

In 2014, may God give light to us ... and guide us into the way of peace (*Luke 1:79*)

2014  
Happy New Year!



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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

JANUARY 2014

“Just in case you think we have come to the end of the road, let me remind you that immediately after the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus follows that up with the miracle of walking on water and so I look forward to seeing what that miracle looks like, in your parish, as I make my visits and as we engage in this ministry together, in the year that is to come.”

—Bishop Michael Bird, Charge to Synod

## Bishop's Charge to Synod

Bishop Michael Bird ended his charge to the 139th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara with the words to the left. The *Niagara Anglican* thought we should begin with the ending. Now continue reading the remainder of an edited version of his address to the 215 members of Synod and through them and other media to the people of Niagara Diocese and the wider community. For the full text of the Bishop's charge, go to the diocesan website, [www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca). It includes much more than our abbreviated version.

This year we are particularly focusing upon and celebrating the partners whom God has given us as we engage in God's mission for the world.

*When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. (John 6:5-10)*

Countless sermons have been preached on the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, a story that appears in one form or another in all four gospels. There are so many things one could focus upon when reflecting

upon this passage, the mountain top experience and the echoes in this story of others throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. There is Jesus' desire to feed the hungry and to nourish those who follow him. Of course it is difficult for us to hear these words without connecting them to the Eucharist, which will continue to unfold throughout this Synod, as we too take bread and give thanks, standing together as members of the body of Christ around the table of our Lord.

As we begin this Synod today I want to think for just a minute about Jesus' question to Philip about the resources they had at hand: "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" The question wasn't, "Are we able?" or "Do you think we should?"

It was a question that presupposed an affirmative and proactive answer. It was a challenge and commission to seek

—See *BISHOP'S CHARGE* Page 4



Bishop Michael delivers his charge at the beginning of Synod, held in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

## Has Christ been divided?

Theme for special week of prayer

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Canadians have prepared material for the third time in the 106 year history of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU). "Has Christ been divided?" based on 1 Corinthians 1:13, is the theme for this year's focus.

"Every year Christians gather to pray together across denominational boundaries—and every year a different country produces resources to be used around the world," wrote Anglican Church of Canada writer Jesse Hair.

Hair quoted General Synod's coordinator for ecumenical relations Bruce Myers: "It tries to offer a glimpse not just of the diversity of the church, but also the diversity of humanity."

According to Niagara's Ecumenical Officer Canon Sharyn Hall the materials developed this year for WPCU "reflect our Canadian Christian context." Resources are available from the Canadian Council of Churches ([www.councilofchurches.ca](http://www.councilofchurches.ca)).

The Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Interchurch Committee (LARC), writes Hall, encourages neighbouring parishes of all denominations to mark the Week of Prayer by using or adapting the Canadian materials for local events.

LARC suggests joint worship, a pulpit exchange, a shared church school party, a social service project or social gatherings.

In 2014, WPCU is being celebrated around the globe from January 18 to 25.



## Christ's Church Cathedral · Diocese of Niagara

SUNDAYS 8:30 am & 10:30 am EUCHARIST • MONDAY-FRIDAY 12:15 pm & TUESDAYS 7:30 am

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### JANUARY 12, 2014 • THE OCTAVE OF EPIPHANY

- 8:30 am Said Eucharist
- 10:30 am Procession and Choral Eucharist
- 4:00 pm Organ Recital - DAS BACH V  
Michael Bloss, organ
- 4:30 pm A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmastide  
The Cathedral Choir

### FEBRUARY 2, 2014 • THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS

- 8:30 am Said Eucharist
- 10:30 am Procession and Choral Eucharist
- 4:00 pm Organ Recital - DAS BACH VI  
Michael Bloss, organist
- 4:30 pm A service of Choral Evensong  
Guests: The Choir of St. John's, Elora; Noel Edison, Director of Music, and Canon Robert Hulse, Rector Emeritus

### SUNDAYS

- 8:30 am Said Eucharist
- 10:30 am Choral Eucharist  
sung by the Cathedral Choir
- 9:45 am Lectio Divina  
an ancient practice of sacred reading  
Every Sunday 9:45-10:15 am

## Synod 2013

## Cuba and Niagara sign covenant

The Bishops of Niagara and Cuba signed a covenant formalizing their relationship as companion dioceses within the Companion Diocese Program of the Anglican Communion.

In his charge to the November Niagara Synod, Bishop Michael highlighted the relationship: "At the beginning of our time together, I want to celebrate our global partnerships, ecumenically and in the world-wide Anglican Communion. As a special instance of those partnerships, I want to particularly welcome Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio from our companion diocese, Cuba, along with her development officer Dr. José Antonio Bringas Linares. Bishop Griselda has ushered into her diocese a bold new vision and approach to ministry development by equipping lay leaders with skills to come alongside God's work in their communities. José is coordinating much of this work, with the support of PWRDF and other partners, and

I am filled with admiration for the work they are undertaking in Cuba. We are so honoured and proud to be your partners in Christ and delighted to have you both with us at this Synod."

Later at Synod, Cuban Bishop Griselda told delegates how important it is for the two dioceses to walk together in friendship and to sustain "ourselves in spirituality." She emphasized the vision of churches working jointly with projects, and noted especially how the two dioceses are sponsoring projects of social development in Cuba. Working together enhances our circles, she reiterated.

The Companion Diocese Relationship Covenant spells out how Cuba and Niagara "might come to know, respect and pray for each other and accompany each other in our mission to be a living testimony of God's love."

Effective for five years and renewable, the covenant calls for people in both dioceses to pray, visit, share information



**Bishop Griselda and Bishop Michael sign the covenant on behalf of their own diocese. The Reverend Bill Mous witnessed the signing.**

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

and encourage "participation in projects in each diocese." This is seen as a means to "share our gifts, our talents and insights to enable us to further our mission to know and accompany each other in our journey of faith and to learn of each other's contexts, visions and priorities."

Companionship Sunday will be the closest to the 5th of May each year, with parishes in both dioceses being asked to celebrate the relationship. Regular annual reviews and an evaluation will be held in 2018, the final year of the covenant.

## More money for wider church: 2014 budget

HOLLIS HISCOCK

"The Diocese is continuing the trend of the last few years towards improved financial health!" Finance Budget subcommittee Chair Andrew Clinkard told delegates at the 139th Niagara Synod.

Anticipating a surplus in 2014, the Chair said that the budget reflects recommendations arising from four pre-synod meetings and consultation with other diocesan stakeholders. These include increasing financial support for national endeavours, more funding for vision initiatives, controlling administrative cost increases, attaining a cash flow break-even budget, continuing to reduce debt and past deficit plus reducing DMM (Diocesan Mission and Ministry).

