

Mongolians join Toronto church

FaithWorks provides help and hope



Deanery plans amazing race

The Anglican

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

A SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL

www.toronto.anglican.ca

MAY 2019

From grass to garden

Ministry plans urban farm at local church

BY STUART MANN

IN 2017, the Rev. Beverley Williams and her staff at Flemingdon Park Ministry had a conversation about the need for good, healthy produce for local residents. The Don Mills neighbourhood is home to many newcomers to Canada who struggle to make ends meet. The area's foodbank mostly stocks canned and packaged goods, and the fruit and vegetables in the nearest grocery store are expensive.

While they were talking, Ms. Williams had an idea. "I said, wouldn't it be great if we could just grow food, if there was land somewhere?"

She thought of churches and the land they sit on, then went to Google Maps and started searching for nearby churches that might have some land to spare. One seemed ideal – the Church of Our Saviour, Don Mills, an Anglican church about 7 km away. The parish had a large swath of grass next to its church building.

Ms. Williams got in touch the Rev. Vernon Duporte, Our Saviour's priest-in-charge, and pitched the idea to him. "I proposed turning some of the grass space into garden space, where we could grow food for people who can't afford it," she recalls.

Mr. Duporte liked the idea and took it up with his churchwardens and advisory board, then with the rest of the congregation. Although there were a lot of questions, the church was supportive. "People saw this as an opportunity for mission, to reach out to the community," he says.

With the church's permission, Ms. Williams and her team of staff and volunteers put in six raised garden beds on the property last summer. With a \$5,000 grant from The Big Carrot, a worker-owned natural food market in Toronto, they were able to buy seeds, seedlings and other items to get started. Other donors helped out as well.



The Rev. Beverley Williams, Esey Tewolde and the Rev. Vernon Duporte stand in front of garden beds at Our Saviour, Don Mills. At right, volunteers clean up some of the raised beds last summer. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON AND FLEMINGDON PARK MINISTRY

That summer, the team grew spinach, peas, several varieties of tomatoes and peppers, onions, eggplant, three types of beans, romaine lettuce, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy, herbs and cucumbers. The Common Table, as the project was called, was born.

But growing the food was only half of the solution. They also had to find a way to distribute it to those who needed it. "We were growing vegetables – now what were we going to do with them?" Ms. Williams recalls.

The team developed a market system where families could register with The Common Table and receive shopping points based on the number of children and adults they had. To distribute the food, The Common Table received permission from the city to hold a market every other Friday in a park in the middle of Flemingdon Park. It set up a tent and a table and put out its first produce.

Ms. Williams was surprised by what happened next. "What we didn't realize was the demand," she says. In the first month of operation, 227 families had registered – about 1,200 adults and children. All the food at the market was usually



gone within two hours.

"We weren't growing enough food," explains Ms. Williams. "We couldn't meet the demand." The team had to supplement its offerings with food from other sources. Local farmers, grocery stores and non-profit organizations provided fresh fruit and vegetables at little or no cost.

Faced with the size of the need, Ms. Williams wondered if The Common Table could turn the entire swath of grass at Our Saviour – about three-quarters of an acre – into an urban farm, to provide much more produce this summer.

Again, the church was supportive. "We see the potential as being very great," says Mr. Duporte. "We don't have a full sense of how it's all going to unfold, but we know that

the land is being put to good use and for a good purpose."

Last fall, the team removed the six raised garden beds and replaced them with 16 larger beds that were dug right into the soil. Before the sod was turned, the University of Guelph tested the soil and gave it a clean bill of health; in fact, it was discovered that the church property was originally farmland.

"We've come full circle," says Ms. Williams.

The team plans to plant the same vegetables again this summer, plus squash, beans and corn. The seeds and seedlings will go into the ground as soon as the frost is gone, beginning with peas and spinach. As the vegetables are harvested,

Continued on Page 2

Town hall meetings coming up

BISHOP Andrew Asbil is holding five town hall meetings in early May to hear from lay people in every episcopal area about their hopes, fears and dreams and to begin a conversation about where Anglicans believe God is calling the diocese to go.

The first meetings will take place on Wednesday, May 1, with one session at 2 p.m. at St. James Cathedral, Toronto and a second session at 7 p.m. at St. Bride, Clarkson. The third town hall will take place on Thursday, May 2 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew, Scarborough. The final meetings will be held on Saturday, May 4, when Bishop Asbil will visit St. Paul, Newmarket at 10 a.m. and St. Paul, Uxbridge at 2 p.m.

Bishop Asbil says he wants to hear from a wide range of people and is encouraging "anybody and everybody" to come. Those planning to attend are asked to register through the diocesan website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Government urged to keep sites open

THE diocese's College of Bishops and four clergy have written to Minister of Health Christine Elliott, expressing their concern over the provincial government's decision to reduce and limit the number of overdose prevention sites in Ontario.

In the April 2 letter, the bishops and clergy say the opioid overdose crisis in the province is "the major public health issue of our time" and is a health emergency that is costing many lives. More than 1,250 people died of opioid overdoses in Ontario in 2017.

The letter was sent by bishops Andrew Asbil, Peter Fenty, Riscylla Shaw, Kevin Robertson and Jenny Anderson, the Rev. Alison Falby of All Saints Church-Community Centre, the Rev. Maggie Helwig of St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, the Ven. Stephen Vail, archdeacon

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Rwandan speaker to visit

Program improves health care

CLERGY are invited to bring a member of their parish to “lunch and learns” during the week of June 10 to hear about work in Rwanda that is supported by the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF).

The speaker will be Antoinette (Toni) Habinshuti, the deputy executive director and managing director of Partners In Health Rwanda, an agency that seeks to improve health care in Rwanda’s rural areas, especially for women and children.

“Toni is a compelling speaker and she’ll have a lot of very interesting things to share” says Jeanine Cudmore, PWRDF’s development



Antoinette Habinshuti

program coordinator. “It’s a good opportunity to learn about what’s happening in an area where PWRDF and Anglicans have invested a lot of resources.”

PWRDF supports Partners In Health Rwanda through its All Mothers and Children Count program, which seeks to reduce illness and death among women of reproductive age, newborns and children of both sexes under the age of five in rural villages in Burundi, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The diocese’s Our Faith-Our Hope campaign gave a \$500,000 grant to the \$20 million, four-year program in 2016. With matching grants from the Department of Global Affairs Canada, the diocese’s donation grew to \$2 million. An additional \$2.2 mil-

lion will come from PWRDF donors across Canada.

In Rwanda, funds are used to train health care providers, buy supplies and equipment, enhance medical facilities and provide educational programs on nutrition and family planning.

“It’s quite inspiring, especially when you look at the context people are living in, such as the distance they have to travel to health facilities,” says Ms. Cudmore, who liaises with Ms. Habinshuti and Partners In Health Rwanda and visits the programs in Africa about once a year.

She says the lunch and learns will give participants a close-up look at the work in Rwanda, especially the rebuilding efforts that have taken place since the Rwandan genocide 25 years ago. “It’s very good to learn first-hand from somebody who actually lives in the country, who can share her experiences and the transformation she’s seen

through the project.”

PWRDF is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. “PWRDF is the principal way in which Canadian Anglicans serve the needs of the world,” says the Rev. Canon David Harrison, a member of PWRDF’s board of directors and the incumbent of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto. “It does its work out of a Christian conviction for those in need, and it’s an organization we should be proud of.”

He encourages clergy to attend. “In our busy lives, we often go from one thing to the next, but we don’t always take the chance to pause and to learn something or to gather information. In a way I think this is a kind of gift to clergy, to say could you take a lunch hour and we’ll feed you and come and learn?”

For more information, visit the diocese’s website at www.toronto.anglican.ca or watch for the June issue of *The Anglican*.

Church land used to grow food

Continued from Page 1

volunteers with cars or trucks will be needed to transport them to the market at Flemingdon Park. Residents will be able to work at the farm this summer, earning more points for food on market day.

Some other changes are in the works. There’s a small worm farm on site to create compost, and an arborist is donating wood shavings to create walkways between the vegetable beds. There might even be a greenhouse in the future.

Ms. Williams is hoping that the market in Flemingdon Park can be open every Friday. She says it’s an important gathering place for the community. In addition to picking up their produce, residents can sign up for library cards, learn about government services and receive donated items like soccer balls and skipping ropes for their kids.

