

**Church addressing issue of unaccompanied children**

How the Episcopal church in Honduras is tackling the issue at the source

Page 5



**Abundant light**

Brian Reusch reports on Niagara Youth Conference 2014

Page 7



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A section of the Anglican Journal

# NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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

OCTOBER 2014

## Justice Camp

"My eyes were opened wide"



**ROBYN MICHELL**

People came from all parts of Canada, Nicaragua, and we were blessed to have seven young people from Cuba. The Niagara Diocese was represented by five people.

About 80 Anglicans and other faith communities between the ages of 18 and 74 attended. It was awesome to see so many young people expressing their faith and voicing their opinions and thoughts on social justice.

This was a camp rather than a conference as it was a very interactive experience in each chosen immersion. For three days we

were in the field involved in our immersion, listening, learning and involved.

There were six different immersions—Food Security; Faith in the Oil/Tar Sands; Interfaith Teachings; Urban Poverty, Teachings From the Land; and Earth, Sky, Fire, Water.

"Take a risk" was the challenge the Reverend Travis Enright gave us on the first day. What did that mean?

Everyone interpreted the statement differently. For some it was physically doing something new, for others it was letting go of their emotions, whereas others let go their control—just followed and trusted.

Being in Edmonton we were also immersed in the Aboriginal ways. Our services had an

◀ **Robyn Michell (at right, purple shirt) with other Justice Camp attendees from Niagara Diocese, Cuba and the national Anglican Church.**

Photo: submitted by author

—See JUSTICE Page 4

## October – our month to give thanks

Each page of the *Niagara Anglican* this month provides an opportunity for every reader to give thanks to God for all our blessings as individuals and corporate citizens in God's wonderful world.

You are encouraged to do it alone or with other people in your church group or similar settings.

It can be done all in one session or spread over 12 days or for each of the days during the harvest thanksgiving month of October.

Based on the Thanksgiving Litany (*Book of Alternative Services*, page 128) it has been formatted for the paper with a suggested prayer application.

Through my Facebook request, Dot, Tricia and Prue added petitions which are

included to enrich our month of thanksgiving.

Feedback is always welcome to improve and enhance future endeavors with the Niagara Anglican. Send you comments and suggestions to the Editor, contact information on page 3.

### October – our month to give thanks

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for the beauty and wonder of creation.** (Visualize your favourite three.) End by saying ***I thank you, Lord.***



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The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird  
Bishop of Niagara  
The Very Reverend Peter A. Wall  
Rector of the Cathedral and Dean of Niagara

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5  
PENTECOST 17

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Choral Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals

Preacher: Susan Johnson, National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Presider: Bishop Ralph Spence

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12  
HARVEST THANKSGIVING

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Bishop Ralph Spence  
Presider: The Rev. Canon Bill Thomas

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19  
PENTECOST 19

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: The Dean  
Presider: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall

4:00 pm The Order of Niagara Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist  
Officiant and Presider: Bishop Michael Bird

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26  
PENTECOST 20

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Choral Eucharist

Preacher: Bishop Ralph Spence  
Presider: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall

Eucharist Monday-Friday 12:15 pm & Tuesdays 7:30 am

## October – our month to give thanks

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for all that is gracious in the lives of all people, revealing the image of Christ.** (Think of three examples.)  
End by saying ***I thank you, Lord.***



## Happenings

### Priests join fellowship

The Venerable David Pickett (St. John's Ancaster) and the Reverend Mark Gladding (St. Margaret's New Toronto) joined Canon Joseph Asselin (St. Cuthbert's Oakville) and Canon Stuart Pike (St. Luke's Burlington) as full members of the Fellowship of St. John (FSJ). The installation took place during their annual retreat.

Members of the FSJ live in association with the Anglican/Episcopal monastic community of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and they pattern a Rule of Life based upon that of the order.

Both clergy and laity are welcome at the monastery for retreats. More information can be found on their web site: [www.ssje.org](http://www.ssje.org)



David Pickett, Joseph Asselin, Mark Gladding and Stuart Pike at SSJE monastery for their annual retreat.

Photo: submitted by Stuart Pike



Golfers teeing off during 11th annual tournament

### Full day for golfers

St. John's Ancaster held its 11th annual golf tournament in June at Oak Gables Golf Course, Ancaster.

The morning began with a putting contest, with other contests held throughout the day.

Each participant received a bag lunch at registration. The shotgun start blasted off at 1:00 p.m. and 21 foursomes spent the afternoon playing through the 18 hole course.

Later at St. John's Great Hall, 120 golfers and guests enjoyed dinner, the awarding of prizes, a raffle and silent auction. (submitted by Mary Mellish)

Photo: Dave Aitchison

### All creatures at camp

#### NIGEL BUNCE

St. George's Lowville held their camp "All Creatures Great and Small" at the end of July.

Different from a Vacation Bible School, this was a science camp in a Christian context aimed at children aged about 6-11 to help them see themselves within the context and wonder of God's Creation.

Each day featured a craft and a science activity, based on the theme of the day. The weather cooperated, and the science activities were held outdoors in the beauty of the Niagara Escarpment.

This was followed by a themed snack - for example, snakes made from alternating slices of banana

and strawberry - and a speaker.

The gathering and ending circles included songs—and, of course, we sang our theme song for the week, "All things bright and beautiful."

Outside speakers came from Safari Science in Oakville, whose speaker showed reptiles and small mammals that the children could actually touch, and HaltonRecycles. Mountsberg Conservation Area's speaker brought raptors large and small.

The program, which attracted 27 campers, was imagined and executed by Susan Miller, with a dedicated band of helpers, both adults and teens. They assisted with crafts, led the science workshops, prepared snacks, provided A/V support and sang.



On the trail of an animal that lives in a tree.

Photo: Jan Savory

It can fairly be said that, "A good time was had by all!"

*The Reverend Nigel Bunce is Priest-in-charge of St. George's Lowville.*



#### Well their pictures really.

St. Luke's Church, Crumlin Road, London, Ontario is looking for photos of three former rectors to update their "photo gallery."

