

Readership survey results

Our readers and what they think of the *Niagara Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal*.

Pages 6-7



Reclaiming the Message of Paul

Eleanor Johnston and Wayne Fraser review *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan

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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

SEPTEMBER 2012

RECLAIMED

Diocese of Niagara reclaims disputed Churches

On May 31, 2012, after more than four years of court challenges and negotiations, the Anglican Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Network in Canada (ANiC) agreed to restore full ownership of three disputed churches to Niagara Diocese.

In a letter to affected parishes, Executive Archdeacon Michael Patterson said that on May 31, "all the signed minutes of settlement were delivered, cheques distributed and the keys to ALL the properties that are rightfully within the ownership of the Diocese of Niagara were returned to me. It was a very amicable meeting between John Macdonald and myself; in fact, a tad anti-climatic and, indeed, a little emotional."

In thanking people, the Archdeacon called the community effort "difficult and challenging at times but one that has girded our resolve to be faithful to God's mission as we inherit and know it as the Diocese of Niagara within the Anglican Church of Canada. The Network property dispute issue will no longer hang over our heads", he concluded.

Diocesan Bishop Michael Bird said, "I am very pleased with this outcome. It affirms that these churches belong to all the generations who built them up and not just a particular group of individuals."

The Reverend Nigel Bunce, Pastor of St. George's Lowville, one of the churches reclaimed by the Diocese, wrote to parishioners that he was relieved that "the dispute with ANiC is finally resolved." He described it as "a sad and distressing time for both the present and former members of St. George's." Looking ahead, he said, "I pray that we may now look to the



Disputed parishes:
(clockwise from above) St. Hilda's Oakville; Church of the Good Shepherd St. Catharines; St. George's Lowville
Photos: Hollis Hiscock



future with confidence as a parish, but that we will continue to remember in our prayers those members of our parish who decided that they should leave us, as we recall that we all strive to serve the same God in the name of the same Jesus Christ."

In 2008, St. George's Lowville, St. Hilda's Oakville and the Church of the Good Shepherd St. Catharines voted to leave the Anglican Church of Canada and join the Anglican Network in Canada, another church organization, and in doing so claimed ownership of these church buildings. The Anglican Diocese of Niagara believes that these church buildings are the property of the Diocese and are only used for a time by any specific congregation.

As of May 31, 2012 the ANiC congregations have agreed to leave the disputed churches, and that the ownership of the buildings rests with the Diocese of Niagara. "This outcome has been achieved by negotiation, prayer and a spirit of cooperation between ANiC representatives and the Niagara Diocese," said Archdeacon Michael Patterson. "We are very pleased to have these parish buildings back and will be discussing how best to

use these assets for the benefit of the whole church."

The mission of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara is to follow Christ passionately, while ensuring the growth of healthy, spiritually vibrant, outward looking faith communities.

The future mission for all three parishes is being worked out.

A sign outside the Church of the Good Shepherd in St. Catharines states that "Transfiguration Anglican is coming soon."

Bishop Michael Bird visited St. George's Lowville on July 22, the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene. He thanked the congregation for their faithfulness during the difficult time they experienced during the period of litigation with ANiC. He drew a parallel with St. Mary Magdalene, who was the faithful first witness to the resurrection, when the other disciples had not yet come to believe.

The Diocese is discerning and reflecting upon different ministry opportunities appropriate for St. Hilda's Oakville.

The Niagara Diocese is made up of 94 parishes and has been a diocese in the Anglican Church of Canada since 1875.

Nicaragua

a humanitarian mission trip

ROB SIMMONS

EDITOR'S NOTE: In March 2012, a group from St. Andrew's Church Grimsby spent nine days in Nicaragua. For the full story see the April 2012 issue of the Niagara Anglican. Their main goal was to install a water tank so that some 700 school children and community people could have access to water for life. But as Rob Simmons tells us, the humanitarians also received gifts about life from their experience in this Central America country.

What does an unexpected two hour lay-over in Fort Lauderdale, an extra night in Miami, close encounters with a tarantula, a scorpion and a fireant hill, a detour driving through a river with a herd of cows and a trip to visit people who live and work in a dump full of burning garbage all have in common?



The team from St. Andrew's Grimsby

Photo: Team members

If you guessed adventures and tales from a humanitarian mission trip to Nicaragua, you win a prize.

Without a doubt the trip was a resounding success. We accomplished everything that we set out to do and more. Yet, it is most certainly the people of Nicaragua that made the biggest

— see NICARAGUA Page 3



Back to Church Sunday is September 30, 2012.

Invite a friend or neighbour. Come on your own (Consider this *your* invitation).

Jesus said "Come and see."

The local church is there to welcome you. See article page 12.

Christ Church's loss is everyone else's gain, said of priest's retirement

There was not an empty seat at Christ Church Flamborough on Sunday June 17, 2012, reports parish correspondent Rosemary Horsewood, when parishioners, past and present, gathered to celebrate Canon Barry Randle's retirement after 35 years of full-time ordained ministry.

Some 170 people came to hear Barry's retirement sermon, and after the worship to enjoy a luncheon filled with good food, tributes, laughs and a delicious cake decorated by parishioner Rosalie Catchpole.

His career began with his 1977 ordination in Ottawa, which was followed by his ministry tenure in Quebec. He served as Rector at Thorold and Hagersville parishes before beginning his

busy and impassioned ministry at Christ Church. In addition, he worked in Niagara Diocese with youth groups at Canterbury Hills Camp as well as at Youth Synods, and mentored several ministers-in-training.

"Those who have been blessed to cross his path have been touched by his ministry, dedication and inclusive style of leadership," writes Horsewood.

At his retirement celebration, on that balmy Sunday afternoon, the choir sang a heartfelt swan song and the Sunday school gave him a quilt with all their own handprints. Barry was given a book of pictures illustrating his ministry career, including memorable moments at Christ Church. As a final farewell, a

suitcase filled with gifts from the parish was presented to Kathleen and Barry to help them better enjoy a much deserved trip to Ireland.

"Everyone who has had the pleasure to know Barry during his ministry is saddened by his retirement, but we all know that his talents will continue to be used within the Diocese," Horsewood said.

"Christ Church's loss is everyone else's gain," summarised reoccurring sentiments echoed at the farewell luncheon, she reported.

"We know his talents will be greatly appreciated within the Diocese and we at Christ Church will not forget him and his family," Horsewood concluded.



Kathleen and Barry Randle enjoying the book depicting his ministry, presented by parishioner Bryan LeGallais

Photo - Susan Ruzzier

Three Cantors coming to Bishop's Company

While the Three Cantors sing for their supper, you can sit back after supper and be royally entertained.

It all happens at the Bishop's Company Annual Dinner on Monday, October 1, 2012 at Burlington Convention Centre, 1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington, beginning with a 6:15 p.m. reception, followed by dinner and entertainment.

The Three Cantors sing to benefit the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund and the Huron Hunger Fund (PWRDF/HHF), which seek lasting solutions to world

hunger through sustainable development. In addition to the money raised by local concert sponsors for a huge variety of causes, a portion of every concert and every penny of their CD proceeds go to the alleviation of suffering through the work of PWRDF/HHF. Since they began in 1996 they have sold thousands of CDs and it is estimated that The Three Cantors have raised over one million dollars.

