

Our advocacy in action



The Anglican

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ONE TO REMEMBER

Catherine Jones, left, Rebecca Williams, and the rest of the congregation at St. Thomas, Brooklin, dance at the parish's first-ever U2charist, a mix of church liturgy and the music of rock band U2. The service on Mar. 31 was the culmination of the parish's Lenten journey.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

MPPs present Anglicans' petitions

BY MURRAY MACADAM

ALL of Ontario's MPPs have learned of Anglicans' concern for housing issues, after three members of the Legislature presented petitions, signed by Anglicans, at Queen's Park in late March.

Conservative MPP Frank Klees and New Democrat MPP Paul Ferreira presented some of the 2,500 petitions on Mar. 20, while Liberal MPP David Zimmer presented petitions on Mar. 26.

The petitions, which note the hardships faced by homeless and poorly housed citizens, were gathered by Anglicans with the goal of encouraging stronger government support for affordable and supportive housing in its budget, which was released on Mar. 22. The government announced \$392 million for affordable housing in the budget, including funds for urgently needed aboriginal housing, and housing allowances to help 27,000 low-income tenant households. The funding had been approved earlier by the federal government for use in Ontario, but was not yet allocated for specific housing programs.

Other Anglicans showed their support. *Continued on Page 2*

Countdown to Kenya begins

Largest mission team makes final preparations

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 as she follows the group on their journey of transformation through service and learning.

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

MEMBERS of the Kenya mission team are counting the time in weeks now before they get on a plane and fly to Kenya as part of the largest ecumenical mission ever assembled in the Diocese of Toronto.

to. They will spend almost three weeks in Nairobi and in rural areas in the Diocese of Bungoma in western Kenya, getting to know the local people and contributing their skills and talents in an effort to make a difference, however small, in other people's lives.

"The closer we get, the more excited I become," says team member Sandra Ballantine, whose team will be helping to paint a newly constructed home for children who have been orphaned by AIDS. "This is my first mission trip, and I really don't know what to expect. My biggest concern is that I go with an open heart and not try to change things personally, but to allow God to work through me in my relationship with the African people. I do know that this experience will change

me and the way I live my walk with Jesus. How easily that will happen remains to unfold."

Much preparation has been going on – both in Canada and in Kenya. "Bishop Eliud Wabukala of the Diocese of Bungoma is very much looking forward to welcoming the team in July," says the Rev. Canon Kim Beard, who is leading the mission team. "The staff at Church Mission Society and the Church Army in Nairobi have been working very hard to organize our travel and mission work opportunities. Our team will be the largest team they have ever handled. This is a wonderful opportunity for Kenyans and Canadians to work together and learn from each other."

The mission's 14 teams have also *Continued on Page 2*



Follow trip on writer's blog

TO share in the ongoing story, both while the team prepares in Canada and once they are in Kenya, read Henrieta Paukov's online diary at <http://kenyamission.blogspot.com>. You can also link to the blog through the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Synod on web; paper delayed

THE Diocese of Toronto's synod will be held in Oshawa May 3-5. For daily coverage of the event, visit the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. Synod will also be reported on in the June issue of *The Anglican*.

Due to the national church's General Synod, which will be held in Winnipeg June 19-25, the June issue of *The Anglican* and *Anglican Journal* will be published in July. The papers will resume their normal publishing schedule in September.

GRAHAMSTOWN PRIEST VISITS - SEE PAGE 3

Teams prepare for Kenya

Doctors to run medical, eye clinics in villages

Continued from Page 1

been busy, learning to work together and gathering supplies. "I think for us the main challenge is getting enough medication, appropriate medication, to take to Africa," says Dr. Lynn Boorman, who will be working with a medical team providing free medical care in rural villages. "We've been told there will be 4,000 patients within five days, so we are going to be working very hard, from early morning until late at night."

Dr. Boorman and several others on the medical team have worked together on medical missions in China, so they are used to working cooperatively. "I think we are going to try to do as much public health education and training as we can," she adds. "We don't know what the needs are, so we have to go and try to help, whatever the

needs are. We just hope to help and give a little bit."

Members of the eye team – which will be diagnosing vision problems and giving out eyeglasses in a country where a pair can cost a person's monthly salary – have been meeting at the home of the team leader, Dr. Lorna D'Silva, to learn all they need to know about eyes and eye care. "We have collected, cleaned, calibrated and packaged 3,500 pairs of donated eyeglasses," says Dr. D'Silva. "In addition, we have bought 2,500 pairs of reading glasses."

"I was told by an optometrist who went on an eye mission in 1999 that most Kenyans [who need vision correction] require reading lenses. They told us a story of a principal of a school in rural Kenya who was going to lose her job because she couldn't see to write



Mission team member Trevor Applebaum loads a bishop's chair into a container full of furniture that is being shipped from Toronto to a theological college in the Diocese of Bungoma, Kenya.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

out the students' report cards. They came in and gave her a pair of reading glasses, and away she goes. In Canada, if you cannot see to read, you go to the dollar store and you pick up a pair of reading glasses. You can't do something like that there. It basically means that as you get older and you cannot see and your job requires you to be able to see, you are out of luck."

Dr. D'Silva says the eye team is expecting lineups of 200 to 500 people every day. "They come from all over," she says. "Some of them walk most of the day to get there and they stand patiently lined up, waiting to get glasses. In addition, you have people who are poor, and when they hear you are giving out free reading glasses, they come to have their eyes examined

even if they don't need glasses. We've had to take that into account when setting up the clinic."

And how will they deal with the inevitable fatigue and the challenges of working in an unfamiliar environment? "You just basically pray and go on," says Dr. D'Silva. "I think it's in the Lord's hands. That's where I've left it."

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Housing workshop planned

Continued from Page 1

concern on this issue in other ways. Supported by Bishop Colin Johnson and the diocese's Housing Advocacy Subcommittee, 140 parishes passed a motion at vestry meetings urging the provincial government to make affordable and supportive housing a priority in its budget.

Thus through vestry motions and the petition, more than 5,700 Anglicans have expressed their concern about those suffering from poor housing, and have appealed to government to act. The parishes which passed the vestry motions have a total average Sunday attendance of 16,820.

The Housing Advocacy Subcommittee is working to ensure that housing issues are raised in Ontario's provincial election on Oct. 10. A workshop on housing and poverty issues, with political party representatives, is slated for Sept. 8 at St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Everyone is welcome.

To learn more about the diocese's housing advocacy campaign, contact Murray MacAdam, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, mmacadam@toronto.anglican.ca, tel. (416) 363-6021, ext. 240, 1-800-668-8932, ext. 240.



MINISTRY DAY

Bishop Philip Poole takes part in a panel discussion on Islam, Judaism and Christianity with Rabbi Lori Cohen of Temple Sinai synagogue in Toronto, left, and Raheel Raza, an author who promotes mutual understanding among people of diverse faiths. They were speaking at York-Credit Valley's area ministry day in Etobicoke on Mar. 24. About 125 people attended the event, which featured four workshops. At right, Maggie Helwig, the Rev. Kate Merriman and the Rev. Hernan Astudillo lead a workshop on serving the needs of the community through outreach and advocacy. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



We can learn from their joy

As Bishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Philip Poole, Archdeacon Peter Fenty and the Rev. Canon Kim Beard came back from trips to various parts of Africa recently, I heard wonderful stories about cultures I have never experienced. They travelled to places where I could only dream of going and met people whom I can only imagine meeting. As I enjoyed pictures from their trips and listened to their experiences, one thing stood out. Archdeacon Fenty spoke about the many children he saw while visiting Africa. He spoke of their smiles and their love, engagement and devotion. The children whom he met looked at the world with their eyes wide open. They weren't complaining about what they didn't have; instead, they smiled and rejoiced in what few things they did have. Perhaps this is an area where children's ministry in our diocese could learn from our sisters and brothers so far away. We often get caught up in the many questions and details of our parish's chil-

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
BY LAURA WALTON-CLOUSTON

dren's ministry. What is our church-size typology? Are we rural or urban? Liberal or conservative? What curriculum should we use? Does it suit who we are as a congregation? What is our theological basis for our choices? I often wonder if we make things more complicated than they really need to be. Children's ministry is focused on children up to 10 years old; I think that most children that age probably aren't all that interested in the questions the adults are asking or the things we are discussing. Do they really care if we are a pastoral-, family- or corporate-sized church? Do they care if the parish is in debt or well off? Do they care if the Sunday School curriculum is lectionary-based or not? No. As their teachers and guides, we should care, but our concerns are not theirs. Children's ministry is about the

good news stories – the Gospel. It is about teaching our children about Jesus, God's love and the ministry they can do that makes them part of the wider church. Let's make it simple for them. Use their love of life, their smiles, and their devotion to make the Gospel real. Make it easy, make it fun. Learning about God should not be complicated for our children. Let's make them smile with the joy of learning about God and highlight for them the abundance of blessings we have been given, not only as individuals but as a church. Make their smiles and laughter a priority, and the grace and love of God will come from the simplicity of childhood. As adults, maybe we can learn a thing or two from the children. Smile and laugh more with one another, enjoy the many blessings we have, and perhaps church life won't seem so heavy and complicated. In the grand scheme of things, it really isn't. Laura Walton-Clouston is the diocese's Children's Ministry Network Coordinator.

Grahamstown priest expands her horizons

Examines parallels between Canada, South Africa

This article continues our series on the companionship program between the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Grahamstown, South Africa. The purpose of the program is for parishes, dioceses and individuals to link up with each other to share insights and information, and to experience each other's spirituality and culture.

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

THE Rev. Thami Mhlana went ice-skating for the first time in her life this January, with the folks from St. John's, West Toronto. Ms. Mhlana, who was at Trinity College until mid-April as an exchange student from the College of the Transfiguration in Grahamstown, says that people wondered why she was going to Canada during the winter.

"I said: 'Why not?'" she recalls. "I have never seen snow in all my life, so it was a good time for me to come and see." She says the experience will also help her understand more fully what the poor and marginalized live through. "When I spoke of the homeless before, I was speaking from the South African context, where it's warm," she says. "Now I will know what it means to really feel cold and to be exposed to cold, because I've seen it."

Ministry to the poor is of particular interest to Ms. Mhlana, as is ministry to people living with HIV/AIDS and to children, because those are areas where she sees a need in South Africa. She was surprised to see that the church in Canada also has much work to do in these areas. "I always thought of Canada as prosperous, well-to-do," she says. "When I got here, I was fascinated with the fact that this country is just like any country. I was surprised to find that there are homeless people here, poor people, hungry people, marginalized people. And what fascinated me most was that the church in Canada is actually doing a lot of social justice and advocacy work. What I am proud to say is that Canada is not just doing window dressing, reaching out to other countries. They start at their own doorstep. It's very important."

Until January 2006, Ms. Mhlana

had a full-time job and worked as a priest part-time. Then the Diocese of Grahamstown offered to send her to the College of the Transfiguration to prepare her for full-time ordained ministry. "I took early retirement from work, and by the end of the year I am going to be going out to ministry with my undivided attention," she says.

She will be working in a context that is not always receptive to female priests. "The first time a woman was ordained in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa was in 1992," she says. "Even now some communities in the province, and some church leaders, are reluctant to ordain women. In some dioceses there are no women clergy. There are mixed feelings. I suppose it's to be expected everywhere, [that people will have] different views on subjects."

"I've always been interested in leadership in the church, even though we as women are not given opportunities to lead so often. I had this in me that God is calling me to do something and to do more than I am doing now. I was involved in youth ministry, in the church choir, in liturgy. And I realized that I need to do something else. I think I wanted to do this to explore and find out where God wants me to be."

While in Toronto, she divided her time between classes, her own studies and visits to parishes in the diocese. One aspect of Toronto that particularly delighted her was its diversity. "In South Africa, it's only since 1994 that we have experienced this kind of change," she says. "We call it rainbow nation. When I saw that in Toronto, I thought, 'This is home away from home, because I am familiar with this.' I quite love it when I see the whole diversity of the people of God together."



The Rev. Thami Mhlana shares a laugh with musician Jaroslav Czerwinec during her visit to St. John's, West Toronto.

Inspired and humbled



We have to get him tested right away," said the church worker who was also our translator. She was pointing to a five-year-old sitting on the mats with his grandmother and a number of

other women and men in an AIDS support group run by the church in Luweero, Uganda. He looked sick. Both parents had died of AIDS. His grandmother was now looking after him, and she, too, was HIV-positive.