If you have a photo of the **Reverend P.W.P. Calhoun** (1866-1932), the **Reverend A.L. Beverley** (1857-1934) or the **Reverend F. Anderson** (1871-1941) contact Barbara Dow, [btdow@rogers.com](mailto:btdow@rogers.com) or Unit 44, 10077 Hamilton Road, London, Ontario, N5W 6G3.



**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**for our daily food, our homes, families and friends.** (Name some.)  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



**HOLLISitorial**

**Voting ... part of our Baptismal covenant**

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

Voting is NOT a right,  
 Voting is NOT even a privilege,  
 but ...

Voting IS a sacred DUTY.

It is seared in the promises made for us at our infant baptism and reaffirmed by ourselves whenever we renew our covenant with God privately or publicly, especially at Easter.

When the call goes out for people to "get out and vote" we Christians should be leading the procession.

My father taught his children by example. We accompanied him to the polling station to soak in the process—checking the actual ballot, watching him mark his X and helping him deposit his "secret ballot" into a sealed, secure, specially marked box. He explained each step to us, but more importantly he modelled his sacred duty as a Christian involved in the community.

Maybe he is the reason I have voted in every election—municipal, provincial, federal, and others—since coming of age and being eligible to vote.

On October 27, 2014, eligible residents in 414 municipalities in the Province of Ontario will head to their respective polling stations to elect mayors, councillors, school board trustees and others to be their leaders. For the next 48 months, they will formulate policies and implement actions affecting the lives and wellbeing of the individuals and communities for whom they will then be the stewards.

This year, according to the

Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing "Ontarians will elect approximately 2,800 council members and 700 school trustees across the province." Approximately 7,000 individuals will offer themselves as candidates for various offices.

The Ministry properly acknowledges, "Everyone who puts their name forward as a candidate and who casts a ballot makes a difference in their community."

By not voting people are letting the future unfold by default or neglect, which does not speak

the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

Jesus was responding to a confrontation with those who tried to entangle and entrap him. They wanted him to decide if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar (a foreign power) or only pay "taxes" to God. As per usual Jesus outfoxed them by turning the focus back towards the questioners. Taking a piece of currency, he asked whose inscription was on the coin. Their only answer was "Caesar," which led Jesus to proclaim our duty to God and

we have a sacred duty to vote in public elections. It is also embedded in the promises included in our Renewal of Baptismal Vows (*Book of Alternative Services*, pages 330-332).

As we prepare to vote in the upcoming municipal elections, we may want to ponder these questions or pose them to candidates, either at public forums or in personal meetings.

- A. Will you persevere in resisting evil (in fighting against discrimination, bullying, injustices, etc.)?
  - B. Will you seek and serve all persons (regardless of race, geography, sexuality, political stripes, etc.)?
  - C. Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
  - D. Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth?
- If candidates who rate highly on these principles are elected and continue in that way, then we will have made excellent choices.

To pray is also our sacred duty. Before the election—pray for the election, candidates, organizers, workers and voters. After the election—pray for those elected even if your chosen candidate was not successful.

On this page is a prayer from the *BAS* (page 678) adapted for your use.

So get out and vote with a smile on your face and satisfaction in your soul.



*Feedback on the HOLLISitorial or any aspect of the Niagara Anglican is always appreciated. See Editor's contact information on this page.*

**To the Editor**

**Heavy thoughts on a light summer day**

(*Niagara Anglican, Summer 2014*)  
 I just wanted to say thank you for writing this article in the *Niagara Anglican*.

I was visiting a friend when she received the paper. I chuckle when I think, "what a coincidence." I don't believe that. In fact I was visiting my friend and using the time for reflection, deciding re questions and situations I am facing.

Jean Henderson

**Colourful production**

(*Niagara Anglican, Sept. 2014*)  
 Just wanted to commend you, as editor, and your team on your colourful production of an inviting September issue of the *Niagara Anglican*.

It is most informative with snappy inserts.

It is also affirming of the Bishop's Vision in parish activities and in Carolyn Vanderlip's appeal for refugee rights and sponsorship.

Especially exciting for me are the photos and dynamic interview with Phyllis Tickle!

Heather Brinkman  
 Stoney Creek

**Prayer before, during and after an election**

Lord, keep the communities, towns and cities in the Province of Ontario under your care;

Bless us that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to Canada and other countries of the earth;

Guide us to elect trustworthy leaders during our upcoming elections as we contribute to wise decisions and actions benefiting the general welfare of all your people;

May we all serve you faithfully in our generation to the honour of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Amen*

well for anyone.

As Christians, we look for guidance from the gospel of Jesus Christ and other sacred writings.

Although Jesus did not address democratic elections *per se*, one could imply that if the option had presented itself, he would have grasped the opportunity and voted.

The gospel writers—Matthew (22:15-22), Mark and Luke—recorded the "render unto Caesar

our duty to the state.

In the letter to the Romans (13:1-10), Paul addresses our duty towards the state and God. With the former, he urged people to pay their personal and property taxes because "the authorities are working for God when they fulfill their duties" and "working for your good." He reaffirmed our only obligation is to love and "to love is to obey the whole law."

Both Jesus and Paul suggested

**NIAGARA ANGLICAN**

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**Publisher:** Bishop Michael A. Bird  
 905-527-1316  
 bishop@niagaraanglican.ca

**Editor:** The Reverend Hollis Hiscock  
 905-635-9463  
 editor@niagaraanglican.ca

**Advertising:** Angela Rush  
 905-319-2521  
 niagara.anglican.ads@gmail.com

**Art Director:** Craig Fairley  
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**Proofreader:** Helen Hiscock  
**Niagara Anglican Publication Board:**  
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**Mailing address:**  
 Cathedral Place  
 252 James Street North  
 Hamilton Ontario L8R 2L3

**For a complete staff directory and more information, visit our web site**  
[www.niagaraanglican.ca](http://www.niagaraanglican.ca)



## October – our month to give thanks

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for minds to think and hearts to love.** (Think of examples.)  
End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



## Pet Pantry cupboard cleared quickly

The first Pet Pantry at St. Matthew's House (SMH) Hamilton held in July emptied within several hours and plans are underway for another during the fall.

