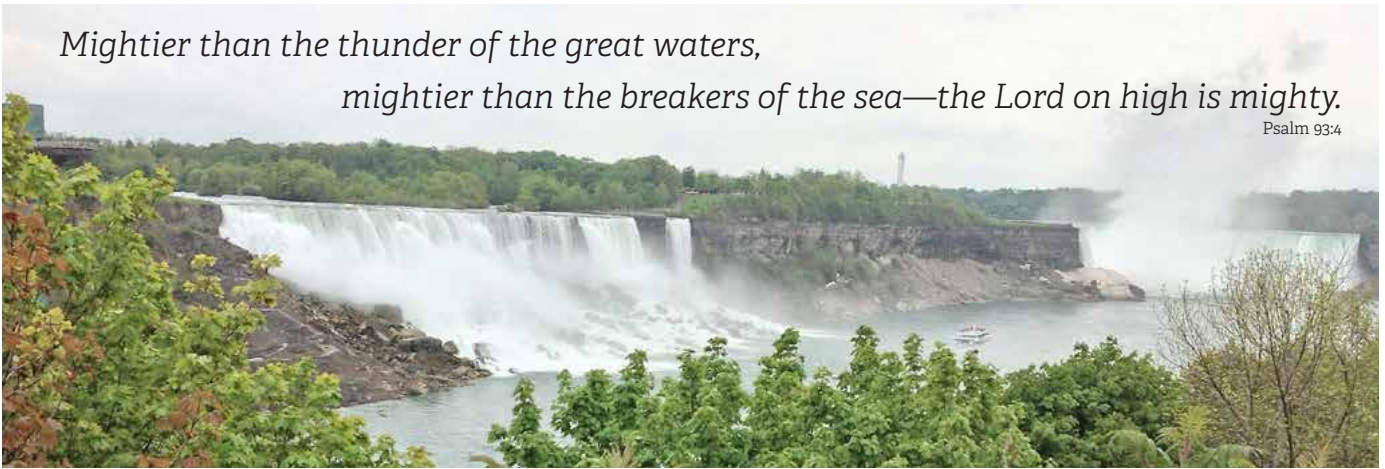


Mightier than the thunder of the great waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea—the Lord on high is mighty.

Psalm 93:4



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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 — Since 1955

APRIL 2016

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA  
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

TO THE CLERGY AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA

March 1, 2016

My dear friends:

It is with deep sadness and regret that I write this letter to you today. As you know we in Niagara have and continue to work very hard to give life and bear faithful witness to our baptismal promise that calls us to "seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being." This past week the Canadian House of Bishops has just concluded a special meeting on proposed changes to our national Marriage Canon, changes that I personally believe seek to uphold this sacred dignity in the sacrament of marriage for those who identify as LGBTQ2.

It is apparent, however, that many of my fellow bishops cannot support the proposal at this time, as indicated by this declaration: "In our exploration of these differences it became clear to us that the draft resolution to change the Marriage Canon to accommodate the marriage of same-sex partners is not likely to pass in the Order of Bishops by the canonical requirement of a 2/3rds majority in each Order."

While I believe this assessment to be true, I know how disturbing this will be for so many in our diocese and beyond. I want to say how deeply sorry I am that this is the case and my heart aches for all who continue to be wounded by the words and actions of our Church. I am one of the bishops at this meeting who was, as a statement by the House of Bishops puts it, "mortified and devastated by this realisation."

I take heart in the commitment by the House of Bishops to "explore other options for honouring and fully embracing covenanted, faithful same-sex relationships." Over the coming months I intend to prayerfully explore what that might mean for all of us in Niagara. I know that your voices and those representing Canadian Anglicans at General Synod will offer important insights about where the Spirit is leading us at this moment in the life of our Church.

As your bishop I will continue to do all in my power to seek and bear witness to the transformational power of God's inclusive love so that the dream of equal marriage will be realized. Please remember those impacted by this news in your prayers along with those who will participate in General Synod later this year.

Faithfully in the love of Jesus Christ,

  
Bishop of Niagara

## Background to Bishop Michael's pastoral letter



This Holy Estate, to the Council of General Synod. [anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Marriage\\_Canon\\_REPORT\\_15Sept22.pdf](http://anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Marriage_Canon_REPORT_15Sept22.pdf)

General Synod is comprised of three Orders or "houses"—bishops, clergy, and laity. Discussions include the three Orders in an open forum where all listen to and dialogue with each other. They vote separately according to Order. Since changing the marriage canon is a matter of doctrine, it requires the approval by a two-thirds majority in all three Orders—laity, clergy and bishops—at two consecutive General Synods.

On February 29, 2016—leap day—The Canadian House of Bishops, according to their released statement, "felt obligated" to share publicly what they had concluded behind closed doors during a special meeting in Niagara Falls.

The meeting was convened to review the draft resolution, and to pay particular attention to the theology of marriage, the nature of episcopacy, and the synod's legislative process.

Three years ago, General Synod established a Commission to bring, after broad consultation, a draft resolution "to change Canon XXI on marriage to allow the marriage of same-sex couples in the same way as opposite-sex couples." The Commission did its work and presented its report,

Sometime during the special four day meeting in Niagara Falls (Feb. 23-26), the bishops attending (several were not present) concluded it was "not likely" to get the number of votes needed to pass the draft resolution.

"It became clear to us that the draft resolution to change the Marriage Canon to accommodate the marriage of same-sex partners is not likely to pass in the Order of Bishops by the canonical requirement of a two-thirds

—See BACKGROUND Page 3

### Pray for the Queen

Suggested prayers for the Queen's 90th birthday in April.

Page **2**

### The Down Stairs Kitchen

Anglican Foundation grant recipient models social enterprise.

Page **5**

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Many parishes tell their stories of this unique outreach ministry.

Starting Page **6**





## Pray for the Queen on her birthday

Queen Elizabeth II celebrates her 90th birthday on April 21, 2016, and Her Majesty has approved two prayers—traditional and modern—to mark her special milestone.