“It’s just a win-win on so many levels,” she says, reflecting on how far The Common Table has come since 2017. “It’s been phenomenal. It’s almost like we couldn’t keep up to God. God opened door after door, and we were scrambling to keep up. Things were falling in place. It was absolutely beautiful.”

Esey Tewolde, Flemingdon Park Ministry’s community engagement facilitator and project lead for The Common Table, echoes her comments. “The Common Table is a place where family, friends and neighbours can gather and share together and grow connections,” he says. “It’s a place of belonging, where everyone is welcome, a place that seeks to fight and confront injustices while seeking the well-being of our fellow human beings. We want to keep shooting for that, every day.”

The farm has prompted Mr. Duporte to think about other ways Our Saviour can connect with the surrounding neighbourhood. There are plans to put a deck with some benches and tables on the property for passers-by. Mr. Duporte would also like to see a simple labyrinth installed in front of the church. “That would be a wonderful signal of presence and outreach to the community – that whatever your faith or no faith, you can come and relax and in the quiet and presence of that atmosphere.”

Flemingdon Park Ministry is a ministry of the Diocese of Toronto. For more information on The Common Table and the ministry’s other programs, visit www.flemingdonparkministry.com.

Sites have ties to churches

Continued from Page 1

of Trent-Durham, and the Rev. Leigh Kern, the diocese’s coordinator of Indigenous ministries and reconciliation animator.

The letter specifically asks that the overdose prevention sites at St. Stephen’s Community House and Street Health in downtown Toronto be given licenses and funding by the government to remain open. The sites are located near All Saints Church-Community Centre and St. Stephen-in-the-Fields and have close ties to those churches.

“They are both sites which are well-run, locally appropriate, and have strong community support,

and a demonstrated record of saving lives,” write the bishops and clergy. “Because they are smaller sites, based in multi-service agencies, they are particularly able to focus on building relationships, connecting people to medical care and counselling, and helping them to build healthier, safer lives, more integrated into the local community.” The letter also asks the government to grant licensing and funding to the site at The Works, one of the busiest sites in the city.

The letter states that the diocese would be willing to play a role in a “coordinated public health strat-

egy” to address the issue. “Can we be part of bringing together community voices and helping this discussion to move forward in a constructive way?”

The letter is just one of the ways that bishops, clergy and laity in the diocese have been responding to the government’s announcement on March 29 to close some sites and limit the number of them in the province. Bishop Robertson attended a press conference at Toronto City Hall on April 1 along with clergy and laity to show support for the safe injection sites slated for closure.

BRIEFLY

Interfaith officer at FLAME conference

FLAME Toronto (Fellowship Learning for Anglican Men Everywhere) will welcome the Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer, the diocese’s Interfaith Officer, as the speaker at its annual conference on Sept. 20-22 at Jackson’s Point Conference Centre. The theme will be “Whoever is not against us is for us.” For more information, visit www.flameconferencetoronto.ca.

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Mongolians energize Toronto church

Congregation assists newcomers

BY STUART MANN

SOMEWHERE in Ulan Bator, children and senior citizens will be breathing a little easier, thanks to the generosity of Christ Church St. James in Toronto.

During Lent, the church raised money to buy breathing masks for children and seniors in Mongolia's capital city, which has one of the highest rates of air pollution in the world.

For many in the congregation, the outreach effort had special significance. About 20 people from Mongolia worship at the church, located in Toronto's west end.

Toronto's Mongolian population is tiny – about 500 people – but individuals and families from the community have been finding their way to Christ Church St. James over the past few years. It's been a story of love, compassion and hospitality.

"Our congregation is beautiful, and they're hugely welcoming," explains the Rev. David Smith, incumbent. "That's one of the reasons why the Mongolians are here – because they are warmly welcomed."

The first Mongolian family – Monica with her husband and children – came to the church's foodbank about a decade ago, striking up a friendship with members of the congregation. The family was due to be deported and the church provided them with sanctuary for the next two years. The vote to give them sanctuary was unanimous.

The family was appreciative and started to tell their friends and relatives about the church and its ministries. In addition to a large foodbank, the parish provides assistance to newcomers to Canada and those who are new to the Christian faith.

At around the same time, the



Mongolian parishioners at Christ Church St. James, Toronto, gather for a photo at the church. At right is Odga Zagdaa with a horse fiddle, a traditional Mongolian instrument. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

church learned about Khulan Bataa, a Mongolian woman living in Toronto. Ms. Bataa had leukemia and was due to be deported – likely a death sentence, given the lack of medical care she would have received in Mongolia.

Once again, the church helped out. It hired a lawyer to argue her case and she won, receiving permission to stay in Canada. She wasn't covered by OHIP, so Princess Margaret Hospital provided her cancer treatments for free. She made a full recovery and became an active member of the church, eventually serving as its secretary for a few years.

Ms. Bataa has become a key ambassador for the church, welcoming not only Mongolians but people from other lands as well. The congregation includes people from Zimbabwe, Eritrea, the Congo, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan and India.

"Khulan, being a new Canadian herself, has a great ministry with new Canadians who come to the church," says Mr. Smith. "She's able to relate to everybody."

Some of the Mongolians who attend the Sunday service cannot speak English, so the church has purchased headsets that allow Ms. Bataa to translate the service into Mongolian for them. The church is thinking about buying more headsets for people who want to listen to the service in their native tongue.

Mr. Smith says the Mongolians have energized the church. "They're really lovely people and also a lot of fun. They're sharing their love of Christ, not just with Mongolians but with others. They're bringing people to God."

He tells the story of a young man in Toronto whose mother died in Mongolia from a respiratory illness. He was heartbroken and unable



to travel home for her funeral, so the church held a special service for both him and her. Afterwards, the man and his friends hosted a dinner and brought gifts for the entire congregation. He continues to attend the church on Sunday, even though he lives more than an hour away by public transit.

The pastors of some Mongo-

lian congregations in the United States have visited Christ Church St. James, and the church is now a member of the Mongolian Christian Church Association of North America. In March, Mr. Smith and a group from the church travelled to Washington for the association's conference, where he was invited to be a guest speaker.

BRIEFLY

Synod, pre-Synod meetings scheduled

The next Regular Session of Synod will be held on Nov. 8-9 at the Sheraton Parkway Toronto North Hotel & Suites in Richmond Hill. Synod members are asked to note the date of their area's pre-Synod meeting:

- York-Credit Valley: Oct. 23 from 7-9 p.m. at St. John the Baptist (Dixie)
- York-Scarborough: Oct. 24 from 7-9 p.m. at St. John, York Mills
- York-Simcoe: Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Trinity, Aurora
- Trent-Durham: Oct. 26 from 2-4 p.m. at St.

Thomas, Brooklin
For more information, visit the Synod page on the diocese's website, www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Cathedral holds bike drive

St. James Cathedral is seeking used but roadworthy bikes for migrant farm workers in the Beaverton area. Bikes allow the workers to travel to nearby towns, attend church and access community events and services. Bikes can be dropped off during the Bike Drive on May 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. outside the cathedral. There will be refreshments and a short presentation, and the bikes will be blessed and driven to Beaverton. For more information, visit stjamescathedral.ca/bikes.

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For more information contact:

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Let's join in prayer together



"Prayer is where the action is" - John Wesley

My 16-year-old daughter Kate and I visited southern India in January, at the invitation of the Diocese of Madhya Kerala. It was so encouraging to see the incredible vibrancy of the Church there and to be reminded of the power of the gospel to change and transform lives all around the globe. But what particularly struck Kate and me was how committed our Indian sisters and brothers were to prayer. Over the course of our 10-day visit, we frequently found ourselves praying with young and old alike for the continued spiritual and numerical growth of the churches of their diocese.

In his engaging book *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*, Richard Lovelace crafts – by examining God's renewing action within traditions as diverse as Roman Catholicism to Pietism and Anabaptism – a theology of renewal in churches. If you don't want to read the whole book, here is a spoiler alert: at the heart of spiritual, and then numerical, renewal in all Christian traditions down the ages has been – you guessed it – prayer.

BISHOP'S OPINION

By BISHOP JENNY ANDISON

Renewal and new life within Christian communities of any size or theological and liturgical stripe, has always begun with a few people gathering together, in a living room or a field, and turning to our Heavenly Father in prayer. In prayer we draw closer to the heart of God, open ourselves up to being shaped by the dreams and hopes of God, and are strengthened to follow the costly path of being followers of Jesus.