The budget predicts modest growth in employment and parish ministry support from the 2013 budgeted amount to 2015, while the support of Cathedral Place property will increase at a much faster rate, according to the budget forecast. Clinkard



**Dean Dunbar, Melanie Turner and the Reverend Pauline Head from St. James Fergus participated in the budget process.**

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

added the small category "monies allocated to Programs and Vision Initiatives is anticipated to increase in percentage terms significantly over the three years in question."

Cathedral Place building expenses, continued Clinkard, "represent approximately 10% of total Diocesan expenses, and are anticipated to grow by 19% from 2013 to 2015. The largest is building, staff and maintenance; followed by repairs and renovations; and then utilities and insurance."

In addition to being "the seat of the Bishop and the diocesan home for thousands of Anglicans in Niagara," he pointed out that Cathedral Place is also "home for Diocesan staff, numerous committees, as well as Christ's Church Cathedral Parish."

"Diocesan Program staff provide support and encouragement, leadership, guidance and practical services which free up clergy to do the work God is calling them to do: to passionately follow Christ, pursue excellence, practice justice and

grow," Clinkard explained in his presentation. In overall terms, employment and ministry support related expenses are estimated to increase by 4.3% (2013 through 2015), he said.

He pointed out to Synod delegates "congregations regularly consult with Diocesan staff seeking assistance on matters ranging from negotiating bank loans to funding a solar panel project (Grace Church Milton), to employment, insurance, cemetery and investment information."

Diocesan Administration is expected to grow by 7% over three years, the Chair anticipated. This includes a variety of activities, including support for divinity students, ordination retreats, clergy conferences, employee assistance, archives, training (staff, clergy, and volunteers), auditing, legal and bank charges, office and equipment, police checks, safe church, web site and the *Niagara Anglican*.

Modelling Jesus, who encouraged his followers to share with people in need, Niagara diocese

"supports institutions and causes, goal-oriented projects and many other ministries of justice and compassion," he said, including Hands Across Niagara, Canterbury Hills, Refugee support and PWRDF.

"The second largest apportionment of money in the Diocese's annual budget goes beyond Niagara, including General and Provincial Synod, OPCOTE (Ontario Provincial Commission on Theological Education), the Council of the North and our companion diocese of Cuba," reported Clinkard.

He noted, "Niagara has proposed to increase the funds allocated to General Synod from \$600,000, where it has stood for a number of years, to \$625,000 in 2014."

The pooled resources for the 2014 budget come from a number of sources: DMM (in excess of 90% of the Diocese's revenue is derived from parish contributions) represents the largest amount, followed by

**HOLLIS**Storial

# How-w-w-DEE-E-E-E! ... Partners!

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Always wanted to write How-w-w-DEE-E-E-E! ... Partners! in an Anglican publication.

Never had the opportunity until Niagara's recent synod.

You may recognise "How-w-w-DEE-E-E-E!" as the signature greeting of Minnie Pearl, the American comedian who entertained at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry for over half a century. She enthusiastically hollered this greeting at the beginning of her performances.

I added "Partners" because I was very impressed with our Synod theme: "Partnership in God's World ... Act Boldly!" It focused on parishes telling about their experiences working with other churches and community groups to make the world a better place.

Minnie also assured her audiences, "I'm jes' so proud to be here!"

Maybe not the best example of the "Queen's good English", but there is no mistaking her sentiment. She was just happy being there; entertaining people... doing what she did best. It is an attitude we all need to embrace if we are going to be successful in this age of indispensable cooperation.

Human beings, especially Christians, should "jes" be proud to be anywhere with other religions and community groups, serving side by side in helping God's people, regardless of their values or behaviour.

Partnering is not a new phenomenon.

It probably began when God realized being alone was not the epitome of relationships. So, scooping a handful, more or less, of gravel from the recently constructed earth, God potted a human for a partner. An ancient joke goes ... God created man, looked at him and said, "I can do better," and made woman.



▲ Valerie Acott from St. John's St. Catharines and Lou Campbell from St. Saviour the Brock Memorial Church Queenston displayed posters listing the many partners of diocesan parishes.

▼ Delegates processed from Liuna Station, where brunch was served, to Christ's Church Cathedral where Synod was held.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock



If God needed partners to achieve utopia, human beings need them more. History attests to it... confirmed through countless evolutions and revolutions; illustrating that working together can be more effective and productive than going it alone.

The Christian churches hopped on the partnership band

wagon, even passed a motion: "not to do separately what we can do together."

Max Warren shocked attendees at the 1964 Toronto Anglican Congress, saying, the church exists for those who are outside the church. True then ... truer today!

Budget Chair Andrew Clinkard echoed this pragma-

atism. While presenting the 2014 Synod budget, he reminded delegates, "Together, we can do infinitely more than we would otherwise be able to accomplish on our own."

The Bible I consulted mentioned "partner(s)" only three times. Most notably, when their boats could not hold their great catch of fish, the disciples called their partners in their boats nearby to share their bounty. (Luke 5:1-11)

Nonetheless, partnering is a common Biblical theme. Bishop Michael noted in his charge: the feeding of the 5,000 would have been a gastronomic nightmare had Jesus not partnered with the kid, who brought his brown bag lunch to the teach-in.

Twentieth century hymn writer Tom Colvin explained partnerships this way, "Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve, the neighbours we have from you." (*Common Praise* #504)

People respond every day, especially during major crises like the recent typhoon devastation in the Philippines.

We should laud the Canadian Government's commitment to

match donations contributed to recognized charities. Helen and I were pleased to have our contribution doubled.

In preparation for Synod, parishes were requested to name up to five churches or service groups with whom they partnered. The results were staggering. Approximately 85 parishes identified over 300 partners with whom they are producing amazing results, enhancing people's lives throughout southwestern Ontario and elsewhere.

Several parishes made presentations, describing how they cultivated partnerships to fulfill local needs. These included stories about food and clothing security, transportation problems, community dinners, children's programs and seniors' services. Each began small by identifying a specific need, then expanded as responses multiplied and finally grew substantially when churches and service groups opted to partner, adopt and support programs and projects.

Each month the Niagara Anglican publishes stories about groups pooling their resources and talents to assist people coping in our challenging world. This issue highlights how one parish partnered with an airline to bring medical supplies to the Dominican Republic and how another is partnering with a developer to provide services and residences for seniors.