Prayers are important to her Majesty. In the foreword to a new book *The Servant Queen and the King She Serves*, she stated “I have been—and remain—very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love.”

It will also be a special occasion for parishioners at Christ Church Niagara Falls as they recall the 1951 visit of the then Princess Elizabeth to their church. According to the present Rector Paul Maynard, “To this day, the pew which the Royal couple occupied during the worship service is reserved for visiting members of the Royal

Family. Christ Church is one of the Garrison Churches of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, whose current Honorary Colonel-in-Chief is Sophie, The Countess of Wessex. The parish is in fairly regular contact with Buckingham Palace through Letters of Congratulations on milestone events in the Royal Family.”

In preparation for her birthday celebrations, you are encouraged to pray—either in public worship or private prayers—for the Queen.

### Traditional prayer:

Heavenly Father, who hast brought our gracious sovereign Queen Elizabeth to the completion of her ninetieth year, and dost gather her people in celebration of the same: grant that we, rejoicing before thee with thank-



ful hearts, may ever be united in love and service to one another and her kingdom flourish in prosperity and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Modern prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen,

receive our heartfelt thanks for all that you have given her in these ninety years and for all that she has given to her people. Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her, and as you gather us together in celebration, unite us also in love and service to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

▲ H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth (H.M. Queen Elizabeth the Second) and Philip Duke of Edinburgh were greeted by Rector A.T.F. Holmes when the Royal couple officially visited Christ Church Niagara Falls in 1951.

Photo: Christ Church Niagara Falls

## Bishop to raise funds for micro-loan projects in Ghana

### HOLLIS HISCOCK

When Bishop Michael travels to Ghana in May for the Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue, he hopes to present a cheque to Bishop Kobina Cyril Ben Smith (Bishop Cyril) of Assante-Mampong Diocese.

The money would enable the bishop to set up a micro-loan project (Assante-Mampong Micro-Loans project), which would offer small sums of money in an attempt to help people in his diocese start some small enterprises and allow them to become more self-sufficient.

“I know that ministry in Africa has a special place in the hearts of many of the people in our

diocese,” writes Bishop Michael. “This project will give us a chance to make an incredible difference in the lives of struggling people in that part of the world. I will be returning with many pictures and inspiring stories that Susan and I will be sharing with you from this incredible African adventure.”

Bishop Cyril is hoping to raise \$20,000 to get this project underway.

You are invited to consider a gift, in honour of Niagara's ongoing work of reconciliation in our Anglican Communion, for the Assante-Mampong Micro-Loans project. Donation cheques can be made payable to “The Diocese of Niagara” with “Micro-Loan



▲ During his visit to Niagara, Bishop Cyril of Ghana and Bishop Michael participated in worship at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

communion with each other despite these disagreements.”

Over a period of six years, these gatherings have taken place in Africa, England, Canada and the United States. In May 2016, the seventh Consultation meets in Accra, Ghana's capital city.

During previous meetings Bishop Michael developed a special relationship with Bishop Cyril, who visited Niagara Diocese this past summer (See Niagara Anglican, September 2015, pages 6-7) “It was our privilege last year to have Bishop Cyril and his wife Christina attend our Clergy and Licensed Lay Workers Conference, among other events, where he spoke about life and ministry in his diocese of Assante-Mampong,” said Bishop Michael.

In the wake of his Niagara visit and given that the next Bishops Dialogue would be in Ghana, Bishop Cyril invited Bishop Michael and Susan to visit Assante-Mampong Diocese and they accepted.

Pray for Bishop Michael, Susan and the 26 bishops who will gather for this important meeting.

Project” indicated in the memo and sent to Bishop Michael Bird, Cathedral Place (address page 3).

For a number of years Bishop Michael has been involved with the Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue. In light of the disagreements that have emerged in our Anglican Communion, the Consultation seeks to bring African and

Canadian bishops - along with a few bishops from other regions -together.

It is an opportunity for the bishops to listen carefully to each other, to better understand the African and Canadian contexts for ministry, to talk about their differences and to explore possibilities of how “we can continue to commit ourselves to live in

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**HOLLIS**torial

# What would Jesus do? What should we do?

about same-sex marriages ... or anything else



She called my name. We were leaving worship the Sunday after the Canadian Anglican Bishops made their announcement.

I turned, watching an elderly lady wheeling her walker towards me.

"I have a question, Hollis," she continued, "why did the bishops do what they did?"

We talked for a bit, and then went our separate ways.

Ever since the bishops informed us publicly that a two-thirds majority vote among their numbers required to pass a General Synod resolution allowing same-sex marriages seemed unlikely, these same questions—What would Jesus do? What should we do?—kept rolling around in my mind.

When I first read the bishops' statement I was disappointed and annoyed.

Disappointed—they appeared to be jumping the gun and decid-

ing without the benefit of an open public dialogue with clergy and lay people—nearly five months before General Synod.

Annoyed—their action could be perceived as tampering with, manipulating or short circuiting the very process they had set in motion three years earlier.

Then I saw a silver lining in the episcopal dark cloud. Intentionally or otherwise, the bishops were providing an opportunity for the grassroots of the church to sprout and spout.

We should seize the moment! As Bishop Michael wrote in his Pastoral letter, "I take heart in the commitment by the House of Bishops to 'explore other options for honouring and fully embracing covenanted, faithful same-sex relationships.'"

So I read the bishops' statement, articles by the *Anglican Journal* and nine pastoral letters (could be more by now) from

diocesan bishops across Canada to get a better sense of what happened among the bishops behind those closed doors in Niagara Falls.

And I am left with the same two questions.

### What would Jesus do?

Jesus would put people first. In his teachings, as recorded in the four gospels, people are treated more importantly than traditions, structures, restrictive laws, attitudes, furniture or anything else, including church canons.

His love, care and compassion would be the underlying principles in making any decision.