There are many good and worthwhile resources that the Diocese of Toronto and other organizations offer, to help parishes grow in their love for God and neighbour. (Growing Healthy Stewards, Natural Church Development, Revive, Alpha, and mission action plans are but a few examples, and I would urge you to investigate them.) But the longer I am in ministry, the more I am convinced that prayer is as close to a magic bullet as we have got, as Christians. Prayer is not a program; it can be part of your life whether you are a new disciple or a veteran, and it doesn't cost a penny.

If prayer is at the heart of all church

renewal, then I would encourage you to think about joining in with the global wave of prayer called Thy Kingdom Come. TKC is an international ecumenical initiative calling on all Christians to join together for 10 days between Ascension and Pentecost (May 30 to June 9) to pray that their friends would come to know the love of Jesus. It's that simple. Lots of creative resources can be found at www.thykingdomcome.global to help you participate as a family, individual, youth group, church or deanery. Pick three friends or work colleagues whom you would love to come to know Jesus, and then pray for them every day for 10 days. Pray for 10 days that God would draw new people into the life of your parish. Pray for 10 days that you would be given opportunities to share the gospel with children and teenagers in your neighborhood.

Prayer is where the action is. We have just journeyed through Holy Week together, from the desolation of Good Friday to the triumph of Easter Day. We have tasted death and are feasting on the renewal of resurrection. Let's join in prayer together, that God would continue to renew our hearts for service, and pray that our local churches would be renewed to be beacons of God's transforming mercy.



The Anglican

The Anglican is published under the authority of the Bishop of Toronto and the Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto. Opinions expressed in The Anglican are not necessarily those of the editor or the publisher.

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Circulation: For all circulation inquiries, including address changes, new subscriptions and cancellations, call the Circulation Department at (416) 924-9199, ext. 259/245, or email circulation@national.anglican.ca. You can also make changes online: visit www.anglicanjournal.com and click Subscription Centre.

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In the Diocese of Toronto:

A community of 254 congregations in 210 parishes covering 26,000 square kilometers. Of the nearly 5 million people who live within the diocesan boundaries, 376,000 claim to be affiliated with the Anglican Church, with about 80,000 people identified on the parish rolls. The diocese is home to many ethnic and language-based congregations, including African, Caribbean, Chinese, Filipino, French, Hispanic, Japanese, and Tamil. The City of Toronto has the largest population of aboriginal peoples in the country.

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CANADA BRIEFS

Fire destroys St. James, Roseneath 1

TORONTO - The 156-year-old church of St. James, Roseneath was destroyed in a fire during the evening of April 9. No one was injured. The church is located just north of the village of Roseneath, about a 25-minute drive north of Cobourg. It is part of the Parish of Campbellford, Hastings and Roseneath in the Trent-Durham episcopal area. About 15 people worship at the church on a Sunday.

"The land was donated by a local family and the church was built with people's sweat and hard work," said the Rev. Bryce Sangster, incumbent. "It's terrible, very sad."

He said the church planned to hold its Palm Sunday service on April 14 at the civic centre in Roseneath, and possibly the Holy Week services there as well the following week. "We're exploring options," he said.

Bishop Riscylla Shaw, the area bishop of Trent-Durham, visited the church on April 10 and says the fire was a tragedy. "We lift up Bryce and the congregation in prayer, and I have offered my support and encouragement that we will find a way forward together as we come into Easter," she said.

Bishop Andrew Asbil, the Bishop of Toronto, said he was "shocked and devastated" by the news and encouraged other parishes to help out. "It's important for us as a diocese to reach out to the community and to support them with encouragement, prayer and tangible support."

www.toronto.anglican.ca

Students to walk Camino 2

VICTORIA - A group of University of Victoria students has been preparing for a pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Co-led by the Rev. Ruth Dantzer, Anglican campus chaplain, and the Rev. Henri Lock, United Church chaplain, the pilgrimage was scheduled to begin April 28 at the monastery



along the ancient Camino Frances route. After two nights of immersion in Gregorian chant and Christian contemplative thought, the students will begin the 250-km trek to Santiago. Eight students are participating.

"Going on a pilgrimage is evangelical in nature, as participants will have the opportunity to walk an ancient path that is infused with historical, traditional and spiritual significance from the Christian religion," says Ms. Dantzer. The initiative is supported by a Vision Fund grant from the Diocese of British Columbia.

Diocesan Post

Churches open ovens for festival 3

BRANDON - In a place where the winters can seem unending, the Northern Manitoba Trappers' Festival brings the communities of The Pas and Opaskwayak Cree Nation together for all things northern: championship dog races, log splitting and flour packing. Visitors can also witness contests of practical skills like bannock making, fish filleting and tea boiling, all done on a fire that competitors must build by axe and match.

Local churches get involved by opening their doors – and ovens – to the festival's

participants, providing homemade meals for hungry competitors and spectators. In The Pas, Christ Church's Anglican Church Women and Men in Aprons served stew, chili, authentic tourtière, pie, bannock and hot drinks. At Opaskwayak Cree Nation, members of Church of the Messiah hosted breakfasts and lunches; the Anglican Church Women at Church of the Redeemer offered the same, with traditional food donated by community members: fresh-fried pickerel, rabbit stew, moose meat, wild raspberries and saskatoons. Funds raised during the outreach effort will support church programming and community initiatives.

The Mustard Seed

Anglicans visit northern Philippines 4

VANCOUVER - On Feb. 17, after more than 13 hours of flight, a team of travellers from the Diocese of New Westminster arrived in Manila for a 10-day visit to the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines (EDNP), part of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines. The team attended the EDNP's 48th convention at the cathedral in Bontoc, toured the region and visited many churches.

Topic

Speaking with a voice of faith in a dark time

In February, Bishop Andrew Asbil met with the diocese's Creation Matters committee as it was finalizing the Diocesan Policy Paper on Environmental Issues. The paper was received by Diocesan Council in March. In it, the Creation Matters committee connects creation care with the Church's mission, highlights the urgency for action, and proposes a direction for making creation care a priority across the diocese. The following is a synopsis of the paper.



BY ELIN GOULDEN

GOD'S care for creation, and God's call for humankind to participate in care for creation, is woven throughout scripture, from Genesis onward. Moreover, both Old and New Testaments present us with a vision of not only human life, but the life of all God's creatures, as mutual and interdependent. This biblical emphasis on the interrelationship of the created order is echoed in traditional Indigenous understandings that describe land, water, plant and animal life as "all my relations." The redemptive work of Christ's death and resurrection is extended through and beyond humanity to encompass the whole of creation. The biblical vision never considers humankind as separated from the rest of creation – whether in the original creation, in our life here on earth, or in the ultimate fullness of God's kingdom.

Sadly, as a Church, we have largely lost this sense of connectedness and care for the wider creation. We are disconnected from each other and from the land and its creatures. The Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakford calls for a "theological reset" that recovers our place in creation and our understanding of what it is to be made in the image of God, and realigns our consumption patterns and lifestyle choices in faithfulness to God, creation and our neighbour.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FLEMINGDON PARK MINISTRY

The world is at a strange and awesome tipping point, what Christians since ancient times have termed a *kairos*. On the one hand, with only 12 years to transition to a zero-emissions economy, the need for massive change could not be more urgent, as the IPCC report (the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) of October 2018 indicated. Climate change, pollution and habitat loss are all critical factors. Biodiversity is dropping precipitously, erosion of agricultural land has made feeding the world's people less and less possible, and our social and political systems are wholly inadequate to resolve these problems. In this apocalyptic present, the Church cannot preach the Good News of Christ while ignoring the imminent end of the planet as our habitat. None of our activities can continue without mindfully considering our opportunity to model God's command-

ment to care for creation.

On the other hand, there are voices rising to end conventional thinking and align our present with a viable future – voices of defiance and courage.

The Diocese of Toronto has an opportunity to speak with a voice of faith in this dark time. We have an opportunity to model a theology that recognizes our connectedness with creation, and to align ourselves with Indigenous peoples seeking to respect the land on which we all live. We must model a world in which consumption is minimized and relationships are nurtured, in which we stop burning carbon and spreading pesticides, in which we offer places for people to gather and organize structures of promise.

Anglicans in our diocese are already responding to the call to care for creation in a variety of ways. Yet, despite all that has been accomplished over the past

decade, much of our progress has been piecemeal. Creation care is still all too often considered an "add-on" to the work of the Church instead of an integral part of God's call to us. Nor do our current efforts match the urgency of the environmental situation facing us.

