

Bible Challenge for 2016

What does the Lord require of you?
Do justice,
Love kindness,
Walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8



In Conversation with ...

Lisa Di Veto, Diocesan Stewardship,
Legacy Giving and Fund
Development Consultant



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141st Diocesan Synod

A summary of decisions,
reports, budget and anniversary
celebrations.



Starting Page **6**

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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

JANUARY 2016

2016 is the year to take a compass reading



Bishop Michael checks the compass as he prepares for 2016, a year of discernment for Niagara Diocese.

Photo: Su McLeod

BISHOP MICHAEL BIRD

In my charge to Synod last November (see December 2015 Niagara Anglican pages 6-7), I talked about the gift that our Diocesan Vision has been to us ... a guide, a template and a compass for our work and ministry over the past eight years.

I spoke of a number of ways we have experienced the leading of the Holy Spirit through the challenges and opportunities we have met, wrestled with and embraced over the course of this incredible journey.

I went on to say: "it is my strong belief that we are no longer the Church we were eight

years ago, and that we have moved strongly and courageously toward that new Church and that new tomorrow Bishop Walter Bagnall spoke about so eloquently almost half a century ago. It seems fitting then, as we move beyond this anniversary year, that we find a way to gather together once again and to take a compass reading."

In a few weeks' time, I will outline a process that helps us

See BISHOP p. 3

Gathering Seeds

TERRY GILLIN

Three years ago this fall I was diagnosed with lymphoma. In a series of articles published in the Niagara Anglican, I explored some of the graces which were particularly abundant during this difficult period. Subsequent to treatment I have been and to date remain cancer-free. The purpose here is to share where I am today in light of this cancer journey, to tell something of lasting graces.

A profound gratitude is the core gift of this experience. I have been blessed by my loving family, caring and talented doctors and nurses, the spiritual support of priests, friends' generosity with their sustaining food and prayer shawls, and the prayers and good wishes of friends and strangers alike. All this was wonderful, and my awareness of the gift of gratitude continues.

I experience gratitude as a deep and inclusive thankfulness for the gift of life, each and every day, witnessed by the birds that come to our feeders and the butterflies that occasionally flit through the yard. Expressed in innumerable simple ways, gratitude is the joy of planting flowers and seeing them bloom, the pleasure of weeds pulled, the doing of house work, the



This gift of gratitude is inclusive and brings hope.

sacramentality of preparing and sharing family meals and time spent in solitude. Every day, even in the face of difficult situations and serious concerns, gratitude brings hope and joy.

I am of course the same person I was, with the same foibles. I struggle to complete household chores in a timely fashion, to make time for daily meditation and to do my daily exercise.

At the same time, I find that the everyday things I do become prayers—cleaning, shopping, cooking, gardening, volunteering or walking. These activities become moments of attentiveness, solitudes embedded in everyday actions. These

See GATHERING SEEDS p. 7

Refugee Sponsorship Initiative

(Updated November 30, 2015)

\$154,494.31

Amount raised as of the end of October 2015

23 Parishes or groups interested in sponsoring a family

25 Number of individuals already sponsored

\$140 Amount Bishop Michael has asked Niagara Anglicans to donate to support our anniversary refugee sponsorship initiative

To honour our 140th Anniversary, Niagara Diocese launched a refugee sponsorship initiative to compassionately respond to one of the most pressing human needs of our time.

Our goal is to raise enough funds to equip our parishes to sponsor as many as 50 refugees.

For more information or to donate

niagaraanglican.ca/140refugee/ or contact your parish.

In conversation with... Lisa Di Veto

Diocesan Stewardship, Legacy Giving and Fund Development Consultant

Lisa Di Veto has held senior responsibility for fund development and communications programs of major charities, including the Salvation Army and Canadian National Institute for the Blind. She also conducted major projects for leading cultural and tourist organizations like the Art Gallery of Ontario and Metro Toronto Zoo. Prior to her coming to Niagara Diocese, she served as Financial Development Officer for the United Church of Canada's (UCC) Hamilton Conference, introducing national and regional fund development initiatives that significantly increased annual congregational revenue.

The Niagara Anglican interviewed Lisa regarding her plans for parishes and the diocese.

Niagara Anglican (NA): What is your role in Niagara Diocese?

Lisa Di Veto (LD): As Stewardship, Legacy Giving and Fund Development Consultant, my role is to help parishes strengthen their sustainability by increasing their income and diversifying revenue.

NA: How do you plan to accomplish this?

