, Incumbent, Parish of Colborne and Grafton, May 1

### 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):
- St. Matthew, Oshawa
  - St. Paul, Lindsay

- St. James, Caledon East
- Messiah
- Holy Trinity, Guildwood
- St. Timothy, North Toronto
- St. Andrew, Scarborough

### Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee Receiving Names

- (via Area Bishop):
- Christ Church, Campbellford (Trent-Durham)
  - St. John, York Mills (York-Scarborough)

### Third Phase - Parish Selection Committee Interviewing

- (via Area Bishop):
- Parish of Ida & Omeme
  - All Saints, Peterborough
  - St. Andrew, Alliston
  - Trinity Barrie - Associate Priest

### Retirements

- The Rev. Canon William Kibblewhite has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Andrew, Scarborough, will be June 24.
- The Rev. Canon Rod Barlow has announced his retirement. His last Sunday at St. Paul, Lindsay, will be June 24.

### Other

- The Rev. Alan Ferguson has resigned as Associate Priest at Trinity, Aurora, effective Jan. 31.

## PRAYER CYCLE

FOR APRIL

1. The Rt. Rev. George Elliott, area bishop of York-Simcoe
2. St. George's, Allandale
3. St. Giles, Barrie
4. St. Margaret's, Barrie
5. Maundy Thursday
6. Good Friday
7. Holy Saturday
8. Easter Day
9. St. Paul's, Innisfil
10. St. Paul's, Midhurst
11. St. Paul's, Singhampton
12. St. Peter's, Minesing
13. St. Thomas, Shanty Bay
14. Trinity, Barrie
15. Nottawasaga Deanery
16. St. James, Lisle
17. St. John's, Craighurst
18. St. Luke's, Creemore
19. St. Hugh & St. Edmund Church of the Apostles
21. San Lorenzo-Dufferin
22. Humber Deanery
23. St. John's, Weston
24. St. Paul's, Rexdale
25. St. Philip's, Caribou
26. St. Stephen's, Downsview
27. St. Timothy-by-the-Humber
28. St. David's, Lawrence Ave.
29. Huronia Deanery
30. All Saints, Penetanguishene

## Women bring experience to key positions

### ACW

BY MARION SAUNDERS

At the January diocesan ACW board meeting, two new members were appointed to the executive committee. Anita Gittens, representative for York-Credit Valley Humber Deanery, was elected executive vice president, a position which has been vacant for a year. Dorothy MacLeod, who had volunteered at the annual meeting last May, officially took over the responsibilities of treasurer. The board is delighted to have these two ladies in these leadership positions.

Anita has served on the diocesan board for several years, and is currently president of St. Paul the Apostle, Rexdale's ACW and deputy warden at her church. A health care consultant in private practice, Anita has extensive leadership experience in many areas of health care, with expertise in areas such as strategic planning, analysis and governance. She has held several professional and administrative positions related to nuclear medicine, including work at the William Osler Health Centre. She is a former board member of the Toronto District Health Council and currently is a board member of the newly formed Central West Local Health Integration Network. The diocesan board has already benefited from her gentle guidance and quiet and compassionate spiritual leadership. In her new position, she will be preparing for her responsibility as diocesan ACW president. Dorothy MacLeod is a former

treasurer of the Diocese of the Arctic, a position she held for 10 years. She found that to be a most rewarding experience and helpful on her faith journey. She and her husband are former members of the Royal Canadian Air Force, which took them to many parts of our country, as well as to service in Germany where their second son was born. After retirement, they moved to Midland to assist her mother and have remained there since her death in 2002. Dorothy is currently a synod member and is the ACW treasurer and secretary at St. Mark's, Midland. Recently she led the ACW there through a difficult discerning process to learn what their ministry could become. She has been strengthened in her faith and trust in God through many challenging family health concerns.

There will be several vacancies on the board in the coming year. Deaneries are invited to appoint a member to represent them on the board. As well, the area vice president positions for all four areas will need to be filled. Former ACW treasurer Enid Corbett is leading the nominations process. Please contact our office, 416-363-0018.

Celebrations of the ACW's 40th anniversary are being planned for the annual meeting on May 26 at St. Peter's, Cobourg. All women of the diocese are encouraged to attend and to share in the celebration of women's varied ministries, their work and witness through the years.

Marion Saunders is the president of the diocesan Anglican Church Women.



## A QUESTION OF FAITH

## What's the best part about being an Anglican?

## The church calendar

I was born and raised an Anglican. In the past year and a half, I have started a music ministry that has brought me to many different churches, including Baptist, Nazarene, United, Evangelical, and Non-Denominational. But my heart still craves the Anglican Church for one very distinct reason – the church calendar.

Not every denomination follows the church calendar as closely as we do. Do you know what it's like to step into a church on Palm Sunday, and there's no palm? No palm branches. No one singing Godspell's "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord." And don't even get me started on Advent! No Advent wreaths. No purple candles. Everyone is talking about the coming of Christmas, but no one is recognizing these days as a special time of preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ.

