

More about our readers, their computer use and online communications.



Debbie Young, Payroll Administrator at Synod office



A section of the Anglican Journal

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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

OCTOBER 2012



Raise The Song of Harvest Home

St Cuthbert's Church in Oakville decorates its altar with the bounty of harvest at Thanksgiving. After the worship, the produce is brought to the Salvation Army emergency shelter. The blessings of God are always meant to be shared!

Photo: Joe Asselin

A renewed surge of energy from deep within

A THANKSGIVING LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

As I write this Thanksgiving letter I do so just two days before my August holiday break and, at this moment the Olympics in London are just underway. I am reminded of St. Paul's strong words of encouragement as he uses a metaphor from the world and culture around him: "Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one" (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

As is the case in our own life and times, athletic games had a significant place in the Greco-Roman world and Paul, like

Jesus, used illustrations drawn from familiar events that people could relate to easily. Here he is making the point that if we are to proclaim the gospel as a preacher, a prophet or through the fellowship of the church we need to be prepared. We need to do so with discipline and precision. Following in the footsteps of Jesus involves some pretty high and exacting demands.

Our Diocesan Vision with its five areas of focus—life changing worship, a continuous culture of innovation, outstanding leadership for ministry, prophetic social justice making and a generous culture of stewardship—has offered us a way to prepare ourselves for this race. They are the high and exacting standards

which we aspire to in the Diocese of Niagara.

At least three times a week, I run two and a half miles on a treadmill. I know that there is another important aspect about Paul's image of the of runner and about sporting events in general, especially those that involve any kind of endurance. It never fails that when I come to the halfway mark of a 45 minute run, I always have the feeling that I will never be able to make it to the end. For the next five minutes I wrestle with myself and plead with myself to keep going and sometimes it can be quite a struggle. Fortunately, I often find that something else happens that changes everything.

—See BISHOP'S Page 5

Smudging ceremony part of worship

JIM HIGGINSON

The traditional smudging ceremony - the burning of sage and sweet grass with the smoke being wafted over one's body physically and spiritually to cleanse one of negative feelings and thoughts - was part of the celebration of National Aboriginal Day (June 24) at St. Luke's Church Smithville.

Donna Bomberry performed the ceremony. Originally from the Six Nations Reserve, she worked as Indigenous Ministries Coordinator for the Canadian Anglican Church for many years, and now lives in Beamsville where she is a member of St. Alban's Church.

She spoke about her personal experiences growing up



Donna Bomberry performing traditional smudging ceremony. Photo: Jim Higginson

Aboriginal, the opportunities and challenges facing Aboriginal people in Canada today and their special relationship with and within the Anglican community.

Frank and Nancy Poole hosted the parish events and served traditional aboriginal dishes after the worship.

Youth saw the many faces of God in the faces of many people

A team of 15 youth and five leaders from the Church of St. John the Evangelist Hamilton spent the first week of July serving in Charleston, West Virginia. They arrived after a major storm disrupted power to much of Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. A state-wide state of emergency was declared in West Virginia throughout the team's work in Charleston, where temperatures exceeded 105°F (over 41°C).

Read their story on page 3



Christ's Church Cathedral · Diocese of Niagara

SUNDAYS 8:30 am & 10:30 am EUCHARIST • MONDAY-FRIDAY 12:15 pm & TUESDAYS 7:30 am
252 JAMES STREET NORTH, HAMILTON L8R 2L3 • (905) 527-1316 • CATHEDRAL@NIAGARA.ANGLICAN.CA • WWW.CATHEDRALHAMILTON.CA
THE RIGHT REVEREND MICHAEL A. BIRD, BISHOP OF NIAGARA • THE VERY REVEREND PETER A. WALL, RECTOR AND DEAN OF NIAGARA

The Ordination of Deacons

WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 7:00 pm

The Very Rev. John P. Downey

RECTOR OF THE CATHEDRAL OF ST PAUL, ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA
DEAN OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 10:30 am

Eucharist for the Order of Niagara

WITH THE DIOCESAN CHOIR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 • 4:00 pm

Thanksgiving at Baker Lake

ELIZABETH WHITTON

By Thanksgiving weekend in October, the fall colours of the bearberry and willows had long vanished. The tentative September snowfalls had become more determined. Less snow melted after each fall, and the landscape was already whitened. The chill of the constant wind had us wondering if we were really able to face another nine months of winter.

Some years the Thanksgiving date saw us with everything unpacked from the annual supply boats; the storeroom shelves laden with 12 months of supplies, the settlement oil tanks full and men working around the clock to erect the exterior shell of as many houses as possible before winter really came.

In other years our Thanksgiving service was a prayer that the sailors would travel safely, have time to unload vital supplies and get out of the lake before they were frozen in for the winter.

In the crowded church as we sang the familiar hymns, they brought back to me the scent of sheaves of grain, of mounds of apples and vegetables and the beautiful earthy smell of chrysanthemums which filled our English church at Harvest Festival. Here I looked at the

cans and packaged goods, the freshly baked bread on the altar and realized that our immediate thankfulness was not for a harvest – for we could grow nothing, but rather for the joys of our three month summer.

During the summer we had known:

The freedom of walking on a dirt roadway instead of climbing up and down snow banks;

Hikes over the spicy scented tundra, across hills and discovering crystal lakes;

The three weeks of flowers, the miracle of their blooming, seeding and ripening in such a

beach;

The shouts of children playing, unencumbered by heavy clothing;

The joyful reunion with students returning from a year of schooling, and of families whose members had spent years in southern places;

The long, almost 24 hours of daylight after the half-light of winter;

The prospectors, doctors, dentists, researchers and tourists, whose lives touched ours, bringing the “outside” into our small community circle;

The accomplishment of out-

So our Thanksgiving at Baker Lake was not a celebration for the in-gathering of the harvest of our labours, but rather a time of reflecting on God’s gracious goodness to us.

short season;

The birds which had returned, raised young and flown again, delighting us with song, colour and movement;

The joy of drying clothes outside, relishing each longer day in October making this possible, a benison (blessing);

The fishing, canoe trips over the water, driftwood fires on the

door maintenance work, when surfaces were above freezing and able to absorb paint, putty, caulking, etc.

The blessing of being free from mosquitoes which softened the blow of the first frost;

And the crowning moment of summer... the arrival of the boats.

This meant the Hudson’s Bay



Photo: iStockphoto.com

Company store shelves were restocked with things we had long been managing without. There was new equipment for the school and Government departments; worn out items in the Mission were replaced—a new saucepan, a can opener, nails, lumber—which we had almost forgotten were on that long ago January order. There were A.W.C. bales which clothed us and countless others, and that wonderful year when a scarlet 20 foot freighter canoe arrived for the Mission, a gift from St. Peter’s Brockville. It was carried over the snow and we looked wistfully at the ice strewn lake. Such a long awaited treasure, yet it would be next July before the launching. Our hearts were warmed by the love that had made this much needed item possible.

So our Thanksgiving at Baker Lake was not a celebration for the in-gathering of the harvest

of our labours, but rather a time of reflecting on God’s gracious goodness to us. We acknowledged His care and protection through the bitter winter, through TB, through meningitis, through accidents and sudden hazards, and through near famine. We thanked Him for knowing and supplying the needs of His people almost forgotten at the top of the world by the rest of the world, but close to His ways and His heart.

With golden memories of all the seemingly insignificant joys that added up to an Arctic summer, we took that glow into the service where it was transmuted into the light of hope and reassurance for the work of the long winter ahead.

Elizabeth Whitton spent nearly nine years in Baker’s Lake in the Diocese of the Arctic. Today she lives in Ridgeway.

Give with gratitude

GERALDINE SMOUT

There is little equity in the bounty and abundance of what we enjoy of God’s creation. People experience hunger and scarcity, but on the other side people experience over consumption, too much salt, sugar, etc. How do people respond, personally and internationally, to break this divide of the haves and have-nots? Some will respond with outrage, compassion, denial and indifference. A poor household will act differently from that of a rich one. We may throw out food too easily as waste, as a previous ‘JUSTFOOD’ article stated, it is “just food, so we throw out-of-date cheese into the garbage.” For many people food is a matter of life or death.