LD: To date, I've introduced three initiatives to help parishes:

1. Parish Leadership Meetings

At these meetings, three key topics are covered: current financial situation, revenue generation opportunities and legacy giving options. Information is specific to each parish and its operations. Participants have been very responsive to new sources of funding such as grants, and how to promote their parish's mission in the community to create greater awareness and support. Annual activities are also reviewed and legacy giving options considered. Key stakeholders should be present—clergy, staff, corporation, council, committee chairs—everyone with a role in sustaining the parish and to deepen our culture of involvement.

2. Grant Workshops

Parishes are not always aware they can seek funds from external funders. This workshop provides examples of successful Anglican funding applications, identifies grants churches can apply for and explains how to create a case for grant support.

Doug Flanders, the recently retired Director of Major and Legacy Gifts for UCC, is a co-presenter at these events. Workshop participants receive a

100

page binder of specific information and resources to assist them, and I'm available to provide counsel to each parish as it begins the process of seeking grants. (Our next workshop is January 27 at Christ Church Flamborough and others will be scheduled throughout the diocese quarterly).

3. Legacy Giving Presentations

Most churches have benefitted from bequests but the majority of parishioners may not be aware of the variety of options available for making a legacy gift to their parish or diocese, and that the gift can result in attractive tax benefits. To enhance our parishioners' knowledge, I offer a 10 minute Powerpoint presentation during existing parish events such as vestry meetings, and am available to speak with individual church members at any time.

NA: Finances are an ongoing concern. What do you propose to parishes?

LD: At one time, parishes were able to cover operating costs almost exclusively from parishioner support. Although our donors are very generous (the average pre-authorized donor contributes \$130 a month or \$1,560 year), the number of parishioners has dipped in many churches, reducing overall revenue. At the same time, expenses tend to increase as buildings age and need repairs. Other charitable organizations have diversified revenue to meet their financial needs. Churches have been

a bit slower to consider the funding options available to them, perhaps because they were unaware or believed they could not seek support from the broader community.

So, I'm working with parishes to consider specific steps they can take to increase revenue and raise awareness of the vital contribution they make to their communities.

NA: What other advice do you offer parishes?

LD: Parishes across the Diocese provide numerous programs serving the community ... food banks, neighbourhood gardens, lunches or dinners for those in need, out of the cold programs, etc. Church volunteers often provide these important services without any fanfare or link to their parish's banner. Unfortunately, that means the general public is often unaware of the contribution churches are making to the social fabric of their communities. When churches create awareness of their charitable activities, they open the door for greater relationship building and involvement. Many community residents, for example, would like to help refugees and wonder how to contribute but have little knowledge of our churches' activities in this area. Anglican parishes that become publicly identified with important social causes such as this can strengthen their position in the community.

NA: Any final comment or suggestions?

LD: I'm committed to identifying opportunities for our parishes to work together by exchanging ideas, information and resources. If your congregation is involved in community partnerships, outreach initiatives, special events or initiatives that could benefit other Anglican parishes, contact me. I'll create a central website that allows our churches to share resources and help one another.

NA: How can parishes contact you?

LD: I can be reached at lisa.diveto@niagaraanglican.ca or 519-754-1803.

Mailing address: 78 McBay Road, Brantford ON N3T 5L4



Photo: Su McLeod

HOLLIStorial

Learning from signs at the mall

"Let the fun begin" resonated as we boarded our trusty chariot, headed west, traversing multi-lane roadways, crossing the border into a foreign country and entering the city named for an animal of the *Bovidae* family.

Our strategic plan was—shop, eat, shop, rest, shop eat, shop—you get the picture.

Endless hours of shopping can drain the most determined bargain hunter, and I am no exception.

So while others bask in the thrill of the chase, I languish joyfully in the caverns of my being, searching creatively for stimuli to amuse my aching feet and motivate my yearning to learn.

Wandering through shopping aisles crammed with products to erase my most delectable want

or miniscule need, I detected the plethora of signs abounding with counsel to help pilgrims navigate along life's passage.

I began taking photos on my phone. Later I could cull them and select some messages pertinent as guideposts for the journey. Then I would compare them with quotations from Jesus and other wise sages.

Here are some examples ...

If life becomes too hard to STAND ... KNEEL.

This is an invitation to pray, using any posture, and as Canadian hymn writer Joseph Scriven reminded us whatever we face in life we should take it to the Lord in prayer.

When the 19th century poet Alfred Lord Tennyson concluded

more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of, he was merely echoing Paul who advised the early Christians (51 AD) living in the Greek city of Thessalonica to pray without ceasing—apt advice for us living today.

To live a creative life we must lose our fear of being wrong.

In the 18th century American scientist and philosopher Benjamin Franklin changed the world with his discoveries about electricity. He probably based his action on his quote: Nothing ventured, nothing gained. Maybe Jesus was giving his followers the same advice when, after toiling all night and catching no fish, they were encouraged to launch out into the deep (Luke 5:3-5). People who put aside their

fears of failures have discovered new lands, explored unknown horizons and release synergies creating a better world.