Ellen and I spent two weeks in Uganda during March visiting bishops and the church in that province of the Anglican Communion. That particular day was one of the most powerful for us, as we were invited to speak with people "living positively" with the consequences of an epidemic that has both devastated and re-engaged this small country, the pearl of Africa. It's a state smaller than Nova Scotia but with almost as many people as all of Canada.

AIDS is awful. It predominantly strikes those in the most productive period of their working lives – the 15- to 50-year-olds. Teachers, doctors, government employees, farmers, priests, entrepreneurs. Mothers and fathers. Children. The numbers are overwhelming – overwhelming, but not paralyzing for those who have faith.

No family in Uganda is untouched by the ravages of civil strife under Idi Amin and then Milton Obote, and on the heels of that by the scourge of AIDS that swept the country in the early 1990s. Unlike South Africa, the government as well as the churches did something about it.

Talk works! Everyone from the President and the Archbishop to the local teacher began to talk about HIV/AIDS in public. They talked about the causes, how it could be reduced and what could be done about it. They limited re-primations and finger-pointing. They have reduced the stigma. Why is that so important? Because reducing denial means that people

BISHOP'S DIARY

BY BISHOP COLIN JOHNSON

can seek treatment earlier. The spread of the disease is reduced. People can seek out support more openly. Plans can be made by the family. Medical, pastoral and community care can be coordinated. People can be treated as human beings created in God's image, rather than shunned and persecuted. (The latter happens all too often. Just think about what happened not only to people quarantined because of SARS, but also to their families and businesses, and even to those of particular ethnic groups who had no contact with SARS, in tolerant, well-informed Southern Ontario.)

Talk was not all that happened. Uganda was one of the beneficiaries of the international debt forgiveness program that the churches promoted so vigorously with the World Bank and the International Development Fund. Money formerly used to service the debt to the rich First World was channelled into medical treatment and schools. They have been innovative about the administration of antiretroviral drugs that do not cure the illness but control its advance. They have addressed and are changing behaviours and attitudes that contribute to its spread, including the increased empowerment of women.

The results have been remarkable. Incidence rates have dropped from over 30 per cent to 6.5 per cent. We met people who were living productive lives who were first diagnosed as HIV-positive in 1991. When I say, "productive lives," I mean that they can work, feed their children, provide shelter and get them into the school system. I mean that they are not alone but continue to be a valued part of their community. They can laugh as well as cry. They can contribute their creativity to their society instead of wasting away in agonizing death alone. The motto, "Live Positively," is not only a nice play on the diagnosis but a real signal of hope.

The men and women in that morning's support group spoke of their hopes and fears about the future, and their families. We were moved to tears more than once at their courage, their faith and, surprisingly, their joy.

That day we visited other families. In one case, the church had provided a home for an HIV-positive woman and her children, and also some micro-credit support that allowed her to set up a shop in the market. With the money she earned, she was able to buy the house she lived in – a simple two-room brick house. She is supported in receiving the medical care she needs. Her daughter is also positive but at school.

The church runs programs for orphans, paying their fees for schooling and offering weekend religious and social support so that the stories, advice and "ways-we-do-things" are kept alive. These crucial bits of life that normally get passed from parent to child in everyday interactions now get passed on this way to a generation without parents.

We saw hospitals with the most meager resources caring for people with great compassion and dignity and personal sacrifice. We were entertained and challenged by a hospital-organized drama group of HIV-positive men and women, whose mission is to sing, dance, and act the stories of AIDS, and then tell their own stories to educate people in churches, schools, service clubs, or wherever they can. We left inspired and humbled.

The big bucks from international governmental aid and from corporate giants like the Bill & Melinda Gates' Foundation make a difference. The dedication of large and small non-governmental organizations make a difference. The churches make a difference. The coins and the prayers of the ordinary poor make a difference.

In the midst of tragedy, hope is alive and flourishing. We witnessed the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and his promise of abundant life made real.

We were changed.



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The Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Rowan Williams, Lambeth Palace, London, England SE1 7JU.

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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.

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Hong Kong may hold lessons for us



In many people's minds, Hong Kong represents a city that works. It invokes the images of prosperity, innovation and adaptability. And no wonder: scarcely 400 square miles of islands and a bit of China's mainland hous-

es nearly seven million residents. It has weathered depressions, a riot, a change in sovereignty, Asia's financial storm, and SARS. In spite of all this, Hong Kong still stands proudly as a financial centre, a tourist attraction, "the pearl of the Orient." Many factors contribute to this. An important one, I believe, is its housing policy. What follows is its story.

Following the Communist takeover of China in 1949, waves of refugees swelled Hong Kong's population. The lucky ones lived with relatives or found rental space in the city, albeit packed like sardines. Most of them simply settled in shanty towns on vacant land. The outline of one of these shanty towns was still visible from my sister's condominium this January. On the north-western side of the Kowloon Peninsula, a place called Shek Kip Mei was the site of a large settlement. It was devastated by fire in 1953, with the loss of many lives. This horrific event galvanized the population into action. Out of its rubble, the government built the Shek Kip Mei Estate. It was no more than cubicles stacked one upon another, with communal kitchens and facilities. The space

BISHOP'S OPINION

BY BISHOP PATRICK YU

assigned to each adult was a meagre 24 cubic feet! Nevertheless, it was the start of large-scale public housing. Soon, assisted housing sprang up all over the territory. Shanty towns, which were plagued with disease, crime, isolation and economic desperation, were taken down with the assurance of resettlement.

The housing policy was only one part of Hong Kong's progressive city planning. Bus routes and new ferry lines enabled people to go to work. Schools were built, often through co-operation between government, the private sector and charitable organizations, including the Anglican Church. It is this combination of measures which allowed poor and marginalized people to enter into the economic life of the city. It resulted in more prosperous people and families, and propelled Hong Kong into a cycle of ever-increasing productivity.

Today, the poorly constructed housing estates have been replaced by better, more spacious units. Still, half of Hong Kong's population lives in subsidized housing. In 1978, the Housing Authority introduced a subsidized home ownership plan, by which residents, whose income was below a set level could purchase condominiums at a reduced price. In exchange, they face restrictions in the re-

sale market. There was a concern expressed by developers that this measure distorts the housing market. To date, however, there is scant evidence that the legendary housing market suffers. In Hong Kong, an average 500 square foot condominium sells for \$256,000 or more. Rather, it could be argued that, having the security of a place to live, people are freed up to pursue their work. Enough of them, it seems, were eager to move out of the basic accommodation of public housing into private housing, even though it meant a huge jump in cost.

Admittedly there is a down side. Similar to housing estates all over the world, those in Hong Kong faced the problem of crime, neglect and a strong pull to become ghettos. In Hong Kong, as in Toronto and elsewhere, they have tried to correct these problems with measures like mixed income housing, and a combination of rental and ownership. Such is the case in the redeveloped Shek Kip Mei.

It is always difficult to transport solutions across cultures and time. However, the Hong Kong experience may teach Toronto some lessons.

First, the government saw the homeless and under-housed not simply as a problem to be solved, but as a human resource to be engaged. Housing became a centrepiece of a comprehensive policy including transportation and education. What would the incorporation of the 122,000 households who are

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How God comes to us

BY MAGGIE HELWIG

I came to the church as an adult, and of all the things that drew me and kept me, among the most important were two audacious propositions: that God comes to us as one of us; and that God comes to us as food – that the God of the dispossessed makes himself available to us as bread, as the food of the poor.

There is more than enough in those two statements for a lifetime of thought, but something at the centre of our faith tells us that our transactions with food and with hunger are profound, are always somehow sacramental – that to address hunger, plain physical hunger, is a religious act, and that to act in ways that leave other people hungry, that leave them in poverty and isolation and ill health, is a serious offense.

This can mean many things to each of us in our different situations. We may be asked for political engagement, in an attempt to shape public policy in ways that will not leave people without access to decent food, water and housing. We may be asked for the work of imagining, and trying to bring about, new shapes of society, new ways of living together in which no one would need to be hungry. We are probably asked to try to change how we live our own lives, and to examine the ways in which we may be holding onto privileges that, however indirectly, may deprive someone else.

But what we do about food and hunger may also include – and for me, in the last few years, has centrally included – the concrete and direct sharing of food, of bread, with people who are hungry; not as a form of charity, but because I myself have been offered this, a chance to share with them in this sacrament, in this particular echo of the eucharist.

This is abstract language. So I will say this. This is a way that God comes to me: in the act of handing tuna fish sandwiches to a



gently disoriented man strung with homemade necklaces, or a very young man who is on his own and can't find work, or a woman coming down from a crack binge. This is the mercy of God in my life: that someone in a corner of the parish hall goes to the piano and begins to play, while men and women who are hungry and lost and marginalized share food with some of us who are possibly less physically hungry, though probably no less lost. This is how I meet God sometimes: sitting on the floor holding the hand of a man who is crying because he can't stop drinking, and he is forgetting the poetry he used to know.

We sit in the kitchen arguing about how fine to chop the onions or whether it's good or bad to put margarine in a cheese sandwich,

and people wander in and out and tell improbable stories about their lives, the most likely to be true. Or we pick the egg shells out of the recycling bin and toss them into the compost bin, and the room is filled with the presence of God, quite silent, inconspicuous, complete.

This is a broken world, but God in his mercy fills it with himself – as a tuna fish sandwich, as another person's hand. We are none of us quite where we should be, but here, where we are, we are bathed in the glory of God.

Maggie Helwig is Parish Outreach Facilitator for the deaneries of Etobicoke and Toronto West.

EDITOR'S CORNER

BY STUART MANN

Turning the tide

Why is the Diocese of Toronto advocating in the areas of child poverty, affordable housing and homelessness, and HIV/AIDS?

Three years ago, about 40 Anglicans with a passion for social justice were brought together and asked to prioritize the three most pressing concerns. They chose these areas.

These were agreed upon and supported by Bishop Colin Johnson and synod in November, 2005. They became the diocese's ministry priorities, along with becoming a welcoming and hospitable church, and celebrating our diversity.

It's not difficult to see why Anglicans need to address these areas. In Ontario, one out of six children – nearly half a million – is growing up in poverty. In Toronto, 500 people have died on the streets, and 750,000 people in Ontario are living in households where they pay at least half their income in rent. Around the world, 25 million people have died of AIDS and another 40 million are living with HIV.

As Christians, we are called to follow Jesus' example of feeding the hungry, comforting the sick and defending the poor. "The church is us, so each of us has a responsibility to make sure that we play our part in changing society for the better," says David Taylor, chair of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board.

Through our churches, shelters, food banks and ministries, Anglicans do a lot to meet the immediate needs of children living in poverty, the homeless and poorly housed, and those living with HIV/AIDS. But if we are to ever turn the tide in these areas, we need to address the root causes of their needs. That's where advocacy comes in.

What exactly is advocacy? It involves direct interaction with people who are in positions of influence – usually elected officials – to improve the situations of disadvantaged people.

In our diocese, we have concentrated much of our efforts on the provincial government, not because we see it as the cause of these issues, but because that's the level of government that affects all of us, and we in turn can have an impact on it with concentrated action.

Is our advocacy working?

Yes. As you will see in these pages, Anglicans are going to their elected officials, passing motions and signing petitions like never before – and getting results. The provincial government's latest budget calls for an increase in the minimum wage, a new Ontario Child Benefit which

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Dedication can make all things new

BY MURRAY MACADAM

Do you think advocacy actually does anything? In my 36 years as a priest, I've never seen it do any good at all."

It was a sentiment I certainly had heard before: political action is useless, so why waste your time? But as a newly hired social justice and advocacy consultant, it was sobering and depressing to have a senior church leader tell me this, to my face.

It's easy to see why some people think this way. Problems such as global warming, poverty, poor housing, and other ills of our world seem so widespread and entrenched that it's hard to imagine much progress being made on them. During election campaigns, many politicians tell us what we want to hear, then all too often ignore their promises once in office.

Yet if 35 years of social activism have taught me anything, it's that concerned, activated individuals can have an impact. Like some of you, no doubt, I was moved to tears by the terribly degrading housing con-

ditions in east-end Toronto portrayed in a recent W-Five TV program, especially since I live nearby. Yet I was proud to be an Anglican as the program portrayed the Rev. Janet Sidey acting as Christ would in the midst of this ghastly situation, spending time with impoverished residents, calling City Hall for action on their behalf – and getting positive results. This is advocacy in action.

