

**In Conversation With...**

An interview with the new editor of the *Niagara Anglican*, Hollis Hiscock

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**Sandwiches in Solidarity, Not As Charity**

Serving people in poverty is about putting people first.

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A section of the Anglican Journal

# NIAGARA ANGLICAN

A Gathering Place and a Sounding Board for the People of the Diocese of Niagara

OCTOBER 2011

## Niagara Anglican and Website Changes

There is change blowing across the communications landscape of the Diocese of Niagara.

It is with mixed emotions that Bishop Michael Bird announces that after nearly fifteen years of unwavering commitment, dedication and hard work, Chris Grabiec, John Janisse, and other members of the Dunham group are handing over the reins of the *Niagara Anglican* newspaper and diocesan website.

Chris and John have been the only webmasters the diocese has ever known building a website from the ground up that became second to none in the entire Canadian Church. The Dunham Group transformed the way the diocese communicated and dis-

seminated information and built a data base system that revolutionized our accounting and data collecting methods. It is hard to imagine our lives within the Church before the website and this can be completely attributed to Chris and John's creativity and expertise.

A few years after the development of the website, then Bishop Ralph Spence asked Chris and John to come in to assist with a crisis that was occurring with the *Niagara Anglican* newspaper. They agreed that they would help out "for a short time until someone else was chosen as

editor". Six years later, Chris and John have re-shaped the vision and emphasis of the paper making it a thoughtful, relevant vehicle for theological and practical reflection as well as the glue that effectively holds the diocesan family together.

We thank Chris, John and all other members of the Dunham Group that have contributed so selflessly over all these years. You will be missed but we look forward to continuing our relationship in a variety of other ways across Niagara.

Beginning early this fall, Ms. —See *CHANGES* Page 6



**First and last issues**

Chris Grabiec began as editor with the September 2005 issue. September 2011 was his last. Many changes between the two.



NYC participants Zach Burley, Lindsay Geerkens-Beck, Angela Gibbons, Maddy Heys and Gregory Millar create a mandala at Sherman Falls.

## A "Tuck In" Compline

One of many highlights for youth at NYC 2011

**CHRISTYN PERKONS**

Niagara Youth Conference (NYC) participants spent their last week of summer exploring the Five Marks of Mission in that glorious piece of God's creation known as the Canterbury Hills Conference Centre.

Volunteer staff from across the Diocese spent eight months planning a week that invited

young people to deepen their relationship with God through the lens of what God is calling us to do. Eighteen staff members committed to monthly 4 – 6 hour planning meetings as well as a considerable amount of conference design in small groups between meetings. Jay Blackwood recalls meeting with his partner; a 30 km drive from

—See *YOUTH* Page 7



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# It is to God that we return

GRAHAME STAP

This summer has been a very busy summer for Ina and I in many different ways. We have had lots of company stay with us. Old friends from St. Christopher's, family members and others who just stopped in for a short visit and we are still rebuilding our house. (Almost finished). It occurred to me how very lucky we are. We have lots of friends and for our age good health. We also live in a wonderful part of Ontario.

As I look out of my window I can see the lake. The ripples on the water as gentle zephyrs come in from the west and the sun sparkling on each tiny wave. A loon has been nesting on the shore close to us and the male

swims and dives finding food to feed the young. A short time ago we had two young moose feeding in the wooded area of our lot. God is in his heaven and all is right with the world.

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...all is right with the world... then I switch on the television and it all comes crashing down.

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Then I switch on the television and it all comes crashing down, riots in England, fighting in Libya and Syria, terrible famine in many parts of Africa, tornadoes in Goderich.

We truly live in a broken world and for most people in this world there is not much to be thankful for.

In our own lives, this summer,

Ina and I have had to face the deaths of several loved ones. First one of Ina's sisters died and we drove south for the funeral. While we were there I went to see my brother in hospital, he

was not in a good way but where there is life there is hope. We were home for one day when we got the news that my brother had died and we headed south again.

I guess we both realized that we are at that time of life when we must face not only the passing of siblings and friends but also our own end. I find it hard

to believe that I will be seventy by the time you read this and my brother who is eighty-two will be in Canada. He lives in France, and is coming to help me through this passing into another phase of life.

I find it all very strange as in my mind I am still young and have a full head of hair, my bones don't ache and my teeth are all my own and I remember things, then I look in the mirror. Time passes so fast.

I realize this is how life is, the terrible tragedies of the world do happen, mainly through our indifference to the plight of others. I also realize that God knew all this was going to happen and that we were going to live in a broken world, so he sent Jesus who for us died on the cross then



rose again.

If Jesus had come down from the Cross and saved himself as bystanders tempted him to, he would have done what we cannot do. But Jesus stayed on the Cross and died, and rose from the dead to show us the path. And for this I will always be thankful because no matter what happens we are loved by God and it is to God that, when our time here is over, we will return.

As always it is only my opinion.

*Grahame Stap is Rector of St. Simon's Temagami and can be reached at [gstap27@aol.com](mailto:gstap27@aol.com)*

## In Conversation With...

Hollis Hiscock, incoming editor of the *Niagara Anglican*

This is the first in a series of dialogues in the *Niagara Anglican*. This month we talk with the recently appointed editor, the Reverend Hollis Hiscock.

**NA: Welcome to your new appointment; where do you want to begin?**

**HH:** Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to former editor Chris Grabiec and his team for their tremendous contribution to the *Niagara Anglican* specifically, and the Niagara Diocese generally in employing their Christian Stewardship very creatively. Secondly, I appreciate the confidence our Bishop Michael Bird has in appointing me Editor of the *Niagara Anglican*, an offer, which I quickly and gladly accepted.