Held in collaboration with Associate Veterinary Clinics (AVC) and PAWS Hamilton, the goal was to distribute quality pet food to help families in need with pets. AVC is a family of 52 companion animal practices caring for pets across Canada. The Pet Pantry, a national program developed as part of their Lend-A-Paw charities, provides quality pet food and support for cats and dogs whose families are in need. "At St. Matthew's House we



**Volunteers ready to hand out pet food packs.**

Photo: Twitter.com @SMH\_Hamilton  
Used with permission

regularly see individuals who are accessing our food bank because they want to ensure their pets get fed before they buy food for themselves. Access to affordable pet care is an essential piece in ensuring individuals living on

a limited budget can care for their animals and maintain their housing," said Karen Randell, Manager of Social Services at St. Matthew's House. "We know that interaction with animals can have an immeasurable benefit on both the physical and the mental health of individuals, particularly those who are living in isolation."

In addition to handing out more than 60 bags of dog and cat food, staff from Kingsway Animal Hospital and Burlington Animal Hospital suggested resources to owners concerned about their pets' health.

There were also samples of grooming items, and free nail clipping for dogs.

## Parish events ...

### Grace Church Waterdown

Oct. 3, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. – Oktoberfest ... entertainment and a beer raffle – Tickets: \$25 – 905-689-6715.

### St. James St. Catharines

Oct. 23, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. – Quiet Afternoon ... Pray, meditate or just be. Details: 905 682 8853.

### All Saints Erin

Oct. 24, 6:00 p.m. - Community Dinner, free of charge for all (gluten free available) - Freewill offerings accepted - Details: 519-833-9961.

### St. James Dundas

Oct. 25, 6:00 p.m. - Italian themed meal, live entertainment, silent auction and more – Tickets: \$30 – reserve 905-627-1424.

[For more parish news and events go to niagaraanglican.ca](http://niagaraanglican.ca)

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## Justice Camp opens your eyes wide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

aboriginal influence. We took part in an aboriginal smudge and had bannock and berries during Communion. We stayed at Kings University which is built on Treaty 6 land. We were reminded about that daily through our teaching and activities.

I was involved in the Urban Poverty immersion. It was overwhelming. My eyes were open wide to the life of the inner city. In Edmonton, for every person from the inner city streets who finds affordable safe housing two more people find themselves on the streets of the inner city.

Justice Camp was an amazing way for me to reflect on my faith and to put it into action.

Others attending expressed similar thoughts and feelings about Justice Camp.

Caroline and Jeremy Sharp from Grace Church Waterdown said, "This was our first Justice Camp and we took the ecology immersion. We learned a lot, had fun doing many things and made new friends we hope to meet again in the future. We have been inspired to make a few changes in our own lives and hope to pass

this inspiration on to others".

Likewise Cheryl Haycraft from St. Simon's Oakville reflected, "For me Justice Camp was a rich experience of learning, hands on experience and a sharing of thoughts and ideas."

Beginning in the inner city and moving out to the rural farmlands of Edmonton, we examined the issue of food security.

We fed the homeless, harvested a senior's apple tree, sorted food at a food bank and talked with farmers about their organic and natural farming practices.

It was encouraging to see so many people in many different ways following God's commands to be good stewards of the land and to feed people.

Justice Camp is a great way for someone who is interested in getting involved in social justice issues.

*Robyn Michell, from St. Simon's Oakville, attended the Justice Camp held in Edmonton from August 15-21, 2014.*



**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**for health, strength, skill to work, leisure to rest and play.**  
 (Think of examples.)  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



# Church addressing issue of unaccompanied children

**ROSALIND AND RICK REYCRRAFT**

"Thousands of unaccompanied children are streaming across the US border from Central America in a desperate attempt to escape the violence, extreme poverty and gangs."

This headline or something like it has been seen across North America in recent weeks. There is much talk of the desperation that drives this but, unfortunately, not much said about solving the fundamental problem of a better life in their home country.

In Honduras, the source of many of these children, we are tackling this issue. The Episcopal (Anglican) Diocese of Honduras operates El Hogar Projects to provide a loving home, a skill based education and most impor-



◀ **Melissa Kennedy and the children bake a cake in a cooking class at El Hogar in Honduras.**

Photo: Rosalind Reycraft

tantly hope for a better future to 250 boys and girls. This work is made possible by the support of many Anglicans and others from across North America, including our own Diocese of Niagara.

Children and young mothers are fleeing Honduras because they have no hope or any vision of a life offering anything other than violence and hunger. So, while we do what we can to create a just and compassionate response toward the unaccom-

panied children as they arrive, in the end, these activities do not address the real cause which is the poverty and violence that stems from it.

What must happen, is that children who have no hope, who have seen parents gunned down before their own eyes, who are caught in a desperate cycle of poverty, must have hope restored and a new future structured before them. That is the mission of El Hogar.

The work of El Hogar is to lift children out of poverty so they may become productive members of the Honduran community. After 35 years of experience El Hogar does this very well. The children emerge as young adults with an education, life skills and a new sense of hope, such that their future does not depend upon a desperate journey into the wilderness. Rather it rests on a new community formed of loving and caring people; a community that empowers them to create a better life for themselves and their families.

Over the past seven years 34 people have traveled to El Hogar for work weeks from our church, St. Luke's Burlington, and have seen firsthand the life saving work of El Hogar, transforming the lives of these children. This transformational ministry also

changes our outlook on the world and inspires us to do more. Parishioners and the church sponsor children, raise funds and support this important work in other ways.

For more information on El Hogar visit [elhogarcanada.ca](http://elhogarcanada.ca) or view an introductory video at: [vimeo.com/elhogar/el-hogar-story](http://vimeo.com/elhogar/el-hogar-story)

You will see how this compassionate ministry of our Anglican Church provides an alternative to violence, extreme poverty and gangs.