"How-w-w-DEE-E-E-E! ... Partners, I'm jes' so proud to be here" could be our greeting for action as we enter the uncharted waters of 2014. Or if you prefer, use similar words from Jesus, "whatever you do for the least of these (people), you do it to me." (Matthew 25:45)

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## NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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## Synod 2013

## Bishop's Charge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out those resources and to make something happen.

I also want to think about Philip's defeatist and less than optimistic response to the question: "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." We cannot be sure of the sentiment that was being expressed by Philip on that day, but given the enormity of the situation he could have been excused if it sounded more like this: "It would take me six months to pay for this crowd just to have something to eat... there is no way we can provide for them... we don't have the resources... the situation is hopeless!" This morning I want to consider how many times we have uttered these words or words like them... in our own lives, our parish meetings, our diocesan councils... how many times have we given in to the temptation to accept and be satisfied with the fallacy, the myth, the lack of faith that expresses itself in the belief that as Anglicans we are destined to be a dying and a decline-ridden church... for, my friends, nothing could be further from the truth.

Finally I particularly want to reflect upon the young boy in the story who is brought forward by Andrew and who is almost always overlooked when this gospel is read and commented on. It is my understanding that children in the ancient world had little or no status in society and yet, time and time again, Jesus' ministry embraced the one who is unexpected, the least likely, and the innovative, out-of-the box solution. In this passage the resources came from one who had so little; nothing more than five loaves and two fish. In the end, however, all that was required was a disciple who believed that all that we need has already been provided; that our God is already active in the world and in the lives of people everywhere and that we are called to make those connections and let God do the rest.

On her website "Dancing with the Word" (DancingWithTheWord.com) and in response to our gospel reading today, Lutheran Pastor Janet Hunt recounts this won-

derful story that seems perfect for us today:

*"Several years ago I served on a bishop's staff. It was early on the Friday morning of the first Synod Assembly he would preside over. For such gatherings one always wants things to go smoothly, but never more than the first one. The evening before, we had been out to dinner with staff and officers. The meal was cut short because of the terrible storms that blew through. When the restaurant lost power we knew*

*my pajamas and smiling to myself as I listened. I assured him that I was certain Augustana College (the site for our Assembly) had everything well in hand—but I promised I would get over there early to be sure. Sure enough when I arrived a little before seven o'clock the lights were on, although our hosts told us they were just minutes from renting a refrigerated truck to preserve the food waiting to be served. In the end, 700 Lutherans were fed in the usual way that week-end—having*



Joyful worship included clapping along with the singing during Synod.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

*it was time to call it a night. As I drove home the evidence of the storm was all around me. Whole oak trees had been pulled up by their roots. When I arrived home I discovered I was also without power. I was certainly grateful when I heard it click on at 1:00 a.m. but a few hours later I found myself in the basement hard at work with a shop vac.*

*It was still very early when I ran upstairs to pick up a ringing telephone. It was our bishop calling. Apparently at his hotel they were still without power. It would probably have been a sleepless night for him anyway, but this really gave him something to focus his anxiety on. He spoke aloud of 700 Lutherans who would be driving into town in a few hours and he wondered then about how we were going to feed them if there was no power. He had already worked out an answer to his wondering, though, for in his next breath he suggested that in the next couple of hours I call every Lutheran church in town and ask them to put out a call for charcoal grills. "We'll set them up on the football field," he said, "and we'll make sure everyone is fed."*

*I can still remember standing in*

*no idea how close they came to being part of a miracle much like the one those who first followed Jesus experienced so long ago."*

As she concludes her commentary Janet Hunt asks this question: In a crowd of 5000 plus, I wonder how many even recognized the miracle that was happening right before their eyes? What a wonderful question! And I want to ask you that same question as we begin our Synod here this morning. In fact, I want to ask every parish and every member in the Diocese this question: Do you recognize the miracle of God's transforming work in the ministries we are engaging in together, in the connections we are making, in the partnerships we are forming and in the loaves and fishes that we are bringing forth in every corner of the Diocese and beyond? Will you see the miracles happening in our midst over the next two days?

I want to say to you, as emphatically as I can, that I am seeing this wherever I go. I see God transforming us, overwhelmingly, in the reports of

the convening circular, on every page of the *Niagara Anglican*, on our Facebook page and through our Twitter feed. I see it on parish websites and Sunday bulletins, I see it in the creative, moving and well-planned parish liturgies that I preside at, and just as importantly, in the questions and the profound comments I am hearing as I engage parishioners in the coffee hour afterwards. I see it in the shift that is happening and has

the rectory that we had lived in some 29 years ago, just how much life in ordained ministry has changed. I went to that parish with clear expectations about my role and about the work that would consume my days. There was no social media or Fresh Expressions to envision and the people who made up the three towns I served all belonged to one denomination or another. The phrase "spiritual but not religious" was unknown to me in those days. It wasn't all peaches and cream, however. I did have to do battle with an ancient Gestetner each week and I always had more ink on my hands and clothes, than I did on the paper.

To the clergy and licensed lay workers of the diocese, I want to say how much I admire the work you are doing in these dramatically changing times. You inspire and encourage me and I am so grateful for the passion you continue to have for the work we share in as we proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in this generation.

I am also grateful that so many of you have participated in diocesan indaba gatherings around liturgy. These indaba gatherings have given us an amazing opportunity for building new relationships and understanding within this diverse community of ours.

I know that there is a cost to each one of you in ordained ministry, both physically and spiritually, and I want you to know that I understand this, that I experience it myself and I am concerned and committed to the practice of supporting and assisting one another in every way possible. God bless each and every one of you!

We have some immediate challenges to set our sights on in the coming year and I want to say a few words about the issues that I believe have a significant impact upon us as a diocesan family:

*(Editor's note: Here the Bishop listed the immediate challenges. Elsewhere in the Niagara Anglican, we have highlighted the Bishop's words, and, where appropriate, excerpts from the relevant committee reports and decisions or actions taken by the Diocesan Synod).*

—See BISHOP'S CHARGE Page 5

Synod 2013

# Bishop's Charge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- *Canterbury Hills Conference Centre and Camp: page 6*
- *Hands Across Niagara: page 8*
- *Cathedral Place: page 8*
- *Synod Office restructuring: page 10*
- *Governance Task Force : page 10*
- *Two matters for Synod Council: page 10*

In closing I want say that it is my hope that you have come to this Synod with the intention of entering fully into this great celebration of all the many ways that the transforming presence of the risen Christ is inspiring us to go out to the world. I hope we will acknowledge and rejoice in the miracle that is right

before our very eyes, that God has already provided all that we need to make the connections and form the partnerships that will be required to proclaim this gospel of hope and love to the people God is calling us to serve. *Just in case you think we have come to the end of the road, let me remind you that immediately*

*after the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus follows that up with the miracle of walking on water and so I look forward to seeing what that miracle looks like in your parish, as I make my visits and as we engage in this ministry together, in the year that is to come.*

# More money for wider church in Synod budget

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Hands Across Niagara, investments and interest, sundry (investment, insurance and administrative fees as well as any other unplanned relief received), disestablished parish proceeds (properties surplus to the Diocese's needs that have been sold) and bequests or gifts, said the budget chair.

