

May the mountains bring peace and prosperity to the people.

Psalm 72:3

Photo of Mt. Sinai: Hollis Hiscock

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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

MAY 2016

In conversation with ...

The Three Cantors

For two decades *The Three Cantors* (3cantors.com) have travelled widely, employing their God-given musical talents to bring inspiration and enjoyment to audiences, as well as raising over a million dollars to help people around the world.

On February 22, 2016 the Cantors returned to where it all began—Grace Church Brantford—for a final concert of thanksgiving, celebration and gratitude.

After Bill Cliff was consecrated Bishop of Brandon Diocese (March 1, 2016), "future concerts—while not impossible—will be difficult to schedule or predict," they wrote on their website.

The *Niagara Anglican* is happy to present their incredible story through our conversation.

Niagara Anglican (NA): How did it all start?

Three Cantors (TC): In 1996, Anglican priest Peter Townshend listened as three colleagues sang in a diocesan service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. Archbishop Percy O'Driscoll challenged the Diocese to find creative ways to renew the church's outreach. Peter had an idea.

After the service, he asked Bill Cliff, Peter Wall and David Pickett if they, with Angus Sinclair, would give a concert for HHE/PWRDE. They could call themselves "The Three Cantors", and have a great

night of fun.

The four laughed, agreed, but added no one would come. Peter T. told them to leave that with him. His wife, Jane, was chair of the Huron Hunger Fund, and the two got to work with the folks at Grace Church Brantford. They sold over 700 tickets and filled Grace Church to overflowing.

NA: What was your reaction?

TC: We were blown away that so many people would come to hear us. We expected one good evening of fun for a good cause, and then we'd get on with our



Photo: Kathryn Hollinrake

lives. We had no concept of what it would become and how many concerts and recordings would follow.

NA: What did follow?

TC: We have sung over 240 concerts since 1997 from St. John's NL and Antigonish NS, to Vancouver and Victoria BC, from

Calgary to Massachusetts and from Thunder Bay to Bermuda.

We've been featured on provincial and national radio, appeared with Judy Maddren's "Christmas Carol" reading at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church Toronto, been interviewed by Michael Enright,

—See *Three Cantors* Page 11

Good Friday Walk

Six St. Catharines churches braved the elements for outdoor ecumenical liturgy.

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Our mission to seafarers of the world

Ronda Ploughman talks about her new role as chaplain.

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What five years can do

How St. Andrew's Grimsby group has tried to make a difference in Nicaragua.

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Chilly day, warm hearts for ecumenical Good Friday walk

DOREEN M. MCFARLANE

This year, Good Friday again brought together Christians from a wide variety of denominations, and many walks of life, to walk in remembrance of Christ's journey to the cross and his suffering there.

The annual event was well attended by lay and clergy alike.

The walk began at Royal House, and paused at each of the six churches on and around Church Street in downtown St. Catharines. The gathered group listened attentively to readings of scripture, enjoyed beautiful words and music provided by the excellent duo known as "Infinitely More", and shared in prayer and song.

Though the morning wind blew bitterly cold, the faces of the people showed that hearts were warmed in the sharing.

St. George's Anglican Church members Stephen Bedford and the Reverend Scott McLeod carried the heavy cross to each location in front of the churches, followed by all.

Though the atmosphere was

appropriately sombre, clergy and people seemed to relish the opportunity to be together in each of the short treks between churches.

Following the final stop of the walk, participants were invited to come into the warmth and enjoy coffee, tea and hot cross buns at St. Thomas' Anglican Church.

Participating churches included Royal House, St. George's Anglican, St. Catherine's Catholic, Knox Presbyterian, Queen Street Baptist and St. Thomas' Anglican.

All are invited to participate in this moving annual event.

► Stephen Bedford and the Reverend Scott McLeod from St. George's Anglican carried the heavy cross through the streets of St. Catharines. The crowds followed them.

Photos: Doreen M. McFarlane



▲ At each of the six stops during the walk, Allison and Gerald Fleming – Infinitely More – presented the Good Friday reflections and led the music and singing.