### What should we do?

First and foremost, **PRAY** for the lay people, clergy and bishops who will be the decision makers at General Synod (July 7-12). Pray in particular that they will put aside all human and worldly considerations and discern what

God, through the Holy Spirit moving actively in the lives of individuals and the church, is asking the Anglican Church of Canada to do.

Secondly, **INFORM** yourself by reading "This Holy Estate" (the Commission on the Marriage Canon report), bishops' statement, pastoral letters from diocesan bishops and individual comments.

You can also benefit by dialoguing with others and attending parish or regional gatherings.

Visit the web sites of the *Anglican Journal* ([anglicanjournal.com](http://anglicanjournal.com)), Anglican Church of Canada ([anglican.ca](http://anglican.ca)) or individual dioceses.

Thirdly, **SHARE**. You can write a letter to the *Niagara Anglican* (200 words or less, Deadline April 25). We will publish as many as possible and forward the remainder to our synod office for sharing with delegates.

Fourthly, **SUGGEST**. In their statement, the bishops wondered if "legislative procedure is the most helpful way of dealing with these matters."

My suggestions would include:

1. changing the parliamentary structure of General Synod and merging the three separate Orders (bishops, priests and laity) into one;
2. encouraging individual dioceses to explore creative ways to marry and bless same-sex couples; and
3. encouraging all couples to be married legally in a civil ceremony, and then renew their marriage vows and receive a blessing a religious ceremony.

What are your suggestions?

Lastly, **TAKE A DEEP BREATH** ... let the spirit in.

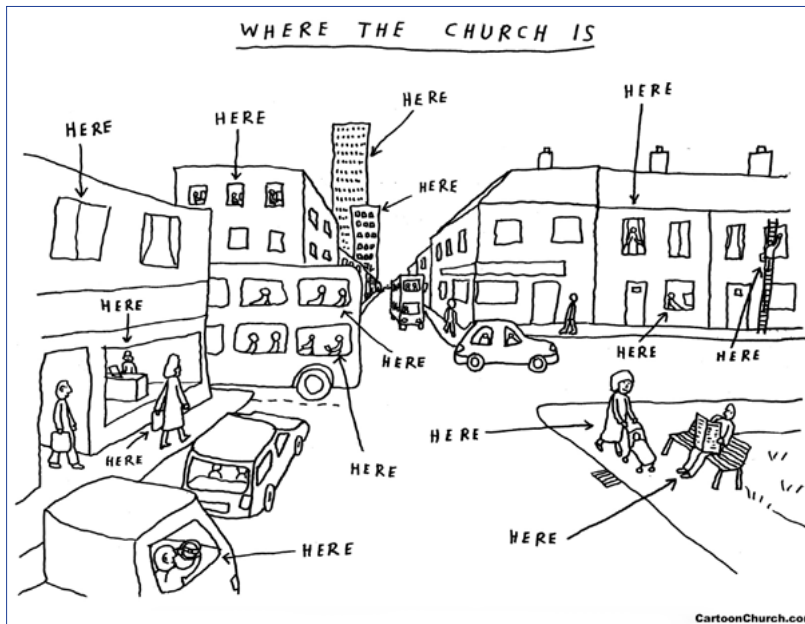
## Correction

In the March 2016 *Niagara Anglican*, page 9, we included the article "Steeple and bell call people to worship and service."

In the opening paragraph, we inadvertently reported, "Bishop Michael dedicated the newly refurbished steeple tower at St. George's St. Catharines, made possible by the generosity of Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffrey and his family."

It should have read, "Lieutenant-Colonel Jeffrey Cairns and his family."

We apologize for any inconvenience.



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## Background to Bishop Michael's pastoral letter

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** majority in each Order."

Reaction has varied across Canada. You can go to the *Anglican Journal* ([anglicanjournal.com](http://anglicanjournal.com)) and the Anglican Church of Canada ([Anglican.ca](http://Anglican.ca)) web pages for more up to the moment coverage. As well, you can read responses from diocesan bishops by checking out the different diocesan websites at [anglican.ca/about/organization/dioceses/](http://anglican.ca/about/organization/dioceses/) or on Facebook.

Bishop Michael wrote his pastoral letter to the people of Niagara Diocese. We present it for your information and reaction.

# NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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# National foundation funds diocesan ventures

## JUDY ROIS

Three projects in Niagara Diocese have received \$28,500 in grants from the Anglican Foundation of Canada. The Anglican Foundation has been happy to do so due to some amazing programming that is taking place.

The Restore Method of Care Program (Niagara Anglican, February 2016) trains volunteers in clusters of denominational churches to be effective listeners and managers of people in distress in Ontario's Halton region.

Churches came to recognize that many people who fell through the cracks of the social



system went to their local church for help, especially when there was distress in family life with illness, finances and addiction.

In the desire to respond, there was the need for training. The implementation of this program is engaging many churches and assisting hundreds of people in distress. The Anglican Foundation gave a grant of \$8,500 toward this life-changing ministry.

Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton is reaching out to a different segment of society with a program jointly organized by Christians and Muslims to provide a community kitchen, English as a Second Language classes and job skills to the local community, which is disadvantaged and includes refugee and immigrant families.

The Cathedral received a

\$10,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation as part of its 2015 Request for Proposals initiative. According to Dean Peter Wall, "the kitchen is a social enterprise and community outreach ministry sponsored by the Cathedral and operating from the parish hall at St. Luke's in Hamilton's north end. The indefatigable Catherine Hughes works with local community folks and, in particular, with the local Muslim community to provide community meals, neighbourhood support and nutrition classes."

Further afield is the diocese's companion relationship with Cuba. In May of this year, 25 Canadians and 25 Cubans will

participate in an International Justice Camp under the theme - The common good: the promise of the Kingdom of God.

Through a week-long program of immersion experiences, biblical reflections, worship and relationship-building, it is the hope that participants will become effective social justice leaders in their local communities.

Along with other partners, the Anglican Foundation gave a grant of \$10,000 to support this exciting camp adventure.