**NA: Most people in Niagara Diocese may not know you ... so who is Hollis Hiscock?**

**HH:** I was born in the independent nation of Newfoundland, nearly a decade before the marriage of Canada and Newfoundland on March 31, 1949. Recently, Newfoundland-Labrador has converted from a 'have not' to a 'have' province. This happened after I left for Ontario but there is no connection, I hope.

**NA: Tells us more.**

**HH:** After ordination, I served in two far flung parishes (one with 32 communities and the other with 13) located on Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula. Following that I taught religious education and social studies at the high school level, before teaching Psychology and holding several administrative appointments at Memorial University. I returned to full time Parish Ministry at St. Thomas' Parish in St. John's, which was then the largest Anglican Parish in Canada. I was the first native born Newfoundlander appointed Rector of that parish in nearly 100 years. For 10 years I was editor of the *Newfoundland Churchman* (now *Anglican Life*), which served three dioceses.

**NA: What brought you to Ontario?**

**HH:** Well, we are told God moves in many mysterious ways, and I guess God did one on me in 1989. When Bishop Art Brown of Toronto Diocese approached me about becoming Rector of St. John's York Mills, I asked him where it was. He laughed his famous laugh and said that if I were in Toronto Diocese, I would not ask such a question, because everyone

knew that parish. After declining his invitation several times, we finally clued in that maybe God wanted us in Ontario and we moved in 1990. After 17 years as the Rector there, I retired in 2007, at which time Helen and I moved to Burlington. Since then I have done three Interim Ministries, one in Toronto Diocese, and two in Niagara parishes; and now I'm looking forward to being the Editor of the Diocesan paper.

**NA: How would you describe your philosophy as Editor of a Diocesan paper?**

**HH:** I view a Diocesan paper as 'a sounding board' and 'a gathering place'. The latter enables the diocese, parishes and individuals to gather on the printed page to share happenings, experiences, ideas and suggestions. The paper becomes a "sounding board" when writers exchange different perspectives and challenge readers to think at a deeper level about issues facing God's Church and world. Hopefully, the paper can be interactive for all ages, interests, groups and individuals.

**NA: Some people wonder if the internet has made the print medium obsolete. What are your feelings?**

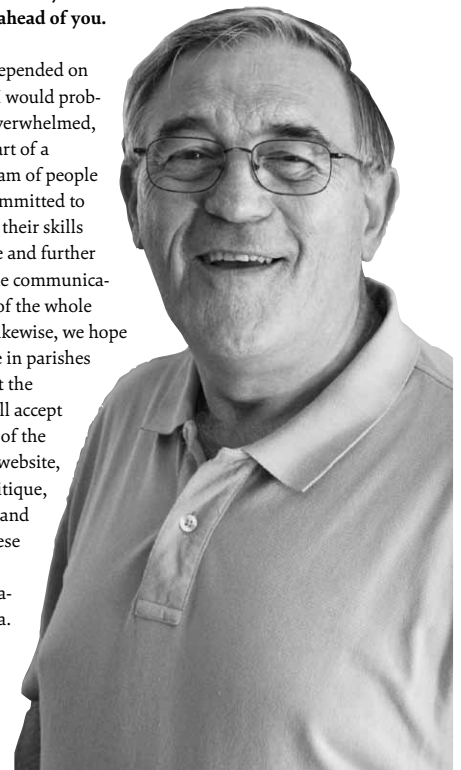
**HH:** I believe we need both. I look forward to a close partnership between the web site and paper. No doubt, each medium has its own distinctive characteristics, purposes and methodologies; however they can achieve much more when they complement and support each other.

**NA: Sounds like you have a huge task ahead of you.**

**HH:** If it depended on me alone, I would probably feel overwhelmed, but I am part of a talented team of people who are committed to employing their skills to continue and further enhance the communication goals of the whole Diocese. Likewise, we hope that people in parishes throughout the Diocese will accept ownership of the paper and website, and will critique, contribute and support these and other communications media. In essence, we are responding to and fulfilling

the commission Jesus gave to his disciples (and us) to bring God's good news to people everywhere. After all, that is the mission and ministry of the Church, and that is our focus as well.

**NA: May the spirit go with you.**



# What A Summer!

PETER WALL

As I sit in these waning days of August, I could reflect on a summer that was too hot and dry, and one in which I did not get as much "down" time as I might have wished. I could reflect on some wonderful books which I had the pleasure of reading, particularly an inspiring biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. But I want to tell you about two very special events which it was my privilege to be a part of this summer - different from each other but each important and a special gift to me.

## TIME WITH THE LUTHERANS

In July, I had the pleasure of being a guest at the National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). This 13th biennial convention was held in Saskatoon over four beautiful and sunny days. As Anglican Co-Chair of the Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission and as one who is leading the planning process for General Synod in 2013, which will be a joint Synod/Convention with the ELCIC, it was good for me to be able to attend this convention - my second. I had been present in 2005 in Winnipeg during my term as representative of the Council of General Synod (COGS) for the National Church Council.

Approximately 550 people gathered to do the business of the church, to be inspired and taught, and to worship together. National Bishop Susan Johnson had served her first four year term and so there was an election for National Bishop and Bishop Susan was re-elected for a second term. Bishop Johnson is a Canon of our Cathedral and a close friend of many of us here, so it was wonderful to be present for this emotional and important moment. The Convention also dealt with many issues and decisions, but two stand out. First, the Church adopted a Social Statement on Human Sexuality. This statement had been several years in study and process, and forms an important public statement on behalf of the church. I commend it to you - it can be found on their website: [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca).