Niagara 2014 budget predicts revenues of slightly more than \$3.4 million dollars and expenses of around \$3.3 mil-

lion. After expending \$86,000 ("net non-operating use of surplus/restricted funds"), the cash surplus available should be \$13,312, predicted the budget Chair.

"The budget we are asking you to support represents the middle way between those seemingly divergent points of view we talked about at the start of the presentation," was the challenge presented to the Synod delegates by the budget presenters.

Synod passed the budget unanimously.

# Walking on water grants coming

HOLLIS HISCOCK

If you have a Walking On Water (WOW) idea, you may soon be able to obtain a grant to make it a reality.

During the fall pre-synod meetings, people were asked to dream about their values and priorities, according to a presentation by Canon Christyn Perkons and the Reverend Bill Mous at the 139th Niagara Synod.

Based on the suggestions, the Bishop recommended and Synod Council approved the WOW proposal.

The grants, varying in amounts up to \$20,000, will provide seed money to turn "dreams for ministry into vibrant, vital, vision-centred ministry", the duo explained.

They told Synod delegates "the Bishop's hope is to create a simple application process with a fast turnaround designed to enable us to quickly launch new ministry ideas."

WOW could be operational, with a first call for applications, within the next several months.

"This is an exciting time for our diocese; an energizing time to dream dreams and to make

those dreams a reality through WOW grants," Perkons and Mous concluded.

For more information, contact the Reverend Bill Mous at 905-527-1316 ext. 330 or bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca.



Terry Gillin's "Scattered Seeds" returns next issue.

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 March 2014 – January 25  
 April 2014 – February 25  
 May 2014 – March 25

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**Original cartoons or art** – contact the Editor  
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## Synod 2013

## Challenge One: Canterbury Hills Conference Centre and Camp

### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

“Canterbury Hills Conference Centre and Camp, a separate entity from the Diocese since 2000, has run a deficit for the past five years. Summer Camp registrations have decreased dramatically despite efforts at broader marketing. And despite concerted attempts to increase bookings at Bagnall Lodge, Bothwell House and the cabins, rental income is down. At the same time, the facilities are aging and maintenance has been restricted to absolute musts which has left all of the structures tired, worn and in need of renovation. The accumulated results are dismal.

While the Canterbury Hills

Board has been keeping Synod Council apprised of operational losses and their work to address the financial issues, I feel strongly that I need to address this issue with you, the members of Synod. To my dismay, the current receivables for Canterbury Hills are at an all time high of over \$400,000. Synod Council recently received an *in camera* proposal from the Canterbury Hills Board of Directors that may allow us to address this deficit. While I cannot disclose any details at this point, I am comfortable assuring Synod that the burden of this large deficit is likely to be addressed by mid-winter. In light of the proposal, Synod Council voted to continue carrying the deficit for the time being. The Canterbury Hills

Board is working closely with diocesan leaders to address the deficit, while at the same time the Board is committed to re-imagining their mission and programs to sustainably meet our shared goals.”

### Canterbury Hills Board Chair Greg Murray wrote in his report ...

“This past summer saw another very successful camping season unfold—there were six residential camping sessions and seven day camp sessions. Most sessions ran at or near capacity... blended with the regular campers are campers sponsored by various community agencies: St. Matthew’s House, Reach for the Rainbow, Children’s Aid

### Canterbury Hills



Societies and Angel Tree.

For the Conference Centre the past year of operations has been very challenging. The greatest challenge is financial. Over the past few years the gap between revenues and expenditures has grown to become a major concern. The Board is working closely with the Diocese to address this issue.

The second challenge with the Conference Centre is that the facility is showing its age in many ways. It is an increasing challenge to keep all the building systems operating properly and to stay on top of needed maintenance and repairs.

It is important to recognize the staff and the many volunteers who believe in the role of Canterbury in shaping lives and living out the mission of the Diocese. It is their work that ultimately makes a difference to the people using Canterbury Hills.”

It is important to recognize the staff and the many volunteers who believe in the role of Canterbury in shaping lives and living out the mission of the Diocese. It is their work that ultimately makes a difference to the people using Canterbury Hills.”

### Synod action ...

No formal motion was presented. The report was received. Synod Council continues to work on this challenge.

## Storytelling can change the world

### HOLLIS HISCOCK

“You are all in the story business; you know that stories make us real,” Judy Maddren reminded delegates at the 139th Niagara Diocesan Synod, where she was the luncheon’s keynote speaker.

The former CBC World Report host, who lived her early years in Hamilton and Grimsby, said “CBC gave me insights into what makes news... the church has given me insights into the human race.”

As a young person, intrigued with “using language to create pictures,” she contacted CBC regarding “education needed for a broadcasting job.” Eventually she received a letter: “Dear Miss Maddren: Thank you for your letter enquiring about becoming a broadcaster. We have many talented gentlemen who do that work.”

After university, she became a researcher in CBC Radio’s Consumer Affairs Department. When CBC decided “perhaps women could do a decent job as announcers,” she was the third female staff announcer hired (1976). She hosted World Report from 1993 to 2009. Now she operates her own business Soundportraits, recording personal memoirs in an interview

format.

She cited two important experiences at CBC. She produced readings of Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* across Canada, raising money for worthy causes and charities. These public readings enabled listeners to put a face on a radio voice and were a way “to connect radio people with their communities.”

The other involved serving as CBC Broadcast Language Advisor, which showed the importance of language: “Unless we are careful... we may not be clear about what we want to say.” She said, “In church, hearing the prayers for ‘men’, I truly thought it was only the older guys in the suits who are the ones who matter. Not me, a girl-child.”

She commended Niagara Synod for “focusing on community partnerships... with a variety of agencies and churches.”

The word partnership, she noted, has a “base word of *par* – equal” and “at the core” partnership works.

She prefers overlapping rather than expanding circles. That way as we “ask questions, and hear the stories of people in other circles, we gain empathy and energy,” she stressed.

Citing the importance of partnership she urged people to be



“present outside the church.” She warned, “the more we ‘pull in to our own circle’ the less likely it is we will pull others in.”

“I believe it is stories that help us connect,” she reiterated.

She said every life is remarkable and told Elinor’s story to illustrate.