On a broader scale, it has been so heartening to see Anglicans, both individually and through their parishes, becoming increasingly active during the past two years on behalf of "the least of these," people who are struggling just to get through each day.

Thousands of Anglicans in our diocese put their faith into action by helping people meet their basic needs, but many are realizing that these charitable efforts are not enough, that making the public policy changes needed to ensure dignity for all are also needed.

Our efforts are making a difference: a cabinet minister makes a point of stressing, during a meeting, that affordable housing is a priority for his government; a fledgling interfaith

housing coalition views our advocacy efforts as a model of inspiration; after months of lobbying by Anglicans and others, the provincial government says it will release \$392 million for affordable housing.

I'm also inspired to "stay the course" because of my 21-year-old daughter, a university student. What kind of world will she grow up in? The fact that she does everything she can to lighten her ecological footprint and works to combat sweatshops gives me hope that another world is possible. I want to do my part to make it happen.

Years of activism teach one patience. The principalities and powers of this world, on one level, do have a great deal of power to shape our economy, culture and society, and even shape how we think, to a great extent. But we can choose a different route. We can choose to believe in, and live out, the full radical message of the Gospel. If we do that, we can indeed "make all things new."

Murray MacAdam is the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

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Parishioner lobbies for decent housing

Women in transition given new start in Orillia

BY NANCY DEVINE

HELEN Perry wants to do what she can to advocate for those don't have a voice in society.

"I have energy and I really do believe that it is a part of my responsibility to do what I can," says Ms. Perry, who retired from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind's library in Toronto and now lives just outside of Orillia.

A member of St. James', Orillia, she supports the work of Couching Jubilee House, a home for women in transition, located in the city's downtown. The home was established in 2000 with financial help from FaithWorks and St. James Court Not for Profit Housing. It offers women and their children a safe and affordable furnished apartment for up to a year. During that time, the women take part in an intensive program that is tailored to their individual needs. They are supported by a team of volunteers and community service professionals. Local churches and businesses in the community help support the program.

"Lack of affordable housing in this community just exacerbates all the other problems," says Ms. Perry. "When you don't have a decent place to live, you are also at risk for mental health problems, and there is the issue of child poverty. Making affordable housing available would go a long way to easing some of these other

problems."

Women who become part of the Jubilee House program do quite well, she says. "It's the support. The volunteers celebrate with them when they do well, and they help them when things aren't going that well. What it means is that the women feel as though they have options."

Ms. Perry recalled the story of her friend, Jen, who completed the program a year ago. "She had been married and had two kids, but was really struggling. As she worked with Jubilee House, she got into a police services program at community college. She finished the course and got a job with a private security firm. It has made all the difference for her.

"For so many, it is almost always about self-image. They have been told countless times that they are not worthwhile — and they believe it. Once they realize that it is not true, they thrive and become contributing members of the community."

Ms. Perry doesn't think of herself as a crusader, nor is she really comfortable talking about what motivates her to be an advocate for the marginalized. But she admits that lobbying on behalf of those who need a stronger voice in society has made her retirement years richer and deeply rewarding.

"I would have been bored otherwise," she says. "I had a rewarding career, and I wanted to use my



HIDDEN TALENTS

Mike Padfield and his son Dylan and volunteer Anne Hendricks look at paintings done by guests of the Out of the Cold program at All Saints', Kingsway, on Mar. 31. All the paintings were the work of people who are either homeless or living in long-term poverty and take shelter at the church during the winter months. For eight years, local artist Elisabeth Gibson and her team have helped the people produce works of beauty and colour.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

gifts for something worthwhile. It deepens my faith and strengthens my ties to the Anglican community when I join my voice with others in the diocese to speak about the need for affordable housing. Together, we have a strong voice. I feel very lucky to be part of a much louder voice.

"We have a responsibility to answer when someone living in our community says, 'Please help me.' It is hard to be homeless or living in substandard housing. Someone in that situation is using all her resources just to survive — and stay out of the way. She needs us to make a loud noise on her behalf so that all levels of government not only promise the money for affordable housing, but also release it into the communities to make it a reality."

Call to advocate touches heart

BY NANCY DEVINE

THERE was a time in Lorraine Thayer's life when she and her daughter were living in a spare room at her friends' home in Bobcaygeon in the Kawartha Lakes region.

When the diocese initiated its housing advocacy campaign in the summer of 2005, she says the chance to become part of Christ Church, Bobcaygeon's Housing Committee "just spoke to me."

"You know what it's like in church, we are asked to do all kinds of jobs: Sunday school, altar guild — those kinds of things. I love those jobs. But this was something that really touched my heart," she says.

When Ms. Thayer and her daughter first arrived in Bobcaygeon, friends took them in. She was grateful, but also anxious. Her parish priest at the time said they needed to pray for a house for her small family.

"I thought that was kind of odd, but I figured it couldn't hurt," she says, adding she had been told that she would likely wait three to five years for an affordable house through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). "So we prayed right there in the kitchen of my friend's house."

Within three months, CMHC called with the news that someone was moving out and the house could be hers. That was 20 years and one mortgage ago.

"It's all paid off now," says Ms. Thayer, an artist who does watercolours of champion beef cattle on commission and for various agricultural publications. "I am so

thankful I had the chance to stay in this community and raise my daughter here. I try to do things for the community whenever I can."

Learning to lobby and advocate for social justice through the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board has become another creative outlet, she says.

"The housing problem isn't going to go away," she says. "When we talk to a politician, they aren't going to say they are against it. We don't have to be at loggerheads with them, but both sides have to make a commitment to work together."

The advocacy work she is doing enriches and enlivens her faith. "As a Christian, I believe that faith without works is dead," she says. "Christ tells us that we have to do, not just believe. Our actions and our words help our faith thrive."

"There are lots of people who have asked me if we have any homeless people here in the country. Sure we do. No one wants to say, 'Help me, I am in need.' That's why people think there is no housing issue here."

"We know that home-grown solutions work well and help communities thrive. The money needs to get to the people who are doing what they can right now to help those who have housing issues. They do a great job with limited resources. They need the funding."

She looks forward to the day when she can do a series of different paintings, something that will show future generations how our society did what it could for each other. "I hope that one day I will be busy painting pictures of people in their new houses."



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No more turning away

Diocese takes aim at AIDS pandemic

The Diocese of Toronto's synod has identified HIV/AIDS as a major focus for both advocacy and parish outreach work. This has led to the development of *No More Turning Away: Responding to AIDS*, a document which sets out a proposed strategy for the diocese on how Anglicans can work together to address the challenges faced by people who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS. The following is an excerpt of that document.

The reality of HIV/AIDS

Can our minds grasp the enormity of suffering and death wrapped up in those four letters, AIDS?

By the end of 2005, 25 million people had died of AIDS, 38.6 million were living with HIV, and an estimated 15 million children were left orphaned. The depth of this human tragedy presents an immense challenge to the international community and speaks to us directly as people of faith.

While significant advances have been made in countering the pandemic, AIDS continues to devastate the lives of millions of people around the world. It is estimated that about 2.8 million people died from AIDS in the developing world in 2005. HIV/AIDS continues to spread around the world. Our minds may immediately think "Africa" when we hear the word AIDS, because that region is the global epicentre of the pandemic, with more than 60 per cent of all HIV-positive people in the world. Yet this is a global crisis. While infection rates within the sub-Saharan regions of Africa seem to be slowing, they are increasing in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Oceania.

Some 8.3 million people were living with HIV in Asia at the end of 2005. Meanwhile AIDS is now the leading cause of death among adults in the Caribbean, claiming an estimated 27,000 lives in 2005.

This is not a far-away problem. It is right on our own doorsteps. Within Canada, an estimated 56,000 Canadians live with HIV/AIDS, and it is believed that approximately 30 per cent of them do not know they have the AIDS virus. In 2003, newly diagnosed HIV-positive cases rose 13 per cent to 2,482, pointing to an ominous trend of increasing infections among Canadians. A quarter of new AIDS cases are women.

Ontario, with 24,734 HIV-positive test reports, has the highest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in Canada. Toronto comprises more than 60 per cent of all HIV-positive test results in the province. Figures for 2004 calculate that 15,696 people have



Eunice Nombulelo Mangwane, a South African grandmother whose daughter and grandchild are HIV-positive, displays the Keiskamma Altarpiece for visitors at St. James' Cathedral in Toronto last August. The altarpiece depicts the annunciation, resurrection and nativity through the eyes of those affected by HIV/AIDS. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



tested positive for HIV in Toronto since 1985.

Creating change

The sheer size and scope of the pandemic may strike us as overwhelming. It can seem at times that nothing we do can make a difference. Yet the progress made so far in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and society's response to the social and human rights issues involved are real signs of hope. We have come a long way from the days when some parishes refused to put up posters saying, "Our Church Has AIDS."

Hope can also be seen in the fact that today, as never before, global leaders from all sectors of society are joining together to urge governments, development agencies and all of us to step up the fight against AIDS. We are all part of the HIV/AIDS solution. Each of us has a role to play. The church's National HIV/AIDS Working Group wrote in 1990, "As HIV positive people suffer, so do we the church suffer. As they are healed, so are we."

In living out the mission and vi-

sion of the Diocese of Toronto, we can, as a faith community, bring about change by:

Supporting change abroad: Support the efforts of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Its "Partnership for Life: For a Generation Without AIDS" program represents an inspiring example of an Anglican response to AIDS. Created in response to a call for action by Anglican leaders in Africa, this initiative has done a great deal to educate and mobilize Anglicans in response to AIDS. It challenges Canadian Anglicans to pledge their financial support, raise awareness, pray for our development partners and people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, and urge our government to be an agent for positive change.

Many Anglicans have responded in faith, raising \$2.3 million for the Partnership for Life program. These funds support community-based education about HIV and AIDS in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Canada. The program also provides volunteers who help the sick, care for orphans, advocate for health care, support farmers, and much more.

Supporting change within our diocese: Action to help those living with HIV/AIDS starts with awareness. Attend HIV/AIDS awareness events in your community. Learn about local, national and international AIDS service organizations, and learn about faith-based HIV/AIDS-related groups, activities and resources.

The Canadian AIDS Society, The Ontario AIDS Network, and

The AIDS Committee of Toronto can help you learn more about HIV/AIDS.

Within our diocese, there are plenty of opportunities for getting involved. Consider donating time and commitment to organizations such as:

The Philip Aziz Centre. The diocese has partnered with this hospice to provide spiritual and religious care to HIV-positive families. One of the centre's unique services is a spiritual support group for women living with HIV and AIDS. Volunteers are needed to do a wide range of activities, including personal care, spiritual support, and respite for caregivers.

The Teresa Group. This community-based volunteer organization supports families and children living with HIV/AIDS. It was founded in the early 1990s through the work of parishioners at St. Clement's, Toronto, with support by the Anglican Church Women. The organization has expanded its programming to provide support groups for children living in HIV-positive families, as well as for HIV-positive pregnant mothers, and mothers of newborns and toddlers.

Supporting change within your parish: Actions taken by individuals and parish groups gather momentum over time and create greater change when the faith community supports, celebrates and reinforces the actions and activities of the individual. Faith communities can support and facilitate change by highlighting HIV/AIDS. Here are some suggestions:

- Hold an educational event at

your parish through which more people can learn about HIV/AIDS.

- World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, could be your focus for an educational event. The World AIDS Campaign, sponsor of World AIDS Day, is also inviting people of faith to mark the first Sunday of Advent, as a time to reflect, pray and learn about the issues involved in the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- Encourage your parish to support local, national and international HIV/AIDS programs as part of its outreach program.
- What would be your parish's "theology of mission or outreach" for welcoming people with HIV/AIDS into your church? How can you change the "culture" of your parish so that it could become known as a safe and supportive place to enter?
- Explore how your church might provide office or meeting space for local AIDS programs or organizations.

Prayer and worship: Incorporate the concerns of HIV/AIDS into the prayer, intercession and worship life of your parish. Liturgies and other worship resources have been developed by many church organizations and can be used as educational aids for congregations. Praying for people with HIV/AIDS and for organizations working to help them can be our most powerful Christian witness to breaking down the barriers of ignorance, stigma, fear and discrimination.