This carefully crafted and comprehensive statement is a gift to all the churches and, as a result, the Convention passed

two important resolutions: one dealing with marriage, which states, in part, "...that rostered ministers may, according to the dictates of their consciences as informed by the Gospels, the Scriptures, the ecumenical creeds and the confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, preside at or bless legal marriages according to the laws of the province within which they serve..."

The second resolution states, in part: "It is the policy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada that sexual orientation is not in itself a factor which disqualifies a candidate for rostered ministry or a rostered minister seeking a call..." The debate over both of these resolutions was important, respectful, impassioned and moving. It was a deep privilege to be present.

The Convention also approved in principle some significant changes in organizational structures, including the number of Synods (dioceses, in Anglican-speak) and the frequency and composition of National Conventions. These matters will now be further developed in terms of implementation. The Convention also joyfully and energetically celebrated 25 years of the ELCIC. It was good to spend time with our full-union sisters and brothers.

## TIME WITH THE ANGLICANS

The other fascinating event

which I had the privilege of attending was the biennial meeting of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation (IALC), which met in Canterbury, England during the first week of August. As a member of the national Faith Worship and Ministry Committee I was asked to attend for another committee member who was planning to attend but could not. Fifty-six scholars, academics, liturgists and provincial liturgical commission members, from six continents and 19 provinces of the Anglican Communion - bishops, priests and laity - gathered to continue the work of IALC 2009 (Auckland, NZ) on "marriage".

Within the incredible beauty of the Canterbury Cathedral precincts, grounded in daily prayer in the "mother church" of all our Cathedrals, graced by the generous hospitality of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, we worked over five days in different working groups examining (1) the theology of marriage, (2) cultural contexts of marriage, and (3) the shape and elements of the ritual. We began by hearing and reflecting on presentations made by Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of the Church of Tanzania and by The Rev. Dr. Simon Jones of the Church of England. Both of these papers and the final statement of the consultation will be available in the near future.

Being together with such a

group of talented, experienced, and dedicated liturgists was a rare pleasure. Five Canadians were present and, as always happens at international gatherings, we learned much from others about local realities and circumstances around the Anglican world and made wonderful new friendships. Clearly, the topic of "marriage" is one about which there is both a wealth of diversity and deeply held opinions. We heard much about both our shared experiences and about local distinctions. It was a very rich experience indeed and to



have it within the beauty and peacefulness of Canterbury Cathedral was a huge gift. I look forward to the communiqué and other papers being available to all.

All in all, quite a summer!

*The Very Reverend Peter Wall is Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Dean of Niagara, and can be reached at [peter.wall@niagara.anglican.ca](mailto:peter.wall@niagara.anglican.ca)*

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# Sandwiches In Solidarity, Not As Charity

ANNETTE GRAYDON

Food and sharing a meal is a way of bringing people together. And I'll take my sandwich with a side order of solidarity any day.

Voices for Change is a grass roots organization in Halton whose intentions are simple. They believe in the end of poverty. Their goals are to make a difference, hold the government accountable for its struggling citizens and to expose the unacknowledged truth that there are people living in poverty in Halton Region.

Voices for Change was formed, in part, to make the community aware that poverty is an issue in Halton despite its reputation for wealth. The members of Voices for Change know this is the truth because they are people who live with the experience of poverty.

Along with poverty, they have had first hand experience of stigma, shame and stereotyping. They have heard it all: poor people take our tax dollars, poor people are lazy, all poor people are on welfare, poor people need to learn how to budget, poor people blow money on big screen TVs, alcohol and drugs, poor people don't know how to parent their children.

## PUT PEOPLE FIRST

Voices for Change wants you to put people first. They are not poor people. They are not vulnerable people. They are not needy people. They are people. People who want you to know that in most cases you can't tell someone is living in poverty just by looking at them. They want you to know that poverty is not the result of a "lack of effort". It is not a lifestyle choice. It is an incredibly arduous battle that no one would willingly choose.

They want to live normal productive lives and contribute to their communities. To do that they need the opportunity to earn wages that offer sustainable lifestyles along with affordable

housing and food. They want to be granted the dignity and equality of treatment that all are owed as human beings.

Voices for Change sees the upcoming provincial election and the province's Social Assistance Review as opportunities to raise awareness of poverty and constructively work for social change to eradicate it. They know this is going to be difficult but it is by no means impossible.

To help them with this task, in June a number of allies from organizations in the community that wish to address poverty

organizations.

When the financial resources available to support the group were stretched due to larger than anticipated numbers of individuals wanting to participate, the Mothers' Union in Niagara donated lunch for 40 people for three days as the group and allies participated in facilitated training on how to use their collective voices as a tool for advocacy. Other allies offered other tangible supports such as bus tickets to enable the participants to get to meetings. Such simple acts have incredible significance.

I was moved and inspired as

truth.

## THOUGHTS AND REACTIONS FROM OTHERS

From a member of Voices for Change, "Breaking bread together is a fundamental, community essential. Everyone is on the same level when sharing food, it removes barriers. On the practical note some people in attendance may not have food in their homes, so their participation has several functions. OW (Ontario Works) and ODSP (social assistance), are very isolating by nature. The lack of everything that requires money makes the isolation even deeper. When the only extra you can afford for the month is the taxi ride home from the grocery store loaded with everything for the month, there isn't even \$3.00 for bus fare left. That keeps you at home."

From Colleen Sym, Executive Director, Halton Legal Services, "In contemporary Christian theology, a way of thinking about justice is to understand it as 'right relationship'. A credible justice ministry is one where we are in 'right relationship' with those who experience injustice. There are four principles that have been used for engaging in justice issues: sustainability, sufficiency, solidarity and equity. Solidarity in our context relates to the importance of engaging with people of lived experience of poverty in finding solutions. It is imperative that those who are directly affected by poverty participate in its eradication."