“Born in Scotland, Elinor met the love of her life in the forces. They married and moved to Canada where they raised three children. Later, when she was still a fairly young woman, and the children had grown and gone, she suffered a stroke that paralyzed her on one side and

### Judy Maddren

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

took away her ability to speak. Well, Elinor was remarkable because she never lost her sense of humour, and she learned to walk again and to talk, albeit slowly. A light shone from her. When I asked her what she had learned from her life, she said “Never give up! Never give up!”

Maddren described the newsroom as “knee-deep in good stories,” but the challenge was “to understand the impact of those stories, because we had no reference to real people and how a

particular issue affected their lives and ours.”

“The stories make it possible for us to relate to others as people... not as a number,” she said, only then “can we start to understand what they are experiencing.”

In some hospitals, she said, the family of the person being treated is asked to write a biography. It is then attached to the clipboard at the end of the bed. Each care provider is required to read the stories, to make the patients more real, not just bodies in beds.

The same is true of Bible readings. She said, “there we hear about real people, the challenges they faced and how they got through. Jesus is famous for telling a story in answer to a question.”

“Our stories give meaning to our lives and how we live them. And often they help others get closer to us,” she continued.

She suggested delegates ask others about their stories and tell their own stories. She said there people can find common ground and begin working together.

“As Jesus has shown us, storytelling can change the world,” she concluded.

The Synod luncheon was held at Liuna Station Hamilton.

Synod 2013

# Moments to remember from 2013 Synod



▲ Bishop Michael celebrated his birthday at Synod with cupcakes for everyone. On each cupcake was a small pennant bearing the Cuban flag on one side and Canada's on the other.

▼ Christie Boychuk, Leslie Kennedy and Pat Davis from St. James and St Brendan Port Colbourne checking reports about the 139th Niagara Synod on Twitter and Facebook.



▲ Synod delegates enjoyed a Cuban themed luncheon.



▲ The Reverend Javier Arias presented Bishop Griselda with a cheque from the Hispanic Ministry Hamilton. The money will help fund families in Cuba to raise their own vegetables and fruit to sell locally.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

## Book Review

### “I do not wish to anger you by what I write, although ...”

CONNIE PHILLIPSON

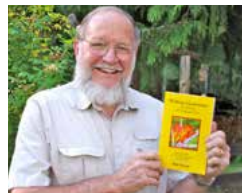
**Without Guarantee: In Search of A Vulnerable God** by Bob Purdy (Mira Digital Publishing, Chesterfield Missouri, 2013)

How do you get angry at a septuagenarian who draws on 50 years of pastoral ministry as an Anglican priest to challenge how you think about God?

Purdy admits he is not an academic theologian, and so he writes not for scholars or students of Scripture but for the disillusioned, seekers and those who may be “young, caring,

longing for some spiritual basis” for life. In the midst of a violent and suffering world, he wonders whether we “must search to understand a God utterly vulnerable in love, at least in relation to this world and the human race.”

Purdy is a lover and critic of language. He recognizes that human language “cannot define God. All our words and images about God are inadequate pointers toward a mystery we cannot fathom.” He takes issue with the language of power to describe God—omnipotent, almighty, all powerful—and chooses to equate omnipotence with domination, be it for good or ill. He recounts



a funeral Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, BC, where the congregation sang, “Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of vulnerable love” instead of God of power and might. “Hurrah! One giant step for humankind!” he exclaims.

Whereas Purdy is uncomfortable with the language of power to describe God, he heartily

embraces the language of vulnerability expressed suitably in the “poetry of devotion and the hyperbole of the heart.” What is vulnerable love? “Grace,” he writes, “If God is love, unconditional love, and then God surely must be unconditionally vulnerable, open to rejection and failure, unwilling or even unable to impose the divine will upon us in the world.”

On judgment and damnation, Purdy exclaims “don’t quote scripture to me. I know all the stories.” No doubt he does, but it is in Scripture that God reveals who God is, the Almighty One who created us out of love.

I imagine Purdy smiling as he pushes the boundaries of theological thought in our post-modern world: “What God really asks of us is right living, not right belief.” Really? God can’t be both Almighty and loving? Really?

Let’s have a cup of coffee, Mr. Purdy, and continue the conversation about the implications for church and world of your suppositions in search of a vulnerable God!

*The Reverend Connie Phillipson is Assistant Curate at St. Mark’s Orangeville. EMAIL: connie.phillipson@zing-net.ca*

## Synod 2013

## Challenge Two: Hands Across Niagara

### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

“Our Hands Across Niagara (HAN) campaign is one of the most dynamic and life-giving programs we have engaged in as a diocese for many years and yet the support that it has received from clergy and people across Niagara is less than overwhelming. It is an initiative that allows us to take up the challenge that is offered to us in our Diocesan Vision to support servant and justice ministries in every region of the diocese. It also provides us with an opportunity to support national outreach initiatives and to bring money into our local congregations. The National Church, in partnering with us in this way, has experienced a significant decrease in their portion, in comparison to past contribu-



tions to the Anglican Appeal and this is of great concern to me. My personal and passionate commitment is expressed through a monthly donation to support this work.

I urge everyone in the Diocese to join with Susan and me in supporting Hands Across Niagara as generously as you are able and I ask the clergy to make sure that this program is promoted in every parish.”

**HAN Chair Derek Anderson wrote in his**

### report to Synod ...

“Donations (\$36,612 in 2012) to Hands Across Niagara are divided equally among:

1. The Anglican Church of Canada (funding ministries such as the Council of the North, PWRDF and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission),
2. The Diocese of Niagara (funding grants for ministry partnerships which target the root causes of injustice), and
3. The donor’s parish (where

congregations are encouraged to use the money to fund local justice and servant ministries).

HAN gathers resources to connect with God’s mission in the world.”

Speaking to delegates at Synod, Anderson gave examples of how HAN is achieving its goals in the wider world working with the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC). These include grants to a music camp that engages children and youth in learning and leadership through the gift of music and funding the

salaries of two seminary instructors in our companion diocese of Cuba. It may also support ACC’s offering to host and contributing financially to the costs of participants travelling great distances from provinces and dioceses to a proposed world-wide conference for global Anglicans engaged locally in truth, healing and reconciliation processes.

For more information or to donate, visit [www.niagaraanglican.ca/handsacross](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca/handsacross)

### Synod response ...

No formal action taken.

People are asked to accept the Bishop’s challenge to support “Hands Across Niagara as generously as you are able and I ask the clergy to make sure that this program is promoted in every parish.”

## Challenge Three: Cathedral Place

### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

“Cathedral Place in many ways is at the very heart and centre of our common life in Niagara and, in a very real sense, it is a home that unites us and binds us together in a whole host of ways. Hamilton is in the midst of a dramatic revisioning process and is now the leading community for new development in all of Canada and perhaps in North America. It is so good that many years ago we committed ourselves as a diocese to this city and to the challenges and opportunities that are in evidence here, and that is true not only at the Cathedral itself but in the innovative and creative work that has emerged in Anglican parishes across Hamilton.