Engaging in advocacy: If Anglicans choose to, they can mobilize the necessary resources and political will to address the structural issues that contribute to the spread of AIDS. "As the church, we can break the silence, stigma and discrimination," notes Bishop Colin Johnson. "We can advocate for enhanced AIDS prevention, care, and treatment. We can address the very specific social and economic vulnerabilities and discrimination against women and girls."

Milestones and measures of progress

Our diocese's current activities focus on education and raising awareness. Discussion on broader action by our diocese to encourage increased involvement by Anglicans and their parishes on HIV/AIDS-related activity, including involvement in advocacy efforts, is just beginning.

One milestone toward increased involvement is the establishment of a diocesan working group on HIV/AIDS. An initial consultation with potential AIDS community partners was held in February.

To read the complete text of *No More Turning Away: Responding to AIDS*, visit the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjab. Additional information and resources are available through either Murray MacAdam, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant, or the Rev. Canon Douglas Graydon, the diocese's coordinator of Chaplaincy Services, (416) 363-6021 or 1-800-668-8932.

Work addresses needs of poor

The diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board creates and carries out education and action initiatives which address the needs of the homeless and poor across our diocese. Inspired by the Gospel's call to justice, the focus is on promoting social justice and advocacy. The board's goal is to strengthen the voice of the church so that it can influence social policy and the social realities around us in a positive way. These are some of the board's initiatives:

Liturgy highlights child poverty

Poverty and poor housing: the two are linked, as Anglicans involved in parish outreach projects and in advocacy efforts are aware.

Parishes can make use of a new service leaflet for a liturgy that lifts up before God children and families struggling to get by on low incomes. It urges Anglicans to respond as Jesus would have us do. The liturgy has been developed by the diocese's Child Poverty Subcommittee, for suggested use on Mother's Day, May 13.

"If you prefer to use the child poverty liturgy on another day, that's fine," says Peter Harris of Holy Trinity, Guildwood, who helped develop the service. "Use as much of the service as you wish. For instance, your incumbent may prefer to preach his or her own homily, rather than the one we suggest. That's fine."

Bishop Colin Johnson will also send parishes a bulletin insert on child poverty issues for use on May 13.

Motion, petition call for housing

More than 140 parishes have passed motions at their 2007 vestry meetings urging the provincial government to make affordable and supportive housing a priority in its budget.

Meanwhile, more than 2,500 Anglicans have signed a petition with the same goal, noting the hardships faced by poorly housed individuals and families.

Through their support of the vestry motion and the petition, more than 5,700 Anglicans have expressed their concern about those suffering from poor housing, and have appealed to the government to act.

The housing petitions were presented in the Ontario Legislature in Toronto in March by Conservative MPP Frank Klees, New Democratic Party MPP Paul Ferreira and Liberal MPP David Zimmer.

Campaign seeks \$10 minimum wage

To its credit, the Ontario government has raised the minimum wage from \$6.85 per hour to \$8. Yet that rate still keeps thousands of people trapped in poverty. Anglicans were among those who supported a recent campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$10 per hour.

The Ontario Government, in its



PLAYING FOR JUSTICE

Kenny Kirkwood performs at Holy Trinity, Toronto, during the Good Friday Walk for Justice on April 6. The walk through the city's streets linked the Good Friday story with environmental threats such as global warming, using drama, song and prayer.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

March budget, promised to raise the province's minimum wage to \$10.25 per hour by 2010. This pledge both offers hope to the working poor, and is an inspiring sign that advocacy efforts can indeed bear fruit.

Premier urged to end clawback

The federal government, through the National Child Benefit Supplement, provides about \$120 per month per child to help low-income families raise their children. But the Ontario government deducts, or "claws back," that money from the cheques of families on social assistance. Anglicans have been active in urging the Ontario government to end the clawback.

As with the minimum wage, advocacy efforts have made an impact. In its March budget, the Liberal government announced plans for a new Ontario Child Benefit. The benefit, to be phased in over five years, would help 1.3 million children in poverty by providing monthly payments of about \$92 by 2011.

Conference lets justice roll

More than 150 people attended Let Justice Roll, the diocese's annual outreach networking conference on Oct. 14, 2006. The conference is for all people who are interested in social concerns, outreach, and social justice and advocacy issues. This year's conference will be held on Oct. 13 at Holy Trinity School in Richmond Hill.

Bishops meet political leaders

Bishops Colin Johnson, Philip Poole and George Elliott have met with senior Ontario cabinet ministers and other political leaders to discuss such issues as the need for further action to address homelessness and child poverty, including specific issues such as the clawback of the National Child Benefit Supplement. These cabinet ministers and other senior MPPs include Housing Minister John Gerretsen, Infrastructure Minister David Caplan, Health Minister George Smitherman and

Opposition Leader John Tory.

Guide provides practical advice

To succeed, advocacy needs to involve a broad range of people, not just church leaders. The Social Justice and Advocacy Board can provide practical advice on how to work with other people in your parish and how to contact politicians, particularly through its Parish Outreach Guide.

Board works with coalitions

The Social Justice and Advocacy Board does much of its work with other partners for justice, especially the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, the Campaign Against Child Poverty and Citizens for Public Justice.

More information on all of these initiatives, plus letters, petitions and links to other organizations, can be found at our website, www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjab.

Resources help you get started

The diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board has created these resources to help you become informed about the issues and to take action:

Strategy Papers

Combatting Homelessness and Promoting Affordable Housing
This strategy paper includes analysis of the issue, how the Gospel calls us to respond, and action suggestions.

Leave No Child Behind: Ending Child Poverty
This strategy paper includes analysis, how Anglicans are responding, and action ideas.

No More Turning Away: Responding to AIDS
This strategy paper outlines key facts about the AIDS pandemic, along with information on how Anglicans are responding to people affected by it, both in Canada and abroad.

Advocacy Tools

"Tools for Advocacy Workshop Outline"
This workshop leads participants through the basics of advocacy, building on their experience and interests.

"Tips for Working with Politicians"
Practical advice about visits, letter-writing and other ways to build relationships with elected officials.

"Strengthening Parish Outreach and Social Justice Ministry"
A parish outreach guide.

Environmental Preservation

"Energy Workbook for Religious Buildings"
This workbook is from the Kairos social justice coalition, which includes the Anglican Church.

"Renewing Our Relationship with the Earth"
A longer (48-page) guide from the Diocese of Ottawa. Includes environmental tips for home, garden and other areas of life, as well as church.

Newsletter

An electronic newsletter for those interested in social justice and advocacy in the Diocese of Toronto.

All of these resources are available on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca/sjab.

Next step leads to advocacy

Outreach team takes concerns to politicians

BY HENRIETA PAUKOV

THE Rev. Catherine Barley uses the analogy of a river when describing her idea of effective outreach work. "People see bodies in the river and they keep pulling them out, until somebody says: 'Let's go and see why all these bodies are falling into the river,'" she explains. "And that to me is the upstream work of advocacy. I think that the upstream work is really important."

That is why Ms. Barley encouraged the outreach team at St. Andrew, Scarborough, where she is assistant curate, to get involved in the housing advocacy campaign initiated by the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board last fall. The parish has a long history of active outreach, from holding a monthly neighbourhood lunch, to supporting a kindergarten in the Sudan, to sponsoring a foster child, to sending financial contributions to the Diocese of the Arctic, a women's shelter, and the Diocese of Jerusalem. By getting involved in advocacy, they simply took their concern about social justice one step further.

"We thought that if we are going to do it, we need to do it for all

three levels of government," says Ms. Barley. "We thought that it would be really good for our local politicians to know who we are at St. Andrew's, that we are part of their constituency, that we care and we are watching. We wanted them to know that this comes out of our faith, and that we really want to be involved."

The group invited Norm Kelly, councillor for Scarborough-Agincourt, to visit St. Andrew's. They also met with Gerry Phillips, MPP for Scarborough-Agincourt, and John Cannis, MP for Scarborough Centre. They brought along a video about homelessness in Scarborough, produced by the Scarborough Homelessness Committee. "We showed excerpts of the video, to illustrate the conditions in our area and to say that we are concerned," says Ms. Barley. "We put it in a faith context."

The team also used the video to educate their fellow parishioners. "We showed the video after church one Sunday and we probably had 30 to 35 people who stayed after the service to watch that, which I actually thought was really impressive," says Ms. Barley. "After church on Sunday is not generally prime viewing time."



Members of St. Andrew's, Scarborough, discuss housing issues with federal Member of Parliament John Cannis, far right. From left are Joseph Stewart, Barbara Taylor, the Rev. Catherine Barley and Lethel Shand.

She says one major issue in the area is the state of affordable housing. "It's not just Scarborough," she says. "Housing that used to be the responsibility of Ontario Housing has been downloaded to the municipalities, which just do not have the money, so the conditions are deplorable. They don't even meet their own standards."

For their part, the politicians were accepting, respectful and responsive within their limitations, says Ms. Barley. "It was very good. We did not at all feel brushed off. I was very pleasantly surprised. What they can do, I'm not entirely sure, but the attitude was one of mutual respect. And I think we went in with respect – we did not go in to beat up on them."

The group followed up the meetings with emails summarizing what had been discussed and thanking the representatives for their time. "If you are going to go to people and ask them to do things,

you follow up saying: 'This is what we talked about, thank you for that, and this is what we are going to do,'" says Ms. Barley.

The group is now onto its next project, also in the area of housing. They will join other parishes that are members of the Agincourt Christian Ministerial Association in supporting the building of a house through Habitat for Humanity. St. Andrew's involvement is coordinated by outreach team member Joan Horner.

"It's a labour of love, because I really am high on this concept of what Habitat is doing," says Ms. Horner. "It's so wonderful to see these people who just don't have a chance to have a home and see how grateful they are, and see the faces of the children. Those of us who have homes sometimes take it for granted. But if you are living in some of the conditions that we have seen, this is like paradise to them. There are so many one-parent families that just struggle so much and cannot give their children the dignity and the security they need. This is a step, this will help."

The building of the house will begin in the fall, but the team is already busy coming up with ideas

for fundraising. "Our main goal right now is to get full representation from the other parishes, because we are planning to do major fundraising," says Ms. Horner. "We need to raise \$80,000. It's a big undertaking. We thought that a walk-a-thon would be great because we can get sponsors outside of the congregation. Right now, we are just getting organized and getting a date and getting everyone involved. We thought we could get the local councillors and the MPs involved as well."

The outreach team's energy has been infectious. The group had planned to participate in a Habitat building day in April as a way to get their energy and enthusiasm going for their own project, but when they mentioned it to the congregation, others were so eager to get involved that there were soon 19 people on the list of helpers.

"The Sunday that Neil Hetherington, CEO of Habitat, came to speak about this, we had a new couple at church who were just church-shopping," says Ms. Barley. "They came up afterwards and said: 'This is the kind of church we've been looking for. Can we sign up to help with the build?'"

Follow your passion, say advocates

1. Work on a project you are passionate about. The housing advocacy campaign at St. Andrew's was championed by the Rev. Catherine Barley, who says: "Politics is in my blood, and I've worked on several political campaigns. I started when I was nine, with my uncle's campaign." The Habitat for Humanity project is coordinated by Joan Horner, who says she has always had a soft spot for Habitat. "For some reason, in my life, something always happens that connects me somehow to Habitat. I've always thought it's such a wonderful thing."
2. When speaking or writing to a politician, focus on issues that his or her level of government has responsibility for. "There's

no point in talking to the federal government about the claw-back of the child benefit supplement, because they give it, and it's the provincial government that takes it away," says Ms. Barley.

3. Try to understand where politicians are coming from. "I think one of the challenges of advocacy is that it's so complex that it's hard to know where the leverage point is to make the change," says Ms. Barley. "So I find it hard, because I really sympathize with the politicians. It's like your home budget. So much has to go for the mortgage, so much has to go for the taxes, for the utilities. The amount of discretionary income is very little. I think it's really important

to understand, and not just beat up on politicians, but to acknowledge that they are in a difficult position because they are trying to do a budget in the same way that we do for our parish."

4. Take the time to write a thank-you letter. St. Andrew's outreach team wrote one to each of the politicians they met with during their housing advocacy campaign. They also took the time to write to provincial politicians when the Central North Correctional Centre in Penetanguishene was returned to public control last November. "We thought it was really important to send a thank-you letter to our provincial members," says Ms. Barley.