They have been featured on provincial and national radio, have appeared with Judy Maddren's "A Christmas Carol"

as featured musicians at her reading at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church in Toronto, have been interviewed by Michael Enright, have performed at two consecutive "Sounds of the Season" shows on Ontario Today, and gave a concert for the Governor General of Canada.

"This is an important event in the life of our diocese. It is also a very enjoyable event," reiterated the Diocesan press release. We would like to open this evening up to as many guests as members would like to invite.

For more information about the Bishop's Company Annual Dinner or to become a member of the Bishop's Company, contact



The Three Cantors with Bishop Bird- Peter Wall, Accompanist Angus Sinclair, Bishop Bird, David Pickett and Bill Cliff

Karen Nowicki at karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca or call 905-527-1316 ext. 380.

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!

Please fill out and return the enclosed postage-paid donor reply card or 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.



Youth challenge... Editor encourages

The 74 delegates attending the Youth Synod in May passed the following resolution.

WHEREAS: In discussion at Synod Council, members acknowledged that the Niagara Anglican is not read by a wide enough audience. This is arguably due to a lack of diverse and interesting content;

AND WHEREAS: The Niagara Anglican is an important communication tool for a Diocese spanning several municipalities and approximately 100 parishes;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Youth Synod 2012 Delegates commit to reading the *Niagara Anglican* monthly.
2. Youth Synod 2012 asks *Niagara Anglican* editor Hollis Hiscock to encourage more youth/young adults to write articles for the *Niagara Anglican*.

The *Niagara Anglican* hears you and the Editor, Hollis Hiscock, encourages the youth and young people to write articles, poems and letters to the editor, to submit photographs or drawings and to offer other items for publication.

In addition to encouragement, the Editor promises to assist, offer suggestions and advice. See his contact information on page 8.

Looking forward to seeing your motion come alive in the pages of the *Niagara Anglican*.

Nicaragua trip opened eyes to life in another world

continued from page 1

impact on me. Everyone we met was warm and welcoming. They invited us into their hearts and homes and treated us as family. They fed us, even when it meant they may have to go without later, because that was the only way they felt they could show their thanks and appreciation for all they felt we were doing for them.

We had the honour of going to a student's home to eat lunch with his family. The boy's house was about a 20 minute walk from the school. There are no roads to get to this house, which is located at the back of a property. The lean-to home is approximately 8 by 8 feet and shared by five or sometimes six people. There are no toilets or proper beds. A four foot overhang covers a cooking area, with a makeshift stove where all the meals are prepared. They do not own the property or the "house". They are allowed to live there and grow what food they can in a designated space, in return for working the land for its owner. We walked through the father's gardens and could see the pride in his eyes, as he told us and showed us how he takes care of his plants and tends



Photos: Team members

Burning garbage at the dump (left) where children and adults work; Living conditions (right) were an eye-opener

to them. He explained to us that he is having more and more problems affording the seeds he needs to help sustain his gardens and food supply. The tins of seeds that the family needs to buy, (about six or eight tins per year), cost 60 Cordoba each or approximately \$15 to \$20 per year.

On the very last day we went to visit the dump and village of El Tamel. I will never forget as we got closer and closer to the dump there was more and more smoke. As the piles of garbage came into focus you could see many were smoldering from being set on fire by the locals.

Naturally our van attracted a lot of attention, as the residents

rarely get visitors. When we got out of the van word quickly spread that we had some supplies to hand out. I was shocked to see at least half of the workers out in the dump were children. Watching those poor kids come toddling out of the smoke with their bags of garbage, black streaked faces and some even with no shoes was one of the most overwhelming and helpless feelings I have ever known.

You could feel their urgency, their need, like a weight in the air closing in on you; almost desperation, pressing around you. You know so clearly that no one should live like this, and nothing you can give them or say

or do in that moment can make a dent in the problems and social injustice you are seeing.

We met many wonderful people in Nicaragua. It made me ask myself, how are people with so little, so happy? Why is it that the people with the least, time and time again, give the most?

While we were in Nicaragua, many people thanked us for our generosity, yet I know I got far more out of the experience than I gave. They truly know what is important in life. They are quick to smile and laugh, and they are full of love, courage and faith. They value their family, faith and community; treating others, even newcomers, as friends, and are willing to share all they have.

I wouldn't hesitate to recommend to anyone to go on a humanitarian trip, regardless of where it takes you. Your eyes and your heart will be opened.

To St. Andrew's church community, other people and local businesses: thank you for your support—best wishes, prayers, time, energy and resources—for helping make this dream a reality. You helped make a difference in the lives of many people, including my own.

As they say in Nicaragua... "Vaya con Dios."

Rob Simmons can be reached at robs.phs@cogeco.ca

Women ordained to different ministries

On Sunday, June 3, 2012, surrounded by families, friends and clergy colleagues in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton, Diocesan Bishop Michael Bird ordained Leslie Gerlofs and Constance Phillipson as Deacons and Deanne Patchett as a Priest in the Church of God.

The two accompanying photos illustrate the differences between the ministries of a "priest" and a "deacon".

The "before" picture shows Patchett wearing a stole across her body, a sign that she is already a deacon. Gerlofs and Phillipson are carrying their stoles in anticipation of their ordination to the Diaconate.

In the "after" ordination photo, Patchett wears a chasuble (priestly garment generally worn when celebrating the Holy Communion), with the stole hanging around her neck, a sign of being a priest. The deacons



Photos: Hollis Hiscock



wear their stoles draped from the left shoulder across their bodies as a sign of their ministry.

As a newly ordained priest, Patchett was presented with a Bible, Chalice and Paten as "signs of the authority given to you to preach the word of God and to administer His holy sacraments" (especially the Holy Communion). The new deacons are holding only Bibles, indicating their "authority to proclaim God's word and to assist in the ministrations of His holy sacraments."

The Bishop also anointed the priest's hands with the oil of gladness as an assurance of "God's love for you and mindful of your obligation to love others

as you have been loved."

Earlier in the service, all three were presented for ordination by supporters, examined by the Bishop as to their suitability and intentions, prayed over by the congregation and then received the laying on of hands to complete their ordination as deacons or priest.

After her ministry as a deacon at St. George's Guelph, the Reverend Deanne Patchett became the Assistant Curate at St. John the Evangelist on August 1, 2012. The Reverend Constance Phillipson is the Assistant Curate at St. Mark's Orangeville, and the Reverend Leslie Gerlofs will be Deacon-in-Charge at St. John's Winona.

Before and after

Top: Soon to be priest Deacon Deanne Patchett (centre) with soon to be Deacons Leslie Gerlofs and Constance Phillipson.

Bottom: Newly ordained priest (left) and newly ordained deacons with ordaining Diocesan Bishop Michael Bird.

What's been happening lately

Christ Church, McNab

Celebration Sunday

Christ Church McNab in Niagara-on-the-Lake had much to celebrate at a Family Service on Pentecost Sunday, May 27. Seven young people were



beginning new chapters in their education and career journeys which will take them to several countries around the world. Also, the parish's first ever ramp was used at the beginning of Access Awareness Week. One parishioner donated funds to supply the materials and three others volunteered their services to build the ramp according to specifications set by the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Fellowship, with a special cake, followed in the Parish Hall. *Photo: Colleen St.Amand*

Christ's Church Cathedral

Lay Weeders

Every Friday morning, several of eight Lay Weeders can be found tending the gardens around Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton. Here Shirley Fricker, Bishop Jo Fricker and Jeni Darling apply their gardening talents to beautify the grounds. *Photo: Hollis Hiscock*



Church of the Epiphany, Oakville

Jubilee celebrations

On Sunday June 3, the Church of the Epiphany in Oakville celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, with a special service and traditional English luncheon. During the service, a rite of the Church of England and the Diamond Jubilee Prayer were used. Travelling parishioners brought back authentic British flags, bunting and napkins to decorate the hall, which was enhanced by fine bone china tea cups and saucers. The entire congregation got into the spirit of the event and dressed for the occasion—millinery, fascinators and even top hats were in abundance. Pinky fingers were definitely raised when drinking the tea, writes Parish Administrator Jennifer Stevens. *Photo: Jennifer Stevens*



Greening parishes growing ...