Canon Judy Rois is the Executive Director of The Anglican Foundation of Canada. [jrois@anglicanfoundation.org](mailto:jrois@anglicanfoundation.org)

## The Down Stairs Kitchen



### CATHY HUGHES

Recently relocated to the north end of Hamilton, The Down Stairs Kitchen (DSK) has become aligned as a community outreach project with Christ's Church Cathedral.

The DSK started over five years ago as one of the original neighbourhood revitalization projects in an east end community. Housed then at a United Church, the popular Community Dinner program was forced to relocate when that church closed last winter.

The Down Stairs Kitchen is a health focused initiative with goals to address the major factors which determine good health outcomes. Our current focus is on food sustainability and helping neighbours enhance their capacity to access healthy food and related skills such as nutrition education, meal plan-



▲ Cooks hard at work in the Down Stairs Kitchen, a community kitchen and social enterprise supporting Hamilton's north end. Photo: Submitted

ning and budgeting.

Social enterprise is also a very important part of what DSK does. The organization strives to build resources while helping neighbours achieve employment and other life skills, while at the same time increasing individual and the community capacity.

Currently an assortment of catered foods may be purchased for business meetings, private functions, funeral events and weddings. The proceeds go back into supporting the programs and enhancing the lives of marginalized and other people in need.

Last summer, DSK provided the food service to Canterbury Hills Summer Camp, prepar-

ing over 200 meals a day for nine weeks. DSK is experienced in offering food services for various types of large and small functions.

Funding has recently been received from The Anglican Foundation of Canada as well as from The Hamilton Community Foundation to further its work in the north end community. Volunteers are needed to help support these programs as well.

The Down Stairs Kitchen is located inside St. Luke's Church Hall at 76 MacAulay Street East, Hamilton and can be reached at 905-529-5452 or [dskkitchen@bellnet.ca](mailto:dskkitchen@bellnet.ca)

## Funspiel provides fun and funds

They threw rocks, vigorously swept the ice, racked up their scores and enjoyed the ninth annual Bishop's Company Funspiel.

This year 56 curlers from eight Anglican parishes, as well as a team representing clergy from the Baptist and Lutheran churches, graced the Hamilton Victoria Curling Club for the fifth consecutive year.

The Funspiel supports the Bishop's Company Endowment Fund, which assists clergy, licensed lay workers and their families facing extraordinary situations and for specific purposes. These may include extended counselling, unusual medical requirements and support in a situation of extreme stress or financial crisis. All matters are handled directly by the Bishop in a confidential manner.



▲ Piper Rich McQueen, Member and Past President of the Hamilton Victoria Curling Club Elsie Biegler and Diocesan Treasurer Jody Beck raise a toast to begin the second draw of the Funspiel.

▼ First year curler Melanie Riley prepares to throw her stone in Funspiel 2016.

Photos: Alison D'Atri and Hollis Hiscock



# Prayer shawl ministry expanding widely – one stitch at a time

The Prayer Shawl Ministry ([shawlministry.com](http://shawlministry.com)) celebrates its 18th anniversary this year.

In 1998, according to their webpage, Janet Severi Bristow and Victoria Galo—two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford Connecticut—gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in the program of applied Feminist Spirituality. "Compassion and the love of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every stitch."

The Shawl Ministry has spread widely, including many groups and parishes in Niagara Diocese. The Niagara Anglican asked about their experiences and we were delighted that 11 parishes decided to share their stories.

## St John's Port Dalhousie (St. Catharines)



Our ministry began in September 2006. We create shawls to bring comfort and warmth to those suffering from illness or grieving the loss of a loved one, and also to share in joyful occasions—baptism, anniversary, birth of a baby or graduation. As well, visiting church dignitaries and parish clergy received shawls to mark significant occasions.

Over 600 shawls, afghans and lap robes have been knit or crocheted and blessed.

Prayer shawls were given to families and friends of the parish and throughout the community, including dialysis units in Welland and St. Catharines, Gillian's Place, YWCA Women's Shelter, Red Cross, Cancer Society, Community Care, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Seniors Homes and Start Me Up Niagara.

Shawls have been sent to Scotland, United States, Germany, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Labrador, New Brunswick and various places in Ontario.

A card, containing a blessing and a prayer of comfort or a prayer appropriate for the occasion, is included with each shawl. The talents we possess are

▲ Leota Kinghan presented a prayer shawl to Rector Laura Marie Piotrowicz upon her arrival at St. John's.

Photo: John vanderValk

really gifts that we are happy to use in this ministry. We are blessed by this opportunity to show our love and concern for others, and are deeply touched and humbled by the thanks we receive.

We miss members who have passed away and have comforted those who lost spouses or parents. We support each other in times of crisis and joyfully celebrate happy occasions. We have laughed and cried together and enjoy the friendship and fellowship we share.

We meet once a month.

In addition to our prayer shawl ministry we contribute handmade articles to the annual Comfort and Joy Festival (Bazaar).

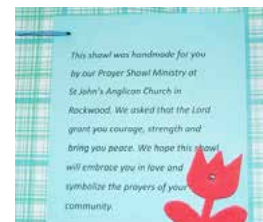
Leota Kinghan and Margaret VanderValk

## St. John's Rockwood



◀ Prayer shawls are displayed prior to being blessed at a church service.

▶ This prayer is attached to each shawl and forwarded to the recipient. Photos: Submitted



The congregation has had an active Prayer Shawl ministry since March 2015.

We have made 37, of which 29 were given away.

Our knitters meet monthly in each other's homes. We begin with a prayer, reflect upon where our shawls have gone in the last month, place our hands on the newly finished shawls and say a silent prayer for their recipients.

The shawls are kept in my home. I am contacted when one is needed and bring them all to

the church from time to time.

The only criterion for receiving a prayer shawl is someone needing strength, comfort and peace.

They have gone to various countries, like Africa and India, and to many places in Canada.

We document who made the shawls, when they were made, the recipient (first names only) and the reason they were given. All have been touched and grateful to receive our prayer shawls.