Keep calm and carry on.

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." The 32nd President of the United States Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended this form of action to himself, his country and the world when all were experiencing setbacks and challenges. Thousands of years earlier a young shepherd sat on a hillside guarding his sheep. He noticed the heights of the mountains and the depths of the valleys, both shrouded in darkness, and he began thinking about his relationship with God. His thoughts formed words and



he kept repeating the sentence "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you (God) are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

Returning from our sojourn, we passed an 18-wheeler whose sign brought it all together: "**We deliver peace of mind**". The trucking company guaranteed a safe delivery and wanted their clients not to get stressed.

We Christians could offer the same advice, since we follow the one who called himself the Prince of Peace. He promised **peace, I leave with you, my peace I give to you.**

Yes, they are all around us, we just need to take the scenic routes, stop and notice the signs.

Bishop describes 2016 as year of discernment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bring people together from across our diocese, once again, to engage in a conversation about our hopes and dreams for the future.

It will also be an opportunity for us to articulate our challenges, to discern needed resources and, above all, to share inspiring stories and experiences highlighting the many ways God is active in our congregations, and in the communities and people we are being called out to serve.

My expectation is that these conversations and our continued prayers will reframe our diocesan vision and refocus our energies as we work with God to bring about the Kingdom.

I look forward to meeting as many people as possible as we gather in a number of places and settings to focus on the work that lies ahead of us. I hope and trust that you will see this as an important exercise in strategic planning as we faithfully respond to God's mission for our lives, our parishes and for the world.

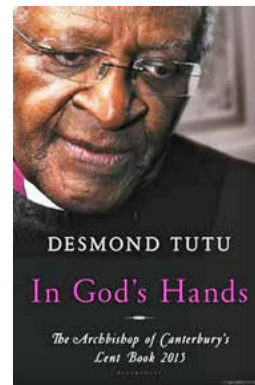
Please watch for further details in the days to come.



Bishop's Lenten Book for 2016

Bishop Michael is pleased to announce that the Bishop's Lenten Book for 2016 is **In God's Hands** by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

In speaking about this choice he writes: "Desmond Tutu is one of my modern day heroes. For many years I had a picture in my office of the Archbishop placing an election ballot in a ballot box. For me that picture depicted and symbolized a modern day miracle unfolding before us—a sign of God's guiding and restoring presence in our world. This was the first time in his life that Archbishop Tutu had ever had the privilege of casting a vote in his country's political election. It was very hard to imagine that this world leader, this bishop and primate of the Anglican Church;



an educated, intelligent man of faith, had never, before that day, had the right to hold office or even to cast a vote in his native country of South Africa. In my picture he was literally beaming and dancing with joy as that ballot fell into the box.

"In 2013 I had a 'bucket list experience', as Susan and I had the great privilege of meeting the

Archbishop in Cape Town, and I look forward to the ways he will once again inspire us all and be a beacon of promise and hope for all of us in Niagara as we read his book together."

This new book was the 2015 Archbishop of Canterbury's Lenten Book. The cost of the book is \$20 and orders can be placed by contacting Jane Wyse at Cathedral Place: 905-527-1316 (ext. 420), or jane.wyse@niagaraanglican.ca The book is also downloadable for use via e-reader for approximately \$10. We were promised delivery by the end of December, 2015.

Bishop Michael commends this book to parishes and individuals for reading and discussion in this coming Lenten season

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www.niagaraanglican.ca



The luxury tithe

STEPHANIE PELLOW

This is an idea I have been kicking around for a while but have only now sat down to articulate.

It is based on an understanding that modern life is expensive but probably not as expensive as we make it out to be. We tell ourselves we can only give so much to God's work, either through our church or other charities, because our cost of living is so high.

I acknowledge the burden of taxation is significant and that a sizeable proportion, trusting it is administered properly, goes towards the "safety net"—the social programs which ensure those in need in our country can have housing, food and basic clothing.

But viewed from another angle, we fool ourselves into thinking we have to spend more on our own necessities of life than what would be considered basic. Jesus asks us to be good stewards, but we don't have to take a vow of poverty to begin



to see ways in which we could be good stewards with a better theological template.

Take the family car, for instance. There is no denying we all need a car to get to work or even to do our work. What we actually need is basic transportation but most often we opt for something with more features to enhance our comfort and safety.

What I am suggesting is we figure out what the difference is

between the cost of basic transportation and the car model we have chosen, and find a way to translate that amount into more generous offerings.

This becomes difficult when you consider, in order to pay for this car, we may have pushed ourselves to the limit of our income on a monthly basis. Nevertheless, we have allowed ourselves a "luxury" beyond what is absolutely necessary.