*Rick and Rosalind Reycraft are parishioners of St. Luke's Burlington. Rick serves as President and Rosalind as Clerk of the Board of Directors of El Hogar in North America. EMAIL: [rickreycraft@hotmail.com](mailto:rickreycraft@hotmail.com)*



## we can help.

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## A connection that matters

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 call **416-924-9199**, ext 259. Alternatively, you can email [mross@national.anglican.ca](mailto:mross@national.anglican.ca) or go to [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) to make your gift today.



**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for those who are brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful in adversity.** (Name people.)  
End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



# Our first 150 years in ministry

ROSEMARY HORSEWOOD

## Christ Church Flamborough

Sesquicentennials are certainly reasons to celebrate, and we at Christ Church Flamborough invite you to join us for our celebration of 150 years in ministry.

Our parish is taking this opportunity to acknowledge our past, to look into the future and envision the spiritual journey that will keep us evolving and growing.

To mark our 150 illustrious years at Bullock's Corner, we have organized a series of events and campaigns.

The church is located in a quaint rural area filled with rich history, which you can learn about on guided walking tours, or simply come and see our displays of pictures, quilts and abstracts depicting our journey.

Christ Church Flamborough was built in 1865, but the parish took its first step in 1817 when a parcel of land was designated for a church, a school and a graveyard.

Construction for the present church began under the supervision of Canon F. L. Osler and was consecrated on August 25, 1865 by Bishop John Strachan of Toronto.

During this early construction phase Osler brought with him an ancient Tau font, which is believed to be one of the oldest church artifacts in Canada, from Cornwall, England. Since its arrival at Christ Church it has been used continuously for baptisms. Many families have four or more generations who have been baptised at this font and the family members remain very active at the Church.

By 1880 the congregation had grown so that an addition was necessary. The building quickly became known as "the light on the hill" by those living in the area.

During that time Bullocks Corners was a bustling little village of hotels, corner stores, stagecoach stops and mills. The Church was a cornerstone of this

thriving community and served the people then, as it does to this present day. Even though the hotels, mills and stagecoach stops are long gone, Christ Church still remains a stunning example of Gothic Revival architecture with its beautiful gables and Gothic windows.

In September 2013, we began a new chapter in our church's story with the arrival of our 36th rector, the Reverend Stephen Hallford from St. Peter's Church, Edmonton, Alberta.

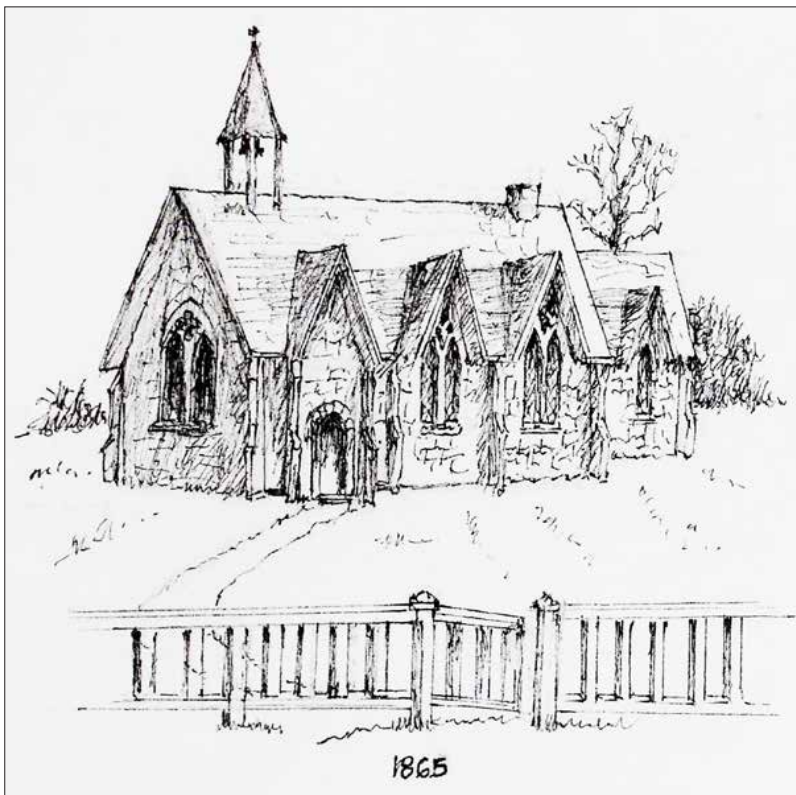
A 2015 calendar, depicting our rich history and buildings, is now available for sale. The artwork and drawings were done by Maureen Emmerson, a gifted artist and member of Christ Church. The photos in this article are part of the calendar collection.

Come, worship and explore with us at this time of remembering and renewing the spiritual friendships that Christ Church has nurtured on our journey with Christ.

Join us on Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. when Bishop Michael Bird will kick off the year long celebrations, followed by a harvest pot luck lunch. Then, to help launch us into the next 150 years, join us on Sunday, October 4, 2015. You can also take a self-guided tour around the historic building, see the children's garden filled with thanksgiving plants and connect to the past with a visit in the graveyard.

Our Mission is "Open to God, Open to Grow" and we look forward to growing over the next 150 years and beyond, through faith, hope and love.

For more details about our celebration events, visit our website [niagaraanglican.ca/parish/christ-church-flamborough](http://niagaraanglican.ca/parish/christ-church-flamborough) or call the office at 905-627-4045.



▲ Christ Church Flamborough 1865 (top) and proposed for 2015 (above)

Artist: Maureen Emmerson

Rosemary Horsewood is a member of Christ Church Flamborough.  
EMAIL: [rhorsewood@yahoo.ca](mailto:rhorsewood@yahoo.ca)

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**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**for all who pursue peace, justice and truth.**  
 (Name groups and individuals.)  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



# Abundant Light

Niagara Youth Conference 2014

**BRIAN REUSCH**

During the last week of August, over 60 youth delegates from throughout the Diocese of Niagara, accompanied by 17 generous volunteers, gathered at Canterbury Hills in Ancaster for the 2014 Niagara Youth Conference (NYC).