We have been asked to make children's shawls and are now

starting to knit them.

Attached to each shawl is a message from us. The shawls are carried in a beautiful quilted bag made by a parishioner, brought to church in a blessing basket which was donated by a church member and blessed at the altar by Father Marcus Germaine.

We feel privileged to help others in a loving, caring way.

Heather Fife

## All Saints Ridgeway

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2008 when a parishioner was facing serious surgery. Having read about the ministry, one member made a prayer shawl which was blessed by the priest at the next Sunday service.

People were so moved by this gift of love and support that more requests came in. The ministry quickly grew.

We have a team of eight members and friends who knit and crochet shawls in all colours and keep our cupboard well stocked. People who do not knit participate by donating wool or money.

When a shawl is requested, it is placed on a small table in the sanctuary. At the offertory, the priest blesses the shawl, gives thanks for the work of the person who made it and offers a prayer for the person who will receive it. As the congregation comes forward to receive communion, people pause by the shawl to add their own personal prayers in a quiet, but powerful and moving gesture of love and faith. When the shawl is delivered it is another assurance of faith.

Our shawls are given not only to parish members but to anyone for whom a request is made in the local community and beyond—some have even gone to other countries. Many lovely cards and letters of thanks have been received from grateful recipients



▲ Frank and Nancy Kubena, like many other members of the congregation moving to the altar for communion, pause beside a newly blessed prayer shawl to add their own prayers for the intended recipient. Photo: submitted

who have shared the feelings of peace and love that surround them as they wear the shawls. Often, when a shawl is worn in a hospital, staff and visitors are drawn by the loving faith it represents.

When I make a prayer shawl, it gives me much pleasure—a time for quiet contemplation of Christ's healing ministry. I will not always know who will receive the shawl or their circumstances,

but I do know the prayers embedded in the shawl will bring the recipient comfort, peace and hope, knowing that others share their journey.

The team of shawl-makers and their supporters at All Saints rejoice in their ministry, which is very close and personal, yet reaches far and wide.

Paula Thomas



**St. Luke's Burlington**

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2004 by our Deacon, the Reverend Sheila Plant. Since then 500 shawls have been handed out by our Deacon and Rector Stuart Pike.



▲ St. Luke's Prayer Shawls are made using the sacred pattern "3" because of the number of times "3" appears in the Bible. Photo: Submitted.

Requests are often made by parishioners who know of someone in hospital or who might benefit from a shawl. They bring comfort to the dying, bereaved, the lonely and hurting.

We meet three times a year to share our shawls. We use sacred pattern "3" because of the number of times "3" is used in the Bible. The pattern is knit three, purl three on every row. We finish the shawl with a fringe or crochet edge.

Every shawl has a prayer card attached, and we think prayerfully while we are knitting. This ministry is done very quietly in the background as our knitters and crocheters work on their own.

In 2004 we started a new ministry knitting or crocheting shawls for the newly baptised; a prayer card is attached to them as well. They are well received and become family heirlooms, I am sure. We have given out eight baptismal shawls.

Knitting the shawls means a lot to the knitters, a very worthwhile ministry.

*Jacqueline Maver*

**St. Paul's Mount Forest**

For the last year or so, the ladies of St. Paul's have been engaged in a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Pat May, who created many of the shawls, originally brought the idea to the ACW for their consideration.

The shawls are knitted or crocheted, and the finished shawls are blessed with a prayer that God's love and care will go with them to the eventual recipients.

Among those who have been wrapped in the prayers and love of the congregation are hospital patients, and homebound or long-term care members.

Two shawls returned home to England with family members

after their mother's funeral.

To date, 11 of the soft cozy shawls have been given out, and two of them are regularly worn in church services to help buffer the winter chill.

In addition to the prayer shawls, the ladies make crocheted or knitted dishcloths that are given to the town for inclusion in the gift bags given to newcomers to the community.

The shawls and the dishcloths have a tag attached stating where they are from, with our good wishes and/or prayers.

*Shirl Christian*



▲ Left to right - Alma Mather and Sandy Cheeseman wear their shawls, while Lois Scott and Jan Harman hold a shawl to be presented later. Photo: Submitted

**St. John's Ancaster**

The idea of a Prayer Shawl Ministry came to us from a parishioner (Rosemary Anstey—see her story below) who joined us from Oakville. As she became more involved in parish work I was asked to take over the co-ordinating of the Prayer Shawl group.

I can honestly say of all the activities I am involved in at St. John's, the co-ordinating of this group is one of the most rewarding.

The opportunity to use the centuries old tradition of prayerfully knitting a shawl to bring the love and caring of our parishioners to someone in need is most humbling.

The shawls created by our ministry have had a wide distribution, from the Yukon to Prince Edward Island to The Netherlands, and of course to many of our parishioners, family and friends in Ancaster.

This is a very quiet and behind the scenes kind of ministry that I believe brings much comfort to those who receive one of these shawls.

Last year at St. John's Ancaster 39 shawls and blankets were distributed.

*Jan Vallentin*

**Here is Rosemary Anstey's story:**

"I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2010. After my surgery I



▲ Associate priest Renee Desjardins blessed a prayer shawl before it was presented to Gaye Beach. Photo: David Pickett.

had shingles over my back, under my arm and across my surgery scars which meant I was in great discomfort.

"At the time I was a member of St. Simon's Oakville. I had a visit from two fellow parishioners bearing a prayer shawl for me—a large gold-coloured, soft and cozy shawl. An equally lovely gift was the time those loving friends spent with me.

"After laying the shawl on my

shoulders they laid their hands on me and prayed for relief from my pain and for a good outcome of my treatment. I was relieved of my pain right away and used my treasured shawl for comfort throughout my treatment.

"After moving to Ancaster I invited the maker of my shawl to meet with members of St. John's and to help us start the ministry here."

**St. Paul's Caledonia**

We began a Prayer Shawl Ministry on February 7, 2008. The idea was inspired by a conversation among Canon Lynne Thackwray, Anne Jay and Judith Ryan about this ministry development in the States.