Say the difference is \$100 per month over the payment for a lower priced vehicle. Can we use that figure, in a way we can manage, to give more in thanksgiving to God? Response to that question could range from matching it in increased givings each month to a percentage or "tithe" increase each month. Even at \$10 per month, we would have donated an extra \$120 over a year.

For a luxury item that has far less value than an automobile or a home, we could consider a tenth of the extra cost spread out over time or a one time gift of a tenth of the value.

So, an upgrade on our sound

system might cost \$1000. A \$100 tithe could be spread out over a year, amounting to \$8.35 added to our current monthly givings. Paying \$120 for a pair of shoes when a similar pair may have been found for \$50 would add about \$6 to our monthly givings for a year.

These small amounts could add up to a significant increase for the work of God through our churches.

Obviously many would find all this calculating a bit tedious and might opt for attaching importance to the price of the car only. Doing the entire exercise with everything we purchase would, however, give us a much clearer picture of just how often we tend to "treat" ourselves beyond the basic needs of life.

I suggest this idea in all humility, knowing that I have not put this template into full practise as yet myself. Contemplating the concept has, however, made me more aware of how I spend my funds and how well I have "treated" myself compared to my willingness to put God's priorities

in this world ahead of my own.

The Reverend Stephanie Pellow is Priest-in-charge of St. Paul's Shelburne and St. Alban's Grand Valley. revspellow@gmail.com

(This is a revised version Stephanie's article which first appeared in The Orangeville and Caledon Citizen and The Shelburne Free Press)

*With every gift show
a cheerful face, and
dedicate your tithe
with gladness. Give to
the Most High as he
has given to you, and
as generously as you
can afford.*

Sirach 35: 11-12

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People

Women received quilts of valour

"Handmade with love, respect and gratitude for your sacrifice to Canada. May the hugs stitched into this quilt give you comfort, strength and love."

"The label with the recipient's name sewn on the back of each quilt says it all," remarked Kathy Lowe who reported to the Niagara Anglican.

The recipients were Ethel Wood and Madeline Shavaliar

who served in the Second World War. Each received a Quilt of Valour as part of the 150th anniversary celebrations at Christ Church Niagara Falls in November 2015.

At 18 years of age, Ethel enlisted in England because her father was in the military and her brother did not want to sign up. "I went instead," the 93-year-old told the Niagara Falls Review.

Madeline, now 101 years young, told her story in her Maddo's Military Memories, "I had signed up as a nurse with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp in 1939 ... We became part of Number 14 Canadian General

Hospital ... After two weeks of military training in Point St. Charles, we boarded the Stirling Castle ocean liner in Halifax and set off for Britain ... Thus began four years of service."

Four quilters, supported by the congregation who purchased hug mugs filled with enough fabric pieces for a nine block square, pieced

together two quilts of valour over this past summer. Gina Delorenzi, the local representative for the Quilts of Valour-Canada Society, machine quilted them and was also on hand for the presentation.

The Quilts of Valour-Canada Society (quiltsvalour.ca) is dedicated to "supporting our Canadian Armed Forces members past and present, with quilts of comfort in their time of need."

"We feel very privileged to have met and been able to honour these two wonderful women and to have participated in the Quilts of Valour-Canada program," wrote Kathy.



▲ Madeline Shavaliar received her Quilt of Valour at her home—Stamford Estates Retirement Home. Photo: Melissa Whitman



▲ Local representative for the Quilts of Valour-Canada Society Gina Delorenzi presented Ethel Wood with her quilt of valour during the Remembrance Sunday worship at Christ Church Niagara Falls.

Photo: Amanda Hughes



▲ ACW quilters Linda Dueck, Amanda Hughes, Kathy Lowe and Bonnie Powell pose with Gina Delorenzi of Quilts of Valour-Canada, with the two quilts. Photo: Jo-Ann McAlphine

Kettle Days

For several years members of St. Cuthbert's Oakville have helped staff the Salvation Army Kettle at the Oakville Place mall.

The volunteers have an opportunity to speak about involvement in their parish, since a prominent sign lets shoppers know who is helping in this important outreach.

Parishioner Peg Coleman has been a faithful and smiling volunteer each year.

Photo: Joe Asselin



Parish goes green for silver

Serving fair trade tea and coffee, changing to all LED lighting to save electricity and installing aerators on faucets to conserve water were some moves made by St. Simon's Oakville to receive a Silver Certificate in Niagara's Greening Program.

Other measures included switching to green cleaning products, having 45% of their parishioners complete the Niagara Home Challenge survey, installing a tank-

less water heater for their kitchen and providing information about community recycling facilities.