The Creation Matters committee has identified several priorities for action moving forward, some of which we can accomplish on our own. Others will need the collaboration of other departments of the diocese. They include:

- Building a network of "Green Anglicans" across the diocese for sharing information, activities and best practices, and creating volunteer congregational consultant teams to assist parishes.
- Improving awareness and accessibility of resources for parishes to reduce their environmental footprint, perhaps adopting a "Green Parish" accreditation program similar to that used in the Diocese of Niagara.
- Adopting a creation care lens for all decisions taken at the diocesan level, including decisions made on property, investment, event-planning, travel, and formation of clergy and laity.
- Encouraging and equipping Anglicans in the diocese to join with other dioceses, faith and community groups and Indigenous peoples in advocating for robust environmental policies at every level.

These entail significant changes cutting across all our activities as Church and as individuals. In adopting them, we have an opportunity to bring people together to respond to a situation of real urgency, and to make a real difference. The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

Elin Goulden is the diocese's Social Justice and Advocacy consultant and a member of the Creation Matters committee.

The power of personal witness



One of the things that Anglicans typically are not inclined to do is speak about their faith. The Natural Church Development program indicates that "passionate spirituality"

does not rank high as a core strength for most mainline Anglican churches. We can be very hospitable, generous with our time and money, and inclined toward community outreach – but if you ask us to speak about why our church is important or why and where we worship, many shudder at the thought.

Yet it is the stories and testimonials shared among members of a congregation by individuals whose lives have been changed by their journey in faith that is often most powerful in moving us to action.

In my March article on the importance of saying thanks, I suggested that parishes begin to invite members of the congregation to come forward to share their per-

THE STEWARD

BY PETER MISIASZEK

sonal faith stories as a way of honoring them and promoting the congregation's good works. I want to give credit where credit is due. While the notion of giving a personal witness has been around for centuries, this format was introduced in our diocese by Andrew Duncanson at Grace Church on-the-Hill, Toronto.

The concept grew out of Growing Healthy Stewards, a year-round education program. Grace Church was one of the pilot parishes in 2013, and Andrew was chair of its parish stewardship committee. He introduced Faces of Grace to get people out of their comfort zone and into the habit of talking about their faith journey and why their parish was important to them. His effort has borne fruit: some five years later, more than 50 individuals, couples and families have come forward

with their testimonies. You can even read a select number of them at www.grace-churchonthehill.ca.

Personal witnessing sends a strong message to church members about the giving of one's self for what God has given to them. Christians throughout history have been raised to a new level of awareness by hearing how a deeper sense of spirituality has taken over the lives of people just like them.

The Faces of Grace model is now a mainstay of the Growing Healthy Stewards program. Two recent examples from parishes in our diocese demonstrate just how effective personal witnessing can be. At a recent meeting of Scarborough clergy, the Rev. Andrea Christiansen, incumbent of St. Timothy, Agincourt, explained that her parish used Faces of Grace during the four Sundays of Advent, and members of the congregation found the stories very powerful. At the same meeting, the Rev. Stephen Kirkegaard, incumbent at Holy Trinity, Guildwood, told the story of an

agnostic man who comes to his church and really appreciates the personal stories. Stephen said that for this man, it is the most important part of the service.

Lay witnesses should be individuals who can relate well to other parishioners, feel comfortable speaking to a group about their personal experiences, and are enthusiastic about their mission.

The Bible is full of examples of people just like you and me whose personal witness impacts the actions of others. It can be used to promote a stewardship program; but perhaps most importantly, it gives people the opportunity to share why their faith is so important to them. Even though Anglicans are often reluctant to discuss their belief in public, Faces of Grace can be a simple and non-threatening way of exposing members of your congregation to the transformation that faith brings to people's lives.

Peter Misiasek is the diocese's director of Stewardship Development.

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"I WILL GIVE YOU

THANKS

FOR YOU HAVE ANSWERED ME." PSALM 118:21

2018 FaithWorks Results: The Diocese of Toronto's annual FaithWorks Campaign successfully raised \$1,365,600 in support of Anglican-affiliated ministries throughout the Diocese and around the world.

GENEROSITY ABOUNDS!

By Peter J. Misiaszek, Director of Stewardship Development

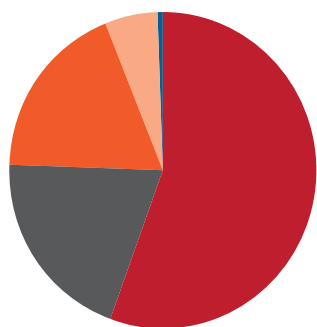
Every year, FaithWorks calls on the Lord to help us feed, shelter, nurture and befriend people who face some of the most difficult challenges that life can present, and once again He answered – through YOU!

"I will give thanks for you have answered me." Psalm 118:21

Thank you to every one of our FaithWorks donors – families and individuals, parishes, corporations and foundations. Because of your generosity, the 2018 FaithWorks Campaign raised \$1,365,600 and will be able to support more than 18,835 people in need this year. "Anglicans have a heart for social justice and taking care of the most vulnerable among us," notes Bishop Andrew Asbil. "FaithWorks is testimony to the reality that there is incredible ministry happening in our communities and around the Diocese. I'm truly grateful to everyone who made a commitment to reach beyond the ministry of their home church to share with people in need."

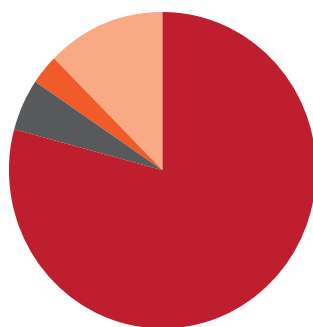
FaithWorks reminds us of the tangible presence of God in our community. We see faith-filled people answering the cry of those who are homeless, hungry, at risk of violence, lonely, sick or afraid. Shelagh McPherson, Chair of the FaithWorks Allocations Committee, shares her thankfulness for people who answer the call for help. "I am always so inspired and filled with deep gratitude for the people who continue to open their hearts and support this ministry of love." She adds, "The donations are important to all of the groups that we fund, but for some of them FaithWorks is their lifeblood."

FaithWorks believes that God's love will change the world. We believe that, with God's help, there is no challenge too intractable to overcome. We believe that it is possible to build communities of hope, compassion, peace and justice. Thank you for believing too!



Where the money comes from

- Parishes: \$726,300
- Corporate: \$259,300
- Individuals: \$237,686
- Trusts: \$74,000
- Other: \$3,928



Where the money goes

- 2019 Ministry Allocations: \$1,018,844
- Parish Retainer: \$65,572
- Area Grants: \$38,235
- Campaign Expenses: \$160,000

"I found the courage and left my very controlling and abusive husband...I cannot thank Samaritan House enough for touching every part of our lives, such as housing, support, encouragement, hope, vision for the future, stability, strength and courage, safety and a whole new future I would never had thought possible."

Ashley, Samaritan House client

PARISH CAMPAIGN

A challenge grant offered by an anonymous donor led to a 13 percent increase over last year's parish campaign result, and helped FaithWorks to exceed goal by more than \$65,000. In 2018, 154 parishes raised \$726,300 to support outreach ministries across the Diocese and around the world. Parishes were able to keep \$65,572 to support outreach ministries within their local community. The parish campaign also made \$38,235 available for Area Ministry Grants.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A COMPASSIONATE PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

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Our FaithWorks Ministry Partners are love in action. Each and every day they share the transforming power of Christ's love with thousands of people in need. We thank our Ministry Partners for being powerful witnesses to the love that is changing lives and changing the world.

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AURA

Philip Aziz Centre

Beyond our Diocese

Giving with Grace (Anglican Church of Canada)

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

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Brampton

The BRIDGE Prison Ministry

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North Durham

North House Shelter

Peterborough

The Warming Room Community Ministries

Orillia

Couchiching Jubilee House

Toronto

All Saints Church Community Centre

Downsview Youth Covenant

Flemingdon Park Ministry

Toronto Urban Native Ministry

YOUR IMPACT

Because of your generosity, FaithWorks Ministry Partners are able to have a transformative effect in the lives of thousands of people. Here is the impact that you made possible in the lives of people in need last year.