Still a long way to go

Two more parishes, Christ Church Flamborough and St. John's Winona, have joined the 25 others who have attained the Bronze level in the Greening Niagara Accreditation Program.

The first step, according to Sue Carson, co-chair of Greening Niagara, in the accreditation process involves appointing a Green Facilitator for the parish, who monitors the environmental actions. Fifty-two parishes have taken this first step, which means over 40 parishes have not. The Greening Niagara committee would like to encourage more parishes to become involved.

Having a Green Facilitator contact person means that

environmental updates and ideas can be sent to the parish more easily. The Facilitator is responsible for signage reminding people to turn out lights, for checking on blue bin recycling and for encouraging the phasing out of plastic use in the kitchen, continued Carson.

Greening Niagara, born out of a Youth Synod motion, has now completed its fourth year. So far 25 bronze, 9 silver and 2 gold certificates have been awarded.

To attain accreditation a parish has to complete 10 of the 15 categories at each of the three levels, Carson said. Categories include areas such as water and hydro use, as well as paper

consumption and recycling. There is flexibility, so parishes can choose the categories they feel they have achieved. And it is understood that there isn't a 'one size fits all' across the diocese, explained the co-chair.

Greening Niagara believes that every small step in the environmental process is one in the right direction, and is a positive way of showing the local community that your parish is a steward of God's creation, Carson emphasized.

Contact Sue Carson at d.carson@sympatico.ca or check the Greening Niagara web site at www.niagara.anglican.ca/green/



Green certificates awarded

Sue Carson, Greening Niagara Co-chair, presents achievement certificates to Christ Church Flamborough (l) and St. John's Winona (r) *Photos: submitted by Sue Carson*

St. Paul's Westdale

Jubilee celebration

St. Paul's Westdale celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a special service, including music from the original coronation day. Enthusiasm for the monarchy and Britain were shown with symbolic greenery from parishioners' gardens, and many fancy hats made at a church workshop. Westdale's own Archbishop Rowan and Queen Elizabeth opened the event and received flowers from the children. The meal was followed by a royal trivia contest. *Photo: Helen Powers*



A Fenway Retreat

Diocesan clergy Joe Asselin (St Cuthbert's Oakville), David Pickett (St John's Ancaster), Mark Gladding (St Paul's Fort Erie) and Stuart Pike (St Luke's Burlington) took a break from their five day silent retreat at an Anglican monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, broke their vow of silence and attended a baseball game at the 100 year old Fenway Stadium in Boston.

"In what has become an annual event," wrote Asselin, "we visit the guest house of the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE) and join in the monastic cycle of five liturgies per day, with plenty of time for reading, silence and reflection."

"Fellowship, prayer, worship, rest and reflection left each of us ready to return to our active and rewarding ministries," he concluded. *Photo: Submitted by Joe Asselin*



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More happenings page 9 »

“Breathe New Life in Us”

Theme of Mothers' Union conference

The Mothers' Union National Conference was held in Ottawa from May 31 to June 3, 2012. There were 160 delegates from across the country (British Columbia to Prince Edward Island) and the Yukon. Diocesan Mothers' Union President Annette Graydon said, "We also had a large delegation from the USA," as well as representatives from England and Guyana. The theme of the conference, held every four years, was "Breathe New Life in Us." The next one will be in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

Crystal McNerney, a social justice intern with Voices for Change Halton (Voices), attended the conference and wrote about her impressions...

From the start it was clear that

I was surrounded by a wonderful group of caring women. The strong bond that Mothers' Union (MU) members from around the world share is both admirable and inspiring as it stems from a passion for caring for others. I could see this was going to be a learning journey.

The Reverend Cynthia Patterson, Director of the Anglican Church of Canada's Suicide Prevention Program, described the Council of the North Suicide Prevention Program. She explained that the supports offered to indigenous communities are locally initiated with the people the program aims to serve. As the communities discern which supports are best for them, the approach becomes the responsibility of the entire community and together everyone focuses their efforts in solidarity. This partnership is

not "a one size fits all" approach, and because of that has the power to create wide-reaching transformative change.

I enjoyed the interactive workshop, What Now – A New Twist on Branch Life. There are many MU Branches or members who feel they are unable to create positive change and the workshop leader provided numerous ideas for discovering and serving people in need.

It was suggested that MU members find out where the poor are cared for, where justice is served and bring together community leaders to help identify community needs. The workshop participants made a list of potential community leaders such as police, social service workers and youth group leaders to help identify specific needs. However, no one included the people they were seeking to serve on the list of those

who should be consulted in the process.

What struck me was the very important process of 'listening to our community' excluded the people the Church seeks to serve. So, I gathered the courage to share information on the Voices for Change Halton partnership with the Niagara MU. I explained Voices is a grassroots group of people advocating for the elimination of poverty. In June 2011, Annette Graydon, Archdeacon Michael Patterson and many other faith and community organizations spent the day with Voices to better understand the struggles we face.

We made a commitment to stand united to create positive changes for our communities.

I am incredibly excited by the huge potential for transformative change which can happen when faith groups see members of the community as partners and not recipients of charity and services.

I feel blessed to have had an opportunity to meet many women who support Voices mission and initiatives, and to share our story with potential partners from across the country and around the world.

Contact Crystal McNerney at vfchalton@gmail.com

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

Leave the captain's table...

Sit at the cat's table

COLLEEN SYM

On many reading lists this summer was Michael Ondaatje's *The Cat's Table*. The cat's table on board a ship is the table furthest from the captain's table, in the worst location in the least privileged place with the most insignificant people placed there. It is at the cat's table where the members of Voices for Change Halton (Voices) would expect to be seated.

Too often the table is a place of exclusion, even amongst adherents of Christianity with its vision of "all around a common table". Questions like "Who is at the table and who isn't?" and "Who is receiving bread and who is left with crumbs?" should influence how justice is understood and acted upon.

Voices is a group of people who have come together to act on their belief that poverty is not an inevitable and unalterable feature of our society. While their voices speak the truth of the reality of the struggle caused by poverty, they are the faces

of courage, resilience and hope serving as advocates for those who are "less than" and the "other".

In the book, the contrast between what happens at the cat's table and at the captain's table is pointed out: "What is interesting and important happens mostly in secret, in places where there is no power. Nothing much of lasting value ever happens at the head table, held together by a familiar rhetoric. Those who already have power continue to glide along the familiar rut they have made for themselves."

Over the past year Voices and the Niagara Mothers' Union have come together pooling their resources, knowledge and skills - and in doing so created something that has transformed them both, even as they together have changed their slice of the world. Partnerships like that have the capacity to jolt those in power, even within the Church, out of their familiar rut and to help close the gap between justice rhetoric and action in

solidarity with those most impacted by injustice.