It is also true, however, that our presence here at Cathedral Place has come with a cost of its own and we must acknowledge those costs and concern ourselves with the issue of long-term sustainability. I want you to know that the Dean and I have been actively pursuing a number of options, and in October an idea was presented *in camera* to Synod Council which was received with a tremendous amount of affirmation and

excitement. There is still a great deal of work to be accomplished before it can be brought before Synod and I am delighted to announce that Archdeacon Lynne Marchant has agreed to accept my appointment as Chair of the committee that will carry this work forward. The committee has been identified and a first meeting has been scheduled with the mandate to bring an initial report to Synod Council by late spring. Lynne has resigned her position as Rector of St. John the Evangelist Niagara Falls, and as Archdeacon of the Region of Brock, but will remain a non-territorial Archdeacon in recognition of the importance of this work in the life of the wider Diocese. She will now work out of the Synod Office continuing her part-time work in the area of Stewardship with the ongoing financial support of this position by the National Church. This is truly a time filled with hope and encouragement in which the Holy Spirit continues to empower us to live out our Diocesan Vision in new and wonderful ways!”

**The Cathedral Place Property Committee interim report and motion to Synod ...**

“In November of 2012, Synod passed a motion about the care and function of Cathedral Place asking Synod Council to name a task force to evaluate benefits/concerns and make recommendations for Synod 2014. To date, Synod Council has not struck the task force asked for by this motion. It is not the purpose of this interim report to speak to the reasons for this, rather to report on the constructive work that has been accomplished.”

After listing its work, the following interim recommendations were presented in a motion to the 2013 Synod:

- that Cathedral Place, in the committee’s considered opinion, is here to stay. Its benefits are demonstrated, and the alternatives to this combined use are not clearly viable, financially nor spiritually
- that all reasonable efforts be made to foster the understanding that the cost of operating Cathedral Place is a part of—and not in competition with—the cost of doing ministry as a Diocese
- that Synod Council, at the Bishop’s pleasure, assemble a task force in keeping with the original motion
- that Synod Council also man-



**Cathedral Organist Michael Bloss led singing at the Synod worship.**

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

date the task force to research any revenue-generating alternatives for Cathedral Place and bring these to Synod Council for consideration, cognizant of:

- the stated priority of Cathedral Place’s ability to continue to serve in our shared mission as a Diocese
- any material deficit in the building that we are currently not addressing
- the alleviation of the

financial pressures Cathedral Place shares as a part of the Diocese

- the legacy of past endowments of the Cathedral be restored to future generations.”

### Synod response ...

The report was received. Awaiting Synod Council’s proposal.



# Partners on

## Old church ... new life ... modern day pioneers

BARB ROBINSON

Not quite the same as 1845 when St. Luke's Palermo was built, or 1945 when people gathered after service, ate and started construction on the parish hall. But the same pioneering spirit is felt today as parishioners gather around an old church table discussing the hopes and challenges of moving the historic sanctuary and building a new parish community centre.

The plans are displayed, updates shared at Sunday services and the community is abuzz with excitement. Firstly the church will be transported to a critically needed new foundation on the east side of the property. This should attract lots of attention. That's 168 years of weddings, funerals, baptisms and memories being moved 100 feet to make room for the new facility.

For St. Luke's and North Oakville, the centre will be a safe, welcoming, much needed place where people can participate in and enjoy activities.

Partnerships with local community groups, clubs and service providers should bring many individuals to this bright and welcoming facility, which includes meeting and multi-purpose rooms, a sunlit gathering space, a hall and a full kitchen.

The other partnership is our new neighbour to the west ... Palermo Village Retirement Residence. St. Luke's and Diversicare plan to jointly offer outings, arts, music and fitness, plus spiritual and lifestyle activities. Socials and Sunday services can be opportunities to welcome and support new residents.

For St. Luke's, the process has been long and not without hiccups. Since 1999, while fighting to keep those big wooden rickety red doors open as the congregation dwindled, the community has rebuilt and identified its purpose as supporting

people in North Oakville.

Led by the Reverends Sue-Ann and Jeff Ward, a new enthusiasm has been unleashed. As the centre becomes a reality, new life is emerging. Vision and ministry plans are in place, exciting children and youth programs are being developed and outreach ministries to Kerr Street Ministry's breakfast, Waterford liturgy and St. Matthew's House food drives are continuing.

Even though the groundbreaking ceremony was in September 2012 and no construction yet, parishioners and partners continue to move forward, working diligently. Their spirit is unwavering. Steeped in a farming history, this country church knows about hard work. Current members, working side by side, may not use nails, wood and ladders, but rather meetings and emails with the same perseverance and faith

Evelyn Oates, a member since her baptism in 1928, recalls her family lining their coats with newsprint for their two mile wintery walk to church (1930s); the large scale Christmas and Easter productions playing to packed houses (1940s); the thriving Sunday schools (1950-60s); successful strawberry socials and Christmas Carol services (1980-90s); and most recently, Harvest Festival, Peachfest and Founder's Day celebrations. Regarding the future, Evelyn hopes St. Luke's will "be a place to build friendships and community."

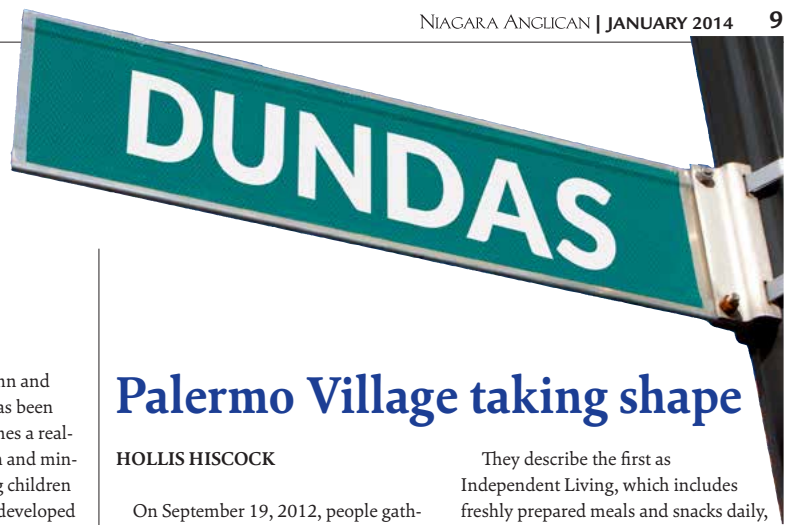
Many in North Oakville may only know St. Luke's as the quaint little white church on Dundas. Well, that's all going to change thanks to these modern day pioneers!