The shawls and lap robes are given in times of illness, bereavement and celebrations in our church and the community.

We meet weekly with 12 to 15 members of our congregation and other churches, opening with prayer by our Rector Cheryl Barker. Our leader Judith Ryan makes everyone feel welcome.

This ministry is a good fit for us at St. Paul's for pastoral care, outreach and fellowship.

As of February 2016, we have given out 406 shawls. They have gone as far away as South Africa and Australia. We also knitted



▲ The Prayer Shawl Ministry group models some of the 406 shawls they have distributed over the past eight years. Photo: Submitted

over 1,700 squares to be made into blankets for "out of the cold ministries."

Many thank you notes sent to the group make us realize that the care and purpose we take in knitting and crocheting is appre-

ciated by those who need prayer, healing and love.

*Karen Cosier*

—For more stories See PRAYER SHAWL Page 8

# Prayer shawl ministry – Many stories CONTINUED

## St. Christopher's Burlington



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry started three or four years ago with an idea from a parishioner who had heard about it at other churches and wanted to start one at St. Christopher's. Supported by our clergy, the first meeting was planned with a few interested knitters from the parish. We now meet monthly at the church to share ideas and set guidelines and goals.

Our prayer shawls are given to parishioners, friends and relatives in our community and around the world, who are in need of comfort during difficult times, illness, grieving, aging and disabilities.

We also give shawls to babies at Baptism, candidates at their

- ▲ St. Christopher's group displays their prayer shawls around the church altar.
- ▶ Pocket prayer shawl with crosses or angels are always available for distribution at St. Christopher's. Photos: Submitted



Confirmation and teens in need or leaving home for the first time. The shawls are blessed by our clergy, usually during a regular church service.

We have become a group of 24 with a common goal of caring for others through our love of creating and donating our prayer shawls, with the added benefit of making new friendships along the way.

We also knit pocket prayer shawl crosses and angels that are always available at church, and for families at funerals. Enclosed with these are verses of comfort which are nice to carry in your pocket or purse. Thank you cards, hugs, smiles and even tears are our constant rewards from those who have received shawls. Our church has given away

about 400 prayer shawls and close to 2,000 pocket prayer shawl crosses and angels. This ministry is a blessing both to those who give as well as those who receive. If another church wants more information or would like to come to one of our meetings, contact the church office at 905-634-1809.

*Donna Mawhinney*



## Celebrating St. John's Bicentennial

### Memories of St. John's: The First 200 Years

**March 12–October 22**  
An exhibition exploring St. John's first 200 years. Fieldcote Museum, 64 Sulphur Springs Road, Ancaster.

### Celebration of Pentecost

**Sunday, May 15**  
Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Bishop Michael Bird will be celebrating with us at the 10:00 a.m. service. Floral decorations by the Garden Club of Hamilton.

### A Bevy of Biblical Beauties

**Wednesday, June 1**  
A fashion show of women of the Bible. 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall, 37 Halson Street. Free-will offering to benefit The Native Women's Centre.

### Open House

**Sunday, June 12** (Heritage Day Weekend)  
**Self-guided tours** (1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.) of the church and churchyard in which many Ancaster historical figures are buried.  
**Fair Linens Display:** displays of liturgical vestments, fair linens, and prayer shawls.  
**Afternoon Tea** at 3:00 p.m. by advanced ticket sales only. (No tickets sold at the door)

### Homecoming of Past and Present Clergy and Parishioners

**Sunday, September 18**  
Please join us at the 10:00 a.m. service, followed by a BBQ. Walk around the building, reminisce with past and present friends.

St. John's Anglican Church  
200 Years in Christ's Love  
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www.ancasteranglican.org

## St. Andrews Grimsby

Our active Prayer Shawl Ministry was started in 2004 by parishioner Anita Gilbert, with six other ladies who thought it might be something good to do. Over the years it has grown to 20 active members.

We meet each Tuesday from 1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m. The meeting starts with a prayer and a candle is lit. The members enjoy a cup of tea while they knit or crochet. When the shawls are finished they are handed in and are ready to be blessed by the priest. After this they are placed in a plastic cover together with a small bag of lavender (for calmness) and a prayer card (for comfort).

They are now ready to be given out to those in need. When a possible recipient's name is received, the shawl is placed in a bag marked with the name of the person, date of the gift and a short prayer.

We also provide white christening shawls to the newly baptised. These are presented at the services.

The shawls are given as requested in situations involving illness, bereavement or where anyone may need the blessing of the prayers and good wishes of the knitters. They have gone to such diverse places as England, Australia, Japan and New Zealand, as well as here in Canada.

In the past few years we have taken the Ministry to other churches in the Diocese and to England. Each place started their own Ministry after the visits.

We have been successful, we believe, due to the regular meetings, having all of us share in the fellowship and the love expressed in the cards we get back from the recipients. It is a very rewarding experience for us all.

Keep the knitting going ladies. God bless the founder and all Prayer Shawl Ministry members.

*Kit Dickenson*



▲ In Grimsby, the prayer shawl group meets weekly to knit, crochet and enjoy being together. Photo: Submitted



# Prayer shawl ministry – Many stories

CONTINUED



## St. James Fergus

After reading about the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. John's Port Dalhousie (*Niagara Anglican*, November 2008), a seed was planted in my heart. In September 2011 our group was organized with seven women attending. It has grown with the wide stretching arms of God's love and power of prayer.

We have delivered 185 shawls within our own parish, local community and beyond, including British Columbia and Florida.

We meet monthly year-round on the first Thursday, beginning and ending with prayer.

Shawls—size, colour, shape and texture—are picked with each recipient in mind. We created a prayer card with the logo from Janet Bristow and Victoria Cole-Galo's website on the front, an appropriate prayer inside and on the back—with the blessing date—"Crafted by hand and threaded with prayers of love and hope, this shawl is a gift for you. May it bring blessings of comfort, gifts of warmth and the knowledge that you are loved." Each shawl is delivered personally in a gift bag.