The week long residential conference is the creative culmination of six months of extensive planning and enthusiastic publicity by the volunteers. This year's Co-Dean Carrie Charters described the conference's goal: "NYC creates and supports God-moments—where nature meets safety meets community—combining to open and refresh the hearts of anyone who enters the space."

A foundational component of the conference is the base group, a supportive small intentional community of 8-10 delegates facilitated by two staff, which meets daily. Observing delegates forge bonds within their base groups—transforming throughout the week from reluctant to engaging and enjoying one another—is one of the most visible testaments that something powerful is at work here!

Another key element of NYC is the wide range of activities.

This year the entire conference played quidditch, a ball game in the style of Harry Potter. The staff game was memorably competitive, perhaps all the more so with the delegates cheering them on!

Daily socials allowed delegates to dress up. This year's soap opera social, in which delegates assumed eccentric character roles, created a lot of laughter. The social that included a campfire, s'mores and sleeping outside underneath the stars was a favourite. Towards the end of the conference, the variety night showcased an extensive array of delegate and staff talent in a loving, supportive atmosphere. The



◀ One of the NYC base groups in the outdoor chapel at Canterbury Hills

▼ Art attack!

Photos: submitted by Jane Wyse

soundtrack for all these activities was the incredibly talented NYC band, which provided inspiration, reflection and joy through their music.

At the heart of the conference was prayer. Morning Tunes, mid-day worships, Eucharists and night time complines anchored NYC in an atmosphere of reflection and celebration.

The theme was "Light," and a wide range of activities allowed delegates to express their experience of light. Our opening Eucharist invited delegates to bring light to all places in the world. During one homily, delegates painted one another's faces as an expression of letting our unique inner light shine forth. Tool kits were created with poems, songs and art in preparation for those inevitable moments in life of "over-exposure" when life becomes out of balance.

Darkness, as a helpful metaphor for the restorative quality of solitude, and quiet were engaged through daily complines. These night time prayers created such beautiful images throughout the week: a blindfolded trust

walk in the silence of the night, delegates dancing with sparklers, lighting flying lanterns into the stunning night sky and lying in a meadow beneath a canopy of beaming stars.

Other highlights included a giant Pinterest board in Lions Halls, showcasing delegate art and images from the week, an "Art Attack!" event in which delegates explored self-expression through multiple media, night swimming and a powerful closing Eucharist led by the oldest delegates.

These various elements have a strong impact on the delegates and staff. Volunteer staff Alicia Archbell described what made the week so special: "NYC is the one place and community where I can be authentically me. No need to pretend I'm someone else, I can live in the moment and react how I want to. The supportive community is one of love and encouragement and accepts everyone. The conference gives you the ability to explore your faith, question and discover what God means to you."

The closing of NYC can be a sad time for many delegates and



staff too, as they leave behind a special community of trust. This year's delegates took home a glass jar with a candle as a reminder of their commitment to be an abundant light for one another.

One delegate expressed at the end of our week together, "I feel refreshed and ready to face the world with my head held high."

*Brian Reusch is Program Consultant Children, Youth and Family Ministry. EMAIL: [brian.reusch@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:brian.reusch@niagaraanglican.ca)*

**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for my loving family and friends** (name them) **and our wonderful peace-giving country Canada.**  
End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



**Perfecting love in weakness**

**COLIN C M CAMPBELL**

God is love! We are made in the image of God, so it follows that we have been created for love. To be loved is the deepest yearning of the human heart. Our intuitive image of a loving person is of one who is emotionally strong and able to give from that strength. When we say that God is love that is usually what we mean.

However, to Paul, the loving power and wisdom of God lie elsewhere—in what appears to be either foolish or scandalous; namely, in Christ Crucified. What kind of a God would allow himself to suffer abuse from his own creatures?

Paradoxically, being giving persons, who love out of our giftedness, will not by itself bring us happiness. For snobs will not care whether we love them or not; neither will bullies. Persisting may bring only frustration. It is the other person's acceptance of love that brings happiness, not our willingness to give. In this lies the paradox. If my greatest source of happiness is for my love to be accepted by another person, then I have placed control of my happiness

in the hands of the other person. Being loving is no guarantee of fulfillment.

If God is love then this must apply to God. The strength and wisdom of divine love lies in its vulnerability. It does not impose its agenda where that is not welcome. Jesus did not impose anything on the rich young ruler, yet he loved him.

For it is vulnerability that allows persons the freedom to be who they are, even if they are offensive. A realistic Christian love begins, not with unconditional giving, but with unconditional vulnerability. A vulnerable love for snobs and bullies is not to cast pearls before pigs! It is not weakness or permissiveness. Jesus always modeled correct relations but without demanding or coercing, giving the pig (Jesus' word, not mine) an opportunity to love and be loved freely.

With penetrating insight Paul realized that there was no other way to save sinners. In Christ Crucified lay the power and the wisdom of God. Christian love is made perfect in weakness!

*Dr. Colin Campbell teaches school in Hamilton.*  
EMAIL: [ccmcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:ccmcampbell@gmail.com)

**Read the latest news about the Good News!**

**HEATHER JOY BRINKMAN**

With a coffee in hand, it's a good morning for me to indulge in another chapter of my latest read, *Reclaiming the Bible for a Non-Religious World* (2011). Can you guess the author? Yes, our enthusiastic and insightful modern biblical scholar John Spong. And what a teacher he is! Always exciting, never boring. Reading Spong is an affirming way to revisit the Bible to learn the advances that have been made in understanding the intended meaning of our Scriptures.

Spong is equally dynamic and comprehensive in his Weekly Commentary emailed without fail every Thursday morning, beautifully displayed on my monitor and often including a YouTube video of one of his live presentations. A most enjoyable way to learn about the origins of Christianity and in your own home! Also you can share and comment on his conclusions with your friends.