Recently, I came across this comment from the summative document of a meeting between a group of African and Canadian Anglican Bishops: "We heard very clearly that authentic Christian mission does not make of one community a project for another. Instead, authentic mission invites communities to gather and pool resources for collaboration in activity that transforms them both even as it changes the world."

That is a wonderful message for the bishops to have heard and I hope that they listened. Now as the members of the Niagara MU have done, they need to respond by leaving the head table and joining with those at the cat's table. They will be welcomed because in the Christian tradition God welcomes us.

Colleen Sym, Executive Director of Halton Community Legal Services and sponsor of Voices for Change Halton, can be reached at symc@lao.on.ca

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Readership survey 2012 results

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.

In this first part of the survey findings, we present a snapshot of our respondents as well as their reading habits, content preferences and overall impressions, plus some individual comments.

Additional coverage can be found in the *Anglican Journal*.

For the Editor's reflection on the survey, read the HOLLISitorial on page 12.

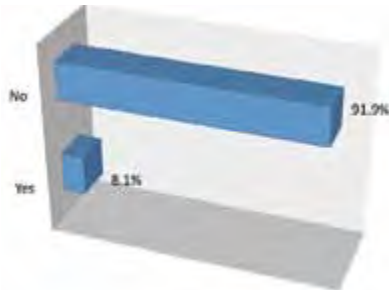
Send us your comments on the survey to editor@niagara.anglican.ca

ON THIS PAGE: A snapshot of our readers (Niagara Anglican)

Responses by Gender



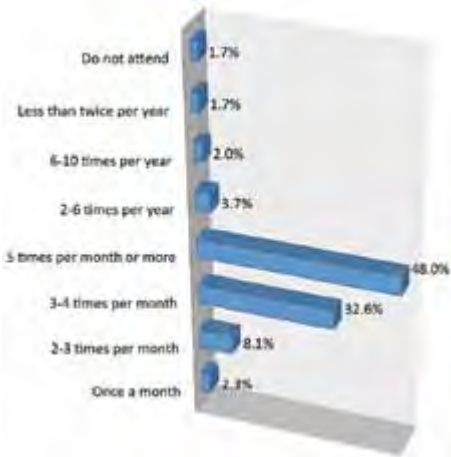
Children under the age of 18 in the home



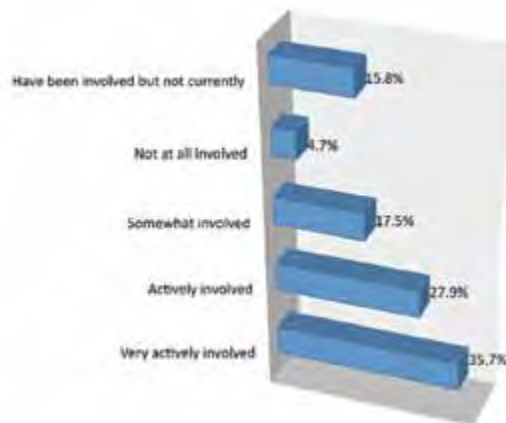
Laity vs. Clergy



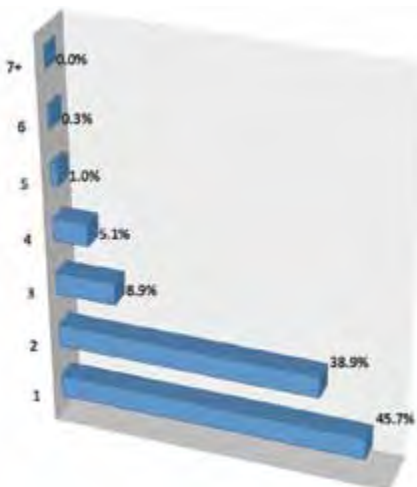
Church attendance



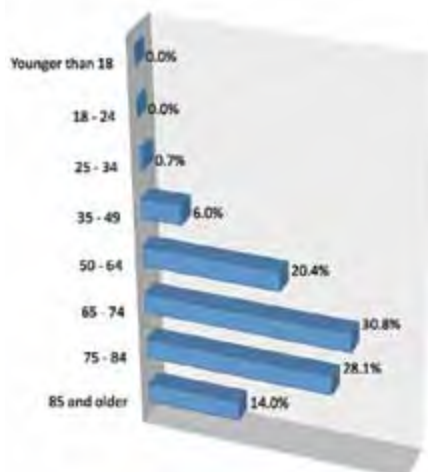
Parish involvement



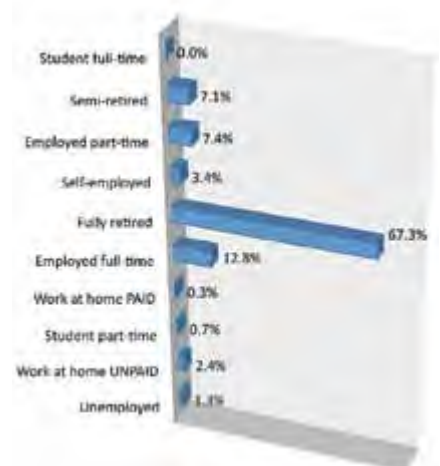
Individuals per household



Demographics of readership



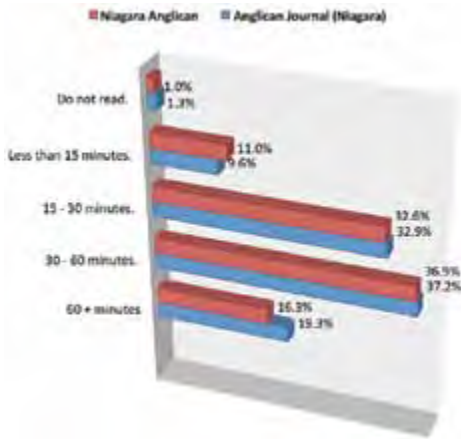
Employment status



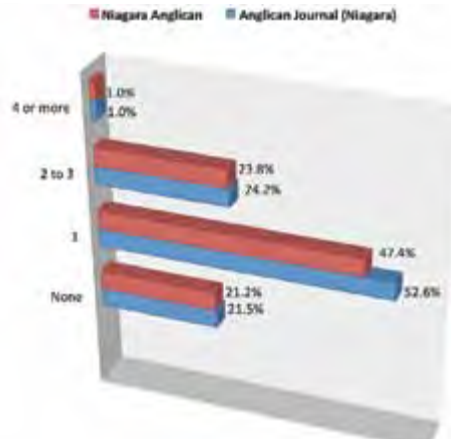
Readership survey 2012 results

ON THIS PAGE: Our reading habits and evaluations (comparing *Niagara Anglican* and *Anglican Journal*)