Prayer Shawl Sundays are about twice a year. Shawls are placed on the front

pews for parishioners to appreciate. Group members come forward and hold each shawl, so as the blessing is said the words can flow through their hands into each individual gift. A member makes individual fabric labels with the blessing date and "Created with love and prayers by The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. James Anglican Church." A book records the recipient's first name, creator (some shawls are knit, some crocheted), date and who delivered the shawl.

We made 150 pocket prayer shawls for two mission trips to Pilgrim's Hope in Swaziland. These squares fit into a small sandwich bag and are very portable. We attach a prayer—translated into SiSwati by the pastor of Pilgrim's Hope—to each square.

▶ A Pocket Prayer Shawl fits neatly into a sandwich bag for easy transport to Pilgrim's Hope in Swaziland.

▼ Regular size prayer shawls are displayed on the pews so people can see them before being blessed at Sunday worship.

Photos: Anne Warner

St. James hosted a prayer shawl creators gathering for churches in the Centre Wellington area. (*Niagara Anglican*, September 2013)

Many members say our time together is pure joy and peace, with most work completed at home.

I start every morning quietly praying

as I knit the shawl. The peacefulness and rhythm of the needles, creating with my hands and viewing the wonderful world out my front window is a very special way to start the day by giving thanks to God for all the blessings in my life.

Anne Warner



## St. Stephen-on-the-Mount Hamilton

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is now in its sixth year. Between 12 and 15 members meet every Monday afternoon to either knit or crochet shawls. To date, we have made 750 shawls and these have been distributed near and far.

On the second Sunday of each month, new shawls are displayed in the Church and blessed by our Rector. They are then distributed to the sick or bereaved, to those celebrating a special birthday or anniversary, and to babies, children and adults who are being baptized.

We always enjoy a cup of tea and a

few cookies during our weekly meetings, and before closing we remember before God those for whom prayers have been requested—often our prayer list is very long.

The response from those who have received a prayer shawl certainly indicates just how much comfort these shawls give to the recipients.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a wonderful way to reach out to those in need; both those inside and outside our church community.

Margaret Reid





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# The warmest coldest night of the year

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

"It was a sunny, warm, almost spring-like day but it was still the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY)," reflected Genevieve Wong, Fund Development Manager of St. Matthew's House. "With the temperature over 12 degrees in Hamilton most walkers were in running shoes, windbreakers, jeans or jogging pants. People of all ages came out to walk downtown, including more children than ever before."

She was referring to the national walk for the homeless and hungry which took place in over 90 communities across Canada on Saturday, February 20, 2016.

In Hamilton "almost 200 walkers and more than 30 teams walked in the CNOY to support St. Matthew's House and Mission Services of Hamilton," said Genevieve.

Wearing their blue CNOY toques, walkers came from Christ's Church Cathedral, St. James Dundas, Christ Church Woodburn and Rock on Locke churches. McMaster's Lacrosse team, families and friends of St. Matthew's House and Mission Services of Hamilton came out. One team—Ruck 2 Remember—carried sacks filled with non-perishable food donations the entire way.

The Locke Street Rockers from St. John the Evangelist included Finnegan, aged 17 months, who travelled the whole distance on his mother's back and 22-month-old Liam, a great little trooper, who walked "all of the 5 km but for just a few blocks!", noted Judith Purdell-Lewis.

Of the 19 Rockers, seven were under nine years of age. "We were proud," said Judith, "to have the largest team and the youngest walkers!" supporting St. Matthew's House.

Over \$35,000 was raised to support St. Matthew's two food-banks, noted Genevieve, "Last



▲ Christ Church Woodburn parishioners charge along Barton St. Hamilton with their warm hearts raising money to help others. Photo: Jessica Wood

year 29,201 people received help." Meanwhile at St. Christopher's Burlington, the centre for CNOY in that city, Open Doors Director Sara Collyer reported 130 people participated this year—the oldest walker was 84 and the youngest four months.

The nearly \$30,000 raised, she explained, will help support Open Doors, which is a group of 15 community based programs helping to build a more resilient community in Burlington.

Some of these programs include a free clothing store, respite for people with special needs, community dinners, seniors' lunches, pop-up farm markets, food bank, youth educational community garden and Ontario electricity support program.

"Open Doors has seen a needs increase of 56% in 2015 and these funds will help support that increased need," Sara said.

Across Canada, according to coldestnightoftheyear.org, the Coldest Night of the Year walkers raised almost \$3.8 million dollars for 92 charities.



▲ In Burlington, Andy Coates, Jill Jones and Winston Tinglin pause for refreshments and a break during their Coldest Night of the Year walk. Photo: Sandi Remedios



◀ Mayor Rick and Cheryl Goldring take a break after completing their Coldest Night of the Year walk in Burlington. Photo: Sandi Remedios



◀ In Hamilton, 22-month-old Liam (red jacket), a great little trooper, walked all five km, except for just a few blocks. Photo: Mission Services



◀ Coldest Night of the Year walkers setting out on their journey through the streets of Hamilton. Photo: Judith Purdell-Lewis



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# Serving the greater community through a new building

**PAUL GROSS**

In the beginning, January 2011, St. John the Divine Cayuga embarked on an epic journey to serve our community.

We did not know what the need was, but it soon became apparent.

The Accessibility Project was born.

This name expresses many facets of accessibility. It will make our 125 years plus Norman style church fully accessible. It also brings to our community a safe and reliable, 100% accessible building for social service groups, smaller gatherings or families, to meet in a hall with a county inspected kitchen and a meeting room.

We are very happy that we, as a community, have succeeded in breaking ground on this new two-storey building.

It will offer the community on-site parking at the door drop off area, a casket sized lift, one universal and one handicap

regulation washroom, a meeting room, new office and cloak room.