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Unlocking my heart to God

BY TED GLOVER

It is ironic that, in one of the most affluent, civilized and sought-after countries in the world, one million Canadian children – one in six – live in poverty. Despite strong economic growth, poverty continues to soar.

More than one third of poor children have at least one parent who works full-time. Seventy-five per cent of low income families live in unaffordable housing. Even though they use food banks, many people must choose between paying the rent and feeding their children. There are, in fact, adults who go hungry, in order that their children may eat.

Children growing up in poverty frequently have poor health, low school performance, high drop-out rates, low-paying jobs. They eventually face unemployment. So the vicious circle and downward spiral continue.

Poverty, being an utter abomination, a violation of human rights, need not exist.

We need a paradigm shift in thinking, attitude and action, locally, provincially and nationally.

It is here that advocacy can assume a strategic and vital role.

As a member of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board, I have joined the Campaign Against Child Poverty, a national coalition committed to the well-being of children. I have also joined the Make Poverty History Committee.

I continue to be truly inspired and motivated by the dedicated, vital, caring, compassionate and empathetic people who constitute these committees. They are committed to social justice and to making a difference in the lives of people.

Through simple actions made in the right place and at the right time, ordinary people can help to effect and facilitate change in society.

It is essential that the sordid reality of child and family poverty, and the related issues of poor health, hunger, and homelessness, make their way into the public sphere. We need to educate and inform the public – our friends, families, colleagues, fellow parishioners, politicians and different levels of government. An urgent call for change can be made in a variety of ways: by inserting pertinent information in church bulletins and newsletters; by delivering a homily or sermon; by running public messages in the media; by lobbying the government; and by sending handwritten letters and visiting MPs and MPPs.

In my church of St. George's, Oshawa, the outreach committee runs the Mary Street Community School Breakfast Program. A group of more than 20 parishioners prepare and serve a nutri-

Bishop calls for apology

Anglicans urged to contact MPs

BY STUART MANN

BISHOP Colin Johnson said the federal government's decision not to apologize to survivors of aboriginal residential schools is wrong, and he is encouraging Anglicans in the diocese to write to their MPs and the Prime Minister to reverse that decision.

"The government, along with the churches, has negotiated settlements with the aboriginal community for the treatment that occurred in residential schools, and it has recognized that the policy was wrong and caused great harm to a number of people," he said. "For the government to step back and say that it will not apologize for that policy is most unfortunate."

Archbishop Andrew Hutchison, Primate, and Archbishop Caleb Lawrence, metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, are also urging the Prime Minister to reconsider.

Bishop Johnson pointed out that the Anglican Church of Canada issued a formal apology more than a decade ago, and continues to try to work at healing and reconciliation. "Part of healing and reconciliation is to admit both responsibility and contrition," he said.

As head of a diocese that has one of the largest aboriginal communities in Canada, Bishop Johnson said he is personally very sorry that the church engaged in policies and activities that harmed people. "That's unacceptable, and



The Rev. Andrew Wesley, a priest who serves many in the diocese's aboriginal community, blesses last year's Good Friday Walk for Justice. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

we fully apologize for that," he said.

The diocese has taken steps to assist aboriginal people who have been hurt, by contributing to the Healing and Reconciliation Fund and the Residential Schools Settlement Fund.

"The people of our diocese have shown they are very supportive of healing and reconciliation by giving more than \$1 million directly to the Residential Schools Settlement Fund, and another \$2.5 million through our diocesan capital funds, even though there were no residential schools in the

diocese," he said. "This is an indication of the level of commitment among our people."

The diocese funds an aboriginal priest who works with many in the aboriginal community, and has hired an aboriginal social worker in partnership with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese.

Bishop Johnson said he regrets that the federal government is not following through on the Kelowna agreement negotiated between the federal and provincial governments and native leaders in December, 2005.

"I think it is simply wrong that this has happened, and I would encourage our people to contact their MPs and to write to the Prime Minister and say this is wrong," he said.

If you wish to express your views about this issue to your Member of Parliament, you can find out his or her contact information through the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca. Click on "Social Justice." Remember that regular mail letters to MPs and the Prime Minister don't need any postage.

tious, hot breakfast five days a week. Many children come from single-parent families on social assistance, some of whom share living quarters in local rooming houses.

I have the privilege to work as a volunteer supervisor at our local St. Vincent's Soup Kitchen. Every day, teams of volunteers from local churches prepare and serve up to 150 nutritious meals to needy patrons. Sadly, the number of patrons increases each year.

Advocacy to me is unlocking my heart to God. Talk in itself is cheap and ineffectual if not followed by concrete action.

It is my belief that advocacy for us, as Christians on our journey of faith, is a moral and spiritual imperative – in fact, a Gospel call to justice and to tangible action.

Advocacy is about showing love, compassion, and empathy. It is about helping, caring, reaching out and fending for those unable to fend for themselves. Advocacy works!

Ted Glover is a member of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board.

OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE (AND GET BACK)

HIV/AIDS, ELIMINATION OF CHILD POVERTY AND AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING are the three priorities of the Social Justice and Advocacy Board (SJAB). Each priority has an advocacy program developed by a board sub-committee. If you're interested in making a difference – if you're passionate about finding ways of helping others – if you're interested in sharing ideas – or you're just interested in 'doing' - then "WE WANT YOU"! We're actively recruiting members for each sub-committee. Committees usually meet for about two hours once a month. If you're more interested in short projects, each sub-committee has opportunities for short-term project work. And in return for the commitment, you have the opportunity to meet some interesting folk and get that warm fuzzy feeling we get when we do good works.

If you're interested or would like more information please contact:

Murray MacAdam
Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant
 416-363-6021 ext. 240 or 1-800-668-8932 ext. 240
mmacadam@toronto.anglican.ca

Use what you have been given

BY ISRAEL NEWELL

When I was asked how I got involved with justice and advocacy work, I realized that in large part it's just because of who I am as a man with a love for the written word, and in particular for the Bible as God's Word written for His people.

I go to Little Trinity, a good evangelical church in downtown Toronto, and I've served on the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board since 2003. I joined the board because I know justice is one of the major themes of the Bible. (It's interesting to note that the Bible has a lot more to say about economic justice than it does about sexual morality!) For example, the psalmist wrote, "Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy." (Psalms 82:3) And: "Doing justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice." (Proverbs 21:3)

It is true that we do not see the New Testament church engaging in advocacy work, or collective action challenging injustice – they were often more concerned with simple survival! But the Old Testament prophets definitely cried out for justice. I think one of the tasks of the modern church is to challenge our society the way the Old Testament prophets did, particularly about the way in which it treats the poor.

We live in a society where people are increasingly focussed on their lives as individuals, and on their own private pursuits, desires and needs. We downplay and forget our roles as citizens and what we might do together, as part of a community, to promote the common good. We demand our rights rather than sacrificing our time and fulfilling our responsibilities.

But God wants His people to see themselves as members of a body, members of a family. While our society may exalt individualism, the business of the church is to call society into the Kingdom of God, and the scriptural model for our society, in both the Old and New Testaments, is that of a family.

So who are our family? Well, "Don't we all have the same Father? Didn't the same God



create us all?" (Malachi 2:10) Paul wrote, "The whole family in heaven and on earth receives its name from the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 3:14-15) Jesus specifically called the afflicted and needy His brothers and sisters (Matthew 25:40).

"Whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart against him, how can the love of God abide in him?" (1 John 3:17) In a good family, people work together to help one another. But it is not enough to set up food banks and emergency shelters (although of course that's better than doing nothing at all) – advocacy work asks why people don't have enough to eat or a decent place to live.

If you see something is wrong, and God has given you gifts that could help right those wrongs, then I believe you must use what you have been given, and act on what you know. As one of Ruth Fazal's songs puts it, "If God tells you to say something, you've gotta say it, say it, say it!"

That's why Bishop Colin Johnson asked us to sign a petition and pass a motion at our vestry meetings this year, encouraging the provincial government to do its part to help look after our poorer brothers and sisters: the government needs to hear from people like us that tax dollars for affordable and supportive housing are still important.

At Little Trinity, our vestry meeting was

held on the first Sunday in Lent. I took the opportunity to remind our congregation of the passage from Isaiah 58 where God tells His people, "This is the fast that I have chosen, to let the oppressed go free, to care for the homeless poor, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh and blood." In Luke chapter 4, Jesus said He had come to proclaim good news to the poor, and the church (including Little Trinity – in the 19th century it was known as "the poor man's church"), has always interpreted that to mean the physically poor as well as the spiritually poor.

The church has something to offer the world: meaning, hope, the new life that is found in Jesus Christ. In particular, we have good news to offer the poor. But how we help the poor is also important. We are not just a bunch of people who get together regularly to do good works. God wants us to act like a family, seeing ourselves as a body meeting together under the headship, and the direction, of Jesus Himself (Colossians 1:18). If we are going to be Christ's hands and voice in the world, we have to "work together with God" (1 Corinthians 3:9), listening to Him.

To sum it up, I guess I'm here to find new ways to help the neediest members of our extended family – "for the Bible tells me so."

Israel Newell is the vice-chair of the Social Justice and Advocacy Board.

New book tells story of poverty

DESPITE boom times, Ontario's poorest citizens are living far below the poverty line. A single person on social assistance receives only \$7,007 annually. Hunger forces 330,000 Ontarians to rely on food bank handouts each month. Meanwhile 122,000 households are waiting up to 10 years for an affordable housing unit.

These are among the disturbing findings in *Lives Still in the Balance*, a hard-hitting new book on poverty in Ontario, based on consultations involving 1,500 people across the province by the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition. The Anglican Church is an active player in this coalition. Adele Finney, Peter Harris and the Rev. Ted McCollum of the Diocese of Toronto took part in the consultations. The book's editor is Murray MacAdam, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant.

Lives Still in the Balance includes first-hand testimony from people in poverty, analysis of issues such as hunger and homelessness, articles by social policy experts such as Armine Yalnizyan and Michael Shapcott, and photography. It's an updated version of a 2004 book that sold more than 2,000 copies and is used as a text for community college and university courses.

"As Ontario approaches a provincial election in October, we felt it was important to assess the provincial government's record on key poverty-related issues," says Mr. MacAdam. "We hope that parishes will use this book to educate their members and question candidates. We chose the title because poverty is not some abstract issue; people's lives are at stake."

Lives Still in the Balance can be ordered from the publisher Pandora Press, www.pandorapress.com, and sells for \$19.95 per copy.

When there's not enough to even fill the potholes

BY SYLVIA SUTHERLAND

For 15 years, as mayor of Peterborough, I looked around my city and wondered what I could do about all the things that needed something done about them. In the beginning, in the mid-80s, it was comparatively easy: all you needed was money. Somehow, back then, that seemed more available than it was by the time I finally left office permanently last fall.

What you didn't see much of in those earlier days were people living on the street. What you didn't hear much about in those earlier days were kids "couch-surfing," finding a bed – where they could, if they could – because they had no place to call home. Most people seemed to be able to afford both rent and food. We didn't

think we had many people, particularly children, living below the poverty line. We might have been wrong, of course. One thing is certain now: there is no question what the reality was in the fall of 2006 when I finally turned in my key to City Hall.

No municipal government in this province, and probably in this country, can afford to do all it should do to improve the quality of life of its citizens. We can no longer even afford to fill all the potholes, improve all the bridges, build all the roads, fix all the sidewalks, replace all the sewers.

What then, do you do about the homeless, the hungry, the abandoned? You try to find help for them from the other levels of government, who should be doing much more for them than they have been doing recently. You search out volunteers in the community who are willing to spend

their time and energy to make life better for their fellow citizens. You write letters, meet with your federal and provincial members, cabinet ministers, the Premier, the Prime Minister and tell them that 22.3 per cent of children under six in your city live below the poverty line, that it could take as long as 15 years for someone to find affordable housing in your community.

You hope they recognize that first figure means that nearly a quarter of little children in your town are ill-fed, ill-housed, ill-clothed. Because that is what poverty means. And you hope they see that unless people can find a place in which they can afford to live, that reality is not going to change because if you have to pay out most of your income for rent, then you are not going to have enough left to feed or clothe your children.