The lack of food for all in our world is a situation that must be

viewed as intolerable. Scripture teaches us that we should share generously with others, “. . . love your neighbour as yourself.” We need to reach out to those in hunger and need, to give thanks and to share with gratitude for God’s abundance.

‘JUSTFOOD’ for justice is to share the food that is produced, harvested, received and consumed with all people in just relationships. Poverty is a root cause of hunger when people cannot afford to buy food. When a country’s population cannot afford to buy food, less food is delivered to that country. In this circumstance the people cannot travel to get food or transport the food to their community, so they have no means to satisfy their hunger. Therefore, the problem of hunger is due not only to production and distribution of food; it also relates to the distribution

of wealth, the people who have and the people who have not.

Small scale farmers in developing countries are often the hardest hit by poverty. Countries like Canada have a vast quantity of food which often goes to waste. Donations and grants are contributed to many projects of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) from Anglicans in Canada. For example, contributions go towards education, food aid and access to food for people in Zimbabwe or Tanzania, and relief from crop failure, drought and soaring food prices in Kenya. PWRDF is not just giving charity with its partners around

JUSTFOOD
sharing the bread of life

the globe where resources and aid are sent. They have formed groups, partnerships and food security programs to provide knowledge supporting vulnerable people in making changes for themselves and their livelihood.

The Christian theology of ‘JUSTFOOD’ entails an obligation of a person or community to act towards justice for all. Such action could mean changing one’s lifestyle, getting involved, praying and spreading news. People can start at home by refraining from greed and over-consumption of food; by keeping track of what is wasted in the kitchen; by building and cultivating a church garden; by selling your harvest and sending the proceeds to PWRDF or another partner of PWRDF like Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

During this Thanksgiving

when we thank God for the abundance of what we enjoy, give some thought to making a change in your home not to waste food; to make the effort to get involved in a community garden project next spring; or find out how you can play a part in a farm “growing project” from CFGB that sends aid overseas. Next time someone asks you for a few cents, give them more change than they asked for and give with gratitude.

Based on information found in: “Food Security, Law and Theology” by Professor Dan Buckingham, University of Ottawa.

Geraldine Smout is a member of PWRDF ‘JUSTFOOD’ group and a parishioner of St. Elizabeth’s Burlington. EMAIL: nibbles2000@hotmail.com

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

The official publication of the Diocese of Niagara, published 10 times a year from September to June as a supplement to the *Anglican Journal*.

Editor: Hollis Hiscock
905-635-9463
editor@niagara.anglican.ca

Advertising: Angela Rush
905-628-2521
niagara.anglican.ads@gmail.com

Design/Layout:
Imagine Creative Communications

Proofreading: Bryan Stopps

Publications Advisory Board:
Pam Claridge
519-941-6804
pclaridge@rogers.com
Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis
905-628-4176
purdell-lewis@sympatico.ca
Carol Summers
905-772-5641
candsummers@mountaincable.net

Publisher: Michael A. Bird, Bishop

Printed and mailed by:
Webnews Printing Inc., North York, ON

Subscriptions:
\$15/year. For new subscriptions or changes, please contact your parish or visit www.anglicanjournal.com.

Submissions:
We welcome letters, news and articles. Submissions must include full name and contact information of the author. We reserve the right to edit submissions. Contact the editor if you have an idea for a feature article.

Diocese of Niagara

Bishop:
Michael A. Bird
bishop@niagara.anglican.ca
905-527-1316

Administrative Assistant:
Alison D'Attri
905-527-1316 ext.310
alison.datri@niagara.anglican.ca

Executive Officer:
Michael Patterson
905-527-1316
michael.patterson@niagara.anglican.ca

Congregational Support and Development:
Christyn Perkons
905-527-1316 ext.460
christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca

Cathedral Place
252 James Street North
Hamilton Ontario L8R 2L3
905-527-1316

For a complete staff directory and more information, visit our web site:

www.niagara.anglican.ca

The Diocese of Niagara lies at the western end of Lake Ontario, encompassing the Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton, Halton Region, Guelph and portions of Wellington and Dufferin Counties to include Shelbourne and Mount Forest in the north and west.



The many faces of God in the faces of many people

When asked where they had seen God during their mission trip this past July to Charleston, West Virginia, almost all of the members of St. John the Evangelist Hamilton's youth group replied that they had done more than see God: they had encountered him.

The theme of our trip, "You Are Here," chosen by our host organization YouthWorks, encouraged the youth to go beyond simply observing. Rather, they were encouraged to fully experience the people, places and things that we came across during the trip. It was the people, in whom our youth could see the presence of a living God, that had the most profound effect on the teens from our church.

Entering a nursing home, one of the many mission sites that we visited in Charleston, many of our youth expressed trepidation about working with the elderly, but by the time we had left for the day they couldn't stop talking about the people they had met.

It was the faith of the elderly residents that impressed our

youth the most; they were surprised that even in such a lonely place the elderly residents could find beauty and meaning through God. After listening to the life story of a man named Chris, one of our youth described feeling for the first

One of the youth that I was with during our visit asked a 90-year-old woman what the best part of her life had been, and she answered "God".

time that God had a plan for her life. His story, which she felt she was "meant to hear," taught her that even in difficult times God's love is constant. Another of our youth spent time with a woman named Anna who, "even though she didn't know him very well," encouraged him to never give up his passion. One of the youth that I was with during our visit asked a 90-year-old woman what the best part of her life had been,

and she answered "God".

But it wasn't just the elderly residents of the nursing home who impressed us with their faith. Everywhere we went in Charleston we met people who exuded God's love.

There was a woman named

impressed us with their willingness to engage in real, supportive and loving relationships with each other. Through these people we got to experience the many faces of God, which, it turns out, reveal themselves through the many faces of his people.

When asked if they learned anything new about God on the mission trip one youth answered, "Yes, I learned that he is a funny guy," thinking specifically about a preacher we met whose sermon was more humorous than most stand-up comedy acts. He could also rap better than any member of the clergy that any of us had ever met. This youth had hit upon something fundamental about our faith: it is shaped by others who can teach us new things about God, but only if we are open to the experience.

The whole team contributed to this article, compiled by Emily Hill, a volunteer leader with the Parish's Youth Ministry. Emily Hill can be reached at St. John the Evangelist Church Hamilton. EMAIL: office@rockonlocke.ca.

Events in the Diocese of Niagara

Across the diocese people are gathering, praying and celebrating life. We extend an open invitation and encourage you to attend any of these events. Visit niagara.anglican.ca for a list of other happenings.

St. Jude's Celebration of the Arts

160 William Street, Oakville opens its 22nd season on Saturday October 13, 2012 at 8.00 p.m.

The first event is 'Joyner's Dream', written and performed by legendary Canadian author, songwriter and songstress Sylvia Tyson. The evening also features Terry McKenna (guitar), George Meanwell (cello and mandolin) and Don Reid (violin).

Tickets (\$30.00) are available at www.OakvilleConcerts.com, the church office 905-844-3972, and L'Atelier Grigorian in Towne Square, Oakville.

Smyth Lecture and Parish Retreat at St. John Elora

In celebration of the 450th year of the 1662 Prayer Book and the 50th anniversary of the Canadian Anglican 1962 Prayer Book, the Reverend Gavin Dunbar, Rector of St. John's Church Savannah, Georgia will lead a retreat and deliver a lecture on separate days in early November.

The retreat, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday November 3 at the home of Chris and Jeannie Houston, is titled "Be still and know that I am God: the spiritual disciplines of silence and speech."

The Smyth Lecture, scheduled the next day, November 4, at 4:00 p.m. is entitled "Like eagles in this life: the ascending spiral of prayer in classical Anglican worship."

Dunbar, a Canadian and graduate of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges in Toronto, served in Nova Scotia before moving to Georgia. He is also the President of the Prayer Book Society in the USA.

For more information: 519-846-5911 or email stjohns@sentex.net

Parish to celebrate three score years

St. Columba parishioners in St. Catharines anticipate an exciting year as they celebrate their 60th anniversary.

From their humble beginnings in the gym at Parnall School and services in their Parish Hall while the church was being built, to the present Church building, Parish Office Administrator Linda Watson said, "we have much to celebrate, both from the past and into our future."