To help us grow spiritually we have the amazing words of Franciscan Father Richard Rohr in his Daily Meditations, with a weekly focus on Contemplation.

They are freely available via email. I find them essential to understanding more about communing with the Divine Mystery within us and in all of creation. There are deep and concise explanations of what contemplative prayer is all about, what Rohr calls "real prayer." His explanation of experiencing the Trinity and understanding the Incarnation are exceptional. They well accompany the reading of his many texts including *Fallen Upward*, chosen as our Lenten study in Niagara for 2014. All of creation / the universe is evolving and with it our knowledge of all things, including our understanding of God as the ground of all being, and also of how and why the Scriptures were written. As interested Christians we must read and evolve our understanding of the meaning of the life and death of Jesus and his resurrection as understood

by his Jewish followers and later by the early church. We want to know what this means for us.

Christians today can renew and refresh their understanding of the Good News by learning from the highly respected biblical scholars and Christian theologians of the Jesus Seminar and their very readable books. A seeking Christian today can be educated and rejuvenated by reading Marcus Borg and John Spong, enlightened and transformed by reading Richard Rohr, freed to be more benevolent and inclusive by reading Brian McLaren and motivated to act for social and economic justice by reading Robin Meyers! These are just some of my favourite writers.

*Heather Joy Brinkman lives in Stoney Creek.*  
Email: [heatherjoynowe@yahoo.ca](mailto:heatherjoynowe@yahoo.ca)



**Anglican Communion Alliance**

**Meets 3rd Thursday of every month**

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

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

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**THIS IS MY CHURCH...**

It is composed of people like me.  
We make it what it is.  
It will be friendly – if I am.  
Its pews will be filled – if I help fill them.  
It will do great work – if I work.  
It will make generous gifts to many causes – if I am a generous giver.  
It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship – if I bring them.  
It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit – if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore,  
with the help of God,  
I shall dedicate myself to being all the things I want my church to be.  
(Anonymous)



Send your original poems or other suggestions to the Editor, contact information on page 3.

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**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ... **for neighbours and strangers who pull together in times of natural disasters.** (Think of examples.)  
End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



# Painting the Stars: Science, religion and evolving faith

It may be the course you are looking for

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

The members and friends of St. Matthias Guelph who participated in the Painting the Stars (PTS) course earlier this year want to bring it to other parishes and communities throughout Niagara Diocese.

Participant Fran Taylor found listening to others was “so exciting”, as people struggled with what they believed and what they found mystifying. Even though individuals may know little about the divine, she concluded it is “not just to have people strive to be like us, but to let them free to be what God intended.”

People who attended the Living the Questions curriculum found a familiar format of

encouraging thought and discussion. But, said Rector Elizabeth Huether, PTS “is a wonderful stand-alone course that is motivating and inspiring many of us

their own vegetables and flowers ... an intentional community garden.” This way she was “painting my stars so others may also paint their own!”

nect them to what is important in my life.”

Helped by the readings, videos and group discussions, she decided what she could put away or put down or discard. She said she embraced the change while retaining her core values. Witnessing a three-year-old communicate the celebrant at the Easter Eucharist now makes sense, she concluded.

Having the ecological agenda become a moral imperative was a big empowering PTS moment for Bruce Weaver, since he felt the church “focused too much on social justice and ignored environmental justice.”

The phrase “blessed unrest”, mentioned in a separate session, explained what “stirs me and keeps me involved in my commu-

nity to seek justice,” he remarked. This is why St. Matthias wants to share Painting The Stars with others.

They will provide two facilitators to guide people through the roughly 14 hour course, which can be completed in weekly sessions, over a weekend, or any other workable option.

St. Matthias is offering PTS at no charge. Parishes and communities will be responsible for providing space in a church or home and have a commitment to participate.

For more information or to book the course, contact their office at [stmatthiasguelph@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthiasguelph@gmail.com).

You can also check out the Painting the Stars program at [livingthequestions.com](http://livingthequestions.com).

*“When I have a terrible need for—shall I say the word—religion, then I go outside at night and paint the stars.” Vincent Van Gogh*

to do our own star painting!”

After attending one of the three separate sessions offered by St. Matthias, Joan Alexander felt empowered to bring some positive change to the world. She decided, “my first project is to share our garden with anyone who is interested in growing

PTS invited Laurie Douglas to delve into the relationship between evolution and religion, a topic that had never crossed her mind. After exploring it with other course members, she felt it was time to “update my beliefs by learning how to take evidence-based views of reality and con-

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**Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican**

**Deadlines –**  
December 2014 – October 25  
January 2015 – November 25  
February 2015 – December 30

**Submissions –**  
**News – 500 words or less**  
**Articles – 750 words or less**  
**Letters to the Editor – 300 words or less**  
**Reviews (books, films, music, theatre) – 400 words or less**  
**Original cartoons or art – contact the Editor**  
**Photos – very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something). Include name of photographer.**

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Meet by telephone or in person.

**Choral Evensong and Recital**

**Guest Choir:**  
**Cathedral Singers of Ontario**

**Sunday, October 26 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Music for Evensong**  
Prelude: Psalm Prelude, Set 2 No. 1 – Herbert Howells  
Responses: William Smith of Durham  
Psalm: 142 (chant by Herbert Howells)  
Canticles: (Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis)  
Charles V. Stanford in B<sup>b</sup>  
Anthem: I Was Glad – C.H.H.

**Organ Recital following the service**  
Michael Christopher

Chorale Prelude on 'Where Shall I Flee' – J.S. Bach  
Fantasia in G Major – J.S. Bach  
Voluntary in A – John Stan-ley  
Lamento, Op.7 – A. Barie  
Entrée, Canzona, Sortie

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[admin@ancasteranglican.org](mailto:admin@ancasteranglican.org)  
[www.ancasteranglican.org](http://www.ancasteranglican.org)  
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**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**for the gift of life and the gift of love.**  
 (Reflect on your own experiences.)  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



**In conversation with ...**

Author **Eleanor Johnston** discusses her newly published novel, *Churchland*.