*Barb Robinson is a member of St. Luke's Palermo. To contact the Reverends Sue-Ann and Jeff Ward, email [rector@graceanglican-waterdown.org](mailto:rector@graceanglican-waterdown.org)*



St. Luke's, 3114 Dundas Street West, Oakville is located just east of Palermo Village, being built on church property.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock



## Palermo Village taking shape

HOLLIS HISCOCK

On September 19, 2012, people gathered for the ground breaking ceremony officially heralding the beginning of a partnership between St. Luke's Church Palermo Oakville and Diversicare Canada Management Services.

The plan called for Diversicare to construct Palermo Village, a seniors' housing project, built on church land next door to the church. The project is proceeding on schedule and residents should be moving into the new complex by the end of 2014.

"We are very excited about collaborating with St. Luke's and the community of Palermo/Oakville," said Karen Kotanko, Director of Sales and Marketing for Diversicare. "We look forward to sharing our meeting space for group activities and having our residents go to the new community centre at St. Luke's to enjoy coffee

They describe the first as Independent Living, which includes freshly prepared meals and snacks daily, weekly housekeeping and linen service, social and recreational programs, daily fitness and wellness programs, brain gym and more exclusive programs, 24/7 healthcare professional staff, emergency pendant, in-suite emergency response system, monthly activity calendar and small pets are welcome.

The second, Full Service Lifestyle, includes all services in Independent Living plus personalized plan of care consultation, medication management and administration, weekly personal laundry and linen service, assistance with light personal care (dressing, showering), additional care services available to allow for aging in place and after hospital/respite stays available, maintained the Diversicare release.



and entertainment."

The six storey Palermo Village will house 116 suites (studios, one and two bedrooms), with all suites having a kitchenette, bathroom with easy access showers and 24 hour emergency response system, said Kotanko.

According to Diversicare, residents can avail themselves of a fitness and wellness centre with spa services, hair salon, media room and theatre, library, billiards room, worship centre, bistro and bar, personal mail boxes, computer lounge and more.

"All of our meals are prepared daily by our Chef and we offer flexible lunch and dinner choices with an à la carte option," stated Diversicare.

Two types of lifestyle packages and à la carte services to allow for extra care if required, continued Diversicare, will be offered at Palermo Village.

**Construction of Palermo Village continues next door to St. Luke's (right)**

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

For over 35 years Diversicare has owned and managed Retirement Residences and won "several awards for the excellent services we provide to our residents," according to their brochure. They reported building and opening six new residences in the GTA over the past five years, Palermo Village being their latest project.

This article is based on information provided by Diversicare.

For more information on Palermo Village Retirement Residence visit [www.diversicare.ca](http://www.diversicare.ca) (click on New Developments) or to register for a suite call 1-888-821-1161.

Synod 2013

## Challenge Four: Synod Office restructuring

### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

Earlier in the year we saw the departure from Synod Office of our Executive Officer Michael

Paterson, and I need to say that the past few months have brought new meaning to the old saying: "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone." Michael, we are so very grateful for the

changes in committee membership and leadership. The good news is that we have noticed a modification beginning to take root in the structure and functioning of Synod Council, with visional thinking. For example, decisions with regard to Diocesan property and buildings is being routinely included. Wise, visional, missional thinking is becoming a diocesan norm, in part because of the work of this task force. For example, the formation of the Guidelines to Canon 4.6 (on the Erection and Alteration of Church Buildings) was directly affected by the thinking of the Governance Working Group.



Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Secretary of Synod Marni Nancekivell, Bishop Michael and Chancellor Rob Welch guided the proceedings at Synod.

their new responsibilities. It has not been an easy transition at times and I want to offer a sincere word of thanks to all our Synod Office staff for the incredible job they are doing in service to us all. I'm also pleased to welcome Brian Reusch, our new program consultant in Children, Youth and Family Ministry, who has just been licensed as a professional lay worker. Brian is already deepening relationships with parishes, bringing a fresh perspective to our shared ministry and developing new community partnerships.

### Synod response ...

No action or decision required. For details about our diocesan staff, see November 2013 *Niagara Anglican*, pages 6 and 7.

## Challenge Five: Governance Task Force

### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

"One of the items that fell to the back burner in the wake of this reorganization was much of the follow-up work that is necessary in response to the Governance Task Force report from last year. You will hear, however, from the Reverend Sue Channen, later in the proceedings, that this item has not been forgotten."

### The Governance Working Group wrote in their report to Synod ...

At the 2012 Synod, the Governance Working Group reported on its conversation about how we make decisions regarding our common ministry. The governance conversation at the working group level has paused since then, because of

### Synod response ...

The report was received. The Working Group planned to meet in December 2013.

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discovery  
energy memory  
motion emotion  
imagination  
magic mystery

Discover new dimensions of choral music with the JLS in 2013/14.

All concerts will take place at St. Paul's United Church 29 Park St. W. Dundas, Ontario

Children ages 6-12 attend for free!

### Mystery and Merriment

Saturday, November 30, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. with Sara Traficante, flute, and Colin Meier, oboe

Healey Willan's *The Mystery of Bethlehem*, Dietrich Buxtehude's *Das Neugeborne Kindelein*, plus an amazing variety of seasonal works spanning the centuries and the nations

### The Poet's Corner

Sunday, March 2, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. with local poet, John Terpstra, and string quartet

Choral music based on poetically substantial texts, including *Invisible Harps* featuring music by Canadian composer Andrew Ager and text by James Joyce; *Three Shakespeare Songs* by Ralph Vaughan Williams, *Dark Night of the Soul* by Norwegian phenomenon Ola Gjeilo, *Five Hebrew Love Songs* by Eric Whitacre (with poetry by his wife, Hila Plitmann), and the *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Gabriel Fauré

### Passion and Jubilation

Saturday, May 10, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. with string ensemble

Featuring *Passion and Resurrection*, a work of ancient and modern beauty by the young Latvian composer Eriks Esenvalds, and shorter works by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Mendelssohn

### The JLS and Artistic Director Roger Bergs

Founded in 1982 by John Laing, the JLS is a chamber choir of musicians from the Halton and Hamilton regions. Now under the direction of Dr. Roger Bergs, the choir is quickly becoming known for its energetic performances of diverse repertoire, including works by emerging composers and music with an international flavour.