Present when the Silver Certificate was awarded were Churchwarden Fred Roach, Parish Green Facilitator Emily Green, Greening Niagara Chair Sue Carson and Rector Darcey Lazerte.

Photo: submitted by Emily Green

141ST DIOCESAN SYNOD

Synod decisions

Canterbury Hills

Synod agreed that monies realized from the sale of a portion of Canterbury Hills Camp and Conference (CHCC) property be used to reimburse CHCC's indebtedness to the diocese (\$630,032), and the remaining \$524,473 be used to establish an internally restricted fund to support programs and capital costs associated with CHCC. Synod set guidelines regarding the portion to be withdrawn each year, as well as the future of the fund should CHCC no longer require financial support.

Canons updated

Periodically the canons of the diocese need to be updated because of changing circumstances and realities. At the 141st session of Niagara Synod changes were made to the following canons:

The College of Deacons, whose purpose is to provide communal support and encouragement to the 18 deacons exercising their ministry throughout the Diocese, was first enacted in 2003. The

amendments bring the canon up to date with what has been the practice in recent times and notes some roles held at the pleasure of the Bishop.

Composition of Synod will now include representatives of the College of Deacons. As well, clergy who receive a pension from the Anglican Church of Canada and are in good standing with the Bishop of Niagara are now entitled to a seat on the floor of Synod and have a right to take part in discussions, but are not entitled to vote.

Cemeteries: the canon was amended to establish or change structures resulting from provincial legislation enacted four years ago.

Church property: basically to make any changes to or give permission for the use of any parish property, a Vestry, called for that purpose, must approve the proposal by a two-thirds majority vote and also have the approval of the Bishop and Synod.

For more details and rationale for these changes to the canon go to the diocesan website.



▲ Pamela Battersby and Doug Mercer spend a moment reflecting on icons at a prayer station during Synod.



◀ Claire Masters, Chris Devereux and Maria Nightingale combine their talents in producing a prayer sign for social justice.

All photos: Hollis Hiscock

Numbers paint a changing landscape

HOLLIS HISCOCK

After three years of collecting statistics on a variety of factors, Diocesan Treasurer and Director of Finance Jody Beck is confident, "we have a clearer picture of what is happening in parishes today than when this program of reporting was expanded in 2012."

Participation in certain parts of church life in Niagara Diocese appears to be soaring, despite slightly declining membership and attendance at Sunday worship.

Each year parishes are asked to submit information about a wide range of ministries and activities including membership, worship attendance, youth programs, community and justice initiatives as well as parish internal

groups targeting hospitality and music (see accompanying box).

Many aspects of community and justice initiatives seem to be growing as parishes respond to identified needs in their communities or neighborhoods.

86% of our parishes serve community meals or provide meals for those in need. In response to Niagara's vision for ministry, the number of parishes reporting clergy or lay leaders serving on community organizations boards has increased from 47 in 2013 to 54 in 2014.

Parishes continue to be aware of their impact on the environment according to the number sponsoring community gardens, which encourage people to grow and eat locally produced crops. As well, the number of parishes

practicing greening initiatives to become better stewards of creation has increased from 55 to 58.

The 5-11 year olds are paving the way in their participation in Sunday morning child and youth programs, even though other age groups are experiencing slightly declining numbers.

Readers are encouraged to reflect on the statistics and how they affect their respective parishes, and then to share or discuss their thoughts, questions, insights or ideas with the Diocesan Treasurer and Director of Finance Jody Beck at jody.beck@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-527-1316 ext. 520.

Niagara Diocese Statistics

Comparative figures for 2014 and 2013, based on information submitted by nearly all of the 89 parishes of the diocese. 84 of 89 parishes reported in 2014.

Measures	2014	2013
Parish Members	24,484	25,834
Persons in a single household or persons to whom ministry is being offered		
Average Sunday worship attendance	6,948	7,487
Baptisms Infants, youth and adult	405	413
Sunday morning child and youth program attendees:		
Newborn to 4 years	206	263
5-11 years	795	702
12-18 years	274	327
Community justice initiatives (Number of parishes)		
Community Meals/Food Cupboard/Food Boxes/Meals on Wheels	77	79
Community Gardens	15	16
Support for local shelters	37	37
Greening initiatives of parish properties	58	55
Clergy/Lay Leaders on community organization's boards	54	47
Internal parish groups		
Liturgy preparation / prayer / readers	63	64
Music (choirs, bands, groups)	36	31



Gleanings from Synod reports

We provide a sampling here of committee and groups reports to Synod; you can read all reports at niagaraanglican.ca and following the link: YOUR DIOCESE → SYNOD → 2015 DIOCESAN SYNOD.