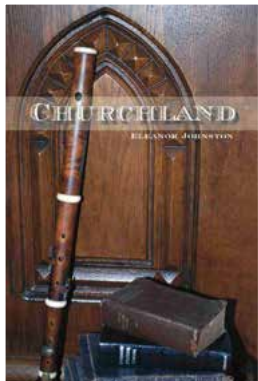
**NA: Our readers know you through your regular articles about contemporary church issues; now you have launched out into another venue. What motivated you to pen a full-length book?**

**EJ:** The themes of *Churchland* —preserving our environment, expanding social justice, and developing a spirituality that can evolve into a working theology —matter to many readers of this newspaper. I feel that they will be interested in exploring these themes in a different genre.

A novel needs to entertain, not just preach. Using wit, humour and suspense is fun. I became fascinated by the characters, especially the priest and her lesbian sister. They support each other through major crises, loyal even when arguing. They blurt out what the rest of us are afraid to think, let alone say.

**NA: What specific audiences are you targeting, and why?**

**EJ:** I am trying to express the feelings of today's church-goers whose voices are unheard, both hard-working laity who hate change and young clergy



Eleanor Johnston is a regular contributor to the *Niagara Anglican* and the author of several works. Photo: Submitted by Eleanor Johnston

overwhelmed by the difficulties of making necessary changes. As comfortable pews and beloved hymns are tossed, both groups fear that this fragile earth is headed towards destruction. Excepting the nuclear arms buildup, never has the Christian Church, let alone the human race, faced such a massive crisis.

**NA: Your book's title indicates its general subject area, but, briefly, what is the story line?**

**EJ:** A romance traditionally begins with a problem in the status quo. The hero(ine) undertakes a quest for solutions and returns bearing the newly-found wisdom that will save the day by transforming society. This book

is also a funny love story with no explicit sex scenes since I, like most of my readers, prefer such details to happen off stage.

The reader senses from the get-go that the characters who act out of sincere motives will be rewarded by love, and there is hope that the selfish characters will turn their lives around. I don't want to be specific except

to say that I was surprised by the ending.

**NA: How long have you worked on this project and what have you learned in the process?**

**EJ:** It took 18 months of writing and revising. I learned that few people are interested in reading theology but everyone loves to be entertained. So I shifted my focus from a novel of ideas to a good-humored love story with a protagonist learning to be a fine Anglican priest.

Speaking of changing overall focus, when writing articles an author can do this as late as during the revision process. Not so with a novel because it's too complex. It's like an ornate carpet — if even one thread is dropped, the carpet loses coherence. Restoring a lost thread is as frustrating as figuring out what went wrong in a Sudoku puzzle but ultimately as satisfying as finding that one lost sheep. Keeping all the details developing steadily is challenging.

**Editor: Watch for a review of Churchland in an upcoming Niagara Anglican.**

**TIPS for CONTRIBUTORS**  
**#5 in a series**

**Hints for taking photographs for the Niagara Anglican**

1. The picture should tell a story with action and movement.
2. Get close - fill the frame with your subject.
3. Avoid distracting backgrounds and clutter.
4. Use the stabilisation feature, if you have it on your camera, to avoid blurred pictures.
5. Take shots from different angles.
6. Get the front or side of your subjects, not their back.
7. *The Rule of thirds*: imagine the frame is divided into three, horizontally and vertically. Our eyes are drawn to those points where the lines intersect, so place the main focus of your picture on those points of intersection rather than in the centre of the frame. The picture will look more natural.

—submitted by Carol Summers

Rule of thirds illustrated ▶



**Not since the Reformation has the Christian Church faced such massive difficulties.**

**What will a young priest—full of faith, hope and love—be called to do?**

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**October – our month to give thanks**

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**for people you know and all other saints whose lives have reflected the light of Christ.**  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



**Canada Briefs**

A roundup from other Anglican newspapers across Canada

**1 Campaign launched to renovate cathedral**

In late June, Christ Church Cathedral and the Jack and Darlene Poole Foundation launched a \$7.5 million campaign to give the New Westminster cathedral a new bell tower, roof and expanded community kitchen. The Poole foundation will provide the first \$2.5 million.

The roof is an urgent priority because it is decaying and leaks water, and has already damaged the interior space. The estimated cost of reconstruction is \$4.7 million. A bell tower will be designed as a 21st-century interpretation of a traditional steeple with bells, which will be rung daily. The spire will be illuminated in the evenings.

For the past 20 years, the cathedral congregation has offered a food outreach ministry that feeds homemade soup and sandwiches to about 100 people each day between Sept. and June. The kitchen upgrade is estimated at \$400,000.

*Topic*

**2 Planting a symbol of reconciliation**

Celebrating its centenary year, the diocese of Edmonton gave each parish a chokecherry tree to be planted near its church.

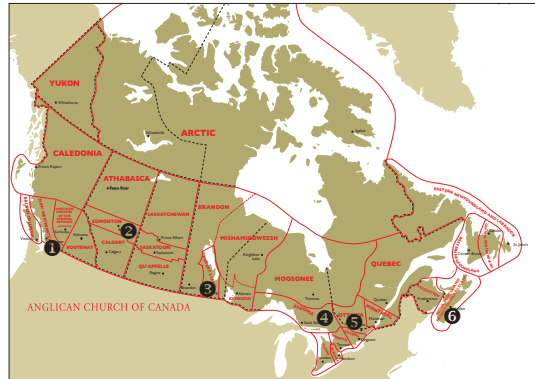
The chokecherry is a sacred plant in many aboriginal cultures and the trees are intended to be a living symbol of a continued commitment to seek understanding and reconciliation with aboriginal peoples.

*The Messenger*

**3 Rupert's Land expands**

On Aug. 1, the diocese of Rupert's Land officially grew to include 12 parishes located west of Winnipeg, which were formerly part of the diocese of Keewatin.