"Today the facility is buzzing throughout the week," reported Watson, with both church and community events, such as a bazaar, flea market and rummage sale, youth groups, Niagara Gatekeepers, Al-Anon and exercise programs.

Celebrations kick off on November 3, 2012 with a 50's "Sock Hop" Reunion. At a lunch on November 25, soon-to-be member of the Seven Continents Club (for those who have run marathons on all seven continents) marathon runner Jewel Kulyk will relay her adventures of the Sahara Desert and Antarctica Journey.

Contact St. Columba at 905-935-4473 or columba@bellnet.ca



St. Columba's Church decorated for Thanksgiving

Photo: Linda Watson

Messy Church on Locke Street

JUDITH PURDELL-LEWIS

The Rock on Locke – St. John the Evangelist Church on Locke Street in West Hamilton – launched its Messy Church in September.

On the third Thursday of every month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., grandparents, parents and children can participate in crafts, storytelling with drama, singing and games; all focused on stories from the Bible and key Christian teachings. A simple, healthy meal prepared by the church and shared by all together concludes each Messy Church.

So – what is Messy Church, where did it come from and why are we doing this?

Messy church is a fresh new way of experiencing church. It is for all ages, for families to do together. It involves play, imagination, celebration, hospitality, food and a welcome for all. It is fun and it can sometimes get very messy!

The first one began in 2004 when a church in England found that they were hardly reaching any children with God's story. They tried something new which explored the Bible through creativity, celebration and sharing a meal together, for all ages but specifically for families. In the last eight years Messy Church has spread across the United Kingdom and is now found in Canada, as well as many other countries (Denmark, Australia, New Zealand and more). In fact, the first Canadian Messy Church was started in April 2007 by the Reverend Nancy Rowe at St. George's Anglican Church in Georgetown.

How did we start to prepare for the launch? We wanted to connect with our community, and as a congregation we were ready to venture into something new. In June, Sue Kalbfleisch, the Canadian coordinator for Messy Church, with her husband Andy, led a Messy Church

workshop. At the workshop about 20 people of our congregation, young and older people, "did" Messy Church. We made crafts, played with a Fisher Price Noah's Ark, then listened to the story, sang and prayed. Having cleaned up, we ate a delicious meal together. After showing an explanatory video, Sue explained what is involved in starting a Messy Church, based on the book of the same name by Lucy Moore. This book is full of ideas - themes to follow, crafts and even food that ties in with each theme - all of which include the five core values of Messy Church: creativity, celebration, hospitality, Christ-centred and for all ages.

Lots of thought and prayer followed the workshop. We decided to go ahead. Preparations involved finding a coordinator, teams of people to prepare crafts, food, stories, celebration (worship) and welcoming on Messy Church nights. Planning meet-



Photo: Submitted by Judith Purdell-Lewis

ings and more prayer followed. Brochures, posters and a banner were designed and printed.

At the time of writing (August 2012) we are nearly ready to go!! With God's help (by the time you read the October paper) we will have launched Messy Church on Locke Street in Hamilton on September 20, 2012.

To learn more about Messy Church, visit www.messychurch.org.uk.

The Canadian website is under development and may be on-line by the time this paper is published.

Contact Sue Kalbfleisch about Messy Church and available workshops at messy@freshexpressions.ca

Judith Purdell-Lewis is a member of St. John the Evangelist Church Hamilton.

When is a chalice not a chalice?

SHARYN HALL

On a recent visit to New York City, I was startled by a poster on a bus stop which read, "This is a chalice, not a glass." The picture was a large glass of a well known beer. Why did the advertising company believe that a chalice would sell beer?

Perhaps the chalice suggests this beer is superior, even divine. Would most people view a chalice as a sacred vessel? The Oxford Dictionary defines chalice as "a wine cup used in the Communion service; or in literature, a goblet."

In our secular society, a chalice may have lost its religious meaning and be simply a fancy drinking cup. In Arthurian legends, goblets were used by kings and knights. In medieval courts, goblets were common drinking cups, often for wine. The chalice as a goblet implies nobility, if not divinity.

For Christians, the chalice in the sacrament of Communion symbolizes the wine cup offered by Jesus at the Lord's Supper. The elusive and legendary Holy Grail is believed by some people

to be that chalice. Over the centuries, this wine cup has been treated with reverence, whether made of precious metals or clay pottery.

What does the use of a sacred image for a commercial purpose reveal about religion in our society? To Christians, this beer advertisement may be another subtle indication that secularism dominates western society.

A chalice and a loaf of bread have symbolized the Eucharistic sacrament of the Christian faith for generations. In times past, a poster claiming that a beer glass is a chalice would have provoked criticism. Today, if people take notice, they seem only amused.

What does this say about respect for Christian beliefs and practices? If that respect has diminished, are we as Christians at least partly to blame?

Some people claim that Christian practices have become too accommodating to secular culture. In an effort to be appealing and inclusive, we have watered down our heritage of scripture, worship and acceptable behaviour.

Other people argue that

the Christian tradition can be stifling and narrow-minded, that worship practices and the interpretation of scripture are frozen in time, not living reflections of the Christian faith.

While these arguments are churning within the church, secular society is absorbing spiritual issues for its own purposes. The eternal questions of meaning, value and sacredness have become fair game for marketing, manipulation and money.

Through books and media, people are encouraged to purchase meaning in their lives from a variety of individual options. The institution of religious faith has been downgraded like other institutions of western society. The mistaken belief that any religious practice offends any other religious faith has promoted suspicion, and sometimes intolerance, among people of faith.

Perhaps it is time for people of faith to reclaim a role for sacredness, not as veneration or nostalgia of the past, but as living images of meaning for the

present and hope for the future.

A chalice is not a sacred chalice if its purpose is to sell beer; it becomes a sacred chalice when dedicated to God's purpose of salvation.



Canon Sharyn Hall is Niagara's Ecumenical Officer and Diocesan Chaplain for the Mothers' Union. EMAIL: halls1@cogeco.ca



David Tracy to speak at annual theological weekend

ROBERT WRIGHT

Each year, for the past 20 years, St. Mark's in Niagara-on-the-Lake has hosted a learning event in which participants have an opportunity to hear the words, ideas and insights of a real live theologian!

We are also encouraged to ask questions, share experiences and challenge the presenter. It is truly a unique learning experience.

Over the last few years we have invited theologians such as Dom Crossan, Walter Brueggemann, Alan Jones and Sister Joan Chittister, to name a few. Each speaker presents her/his thoughts about God and spirituality and these insights are rooted in the experience of a twenty-first century disciple; someone who has studied the texts and wrestled with the theological concerns of the day.

Before all this gets too terribly serious, I remind you that all of this profound theological learning takes place within a very relaxed atmosphere. For example, after the first evening gathering we share a glass of wine or juice and have an informal conversation with the guest speaker. Yes, it is possible to "do theology" and have fun at the same time!

In a year when we are invited

to consider what we are thankful for in our faith community, I can say with some conviction: I thank God that we have such learning opportunities whereby we can hear the "brightest and best" share their intellectual insights, all within the context of a believing community.

Each year our Learning Committee chooses a speaker, gets the word out to all and sundry and then makes sure that when the speaker arrives and the participants get to the door they are welcomed. As a working participant over the last 14 years, I am deeply grateful for this "stretching of my faith understanding." I always leave the weekend encouraged and better equipped to understand the faith and much better able to do the work of ministry here in the parish.

This year our guest theologian is Dr. David Tracy, Professor of Catholic Studies, Theology and Philosophy of Religion, from the Divinity School, University of Chicago. He lectures in philosophical, systematic and constructive theology and hermeneutics. Professor Alan Hayes, Director of Toronto School of Theology, has said of this theologian, "David Tracy is about as distinguished a theologian as you could find (living)." When

I informed William Danaher, Dean of Theology at Huron College, that our guest theologian was to be David Tracy, he wrote, "Tracy is by far the most important theologian of the late twentieth century."

While Tracy has written a number of books, perhaps his best known publications are: *Blessed Rage For Order: The New Pluralism In Theology* and *The Analogical Imagination: Christian Theology and the Culture of Pluralism*.