It wasn't until this past year that I realized how much I value the church calendar. I think by recognizing these special days, we are drawn closer into the story of Jesus. We not only celebrate his birth, but we take time to prepare for it. In Lent, we force ourselves to fast in recognition of his days in the desert. We cheer his entry into Jerusalem, we fall with him on Good Friday, and on Easter, we praise the God who triumphed over death.

The church calendar connects us to the history of our faith, celebrating those first days that Jesus walked here on the Earth with us. What could be more exciting than that?

Allison Lynn  
Nashville, Tennessee

## We can debate

The best part is that our theology is based on scripture, tradition and intellect. The last part, about intellect, means we are not expected to accept dogma based on someone else's literal interpretation of scripture, or follow services that were designed centuries ago, or ignore new scientific evidence. We can debate all these things to constantly seek God's will in the world that is around us now, just as Jesus worked in the world that was around him. God gave us our intellect, and expects us to use it!

Bob Millar  
All Saints, Kingsway, Toronto

**NEXT QUESTION:** Who was the person or group whose faith you caught or who led you to making a commitment of faith, and what did they do?

Send your answers by Mar. 19 to editor@toronto.anglican.ca.

## Student eyes social justice work

## OUR LIVES

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

Garcia Robinson's father always encouraged her to look beyond her own life and learn about how other people live. "I was born in Canada, raised in Canada," says the young woman, who is a member of St. David, Lawrence Ave., and volunteers on the child poverty sub-committee of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board.

"My father, who was an immigrant from the West Indies, always encouraged me to look at other lifestyles, to look at the history of the West Indies, look at the history of the neighbours who live next door, because we all come from different places. So I think I always had an interest in knowing about people's lifestyles."

Perhaps it was this early lesson that prompted Ms. Robinson's concern for the poor and marginalized in our community. "When I got older and I was able to look at it from a more analytical view, I was able to see the differences in opportunities, even in high school," she says. "I come from a two-parent household. Both of my parents work full-time jobs; we are basically middle class. But I looked at some of my classmates who didn't come from the type of home that I came from, who didn't have access to opportunities that I had. Some of my fellow students couldn't afford to go on trips, and I would go home and ask my parents: 'Why can't they come on the trip? Why is it

*Our Lives features inspiring stories of the clergy and laypeople among us. This month, The Anglican talks to Garcia Robinson, the diocese's youth delegate to General Synod.*

that we can afford it and they cannot?" I was just trying to understand those struggles."

Ms. Robinson is now learning more about those struggles as a student in the Community Worker program at George Brown College and in her fieldwork placement at Toronto Community Housing. "The main reason I wanted to take this program was to get a more in-depth look and analyze how social justice issues are being looked at and dealt with in Canada," she says.

After she finishes her college studies, she would like to continue studying part-time at university and work in the area of housing and "work to make policy changes in the areas of sustainable and equal housing. I like working day to day and trying to make changes in people's lives day to day, but I do feel that we need to make overall changes at the policy level to eliminate some of these challenges that people are facing."

She is also interested in the issue of child poverty, which is



Garcia Robinson

why she got involved with the diocese's work in the area. She has assisted with a number of workshops on the topic, for instance at the diocese's Outreach Conference and at youth synod. Ms. Robinson, who is a youth leader at her own parish, believes that young people are encouraged to be more active in social justice work and advocacy when they are given information about the issues in a format and language they can relate to. She gives the example of the play *Danny, King of the Basement*, presented at youth synod one year, which features a young protagonist who has to face the challenges of poverty. "Once it's broken down to their level, I feel that children and young people naturally have a tendency to want to help peo-

ple," she says. "They want to put their energies into something that is beneficial and that is useful."

Ms. Robinson, who has served as a member of youth synod and diocesan synod, has been selected to be the diocese's youth delegate at General Synod in Winnipeg in June. "It's my first time; I have no idea what General Synod is about," she says. "I was just humbled that I was selected. I'm excited and I'm just happy to be a part of it. I think it's like being a part of history."

Another honour came her way last December, when her instructors at George Brown College selected her for the Phyllis Eileen Edwards Memorial Award, given to a student in the Community Worker program who displays a readiness to be an activist for social change. Says Ms. Robinson: "What I found interesting is that I always speak in class, but I didn't know that that was something that was seen by everybody. I was really pleased, and I'm happy not just for the honour, but because it just shows that people can make a change, that you can have an influence on people, and that people can realize the difference. If one person is willing to stand up, it does encourage and motivate other people to stand up. So I was just happy about that."



## RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

From top, Bishop Patrick Yu and his wife, Kathy, greet well-wishers at the Bishop's Levee at St. James' Cathedral on Jan. 1. The annual event included a service, carol-singing, bell-ringing and refreshments. Gladys Linde of Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton, is served refreshments following the service.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



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