Photos: Doreen M. McFarlane



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HOLLIStorial

A wandering wondering mind I am

I am searching for peace.

Not the human kind, rather that which the priest bestows in the blessing—"the peace of God which passes all understanding."

We humans may not fully understand God's peace, but God must, so I embark on my imaginary pilgrimage searching for something, which apparently I cannot understand, but am happy to receive.

The sand tickles my toes; the water massages my feet as the sun emerges from the eastern ocean. Its dazzling light blinds me and its heat rays demolish the early morning chill.

I attempt to pen my sensations in my poetry notebook, but words elude me. I know what I am feeling, but I cannot assemble the letters to describe my inmost thoughts. I wonder if God's peace bypasses our human understanding and resides deeper in our mysterious psyche?

I imagine myself on a plane, filled with men, women and

God's peace is a journey, not a destination.

children being transported from their war ravaged homeland to a foreign country they hope to call their new found land—a destination which promises fresh opportunities and restful sleep uninterrupted by bombs and mortars.

They are hopeful but subdued as they fly into the unknown. The long hours are filled with quiet conversation, worry, tears and fitful sleep until tires thump the tarmac and the pilot bellows, "Welcome to Canada!"

I sense a yearning for peace oozing from every individual, even though some have never experienced human peace, let alone "God's peace that passes all understanding." Would they want both? Could they live only with human peace? If they found God's peace, would they know?

Unnoticed, I pass bleary eyed refugees as they shuffle towards the bright lights of the terminal, hearing the enthusiastic applause of welcoming supporters. I wonder if God's peace can permeate any human without ever being detected? Is experiencing God's peace like being wrapped snugly in a prayer shawl?

Maybe I would understand God's peace if I imagined myself watching world leaders negotiate peace accords among rivalling nations. Surely they must experience God's peace, searching for common ground among varying traditional, philosophical and religious values?

The galleries, filled with reporters, students, dignitaries and tourists, are swathed in an eerie silence. The delegates focus

on reaching a truce among peoples, who for generations have been involved in conflicts for reasons possibly erased through the passage of time.

Translators seem intent on ensuring peace has the same meaning in every language. Small groups consult and individuals confer with superiors around the globe. They seek human peace, but could God's peace that passes all understanding be the underpinning for any successes achieved through the United Nations?

Then my imaginary pilgrimage takes me to an assembly of worldwide Anglican religious leaders. Surely these "holy people" know what "God's peace without understanding" really means.

They pray, meditate and engage in godly conversation. I observe their behaviour, listen to their dialogue and marvel as they hammer out a communiqué.

It speaks of unity, tensions, stress and a pledge to journey



together amidst diversity, and then they request one of their company not to journey with the others for a period of time.

As followers of the one who called himself "the Prince of Peace," their words and actions appear at odds with his. Maybe the most holy of religious leaders also fail to grasp God's peace that passes all understanding.

So, has my pilgrimage been in vain?

I return to my imaginary beach where cold water refreshes my body and rouses my senses. The sun eradicates the darkness and warms the coldest crevasses of my being.

Eureka! I am having an epiphany moment!

One insight my pilgrimage taught me—"God's peace that passes all understanding" is a journey, not a destination.

Feedback is welcome. Contact information below.

Letters

Same sex equal marriage

This e-mail is in relation to the debate regarding equal same sex marriage.

My wife and I urge the Canadian Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) to vote in favor of equal marriage for same sex Anglican couples as soon as possible. We do not want to "explore other options." The only option is equality, the same marriage for all. Anything else is discrimination and bigotry.

"Because it is 2016", paraphrasing Justin Trudeau.

The ACC had plenty of time to permit equal marriage for all Anglicans, including LGBTQ Anglicans. The ACC should not wait any longer or possibly hide

behind unequal solutions.

We, as an Anglican couple, will try to voice our view at the parish level. However, it is most likely that the only useful gesture or alternative is to join another Christian church by the end of this year, assuming there is one who believes in such equality. We will obviously wait for the July Synod vote first.