As mayor, I could argue that the homeless and the hungry were not really my problems. They belonged somewhere else, because my municipality didn't have the resources to deal with them. And anyway, wasn't I supposed to be looking after the potholes and the sewers? As a human being, I realized the homeless and the hungry were my problem, because they lived in my community, they were my neighbours, my citizens.

So, I went on their behalf to those who should be doing more to help, who have the resources, whose citizens and neighbours they are as well, and hoped they would listen. Sometimes they did. But not hard enough.

Sylvia Sutherland is a member of All Saints', Peterborough.

Calling myself to account

BY JOHN BREWIN

In the old days, disheveled prophets loitered at the city gates. They called on the passers-by to do justice. Today, the diocese's Housing Advocacy Subcommittee meets once a month at the Diocesan Centre. We're not particularly disheveled, but we too have ways of calling on the passers-by to do justice.

As a result of the subcommittee's organizing and advocacy work, churches across the diocese have found their collective voice and have been calling on Queen's Park – patiently and persistently – to provide more social and supportive housing. But like the prophets of old, we're swimming upstream against the current of the status quo. Judging from recent provincial and federal budgets, we're not yet reversing the flow to send a mighty river of justice into our communities. Why are we unable to have this kind of impact?

Maybe our efforts to be prophetic on the issues of social justice, including affordable housing, should be as much about transforming ourselves as transforming society. Perhaps a transformed society would follow the renewal of our

own passion for justice.

But how do we renew ourselves to engage in this important ministry?

- By making a personal connection with those who are under-housed or homeless. This would mean immersing ourselves in their reality without judgment or agenda, and building respectful relationships. When I was a teenager, my father ran as a candidate for Parliament, as he had many times before. In the 1953 election, I was assigned to canvass in a poor area of Toronto. I did start out with an agenda: to pull in votes for the CCF and Andrew Brewin. But before long I was drawn into the lives of the people on the other side of the rooming house doors upon which I knocked. Hearing their stories changed my life and has fueled my passion for justice throughout the years.
- By calling on the One who sets our paths straight. Remember the Gospel story of Bartimaeus? He was the blind man who Jesus healed, but not before Jesus asked him what he wanted. Like Bartimaeus, we're marginalized and out of power. We seem unable to influence the way in which society is organized and

makes decisions. We're blind and don't know how to get out of this situation. When we turn to Jesus and ask humbly for our sight, Jesus gives it to us. He puts us on the right path and turns our inaction into faithful action. But first we need to know what it is we deeply desire, in our heart of hearts.

- By engaging in community reflection and study. There is no better place to reflect on the biblical injunction to "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly" than in communities of faith wherever we find them or however we describe them. These communities can be denominational and ecumenical, local and global, formal and informal. They must meet only one criterion – they must be rooted and established in love.

When I entered theology school in Vancouver in the 1990s, a member of the graduating class had been a tenured professor of nutrition and food security at Cornell. She was a scholar with an international reputation and an impressive list of publications to her name. When asked why she would leave the academy for the life of a curate, she explained that the problem of world hunger would not be solved by

knowledge alone. If persuasive arguments supported by solid facts were enough, the problem would have been solved a long time ago. Instead, she argued, much of the solution is out of the reach of academe, for it resides within each of us and depends on the transformation of human hearts. As a priest, her call is to this search for deeper knowledge and ways to respond to the pressing issues of the day.

This scholar-turned-priest's example called me to a renewed understanding of social activism. While I'll continue to sign petitions, visit elected officials, and rally neighbours to the cause of affordable housing, I'll also sit from time to time at the gate of my own disheveled heart and call myself to account. I'll challenge my carefully constructed social world and financial priorities. I'll pray for direction and show up for meetings with others who are prepared to do the same. And surely that mighty river will flow!

John Brewin is a member of the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy Board and a board member of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation.

Hong Kong action frees up people

Continued from Page 4

currently awaiting public housing in Ontario contribute to the economy and other aspects of our common life?

Secondly, the Hong Kong government committed the necessary public funds to make this work. They get back only a fraction of the investment in apartment rental, but they reaped huge economic benefits from a secure and motivated population. Rather than spending at least 50 per cent of their income on housing, like 20 per cent of all tenants in Ontario, Hong Kong residents have been spending their money on goods, education, and, yes, saving to buy their dream home.

Thirdly, they approached the situation systematically and over a long term. In 1973, the government officially accepted the responsibility of providing affordable housing and implemented a 10-year plan. Do we have the political will to accept this responsibility?

I freely admit that it is more complicated in Ontario, with three levels of government, each having a limited term and man-

date. The will to act in Hong Kong was produced by a horrific disaster. I pray that we do not wait for yet another tragedy – for there have already been many – to galvanize the public will.

I am neither an economist nor a politician. But I do aspire to be a reflective Christian. Our struggle for justice in housing touches on some important spiritual themes. For one, what matters most is not what you think is possible, but how you look at things. Faith can move mountains. People are not a problem to be managed. The very people who are homeless and under-housed are precious gifts to us and to society in general, if only they can be freed. Finally, God blesses us back when we bless others, when we loosen the yoke of a neighbour. In Luke's words, "a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." (Luke 6:8) I believe that is what happened to the people of Hong Kong in their collective will to house their fellow citizens. Do you believe it can happen here?

Why we advocate in these areas

Continued from Page 5

raises the incomes of poor families, and the release of funds for affordable housing. Anglicans have been asking for all three of these initiatives.

Equally important is that Anglicans in our diocese are becoming aware of the issues and getting involved. "There are more parishes today that are aware of the issues than there were when we started three years ago," says Mr. Taylor. "There are more people who are prepared to lend

their voices to join us in saying to the various levels of government that we've got a problem and we have to deal with it. I'm aware of some parishes which have their own housing and homelessness committees, and in some cases they're working ecumenically to make sure that something happens."

Advocacy does bring results, but it doesn't happen easily or quickly. "The reality is that advocacy is generally a long-haul endeavour," says Murray

MacAdam, the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant. "Just as the chosen people wandered in the desert for 40 years, we are wandering in a desert of a society that in many ways does not reflect gospel values of justice and compassion, so we need to be prepared to hang in there for the long haul."

If the voices and action published on these pages are any indication, we will do it.

Letters

Recognition for St. Mark's

I recently received my issue of the March paper and was very pleased to read the article about St. Aidan's Out of the Cold program. This is surely a worthwhile program of sharing what we have with the less fortunate. I pray that their program will be a success and continue in the years to come.

It seems, however, that unless a project or program of this nature occurs in the Greater Toronto Area, it does not receive recognition from the diocese. St. Mark's, Midland, has had an Out of the Cold program running from December through March for four years. In the last three years, we have opened our doors for five to 18 guests each Saturday night. This includes supper, a bed for the night and breakfast.

This year, our chair, Lanny Davidson, has a support staff of 50 members of St. Mark's and another four people from other churches. There are seven churches involved with this program, each taking one night a week.

A second project in which St. Mark's is involved is the annual Christian Community Breakfast, first started in 1992. This is a breakfast put on by about 22 churches in this area, a truly ecumenical program to share our faith with Christians of other denominations. During breakfast, we have a short musical program and a guest speaker. Our goal is to have a Christian speaker who is known nationally. They are asked to share with us the experience of being a Christian in the workplace. Past speakers have included: Jake Epp, then a federal Cabinet Minister; hockey player Ron Ellis; David Fisher, chaplain for the Toronto Blue Jays and the former Montreal Expos; Archie McLean, senior executive of McCain Foods in New Brunswick; Frank Iacobucci, a Supreme

Court judge; MPP Elizabeth Witmer; and others. The breakfast serves about 370 guests and is sold out each year. I feel that this is a unique program, possibly the only one of its kind.

Midland and other towns north of Toronto do have programs in place to share God's work. While recognizing that Toronto is the hub of our diocese, maybe just a half page in *The Anglican* each issue could be devoted to the north.

**William Oxford
Midland**

Editor's Note: A series in The Anglican called Spotlight On, which ran from 2004 to 2006, featured the work of parishes in all the episcopal areas of the diocese. It was discontinued due to a lack of submissions from parishes. The Anglican currently publishes a Parish News page, and encourages all parishes to submit their stories and photos to hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca.

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Teens serve up coffee, music

The teens of Christ Church, Campbellford, known as The "A" Team, held their first-ever coffee house on Feb. 25. Sixty parishioners and friends gathered in the parish's Jenkins Hall for a candle-lit evening of music, readings, flavoured coffees and home-made pie. "Members of the parish are already asking when they can expect the next coffee house!" says youth facilitator Laura Anne Carleton.

St. James, Sutton West turns 150

St. James, Sutton West, of 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, call the church office at (905) 722-3726, write to St. James Anglican Church, Box 88 Sutton West, Ont., L0E 1R0, or visit www.parishofgeorgina.org.

New music director starts at St. Mary's

St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto, welcomed its new director of music, Stephanie Martin, in January. Ms. Martin is an assistant professor in York University's Department of Music in the Faculty of Fine Arts. She also conducts Toronto's Pax Christi Chorale.

St. Mary Magdalene's, which practices high Anglican liturgy, was the spiritual and musical home of the late Canadian composer Healey Willan. "The ghost of Willan certainly lurks here, but he's a friendly spirit," says Ms. Martin. "St. Mary Magdalene's is one of those thin places, where the veil between this world and the next is almost transparent," she adds.

Grant expands youth programs

Two parishes in the diocese - Nativity, Malvern, and St. Stephen's, Downsview - have each received a grant from the African-Canadian Christian Network, in collaboration with the Toronto Charity Foundation, which is enabling them to continue and expand their programs for young people who live in areas with high levels of gun crime.

The grant is helping to fund Nativity, Malvern's after-school program, which runs daily from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Vida Clarke Stevens, who is on the program's steering committee, says that it is more than just a homework club. "Most homework clubs in the neighbourhood finish at 6 p.m. and children are going home on their own, because parents are still at work," she says. "That's why we have the extended hours."

She says that though the central focus is education, the program also provides kids with a meal and includes activities like music, science projects, and filmmaking. It also prepares about 230 kids for competitions with Spelling Bee of Canada.

The program's wish-list includes a van. "The kids come from about six neighbouring schools and one of our concerns is that these



Students in Nativity, Malvern's, after-school program play a game of chess. The program's focus is on education, but it also provides kids with a meal and activities. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

small children have to walk to the program," she says. "Our goal is to get a van so we can do some pickups in the afternoon."

Thanks to the grant, St. Stephen's, Downsview, has been able to extend its Homework Club to four days a week and add more volunteers and paid staff, many of them young people who have been involved with the program as participants. "We've run our after-school program for years, but it was only two days a week," says Marie Green, the parish's youth minister. "We also had Friday night activities, and we were doing a couple of skill-building things, like our video club. What we wanted to do was respond to what was going on in our community at a greater level. We felt that we weren't really meeting the need, because our program times were limited to two days a week, and so we were worried about what the kids were doing the rest of the time."

The parish also runs a Saturday morning program, which was started by a young man who used to be a participant and came back as an adult to volunteer and give back to the community. The expanded youth program goes under the moniker "HIPP," which stands for "Hope Inspiring Peace Project." Says Ms. Green: "The whole premise of HIPP is that we feel that if we can create a spirit of hope in the community, it will inspire these young people who sometimes get in trouble or conflict with the law to not use that as an outlet, by involving them in programs like ours."

Ms. Green says that they will also work on encouraging other parishes to start similar programs: "Now that we have more staff, it frees us up to be able to have our front-line workers and our volunteers go to other churches and other communities and talk about what we did and how we did it."



Stephanie Martin is St. Mary Magdalene's new director of music.

Cathedral and city's history connected

A special exhibit connecting the history of St. James' Cathedral with that of the City of Toronto will open with a reception in the cathedral's Archives and Museum on May 9, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At the opening, Dean Douglas Stoute will be joined by former mayor David Crombie, who will speak on the need for a Museum of Toronto, as well as Ron Williamson, who will describe an archaeological study of Toronto's first hospital site. Robert Kearns of the Ireland Park Foundation will talk about plans for a park at the foot of Bathurst Street to mark the 160th anniversary of the summer of 1847, when 38,000 Irish people fleeing the famine arrived in Toronto.