His more recent work, however, reveals a shift in his thinking. He has been quoted as saying that "he has recently become more aware and attentive to the theologians who speak of the hiddenness of God." This shift is revealed in the theme of his lectures at St. Mark's this year: "The Comprehensible Incomprehensible God: The Hidden God of the Trinitarian Love."

The Theological Weekend takes place on Friday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, November 17 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 (students - \$25). More information at www.stmarks1792.com

Canon Robert Wright is Rector of St. Mark's Niagara on the Lake. EMAIL: rwright50@cogeco.ca

Bishop's Thanksgiving letter

Continued from page 1

Something kicks in and I get my renewed surge of energy from deep within. No doubt, time and time again we saw this happen to athletes as we watched the Olympics this summer.

In the course of the Thanksgiving weekend, and as we prepare for our Diocesan Synod next month, one of the things that I want to give thanks to God for is the fact that churches and people across the Diocese of Niagara are getting their "renewed surge of energy from deep within," as we discern and follow the will of God for our work together. As I travel from parish to parish I can sense that something quite special is unfolding. There is an incredible amount of enthusiasm and excitement being generated.

Led by our Vision leadership teams and by our Vision Advocate and Coordinator for Excellence in Ministry, we are leaving behind past difficulties and a new chapter is being writ-

ten as many creative ministries and initiatives are beginning to emerge. I believe that we have come to a crossroads moment; that we are being empowered by a movement of the Holy Spirit.

Autumn is a time of change as old patterns of growth are left behind in order that new life can emerge. I believe that we have travelled through an autumn period in the Diocese of Niagara over the past few years. In this time of giving thanks I want to thank you once again for the privilege of sharing in this journey with you as your Bishop. I wish you every blessing as we draw strength and courage from this "renewed surge of energy from deep within."

Let us continue to take up the challenge of St. Paul and run this race that leads us all to the joy and the glory of the kingdom of God.

Bishop Michael Bird can be reached at bishop@niagara.anglican.ca



Perhaps, as individuals we may feel helpless when confronted by the humongous happenings around the world. Since every journey in life begins with the first step, here is a small step we can take to hopefully make our global and local communities better places in which to live.

On the next occasion when you are waiting in line somewhere, or sitting in a boring meeting, or occupying a church pew, or stuck in traffic or some other situation... **try this:**

1. Look at the people around you;
2. Say a silent prayer for them (for peace in their lives or help in a crisis, etc. - you do not know what they are going through);
3. Leave the rest up to God (unless you can do something to help).

Remember ...

- Jesus prayed in all kinds of settings;
- Paul suggested that we pray without ceasing;
- poet Alfred Lord Tennyson claimed "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

What is your *small step to change the world*? Send your suggestion to the Editor at editor@niagara.anglican.ca

Simply Affordable...
Affordable Burial & Cremation
 Eco-friendly Biodgradable Funeral Products
 Available 24 Hours
 "Helping you make final arrangements as simple as ABC" With no funeral home required
 Family owned & operated
 Specializing in...
 • Direct Burials & Cremations
 • At need and pre-need arrangements
 • Pre-paid options with "Guaranteed Funeral Deposits of Canada"
 • Graveside or memorial services
 1-205 Nebo Rd., Hamilton
905-389-2998
 Toll Free: 1-888-389-2998
www.affordableburialandcremation.ca

SUNRISE
 MEMORIAL WINDOWS PROTECTIVE GLAZING
 REPAIRS & MILLWORK RELEASING & RESTORATION
 SINCE 1979
 97 Wharncliffe Rd. S. London, Ont. N6J 2K2
 Toll Free 877-575-2321
www.sunrisestainedglass.com

D L Corry Coaching
 www.corrycoach.com
 linda@corrycoach.com
 905-634-7858
 1-877-778-3731
 3017 St. Clair Ave, Suite 166
 Burlington, ON L7N 3P5
 Meet by telephone or in person.

Readership survey 2012 results – Part 2

In our September paper (pages 6-7), we presented a snapshot of our respondents, their reading habits, content preferences and overall impressions.

This month, we look at computer use and online communications.

PURPOSE of the Study – “its results might help all leaders in church communications (national and diocesan) to become better informed of reader feedback as well as trends that might influence future initiatives.

PARTICIPATING

23 Diocesan publications and the *Anglican Journal* (our Canadian national paper).

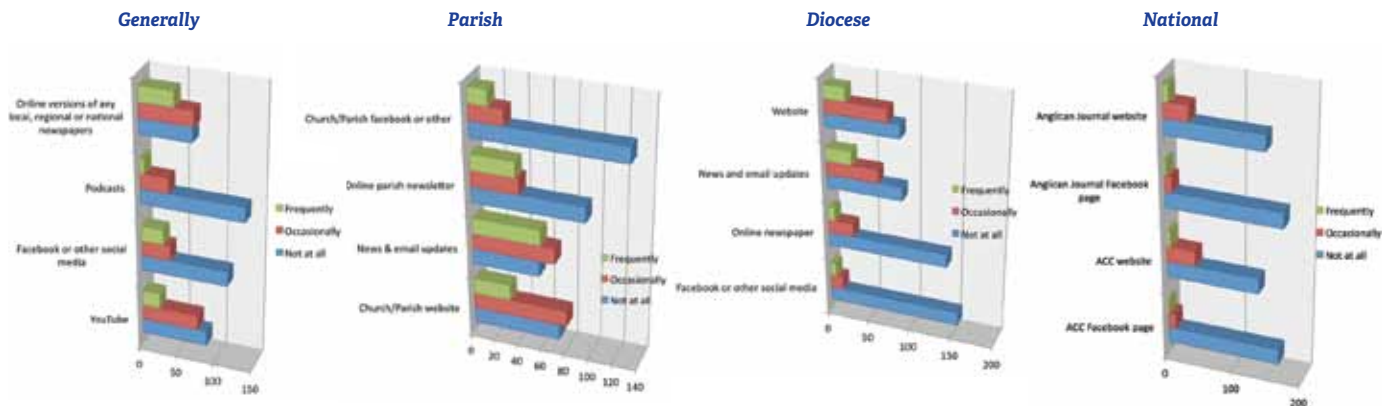
RESPONSES

Nationally ... 4,186 (2.9% of the total readership of the *Anglican Journal*).

Niagara Diocese ... 304 (2.8% of circulation for the *Niagara Anglican*).

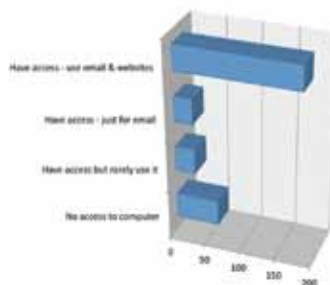
Response figures are considered statistically significant and reliable.

Frequency of online communications (304 responses)

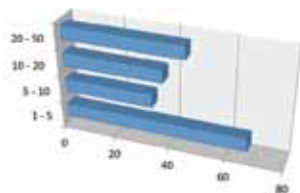


Access and use of computer

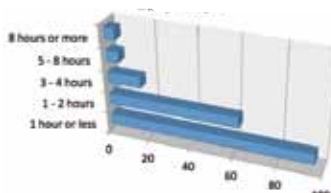
Computer use (304)



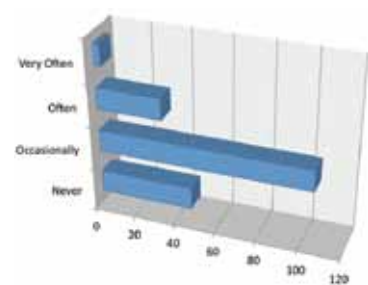
Number of websites visited weekly (177)



Hours spent visiting websites daily (177)

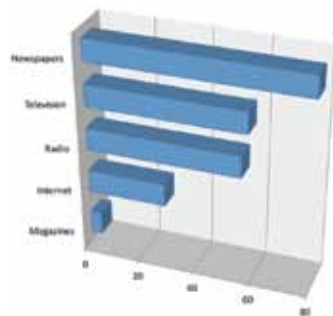


Frequency of forwarding items online (177)

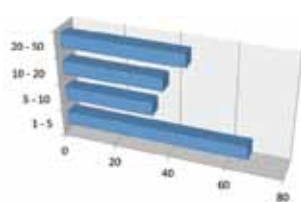


NOTE: Of the 304 who answered the survey, 177 said they used their computers and provided information about their online practices.