*Luc Bertrand and Elaine Robinson
St. Alban the Martyr
Glen Williams*

Same gender marriage—time to decide

In Mr. Bertrand and Ms. Robinson's email you can see the fruits

of protracted indecision. The Anglican Church of Canada is losing members left and right—and I mean that in social-political terms. Conservatives walk away because we're considering same-sex marriage. Liberals walk away because we're not considering it fast enough. Both might benefit from a study of Anglican history

and polity, but it's likely too late for that now. Indecision, temper and a cultural shift toward rapid change has put Anglicanism into the unfamiliar territory of having to quickly make a binary choice on an issue of deep importance.

Given that reality, I would like to urge my General Synod bound colleagues to please stop being

so blasted Anglican and make up your minds. Say definitively, yes or no, and let us be done with it. I have my own opinions about same sex marriage and which way I'd like the vote to go, but my opinions are beside the point. As a loyal priest of the Anglican Church of Canada, if the General Synod votes to approve same-sex marriages I will perform them. If they vote not to, I cannot. Meanwhile, I would very much appreciate knowing which group of parishioners I'll have to say farewell to come July.

*Fr. Aaron Orear S.C.P.
St. Alban the Martyr
Glen Williams*



Photo: iStock/Getty

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Publisher: Bishop Michael A. Bird
905-527-1316
bishop@niagaraanglican.ca
Editor: The Reverend Hollis Hiscock
905-635-9463
editor@niagaraanglican.ca
Advertising: Angela Rush
905-630-0390
niagara.anglican.ads@gmail.com

Art Director: Craig Fairley
Imagine Creative Communications
Proofreader: Helen Hiscock
Niagara Anglican Publication Board:
In addition to the above...
Paul Clifford
Dennis Hurst
Christyn Perkons (Bishop's Designate)
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Jesus and the Psalms

HOLLIS HISCOCK

A singer and narrator combine their talents to present an evening of music, word and song exploring the relationship between Jesus and the Psalms.

Caroline Macdonald of St. James Fergus and David Rowe from St. Paul's Dunnville attended the same "wonderfully inspiring evening" at St. Paul's which was "filled with awesome songs and fascinating lessons."

That evening, ten psalms were selected and sung by writer and musician George Hall of Dunnville, with an explanation of the psalms by narrator Canon Robert Brownlie.

Robert explained "several mysteries of Christ are contained within the Psalms, including an interesting view of Christ as the rejected capstone." He added that "the 'still waters' referred to in Psalm 23 were considered dangerous, but our Lord guides us through safely."

Caroline noted how Robert defined the relationship between the psalms and Jesus' ministry. "None of us had ever experienced a study of the psalms in this manner," she said and added "we plan to have them come to St. James to share this experience with our congregation."

Also Robert told his audience that in his youth and during his years of ministry, the Gideons' special little red book of the New Testament and Psalms never left his desk.

George, an accomplished pianist, singer and songwriter, wrote the musical *Song of the Grand* and composed the music for the CD, *Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem*.

In describing George, who is also the Cantor at St. Paul's, David wrote his "passionate singing style punctuated the wonders and the hopes that we all have in Jesus Christ who is mysteriously concealed in the Psalms."

The evening ended with an opportunity to meet and talk with George and Robert.

For further information about presenting Jesus and the Psalms, the musical *Song of the Grand* or selling the CD *Pray For The Peace Of Jerusalem* at your church contact George Hall at georgehall11@hotmail.com or Canon Robert Brownlie at St. Paul's Dunnville 905-774-6005.



George Hall Photo: Larry Drebert

Letters — Continued from page 3

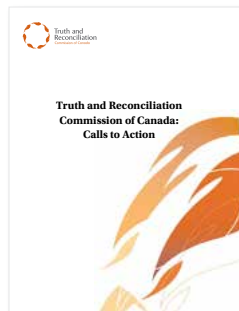
Truth and Reconciliation Commission – a parish responds

(Susan Wilson wrote, "I want to share with you a recent email I sent to our Primate regarding our response at All Saints to the

TRC's 94 Calls to Action. We are also working with a volunteer from Kairos to bring the Blanket Exercise to Erin.")