18,835

people were fed, sheltered, nurtured and befriended



90,523

clients visited drop-in, shelter and outreach programs

2,945 people touched by the prison system were provided with community reintegration, housing and employment supports



2,919 families were supported

6,032 refugees and new Canadians were provided with settlement support, drop-in and food security programs

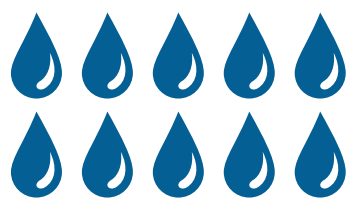
823

at-risk women, children and youth accessed safe and supportive housing



321 children and youth were enrolled in programs that help to develop life skills and build self-esteem

1,189 young adults living with mental health challenges were supported



40 families (160 people) in the Pikangikum First Nation community were provided with clean water and sanitation services

234

people impacted by HIV/AIDS received bereavement and spiritual care support



200

Indigenous Peoples were provided with pastoral, outreach and mentoring supports

FAITHWORKS

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Bequests

Estate of Margaret Carson

Estate of Rita Kwei-King Lee

"I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our family for being there until the end. Thank you for bringing the strength of faith back into my brother's life. He is finally resting."

Sister of client, Philip Aziz Centre

"Walking into The Dam for the first time felt really good; everyone was very welcoming. I immediately knew that I would like it here. Over the years I've been here, I've learned a lot. Going to the variety of activities and programs has helped me get through my depression. I have grown a lot as a person."

David, The Dam

Faith
WORKS

Works of faith
IN THE DIOCESE OF
TORONTO SINCE 1996

I knew I had found my vocation

Dave Carley is a Canadian playwright. His plays have had over 450 productions across Canada and the United States, and in many countries around the world. His play *Canadian Rajah* had a successful run at Toronto's Campbell House Museum in January. Mr. Carley attends St. Paul, Bloor Street.

The story behind *Canadian Rajah* is so bizarre that I always feel compelled to stress that it is also true. In 1884, a young man named Esca Brooke Daykin arrived in Madoc, in east-central Ontario. The adopted son of an Anglican clergyman named William Daykin, Esca had spent most of his young life being dragged from parish to parish in England and South Africa. All of a sudden, Reverend Daykin uprooted his family and moved across the ocean to Madoc, where he took over the parish of St. John's. Esca quickly adapted to life in the backwoods. He often filled in for his father as a lay-reader at the mission churches. He would run across rock-covered farms and through forests to these tiny outposts, doing his best to minister to the faithful. He later received a church scholarship to attend Trinity College School in Port Hope. He blossomed there, ending up as Head Boy.

Esca was unique for many reasons, starting with his parentage. His biological father was Charles Brooke, one of the legendary "White Rajahs of Sarawak." The very English Brookes owned Sarawak (now part of Malaysia) and ruled it as self-styled rajahs for over a century. Esca was the biracial product of a marriage between Charles and a Malay princess, Dayang Mastiah.

Eventually, Rajah Charles ran out of money and needed an infusion of cash to save his country. He went back to England and rustled up an English wife with a healthy dowry. Esca and his Malay mother became inconveniences. Esca was shunted off to England and, from there, to Canada.

This is where *Canadian Rajah* picks up Esca's story. A few twists and turns later, he became a successful businessman at Hollinger Mines, with a loving family and a substantial house in Lawrence Park in Toronto. He was very active at St. Clement, Eglinton, serving as a churchwarden there. Esca should have been happy – but for the ever-gnawing desire to be recog-



Dave Carley at Knox College in Toronto. At right is Esca Brooke Daykin. PHOTO OF DAVE CARLEY BY STEPHANIE HANNA

nized by his Brooke father and family.

The dramatic crux of *Canadian Rajah* revolves around Esca's confrontation with Rajah Charles' English widow. The Rane of Sarawak was a fiery woman who had absolutely no intention of letting Esca gain recognition, lest it threaten the succession of her children and the very legitimacy of her own marriage. Let the battle begin!

I "discovered" Esca by accident – and it's a good argument for reading old-fashioned hard copy newspapers. Nowadays I do the bulk of my newspaper reading online and – not to my credit – I tend to access articles on subjects that already interest me. With print newspapers, it is easier to browse and stumble across the unexpected. I was idling through the *Globe and Mail* book section when I found a small review of *The White Rajahs of Sarawak* by Australian historian Cassandra Pybus. The review mentioned that a



young should-have-been-Rajah from the Far East had washed up in Madoc, Ont. That startling little fact was enough to hook me.

My new play, premiering this summer in Ohio, is called *The Shakespeare Club*. It's the true story of a club of women in Peterborough, Ont. The Shakespeare Club there has been meeting monthly to discuss the work of the Bard and other authors for over 120 years, and it has had its own share of drama.

I was born and raised in Peterborough. I originally intended to go into

law but veered off into journalism. On a whim, I entered a theatre company's playwriting contest, because the prize was the same amount as my VISA debt (back then). Even better, they offered a production of the script. About five minutes into the first performance, I knew I had found my vocation.

I was raised in the Presbyterian Church but fell away in my teens. After a few decades, I decided to re-engage with questions of spirituality – first at a United Church and then at St. Paul's on Bloor Street.

The latter was initially a choice of proximity; I live just around the corner. On my first visit to St. Paul's, I was happily surprised when people approached me to say welcome. I felt very much at home and have made many friends there. Just as important, I find a great deal of intellectual and emotional fulfillment in the excellent teaching.

In an odd twist, I called up my mother and confessed, "OK Mom, brace yourself, I've gone over to the colourful side. I'm an Anglican now." To my surprise, she didn't seem too alarmed. She asked me which church I was attending. When I told her it was St. Paul's, she deemed it a wise choice – as it turns out, my grandfather was baptized there and my great-grandfather had been a churchwarden. I'd had no idea.

I'm still becoming acquainted with the Bible. Each week I learn something new that surprises or stirs me. I do know the passage that meant the most to me growing up, one that still resonates deeply. It's the brief story in Matthew 19 about a group of children hoping to meet Jesus, and the stern disciples who tried to send them away.

As we learned it in Sunday School, Jesus was relaxing in a garden, having his dinner after a long day of sermonizing. (Looking back on it now, I think I was getting an expanded edition geared for restless Sunday School children.) Jesus heard a ruckus down at the gates – a bunch of kids were clamouring to hear some parables. Before the disciples had a chance to shoo them off, Jesus invited them to gather 'round for a story-time, much like we then had at the public library.

I know now that Jesus was not enjoying a refreshing ginger ale, as per my inventive teacher. Nor were the children necessarily going to hear stories – their parents had brought them to be blessed, a less interesting activity from a child's point of view. But the essence of the message still penetrated my wee brain: although a mere kid, I was as welcome as any adult to meet with Jesus, and he was available to me 24/7.

Decades later, I still find that passage attractive, albeit for different reasons. We are instructed to approach God as a child. I take that to mean we should put aside our adult inhibitions and become as children with our faith, to approach it humbly and simply, with a sense of wonder, awe and anticipation. We deny that sense of wonder at our own peril. It's both the charm of childhood and an adult's armour.

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Top left: Patricia Carpenter, a 14 year-old who was found murdered at a downtown Toronto construction site in 1992, is memorialized in a panel at the exhibit. Above: the memorial mobile with paper feathers bearing messages and prayers stands in the cathedral's chancel. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON

Exhibit turns tears to healing

Personal items on display

BY DIANA SWIFT

"Hi, Dad, I'm doing really great here," reads an exuberant letter home from young Sonya Nadine Mae Cywink, a member of Whitefish Nation, Manitoulin Island and a prolific writer and aspiring poet even as a child. Known as "Whirlwind Woman" for her energy, Sonya, pregnant, was found dead near London, Ont. in 1994 at age 31.

Dozens of people braved Toronto's icy February streets to offer support to the bereaved families of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and transgender and two-spirit persons (MMIWGT2S) at the opening of Shades of Our Sisters, held at St. James Cathedral from Feb. 15 to March 1.

The interactive multimedia exhibit honours lives lost to the violence Indigenous women are especially prey to. It reveals the victims as vibrant young women with strong hopes and bright futures through stories, writings, photos, personal artifacts, film and the voices of their

surviving relatives.

The project began to take shape in 2015-2016 with the bereaved families of Sonya Cywink and Patricia Carpenter. Patricia, 14 years old and a new mother, was found murdered at a downtown Toronto construction site in 1992. "She went to a birthday party and never came back," said her mother, Joyce Carpenter of Alderville First Nation, near Cobourg.