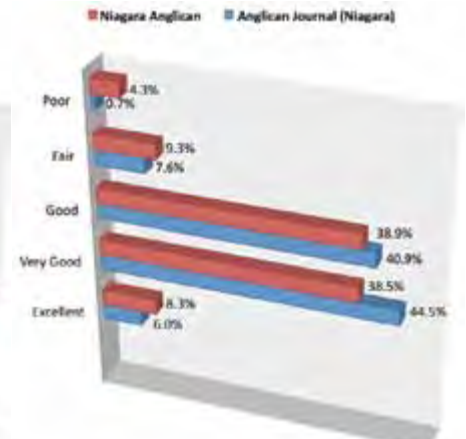
Time spent reading the papers



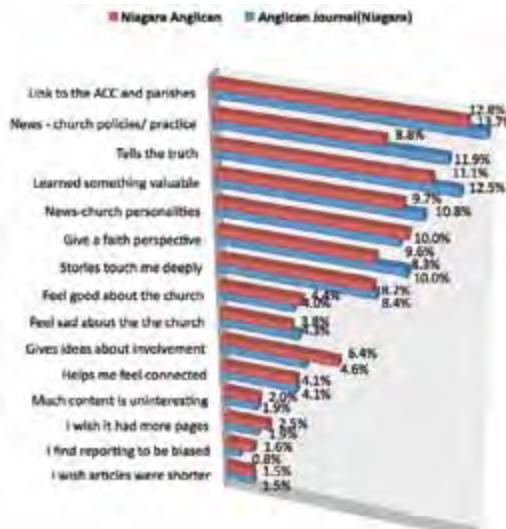
People reading the papers in the home



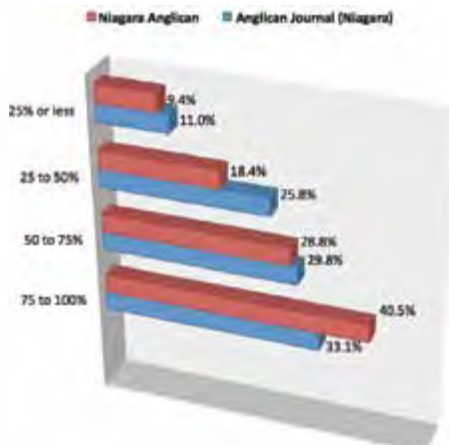
Rating overall content



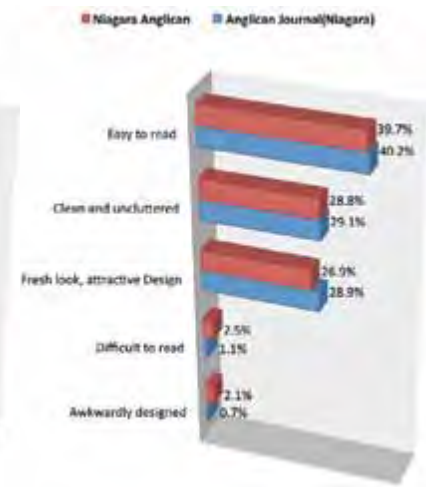
What best reflects your view about...



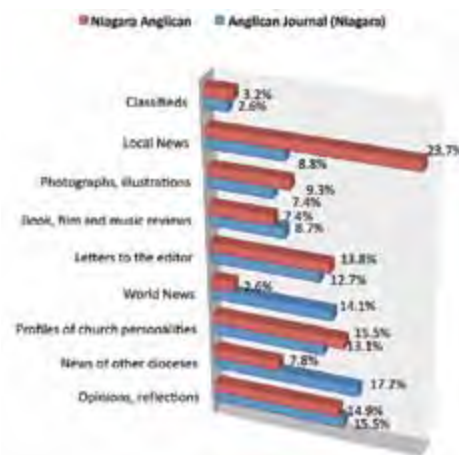
Percentage of the papers read



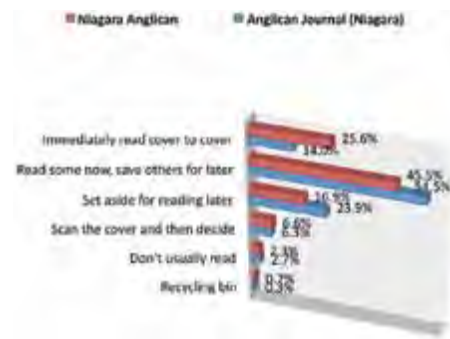
Reflections on the look of the papers



Preferred content



Action taken on receipt



Reader comments on the Niagara Anglican

"I wish my church would get more involved with it. We do a lot of good work but never put it out there for others to see!"

"Since I can no longer attend every week as I used to do, the newspaper keeps me feeling part of the community of Anglicans."

"Great ideas and information are carefully and well written."

"It's a bit hokey and quaint but I still read it."

"Good diocesan coverage - interesting articles. Makes one feel a part of something bigger than local concerns."

"Wish it was broader in theological scope."

"I enjoy articles about innovations in how churches are living out their faith."

"Remarkable, accomplished with few resources."

Faith doesn't depend on evidence ... belief does

MICHAEL BURSLEM

When at the Bristol Grammar School, our 6th form physics master, Mr. T.A. Morris, asked if we could find God in the universe. This followed a BBC astronomy lecture by Fred Hoyle, who spoke about the steady state universe, the alternative to Hubble's Big Bang when time and space were "created." If they had a beginning, they may sometime have an end, the Big Crunch. Hoyle believed that the universe had neither beginning nor end. Morris didn't offer an answer to his question, but we knew what it might have been, since he never appeared at Morning Prayer that started the school day. It's a question that I've asked myself many times since and answered affirmatively.

Recently I've read Sean B. Carroll's *Endless Forms Most Beautiful*. The title is a quote from Darwin and his subject, the new science of Evo-Devo, (Evolutionary Development) of which he is a pioneer. He describes, among other things, how the leopard got its spots... not exactly as Rudyard Kipling has said. The book was mind stretching, but awesome, in that I barely understood it but felt a sense of awe, how God has worked out his creation through evolution.

In the final chapter he discusses how evolution, in the States, may be better understood. To overcome the ignorance people have of it, he says that our theology must evolve or

become irrelevant. We'll know that it has changed "when fossils, genes and embryos are discussed (positively) in Sunday School." I know I'm addressing the converted in readers of the *Niagara Anglican*, but it's so vital to our "Faith Formation," or transformation.

I spoke of this to a friend and she commended Francis Collin's *The Language of God*. He's been to the boundaries of science, theoretical physics and medicine, which led him into genetics. He led the Human Genome Project and has been recently appointed by President Obama to head the National Institute of Health. I question his subtitle, *The Evidence for Belief*. He consistently speaks of believers when I think he meant the faithful. "Evidence for Faith" would have been a more apt subtitle. Belief and faith are not, to my mind, synonymous, though they are often considered such.

Collins takes pains to stress that our God should not be "a god of the gaps"; one who plugs the holes in our knowledge. Through a patient he was introduced to C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* and the moral argument for God, that people everywhere seem to know instinctively what is the right thing to do. They don't always do it, but that's another matter. This also influenced me in my late teens, but I wonder now how valid this argument is. There are some whom I don't think honestly know what is right. We speak of them as having a

personality disorder or being psychopathic. I suspect that in years to come it will be found that they're no more responsible for their behavior than a person with Huntington's chorea is for their involuntary movements. It's in the genes. (He or she may need incarceration for the protection of society.) Similarly, an upright, ethically correct person may no more boast of his/her uprightness. That too is in the genes. Should genes for bad or good behaviour be discovered, we Christians could look rather stupid if we deny their evidence, as we have in the past over Galileo and Darwin.

In the final analysis, does God need any proof that he exists? If he does, he's somewhat less than God. Faith doesn't depend on evidence, whereas belief does. For instance, one can believe in evolution for the overwhelming evidence, but we may also have faith in God as creator.

Do we need the miracles, most importantly the physical resurrection, to prove to the world that Jesus was a most extraordinary person? Can we not have faith in him and his resurrection and through his, ours too, without believing that he physically rose from the tomb? I do not believe he went through walls, but do have faith that he's always present beside me. But we see him through eyes of faith, not sight, as I think the apostles did after he died. As in other writings of holy persons, the *Little Flowers of St. Francis*, for instance, eyes of faith and sight become confused. The



stories are "embroidered." We need to read them with faith, rather than belief.