Primary sources for news and information (304)



Interest in alternative subscription formats (304)



Paid Subscriptions

Across Canada nearly 66% of those responding stated that they would support a yearly subscription in the price range of 35 to 40 dollars.

For the Niagara Anglican respondents, the percentage was 59 percent.

In the September paper, we reported that 905 people (8% of our circulation) in the Niagara Diocese donated \$35,581.00 (average \$39.31) in the 2011 jointly shared appeal between the Niagara Anglican and Anglican Journal.

An envelope for your 2012 donation was included in the September paper. For more information on contributing see the ad on page 9.

Send your comments on the survey to editor@niagara.anglican.ca

HOLLIStorial

“To print or not to print”, that may be the answer as well as the question



Print or Online - that's the contemporary communication question. However, it may also contain the answer, and the answer could be “both.”

Our recent Readership Survey indicated that a majority of our respondents shy away from regularly engaging in Internet pursuits. However, we do not have statistics on the more than 10,000 to whom the *Niagara Anglican* is delivered ten times each year. Since they did not complete the survey, we can only make an educated estimate.

But our greatest challenge exists outside our comfortable church communities. It is in getting the unknown millions who may have never heard of the *Niagara Anglican* or the *Anglican Journal*, and who have little or no interest in anything associated with religions, to read what we produce and respond in a life changing moment.

Jesus employed parables or stories, the most potent communication media in his day, to teach people about God and how they were to emulate God in their interpersonal relationships. Similarly, God expects us to utilize the best ways

and means available in our contemporary society to get the message out to people. Perhaps that is what the designers of our study meant when they proposed that the results could identify “trends that might influence future initiatives.”

Facebook, Twitter, even old fashioned e-mails and other social networking should be our allies, not our enemies. Their potential impact was abundantly proven during the London 2012 Summer Olympics, when billions of tweets bounced around the globe bringing messages of hope, love, compassion, joy, encouragement and more to athletes of all nations. Think what could be done if we could tap into such a powerful human network. Imagine if we could even occasionally circulate to people around the globe the message of the Two Great Commandments of Jesus Christ—to love God and to love other people—perhaps it would have a profound effect on the unity, peace, survival and well being of people living in every spot around the universe.

Niagara Diocese recently entered the Facebook and Twitter worlds, which indi-

cates a desire to dialogue with and inform people living beyond the cloisters of our church barricades. Beginning this month, the *Niagara Anglican* will be posted online on the same day we send the final copy to the printer, generally 10-12 days before its delivery in hard copy. On a personal level, I decided to set up a Facebook page and Twitter account following my three score years plus eleven birthdays. So far my Facebook page is active, can Twitter be far behind?

No doubt, for the foreseeable future, the printed and online communications worlds will continue to complement each other, each medium presenting the same message in its own unique genre, geared for its specific discerning audience.

With my library card, I can search for both a hard copy or eBook version of my desired book or document, place it on hold and select whichever one is available first. The same applies to printed word and online offerings. It gives the searcher a choice and an opportunity to be multifaceted in our era of communication explosion.

In the gospels, John the Baptist is portrayed as a person who pointed others to Jesus (John 1:35-39). The *Niagara Anglican*, the *Anglican Journal*, as well as church websites, Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and other social networks could be the John the Baptist of the twenty first century; in which case then our sole function is to point people towards God where messages can be conveyed, relationships established and behaviours modified. Our role may be merely to point the way.

It would appear that as long as we have people who want to hold physical paper in their hands to read the printed word, and as long as we have people who want to hold their electronic devices to read the word, then the church, like any other institution wanting to share news and garner ideas, must produce both hard copies in print and soft copies online.

That may be our challenge in the coming days.

Hollis Hiscock can be reached at editor@niagara.anglican.ca

Good Summer at Camp

DAVID R. LINN

As I begin writing this reflection, the last group of 2012 campers is literally heading out of the parking lot at Canterbury Hills Camp, and the staff are preparing for one camper-free night after six residential sessions, seven day camp sessions and all the demands and challenges that came with them.

I am thankful we had a good summer and a safe summer, and that we had enough campers to go around for all the parents who came to pick up children at the end of each session.

I am thankful that we had one of the best staff teams I've seen in my five years as Camp Coordinator and 14 years as Director. They communicated well with each other, problem-solved together and helped each other meet the learning goals they set at the June training. I am thankful for the superb leadership, mentoring and patience displayed by Nate Seroski, in his third year as Camp Coordinator, and by the other members of the Resource Team.

In the Unit Camping model,

unique to Canterbury Hills in the Ontario Camps Association, the unit leader (counsellor) is the most important staff position. They greet the campers and experience the session with them, and in so doing teach them planning, decision making, communication, compromise, negotiating, problem-solving, reflection and worship planning skills along the way. Add to that, being on call 24/7 for an entire session... it's not an easy job. The 2012 Camp staff team “got it”, and met the challenges of this ministry so intentionally and extraordinarily.

As I finish writing this reflection, I've just come from the closing staff Eucharist. In June, each staff member wrote their personal goals on a 4"x4" blank puzzle piece, and added significant moments throughout the summer. In the closing Eucharist, they reflected on their puzzle piece, summed it up in a few phrases and laid it on the ground in the outdoor chapel. Another staff member who could connect and expand on a piece that had already been presented, added theirs to the emerging

puzzle, until all the pieces were down and all were connected. Not too surprisingly, one common thread of all the reflections was that of community. This tremendous group of young people had not only talked about community, they had lived it;

they had worked hard maintaining it and they “got it”. And for that, we all gave God thanks.

In my closing homily, I shared with the staff my incredible experience of being in the office of a local Anglican parish church earlier in the week; a parish

which had raised funds to send several community children to camp. A mother came in, with her eight year old camper daughter in tow, to present the Rector with a thank you card made by her daughter. The Rector introduced them to me. The mother told us that her daughter had been at many camps over the past few summers, but she thought Canterbury Hills Camp was by far the best camp experience she ever had.

For that child, and the other 499 campers who experienced the love, joy and nurturing of Christian community at its best; for the staff, volunteers, alumni, clergy celebrants, individual financial supporters, parishes who fund-raised for the camp, agencies who entrusted specially challenged campers to our care and for the privilege of being a part of that experience for 19 years at Canterbury Hills, I truly give thanks to God.

Canon David R. Linn is the Executive Director of Canterbury Hills. EMAIL: cb@niagara.anglican.ca



Enjoying the camping experience

Photo: submitted by David Linn

When in our music God is glorified

MICHAEL BLOSS

Take a moment right now to remember back to your very first musical memory of church. Often people remember a song in Sunday school, or associate the memory of a particular composition or hymn with the security of sitting between parents or relatives on a church pew. My memory is of sitting in a large church, my eyes caught by the deep colours in the surrounding stained glass, listening to organ music – Bach, I think – before the service began.

Next, take another moment and consider which hymn most accurately defines your perception of God. That might take a bit longer, but should be an easier task than trying to describe such a major part of one's spiritual psyche just with words.

As you spend time pondering these two questions, you are giving expression to the stories of your faith expression and spiritual journey. Sharing these thoughts with others will draw you closer to those with whom you worship, thereby creating openness and trust. As a worshipping community joined on this level you will embrace "this singing thing" (as contemporary hymn writer and worship animator John Bell likes to put it) with freshness and discovery. Gone will be the "like" and "dislike" debate over sung worship. Now you will be practicing pastoral music ministry.

Pastoral music ministry, a way of leading the song of God's people at worship which speaks to the whole person, lies at the heart of my philosophy of music ministry. Pastoral music ministry creates opportunities for expressing the energy and nuance in our musical worship and forms the cornerstone of my work as the Director of Music Ministries at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

What does pastoral music ministry look like at the Cathedral?