I want to share with our Primate our humble attempt at All Saints Erin to increase awareness of and action towards the 94 Calls to Action (trc.ca) which came out of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

The idea came from a parishioner who wanted to know what our parish was doing in response to the release of the report. He observed that in our parish some people seemed to know a fair amount about the TRC, but others did not seem to know very much or were misinformed. He undertook to develop a proposal which was presented to Parish Council and overwhelmingly approved. His proposal was that we should read all 94 Calls to



Action during worship and that we offer prayers for those in leadership to respond faithfully to the Calls.

The response in the parish has been very positive. Some parishioners have expressed their gratitude for the increased awareness this is creating. There have been

numerous overheard discussions at coffee hour about the Calls to Action and our response to them. One Sunday I was approached by a parishioner who had been away the previous week but had attended church wherever he was. He said "they" did not have the TRC Highlight and he missed it. He asked why they didn't do it. He thought that this was a National Church initiative!

We will follow through on the Primate's call to publically read the UN's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and I am connecting with Kairos to arrange to host a Blanket Exercise in our community.

It may be a small thing we are doing in our small church, but I believe that it is touching lives and changing hearts.

Canon Susan Wilson
Rector, All Saints Erin

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Clergy News

The Reverend **Charles Easson** (former Honorary Assistant at St. Cuthbert's Oakville) died on Easter Sunday surrounded by his family. Remember his wife Gail and his family and friends in your prayers.

The Reverend **Leslie Gerlofs** becomes the Incumbent of St. John's Burlington, on a half time-time basis, effective June 9, 2016.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Mission to Seafarers, Southern Ontario, we are pleased to announce the appointment of the Reverend **Ronda Ploughman** as Chaplain, on a half-time basis. This is in addition to her ministry as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Hamilton, half-time.

The Reverend **Michael Clarke**, formerly ministering in Toronto Diocese, is now Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen's Hornby, on a half-time basis.

The Reverend Deacon **Ronald Vince** submitted his resignation and intention to retire as Deacon at Christ Church Flamborough, effective June 1, 2016.

In God's Hands

MARTHA TATARNIC

A member of our congregation, at our Lenten study, said in apartheid South Africa she was not just a second-class citizen, but not a citizen at all. When speaking about becoming a Canadian citizen, her face glows, "Finally, I had a home."

God's unconditional love is the theme running through Archbishop Desmond Tutu's *In God's Hands*, our Diocesan Lenten book.

He talks about grace—the unearned gift of relationship with our loving God—and God's commitment to stand with the poor and break the yoke of oppression.

We reflect on these themes regularly as a Christian community.

Tutu's backdrop is apartheid South Africa—where it was illegal for him to receive an education, where land and power were seen as God-given gifts only to white people and where violence



Photo: Submitted

and hatred against an entire race was built into the law of the land.

When he talks about forgiveness, he is referencing the most powerful and challenging sort needed to topple systematic racism in a way that didn't seek war and revenge, but rather the rebuilding of a new world TOGETHER.

He talks about God's love, so radical and subversive that it overcame generations of word and action which taught black people they were worthless, and gave them the courage and vision to claim their place as persons of power, worth and dignity.

St. George's, St. Thomas' and Grace Churches St. Catharines partnered this Lenten study, which allowed different meeting times so more people could participate.

Bishop Walter Asbil, who met Tutu on several occasions, spoke of his incredible humility, power, kindness and generosity. Our parishioner shared her experiences growing up as a black person in South Africa.

Others added their stories about angels, encountering God's grace amidst great difficulty, questions, doubts, insights, hopes, dreams and a renewed understanding of God inviting us to be and act in our world. There was laughter, tears, food and

singing children.

Reflecting on the one saying she finally had a home, I think about the struggles many face trying to feel at home in a world changing at lightning pace, and how for many of us our parishes is where we feel "we are home."

St. Catharines' Futures Committee, assembled by our bishop, seeks to discern where God is calling us in an increasingly secular world and in a city where churches experience such decline they find themselves at a crossroads.

We are all implicated by these seismic cultural shifts which teach people religion and faith communities are a marginal part of society and daily life. Christians need to be responsive to these needs and realities. The struggles of parts of our church are our struggles too.