From Bishop Michael Bird of Niagara Diocese, who said in his reflection on his participation in the recent Halton Donated Diet Challenge, "I am even more motivated now to advocate for some real solutions to the root causes of poverty."

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING AND

## PARTICIPATION.

In Niagara, our Diocesan Vision challenges us to move beyond the four walls of the church in love and humility to listen to and engage with the people of this generation. Our Mothers' Union vision is to bring about a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. There may be Mothers' Union branches or members in Canada who feel that they are unable to effect change and make a difference. Here, the participation of a few has made it possible for the efforts of more to affect change in many!

To dispel myths and raise awareness of the reality of poverty, Voices for Change has a speakers' bureau. Members recently shared their stories at the Halton Poverty Roundtable as part of their orientation and have participated in training for staff at the Region of Halton, Employment, Housing & Social Services Division. If you would like Voices for Change to speak at your parish, contact Archdeacon Michael Patterson at michael.patterson@niagara.anglican.ca.

Mothers' Union in Niagara is holding their annual retreat November 25-27, 2011 at Crieff Hills Center, just outside Hamilton, north on Hwy.6. The theme this year is "Let hope begin with me". The ongoing work from and with Voices for Change will be featured as well as a number of other initiatives. Space is available and Saturday only participation is welcomed too! Contact registrar Laurie Kondo, Church of the Epiphany, Oakville at laurie\_kondo@hotmail.com.

The Mothers' Union in Niagara is continuing the partnership work begun last year with the Social Justice Camp. Building on that theme, we are living the changes we want to see. Through equal partnerships, we are all strengthened and encouraged to continue on the just path.

Pass the sandwiches!

Annette Graydon is Past President of the Canadian Mothers' Union and can be reached at graydon@aztec-net.com

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*... our Diocesan Vision challenges us to move beyond the four walls of the church in love and humility to listen to and engage with the people of this generation.*

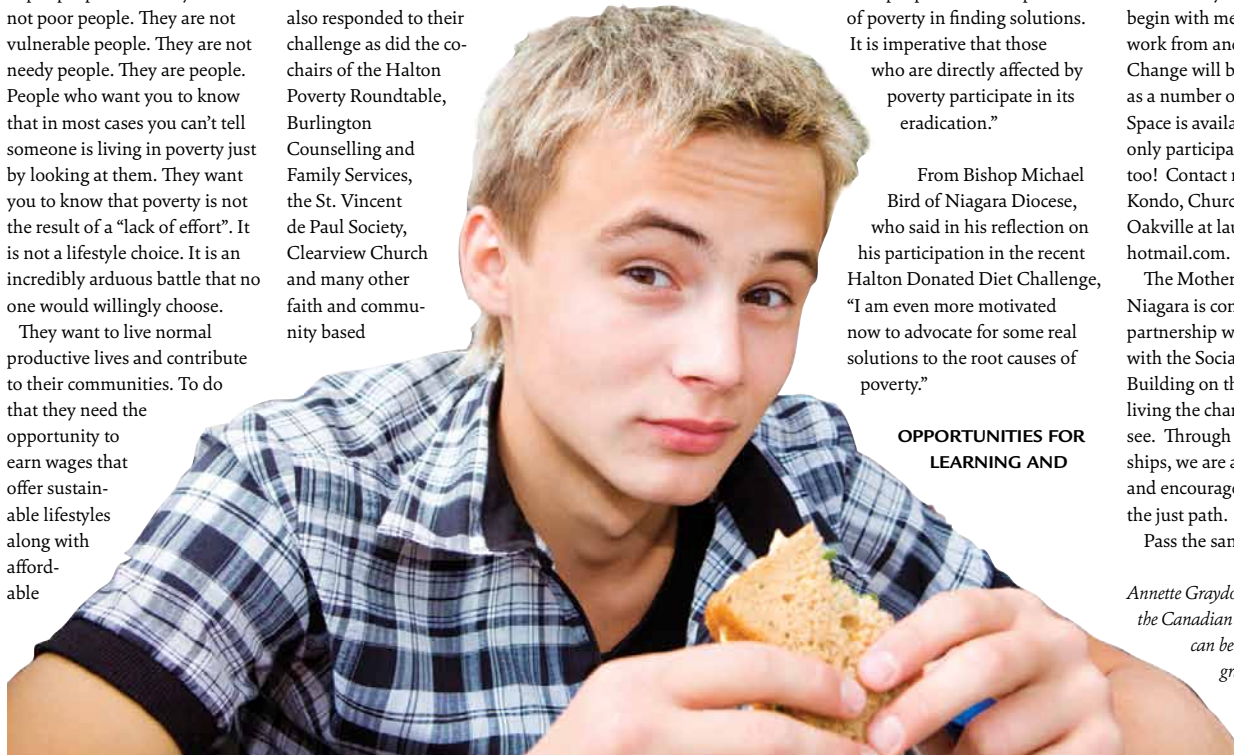
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were invited to stand with them. Their challenge to us was to help be the voice of empathy, the voice of determination – to be a voice for change.

I spent a day with the group representing the Mothers' Union Niagara (mothersunioncanada.ca)

and as a board member of Halton Community Legal Services (haltonlegal.ca). Archdeacon Michael Patterson also responded to their challenge as did the co-chairs of the Halton Poverty Roundtable, Burlington Counselling and Family Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Clearview Church and many other faith and community based

I joined the group for their final session with the facilitator who had guided them along with staff from Halton Community Legal Services through their training journey. This was not a room full of "poor people". This was an engaged group of people with passion and a desire to effect change. I heard thoughtful discussion and insightful dialogue spoken with conviction and



## From Altar to School

### Meeting Community needs

Worshippers at St. John's, Rockwood, on an August Sunday morning, left their pews and joined a happy procession leading to the altar where they presented their gifts for a blessing.