Both Carroll and Collins suggest that ignorance of evolution is due to the literal interpretation of the scriptures. I would agree. Without being pejorative, I think that those who do interpret them literally have a medieval mindset, not one of the 21st century. It only leads to fear, lest the authority of the Bible be diminished by science. The Bible needs no defence, but I do think it needs to be interpreted differently from the way it has been in the past, and we need to embrace new scientific knowledge. To quote Bassam Shakhshiri, professor of chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, where Sean Carroll also teaches, "SCIENCE IS FUN".

Unless we become men and women of faith, we will be intimidated by the T.A. Morris of this world. But, if our faith be in God, rather than in any literal interpretation of the Bible—as mine was as a teenager—we need have no fear in proclaiming it to the world.

Michael Burslem is a member of St. George's Parish Guelph.
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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines ...

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

Note that our printer has changed, and with that, we must meet new deadlines.

Submissions ...

Articles – 900 words or less.
Letters to the Editor – 300 words or less.
Photos – high resolution, action pictures (people doing something) and name of photographer.

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

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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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.

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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 Shelburne and Mount Forest in the north and west.



Synod delegates Take note

The 138th Session of Niagara Synod is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 at 8:00 a.m. at St. Christopher's Parish Burlington. It will bring together representatives from some 94 parishes as well as from other groups and ministries serving within the diocese.

In preparation for Synod, the Diocese is sponsoring a series of Pre-Synod meetings where delegates will be provided with information about finances and other issues.

It is an opportunity to learn more about what will be on the

one day Synod agenda, to ask questions and to provide input before the formal presentations are considered at Synod itself.

Delegates are expected to attend one of the Pre-Synod meetings, which begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. on these dates at the indicated locations.

- **Wednesday, September 19**
St. George's Church,
99 Woolwich Street, Guelph
- **Thursday, September 20**
St. Matthew-on-the-Plains,
126 Plains Road East,
Burlington

- **Thursday, September 27**
St. John the Evangelist,
3428 Portage Road,
Niagara Falls
- **Tuesday, October 16**
Christ's Church Cathedral,
252 James Street North,
Hamilton
- **Thursday, October 18**
St. Andrew's Church,
156 Main Street West,
Grimby

What's been happening... *continued from page 4*

St George's Lowville

Patio Dedication

Bishop Michael Bird dedicated the renovated patio outside the south door of St. George's Lowville during a parish visit in July. Myrtle Freed gave



the project in memory of her brother Lyle Dales, who died earlier this year. Doris Dales (seated at right), Lyle's widow, was present for the special ceremony. *Photo: submitted by parish*

St. David's, Welland

Undies Sunday

The bishop raised his eyebrows and said, "Undies Sunday!" echoing Rector John Course of St. David's Church Welland who had just announced the upcoming event.

The rector, according to correspondent Beryl Martin, quickly assured the bishop that the congregation was not expected to attend worship in their underwear. Rather "Undies Sunday" is one of several designated Sundays when the congregation is encouraged to donate clothing to Welland's Hope Centre to assist those in need. Pajama Sunday, Sock Sunday and Bundle-up Sunday (mittens, gloves, toques, etc.) are other

special occasions when particular items of clothing are collected.

St. David's also sponsors a major food drive at Thanksgiving to help stock the cupboards at the Hope Centre and the Open Arms Mission in Welland.

"This is in addition to our weekly food basket and monthly luncheon served to about 60 people at the Hope Centre," reported Martin.

At the Patronal Festival worship, Bishop Michael Bird presented parishioner Linda Middleton with the Order of Niagara.

St. Christopher's, Burlington

Flag raising

Approximately 30 people gathered beneath the Canadian Rainbow flag on May 17 – International Day against Homophobia – to pray for equality and peace among all people. The parish also had a booth at the Halton Pride Day in June.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock



Bishop heads to Cuba

Cuba and Niagara are in a Companion Dioceses relationship.


The two dioceses hope to sign a covenant which would provide a guide for the next five years. The goal would be to form strong bonds of fellowship, find ways that Niagara and Cuba can share their journey and support each other's mission in the work of God's church.

Cuba's Bishop Griselda Delgado Del Carpio visited Niagara Diocese in April of this year, and visited several parishes (*Niagara Anglican*, Summer 2012).

Bishop Michael Bird of Niagara will lead a small delegation to Cuba from September 8-15, 2012.

Be a part of the Dream

Please help us build



The new St. Matthew's House Community Centre was destroyed by fire during construction.

OUR DREAM LIVES ON

The new community centre is urgently needed. It will be a major hub for


Seniors' Programs
The St. Matthew's House Seniors Program offers a community gathering place for seniors and serves nearly 1,000 breakfasts and over 2,200 lunches in a month.

Food Bank
A lifeline to over 2,600 people each month. Over 1,100 of those people are children. The food bank helps people who could otherwise go to bed hungry.

Friday Hot Lunches
The new centre will allow us to DOUBLE our capacity to serve a nutritious hot lunch to people in need of companionship and a meal.

And Much More...
We are currently evaluating options with our partners to determine which other programs the added space will accommodate.

Please give generously.



St. Matthew's House

Where Hope Lives

Send your tax receiptable donation to

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or give online at stmatthewshouse.ca

Photo courtesy of The Hamilton Spectator

BOOK REVIEW

Reclaiming the Message of Paul

The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary behind the Church's Conservative Icon, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Harper Collins, 2009)

ELEANOR JOHNSTON AND WAYNE FRASER

Thirteen of 27 books in the New Testament are Pauline Letters and half of Acts details Paul's conversion, missions, imprisonment and final journey to Rome. Most Christians assume that this follower of Jesus' Way, Paul of Tarsus, wrote all the letters attributed to him. Unfortunately, many of "Paul's" more widely-known instructions are appalling: women, be silent in the churches; slaves, obey your masters; wives, obey your husbands; Christians, be subject to authority. Borg and Crossan's most recent book, *The First Paul*, unravels the discrepancies in the Pauline letters and helps us discover the original, genuine teachings of this important Biblical figure.

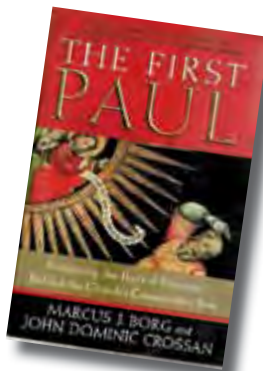
They agree with the majority of New Testament scholars that only seven letters -Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, Philippians and Philemon - were written by Paul

in the 50sCE. These seven, all written 20 years before the first gospel of Mark (70CE), are the oldest witness to the movement that became Christianity. Borg and Crossan label the writer of these authentic letters "the radical Paul," and seek to unearth the original message of his early prophetic voice.

The authors maintain that three other letters (Ephesians, Colossians and 2 Thessalonians) probably did not come from the pen of Paul, but were written a generation after his death. It was not uncommon for followers to attribute their writing to a leader. Borg and Crossan call these letters "the conservative Paul." Finally, they label "the reactionary Paul" as the person who wrote three pastoral letters (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) around 100CE. Chronologically, they present "Paul's" three distinct voices: radical, conservative and reactionary.