Like other bereaved mothers, Ms. Carpenter is committed to perpetuating the memory and spirit of her daughter. The exhibit makes the point that far from being rejected runaways or street dwellers, these girls had families, were well loved and are still greatly missed.

The multimedia aspect of the project, created in 2017 by Ryerson University production students, features two short documentary films exploring the two victims' lives and personalities. Among the touching personal items on display are Patricia's collection of Cabbage Patch Kids and her Brownie uni-

form. Most touching of all is a tiny hooded yellow baby suit. "That's what I brought her home in from Women's College Hospital," said Ms. Carpenter.

The exhibit's interactive features include a ceremonial red dress on which attendees can pin messages penned on gold or silver paper. Pinches of natural tobacco and lengths of red wool symbolizing connectedness and empathy are on offer. Most striking of all is a dazzling memorial mobile, with coloured paper feathers bearing messages and prayers from visitors at other exhibit sites.

Speakers memorializing the deceased were preceded by traditional chanting and drumming led by Sue Croweagle, a Blackfoot from Piikani First Nation in Alberta, who identifies as a two-spirit person. Ms. Carpenter's niece, Shauna Kecheho-Nichols, offered to the gathering the powerful medicine of the healing jingle dance, wearing a

ceremonial dress covered in rows of delicately tinkling metal cones.

Among the speakers was Patricia Carpenter's brother James, who thanked the audience for sharing the beautiful cathedral space with the victims' families and for showing their love and support. "It helps bring healing to the families and healing to the spirits. The spirits would be proud of us," he said.

Mr. Carpenter acknowledged how hard it is for affected families across the land to speak of these losses. "It was 25 years before my mother would talk about what happened," he said. "And far too often these stories bring hurt, but they also open our hearts to love." He commended the families and their communities for their resilience.

The exhibit also reminds viewers of the racial disparities that exist in Canadian society and its justice system. Although only about 4.3 per cent of Canada's female population identified as Indigenous in 2011,

a disproportionate 11.3 per cent of missing women in 2013 were Indigenous, according to the RCMP.

The ceremony closed with interfaith prayers from members of Toronto's Muslim and Jewish communities and from Bishop Mark MacDonald, national Indigenous bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Diana Swift is a freelance writer.

BRIEFLY

Bishop's message on video

Bishop Andrew Asbil has shared his thoughts on Easter in a video message, which was posted on the diocese's social media channels and website during Holy Week. In the video, Bishop Asbil calls on Christians to walk alongside the world and awaken hope in dark places during this Easter season. To watch Bishop Asbil's message, visit the diocese's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/tordio135.

Organists compete at St. Paul's

On May 3, four of the young finalists from the 2017 Canadian International Organ Competition will be reunited for a "piping hot rematch" on the pipe organ of St. Paul, Bloor Street. The organists are the stars of Canadian director Stacey Tenenbaum's new documentary *Pipe Dreams*, which follows them through their journey to the finals of the 2017 competition. The documentary will premier at the Hot Docs Festival in Toronto, with screenings on April 28, 30, and May 3. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call the Canadian International Organ Competition box office at 514-510-5678 or visit www.ciocm.org.

Church softball league gets underway

WHEN it comes to baseball in Toronto, the Blue Jays get all the attention. But a church league has been running in Scarborough for nearly 60 years, and new teams are welcome.

The SAYM (Scarborough Anglican Youth Movement) softball league begins its 58th season on May 14. Eight teams made up of players from local churches will play 14 games over the summer, culminating in a tournament on Sept. 7.

"It's for people who just want to play and have fun," says Martin Walkes, co-organizer of the league and a parishioner of St. Bede, Toronto.

Games are held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at baseball diamonds in Scarborough. The registration fee for each team for the season is \$400, and teams need to supply their own bats and gloves. Adults and youth over the age of 13 can join.

"It doesn't matter what skill level you have," says Mr. Walkes. "It's just about getting together to play some friendly games."

Mr. Walkes has been playing in the league for 32 years. He started when he was a 17-year-old in St. Bede's youth group. "It's enjoyable playing with other Christians," he says. "We all have the same beliefs and it's all about having fun."

Most of the players are lay people and clergy are welcome, too. A prayer is said before the beginning of every game.

Teams from four Anglican churches will be taking part this year, in addition to two Baptist churches and a Methodist church. There will also be a team made up of people from various other churches.

For more information on the league, contact Mr. Walkes at 416-261-0995.



Players from the Christ Church/St. Bede team celebrate after winning the tournament last year. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

To submit items for Looking Ahead, email editor@toronto.anglican.ca. The deadline for the June issue is April 29. Parishes can also promote their events on the diocese's website Calendar at www.toronto.anglican.ca.

Music & Worship

APRIL 27 - Healey Willan Singers present Reimagined, music rearranged for women's ensemble, featuring Mozart's *Missa Brevis* in C "Spatzenmesse" with chamber orchestra, 8 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors.

APRIL 28 - The St. Peter's Handbell Choir presents its spring concert at St. Peter, Erindale, 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street, at 4 p.m. Also performing are the Ontario Male Chorus and the Boys in B. Donations in the \$10-\$20 range would be appreciated and put to good use to provide more music.

MAY 1-29 - Kingsway Organ Recital Series, 12:30-1:15 p.m. on select Wednesdays, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto. May 1, Andrew Adair; May 15, Mark Himmelman; May 29, Richard Spotts.

MAY 5 - "Car Karaoke Classics" featuring handbell ringers, band, choir and audience participation, 2 p.m., St. John, York Mills, 19 Don Ridge Dr., Toronto. Proceeds aid Sleeping Children Around the World and St. John's. Tickets for adults are \$15; children, \$5. Call 416-225-6611, visit www.sjym.ca or email musicfest@sjym.ca.

MAY 5 - Community spring concert with classical and modern music, musical theatre and popular and gospel songs, performed by musicians and singers from the church and the community, 7 p.m., St. Andrew, Scarborough, 2333 Victoria Park Ave. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Children admitted for free.

MAY 5 - A celebration of Easter concert featuring folk singers Danielle Knibbe and Brynn Besse, La Petite Musicale and the choir of Grace Church, Scarborough, 5 p.m. at Grace Church, Scarborough, 700 Kennedy Rd., Toronto. Tickets



ANNIVERSARY GALA

Members of All Saints, Kingsway enjoy the church's 75th anniversary dinner on March 1 at the Islington Golf Club. Several activities are planned this year to recognize and highlight the church's history in the Kingsway area. Out of the Cold, refugee sponsorship and the provision of meals to a downtown parish are just some of the programs provided by the church, which will celebrate its patronal festival on Nov. 3. For more information about the anniversary activities, visit www.allsaintskingsway.ca. PHOTO COURTESY OF ALL SAINTS, KINGSWAY

\$20; free for children under 12. For tickets, contact office@grace-churchscarborough.com.

MAY 12 - Bach Vespers, 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

MAY 12 - Join St. Thomas, Brooklin in welcoming the Rev. Canon Ann Smith to the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Eucharist during the parish's 150th anniversary celebrations.

MAY 15 - Messy Church, 6 p.m., for all ages, Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MAY 19 - "Rock Eucharist: The Music of Queen," 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

JUNE 1 - The choristers of St. Peter, Erindale present "The Last Night

of the Proms," 7 p.m., followed by a pub night and karaoke. St. Peter's is located at 3041 Mississauga Rd., just north of Dundas Street.

JUNE 2 - Easter Vespers, featuring Benjamin Britten's "Rejoice in the Lamb," 7 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Bloor Street and Avenue Road, Toronto.

JUNE 9 - Voices Chamber Choir presents Handel and Haydn, music by Michael and Joseph Haydn, featuring Handel's Four Coronation Anthems, 3 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Tickets available at the door: \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors.

JUNE 9, 23 - St. John, Ida is celebrating 200 years of Christian witness. The Primate will visit on June 9 and a special homecoming service will be held on June 23. All welcome.

Sales

APRIL 27 - Eighth annual spring tea party with fashion show, 2-5 p.m., Grace Church in Scarborough, 700 Kennedy Rd. Tickets are \$15 for adults. Contact Margaret Crossman, 416-755-5316. Lots of fun, prizes and surprises.

MAY 4 - Spring market bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Brooklin.