This was the first BACKPACK SUNDAY at the church, which was built in 1882, and in addition to backpacks, they also brought pencils, crayons, paper and other school supplies.

They were responding to a request from Darci Burgess, Co-ordinator of Community Supports for The East Wellington

Community Services (EWCS) in Rockwood, to help young students in need of school supplies. She asked for ten and received sixteen backpacks.

After presenting their gifts at the altar, the people prayed together for the children, teachers and others in our education system.

Outreach Co-ordinator Maureen Moore brought the trunk load of school supplies to the EWCS office, which is conveniently located next to the Church.

The backpacks were carried to school by the children when



Maureen Moore takes the backpacks and other school supplies from the altar in St. John's Church Rockwood ... and presents them to Darci Burgess to give them to children to take to school

classes resumed in September.

#### AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Send us a story about how your faith impacts the community around you. E-mail your story (and a high resolution picture) to: [editor@niagara.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagara.anglican.ca).



## Twenty Years for Lecture Series

One person plants, another waters and God makes things grow... this prediction by St. Paul (1 Corinthians 3:6) may be the reason why the annual Lecture Series at St. Mark's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, is celebrating its twentieth anniversary this year.

Started by then Rector Ian Dingwall, it has continued under present Rector Robert Wright.

To mark the special occasion, which should attract close to 100 people, John Dominic Crossan, described as an Irish-American New Testament scholar, has been invited back for the second time. He will present three lectures on "the Power of

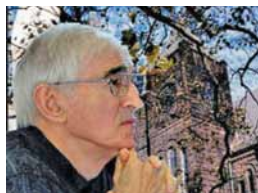
the Parables" or "how fiction by Jesus became fiction about Jesus". He is scheduled to preach at the Sunday morning worship.

The Lecture Series begins at 7:30 pm on Friday, October 14, followed by two lectures the next day at 10 am and 2 pm. More details can be obtained by searching the parish web site at [www.stmarks1792.com](http://www.stmarks1792.com), by email [stmarks@cogeco.net](mailto:stmarks@cogeco.net) or by telephone 905 468 3123.

It is a relaxed way to learn, said Rector Wright; it is a place where you can meet and talk informally with people you normally read about. Participants seem to enjoy the Lecture Series as they wrestle with the issues facing people

today, he concluded.

Over the years some notable speakers, including Matthew Fox, Alan Jones, Eileen Pagels and Joan Chittister, have sparked conversation and learning at the event. In 2010, Muslim Imam Feisal Abdul Raus from the Mosque in Manhattan delivered the key note lectures and spoke at the Sunday liturgy.



John Dominic Crossan

## Speed Greening Niagara

### How to make your church space greener

A workshop will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 10 am to 12 noon at St. Luke's Church, 1382 Ontario St, Burlington.

The workshop has two parts.

**Part 1 - Energy Analysis Made Easy:** the Canadian Anglican General Synod has requested that parishes analyze their energy consumption to see what savings could be made. The goal is to help parishes create this baseline so savings can be explored. Each parish is asked to have one person attend and

bring a laptop and their heating, electricity and water bills so they can be entered into a spreadsheet. Instructions on how to do this will be provided. Please pre-register so we can ensure you have the software and bills in hand. It is amazing how a few energy efficiency steps can make a difference to your energy bills!

**Part 2 - Speed Greening:** What's Speed Greening? - several short (20 minute) concurrent sessions will be given and you can choose three to attend and learn practical actions to take on

such topics as:

- Waste management (including Blue Box and Green Cart usage)
- Energy Conservation
- Benefits of eating local

Each parish is invited to send one or more attendees and pre-registration is encouraged.

Contact Michael Skafel at [michael.skafel@sympatico.ca](mailto:michael.skafel@sympatico.ca), Co-chair of the Greening Niagara committee, to register or for more information.

## People In the News

The Reverend **Bill Mous** has accepted the position as Social Justice Coordinator, on a half time basis, beginning November 1. With this new position, he has submitted his resignation as Associate at St. James, Dundas, effective October 31.

Deacon **Anne Crawford** submitted her resignation from St. Luke's, Burlington, effective September 18. We wish her well as she moves to Toronto this fall.

The Reverend **Neil Follett** was issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at Epiphany, Oakville, effective September 18.

The Reverend **Amy Cousineau** was issued bishop's permission as honorary assistant at Church of St. James, Fergus, effective September 1.

The Reverend **Sheila Martin** issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at All Saints Church, Hamilton, effective August 1.

Our sympathy to the Reverend **Joan Dunn** and family on the death of her father, Frank Ball, on July 26.

Congratulations to Archdeacon **Bruce and Suzanne McPetrie**, on the birth of their second grandchild: Elsa Julianna, born July 5.

Our sympathy to Archdeacon **Lynne Marchant** and family on the death of her mother, Margaret Williams, on July 1.

The Reverend **Cheryl Barker**, Rector of St. Paul's, Caledonia,

was elected Regional Dean of Mohawk, effective July 1.

Our sympathy to the family of **George Philbrick**, O.N., faithful member of Jordan and Beamsville, who died on July 1.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary (June 25th) to **Clara and Sterling Tooke**, long time and faithful members of St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls.

Congratulations to **Ian Milroy** who has accepted the position as Chair of the Bishop's Decennial Inspections Committee.

The Reverend **Deanne Patchett** was ordained to the Diaconate on June 12. She was licenced as Assistant Curate at St. George's, Guelph, beginning August 1. Congratulations Deanne and we wish you well as you begin your ordained ministry.