As a Christian leader, I am gladdened that the same realities have always been at the heart of our identity as the church:

When traditions and stories of our faith get seen in new ways;

When we get spurred from the incredible experience of God's unconditional love and become agents serving our world;

When our community is a holy mixture of long-time friends, strangers, the seasoned faithful, ones just beginning to explore and everyone in between;

When prayer, service, song and fellowship lead us to encounter God, giving us a stronger commitment even when the world tells us we don't need God and we can go it alone.

I give thanks for God's grace which shaped this church for generations, for the gifts shaping it now and for the opportunity daily to find, create and offer a home for one another and a world in need.

The Reverend Martha Tatarnic is Rector of St. George's St. Catharines. marthatatarnic@hotmail.com

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Our mission to seafarers of the world

RONDA PLOUGHMAN

This year my first ship arrived in the Port of Hamilton on Friday, March 31, 2016, and as the Chaplain for the Mission to Seafarers I visited the crew the next morning.

To learn more about the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario check us out on our Facebook page or website (missiontoseafarers.ca).

Seafaring is one of the oldest and most dangerous professions in the world.

Shipping is the invisible engine that keeps the global economy running. Ninety percent of the world's trade moves by ship. In the Great Lakes alone—Lakes Erie, Huron, Superior and Ontario—shipping generates over seven billion dollars annually in tax revenues for Canada.

As chaplains we offer a welcome and hospitality to visitors to the Ports of Hamilton, Toronto and Oshawa. We help them connect with families they haven't seen for months at a time. We deal with pastoral issues, such



The team of Chaplain Ronda Ploughman, volunteer Dan Phannenhour and Janice Brooks who is volunteer chaplain and volunteer coordinator for the hospitality centre (Mission) meet crew members aboard the Federal Danube when the ship docked in Hamilton.

Photo: Judith Alltree

as the death of a family member that has happened while the seafarer was away.

We assist if they are ill or struggling with depression or other pastoral issues, or if there is trouble aboard the ship such as unpaid wages, lack of food or

provisions, safety issues or working conditions.

Our volunteers drive them to shop and take them on excursions to give them a break from the relentless shipboard life.

Our Mission Centre located on Burlington and Sherman Streets,

Hamilton, provides a quiet space away from the constant noise of the ship's engines; there they can relax and Skype their loved ones.

We work with Hamilton Port Authority, Transport Canada and a bevy of other national and international organizations to ensure seafarers' rights are protected according to maritime law, of which Canada is a signatory.

But most of all, we are just a friend to the many strangers who are stopping by to deliver the goods that make our lives so comfortable.

Have you thanked a seafarer today?

He or she is the one who brought you your smart phone, your television, your car or the raw material to produce it, the gas that powers your car, the food on your table and the bananas your babies and grandbabies love so dearly, the clothes you wear and that free trade coffee you are drinking—just to name a few.

There are all kinds of ways you can provide support to the Mission.

A donation of \$20 or more will get you a tax receipt. We would like to furnish the mission with some new furniture as well—to truly make it a home away from home. We have a whole wish list of things we would like—perhaps you or your church or club would like to sponsor an item. Contact me if that's the case.

We also have opportunities for volunteers to be hosts at the Mission and to be drivers. We have our own van.

In the meantime, let us all give thanks for the difficult work these men and women do to make our lives abundant and comfortable.

Pray for us in our work and our encounters with those we serve.

The Reverend Ronda Ploughman is Chaplain of the Mission to Seafarers, Southern Ontario, Hamilton. She is also Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Church Hamilton. rondaploughman@gmail.com

Social justice through awareness and learning

—a journey just begun

DEBORAH KEEFE

This past February marked a significant turning point for the Inuit Outreach Project in Halton Hills.

On a cold Saturday evening, more than 65 people gathered at St. Paul's Parish Hall in Norval. It was the first of three evenings of learning about Inuit history, culture and ways of knowing and being.

The Project has been collecting and sending clothing, household and essential items to northern communities in Nunavik and Nunavut since 2010. However, the project group knew that in order to challenge the inequities that exist for the Inuit in Canada, the work they have been doing for several years must be supplemented by learning.