Committee on Church Buildings (CCB)

Ian Chadwick, Chair

While projects range from new construction to simple repair, the work is never routine because every job is different and the imperatives of Canon 4.6 emphasize competitive bidding and transparency in all things, particularly the awarding of contracts.

Doing things right the first time not only saves money for other initiatives, but is good stewardship, good for the environment and an example of ethical responsibility.

Decennial Inspection Committee

Terry Charters, Chair

Seven inspections were completed in 2015, and in the coming year the committee plans to expand the number of approved inspectors to ensure cemeteries get included in the inspection reports, as well as to assist parishes in developing their own action plans.

Task Force for a Safe Church, Volunteer Management and Screening

Marni Nancekivell, Chair

The task force has created a draft resource concerning bullying and harassment, led a workshop for church leaders, intervened where abuse was alleged and mentored several parishes where a situation was reported to be unsafe.

Investment Subcommittee

Fred Roach, Chair

As of July 31, 2015 the Investment Funds, totalling \$35,609,244, were invested by Russell Investments Canada, our Investment Manager since 2002.

These funds are made up of monies deposited by the Anglican Church Ministries Foundation, Synod, Parishes and other associated organizations.

We are convinced that, for a faith-based organization, it is essential that our investment practices are consistent with our values and beliefs. The solution was an in-depth inquiry and analysis of the practices of our Investment Manager, Russell Investments. This analysis convinced us that our funds are being managed in a manner consistent with our values and beliefs. A copy of this Investment Policy can be found on the Diocesan website.



▲ The offering taken during the synod worship was gifted to the Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, part of Niagara's 140th anniversary of becoming a diocese.



◀ While Lay Secretary Penelope Johnstone records synod proceedings in print, Clergy Secretary David Anderson checks out the electronic clicker used the first time by delegates to vote on motions and issues during synod.

Gathering seeds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

instances of awareness ripen into praise and petition. They become inklings of the Spirit in everyday life, the extraordinary in the ordinary. To work carefully with respect for the task and for those for whom the task is undertaken is to celebrate with profound gratitude the Love implanted in the world. It is the gift of human experience transformed into encounter.

This gift of gratitude is inclusive and brings hope. The trials we face have not changed substantially over time, neither the personal ones nor the national and international ones. We are

still a world deeply divided by income and other social inequalities, by interpersonal and social relationships in need of reconciliation and most recently by a vast refugee population fleeing the horrors of war and seeking a more stable life. From time to time friends and neighbours suffer personal tragedies.

My illness and its therapeutic treatment have taken their tolls. Yet, in the midst of the human travail I see generosity, social creativity to meet the needs of others, open-hearted acceptance of strangers, efforts to strengthen justice and make peace at home

and abroad. My small contributions are filled with gratefulness for all the hope-filled efforts.

Each day I am filled with the momentous flood of life and grace, and hence gratitude. Of course graces must be nurtured and sustained by persistent prayer. Gratitude is lived in our everyday service to others and in our work for social justice.

Terry Gillin, a member of St. Cuthbert's Oakville, is a Professor Emeritus at Ryerson University. tgillin@arts.ryerson.ca

Budget gets green light

"We believe the proposed budget for 2016 enables us to continue to do more together".

With these words Andrew Clinkard presented the budget motion to nearly 300 delegates attending the 2015 Niagara Synod.

"The book of James says 'I will show you my faith by my works,'" quoted the Chair of the Budget Subcommittee, noting "the Diocese of Niagara is all about that."

The Synod was asked to approve expenditures of \$3,424,468 which could result in a projected deficit of \$26,500. The majority of revenue (\$3,050,000) comes from DMM (Diocesan Mission and Ministry), with the remainder from Hands Across Niagara, investments/interests and a variety of sundry income.

Budget highlights include investing more than \$3.4 million in the communities we serve, maintaining the current parish assessment rates, having flexibility to respond to the way God is calling us to action, enhance our ability to grow a continuous culture of stewardship and doing more together, Andrew said.

Expenditures fall mainly into six categories. Employment and Parish Ministry support, while the largest portion of the budget, is "what it costs to put people to work on your

behalf." Other categories include Beyond Niagara, Diocesan Administration, Cathedral Place Property, Beyond Parishes / Hands Across Niagara, Programs and Vision Initiatives. Details may be viewed on the diocesan website or you can contact your synod representative or the diocesan treasurer.

Andrew advised delegates that over the past five years DMM revenue has remained unchanged, and the demands on the expense side have increased. "With over 90% of the budget tied to non-discretionary costs there is little room to maneuver on the budget," he counselled.

The budget process takes many months of preparation, with consultation and broad input from many groups and people before being presented to Synod for approval.