- Leading instrumentally with the organ, piano and other instruments, painting the words of the sung text of hymns, psalms and spiritual songs and encouraging the congregation to an even more profound alleluia. Creating a "sound" for each progression of the liturgical year.
- Listening to the musical stories of worship and faith here and responding with prophetic musical language which enhances these conversations.
- Serving in a cantorial role (i.e. leader of the congregation's song); introducing and developing the congregation's song through musical moments before and during worship.
- Inviting members of the congregation to share their musical talents through vocal and instrumental inspiration in leading the people's song.
- Developing the Cathedral choir to animate the riches of the choral tradition as well as present the best of modern

creations, inviting others to join in this approach and commissioning works from a variety of genres.

- Exploring the architecture of music within the Cathedral; how might choral forces personify the journeying times of Advent and Lent in the church year in their singing within and around the congregation?
 - Celebrating the musical richness in the Diocese with the continued development of the Diocesan Choir. Festival services such as ordinations are heightened by candidates being invited to choose hymns and choral music as these reflect their faith journey and call to ministry.
 - Reclaiming the diversity of our worship with services of Evensong and Compline using such musical traditions as Taizé and Iona.
 - Leading educational times – Music in Worship 101 – as the church engages in creating and learning about the hymnody and psalmody of worship. Write a hymn text. Compose a psalm paraphrase. Understand the "voice" and the colour of a liturgical season.
- Most importantly, pastoral music ministry is about looking outwards into the community. "How can music be helpful in your ministry?" is a question posed in the context of the Cathedral's participation in Hamilton's Art Crawl and equally in its outreach, stewardship and education ministries.

Consensus building is central to the integration of music to ministry as a whole.

And consensus building is no less central to the Cathedral's opening of itself to the Diocese of Niagara. What goes on musically at the Diocese serves as a model to other churches. My hope is that pastoral music ministry modelled here can be an inspiration elsewhere and that worship at the cathedral can reflect the work of the parishes. Musical and choral exchanges are possibilities. Conversation and collaboration between the cathedral and other parish music programs and their leaders would enrich all of our work. Resource sharing and the

development of regional music in worship workshops and choir days would assist everyone in grasping a view of that more profound alleluia.

How can I be helpful to you in your calling as a clergy person, music director, pianist/organist, chorister, music team, congregational member, or musician-at-large? I look forward to hearing from you as I continue getting to know the Cathedral community and this vibrant Diocesan family.

Michael Bloss is Director of Music Ministries at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton. EMAIL: michael.bloss@niagara.anglican.ca

Anglican Communion Alliance

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

Thank you for your business

At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Ephesians 5:20



TRNIncome Tax & Bookkeeping Services
Telephone 905-335-8286 | E-mail richard.turner@rhi-ag.com

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Last year 17 people sent us their Christmas stories, poems, memories, experiences, etc.

This year we hope to receive more.

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 25, 2012.

Send your submission to the Editor at 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 remembering... share your gift with others.

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines ...

December 2012 – October 25
January 2013 – November 20
February 2013 – December 20

Submissions ...

Articles – 900 words or less.

Letters to the Editor – 300 words or less.

Photos – high resolution, action pictures (people doing something). Include name of photographer.

Questions or information: contact the Editor, Hollis Hiscock at editor@niagara.anglican.ca or 905-635-9463

Making the Connection

TRNIncome Tax & Bookkeeping Services

Stay in the Comfort of Your Home. We Come To You.
Individual \$30.00. Pensioners and Students \$20.00
Family & Group Discounts Available

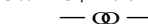
Telephone 905-335-8286

Unit 100 2301 Cavendish Drive, Burlington, Ont.



Custom Cakes & Cupcakes

WEDDING | BIRTHDAY SHOWERS | ANNIVERSARY



Whatever the occasion, Cakes by Caitlin can fill your need.

Chocolate | Vanilla | Red Velvet | Butter Cream | Fondant
facebook.com/cakesbycaitlin
caitrush@hotmail.ca • 289-880-4583

In conversation with ...

Debbie Young, Payroll Administrator

Debbie has been part of Niagara Diocese's Finance Department since October 1, 1987. She administers Niagara Payroll and Benefits for Synod staff and most of the 94 parishes, two daycares and Canterbury Hills. She also works with the Bishop's Company books and is a certified member of the Health and Safety Committee. Debbie will be happy to look after any of your payroll or benefit questions, and can be contacted at Cathedral Place 905-527-1316 (ext. 510) or debbie.young@niagara.anglican.ca.

In Conversation with the Niagara Anglican, Debbie shares her thoughts and memories about her quarter century with Niagara Diocese, and what she sees in the future.

NA: How does it feel reaching your 25th anniversary year with Niagara Diocese?

DY: It sure doesn't feel like 25 years, the time has just slipped by.

NA: How did you find out about the job at Synod Office and what were your thoughts at the time of hiring?

DY: I got the job through a placement agency and was interviewed by The Venerable Ian Dingwall and Ralph Malashevsky. I was very interested in the idea of working for a church and learning how the

organization functioned.

NA: Most jobs have changed their function since 1987; how has your job evolved or changed?

DY: I started working as an Accounts Receivable Administrator. Then I worked with the investments; at that time we were keeping track of funds manually and in house. I helped transfer all the funds to the Investment Fund Managers. Then I picked up the General Ledger and Financial Statements. In 1996 I started processing payroll. There were only about 100 employees when I first started. The Diocese has now picked up all the parishes on the payroll and most of the parishes also have their employees on, so we are now about 370 lay and clergy employees.

The payroll has also had two major changes. I was first processing it out of the office at Ceridian and we changed to processing it in house with the Program Paymate. Then just recently in June/July we have now changed the program and it has been put on our accounting package ACCPAC. It takes a lot of work and checking when changing from one payroll system to another.

NA: What are some of the highlights or people you have encountered?

DY: The highlights for me were when new Bishops started to work; to watch and see how each one pursued their new position. They all had different ways of doing things and I have enjoyed working for all of the five Bishops. The same is to be said for the Directors of Finance. I have worked for four different Directors and quite a few co-workers have changed over my 25 years in the Finance Department.

NA: The church has changed over the past decades; what changes have you observed in your work?

DY: There have been several changes. Earlier a lot of work was done by hand and in ledgers (like payroll benefits, investments, etc.); now they are all managed on the computer.

Another change was moving the Diocesan office to Christ's Church Cathedral, making the Diocesan office more integrated with the parishes. A third change happened when we had the break-away parishes leave the Diocese. This meant a lot of work, confusion and heartfelt loss of the congregations and churches.

NA: What would you describe as a low point in your days with the Diocese?

DY: Low points would be seeing a lot of your co-workers leaving, some for retiring, some going to other jobs, etc.

NA: Any other thoughts?

DY: I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Diocese. They treat employees fairly and are always there to support their employees when in need. I only

hope the next 25 years fly by as quickly (ha ha).

NA: Thank you for sharing your journey with us. We wish you well as you head for your half century milestone.



The Three Cantors in Concert

An Evening of Musical Merriment and Fine Dining —



Wednesday, October 17th

St. John's Anglican Church, Ancaster

At the corner of Wilson and Halson Streets

Hors d'œuvres and Dinner – 5:30 pm
 Concert – 7:30 pm
 Beef Tenderloin Dinner
 and a reserved concert seat — \$80.00
 Concert only — \$25.00

VISA, Mastercard and Debit accepted

905-648-2353

E-mail: admin@ancasteranglican.org

*Next month in the
 Niagara Anglican*

The noisy and embarrassing women of today

Taking time to remember

Stories about an 1812 visit, a cenotaph renewal, thoughts from a chaplain and more.

A gathering place and a sounding board for the people of the Diocese of Niagara

Keep the conversation going

For decades, the *Niagara Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal* have been a vital communications link between parishes, dioceses and the national Church.

Together, we have shared stories, ideas and opinions from a faith perspective in a way that has helped us put that faith into action.

Whether encouraging a response to human need, educating about the care of creation, or helping readers discover new ways to reach out and grow the Church, the *Niagara Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal* spark compassionate conversations in an increasingly secularized world.

Please give generously to the Anglican Journal Appeal this year. With your help we can keep the conversation going!