The Reverend **Janet Cashin** was issued bishop's permission as honorary assistant at St. John's, Thorold, as of May 29.

Our sympathy to the Reverend **Jeff Ward** and family on the death of his father, Harry, on May 13.

Parochial Lay Reader's Licences issued to the following: **Joel Lohr**, St. Paul's, Dunnville, effective June 1; **Annette Hoare**, St. Alban's, Beamsville, effective July 1; **Rosemary Rusk**, St. John's, Niagara Falls, effective March 1; and **Maurice Moss**, Holy Trinity, Hamilton, effective July 1.

# A Word for Thanksgiving, 2011

MICHAEL BURSLEM

Just yesterday I received a short poem by e-mail from a young Egyptian friend, Mohammad. Written in Arabic, it translates thus:

*The blind wish to see the world...  
And the deaf wish to hear sounds...  
And the lame wish to step out to walk...  
And the dumb wish to say some words...  
But you see...hear...walk...and speak.  
I swear that I will, wherever I stand,  
Bear witness that  
There is no god but Allah,  
And Mohammad is the Messenger of God.*

My first impulse was to respond by saying, "Yes, but Jesus made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk and the dumb to speak." But I didn't. It could have led to a long, drawn out discussion, or worse an argument over the merits of Christ and Mohammad. Perhaps he was trying to provoke me by ending the poem with the Shehada. That is as much a red rag to Christians as the Gloria that we sing at the end of the psalms, extolling the Trinity, is to Muslims. But, what is the point? I don't believe he would become a Christian

by believing everything we say Jesus did or said, than I would become a Muslim. I would rather answer him by saying what every Egyptian says every day, Elhamd'Allah, Thanks be to God! That would defuse any tension before it begin.

This led me to thank God for the fact that I do see, hear, walk and speak (and write). Do we often thank Him for the little things in life? When out for my morning walks I thank Him for the variety of color in the birds and flowers all around me; the bird songs, the ripples in the river and the sound of the wind in the trees (perhaps less for the noise of the traffic); that I can still walk without pain, even up hill. I tell Him, sometimes out aloud, that he has done all things well. On coming home I tell Ellen of the beauty I have seen. These I would rather tell Mohammad, than to get into a pointless discussion. I have to admit that this is still rather new to me, because I always used to enjoy a "good" argument.

I used to think that if Mohammad, and others like him, didn't believe exactly as I did, they, at the point of death, would go straight to hell and my purpose in life was to spare as many souls as possible that fate. Well, I no longer believe

this. Nor, as I read Him in the Gospels, did, or does, Jesus. He was the arch heretic in teaching that heaven was not exclusively for the Jews. I believe it's not exclusively for Christians either. But look where it got Him; crucifixion. In the same way those who challenge such long cherished convictions may expect to be "crucified" by the "faithful."

However, where Christianity differs from all other faiths, it declares there is life after death; no one is worthless to God; He loves even the sinner and there is hope for all, not just for those who, like the White Queen in Alice in Wonderland, "believe six impossible things before breakfast." One thing that has really surprised me as I have aged, is how liberal in interpreting the Scriptures, I have become. Faith is not believing the impossible, but a conviction that God is for real. That is the one thing which Mohammad and I have in common. Let us build on that together.

I'm equally convinced that God loves Muslims more than dissenters; those who cause bitter dissent and even schism in congregations and dioceses that a portion should up and leave. Since God loves us all, there is nothing that should cause us to love one another less than



He does, even such subjects as the Same-Sex debate. Paul condemned settling matters in court as he did homosexual relations. He preferred all be celibate as himself. However, Paul is not the Law, any more than the Bible is, and thanks be to God no one is saved by obeying the law, Paul's, the Bible or any other.

So, this Thanksgiving we have so much to be thankful for, but most especially that God loves us. This is the one thing I've learned from the Bible.

A final word for those who cannot see, hear, walk or speak. We don't know why you can't do as most others can. Medicine, like science can only answer the questions What? Where? When? and How? Faith answers the question Why? THAT GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED. So God really does love you too, perhaps even more so. You are a lesson to us all how to bear up under adversity. Perhaps, if you do count your blessings, you will find that you have more than the rest of us.

Let us all therefore thank and praise the Lord.

*Michael Burslem is a member of St. George's Parish in Guelph and can be reached at m.burslem@sympatico.ca*

## NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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## Changes in Niagara Communications

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gemma Young will take on the role as our diocesan webmaster. Gemma is a member of St. Luke's (Palermo) in Oakville and she and Ms. Lisa Bowman of St. John's Thorold have been working tirelessly all summer developing the new website for the diocese of Niagara. Gemma has been in technology for over 15 years and as well as working as a Senior IT Business Analyst also runs a web consulting company. We look forward to introducing Gemma and Lisa more formally in the coming weeks. If you would like to contact Gemma please do so via [gyoung@thefocusedview.com](mailto:gyoung@thefocusedview.com). Also, with this October issue

of the *Niagara Anglican*, the Reverend Hollis Hiscock will begin as the new editor of our diocesan newspaper. Hollis hails originally from the great province of Newfoundland where he was in parish ministry and was also the editor of Newfoundland Churchman (now Anglican

Life) for over a decade. In 1990, Hollis accepted the position as rector of St. John's, York Mills in Toronto where he remained until he retired to the Diocese of Niagara in 2007. Hollis sat on the board of the national paper, the *Anglican Journal*, for many years so he brings a wealth of

experience and insight to this new role. Hollis and his wife Helen have two daughters and live in Burlington. You may contact Hollis at editor@niagara.anglican.ca

We thank both Hollis and Gemma for stepping in to take on these very important roles.