MAY 4 - Spring sale, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., baked goods, collectibles, clothing, jewelry and more, All Saints, Kingsway, 2850 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

MAY 4 - Artisan Market, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Martin, Bay Ridges, 1203 St. Martin's Dr., Pickering, featuring local vendors of unique wares and handcrafted items. Refreshments available in cafe.

MAY 4 - "Spring into Spring" market bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Brooklin. Crafts, treasures and tours of 150-year-old chapel.

MAY 5 - Art fair and bake sale in the

garden, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto, in support of the Parkdale Activity and Recreation Centre's music program. The centre provides services to community members who may be dealing with issues such as homelessness, addiction, mental health and poverty.

MAY 11 - Garage sale with clothing, books, records, china and more, 8 a.m. to noon, St. John the Baptist, 719 Dundas St. E., Mississauga.

MAY 11 - Spring sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Peter, 776 Brimley Rd., Scarborough. Bake table, spring items, raffle and 50/50 draw. Vendor tables are \$25 each. For a table, contact Valerie Blackmann, 416-264-0709. Speak to any member of the church's Fundraising & Planning Committee for more details regarding our spring sale.

MAY 25 - Plant sale, 9 a.m. to noon, Christ Church, 254 Sunset Blvd., Stouffville. Indoor sale of perennials, annuals, house plants, stepping stones and other garden items. Rain or shine.

MAY 25 - Guildwood Yard Sale Day, begins at 8 a.m. Rent a table for \$25. Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

Workshops & Gatherings

APRIL 27 - Spring fair, barbecue, baking, books, kids activities on the green and more, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. Cuthbert, 1399 Bayview Ave., Toronto.

MAY 1 - Estate planning seminar, 6 p.m. at the Scarboro Golf and Country Club, with guest speaker Michael Cassabon, the diocese's manager of major gifts and legacy giving. Hosted by Holy Trinity, Guildwood. Registration is \$10.

MAY 1-22 - Evening Prayer at 6 p.m., followed by light supper and a talk by the Rev. Dr. Schuyler Brown as

he discusses Andrew Newberg's book, *Why God Won't Go Away: Brain Science and the Biology of Belief*, first four Wednesdays in May, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MAY 4 - "Saturday Night at the Movies," accompanied by featured organist Thomas Gonder, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthew, Islington, 3962 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke. Admission \$10 at the door. Refreshments provided.

MAY 7, 14, 21, 28 - "Excellent Women: Women Writers on Life and Spirituality," a series of conversations on four Tuesday evenings, 7:30 p.m. in the lounge at St. Mary Magdalene, 477 Manning Ave., Toronto. Women - and men - are welcome to attend.

MAY 11 - St. Dunstan of Canterbury's 35th anniversary celebration at Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility, 2700 Audley Rd., Ajax, featuring Toronto All-Star Big Band, entertainment and dancing. Cash bar and cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person (VISA accepted). All seats reserved (none at door). For tickets, call the church office at 416-283-1844.

MAY 12 - Choral Evensong for St. George's Tea and a presentation by St. Olave's Arts Guild with drama, poetry, music and songs, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

MAY 24 - JUNE 3 - Annual electronics collections for recycling. Church of the Holy Trinity, Guildwood, 85 Livingston Rd., Toronto.

MAY 24-26 - Lay Anointers Training Weekend offered by the diocese's Bishop's Committee on Healing, 7 p.m. on May 24 to 1 p.m. on May 26, St. John's Convent of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, 233 Cummer Ave., North York. This training weekend is for individuals recommended by their clergy to be trained and equipped for the ministry of lay anointing in the parish. Supervising clergy attend for approximately two hours on the Saturday afternoon. For registration information, contact the Rev. Jo-Anne Billinger at j.billinger@rogers.com.

MAY 25 - A Victorian Tea celebrates St. Thomas, Brooklin's 150-year-old tradition from 2-4 p.m.

MAY 25 - Blessing of the Bicycles, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., St. Martin in-the-Fields, 151 Glenlake Ave., Toronto. Smoothies, hotdogs and more.

MAY 30 - Ascension Communion at 6 p.m., followed by light supper and an illustrated talk by the Rev. Margaret Rodrigues on meeting Jesus in his homeland, including her visit to Israel and the Sinai desert, St. Olave, Bloor Street and Windermere Avenue, Toronto.

JUNE 1 - The St. Michael the Archangel Fund Raising Committee hosts "Summer Fling Dinner and Dance," 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Milliken Mills Community Centre, 7600 Kennedy Rd., Markham. Tickets are \$60. Contact Dave Brown, 416-524-9312 or 905-471-3211; or the church office, 416-299-9592.

JUNE 19 - Strawberry social, 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., St. John the Evangelist, 99 Brock St., Peterborough. This event supports the many outreach projects contributed to each year. In addition to strawberries, cake and ice cream, there will be music from John Earnshaw at the piano in the afternoon and the Peterborough Concert Band in the evening.



SOLIDARITY

People hold candles during an interfaith event at Church of the Ascension, Port Perry, in response to the shootings at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand in March. Among those in attendance were members of the Muslim community, members of other churches and local politicians. PHOTO BY CLAUDIA SYTSMAN

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IN MOTION

Appointments

- The Rev. Robert Sweet, Assistant Priest, St. Paul, Newmarket, March 1.
- The Rev. Canon Derek Stapleton, Honorary Assistant, St. Andrew, Scarborough, March 3.
- The Rev. Theodore Hunt, Incumbent, St. Stephen, Downsview, March 15.
- The Rev. Arthur Boers, Honorary Assistant, St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, March 18.
- The Rev. Jacqueline Daley, Priest-in-Charge, St. Margaret, New Toronto, April 1.
- The Rev. Canon Jerome Khelaw, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Margaret in-the-Pines, Toronto, April 1.
- The Rev. Bob Bettson, Interim Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church, Stouffville, April 1.
- The Rev. Mary Florence Liew, Priest-in-Charge, St. Peter, Scarborough, April 1.
- The Rev. Jeff Nowers, Interim Priest-in-Charge, St. Aidan, Toronto, May 1, while the Incumbent is on sabbatical.
- Michael Perry, Assistant Curate, St. Peter and St. Simon the Apostle, Toronto, May 1.
- Sherri Golisky, Assistant Curate, St. Cuthbert, Leaside, May 1.
- Michelle Jones, Assistant Curate, Christ Church, Brampton, May 6.
- The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan, Incumbent, St. Paul, Uxbridge, June 1.

- St. James Cathedral
- Redeemer, Bloor St.

Ordinations

- The following individuals will be ordained transitional deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 5 at 4:30 p.m.:
- Philip Gearing
 - Benjamin Gillard
 - Sherri Golisky
 - Michelle Jones
 - Orvin Lao
 - Michael Perry
 - Alexandra Pohlod
- The Rev. Andrew Kaye was ordained a Priest at St. Timothy, North Toronto on March 31.
- The Rev. Johanna Pak was ordained a Priest at St. Timothy, Agincourt on April 7.
- The Rev. Jeff Boldt was ordained a Priest at Trinity, Streetsville on April 14.
- Laurie Yates will be ordained a Vocational Deacon at St. Thomas, Brooklin on May 9 at 7 p.m.
- The Rev. Morning Wang will be ordained a Priest at St. George on Yonge, Toronto on May 25 at 4 p.m.

Celebrations of New Ministry Trent-Durham

- The Rev. Samantha Caravan, Priest-in-Charge, All Saints, Peterborough, April 28 at 4:30 p.m.

York-Credit Valley

- The Rev. Jason Prisle, Incumbent, St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Mississauga, May 12 at 4 p.m.
- The Rev. David Matthews, Incumbent, St. Thomas a Becket, Erin Mills South, June 16 at 4 p.m.

Retirements

- The Rev. Arthur Boers' last Sunday at St. Paul, L'Amoreaux was March 17.
- The Rev. Munroe Scott's last Sunday at St. John the Baptist, Lakefield will be April 28.
- The Rev. Heather Gwynne-Timothy's last Sunday at Incarnation, Toronto will be May 26.

Death

- The Very Rev. Ted Clarke died on March 11. Ordained deacon in 1962 and priest in 1963 in the Diocese of Calgary, he also served as dean in the dioceses of Edmonton and Moosonee. In retirement, he came to the Diocese of Toronto in 2007 to serve as interim priest-in-charge of St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax) and then as priest-in-charge of St. Martin, Courtice. His funeral was held at All Saints, Whitby on March 15.