To make your gift today, call 416-924-9199, ext 259. Alternatively, you can email mross@national.anglican.ca or go to www.canadahelps.org to make your gift today.



REDEMPTION — tackled by adolescents

The Niagara Youth Conference (NYC) tackled its most overtly theological theme ever for the 2012 conference: redemption.

At Canterbury Hills Ancaster during the last week of August, delegates walked solitary paths to talk to God. They heard real life stories of feeling redeemed through God at work, in family, among friends and in community. They explored their identity and the divine purpose for them. In addition the young people delved into mercy and grace, as well as the role of community support in finding redemption. They did all this through workshops and small group discussions.

It was “heady stuff for a group of adolescents from 28 parishes and 17 volunteer staff members to cover in one week”, concluded Christyn Perkons, Diocesan Director for Congregational Support & Development.

They left the conference committed to the process of transformation and renewal. One delegate summed up the experience, “NYC reminds me of what my faith is really about: loving people, not judging – I love you people!”



◀ Compline on Sunday night introduced delegates to the Redemption theme and invited them to begin creating liturgy with the staff and one another.



NYC

Niagara Youth Conference
2012



▲ The joy of the Spirit is evident whenever the NYC Band plays!



▲ Throughout the week delegates explored their spirituality, talked about the big and small issues of life and supported one another in small groups.

◀ Wednesday’s social included the creation of works of art.

Photos: submitted by Christyn Perkons

Float in Santa Claus parade part of youth outreach into the community

JANICE SCHWEDER

There is nothing like an ambitious group of young people to demonstrate leadership on project completion, to exemplify good citizenship, and to act as responsible teenage role models for the service of others within their communities.

All Saints’ Community Youth Group in Hagersville, open to local youth ages 13 – 19, promotes an ecumenical and community focused leadership program. Participants have the opportunity to volunteer directly with community leaders on projects that promote social networking, moral conscience for the needs of others, attributes of being good citizens within their community and other leadership skills.

Some projects are integrated with other local community

service organizations such as the Lions Club and local food bank. Participation in this group qualifies for a student’s required community service hours.

Monthly meetings are the first Thursday of every month (excluding July and August) at All Saints’ Parish Hall at 7 p.m. Adult leaders are Janice Schweder and Tim Walters from All Saints’ Church, together with one community member, Valerie Harnett.

We are most appreciative to our interim parish leader Bishop Ralph Spence for his ongoing encouragement and support of our youth and their activities.

Since our inception almost two years ago, we have been very active in our community and supportive of local service organizations, such as the Hagersville District Lions Club (HDLC) and the food banks in

Caledonia and Nanticoke. Most recently, we are supporting the community initiative to open a food bank here in our town.

We have promoted our group with fundraisers and we are reaching out into the community to encourage other groups of youth to follow our lead.

Over the past few months, we have undertaken several projects, including the preparation of special Easter baskets that were donated to Caring Cupboards in Nanticoke, as well as participation with HDLC in their annual Purina Walk for Dog Guides, Easter Bunny Event, Summer’s End Festival and their annual drive for the local food banks.

This past year, HDLC celebrated its 50th anniversary and we had the pleasure of serving the tables for the 200 guests at that event. We have raised monies through hot dog sales during



Brooke and Charlotte prepare for the spaghetti dinner which raised money to finance their outreach and other projects.

Photo: Janice Schweder

the Town Wide Yard Sale Day and also through a fundraising breakfast and a spaghetti dinner.

We sponsored a float in the Hagersville Santa Claus Parade and we recently hosted two local Anglican sponsored youth groups from Caledonia and Cayuga and their leaders at our parish hall.

We continue to seek additional members for this growing group of stellar youth leaders in our community.

Janice Schweder (jschweder@aim.com), Valerie Harnett (905-768-5117) and Tim Walters (905-768-1488) are the Youth Group Leaders in Hagersville.

Anglicans connecting with God's Mission

DEREK ANDERSON

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus likens the kingdom of God to a farmer who scatters seed on the ground and, while he sleeps and rises, the seed sprouts and grows, he knows not how. Preachers often connect Thanksgiving with the fruitfulness of the earth. This is as it should be. I would like to make connections between thanksgiving and the fruitfulness of the kingdom, especially the mysterious way that God employs our efforts in the work of God's kingdom.

The work of God's kingdom is evident in the way Anglicans have been engaged in mission this summer, thanks to grants from Hands Across Niagara (HAN). Ministry projects scheduled for the summer months included community barbecues in North Oakville near the Church of the Incarnation and a community garden in Acton. These programs are still in full swing as I write, and I look forward to sharing stories from these and other projects in the future.

I want to tell you about a couple of upcoming projects that you may not have read about in your Niagara Anglican.

A HAN grant will support the Living on Less program at St.

James' Guelph.

In partnership with the Guelph and Wellington Task Force for Poverty Elimination and Onward Willow, St. James will expand its program which currently invites people in Guelph to participate in a learning community that addresses nutrition, housing, interviewing and employment skills, opportunities for education and public health. A new session will empower participants to share their experience with local politicians and community organizations, giving participants a forum to engage in direct advocacy.

St. Paul's Westdale, in partnership with Canadians for Lucene Charles and Micah House Refugee Reception Services, will use their grant to host an education and advocacy training event called "Keeping Families Together: Canada's Immigration System and the Problem of Family Separation." Families at risk of being separated will hear from experts in the Canadian refugee system, and attendees will learn how they can advocate for "families not borders" in their neighbourhoods and with federal elected officials.

Remember one third of every donation to HAN goes to the donor's home parish to fund justice and servant ministries.



Brian Galligan, Sharon Mashinter and Bill Switzer of St. Albans Acton harvesting lettuce for Food for Life. Twenty raised cedar beds were built to grow over 15 different fruits, vegetables and other plants as part of the Hands Across Niagara program.

We heard from St. Cuthbert's in Oakville that the parish share of HAN donations will be used to buy the food for the breakfasts and dinners they prepare at Kerr Street Ministries. The helping and empowering community which gathers at Kerr Street appreciate the warmth and care of the youth who cook and serve breakfasts, and the group of adults that cook and serve dinners. People from St. Cuthbert's are making a difference in their neighbourhood.

At St. Matthew's Burlington, HAN donations helped to support a series of lunches for seniors hosted at St. Matthew's with the help of volunteers from three neighbouring churches on Plains Road. The partnership among United, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches has been extremely positive.

Your donation to HAN also supports the mission of the National Church. One critical piece of ministry, carried out by the Council of the North, is the suicide prevention program. In the spring of 2011, a new course was offered in the Diocese of Moosonee and 22 volunteers signed up for "River of Life," an online educational tool produced by the Centre for Suicide Prevention and administered in partnership with the Council of the North. Most participants were First Nations people and many were located in the James Bay region, which has high rates of youth suicide.

In addition, the Anglican Church of Canada's commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation process continues. Renewed energy and emphasis are being placed on our relationships

with the Dioceses of Cuba and Jerusalem. Assistance is being offered to young international Anglican theological educators in Africa and Asia so that excellent training will be available to future leaders in these regions.

Our church is engaged in mission at home and abroad.

Thanks to your prayers and generosity, Anglicans are able to engage in new forms of mission. Your support is making a difference in our neighbourhoods and in regions of Canada where other denominations have left Anglicans as the sole churches retaining an active presence.

The Reverend Derek Anderson is Chair of Hands Across Niagara. EMAIL: derek.anderson@stmatthewburlington.ca

Fifty babies... Fifty quilts

Fifty newborn children in Ontario slept more peacefully and felt better protected because 94 year old Elsie Bowen made and donated 50 blankets to those 50 infants.

She made the quilts because 50 years ago a group of women from Grace Church St. Catharines believed that every newborn child should have his/her own comforting quilt. Every year of those five decades they have made quilts and other items of clothing, which they donate to Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold for distribution to needy families.

Elsie decided that since the group had reached the half century milestone, she would celebrate by making 50 quilts in 2012.

They were presented to Community Care when the Anglican Church Women

(ACW) held their annual Baby Shower at Grace Church in May. CEO Betty-Lou Souter of Community Care thanked Elsie and the other women for their tremendous donations and said, "there are many new babes who will never know who surrounded them with love in the beautiful quilts that were made, but each quilter will know in her heart that she has given a new babe warmth, love and support to embark on the journey of life."