At its synod in October, the diocese will welcome Church of the Good Shepherd Atikokan; St. Luke's Dryden; Holy Trinity Minnitaki; St. John's Fort Frances; Emmanuel Church Ignace; St. Alban's Cathedral Kenora;



Pinawa Christian Fellowship; St. John's Lac du Bonnet; St. John's Rainy River; Shared Ministry in Red Lake; St. Mary's Sioux Lookout; and St. John's Wabigoon.

The northern part of the diocese of Keewatin was renamed as the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh. *Rupert's Land News*

**4 Praying for missing women**

About 80 people in North Bay, Ont., gathered on June 12 to walk, pray for and honour schoolgirls abducted in Nigeria as well as missing women in Canada.

Participants wore white armbands with the names of missing women written on them. (The White Ribbon Campaign, which began in Canada, is now an international movement of men who oppose violence against women and vow that they "will not commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls.")

Following white flags, the group moved from a Roman Catholic church to a United church and finished at an Anglican church. At each church, there was a short liturgy, including music, prayers and stories. While at the United church, people read aloud the names of missing aboriginal women as the Northern Kwe Drum group offered the "Strong Woman Song." *Algoma Anglican*

**5 University students try church crawl**

Last year a group of 20 churches in Ottawa and many campus clubs from the University of Ottawa launched a pilot project to introduce students to Christian communities in their neighbourhood.

The twist on the more typical pub crawl was a success and was back by popular demand this September. More than 100 students signed up to participate in a scavenger hunt around the campus and neighbourhood, where they encountered more than 20 different church communities.

"I believe the event's success can be attributed, in part, to its ecumenical nature. We're not telling students where to go or what to think. We're just letting them know we are here for them," writes Zack Ingles in a youth column in the diocesan newspaper. *Crosstalk*

**6 Funding for indigenous ministry education**

The Nova Scotia Anglican Church Women (NS ACW) has announced that its 2014/2015 annual project will raise funds for bursaries for indigenous students attending an indigenous school of ministry.

"Northward Bound—Bursaries for Ministry" will fund one-year studies that will train and equip students for mission. The board noted that of approximately 295 Council of the North clergy, 134

are non-stipendiary. Many spend countless hours performing ministry in addition to working at another job to support their families. A bursary may be the only way that they could afford to attend a school of ministry. *The Diocesan Times*



*Prepared by Leigh Anne Williams, staff writer for the Anglican Journal*

**From the Diocesan website ...**

**People in the News**

**In Memoriam**

It is with sadness we announce the death of **Linda Kucharczuk**, O.N., on September 1. Linda, a long time faithful member of All Saints Erin, will be missed by many, many friends at the church and in the wider community. Prayers are requested for her husband Peter and family.

accepted the position of Interim Chaplain at Appleby College Oakville until the arrival of their newly appointed Chaplain, the Reverend Craig Leacock (January 2015).

**In Memoriam**

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death of the Reverend Deacon D. Carman Wilson, on August 8. Carman was the parish deacon at the Church of St. John the Evangelist Hamilton for a number of years before his retirement. Remember Carman's wife Mary and their family in your thoughts and prayers.

**Appointment**

The Reverend Malcolm Wilson was issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at St. John's Church Nassagaweya (in Campbellville) under the direction of the Reverend Wendy Phipps. In addition, he has

**Council of the North Sunday**

Celebrate a Council of the North Sunday in your parish and help raise awareness about the Church's mission and ministry in the north.

Visit [www.anglican.ca/cn](http://www.anglican.ca/cn) to download or order our video and a variety of other resources to make your celebration a truly inspired worship event. Contact Council of the North Communications at: [cnc@national.anglican.ca](mailto:cnc@national.anglican.ca).



### October – our month to give thanks

Let us give thanks to God always and for everything, especially ...  
**Add your own today by name or situation.**  
 End by saying **I thank you, Lord.**



## The puck stopped at my pew

COLIN SHUTT



In your Christian journey have you ever asked: is there more to this than meets my jaundiced eye?

Well, I did.

It wasn't a brick wall but a yearning to do and understand more.

The puck stopped at my pew and I didn't have the directions on how to dig it out.

Well, a Cursillo weekend did that for me.

It awakened that yearning again, and gave me the tools and continued support. It dug the puck out of the corner and set me shooting for new goals; to fulfill my baptismal covenant.

Since that weekend we have gotten together and discussed our journeys in faith, study and action.

I have always used my priest, scripture and well thought out sermons as inspiration but I wanted more!

We hold weekly and bi-monthly (the group's choice) meetings where we discuss our journeys in following Jesus' path. I get answers to my questions and suggestions on how to better my Christian faith from people on the same journey. We have Bible study at our Church now where we get greater understanding and direction from God's word.

Cursillo has Ultreyas (Spanish for onward/forward) where we

sing and listen to someone telling us (witness) about their faith, study and action. These Ultreyas are open to everyone.

Cursillo is a group of people like you and me who want to up their Christian game (alluding to the puck, sorry). It is not the only way, but it is a great way to better serve your community and our Saviour.

The next Cursillo Niagara weekend, # 50, is Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2014 at Mount Mary Immaculate, Ancaster.

You can obtain more information at [www.cursillonniagara.org](http://www.cursillonniagara.org) or from the Reverend Stephanie Fellow at 519-925-2551.

Colin Shutt is Communications Chair for Cursillo Niagara and a member of St. Paul's Shelburne. EMAIL: [4thdaycalling@gmail.com](mailto:4thdaycalling@gmail.com)

## Best Christmas paper ever

**YOU can help make this December's Niagara Anglican the best Christmas paper ever.**

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 memory;
- Reflect on what Christmas means for you;
- Draw us a Christmas picture or cartoon.



**We need to hear from you by October 25 to make our December issue an extra special gift for our readers for Christmas.**

Send your submission to [editor@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagaraanglican.ca) or Editor, Niagara Anglican, 710 Ashley Ave, Burlington, ON, L7R 2Z3 or talk to the Editor at 905-635-9463.

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