The JLS gratefully acknowledges the support of

The JLS gratefully acknowledges the support of



For more Synod news including reports to Synod, full Bishop's charge, 2014 budget and more, visit

[www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca)



## Challenges Six & Seven: Governance Task Force

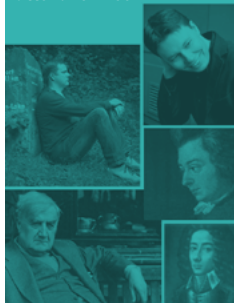
### Bishop Michael said in his charge to Synod ...

In the coming year I am asking Synod Council to consider two matters: First to make provision for the Brock and Lincoln regions to be brought together into one unit and I am happy to report that Bruce McPetrie will serve as Archdeacon for both regions as we work towards making this happen. Second, in light of Synodical practices throughout

Canada and our diocesan vision, I am asking Synod Council to undertake a full review of our own process with consideration for the frequency, the venue and the scope of business undertaken at Synod.

### Synod response ...

No formal response required. To be referred to Synod Council by the Bishop.



# Ascension renovating to new form

SUE VANDERBENT AND JIM GIBBS

The Ascension Alive! Team at the Church of the Ascension Hamilton is working with architects from rA (Regional Architects) and Hall Construction as we proceed with the renovations of our beautiful 160 year old historic church.

We have seen many amazing accomplishments.

The pews were removed in September and many were repaired. A few have been retained for historical purposes.

Once the pews were removed, work began in earnest as space made way for other significant changes, such as the movement of the font and memorial plaques, creation of the new kitchen and accessible bathrooms, storage spaces, new offices and vestry.

In early November, a "spider" was airlifted by a 40 ton crane into the church courtyard and then driven through the north doors. The "spider" is used to

safely lift workers high enough to repair and paint all the walls. The electricians are installing new outlets throughout the building and the electrical engineer is working on the preparation of the new LED lighting fixtures. The flooring will likely be installed at the end of the project at the same time as the new kitchen and bathroom appliances.

Every Sunday, the Ascension Alive! Team makes a detailed report to the parishioners. The main doors are opened so the congregation can take a look at the work that is quickly taking place in the interior of the church.

The Team is projecting the completion of the renovations by mid to late January 2014.

A grand re-opening of our historic site will be organized in the spring.

*Sue VanderBent and Jim Gibbs are Co-Chairs of the Ascension Alive! Team.*



The "spider" safely lifted workers high enough to repair and paint all the walls of the Church of the Ascension Hamilton.

Photo: Sue VanderBent

*I will sing with the spirit,  
and I will sing with the understanding also.*



## THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

- Thursday evening rehearsals
- Sunday morning choral Eucharist
- Special festival music for Christmas and Easter

## THE CATHEDRAL CHORISTERS

- Wednesday evening rehearsals
- Sunday afternoon services and choral evensong
- Special concerts

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Michael Bloss, Director of Music Ministries  
905-527-1316 Ext. 220 michael.bloss@niagaraanglican.ca



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# Chicken coops, schools and homes – plans for construction

TOM RICHARDSON

In March, members and friends of St. Thomas' St. Catharines will return to the Dominican Republic for the fifth year to work with the Samaritan Foundation.

The Foundation, established by Italian-Canadian Elio Madonia, has built over 1,300 homes in the Dominican Republic, as well as medical clinics, churches and schools.

In each of the past four years, St. Thomas' has sent a team, financial donations and medications to assist its work and provide food and medicine to residents of the Samaritan Foundation villages.

In 2013, 34 people from the parishes of St. Thomas' St. Catharines and St. James and St. Brendan Port Colborne travelled to the Dominican Republic. In their luggage, thanks to special permission from West Jet, they carried 2,000 pounds of medical supplies, school supplies and sports equipment (baseball gloves, baseballs and soccer balls).

In addition, the group raised approximately \$20,000, which was sent directly to the Samaritan Foundation. That money paid for four homes, a Feed a Village for a Week program and a children's lunch program.

In 2014, St. Thomas' team will assist in the construction of homes, chicken coops and schools. The chicken coops are a part of the Samaritan Foundation's desire to establish greater self-sufficiency.

As part of the fundraising by St. Thomas', a model house is being created using Duplo blocks. Each time \$20 is donated, another block is added to the house. Completion of the model house will mean \$4,500 has been raised for the construction of a home in the Dominican Republic. The goal remains the same this year ... funding for three homes.

Donations may be made to St. Thomas', 99 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5J6 or by calling 905-684-2339.

*Tom Richardson is a member of St. Thomas' St. Catharines.*



Lena Ali, Marcelle Ali and Jan Kaye with Duplo blocks.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

# She said “Yes”: Celebrating Florence Li Tim-Oi

MEGAN COLLINGS-MOORE

This fall the Anglican Church in Australia elected its first female bishop. As I write, the

Church of England is taking the first steps to allow women to become bishops. In total, there are now 39 female bishops across our worldwide Anglican

Communion. Seventy years ago, when the Reverend Doctor Florence Li Tim-Oi was ordained priest, who could have imagined this would have been the case?

Florence Li Tim-Oi was the first woman ordained to the priesthood in the Anglican Communion. She was ordained in 1944 by the Right Reverend Ronald Hall, Bishop of Victoria (later Hong Kong and Macau), at his request to serve the sacramental needs of the local people. He had notified his friend, the Archbishop of Canterbury, of his intended actions but, as war was raging, did not get a response before the ordination.

After WWII ended, there was pressure on Bishop Hall to rescind her ordination. Florence chose to voluntarily relinquish her license while still maintaining her Holy Orders to be valid and intact.

It wasn't until she moved to Toronto in 1983 that she began to again officially function as a priest. Having been licensed in the Diocese of Toronto, she served as an Honorary Priest to a Chinese Anglican parish.

Though Florence passed away in 1992, her legacy and

memory live on. Her bravery and dedication to the role of a priest in God's church is cherished and memorialized with a day in the Anglican Church of Canada's calendar and through other gestures, like the Florence Li Tim-Oi Memorial Reading Room and Archives, located at Renison University College, the Anglican college at the University of Waterloo.

On January 25, 2014, at 3:00 p.m., all are invited to attend a special Eucharist at St. James' Cathedral in Toronto in celebration of the 70th anniversary of Florence Li Tim-Oi's ordination.

The transformation of our world began with Mary's willingness to say “Yes” to God. Florence Li Tim-Oi also said “Yes”, and that decision changed our Anglican communion.

*Canon Megan Collings-Moore is the chaplain to Renison University College, Waterloo. EMAIL: megan.collings-moore@uwaterloo.ca*

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Megan Collings-Moore stands next to the portrait of Florence Li Tim-Oi in the library of Renison University College.

Photo: Kari Pasick Stewart

## New Diocesan website!

The Diocese of Niagara has put up a new website that has been live since November.



Check it out at

[www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca)