

In conversation with ...

Phyllis Tickle, author and speaker on religion in North America

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Comfort for the feet ... comfort for the soul

An unusual story of socks for the homeless

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A section of the Anglican Journal

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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

SEPTEMBER 2014



OPEN

Parishes ARE more open

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Three Anglican parishes in Burlington were among the 14 groups and individuals receiving the 2014 Accessibility Awards from the City of Burlington.

"Accessibility is much more than simply making it easier for people to enter and exit buildings," according to the Chair of the Burlington

Accessibility Advisory Committee.

David Fisher went on to say, "it represents a way for the potential of our citizens to be unlocked so that they may reach their full capacity."

St. Elizabeth's, St. John's and St. Christopher's parishes were recognized for their work in bringing Fisher's vision of accessibility to life.

—See PARISHES page 4

Anglican Church of Canada WANTS to be more open

HOLLIS HISCOCK

You have until Tuesday, September 30, 2014 to make your voice known to the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) regarding a motion on same-sex marriage scheduled to come before the Church's next General Synod in 2016.

At the last General Synod, held in 2013, a resolution was passed directing ACC leadership to draft a motion "to change Canon XXI on marriage to allow the marriage of same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-

sex couples."

The same motion is to include a conscience clause so that "no member of the clergy, bishop, congregation or diocese should be constrained to participate in or authorize such marriages against the dictates of their conscience."

In preparing the motion, General Synod stipulated, among other things that a "broad consultation" should take place. A Commission on the Marriage


—See ANGLICAN page 4

Parishes ARE more open

St. John's Churchwarden Brian Prescott (right row second from top), St. Elizabeth's Rector Jean Archbell (centre row third from top) and St. Christopher's Pastoral Associate Sue Nicolls (centre row fourth from top) received Accessibility awards on behalf of their respective parishes. Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring (right row second from bottom) spoke at the presentation.

Photo: Eric Riehl, Burlington Post, Metroland Media Group. Used with permission.

For news about people and parish events go to niagaraanglican.ca

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>Christ's Cathedral DIOCESE OF NIAGARA</p> <p>252 James Street North Hamilton L8R 2L3 • (905) 527-1316 www.cathedralhamilton.ca cathedral@niagara.anglican.ca</p> <p>The Right Reverend Michael A. Bird Bishop of Niagara The Very Reverend Peter A. Wall Rector of the Cathedral and Dean of Niagara</p> | <p>Sunday, September 7 Pentecost 13</p> <p>8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: Bishop Ralph Spence President: The Dean</i></p> | <p>Sunday, September 28 The Feast of Michaelmas</p> <p>8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Procession and Choral Eucharist <i>North American Vergers Conference with the clergy and people of St. Luke's, Burlington in attendance Preacher: The Dean • President: Bishop Michael Bird</i></p> |
| | <p>SUPERCRAWL AT THE CATHEDRAL</p> <p>Music with organ, choirs and bands together with tours throughout the September 12-14 weekend</p> | <p>4:00 pm The Symphonic Organ I <i>Organ recital by Michael Bloss. Works by C.M. Widor</i></p> |
| | <p>Sunday, September 14 Holy Cross</p> <p>8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Dean President: The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall</i></p> | <p>4:30 pm Festival Evensong <i>Sung by the Cathedral Choir and the choir of St. Luke's, Burlington, Jennifer Goodine, director</i></p> |
| <p>Sunday, September 21 Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</p> <p>8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Choral Eucharist <i>Preacher: The Dean President: Bishop Ralph Spence</i></p> | <p>Sunday, October 5 Pentecost 17</p> <p>8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Choral Eucharist and Blessing of the Animals</p> | <p>Eucharist Monday-Friday 12:15 pm & Tuesdays 7:30 am</p> |

Summer post cards

A roundup of activities over the summer



Seafarers fare well

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Canon David Anderson, Chair of the Mission to Seafarers Board, received funds from four Hamilton parishes raised at the Mountain Ministry's annual Good Friday walk earlier this year.

As reported in the June 2014 Niagara Anglican (page 8), correspondent Michael Williams wrote this was a "first time" celebration, especially pooling funds to donate the total amount to one organization.

The Mission to Seafarers, founded in 1856, is a world-wide Anglican outreach ministry "promoting spiritual, moral and physical well-being for Seafarers and their families."

In Hamilton the Mission services an average of 140 ocean vessels each season, as well as many Great Lakes freighters involved in the steel industry.



Cheques totalling nearly \$4,000 were handed over to David Anderson (second from left) Rectors David Toth (Holy Trinity), Sheila Van Zandwyk (St. Michael's), Scott McNaughton (St. Stephen on the Mount) and Mike Deed (Church of the Resurrection). Photo: Terry DeForest

Symbols of ministry

The 84 clergy and licensed lay workers who attended their diocesan conference this year were asked to bring something to represent their work or ministry. These are some of the show and tell items displayed on an "altar" at the annual event. Phyllis Tickle was the special speaker. You can read our conversation with her on page 6.

Photo: Jane Wyse



Take me out to the ballgame



Each year parishioners from St. Luke's Burlington travel to the Skydome to cheer on the Toronto Blue Jays. In June, 13 people made the pilgrimage only to see their favourite team being outscored. However, as Rector Stuart Pike observed, "Never mind, our loyal St. Luke's group still enjoyed ourselves with plenty of special invocations throughout the game!"

Photo: Stuart Pike



Hymn Sing!



A June hymn-sing at the Church of the Ascension Hamilton included the choir of St. Patrick's Church—a true ecumenical event.

Photo: Heather Oliver



Library at the end of the RAINBOW

The Rainbow Committee of St. Christopher's Burlington sponsored a table display at the Burlington Public Library. During the week, visitors could view a wealth of information, including the Niagara Rite (a blessing of and celebration for any two legally married people), parish photographs, the rainbow flag and the parish's declaration to welcome all LGBTQ people and their families.

Photo: Don Osbourne



Climbing the WALL

Nine year old Isaac Lucas-Roy (inset) reached the top of the challenging climbing wall during a pre-season open house held at Canterbury Hills Camp Ancaster.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

HOLLIStorial

Life and meaning coming together

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Some days, diverse happenings converge to form a unified whole.

June 29, 2014 was such a day. Now June 29 has its own historical significance.

This year the 180th day of the Gregorian calendar dawned on a Sunday, which happened to be the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, honouring their martyrdom in Rome.

On a somewhat lighter note, on June 29, 512 some monks in Ireland recorded a solar eclipse. In 1534 Jacques Cartier explored the shores of Prince Edward Island, thought it was part of the mainland and said it was “the loveliest climate you could ever see, and great heat.”

Now, back to my June 29. Firstly, the World Pride Parade in Toronto topped some 10 days of Pride, including over 100 couples from across the globe exchanging marriage vows in a mass celebration at the famous Casa Loma. A group of Proud Anglicans joined more than 12,500 marchers in the parade, which attracted several hundreds of thousands along the route and many more through television and internet broadcasts.

Secondly, FIFA saturated the media as well as the streets of many towns and cities worldwide. The 20th World Cup in soccer was being played geographically in Brazil and emotionally around the globe. Periodically watching the “beau-



Speaking at the Editors Conference. Read more on page 5.

Photo: SimonChamber

tiful game”, so named because of it being simple to play since all that is needed is a ball and a field, I noticed some interesting things. I saw players kneeling in prayer, blessing themselves with the sign of the cross before entering the game, helping a fallen player to his feet, flashing a broad smile as the referee called a foul infraction, dramatizing the most innocuous incident, waving to rouse the maddening cheering crowds and celebrating a goal with triumphant cheers of epic proportions.

Thirdly, my June 29, 2014 centred on the hot spots of the world where wars, rumours of conflict, kidnapping of young people, merciless violence and death threats occupied the

daily routines of citizens in too many nations around the earth. Wherever I looked—newspaper, magazine, television or the web—I could not escape reports of the tragedies being inflicted upon God’s people by God’s people in God’s world.

I brought all of this with me when I entered the threshold leading into my worship sanctuary on Sunday morning. I was hoping perhaps that a message of understanding or a plan for action could emerge.

It did. It started with the singing of two verses of the four stanza English version of O Canada, from the original poem penned in 1908 by Quebec Judge Stanley Weir.

The first verse we all know and sing in a variety of settings. We bypassed verses two and three, which I hastily read at a glance anyway, and caught up as the congregation launched expectantly into stanza four. In an instant a glimmer of light and understanding started to materialize in my mind, as we sang these words ...

*Ruler supreme, who hearest
humble prayer,
Hold our dominion within thy
loving care;
Help us to find, O God, in thee
A lasting, rich reward,
As waiting for the Better Day,
We ever stand on guard.*

The language made more sense when later I checked my thesaurus and realized the word

“guard” can also mean protector, lookout, safeguard, watch or security.

My thoughts converged even more when Jesus’ parable of the sower—the cornerstone of my philosophy of ministry—was read as an introduction to the sermon. The preacher echoed my take on what Jesus was attempting to teach in relating this story and its hidden message.

Like Jesus, her advice to her listeners was to keep on sowing. We are not to be concerned about the type of terrain where the seeds should happen to land or the results ensuing from our laborious sowing ... we leave that to God.

Rather our job is beautifully simple—we just need to keep on sowing the seeds of hope, peace, education, understanding, tolerance, diversity, equality, welcome, affirmation, encouragement, love, goodwill, justice, community, healing, forgiveness, faith in God, etc.

Well, it may sound simple but not every person will accept the responsibility to sow the seed to improve the quality of life on our planet. However, for those who do our future looks bright, promising and fulfilling.

June 29, 2014 was an exceptional 24 hour period ... one day when it all came together for me.

*Feedback on the HOLLIS*torial or any aspect of the Niagara Anglican is always appreciated. See the Editor’s contact information elsewhere on this page.

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, or
- Reflect on what Christmas means for you.

You can even 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 or Editor, Niagara Anglican, 710 Ashley Ave, Burlington, ON, L7R 2Z3 or talk to the Editor at 905-635-9463.

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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www.niagaraanglican.ca



OPEN

Anglican Church WANTS to be more open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Canon was established and is inviting submissions from people across the Canadian Anglican Church.

The Commission said in a release, "Your input is vitally important as we enter this process of discernment together, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

Submissions, written or by video, should be "as brief and concise as possible."

The Commission has suggested questions and provided guidelines to help people in the process.

You must also include your name, parish or institution, diocese and contact details.

To make a submission go to www.anglican.ca/about/ccc/cogs/cmc/ or keyword search Invitation for submissions to the Commission on the Marriage Canon.

On that page you can link to what others are saying on this issue. The Commission makes the promise, "All of the commissioners will read or view each submission as they prepare their report."

Questions and submissions can be forwarded to the



Commission either through the website quoted above or sent to marriagecanon@national.anglican.ca or by post at: Commission on the Marriage Canon, Anglican Church of Canada, 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

Parishes ARE more open

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In making the presentations the Accessibility Committee explained why each parish was given the award.

St. Elizabeth's ...

"For years, the people of St. Elizabeth's Anglican Church had dreamed of a building which would be accessible to everyone.

"The church was built in 1960 when unique architectural styles often created significant challenges for people with limited mobility.

"In 2010, the congregation of St. Elizabeth's identified ministry to seniors as a priority and the work began to remove barriers to access. After researching a number of possibilities, a plan came together that was both financially viable and practical.

"Through generous parish fundraising, a bequest from a former parishioner and a grant through the federal Enabling Accessibility Fund, they achieved their dream.

Improvements include a 60 foot concrete ramp to the front door, enhanced exterior lighting, the addition of a stair lift to access all levels and a retrofit to both washrooms. As a result they are able to broaden their ministry, open the facilities to the entire community and reach out in new and exciting ways."

St. John's ...

"Established in 1835, St. John's Anglican Church has a history of welcoming parishioners and the broader community to services and events but the multi-level property presented accessibility challenges.

"Parish fundraising and an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant allowed for an ambitious construction plan. Phase 1 included an extensive ramping system creating a series of pathways connecting both the upper and lower levels of the Parish Hall with the upper and lower parking lots. The Hall was modified to include power door operators, improved outdoor lighting, seating and renovations to each washroom to increase accessibility.

"Phase 2 saw the Church

improve accessibility with the addition of a ramp from the parking areas. The creative addition of Skype provides those attending services or weddings and funerals in the Church the option of participating in the larger, air conditioned Parish Hall via the large screen TV.

"The accessibility project reaches beyond the parish family by welcoming all to participate in the many meetings, programs and gatherings held throughout the week."

St. Christopher's ...

"St. Christopher's Anglican Church was recognized with an Accessibility Award two years ago for improvements to physical accessibility. They made major changes to many interior and exterior areas and most parishioners were satisfied but, despite all the changes, parishioners with hearing loss were not able to fully participate in all the services.

"The Church had installed a new microphone and speaker system during their renovations, but the sound was garbled and not audible to people with a hearing loss.

"To find a solution they hired a sound system expert to install a sophisticated audio loop system that encircles the entire congregation and altar areas. After the installation was completed an audiologist volunteered to adjust the hearing aids of parishioners so they could be tuned into the loop's specific frequency.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive with several people saying they finally hear the entire service and specifically the sermon for 'the first time in years'. St. Christopher's Parish Council continues to meet regularly to ensure all accessibility issues are addressed as soon as possible."

Since its inception in 2012, some 45 organizations, businesses and individuals have been recognized with accessibility awards. They have "truly made a difference in the lives of persons with disabilities," concluded Fisher.

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From the web ...

WOW — Grants awarded

The projects came from all parts of the diocese, and from a wide array of ministries: urban parishes and rural parishes, university chaplaincies and prison ministries. All of them had one common theme: vital, vibrant, vision-centered ministry.

Here are examples of how a few of the 14 projects supported through the inaugural Walking on Water (WOW) grants will transform dreams into ministry:

Brock University Ecumenical Chaplaincy will expand the scope of the successful “Big Questions” program with the creation of an outreach aspect in which Brock students can unite campus learning experiences and Big Question discussions with social justice concerns under the leadership of a student coordinator.

Grace Church Waterdown will update two ranges and install range hoods in the kitchen in order to offer a community kitchen program for food bank

guests and other community members, utilizing produce from the church’s community garden to build community, improve health and well-being, increase nutritional knowledge and food preparation skills and reduce food costs.

St. Alban’s Glen Williams will support two new worship communities, Candlelit Church (quiet & contemplative) and a monthly Thursday Evening Family Service, by funding musicians for both with the plan that both services be able to support their musicians as this grant ends.

The Bridge Hamilton will revamp existing intake and reintegration programs to improve how people transition from prisons to community, empowering them to create change in their lives that mitigates against a return to crime, rooted in the healing principles of restorative justice and the holistic, functional approaches of occupational therapy.

St. James St. Catharines will offer the ancient practice of labyrinth meditation through an installation on the floor of the small hall; to be used as part of parish programming as well as in partnership with the St. Catharines General Hospital and a District School Board of Niagara youth-at-risk program.

Fourteen projects, totaling just under \$75,000, were funded through these grants. This funding was made possible through the New Church Development Fund of the Diocese as well as funds drawn from the Outreach in the Name of Christ and the Education and Training Survive and Thrive endowment funds.

It is anticipated that the next call for WOW grant applications will be made in September with a Discernment Day taking place in early 2015.

For a full listing and description of all the grants go to the diocesan website niagaraanglican.ca and follow the link under NEWS.

Priest dies suddenly

Suddenly at the Hamilton General Hospital on July 12, 2014, the Reverend David Toth, in his 57th year, was called home to be with his Lord.



During his ministry he served as Assistant Curate at St. Jude’s Oakville and was Rector of Holy Trinity Hamilton for three years.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife of 38 years, Janice, and his family. You are asked to remember them in your prayers.

A service celebrating David’s life was held on July 17 at Holy Trinity Church.

People

Congratulations

Sir **David Roland, O.N.**, faithful member of Holy Trinity Fonhill, has been knighted for his distinguished service in WWII.

try (part-time) at Fort Erie and Ridgemount as well.

The Reverend **Jeff Ward** was elected Regional Dean of Trafalgar.

Clergy

The Reverend **Daniel Bennett** becomes Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Church Ridgeway for a two year term on a part time basis. He will continue his minis-

The Reverend **Sue Nicolls** resigned as Pastoral Associate at St. Christopher’s Burlington, and becomes Rector of the Halton Hills Cluster (St. Stephen’s Hornby, St. John’s Stewarttown and St. Paul’s Norval).

*In the next Niagara Anglican
Celebrating 150 years of ministry in Flamborough*



we can help.

Churches are continuously challenged to find new ways to welcome and engage their parish community. New community members, and sometimes not so new members, can feel lost.

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the wild oats

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For every 2 tickets purchased, purchaser will receive a coupon for a free digital download of the Wild Oats’ Christmas CD “Making Spirits Bright”.

In Conversation with ...

Who is Phyllis Tickle?

She is the founding Editor of the Religion Department at *Publishers Weekly*. She is an authority on religion in North America. She is a well sought after lecturer. She has written over three dozen books on religion and spirituality.

Her most recent books are *The Great Emergence—How Christianity is changing and why*; *Emergence Christianity—What it is, where it is going, and why it matters*; and *The Age of The Spirit: How the ghost of an ancient controversy is shaping the church*.

She is a member of the Episcopal Church where she serves as a Lector and Lay Eucharistic Minister.

The Niagara Anglican (NA) brings you a conversation with Phyllis Tickle (PT) ...

NA: What do you mean by the "Great Emergence" period?

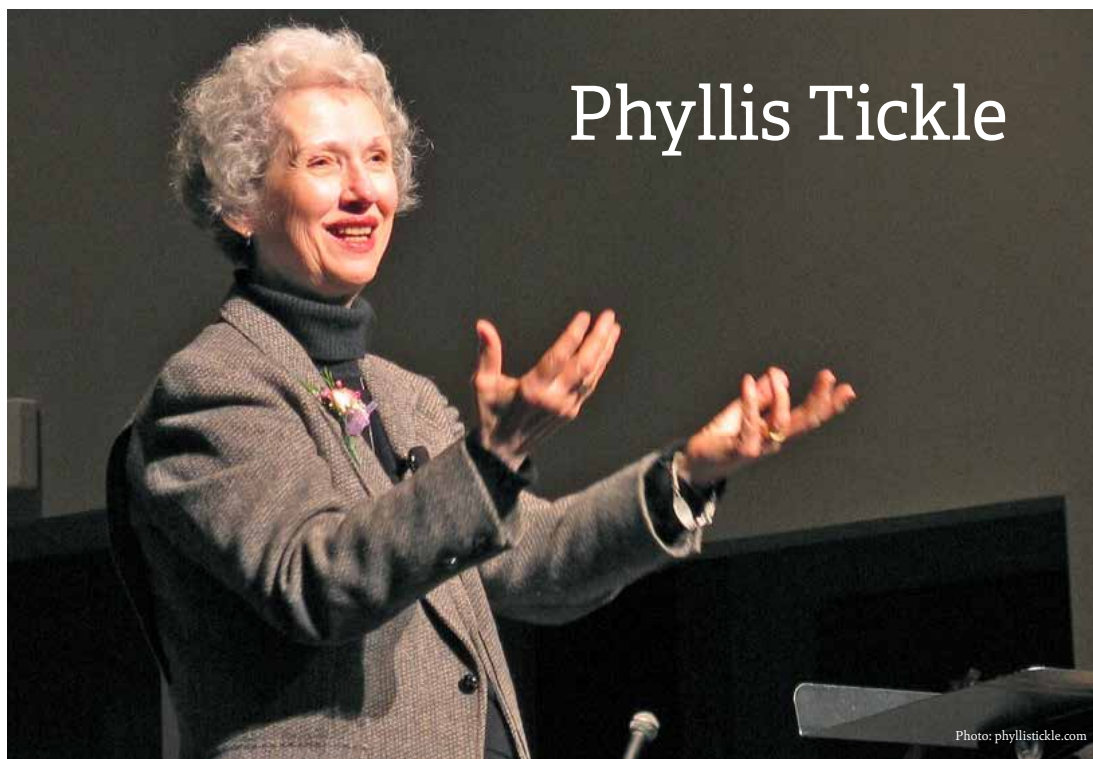
PT: The Great Emergence is the name now being given to the times we live in, times that we all recognize as being ones of massive change and upheaval; but despite the enormity of that upheaval, what we are living through is certainly not without precedence.

For some reason, the Latinized Christian world has gone through similar times before. That is, about every five hundred years, we and our forebears have passed through a century or so in which every single thing—politically, economically, technologically, sociologically, religiously, etc.—everything undergoes almost overwhelming change.

We live in the 21st century. Five hundred years ago in the 16th century was what we now refer to as the Great Reformation. Five hundred years before that in the 11th century, it was the Great Schism. Five hundred before that in the 6th century, it was the Great Decline and Fall. In the 1st century, it was the Great Transformation or the Great Transition, both names being used interchangeably.

NA: How does the Great Emergence impact the lives of individual Christians, the organized church and the wider world?

PT: Put in practical terms, the



▲ Signing a copy of her latest book for Leslie Gerlofs.

Photo: Jane Wyse

question really is: How does the internet impact our lives? How have its presence and use changed the last quarter century of our ways of being? How, in the build-up to our times, have atomic physics and quantum physics impacted us? The Uncertainty Principle? The Hubble and its findings? Archeology and textual criticism? The finding of the Higgs boson? The coming of the automobile and the accessibility to one by almost every single one of us? The globalization of experience that has come from the invention of the airplane? The creation of a world banking system? The arrival of artificial intelligence and robotic warfare? ... the list goes on almost unendingly.

Christians and non-Christians

alike live in these shifting, dynamic times. It is Christians, however, who have to look at their received doctrines and dogma and see whether or not those inherited understandings and interpretations are tenable within the new framework of current knowledge.

That is incredibly difficult and painful work.

NA: You recently led a conference for the clergy and others in Niagara Diocese – what was your message for them?

PT: It was a message they already knew, actually ... or at least the bulk of it was ... namely that we are indeed in times which are just as shifting and rolling as Christian clergy know

them to be; that it is ultimately the clergy - the men and women in the congregational trenches - who are going to have to deal with the questions being raised by the Great Emergence and lead their people through them, just as it was clergymen like Luther who had to deal and lead with the questions and changes of 500 years ago. And finally, that ours may be tumultuous times, but they are also exciting ones of enormous potential and great hope.

Each time we have passed through one of these things, the form of Christianity that had held pride of place has had to drop back and re-configure, but it did not die. Rather, it re-grouped and became stronger, even as the river of faith and practice that is Christianity developed a new tributary flowing into itself.

To be weary is reasonable, to be discouraged is not.

NA: How can the clergy and others apply the "Great Emergence" message to their parishes?

PT: The obvious first step is to do exactly what this diocese has been doing for several years, that is, educating itself about what is happening and finding in history and in collegial dialogue an understanding of what is happening and why.

At some point, though, all of that must translate into actions like the deliberated and pastorally-administered education of a parish's congregants about what is indeed happening and why and to what end.

It includes an active and studied engagement with the newer and emerging forms of Christianity coming up around us, along with a deep, respectful and effectual concern for their nourishment and well-being.

And to that end, an open, internal discussion about how much staff and lay ministry a parish is willing to divert to such work; the inculcation into Vestry meetings of open conversation about how and how far they as individuals and corporately find themselves led to be honest with themselves about the dangers and stresses of openly engaging the questions of doctrine and beliefs; the candid engagement in parish-produced materials as well as gatherings of questions being raised currently by secularism, atheism, scientism, etc.

It means the introduction into parish programs, where possible, of teaching lectures by informed sources on the issues and ideas surrounding a theology of religion and/or living within a world of many and conflicting faiths.

And this list, too, goes on and on.

—Continued Page 7

In conversation with ... Phyllis Tickle



▲ Phyllis speaking at the Niagara clergy and licenced lay workers conference. Photo: Jane Wyse

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

NA: What are your thoughts, hopes, fears and predictions for the future of the Church or Christianity or any religion?

PT: The Church will survive, just as it has in all our previous upheavals. It will have to re-configure - always a painful process - and re-group and change, but it will also grow, just as Christianity itself will grow.

My suspicion is that this time we are going to come out on the other side of things with a much stronger and more virile pneumatology, a re-defined understanding of the Atonement, a much more sophisticated theology of religion, and an on-going and evolving understanding of what imago dei actually means.

NA: Thank you for sharing with us and for challenging and reassuring us.

Following Christ, living the vision: a parish retreat



Participating in the retreat were (left to right) Rod Irving, Joan Nixon, Joan Cochrane, Elsie Dandy, Debbie Roberts, the Reverend Elizabeth Huether and Robert Hamilton. Photo: Submitted by parish.

St. James Fergus

**BARBARA CLUNES AND
PAULINE HEAD**

Sharing worship, ourselves, our ideas, our deepest spiritual wishes, our commitment to a revitalized church within and beyond the walls of St. James Fergus – this captures the essence and the warmth and spirit of the parish retreat held on Friday evening and Saturday of the first weekend of May.

The need for our community to collaboratively affirm its vision and live it was discussed over several months. During this time the Diocesan vision, adopted as our own, was recognized as not a blueprint but a comprehensive and deeply spiritual framework that covers everything needed to enrich our church life, and enables us to be truly “the body of Christ,” now and into the foreseeable future.

Starting with the core statement of the vision, our theme became “Following Christ Passionately, Living the Vision.”

Our Parish was indescribably blessed by the inspired guidance of Canon Terry DeForest who transformed our thoughts into an exciting, enjoyable and deeply spiritual format. Terry provided excellent insights, helping us to comprehend and appreciate the amazing scope of the Diocesan Vision in plenary introductory sessions. These included the core statement, the five petals, the values in which these are rooted and the unavoidable challenges of the Church to fulfill the “spiritual hunger” of a population, who typically are no longer interested in organized religion.

In small discussion groups we

had the opportunity to “translate” these introductions into our own language and think of ways in which we might follow each aspect of the Vision.

The concluding discussion was focused on “How might we grow as disciples passionately following Christ; as a community of God’s people working to build God’s kingdom; and as a parish living our vision?” The Reverend Elizabeth Huether, invited to partner with us throughout this process, provided invaluable and constructive observations at the end of the retreat for serious consideration as we proceed into the future.

One of the organizers said, in reflection, “The retreat was enriched throughout by thoughtfully and beautifully crafted worship by Pauline Head including

music, prayers, readings from Scripture and the moving experience of walking the labyrinth.”

The labyrinth was borrowed from the Diocese and we placed it at the heart of our Friday evening gathering worship. Walking it together meant for us that as a community we are trying to follow Christ passionately. We walked towards that centre together, but in our own unique ways. When we encountered someone on the path, we knew we had the option to continue walking or making room but remaining absorbed in our own meditation. Everyone chose though to embrace as they met, and to share the peace. One of several people, who prayerfully observed but did not walk the labyrinth, said afterwards, “How beautiful are the feet!”

“I feel renewed and hopeful coming away from the retreat” was a parishioner’s response at the end of the weekend. All responses have been positive, several saying this was the best parish retreat they had ever attended. It managed to be a retreat in both senses of the word – a spiritual retreat with time for reflections, prayer and song, and also a visioning retreat, providing us with an abundance of ideas to inspire and guide us as we continue on the path together.

Churchwarden Barbara Clunes and Rector Pauline Head can be reached at st.jameschurch@wightman.ca

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Bishop’s Diploma Course

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

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

| Area | Parish Centre | Start Date |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Burlington | St. Luke | September 15 - 7:30pm |
| Flamborough | Christ Church | September 10 - 7:00pm |
| Jordan | St. John | September 16 - 2:00pm |
| St. Catharines | St. Columba | September 10 - 7:00pm |

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

Refugees

Ongoing concern about refugee rights

CAROLYN VANDERLIP

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recently announced that the number of displaced people worldwide, 51 million, is at its highest level since World War II.

That makes it more important than ever that our diocese continues to support and engage with the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world, and to the settlement of refugees and immigrants in Canada.

At its most recent consultation in Halifax, CCR members continued to express deep concern for refugees who were cut off from essential health care services in 2012. Refugee claimants from “Designated Countries of Origin” receive no health care unless it is a public health or public safety concern, even before their claims are heard and decided upon.

And approximately 6,300 people who arrive in Canada through the private sponsorship



Canadian Doctors for Refugee Care invited people to attend a National Day of Action (June 16) to show “the Federal Government that Canadians will stand up for the most vulnerable among us.” Rallies were held in many cities across Canada, including Hamilton.

Photos: Bill Mous

program each year, a program through which a number of our churches help refugees build

new lives in Canada, no longer receive coverage for needed medications, dental care or



Can't afford to sponsor a refugee? Think again!

“We can sleep at night.”

That was the striking response when I asked a newly arrived refugee family about their first impressions of Canada. The Iraqi family with two young boys had only a few days earlier been living in war-ravaged Damascus, Syria, where they had been unable to sleep for a full night in more than two years because of the bombs going off.

The children hadn't been able to attend school in more than a year. The family had escaped to Syria due to the war in their home country, not imagining that the situation in their country of refuge would soon become as dangerous as the one they had fled.

After years of displacement the family is now safely living in Hamilton through a sponsorship arranged by the diocese of Niagara.

But among refugees, they are the lucky few; according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 51 million people are forcibly displaced worldwide – the highest level since World War

Two. Half of them are children.

In the diocese of Niagara we have the ability to help more refugee families reach safety.

If the cost of supporting a refugee family for their first 12 months in Canada seems challenging, the government is offering to cover the first six months of income support for refugees selected under its Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) program.

Refugees from countries such as Iraq, Iran, Colombia, Eritrea and Syria are referred to the program by the UNHCR. These individuals and families cannot return to their home countries, and they are in difficult circumstances in their countries of asylum. Their only hope for a future is resettlement to a third country.

Please consider sponsoring a refugee family and giving them the opportunity to begin a new life in Canada, safe from violence and persecution.

For more information contact Carolyn Vanderlip at cvanderlip@gmail.com

mobility devices.

Rather than providing preventive care for our future citizens (the majority of accepted refugee claimants and privately sponsored refugees become Canadian citizens), this policy makes people wait to seek medical care until a situation that could have been treated becomes an emergency.

The CCR continues to advocate for fewer barriers and faster access to family reunification for refugee families who have been separated, immigration policies that do not put refugee women at increased risk of domestic violence and a more effective Urgent Protection Program for refugees whose lives are in immediate danger.

As a CCR member, we are encouraged to support the Proud to Protect Refugees campaign. In Canada, increased negative talk about refugees makes it more difficult for them to find protection and to feel welcome. The Proud to Protect campaign wants to change the conversation and promote a positive vision of

what we want for refugees and other vulnerable migrants, and of the important contributions they make to our communities.

Here's what you can do on your own or as a group:

- Adopt “Proud to Protect Refugees” as a slogan and invite groups in your area to do the same
- Talk to others about why you are proud to protect refugees, and why they should be too
- Share facts and stories about refugees and their contributions
- Order and share buttons, stickers, posters and other Proud to Protect Refugees materials
- Bust myths and misconceptions about refugees

For more information and resources, go to ccrweb.ca/en/proud-to-protect-refugees/

Carolyn Vanderlip is the refugee sponsorship coordinator for Niagara Diocese and leader of the Prophetic Social Justice Making vision group. EMAIL: cvanderlip@gmail.com

Book Review

For Anglican readers ... many moments of recognition

All Saints, by K.D. Miller
(Biblioasis, Windsor, ON, 2014)

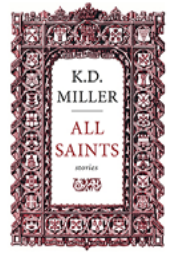
DOUG FIELD

Using the fictional Toronto parish of All Saints as the glue for a collection of short stories is a novel approach that works well for this distinguished Canadian author. But anyone expecting the book to render a rounded portrait of parish life will be disappointed. While the characters who are the subjects of each story all have a connection to All Saints, that connection is sometimes tenuous and doesn't tell us a lot about life in a once-thriving parish, now in slow and seemingly terminal decline.

The leitmotif of the collection is quotations from the Book of Common Prayer, whose gracious language is a counterpoint to Miller's gritty prose.

Writers as disparate as Oscar Wilde and Agatha Christie have portrayed Anglican vicars as well-meaning but usually ineffectual when confronting the realities of life. Simon, recently widowed and recently appointed, has come to the parish in his first Rector's position somewhat late in life. His late wife's mental and emotional instability made him an unsuitable candidate for anything but the Associate's job. Now he wonders if he's up to the job even as he tries to control his growing physical attraction to the editor of the parish newsletter, herself hanging in at All Saints mostly because, as she says, "The church won't dump me." This is pretty bleak stuff.

Elsewhere, a husband retreats from the misery of his marriage by working endlessly on a base-



ment room to be ready when a perhaps-dead old friend Barney comes to visit. They haven't met since the husband's wedding – at All Saints. Barney is a masterpiece of story-telling, and Miller's ability to imagine a man's interior monologue is a tour-de-force.

Kelly, the middle-aged protagonist of *Ecce Cor Meum*, has let modern technology pass her by. She doesn't own a cell phone or any of the iParaphernalia, and when a Hindu co-worker asks her if the Anglican Church forbids such things, she replies "Anglicans don't really forbid anything. We just rise above it." Ouch!

This is a book which is satisfying on its own terms and, for Anglican readers, there are many moments of recognition. Important critics have hailed *All Saints* as a major contribution to Can Lit and compared Miller to Alice Munro. High praise indeed. The book has also been mooted as a Giller Prize candidate.

Highly recommended.

Doug Field is a Lay Reader at St. Jude's Oakville, where he is also the Artistic Director of St. Jude's Celebration of the Arts concert series. EMAIL: sinfonia@cogeco.ca

Does our society delegate the work of community to professionals?

DEREK ANDERSON

Representatives of our Diocese were confronted with this provocative question at a June conference organized by Tamarak, an Ontario institute for community engagement.

If it's true North Americans tend to rely upon social workers, PSWs and government programs to care for vulnerable people, what can we do to encourage people to re-engage in their neighbourhoods?

The five participants from Niagara diocese engaged with a diverse group of government staffers, front-line non-profit organizations and researchers to discuss this and other related questions. The diversity of participants was one of the strengths of the program as we had the opportunity to hear about plans and projects underway in our region and beyond.

The hands-on components of

the conference were highlights for our group from Niagara.

It was heartening to hear stories of how other groups have solved problems that arise as volunteers working within large organizations, and the need to communicate about the people they are supporting.

We learned about computer technology that supports consultation and collaboration. Beyond effective use of social media, we picked up tips such as the value of a survey tool like FluidSurveys, which stores all data collected in Canada. We also saw a demonstration of Ethelo, software designed to collect input from a large group on a complex project, and then analyze the data in meaningful ways.

Another practical workshop invited discussion around the type of journalism that fosters community. We were urged to write articles for smaller-circu-

lation publications that tell the story of positive local community happenings. Where big media tends to pick up the stories circulating on the news wire, smaller publications are open to the kind of grassroots stories with positive outcomes that spark imitation within the community.

Toast was the example we heard about.

An employee at a nursing home noticed residents in their dementia wing were not appetized by breakfast. So she brought a toaster to work and produced toast in small batches. Something about the smell and texture of the toast cooked in a non-commercial toaster appealed to the people in her care. Moreover, the smell seemed to trigger memories from the past, helping them to tell their stories and improving their general wellbeing. After she told the

—See *OUR SOCIETY* page 10

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines –
November 2014 – September 25
December 2014 – October 25
January 2015 – November 25

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.

Questions or information:
contact the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-635-9463



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For tickets or information: Church Office 905-383-8664

Comfort for the feet...comfort for the soul

JENNIFER STEVENS

As Christians we know God can use any situation for good.

The Church of the Epiphany Oakville recently saw this in action.

Linda Shakespeare, a member of the Outreach Committee, was inspired by a CBC story about the difference a new pair of socks can make to the homeless. Over 200 pairs had been collected for St. Matthew's House, the Salvation Army Lighthouse and other local charity organizations working with the homeless.

On Friday, June 27, Shakespeare was appalled to discover the entire sock collection had been stolen from Epiphany's Narthex. Rector Suzanne Craven made the announcement about the theft that Sunday



Halton Regional Police Constable Autumn Mills presenting socks to Linda Kelloway, Chair of Epiphany's Outreach Committee.

Photo: Mike Kelloway

morning.

This announcement began a series of unbelievable events.

Three parishioners were so moved by the story that they went out and purchased 200

pairs of replacement socks and delivered them to Shakespeare.

Shakespeare says, "After losing the socks I felt so angry and very disappointed that we wouldn't be able to deliver on our promise to

the charities. When the parishioners delivered all those socks to my house I was overcome with such joy and gratitude. That three parishioners would reach out like that, God must have spoken to their hearts and they responded."

The story continued on the following Friday when the parish received a phone call from the Halton Regional Police.

The police were participating in a Twitter event where details of local crimes were published. Epiphany's sock theft was tweeted with the hashtag #NewLow. Within hours the police had such a response to the story they set up a collection bin in a local police station and started accepting donations – over 100 pairs were received.

The story was re-tweeted

several times by major news networks and led to a print and on-line story in the Toronto Sun.

Donations have continued to come in and the stolen socks have been more than replaced.

Canon Craven comments, "When we started this project all we wanted was comfort for the feet of those who used the pavement as their home. Instead, we got comfort for all our souls in the tremendous response from friends and strangers alike, whose hearts were touched by God's compassionate hand. As we say at the Church of the Epiphany – God is good...all the time!"

Jennifer Stevens is the Administrator at the Church of the Epiphany. EMAIL: epiphanyoffice@cogeco.net

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www.carmelniagara.com



Participants at the conference from Niagara Diocese were Bill Parkes, Sara Collyer, Derek Anderson, Carolyn Vanderlip and Amanda Lemus (not pictured). Photo: Submitted

Our society—delegating work of the community to professionals?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

story in a small local paper, other long term care facilities began to bring toasters from home and noticed similar results in the dining room at breakfast.

The stories of successful ministry we tell in the Niagara Anglican probably have this sort of effect across our Diocese. Maybe there is a story in your congregation waiting to be told!

As for that challenging question of delegating the supportive functions of community to paid workers and professionals, I think the church may have a lot to offer groups hoping to foster basic neighbourliness in the places where we live.

Religion itself may not be fashionable, but we do know how to care for one another, offering friendship and help to the people we get to know in the pews near us.

The ways Anglicans are partnering with community organizations mean that the intelligence we hold for caring for one another is becoming visible outside our doors.

Watch for Tamarack's 1,000 Conversations (seekingcommunity.ca) to come to a community centre or campus near you. This community organizing project, underway across Ontario, seeks input from stakeholders in all walks of life. This is one venue where Anglicans may share some of what we know about the organic forms of community that does not always rely upon the "care industry" to attend to the needs of our neighbours.

The Reverend Derek Anderson is Rector of St. Matthew's Burlington. EMAIL: derek.anderson@stmatthewburlington.ca

Editors association reaches quarter century

HOLLIS HISCOCK

"Great workshops, great touring day ... great conference" and, "Very informative and useful presentations ... a truly great mixture of learning and sharing and experiencing the variety we have across the country."

These were two of the many evaluations and assessments volunteered by the nearly 30 diocesan newspaper editors, *Anglican Journal* staff, partners and others from across Canada who attended the 25th annual conference of the Anglican Editors Association (AEA) held this year for the first time in Burlington Ontario and hosted by Niagara Diocese.

AEA—a network of diocesan publications, the *Anglican Journal* and other communication media and committees in the Anglican Church of Canada—provides opportunities for fellowship, professional development and exchange of ideas; and promotes common concerns and interests of AEA members.

The life cycle or three stage process of a newspaper was the theme for the conference's professional development workshops.

Community Journalism, the first stage, means engaging parishes, dioceses and other groups to take ownership and input stories and ideas for publication. In his workshop, veteran reporter, writer and managing editor John McGhie covered such areas as news gathering, engaging and training volunteer reporters, writing captivating stories and catchy headlines, tips to improve content, taking ownership of the paper and effective photographs. After reviewing copies of the latest diocesan publications McGhie gave high marks to the editors for their work.

The next stage is designing the paper. *Niagara Anglican* Art Director Craig Fairley and *Anglican Journal* Art Director Saskia Rowley illustrated how to punch up a design and enhance the paper for online viewing. They made suggestions about advertising and making the newspaper design more appealing.

The final stage happens when the finished copy is sent to the printer for publishing, labelling and mailing. Keith Koehler from our printer, Webnews, focused on the technical side of pre-



Keith Koehler captivates editors as he leads them from pre-press to printing to the delivery of their newspapers.

Photo: Simon Chambers

press preparation, production, scheduling, mailing and delivery to readers across Canada.

The paper you are reading today followed these three stages.

A fourth workshop addressed legal issues facing publications today. Lawyer Stuart Robertson dealt with a variety of legal concerns, including photographing children, copyrights, reporting on public meetings, advertising, the use of the internet and other perils. Robertson authored a manual on legal issues for the Ontario Association of Community Newspapers.

At the 25th anniversary banquet, host Bishop Michael Bird described the vision of Niagara Diocese and the role communications play in delivering the message and receiving feedback. Three-time Gospel Music Association Covenant Award nominees Infinitely More provided a musical concert featuring gospel, hymns, praise and worship selections.

During the conference's business sessions, Senior Manager of the *Anglican Journal* Beverley Murphy reported 7,122 new subscribers were added across Canada but 13,918 cancelled their subscriptions. The main reasons for the latter were incapacity or death. Overall circulation was down some 4.6%, she concluded.

In June 2014, the *Niagara Anglican* had 9,417 subscribers, a drop of 3.57% from the previous year. Our diocese has the fourth

largest circulation, behind the *Toronto Anglican*, *Anglican Life* (Newfoundland and Labrador) and *Huron Church News*.

Murphy said over 72 electronic subscription updates

arrive weekly, but the majority of parishes update by regular mail.

The Canada Periodical Fund provided \$369,441 (45%) of the total cost (\$817,011) to mail the *Anglican Journal* and diocesan

newspapers in 2013, according to Murphy. The application for the coming year, she said, has been submitted and we should "receive a response from Canada Heritage by late summer."

In a separate session, Beverley Murphy told delegates that donations to the 2013 *Anglican Journal* Appeal increased and "total expenses decreased substantially." Over \$509,171 was contributed by 10,194 donors, she reported.

In Niagara Diocese, the third highest contribution across Canada, 927 people donated \$38,341 (an average of \$41.36).

Delegates revised the AEA bylaws, heard presentations from PWRDF and Anglican Foundation, discussed future options, elected officers, worshipped together and enjoyed a Niagara tour.

Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring brought greetings from the city and commended the editors in their work as communicators in today's world.

The 2015 AEA conference is slated for Regina, Saskatchewan.

PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF ONTARIO DIOCESE OF NIAGARA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Synod of the Diocese of Niagara is calling for nominations to the Provincial Synod which will meet October 14–16, 2015 in Toronto.

Niagara is entitled to elect (4) clergy delegates, (4) lay delegates and (1) youth delegate. Youth Synod was held in May, 2014 and delegates selected by vote two names for the Bishop's consideration; one of whom will be appointed as the Youth delegate and the other as the alternate.

Individuals must be members of the 2014 Diocesan Synod in order to be eligible for nomination. The consent of a nominee must be given prior to his/her name being submitted. Members of Synod may self-nominate.

Deadline for nominations is September 30, 2014 and must include name, parish, location, gender, e-mail address, phone number and the completed nomination form available from your parish or online.

The ballot will be presented to the November 2014 Diocesan Synod. Nominations will be accepted from the floor conditional upon the consent of the nominee. Further information about this volunteer opportunity is available upon request.

Please send nominations to:

The Provincial Synod Nominations Committee
The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell
Secretary of Synod
marni.nancekivell@niagaraanglican.ca

Mrs. Mary Anne Grant
Administrative Assistant
maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca

Cathedral Place
252 James Street North
Hamilton ON L8R 2L3
Fax: 905-527-1281



For more information on this volunteer opportunity, nomination guidelines and procedure, visit: <http://niagaraanglican.ca/synod/provincial/>

Hockey dad at Bishop's Company

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Perhaps the most famous hockey dad in North America, if not the world, Walter Gretzky will be this year's guest speaker at the annual Bishop's Company dinner meeting.

The event is scheduled for Monday September 29 at Burlington Convention Centre, 1120 Burloak Drive, Burlington. The evening begins with a 6:15 p.m. reception, followed by dinner.

"You will not want to miss our guest speaker," wrote Bishop Michael in inviting people to the special evening. "Walter brings a sense of humour and refers to faith as he tells his own story."

Phyllis and Walter Gretzky, married in 1960, raised five children, including hockey legend Wayne.

Walter worked over 30 years for Bell Canada, and while there he was in a serious accident that resulted in the loss of hearing in his right ear. In 1991, a few months into retirement, he suffered a brain aneurysm which took about four years from which



Walter Gretzky will speak September 29 Photo: waltergretzky.ca

to recover; he lost several years of his long term memory including the passing of his mother and some of the key highlights of Wayne's career.

To raise awareness of cardiovascular health, Walter became a national spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. He is also involved with the Wayne and Walter Gretzky Scholarship Foundation and the SCORE Summer Program.

Despite his limitations, Walter delights in inspiring and entertaining others and supporting community initiatives, including opening his home to hockey fans, signing autographs, visiting hospital patients and travelling

throughout North America to speak at various charity events.

Members and their guests will be welcomed with live music at the Bishop's Company dinner, and there are plans to auction some special items.

The Bishop's Company, whose history dates back over 60 years, is both a community of members and a discretionary fund to assist Anglicans in need in the diocese with a primary emphasis on clergy and lay workers, and their families.

An annual bonspiel also supports the Bishop's Company.

This year, in addition to individual memberships, the Bishop's Company is introducing memberships for couples and young adults. Members may also bring guests to the annual dinner.

To become a member or for more information, contact the Bishop's Company Registrar Mary Anne Grant at 905-527-1316 (380), maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca or visit <http://niagaraanglican.ca/bishops-company>

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 fill out and return the enclosed postage paid donor reply card or call 416-924-9199, ext 259. Alternatively, you can email mross@national.anglican.ca or go to www.canadahelps.org to make your gift today.



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