"The history of the early church as described in Acts and the history of the church in North America offer stories of pooling resources for the common good of the worshipping community. Today, we ask congregations to share their resources in support of our shared diocesan mission," Andrew said, just before delegates approved the 2016 diocesan budget.



CELEBRATING 140 YEARS with great hopes for the future

As part of the diocesan synod, approximately 400 delegates, guests and friends of Niagara Diocese gathered at Liuna Station in Hamilton to share stories, walk through history, leave a message at the speaker's corner, visit displays from the Anglican Journal and Niagara Anglican and be entertained by troubadours.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada,

reflected on the contribution to the national church made by many people from Niagara Diocese.

Participants left the event with a new diocesan map and the conviction that "We are more together" – the theme of the two day synod. The Niagara Anglican caught some highlights to share with you.



▲ Parishes lined up according to their year of being established from the early days to more recent times.



▲ Margaret Mladen and Geraldine Baker post information about their parish, St. Elizabeth's Burlington.



▲ Music provided an appropriate backdrop as people wandered through history depicted on 14 pillar displays—one for each decade since Niagara became a diocese.



▲ Our Primate Fred Hiltz attended the two days of synod and shared many insights about the national and international church. Here he shares a moment with Bishop Michael and Susan Bird.

All photos: Hollis Hiscock



◀ Tricia Clarke poses with the front cover of the 60th anniversary issue of the Niagara Anglican.

▶ The Anglican Journal—our national paper—was represented by Editor Marites (Tess) Sison, Circulation Manager Bev Murphy and Art Director Saskia Rowley.





◀ Elaine MacKinnon, Bev Groombridge and Randy Scott knot together the multi-coloured pieces of fabric to illustrate the theme—We Are More Together.



▶ After the approximately 400 individual fabric pieces were woven together for an art demonstration of the synod's theme, Primate Fred Hiltz gave the final blessing.

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Bishops compare—then and now

HOLLIS HISCOCK

The present Niagara Bishop, Michael Bird, and the first Niagara Bishop, Thomas Brock Fuller, greeted the 245 people arriving for the 2015 Bishop's Company dinner, held for the first time at the Royal Botanical Gardens.

Later in the evening they debated and compared the 1875 church with the church today. Their topics ranged from the ordination of women, types of music played in worship and responses to temperance societies.

The light-hearted but serious discourse pointed out dramatically how church attitudes and actions have changed, even though the gospel retained the same message.

Sheila Van Zandwyk, Rector of St. Michael's Hamilton, chaired the event and added some lively comments, which spiced up the festive spirit of the celebration.

In a more serious vein, she explained why the diocese was celebrating the 140th anniversary of its existence.

"Although Anglicans had been worshipping in the Niagara Region since the 1700s, we were a part of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and then of Quebec and then of Toronto. As the population of the area grew it was realized that we should become our own Diocese, and on March 17, 1875 the incorporating Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was constituted.

"Since then we have been led

by 11 Bishops; parishes have come and gone; church buildings have been built, demolished, caught on fire and rebuilt; thousands of babies have been baptized; children confirmed; couples married and people buried.

"Throughout that time we have endeavoured to preach the gospel of Christ to all, feed the hungry, clothe and shelter those in need, gather together for both worship and fellowship, and to faithfully live out our baptismal vows as followers of Christ on the way.

"We have much to celebrate this year and much to be thankful for."

The Bishop's Company, whose history dates back more than 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, lay workers and their families.

In addition to individuals, couples and young adults can become members of the Bishop's Company. Members may 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 niagaraanglican.ca/bishops-company



▲ The clothing of Susan Bird and Bishop Michael Bird is in stark contrast with the attire worn by Bishop Thomas Brock Fuller (Nick Wells) and Cynthia Fuller (Tracy Gordon).

◀ Bishop Michael and Niagara's first Bishop Thomas Brock Fuller (Nick Wells) compare church life today with the way it was in 1875, much to the amusement of those attending the Bishop's Company dinner.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

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Jesus and the Tabernacle

BAHMAN KALANTARI

When Jesus says, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19-25), he is talking about himself. He is the new temple, God's inclusive presence available to all people on earth.

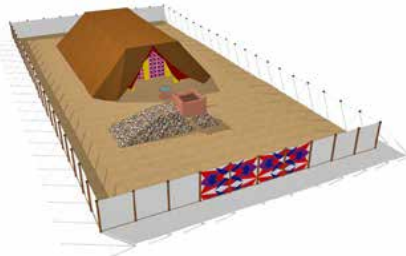
The temple of Jerusalem in Jesus' time was designed on the basis of the desert tabernacle from the time of Moses. Tabernacle has a Latin origin, meaning tent (its Hebrew equivalent is Mishkan). In tents, the Hebrew people could rest and experience peacefulness after their nomadic wandering. The tabernacle, as a central tent, was put up by Moses for the purpose of experiencing Yahweh's (God's) presence.