Area Bishop's Direct Appointment Process

- St. Hilda, Fairbank
- St. John, West Toronto
- St. Peter, Oshawa

Vacant Incumbencies

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

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

- Christ Church, Stouffville
- St. Margaret in-the-Pines, Toronto
- St. Martin, Bay Ridges
- Parish of Fenelon Falls
- Parish of Lakefield

Second Phase - Parish Selection Committee (receiving names via Area Bishop):

- Bishop Strachan School Chaplaincy
- St. Andrew by-the-Lake (Half Time), Toronto Islands

Third Phase - (no longer receiving names):

the most part, accepted, and that I didn't have to go through some of these things that others had to."

The Rev. Joyce Barnett says the speaking series is "utterly fantastic. I feel so privileged, after everything I've been through in the Church to be an out lesbian incumbent, to now

have our young people come to us and say, 'We'd love to hear your stories and we'd love to hear them right here in the church.' That is very exciting and positive for me."

All are invited to the talks. St. Matthias, Bellwoods is located at 45 Bellwoods Ave., Toronto.

PRAYER CYCLE

FOR MAY

1. St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto
2. St. Matthias, Bellwoods
3. St. Michael and All Angels, Toronto
4. St. Olave, Swansea
5. New Curates of the Diocese
6. Order of the Holy Cross Priory
7. St. Paul, Runnymede
8. St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto
9. St. Thomas, Huron Street
10. The Advisory Commission for Postulants for Ordination (ACPO)
11. The Congregational Development Volunteer Corps
12. The Anglican Church Women (Dr. Anita Gittens, Diocesan President)
13. Wycliffe College

14. Trinity College

15. All Saints, Whitby

16. Project Ploughshares - an operating division of the Canadian Council of Churches

17. Ascension, Port Perry

18. Christ Memorial Church, Oshawa

19. Oshawa Deanery

20. St. George Memorial, Oshawa

21. St. George, Pickering Village (Ajax)

22. The Postulancy Committee

23. St. John, Whitby

24. St. Martin, Bay Ridges (Pickering)

25. St. Martin, Courtice

26. Bishop Kevin Robertson

27. The Clergy Conference

28. St. Matthew, Oshawa

29. St. Paul on-the-Hill, Pickering

30. St. Paul, Uxbridge

31. St. Peter, Oshawa

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LGBTQ history comes out at new speakers' series

BY STUART MANN

GROWING up at St. Matthias, Bellwoods, Robert Adams was grateful that he was part of a congregation that fully accepted and welcomed LGBTQ people. When he came out, he could talk to other church members who had made the journey and could give him their support.

While listening to their stories, Mr. Adams, 25, realized there was a lot about the history of LGBTQ people in the Anglican Church and Toronto that he didn't know. He shared his thoughts with a friend and they came up with an idea.

"We thought it would be great to have some sort of talking night," he recalls. "We could educate ourselves and other people like us about our history by listening to the stories of people who lived through those times."

He shared the idea with the Rev. Joyce Barnett, the incumbent of St. Matthias, and others in the congregation. With their support, a new speaking series was born. It's called "History Coming Out: Queer history from those who lived it."

The first event will be held at St. Matthias on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. The



Robert Adams

speaker will be Paul Macdonald, a parishioner and a member of the Right to Privacy Committee, a gay rights group in Canada from 1979 to 1991. A second event will be held at the church on June 5 at 7:30 p.m., featuring Chris Ambidge, ODT, a member of Redeemer, Bloor St. and a long-time advocate for LGBTQ people in the Anglican Church. Each event will last about 90 minutes and light refreshments will be served. More speaking engagements will be held in the fall.

Mr. Adams, who will act as host, says the format of the evenings will be simple, with the speakers telling their stories and taking questions from the audience. The talks will be recorded for the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives, located in Toronto, and for the diocese's Archives. The York-Credit Valley area council is providing a small grant to help the church buy recording equipment. Mr. Adams also plans to turn the talks into podcasts, making them available to a wider audience.

He says he's excited by the possibilities. "I think it will be a great way to talk about our history and also about what's going on right now in the Church," he says.

The series is also a way to acknowledge the pioneers of the LGBTQ community, both in the Church and Toronto. "I've met a lot of people who have done the hard work to get where we are today, both in the Church and the city," says Mr. Adams. "There's a lot of history and they've had to fight to get to where we are."

He adds: "For me personally, I'm very grateful and thankful that I live in a time where being gay is, for

Race planned for deanery

Event aims to bring Anglicans together

BY STUART MANN

TWO churches in Scarborough are hosting an Amazing Race-type event to bring local Anglicans together and to raise funds for outreach.

The Scarborough Steeplechase, as it's called, will be held Sept. 21 and all the Anglican churches in Scarborough Deanery are invited to participate. The deanery, which comprises 15 parishes, stretches from Lake Ontario to Steeles Avenue, and from Victoria Park Avenue to the border of Pickering.

"Rather than battering down the hatches, this is a way for our churches to open their doors and say this is who we are, we like to have fun and to celebrate," says Denise Byard, the child, youth and family outreach coordinator at Holy Trinity, Guildwood. Ms. Byard is organizing the event along with Alice Stewart, the pastor of outreach and mission at Grace Church, Scarborough.

Churches are being asked to send teams of two to four people, hopefully wearing t-shirts or something to identify which parish they're from. The top three teams will win prizes, although everyone will be feted at a reception at the end. Bishop Kevin Robertson, the area bishop of York-Scarborough, will be on hand to give out the prizes.

The race will begin at Holy Trinity, Guildwood, where teams will be given a list of participating churches and their addresses. The objective is for

each team to visit all the churches on the list, except their own, and finish at Grace Church. The first team to make it to Grace Church wins.

To avoid everyone going to the same church at the beginning, the teams will be told which church to visit first. After that, they're on their own. They can go to whichever church they want, however they want.

When a team arrives at a church, they'll be asked to participate in a simple activity. It could be anything from a hymn-sing to a short tour of the building – whatever the hosting church decides. Then the team is off to the next church on the list.

During the race, each team will



Alice Stewart (left) and Denise Byard hold a poster for the Scarborough Steeplechase beside Kennedy Road. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON

be asked to create a short video of their experience. The clips will be put into a longer, deanery-wide promotional video. If no one on the team has the ability to make a video, the organizers will help.

The registration fee for each team is \$25, which will be donated to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

Ms. Stewart says the race is a light-hearted way for Anglicans to get to know people from other parishes and the buildings where they worship. "The clergy in our deanery get along with each other and work well together, and we thought it would be fabulous if we can expand that out to congregants as well," she says.

Ms. Byard and Ms. Stewart are hoping that at least 11 churches sign up to participate, and several have already expressed interest.

For more information about the Scarborough Steeplechase, contact Denise Byard at officetrinityguildwood@rogers.com or Alice Stewart at alice@gracechurchscarborough.com.

Area supports local students with bursaries

BY JILLIAN RUCH

THE first year of university or college can be a financial nightmare for anyone. In 2011, York-Scarborough's area council began a program to support local youth and attack the problem head-on. Since then, 83 youth in the area have each been given a \$500 bursary.

Applications for the next round of bursaries are due May 30. Application forms have been sent to all incumbents and priests-in-charge in the area, so please contact them

if you or someone you know is interested in applying.

Some of the 12 recipients from 2018 shared their stories with me. Grace Rockett of St. Aidan, Toronto is studying musical theatre at Sheridan College. She said the bursary helped her pay for the academic books required in her first year. "I am so thankful for this help, as it made first year a lot easier and way less stressful," she said.

DeAndrea Yeates of St. Paul, Bloor Street, said that without the bursary she would have strug-

gled to buy textbooks required for the humanities program she is enrolled in at the University of Toronto. Charlotte Day of St. Saviour, Toronto, enrolled in the educational support program at Sheridan College. "Without the grant, I don't think I would have been able to go to college this year," she says. "It has been an incredible experience, and I am so thankful for the church I go to."

To be eligible for the bursary, applicants must demonstrate an ongoing and active involvement in

their home parish. They must be entering their first year of study at a recognized post-secondary institution. Lastly, they must be recommended by their incumbent or priest-in-charge, need financial assistance and satisfactorily complete the application.

Thank you to York-Scarborough's area council for this opportunity to support our youth in the area.

Jillian Ruch is the youth ministry area coordinator for York-Scarborough.



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