We thank the many supporters who have written letters for grants and other presentations, donated funds—church groups, individuals or businesses—and as well, provided good counsel to our many questions and urged us on in times of doubt.

To the hundreds of financial donations from yard sales to memorials to large private donations and the Government of Canada for awarding us \$75,000 in various grant money, we say thank you.

We could not have succeeded without the Diocese of Niagara giving their approvals and services.

We broke ground on January 30, 2016, and the completion date for Phase One is May 31, 2016.

In order to make this \$560,000 project a reality we raised approximately \$350,000 and have assumed a mortgage. Several fundraisers are planned, including an Elimination Gift Card Raffle (April 8), a Swiss Chalet Rib

Dinner Night in Cayuga (May 7), and the Fifth Annual Best Ball Golf Tournament at Cayuga Golf Club (August 13), so let's get rid of the mortgage before the roof is on.

Our wish is for all people in our community to use this addition to Cayuga's fabric as much as possible. But most of all, we at St. John the Divine are so pleased to offer this exceptional opportunity to all of Cayuga to enrich everyone's life.

We truly believe we can do more than we can ask or imagine with God's help, so thank God in your prayers for past and continued success of this project.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 905-772-5308 or 905-772-3416. If you would like to make a donation, contact Paul at 905-379-9767.

*Paul Gross is Deputy Warden, St. John the Divine Cayuga.*



▲ The fully-accessible, two storey addition to St. John the Divine Cayuga means new opportunity of service for both the parish and wider community.

▼ The Accessibility Committee—Bruce Armstrong, Pat Hyslop, Katherine Morgan, Fred Predon, Kelly Roloson and Paul Gross—had a lot of fun at the ground breaking ceremony on January 30, 2016.

Photos: Submitted by Paul Gross



## Clergy Happenings

The Reverend **Leslie Gerlofs** has accepted a part-time appointment as Program Associate, Refugee Sponsorship, effective March 1. Leslie will be working for the next few months under the supervision of the Reverend **Bill Mous** to support our diocesan refugee sponsorship initiatives while continuing in her current role as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's Winona.

The Reverend **Brian Galligan**, Rector of St. Alban's Acton, announced his intention to retire and submitted his resignation effective July 1, 2016.

The Venerable **Stephen Hopkins** submitted his resignation as Rector of St. Christopher's Burlington and Archdeacon of Trafalgar, effective May 15, 2016.

The Reverend **Wendy Phipps** accepted the part time position of Priest-in-Charge of St. Paul's Norval (February 1, 2016), while continuing with her ministry as Rector of St. John's Nassagaweya.

The Reverend **Sue Nicolls** resigned as Rector of the Halton Hills Cluster Ministry and has accepted the appointment of Priest Associate for Community Engagement and Family Ministry (part-time) at Grace Church Milton. She will continue as Rector (part-time) of St. John's Stewarttown, effective February 1, 2016.

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## Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

**Deadlines:**

- Summer – April 25
- September – July 25
- October – August 25

**Submissions:**

- News, Letters, Reviews** (books, films, music, theatre) – 400 words or less
- Articles** – 600 words or less

**Original cartoons or art** – contact the Editor

**Photos** – very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something).

Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo includes a child.

All submissions must include writer's full name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions.

**Questions or information:** contact the Editor at [editor@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagaraanglican.ca) or 905-635-9463.

# Youth bring their message through cartoons

"A winner," is how Lianne Tan described the cartoon drawn by her grade seven students.

Lianne teaches science and is the chapel organist at the John Bell Chapel—part of Niagara Diocese—at Appleby College, Oakville. The school, grades 7-12, "encourages student involvement and leadership in its chapel program. Students are required

to attend services at least twice a week," she wrote.

She had noticed her students drawing in class and "commissioned them to draw a cartoon about anything to do with the chapel."

They chose "Draw the Circle Wide", (*Common Praise*, hymn 418) based on the hymn of the same name. In it, composer



Gordon Light encourages everyone to "draw the circle wide" so "no one stands alone" in this world. She said, "It is one of the

most popular hymns sung at the school."

The cartoonists, a team of grade seven girls from Lianne's

home form last year, are of "Filipino, Turkish, and Colombian origin."

# Tips for getting a grant

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

Newcomers to Canada and the oppressed will be the priorities as Hands Across Niagara (HAN) encourages Niagara parishes and other identifiable Anglican groups to apply for the \$2,500 grants available this year. Only new projects will be considered.

"Given the incredible response to the global refugee crisis, we are particularly interested in projects that foster full participation in our society for newcomers to Canada," wrote HAN Chair

Derek Anderson.

"We are interested in projects focused on those who are oppressed," Derek continued, "because of their ethnicity, ability, socioeconomic status, language, religion, gender or sexual orientation."

He suggested tips for a successful grant application.

1. Review the projects which received grants last year at [niagaraanglican.ca/handsacross](http://niagaraanglican.ca/handsacross)
2. Connect with local community organizations. Successful applications must include a

3. description of how your group will work with a community organization on a project that would be difficult to accomplish by working alone. Your partner may be another congregation, a local service agency or a group engaged in advocacy or activism. Also, consider ways to include the voices of those your project seeks to serve; a strong proposal will highlight their inclusion in the program as more than recipients of services.
3. Reflect upon the causes of

4. injustice faced by people in your neighbourhood. Successful applicants will propose projects to redress the beliefs, policies and structures which habitually exclude people from the chance to flourish.
4. Consider the difference between offering charity and targeting injustice—for example, providing needed items for newcomers (charity) versus an event to build relationships with new neighbours (justice).
5. Investigate the real cost of

6. your ministry plan. You need to include a budget listing all sources of funding (received and applied for) and all costs associated with your proposal.
6. On June 6, your representative needs to be available to answer questions the committee may have about your proposal.

Deadline for applications is May 12. Applications can be downloaded at [niagaraanglican.ca/resources/grants](http://niagaraanglican.ca/resources/grants) or contact Derek Anderson (905-632-1233) or Bill Mous (905-527-1316 ext. 330).

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