The exhibit will run until July 5 and will be open to the public every Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Archives and Museum is located in the St. James' Cathedral Parish House, 65 Church St., Toronto. Admission by donation. Group tours are welcome by appointment, and can include a tour



Young performers share their talents at Christ Church, Campbellford's, coffee house in February. From left to right: Peter Franken, Luke Steinmann, Cody Summers, and Bruce Steinmann.

of the cathedral and the newly restored 19th-century garden in neighbouring St. James' Park, with tea, coffee or lunch. Call (416) 364-7865, ext. 233, or e-mail archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca

Waubushene reaches out to Sierra Leone

Christ Church, Waubushene, will host a concert with Midland's award-winning Children's Community Choir, on May 27 at 7 p.m. The proceeds of the concert will support the parish's friends in Sierra Leone - a country that saw a brutal civil war through most of the 1990s - including an orphanage, a teacher and his family, and a secondary school in Port Loko, known locally as "the Canadian school."

The friendship began when parishioner and teacher Paul Delaney spent the summer of 1988 teaching near Freetown, Sierra Leone, and one of his students asked him for help in obtaining ribbons for the school's typewriters. Since then, Christ Church and nearby Victoria Harbour Elementary School have raised more

than \$150,000 in the community for the people of Port Loko.

Says Mr. Delaney: "When most Sierra Leoneans believed that the rest of the world had forgotten them, the people of Christ Church, Waubushene, steadfastly reached out to them in their prayers and in many other ways."

Christ Church concludes anniversary

Bishop Patrick Yu will be the chief celebrant and preacher at the eucharist on June 17 at 5 p.m. as Christ Church, Scarborough concludes a year of activities. The year's activities included an opening ceremony last June where greetings were received from special well-wishers, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

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 or mail them to *The Anglican*, 135 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ont., M5C 1L8.

LOOKING AHEAD

Items for Looking Ahead should be emailed to hpaukov@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the September issue is Aug. 1.

Services

MAY 5 – May Festival of Our Lady St. Mary, at 10:30 a.m., St. Matthias, 45 Bellwoods Ave., Toronto. Solemn eucharist and luncheon, followed by rosary and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call (416) 268-9174.

MAY 6 – A service will be held at 4 p.m. at All Saints, Markham, 1100 Denison St., to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first female priest in the Anglican Communion. Celebrant: Bishop Victoria Matthews; preacher: Bishop Barbara Harris. All are welcome. A dinner will follow at New Century Restaurant, 398 Ferrier St., Markham, at 6 p.m. Tickets for the dinner are \$25 each and can be purchased by calling the Rev. Canon Kenneth Fung at (647) 988-1188.

MAY 12 – May Festival of Our Lady St. Mary, at 10 a.m., St. Thomas, 383 Huron St., Toronto. Solemn eucharist and luncheon, followed by rosary and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, call (416) 268-9174.

MAY 16 – A choir of over 60 children, teens and adults from St. Mark, Port Hope, and Trinity College School will sing the First Evensong of Ascension Day, at 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial Chapel of Trinity College School, Ward Street, Port Hope. All are welcome. For more information, phone Randy Mills at (905) 373-0867.

MAY 23 – St. Paul's, Bloor Street, welcomes The Most Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Archbishop of the Kaduna Archdiocese, Nigeria. All are invited to join the archbishop at 7 p.m. in an evensong with an Afro-Caribbean flavour, followed by a reception. The archbishop will bring an update on the progress of the Jacaranda Farm and the status of Christian-Muslim relations in the region. The event takes place at St. Paul's, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. For more information, call (416) 961-8116 or emo@stpaulsbloor.org.

MAY 26 – May Festival of Our Lady St. Mary, at 10 a.m., Church of St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave., Toronto. Solemn Eucharist and outdoor procession, followed by luncheon. For more information, call (416) 268-9174.

JUNE 3 – Taizé service at Church of the Ascension, 33 Overland Dr., Don Mills, at 7:30 p.m. Prayers, readings, meditation, silence. Next service on June 24. Call (416) 444-8881.

JUNE 10 – Trinity East (Little Trinity), 425 King St. E., will celebrate its 165th anniversary. There will be a service at 10 a.m. with guest preacher, the Rev. Harry Robinson, who was the rector from 1963 to 1978. The service will be followed by a luncheon reception in the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse. Former members of the congregation are especially welcome to join in the celebrations. Call (416) 367-0272 or visit www.littletrinity.on.ca.

Social/Fundraising

MAY 26 – St. Michael the Archangel is throwing its 21st annual Caribbean dinner/dance from 7

p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church Hall, 14 Highgate Dr., Markham. Music by Rocking Roxy. Tickets are \$40. For more information, call (416) 299-9592, or email stmichael@rogers.com.

JUNE 14 – St. Andrew, Scarborough, will hold an open house to honour the Rev. Canon Bill Kiblewhite on the occasion of his retirement. The parish is located at St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2333 Victoria Park Ave., Toronto. The event will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.; the program will begin at 8 p.m. To RSVP or for further information, call the church at (416) 447-1481 between 9 a.m. and 12 noon.

SEP. 13 – St. George's, Pickering, will hold its second annual St. George's Anglican Church/Alex Mines Annual Charity Golf Tournament, at the Whispering Ridge Golf Course, just north of Whitby. Proceeds will be used to support Kids Help Phone, Durham Family Court Clinic and WindReach Farm, as well as the parish's community outreach ministry. The cost is \$125 per person and includes green fees, power cart and dinner. For more information and registration form, contact St. George's, Pickering at (905) 683-7981, or visit www.stgeorgeschurch.ca.

Conferences/Lectures

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

MAY 8 – The Church of the Redeemer invites you to An Evening with Luke, a novel way to experience and understand the Gospel of Luke 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 should pre-register by May 4. Call (416) 922-4948, or visit www.theredeemer.ca and select News/Information. Child-care 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. Upcoming: An Evening with Acts, June 5.

MAY 27 – The Jacaranda Farm Project presents Mr. Rowland Shaba from Kaduna, Nigeria, at 12:45 p.m. at St. Paul's, 227 Bloor St. E., Toronto. Mr. Shaba is a manager at the Jacaranda Farm, a commercial farm project in rural northern Nigeria, supported by St. Paul's. Following the 11 a.m. service at St. Paul's, Mr. Shaba will share some experiences from Kaduna, as well as updates on the development of the farm, and treat the audience to photos from the region. For more information, call (416) 961-8116 or emo@stpaulsbloor.org.

Sales

MAY 4-5 – Rummage Sale at St. Nicholas, Birch Cliff, 1512 Kingston Rd., Scarborough. Clothing, household items, jewellery, books. May 4, 6-8 p.m.; May 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MAY 5 – The Church of St. Bede, 79 Westbourne Ave., Scarborough, is having a spring bazaar, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baking, jewellery, handmade knitting and crafts, Indian/Canadian foods, books, "previously enjoyed items," and more, just in time for Mother's Day. For more information, call (416) 757-8241.

MAY 12 – Annual Attic Sale at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road (at Russell Hill). Toys, furniture, antiques, housewares, jewelry and more. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (416) 488-7884.

MAY 12 – St. Michael the Archangel, 410 Goldhawk Trail, Scarborough, is having its annual Mother's Day Bake sale from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sweetbread, personalized cakes and much more. For further information, contact the church at (416) 299-9592.

JUNE 2 – Giant Garage Sale and BBQ, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at St. Andrew's, 2333 Victoria Park Ave., Scarborough. Rain or shine. Jewellery, pictures, household items, lamps, games, collectibles and more. For more information, call Bill Whiteside at (416) 264-8484 or Joyce Myles (416) 447-6810. If you are unable to be present on June 2, your saleable items will still be welcome.

SEP. 15 – St. Jude's Fair at St. Jude, Wexford, 10 Howarth Ave., Scarborough, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Great food, arts and crafts, clown and face painting, music, bargains. Call (416) 755-5872.

Drama and Poetry

MAY 5 – Gunaseelan Dance Company, in collaboration with St. Columba and All Hallows, presents FootSteps 2007: International Dance Day and South Asian Heritage celebrations. The show and dinner take place at 6 p.m. at St. Columba and All Hallows, 2723 St. Clair E., East York. Wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for children under 12 (dinner included). Call (416) 755-0301 or email stcolumba1@bellnet.ca.

MAY 17 – All Ages Movie Night at St. Olave, Swansea, 360 Windermere Ave., Toronto. Ascension

evensong at 6 p.m., pizza at 6:30 p.m., and the movie Eve and the Fire Horse from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contributions appreciated. For more details, call (416) 769-5686.

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, or visit www.stthomas.on.ca.

Music

APR. 29 – Windsong Concert in celebration of the 100th anniversary of St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto, 7:30 p.m., at the church, 611 St. Clair Ave., W., Toronto. Tickets are \$15. On May 6, the guest preacher will be the Rev. Canon Tim Grew. Call (416) 653-3593.

MAY 2 – The Three Cantors come to St. Peter's, Cobourg, King Street at College, at 8 p.m., for an evening of pleasure for all lovers of music. Admission is \$20. For more information, call (905) 372-3442 during office hours.

MAY 5 – "All things you are," music and stories for life's journey, with jazz pianist the Rev. Canon Tim Elliott, 7:30 p.m., St. Cyprian's, 1080 Finch Ave., E., Toronto. Tickets are \$15 and are available by calling the church office at (416) 494-2442 or Carol Berger, (416) 493-4237.

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. Proceeds to help Sleeping Children Around the World, FaithWorks' Street Outreach Services and St. John's. Call (416) 225-6611. Adults \$15; children \$5.

MAY 6 – Praise the Lord, O My Soul, a musical preview of the Grace Church on-the-Hill Choirs' 2007 Tour to England. World Premiere of Andrew Ager's "The Ransomed of the Lord," and "Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis;" Canadian

Premiere of Andrew Carter's "Praise the Lord, O My Soul." Melva Treffinger Graham, Conductor. 3 pm, at Grace Church on-the-Hill, 300 Lonsdale Road, Toronto (between Avenue Road & Spadina, north of St. Clair). Tickets \$15/\$10/\$5. Call (416) 488-7884, ext. 333.

MAY 17, 24, 31 – "Music on the Hill," free lunchtime concerts at St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. 12:15 to 1 p.m. For more information, contact the church at (416) 225-6611.

MAY 25 – The Nathaniel Dett Chorale presents "And Still We Sing" at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. A private reception will be held in support of the Jacaranda Farm, a commercial farm project in rural Northern Nigeria with a vision of Christian-Muslim reconciliation, supported by St. Paul's, Bloor St. Archbishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon and the farm manager will address the guests at the reception. Tickets are \$40 for the concert (beginning at 8 p.m.) and \$100 for both the reception (beginning at 6 p.m.) and concert. For more information, call (416) 961-8116 or emo@stpaulsbloor.org.

MAY 27 – St. Stephen's, Downsview, 2259 Jane St., presents Tenor at Twilight at 5 p.m. This concert will feature Colin Norville from Barbados, the leading tenor in the Caribbean. Admission is \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. This event will conclude the church's annual revival weekend (May 25-26). The preacher this year is Pastor Michael Morris of the First Baptist Church of Toronto. For more information, call the office at (416) 241-4639 or visit www.saintstephensthoronto.com.

MAY 27 – An organ recital at St. John's Convent, home of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, 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.