A Day of Deeper Understanding

## Listening to God: Listening to Each Other

Worship led by Mark Chindemi, First Nations drummer  
Workshops led by Rev'd Stephanie Pellow  
and Rev'd Brian Galligan

**Saturday October 22, 9am-2pm ~ St Simon's, Oakville**  
Registration \$10. Lunch provided with a free will offering  
Contact number 519-942-1678 or email [revspellow@gmail.com](mailto:revspellow@gmail.com)



## Meets 2nd Thursday of every month

King's Christian College  
Burnhamthorpe and  
Neyagawa Roads  
Oakville, Ontario 7:30 pm

*In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty;  
In All Things, Charity*

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

# Youth Took Time to Explore the Five Marks of Mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his work site in Alberta to the parking lot of a restaurant (closest wireless signal) in order to “Skype” with his partner, Laura Harrison, at her home in Hamilton. Mission accomplished – a half day of the conference planned...cross country! Despite full time work, school and family commitments, this devoted group of disciples is imbued with a powerful call to create a safe, supportive and challenging environment in which God’s work in the lives of young people is intentionally noticed and affirmed.

The Five Marks of Mission – Proclaiming the Good News; Teaching, Nurturing & Baptizing New Believers; Responding to Human Need in Loving Service; Transforming Unjust Structures and Safeguarding the Integrity of Creation – were highlighted throughout the week in daily worship, in small group discussions, in large group activities, in plenaries, and in workshops. Creating a video for delegates focused on what it means to love and how we show love through service was a high point for

staffer Emma Smith. She comments, “It was a phenomenal experience to put together a visual reflection about loving service. I was particularly taken by the realization that large scale actions are not always more important than small actions. Acting in small ways to change the world and ourselves is what NYC is all about for me.”

Participants were immersed in worship experiences that allowed everyone a space in which to give praise, connect with God and reflect on their spiritual journey: a Jazz Eucharist, a drumming compline, a Spiritual Stretching Morning Prayer, a “tuck in” compline, a Laughter Eucharist and creating mandalas at Sherman Falls. Staff member, Max Woolaver says about the Spiritual Stretching Morning Prayer, “The yoga exercise we shared at dawn, in the forest, was a revelation. The stretching exercises, linking our own breathing to our movement, birthed a surprising dynamic sense of well-being. As we stretched physically, we became that much more aware of the resources for spiritual adventure which usually lie out of reach for many of

us. I thought to myself, ‘how do I expect to meet the challenges in any day without preparing for them?’”

The week was jam-packed with activities that invited participants to delve into the Marks of Mission – For example, an afternoon exploring the baptismal covenant in a round robin format had participants at one station sharing the many ways they honour the Christ in the people they encounter, and making commitments to intensify their nurture of others once they return home. In acknowledging how others honour the Christ in them, several bursary recipients expressed deep appreciation that the kindness of strangers had enabled them to experience the joys of the Niagara Youth Conference.

Another afternoon saw a flurry of activity as conference members sought to perform loving acts of service in response to the needs of fellow participants and staff members. Workshops focused on safeguarding the integrity of creation, and transforming unjust structures captivated the group and challenged them to look at issues from a

different perspective. A “Telling Your Own Story” workshop gave delegates both the permission to see their lives as a unique creation story as well as some tools with which to share their stories. Underpinning the conference were the multifaceted talents of the NYC Band focusing participants’ attention on God, on the theme, and on finding their own groove.

Lest you think NYC was all work and no play, entertainment included a staff variety night, an evening making movies, a formal dinner and dance at which the staff served the young people, and a final night of conference participants sharing their many gifts with one another. Dean Sutton-Greenhalgh notes that he loves the fact that NYC doesn’t hold talent competitions but rather showcases everyone’s contributions.

Was the week a success? The staff saw many instances of God at work, and it seems that the youth felt the Spirit moving, too. “There’s nowhere in the world that I feel this safe – I have to hide who I am with my friends at home”, remarked one long time participant. “I think I want

to be a priest and I thought I knew what that was all about but this really made me think,” and “Everyone welcomes you here – I didn’t know anyone when I came and people just started talking to me. I was really nervous about coming but then I wasn’t scared at all”, were the comments from two new participants. Others chimed in with what’s significant for them about their NYC experience; “I wait for NYC all year – these people are my lifeline!!” and, “I always feel like a different person on Friday from the person I was on the first day.”

If you would like to help a young person, who wouldn’t otherwise be able to participate, attend a residential youth ministry program, please send a donation to the Joyce Wilton Youth Ministry Bursary Fund, Attn: Christyn Perkons, 252 James Street North, Hamilton, ON, L8R 2L3. Your support can help change lives.

*(Christyn Perkons, Diocesan Coordinator for Congregational Support and Development, can be reached at christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca)*

## A Call to Action

JIM NEWMAN

William Temple said, “The Church is the only cooperative society in the world that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.”

Temple was a priest in the Church of England, a supporter of social reforms, an author, teacher and headmaster, and he served as Bishop of Manchester (1921–29), Archbishop of York (1929–42), and Archbishop of Canterbury (1942–44).

William Temple died in 1944, and so that quotation is not exactly a contemporary one. But it’s in line with today’s views that the Church must become more focused on mission, and more strategic in its thinking.

Many of us have only a vague idea of what that means. Some of us are overwhelmed and say: The church is “greying”. In 10 years we’ll disappear. We’re concerned that our parish will be

closed. Look at how many parishes are struggling. What will happen when our rector retires? Our apportionment is too high. Where do our dollars go?

But others say: Perhaps the old way of working isn’t working so well. How can we extend our reach “out there”? Where can we make a difference? We’ll need some resources... but first we need to know what we’ll do. Yes, we can define our mission, we can clarify responsibilities, and we can work as a team. We can do this. Let’s get started.