Borg and Crossan's point is that after Paul's death in the mid-60s, we can see a shift from his Christ-focused message to Rome's message. In other words, the letters of the genuine Paul reveal a radical message consistent with the teachings of Jesus: equality among all people before God and social justice

through non-violence. Jesus stood as the direct opposite of Roman imperial "peace through



violence." Shortly after the death of Paul, the Romans invaded Israel, destroyed its capital Jerusalem and tore down its temple. Unsurprisingly, later "Pauls" wrote more conservative, more reactionary interpretations of Jesus' message that diluted and made it more acceptable to Roman hierarchy and patriarchy. The first Paul's egalitarian message was all but lost by those writing in his name when Christians were being actively persecuted by Rome.

Paul's comments have been quoted often in the past 2000 years to justify slavery. However, Borg and Crossan reveal a different view. Paul's one page

letter to Philemon is a public encouragement for Philemon to recognize his slave Onesimus as "more than a slave, a beloved brother... both in the flesh and in the Lord," for "Philemon cannot keep... a Christian slave by claiming that—inside, spiritually, in our souls—we are all equal before God and Christ. The equality of liberation must be physical and social as well as spiritual and theological."

This authentic letter of Paul presented a radical stance in first-century Rome, but it "was swiftly and thoroughly sanitized into the conservative Paul of Colossians and Ephesians: 'Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling... as you obey Christ.'" This pseudo-Paul addresses slaves and owners, thereby depicting those roles as normal, and the ratio of advice for slaves to owners is four verses to one. In the later letter to Titus, mutual obligation between slaves and masters is completely removed: "Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters." No direct advice to slaves, just one single command. We "can see how the radical Paul of the certainly Pauline letters is transmuted first into the conservative Paul of the probably not... Pauline letters



and finally into the reactionary Paul of the certainly not Pauline letters."

Borg and Crossan demonstrate the same pattern with patriarchy. The authentic letters address men and women, husbands and wives, equally, with the same number of verses. In 1 Corinthians, for example, "the husband must give the wife what is due to her, and equally the wife must give the husband his due." In the later Colossians and Ephesians, likely not written by Paul, hierarchy is restored, and Christian gender equality is de-radicalized into Roman gender hierarchy: "Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church." Finally, in the reactionary letters to Timothy and Titus, at the turn of the first century, female leadership within the Christian assembly is absolutely forbidden, suggesting that it may have happened, but now must stop. Not only rejection of Roman hierarchy but also passion for equality is necessary for understanding Paul and Jesus. Justice and right(eous)ness

—See BOOK REVIEW page 11

People

Milestone

Congratulations to **Debbie Young**, Administrator of Payroll and Benefits for the Diocese of Niagara, who will celebrate her 25th anniversary of employment with Niagara Diocese on October 1.

Appointments by the Bishop

The Venerable **Lynne Marchant** has been appointed Director of Stewardship, on a part time basis. She continues with her ministry as Rector of St. John the Evangelist Niagara Falls, and Archdeacon of Brock. Beginning September 15, Canon **Frances Darlington** becomes interim pastor of Christ Church Flamborough.

The Reverend **Mark Gladding** submitted his resignation from St. Paul's Fort Erie and St. John's Ridgemount, effective September 14. He has accepted

a position in the Diocese of Toronto.

The Reverend **Deanne Patchett** resigned from St. George's Guelph and accepted a position as Assistant Curate at St. John the Evangelist Niagara Falls.

The Reverend **Javier Arias** has been appointed Rector of St. Luke's Hamilton (with Spanish congregation of San Gabriel) and Missioner to the Hispanic ministry in St. Catharines.

The Reverend **Donald Brown** accepted an appointment as Honorary Assistant at the Church of the Transfiguration St. Catharines.

The Reverend **Dana Rodgers** becomes an Honorary Assistant at St. John's Elora.

Lay Readers

Lay Reader's Licenses have been issued to the following:

James David Harding Gould, at St. Paul's Shelburne; **Dean Cormack** at Grace Church Waterdown; **David Shaw** (renewed) at St. Alban's Grand Valley.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the following and their families:

The Loat family on the death of **Gladys Loat**, on July 12, member of St. Thomas' St. Catharines, and widow of Canon **Christopher Loat**.

Vaughn Kohler and family upon the death of **Margaret Kohler**. Margaret was an active member of the Mothers' Union, and a parishioner of the Church of the Epiphany Oakville.

Canon **Margaret Murray** and family on the sudden death of her brother, **Gordon Gilbert**.

The Reverend **Marc**

Germaine, Honorary Assistant at St. John the Evangelist Hamilton, and his daughter **Monica**, on the death of his wife and her mother, **Karen Farrar**.

Congratulations

The Reverend **Aaron and Amy Orear** of St. Alban's Glen Williams, on the birth of their second son, **James Ronald**. Thomas is excited about his new brother and ready to help!

Carol Summers, faithful member of St. John's York, on being elected to the Canadian Anglican Cursillo Secretariat, one of the two members from Ontario.

The Reverend **Nancy Moffett** on her retirement as Associate Priest at Grace Church St. Catharines.

Happy 90th birthday to **Betty Nancekivell**, O.N., long time and faithful member of

St. Aidan's Oakville.

Hill King, O.N., a faithful and long time member of the Dunn Parish, who celebrated her 90th birthday in May.

The Reverend **Mary Ranger**, St. Mark's Orangeville, who celebrated her 25th Anniversary of Ordination on May 17.

Spring was celebration time at St. David's Welland:

Alice Fritz and Joanne Hudson celebrated their 100th birthdays;

Ernie and Alida Christie celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary;

Jim and Irene Venables celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary;

Bob and Bev Phillips celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

"Remember to pray for people and keep them in your thoughts."

Book Review

Continued from Page 10

constitute their radical gospel. The First Paul is a mere 225 pages, so sometimes the argument is too brief, leaving unanswered questions requiring further clarity. Nevertheless, they make the original Paul admirable and consistent as they demonstrate his message as an extension of Jesus' teaching of God's kingdom. Borg and Crossan conclude, "we see [Paul] as an appealing apostle of Jesus whose vision of life 'in Christ'—one of his favorite phrases—is remarkably faithful to the message and vision of Jesus himself... Paul emerges as a faithful apostle of the radical Jesus who became his Lord."

Eleanor Johnston and Wayne Fraser can be reached at eleanorjohnston@gmail.com

Events in the Diocese of Niagara

Music Series at St. Luke's Burlington

The 2012-2013 series consists of four events

Saturday September 29

Oktoberfest with the Cottonwood Brass

Saturday November 17

A Bluegrass Night with the Rhyme and Reason

Saturday January 26

Pizzazz with the Paradigm Trio

Saturday March 16

A Dixieland Night with the Vic Lawrence Dixieland Six.

Events include dinner and cash bar. Tickets: \$35.00 each or subscribe to all four for \$100.00 a savings of \$40.00. Brochure with ticket order form is available by e-mailing keithanita@sympatico.ca. To reserve tickets call 905-632-2918 or e-mail blennard@cogeco.ca

Peace, Love and Paul McCartney

Saturday, September 22

Pasta dinner at 7:00 p.m. – Show at 8:00 p.m.

St. Stephen-on-the-Mount Church Centre, 625 Concession St., Hamilton (beside Juravinski Hospital)

An evening of the music of the Beatles, performed by Yuri Poole of the McCartney years. Cash bar and prizes. Tickets or information, contact Debbie at 905-574-0196 or Beverly at 905-385-8359

For a full listing of events, visit www.niagara.anglican.ca/events

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.