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FOR JUNE

1. National Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (Partners)
2. Anglican Appeal
3. Eglinton Deanery
4. Christ Church, Deer Park (Toronto)
5. Grace Church on-the-Hill (Toronto)
6. Church of the Messiah (Toronto)
7. St. Augustine of Canterbury (Toronto)
8. St. Clement's, Eglinton
9. St. Guthbert's, Leaside
10. St. George House (LOFT Community Services)
11. St. Leonard's (Toronto)
12. St. Margaret's, North Toronto
13. St. Michael and All Angels (Toronto)
14. St. Timothy's, North Toronto
15. Church of the Transfiguration (Toronto)
16. Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (Partners)
17. Mississauga Deanery
18. Holy Spirit, Dixie North
19. St. Bride's, Clarkson
20. St. Francis of Assisi
21. St. Hilary's
22. St. John's, Dixie
23. St. Luke's, Dixie
24. Wilkinson Housing & Support Services (LOFT)
25. St. Elizabeth's (Mississauga)
26. St. Paul's, Lorne Park
27. St. Peter's, Erindale
28. St. Thomas a Becket
29. Trinity, Port Credit
30. Trinity, Streetsville

FOR JULY

1. Toronto East Deanery
2. Church of the Resurrection
3. St. Aidan's, Toronto
4. St. Andrew's Japanese Congregation (Toronto)
5. St. Barnabas, Chester
6. St. Columba and All Hallows (Toronto)
7. St. David's, Donlands
8. College View Supportive Housing Services (LOFT)
9. St. John's Chinese Church
10. St. John's, Norway
11. St. Luke's (Toronto)
12. St. Matthew's, First Avenue (Toronto)
13. St. Monica's (Toronto)
14. St. Saviour's (Toronto)
15. North Peel Deanery
16. Christ Church, Bolton
17. Christ Church, Brampton
18. Holy Family, Heart Lake
19. St. James, Caledon East
20. St. James the Apostle (Brampton)
21. St. Joseph of Nazareth (Brampton)
22. Dunn Avenue Supportive Housing Service
23. St. Jude's, Bramalea
24. Trinity Church, Campbell's Cross
25. Church of the Advent
26. Good Shepherd, Weston
27. St. Chad's, Toronto
28. St. Hilda, Fairbanks (Toronto)
29. Toronto West Deanery
30. St. John's, West Toronto
31. St. Mark and Calvary (Toronto)

IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. William Craven, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Campbell's Cross, Feb. 1.
- The Rev. Patricia Dufield, Honorary Assistant, St. Matthew, Islington, Toronto, Feb. 22.
- The Rev. Catherine Gibbs, Honorary Assistant, St. Philip the Apostle, Toronto, Feb. 22.
- The Rev. Robin Guinness, Honorary Assistant, Trinity East (Little Trinity), Toronto, Feb. 22.
- The Ven. Michael Pollesel (Ont., National Church Staff), Honorary Assistant, St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, Feb. 26.
- The Rev. Victor Li, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. John the Divine, Toronto, Mar. 1.
- The Rev. Bobby Mather, Associate Priest, St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, Mar. 1.
- The Rev. David Montgomery, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Timothy, North Toronto, Mar. 1.
- The Rev. Kim McArthur, Incumbent, St. Andrew, Alliston, Mar. 1.
- The Rev. Dr. Michael Lloyd, Honorary Assistant, St. George-on-the-Hill, Toronto, Mar. 21.
- The Rev. Canon Edmund Der, Honorary Assistant, Grace Church, Markham, Mar. 28.
- The Rev. Ann Shorrocks, Honorary Assistant, All Saints, King City, Mar. 28.
- The Rev. Susan DeGruchy, Interim Priest-in-Charge (while the incumbent is on leave), St. Michael the Archangel, Toronto, Apr. 1.
- The Ven. William Gray

- (Huron), Incumbent, All Saints, Peterborough, Apr. 15.
- The Rev. Robert Conway, Associate Priest, All Saints, Sherbourne Street, Toronto, June 1.
- The Rev. Catherine Barley, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew, Scarborough, starting July 1.
- The Rev. Peter Mills (Frederickton), Incumbent, Parish of Ida and Omeme, Aug. 1.

Ordination of Transitional Deacons

The following individuals will be ordained transitional deacons on May 6, at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul, Bloor Street, Toronto: Andrea Budgey, Gregory Carpenter, Andrew Federle, Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD, Daniel Graves, Susan Haig, David Julien, Susanne McKim, Matthew McMillan, Shelley McVe, Jason van Veghel-Wood.

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

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee Receiving Names

- (via Area Bishop):
- St. Matthew, Oshawa (Trent-Durham)
 - St. Paul, Lindsay (Trent-Durham)

- Messiah, Toronto
- Christ Church, Campbellford (Trent-Durham)
- St. John, York Mills (York-Scarborough)

Other Vacancies

(apply through the Human Resources Department):

- Director, Flemingdon Park Ministry

Honoured for Years of Service

Bishop Colin Johnson honoured the following clergy at the Blessing of Oils and Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows service at St. James' Cathedral on March 29:

Silver Jubilee (25 years as priest)

- The Rev. Alan Chaffee
- The Rev. Robert Conway
- The Rev. Dr. Michael Pountney
- The Very Rev. Douglas Stoute
- The Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu

Golden Jubilee (50 years as priest)

- The Rev. Philip Gandon
- The Rev. Gordon King
- The Rev. William Linley
- The Rev. John K. Scott-Frampton

Bishop Johnson gave each of them an embroidered Jubilee Stole, which is white with the blue diocesan logo embroidered on it.

Retirements and Departures

- The Rev. Roland Kawano's appointment as Priest-in-Charge of St. John the Divine, Toronto, ended on Feb. 28.
- The Rev. Don Downer has announced his retirement. His last Sunday as Associate Priest at Holy Trinity, Thornhill, will be June 24.

St. Giles' Anglican Church Barrie, Ontario 50th Anniversary

Please join us on Saturday May 26, 2007 at Lion's Club
from 4:30 to 9:30 to celebrate our

50th Anniversary.

We will celebrate fellowship, view displays of 50 glorious years at St. Giles',
dinner, slideshow and presentations to follow.

Also, on Sunday May 27, 2007 join us in worship at 10:00 am
for service of Holy Eucharist at our church location:

95 Cook St., Barrie, Ontario

You are welcome to join us for fellowship, refreshments
and lunch following the service.

To obtain tickets or further information please call:
St. Giles' church at: 705-726-8336.

ACW

BY MARION SAUNDERS

May date celebrates 40 years of ministry

On Nov. 27, 1967, the Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women was incorporated, encompassing the ministries of Women's Auxiliary (WA), Mothers' Union (MU), the Church Year and the Chancel Guild. On May 26, 2007, women from across the diocese are encouraged to celebrate our 40 years of ministry together and to plan and share their vision for the next 40 years! All this will happen at the Diocesan ACW's annual general meeting, to be held at St. Peter's, Cobourg, with registration at 8:45 a.m. The meeting will open with a eucharist celebrated by the ACW chaplain, the Rev. Anne Moore. During the meeting, the speaker will be Diane Froncz, parish nurse. The afternoon speaker is Suzanne Lawson, who has served at both the diocesan and national church levels. Currently she is the alternate delegate to the Anglican Consultative Council for the Anglican Church of Canada. She will help those present to share reminiscences and encourage a vision for women in ministry for the future.

Elections are always part of our annual meeting. This year, positions are open for a public relations representative as well as representatives for York-Simcoe, York-Scarborough and Trent-Durham. Please consider joining the ACW's board. It offers a very exciting perspective of the witness and work of women throughout the diocese. Another item of business will be choosing the theme for the social concern and action projects to be supported in 2008 and 2009. The board has recommended "Women's Literacy." However, further suggestions are welcome. To submit a recommendation, please email acw@toronto.anglican.ca or call (416) 363-0018 with your topic by May 15.

Each person is invited to bring memories, banners, items of interest, pictures and more to share the past history of the life of the ACW and women's varied roles in our churches.

Please note: The focus of the day is to share the fellowship found so meaningful by so many. It is open to all women, regardless of whether they consider themselves to be ACW.

Tickets are \$20 each, available from the ACW office (see contact information above). A hot luncheon hosted by the ladies of St. Peter's is included in the ticket price. For catering purposes, tickets should be purchased by May 18.

Young leaders talk about church

Panel to share thoughts on how to build missional communities

TRINITY, Streetsville, has invited some of the brightest young leaders in the North American church to lead a dialogue on how the church can build vital missional communities. Shane Claiborne, Colin McCartney, Matt Wilkinson, and other ministry leaders will be on hand to share their insights and respond to questions.

"These young leaders represent an emerging generation of Christians who are asking different sorts of questions about being church," says the Rev. Lance Dixon,

associate priest at Trinity. "They are asking the vital questions about the spiritual DNA of the church, and then experimenting with every insight in their daily life and work. Regardless of length of experience in church life or level of leadership, those interested in exploring the fundamental questions of what church really is, and what God really wants the church to be doing, is the type of person we had in mind when organizing this conference."

Mr. Claiborne has recently writ-

ten a book which tells about his experience of founding an "urban monastic community" in north Philadelphia with a few friends from university.

Included among the speakers will be the Rev. Hernan Astudillo, incumbent of San Lorenzo Anglican Church in north Toronto, and Rob Shearer, who is currently leading the youth initiative of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. Both Mr. Astudillo and Mr. Shearer have extensive experience doing ministry in di-

verse contexts.

"They have thought deeply about the challenge of building authentic communities in a culture increasingly fragmented by technology and globalization," says Mr. Dixon.

The conference will be held at Trinity, Streetsville, in Mississauga on May 26. It will start at 2 p.m. and will close with a commissioning of the participants at 8:45 p.m. For more information, contact the Rev. Lance Dixon at (905) 826-1901, ext. 225.

BRIEFLY

First female priest honoured at service

A service will be held at All Saints', Markham, at 4 p.m. on May 6 to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman to be ordained a priest in the Anglican Communion. All are invited. Bishop Victoria Matthews of the Diocese of Edmonton will be guest celebrant for the eucharist, and Bishop Barbara Harris of the Episcopal Church in the United States will be the guest preacher. The church is located at 1100 Denison St., Markham.

Academy supports lay ministry

The 11th annual Lay Academy will run June 11-15 at Christ Church, Bobcaygeon. The goal of the Academy is to provide spiritual and professional development and stimulation for all people interested in lay ministry. Adele Finney will present a prayer workshop entitled "Finding our Rhythm," and the Rev. Canon Andrew Sheldon will lead a workshop called "Preparing to Preach in a Missional Church."

In the plenary session, the Rev. Dr. John Stephenson will address

the question, "Who did Jesus think he was, anyway?" New this year, on three afternoons, the Rev. Wendy Moore will lead a workshop entitled "Empowering the Laity."

The cost is \$95, with an additional fee of \$20 for the afternoon sessions, and includes all materials and a meet-and-greet luncheon on Monday. Each day begins with worship followed by a small group Bible study. For more information, contact Sheila Ridge, registrar, at (705) 738-1540.

Lay anointers receive training

The Bishop's Committee on Healing will be convening its ninth annual Lay Anointers' Training Event at Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, on May 11-12. It begins at 7 p.m. on May 11. Training includes a period of intensive instruction covering the biblical, historical and theological background of the healing ministry as well as pastoral and liturgical issues. Bishop Patrick Yu, Dr. Joseph Mangina and the Rev. Canon Christian Swayne (OHC) will be the featured speakers. To register or for more information, contact Shelley Tidy at (416) 425-3205.

Day of Prayer needs volunteers

On June 3, parishes are invited to

host one of 200 delegates from every part of the world who will be arriving in the Toronto area for the quadrennial meeting of the World Day of Prayer International Committee. This ecumenical gathering will be held May 30 to June 5 at Seneca College in King City. If you or your parish would like to volunteer, contact the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, at (416) 929-5184.

Priest dramatizes Paul's letter

The Rev. Canon Mark Tiller, a priest in the Diocese of Niagara, has combined his passion for theatre and commitment to Chris-

tianity by performing a one-person presentation of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. This could be used for entertainment at any number of parish events as well as for Bible study. Visit his website, www.jmarktiller.com.

HIV/AIDS group needs drivers

The Teresa Group, a charitable organization in Toronto that offers programs and services to children and their families affected by HIV/AIDS, is looking for volunteers to drive children to and from the programs. For more information, contact Constance Nobes at (416) 596-7703, ext. 311.



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A QUESTION OF FAITH

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?

He listened to us

The person whose faith I caught as a 15-year old (53 years ago) was our new deacon, Walter Dyer, later ordained a priest and now a retired canon. He listened to us young people – what a concept in the '50s! I decided that this clever, witty and dedicated guy had something I wanted – an everyday faith he made so real. Plus we knew that he loved us, and still does. How blessed can you get!

Robyn Wilson
St. Paul's Singhampton

Strengthened my faith

There's no question: Archbishop Ted Scott. He touched my life and strengthened my faith, as I'm sure he did for many people across Canada. Right from his first question – "Tell me about yourself" – our friendship and my faith grew. During his sermons, I couldn't plan my week or think about last night's game; I could only listen. He challenged me to walk as a Christian. His blessing at the end of the service – "The peace of God which passeth all understanding..." made me grow in faith and try to be a better Christian.

John Turner
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