Jesus likens himself to the tabernacle and its components. The New Testament writers continue the same tradition, uncovering the likeness between Jesus and the tabernacle.

The tabernacle had a gate. Jesus says: "I am the gate." (John 10:7)

- There were ...
- a **brazen altar** for sacrifices in the tabernacle. Jesus is called the Lamb of God (John 1:29)
- a **lampstand** in the tabernacle to shed light. Jesus says: "I am the light." (John 8:12)
- **twelve loaves of bread** in the temple. Jesus says: "I am the bread" (John 6:35)
- a **basin of water** at the court (entrance) for the priests to wash before entering the tabernacle. Jesus says: "I give you the living water" (John 4:14)
- a **high priest** in the temple. The New Testament (Hebrews 4:14) teaches Jesus is the high priest. But Jesus, as the new high priest, tears apart the veil that separates the Most Holy Place (the presence of God) from the people (Hebrews 10:19-20).

It is significant that Jesus also



The Old Testament Tabernacle

Image: Wikimedia Commons

says he is the truth (John 14:6).

Now we can look at how the tabernacle reflects the truth of the Old Testament.

The tabernacle was divided into two sections: the holy place and the most holy place.

The holy place was the location in which the golden lampstand, the table of shewbread (the 12 loaves of bread) and the altar of incense were kept.

The most holy place was separated from the holy place by a veil. The most important item, the Ark of the Covenant, was kept in the most holy place. Within the Ark were kept the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a jar of manna and Aaron's rod. It was covered by a lid, the mercy seat, which

was adorned by two winged angelic figures, the cherubs, that faced each other.

These three elements reflect the truth of the Old Testament. The interrelation of these elements (the Ten Commandments, the annually redemptive role of the high priest and the heavenly manna) brought about the gracious, merciful and glorious presence of God.

We have a tabernacle in our church, a small cabinet or safe in which the consecrated elements are kept. However, this tabernacle does not look like a tent.

When the altar is set up for Sunday Eucharist, we notice the veil that covers the sacramental vessels looks like a tiny tent.

The Altar Guild members put



▲ The setup for Holy Communion looks like a tabernacle or tent (centre). Each sacramental vessel or covering signifies an image of Jesus' Resurrection. (From left to right) paten, bread, tabernacle with veil covering, pall, purificator, chalice and wine.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

up this tent (tabernacle).

Every Sunday the veil is removed, the bread and wine are presented, consecrated by the priest and received by the people as the body and blood of Christ. The consecrated bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ, are the truth of our faith through which we all experience the presence of the Holy.

The Veil covering the sacramental vessels signifies another image of our faith: Jesus' Resurrection.

The Pall symbolizes the stone that closed the entrance to Jesus' tomb.

The Host (bread) symbolizes Jesus' body.

The Paten symbolizes the platform on which Jesus body was laid.

The Purificator symbolizes the

linen cloth that was used to wrap Jesus' body.

The Wine in the chalice symbolizes the redeeming blood of Christ.

The Veil symbolizes Mary Magdalene's fear and grief. This is why she is unable at first to recognize Christ. However, when the Risen Lord calls her by name, the veil of fear and sadness is removed and Mary recognizes Christ immediately.

In conclusion, the truth of our faith is not hidden in a secluded place. It is unveiled every Sunday, and everyone is invited to observe and embrace the uncovered truth. The uncovered truth is Christ's presence manifested in the Holy Eucharist.

The Reverend Bahman Kalantari is Rector of the Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stony Creek. Here he stands by the tabernacle in his church. Email: bahmankalantari96@gmail.com

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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- March – January 25
- April – February 25
- May – March 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 or 905-635-9463.

Palermo church moved to better serve its community

St. Luke's Palermo church building has been moved to a new location on its property to make room for the construction of a new parish centre.

Located at Dundas Street West and Valleyridge Drive, just west of Bronte Road, the church was moved to its new location in November.

The move is part of a 2.3 million dollar development project that will provide much needed community space for new programs and neighbourhood events in northwest Oakville.

The existing cemetery will be maintained and continue in service.

St. Luke's is a spiritual community that strives to embody the values of faith, hope, love, care and unity in all aspects of its ministry.

It is one of 89 parishes comprising the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

To view the full story of the moving of St. Luke's, visit stlukepalermo.ca/building-project-blog



1. St. Luke's is first raised from its foundation, ready to move eastward.



2. Waiting for the basement to be dug and the foundation prepared.



3. Church building is pulled into place.



4. Finally, the church rests in its new home.

Photos: St. Luke's and Hollis Hiscock

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