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We are inviting new voices to join us for our 2012-2013 concert season. For audition information – and to see, hear and learn more about us – please visit www.johnlaingsingers.com.

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Bishop's Diploma Course

This program provides an opportunity for lay people to grow in their commitment to Christ and Christ's Church through a deepening of faith. This fall will feature an **eight-week course on Liturgy**. Registration is held on first evening; dates indicated below.

Attend the parish centre of your choice. Registration fee: \$35 (includes sessions plus text)

Area	Parish Centre	Start Date
Burlington	St. Luke	September 10 - 7:30pm
Jordan	St. John	September 19 - 2:30pm
St. Catharines	St. Columba	September 12 - 7:00pm

For further information contact Jane Wyse at 905-527-1316 ext. 420 or jane.wyse@niagara.anglican.ca

HOLLIStorial**Personal thoughts on a public expression**

We asked for your opinions about the Anglican publications across Canada.

You responded.

Now, as Publishers and Editors, maybe hopefully we can deliver, but we cannot do it alone; we need your input and support at many levels.

Of the 4,186 people who completed the Readership Survey earlier this year, 304 or 7.26% came from Niagara Diocese. There are 23 diocesan publications, plus the national paper, The Anglican Journal, across our country.

You indicated that your top four preferred content categories for the *Niagara Anglican* are local news, opinions or reflections, profiles of church personalities and letters to the Editor. Your first choices echo our goals for the paper—to be “a gathering

place” to share news, and “a sounding board” where different ideas and opinions can be expressed in love within our Christian community.

You also reaffirmed our commitment to reach beyond where we are and engage with other people. As you were confirming the value of hearing from young people, they at their Youth Synod unanimously passed a motion asking young people to read the *Niagara Anglican* monthly, and suggested that the Editor encourage the younger members of the church to write for our Diocesan paper. Elsewhere in this issue I strongly endorse their motion. I look forward to receiving submissions from the youth so we can open up an avenue to hear from them about issues that they face in the world, especially how their faith impacts upon

their well being as citizens and Christians in a secular society.

In addition to the youth, through the pages of this paper we, as God’s church, need to reach out to other adults and invite them to become regular readers. You can share your copy with them or direct them to our website, and parishes are reminded to make certain that all the families on their parish lists are on the *Niagara Anglican* mailing list (see contact numbers on page 8).

I am encouraged by the 100 people or 32.8% of respondents who added a comment to their survey. I have read them several times and hope to have the paper reflect those that will improve the mission and presence of the *Niagara Anglican*. As you know, one cannot satisfy all the people all the time, but we can give it a

try -within reason. Some people asked questions or made statements to which I would like to respond on a personal individual level. Unfortunately, they did not provide their contact information. However for the several who did, I have contacted them by email (no phone numbers or other information was given).

If you want to discuss your comments or suggestions, please contact me and we can dialogue.

When I learned that 2.8% of our total circulation completed the Readership Survey, I asked, “where are the 97.2%?” My colleagues at our Editors’ conference, where we were introduced to the findings of the survey, reassured me that the returns were more than double what researchers expect from similar surveys, and the findings were significant as a portrait of the

specific community surveyed.

Perhaps the response and results are indicative not only of the readership of the paper, but of the Church generally. If so, it is not only encouraging, but also challenging.

Again, thank you for taking your time to provide us with valuable feedback, gratitude, suggestions, observations and encouragement regarding our *Niagara Anglican*.

The future looms before us and what we write on the pages of this paper represents not only our medium and message but also the God/Jesus who is the embodiment of both the message and the medium.

Contact Hollis Hiscock at editor@niagara.anglican.ca

Would you like to come to church with me?

BRIAN GALLIGAN

Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break (Luke 5:5-6).

Do you ever feel like Simon? Have you been trying to attract more people to join the church but feel exasperated because you’ve had no success? Jesus tells us not to lose heart, we are to keep on trying no matter what, and He will help us find a way to bring in an abundant catch.

Perhaps, as in the passage from Luke, you’ve just been fishing in the wrong place, at the wrong time, using the wrong method. Sometimes, when we think nothing is working we brainstorm the problem and develop complicated strategies to tackle the issue: we may try changing the liturgy, changing the music, posting ads in the paper or providing coffee and donuts before the services. No doubt these and other techniques have, on occasion, met with some degree of success.

But what do we do if nothing seems to work? Do we give up or do we agree to put out into the lake yet again with our nets?

Jesus calls us to try and try again, even if we’ve tried before with no success. One of the simplest things you can do, and because it is so simple it doesn’t even get considered by some, is to kindly offer a personal invitation to someone you know, to come to church with you. What could be easier than that?

This is basic evangelism and is the method that the “Back to Church Sunday” initiative has employed each year with great success since 2004, when it was first launched in Manchester, UK. It is now the largest single local-church invitational initiative in the world. Each year a growing number of churches, across many denominations worldwide, register their intention to get involved. The free on-line registration helps UK organizers track the growing worldwide success of the initiative, so please register: at www.backtochurch.co.uk/

Speaking in June 2012, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams endorsed church participation, “Back to Church Sunday is not just a short-term tactic, but part of a long term strategy. It’s part of a bit of forward thinking that builds on intelligent analysis of what is there in communities

and how we might be able to make that work transformingly for the sake of the Gospel and for the Kingdom of God.”

This year Back to Church Sunday will take place on September 30 throughout the world. (September 16 in the U.S.) Last year in the U.S. more than 7,600 churches, representing 34 denominations, participated, twice the number of the previous year. An estimated 250,000 visitors accepted their personal invitation from a friend, colleague or family member to come to church. Churches reported an average 25 percent increase in attendance.

I urge you to become a Back to Church Sunday “Champion” for your church and to encourage others to embrace the power of that simple invitation “Would you like to come to church with me?”

Excellent resources are available on-line to help you plan, including this PowerPoint presentation prepared by Toronto Diocese, available at www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/congregational-growth/welcoming-ministry/back-to-church-sunday/

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News from the Niagara Anglican**Printer change**

Thank you to the people at Signal Star in Godrich, ON, for their services as our printer over many years.

Welcome to Webnews Printing Inc, North York, ON, who begins as our new printer with the September 2012 paper.

Thanks to our donors

A huge expression of our appreciation goes to the 905 subscribers of the *Niagara Anglican* who contributed \$35,581.00 during the 2011 Anglican Journal Appeal. The funds raised are shared 50/50 between the *Niagara Anglican* and the *Anglican Journal* national paper. Both share expenses and management fees.

This joint fundraising campaign is in its 19th year.

Your generosity enables both papers to continue their ministry of sharing news and views within the Canadian Church and beyond.

Circulation

The *Niagara Anglican* has the fourth largest circulation among the 23 Anglican diocesan papers in Canada after Toronto, Newfoundland-Labrador and Huron dioceses.

Content

For the nine papers published from October 2011 to Summer 2012, the *Niagara Anglican* printed 100 pages, 208 articles and 96 photographs.

The articles included 54 from parishes, 48 from groups and columnists, and 39 from the diocese, 6 letters to the Editor, 7 related to youth, 17 associated with Christmas, 16 about the Diocesan Synod and its work, 6 In Conversation interviews, 6 People columns, 4 Easter stories as well as 5 miscellaneous items (book review, laughter, tweet, Bible quotes).