ACW Secretary Joyce DeForest said that this year's Baby Shower was highly successful and exceeded last year's contributions in articles and cash.

Elsie said that she started quilting "a long time ago" when she was in her 50's. "I am never bored", she added, since her work fills her time. She makes the quilts in her living room

and obtains her supplies from stores, sales and from people who donate materials to her so she can quilt her magic to benefit the children. She makes different size quilts, for youth beds as well as for baby cribs, and fills special requests. When she sells her quilts to happy customers she donates the proceeds to the Church, she said.

"I like helping the poor", she told the Niagara Anglican, when asked why she is so dedicated to making infant quilts. "I know what their needs are. I too came from a poor family of eight children. I enjoy doing them", she concluded.

Although Elsie works from home, a group of 15 women meet weekly at Grace Church to make quilts and other baby clothing.



Elsie Bowen with some of the 50 quilts she made this year.

Photo: Joyce DeForest

Quilters Dream

700 Guelph Line, Burlington ON L7R 3M8
Phone: 905-681-8164 www.quiltersdream.ca
HOURS: Monday thru Saturday 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Always wanted to learn to sew or quilt? Let us teach you!
Looking for someone to quilt with? Enjoy our pizza parties or UFO days!
Need a new quilting project? Come & visit with us!
Sign up for our newsletter at: info@quiltersdream.ca
FREE Lessons with purchase of Sewing Machine

PFAFF Sewing Machines & Repairs * Fabric * Classes * Custom Quilting

Order highlights talents in Niagara

A wondering young spirit, a jolly friar, a youth counselor, an outreach worker and a community fund canvasser demonstrate the diversity of talents among the 72 people from across the diocese nominated for the Order of Niagara this year. It brings to life the words of St. Paul who wrote, "there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work" (1 Corinthians 12:4-5).

The Order of Niagara was established in 2000; all licensed clergy are invited to nominate one person from each parish who has given of themselves to the parish, diocese and the Church. It is a way of honouring the laity of the diocese and is the responsibility of the clergy to put forth nominations.

A wondering young spirit



Emma Smith

Once a participant, now a leader with the Diocesan Youth Ministry, Emma Smith excels as a small group facilitator, conference planner and task manager. She applies her imaginative and creative talents to all her

endeavors, and recently added vocalist with the NYC Band to her many commitments. In the wider world, Emma is an ambassador for the Rotary Club, spending a year in Thailand on a Rotary exchange. Also she volunteers at a farmer's market during summer and writes a blog for Farm-time Collective.

In nominating Emma, Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee Chair Mary Gordon and Congregational Support and Development Director Christyn Perkons wrote, "perhaps Emma's greatest gift to youth ministry is her wondering spirit, her curiosity about the sacred in her life and her willingness to venture into uncomfortable places in reflecting about her own God-connections. She is an example to both youth and adults."

A Jolly Friar

As a Jolly Friar with St. James Chip Wagon in Fergus, Caroline MacDonald spent hours cooking and serving food for God's church and people. As a newcomer to the parish in 2001 she joined the Chancel Guild and since then has been a Greeter, Reader, Chalice Bearer and a member of the parish social committee.

Months after her becoming Churchwarden in 2008, the sudden death of the Rector threw the parish into a crisis situation. Caroline took responsibility for the church administration and maintenance of the building during the difficult time. Following her stint as Churchwarden, she

became very active in the ACW and on the Pastoral Care Team, as well as chairing the committee responsible for St. James' Butterfly Garden.

In her letter nominating Caroline, after mentioning all she does, Rector Pauline Head added, "it is suspected that Caroline does even more than this for St. James; she just doesn't draw attention to all her contributions."

An outreach worker



Al Olsen

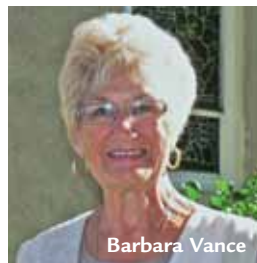
For more than a decade Al Olsen from St. Michael's Church in Hamilton had been doing mission work in Haiti, and since the 2011 devastating earthquake he has made extra trips to help the people cope with the disaster. In his home town, his outreach work includes volunteering for Neighbour 2 Neighbour, St. Matthew's House and delivering furniture to the Eva Rothwell Resource Centre.

A member of the parish for over 40 years, Al has spent nearly 20 years as chief gardener beautifying the church grounds, attends several Bible study groups, is part of the maintenance team, has sung in the choir and helps with numerous

fundraising events.

Rector Sheila Van Zandwyk in nominating Al wrote, "Al Olsen is a true disciple of Jesus and it shows in the way he reaches out to people sharing the gospel of Christ and lending a helping hand."

A community fund canvasser



Barbara Vance

Barbara Vance, a lifelong member of the Church of our Saviour the Redeemer and resident of Stoney Creek, has filled leadership roles in a variety of ministries within the parish. A fundraiser, a member of the Anglican Church Women and a Parish Council member, she also headed up the Planned Giving program and served as Churchwarden. She sings in the choir and recently became a Worship Leader.

As part of her commitment to her community, Barbara has canvassed for a number of causes, including the Cancer Society.

In presenting Barbara for the order, Rector Chris(tine) McMaster said, "her strong faith, commitment and dedication to being her best always, and her absolute trust in God's will for her life have enabled her to continue to let God's light shine

through her with grace and an ever present smile. She is an example to all of us. Barbara's lifelong dedication to God and church, her life of prayer and her compassion for others are an inspiration."

A youth counselor

For a number of years Davaleen Parker from St. John Elora has volunteered at Ontario's Portage Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Centre in Elora. At the centre she shares leadership in a weekly Bible Study, assists in the training of readers, servers etc. for worship and provides spiritual counseling and companionship to the young people.

In her own church she serves as a member of the Altar Guild, taking responsibility weekly for the 9:00 a.m. worship. In the wider community she volunteers for Neighbourlink.

Rector Patrick Patterson, in nominating Davaleen said, "her faithfulness, reliability, and conscientiousness are a constant source of inspiration to many."

The Order of Niagara services are scheduled for Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 28 for the regions of Lincoln, Mohawk and Trafalgar, and on November 4 for the regions of Brock, Greater Wellington and Undermount.

[Photographs of Caroline and Davaleen were not available at press time.]

Book Review

Peace among religions

Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life

Karen Armstrong, (Alfred A. Knopf, 2010)

ELEANOR JOHNSTON

Have you ever looked at two people arguing and wondered why they can't just get along? Have you noticed that you feel better when you help someone else? Karen Armstrong uses the familiar "twelve steps" to organize her discussion of addictions so powerful that sufferers cannot overcome them without

help from a Higher Power. Greed and hatred are such selfish and destructive addictions.

Armstrong's inspiring study of the theology of love extends observations from the psychological context of the individual to the great political and economic forces threatening our world.

Her main point is our need, at a global level, for peace among religions. The amazing irony that enables us to move beyond tribalism is that each of the world's great religions has, at its core, a version of the golden rule and an assertion of the supreme value

of compassion that includes love for one's enemy.

She suggests that the reader "think in terms of the Confucian concentric circles of compassion," starting with one's family, moving out to friends and community, and then eventually embracing the planet as a whole.

Armstrong offers compassion to the fundamentalists of all religions, those taught to fear God, hell and deviation from essential beliefs. To learn about another person's religion and culture leads to the inability to bear the sight of that person's sorrow;

compassion leads to the refusal to fight.

I found Armstrong's spiritual dedication to the practice of compassion admirable. She is a first-rate scholar and a sincere believer who has published many important books. From her trials as a Roman Catholic novice through her wide-ranging academic studies, she has recently devoted much of her focus to teaching Americans about Islam in order to counter the too-easy demon-



izing of this faith since 9/11.

This book challenges us to practice compassion, to pray to become instruments of Christ's Peace; "A truly compassionate person touches a chord in us that resonates with some of our deepest yearnings. People flock to such individuals, because they seem to offer a haven of peace in a violent, angry world."

Eleanor Johnston can be reached at eleanorjohnston@gmail.com