The Hamilton Association for Residential and Recreational Redevelopment Programs (HARRRP) is a prime example of the outstanding work that can be done with leadership, creativity, resourcefulness, and faith. Their mission is clear. They promote community development by seeking out and making available, in useful ways, resources that already exist in our Hamilton neighbourhoods.

They invite people with talents and enthusiasm to use their gifts for the betterment of others.

They secure existing space; work with other non-profit organizations, and support residents in designing and running their own programs.

I’ve only begun to describe what HARRRP does, and the results have been extraordinary. One of the many wonderful things about the Church is that there will be room for all of us, including those who are not yet its members.

Slowly but surely the Church is moving forward. Hands Across Niagara, the newly designed and creative approach to Anglican Appeal is getting underway, and the early response is encouraging. Understandably it will need lots more promotion and procedures.

At least we know what we want to see:

- A broad consensus among diocesan leadership, clergy,



and laity that generosity is a shared goal

- Ministries at all levels (parishes, Diocese, and the National Church) that are adequately and fairly resourced
- People living out their Baptismal covenant
- Governance, committees, and processes that embody and support our Vision
- Diocesan and parish budgets that realistically reflect anticipated revenue and support investment in resources consistent with living our Vision.

Perhaps the old way of working isn’t working so well.

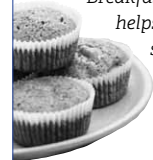
Temple’s quotation is a call to action.

*Jim Newman is the Stewardship Consultant for the Diocese and can be reached at jim.newman@niagara.anglican.ca*

### Next Month in the Niagara Anglican...

#### ABCs of Outreach

*The Achievement Breakfast Club helps Hamilton school children off to a good start*



#### Warmth on a Cold Night

*Out of the Cold ministry gives shelter and a warm meal to the homeless in winter.*

#### Faith In A POW Camp

*A personal account of an act of faith, while in a German POW camp, that changed countless lives.*



## Advice To Our Leaders

HOLLIS HISCOCK

*Let me explain the idea behind the concept – HOLLIS<sup>t</sup>orial. We are all familiar with the term “editorial”; well, I wanted to personalize mine, and since my name is not “Edi”, I added my Christian name to “torial” and coined what I think is a catchy title.*

*This will be my column to express my thoughts about events facing God’s people in our times. So on with the first HOLLIS<sup>t</sup>orial.*

During October, in several Canadian provinces, including our own, the citizens will elect individuals to represent them in their provincial legislatures. Earlier, Canadians chose their Members of Parliament, as well as their town, city and regional governments. Couple these with people in leadership positions in education, law, religious institutions, businesses, volunteer organizations, etc, and one can

see the importance of leaders on society specifically, and the world generally.

So what advice could we offer to individuals continuing in or just beginning their leadership journey?

We can look back nearly 2,800 years ago, when the Old Testament prophet Isaiah provided a template of advice to those in leadership positions in his era. Even though Isaiah (chapter 33) was focusing on the leadership traits essential for a future king, nonetheless his words ring as a clarion, calling leaders of our day to similar standards.

A leader, according to Isaiah, should...

*rule with integrity and govern with justice;*

*be like a shelter from the wind and a place to hide from the storms of life; be like a river in the desert bringing new life to its surroundings, and a giant rock of stability and*

*example in a far flung desert; be always aware of the needs of all people entrusted to their care; not be impatient but act with understanding;*

*say what they mean; ensure that righteousness and justice rule throughout their jurisdiction;*

*strive for peace and security, and work towards having people free from worry as they live in peaceful and safe homes.*

No doubt, each of us could add our own suggestions to those attributes put forward by Isaiah.

However, if all of us leaders were to model our decision making and actions after Isaiah’s recommendations, we would probably bring to life what song-writers Bob Thiele and George David Weiss meant when they wrote, “what a wonderful world this would be.”

Perhaps every leader should have Isaiah’s goals displayed

prominently as a constant reminder of promises made when they accepted the responsibility of leading and caring for their constituents.

Similarly, those who are being led need to carry a copy with

them to be reminded that no leader can achieve these lofty goals without the help and support of every adherent.

Let’s start by saying a prayer for all who lead us.

## Christmas Is Coming

### The Niagara Anglican wants to hear from you.

In 300 words or less, recall a special Christmas worship, relate a humorous Christmas happening, retell a Christmas poem or story, relive a Christmas tradition or reflect on what Christmas means for you. You can even draw us a Christmas scene.

We need to hear from you by October 20, 2011.

Send your submission to the Editor at [editor@niagara.anglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagara.anglican.ca) or Editor, Niagara Anglican, 252 James Street North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 2L3 or talk to the Editor at 905 635 9463.

**A Christmas worth having is one worth giving away ... share your gift with others.**

We make a *living* by what we get ...  
but we make a *life* by what we give

— WINSTON CHURCHILL

Have you ever wondered how easy it can be to make a difference? Or how you may support your community? Maybe you want to support those around you who are the most vulnerable, or you may want to simply be remembered. Everyone wants to *do* or *give* more, but just don’t know how easy it is to achieve.

For over 25 years we have helped maximize the *lasting gifts* that an individual or family would like to leave to a Church or Charity. Our Three Strategies illustrate how simple and easy it is to make small adjustments to your current plan & fully maximize both the **gift** and the **tax efficiency** of your generosity. They are...

- Charitable Life Insurance
- RRSP/RRIF Gifting
- The Legacy Protection Plan

Learn more by visiting [www.dgfinancial.ca/charity](http://www.dgfinancial.ca/charity)  
or by calling our office at 1-800-924-6385

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