The February 6th event began with the symbolic lighting of a qulliq. This traditional oil lamp has been used for warmth and light by Inuit for millennia as they survived in one of the harshest climates in the world.



Tauni Sheldon models her amauti (Inuit parka) as she lights the qulliq (lamp). Tauni, who is Inuk and "living in the south", is the logistics coordinator for the Inuit Outreach Project in Halton Hills.

Photo: Orest Shein

This was followed by a viewing and discussion of the NFB documentary, *Martha of the North*.

The film recounts the resettlement of Inuit families to the Far North in the mid-50s, when false promises were made by the Canadian Government.

Inuit families were deceived into believing they would enjoy a better life more than a 1,000 km north of their current home.

Many audience members said they had never heard about the resettlement before seeing the film. It recounts the events

through the perspectives of Inuit who had experienced it. Having families living in the north in Grise Fiord and Resolute was a way for Canada to demonstrate sovereignty of the north. Re-settlement did not provide a better life for any Inuit as they had been promised.

The final event of the winter/spring Social Justice through Learning Series in April included a presentation by Johnny Issaluk, world champion in Arctic high kick and a medal winner at the Arctic Winter Games, the Inuit Winter Olympics.

The foundational support for this vibrant and growing organization comes from three small Anglican churches with big hearts in the Halton Hills region—St. Paul's Norval, St. John's Stewarttown and St. Stephen's Hornby.

The initial shipment by the Outreach group in December 2010 was sent after Connie Karlsson, a parishioner at St. Paul's, received an urgent request for assistance from a northern

contact made through her workplace. Since that momentous phone call, the initial request has been filled in the form of nearly 15 tons of donations sent through shipments, now undertaken twice annually.

The dozens and dozens of volunteers and contributors from Halton Hills and neighbouring communities who have generously given their time, money and other donations are growing in number and determination. They are making a difference as they give to the Inuit in Canada's north, and learn about Inuit culture and ways of knowing and being.

The April 9 session was a fundraising event to finance the spring shipment of clothing, household and essential items to northern communities in May.

Deborah Keefe is Chair of the Inuit Outreach Project Halton Hills. [facebook.com/InuitOutreachProject/](https://www.facebook.com/InuitOutreachProject/) Twitter: @InuitOutreachHH

MORE Prayer shawl ministry stories



We continue to hear from parishes across Niagara Diocese about their prayer shawl ministries, since our feature in the April issue. Here are the most recent reports.

St. Mark's Orangeville



Our Prayer Shawl Ministry group was formed in 2008.

We meet weekly for a two hour all knitting session, in complete comfort in the Elizabeth Room, adjacent to our new kitchen. Staff can drop in and we have access to tea and homemade cookies enjoyed by all knitters.

The original 12 ladies work diligently at home as well as within the group's weekly meeting. There is a great sense of fellowship within the group; much loving and constructive conversation is enjoyed.

We started with the more basic designs (we still like "3 by 3"). More recently we have chosen a wide range of plain and fancy favourite designs. We try to include less feminine colours in some of our shawls, making them suitable for male recipients.

To date we have given out

The St. Mark's Prayer Shawl Ministry group shows off their handiwork after the blessing of the shawls by Rector Peter Scott.

Photo: Submitted

435 shawls, and have a stock of shawls waiting to be blessed.

All the shawls are gift wrapped. Enclosed with each is a card, gifted to us by a member of our congregation. The gift cards are very special and reflect compassion, love and hope.

The response from recipients is extremely rewarding.

We send our greetings and good wishes to our fellow knitters in all other parishes.

Carman Shepherd and Doreen White.

St. Paul's Shelburne



Margaret Tupling, Anne Gould, Catherine Thompson and the Reverend Stephanie Pellow demonstrate the various stages of getting the prayer shawls ready for blessing and distribution to patients in hospital.

Photo: Submitted

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry was started nearly a year ago. Several members of our parish joined right away.

It became clear that while the shawls were knitted and crocheted as a way of giving comfort to patients at our local hospital, Headwaters Health Care Centre, the group quickly became a place to tell stories, learn more about each other and join together midweek. Of course there are always cups of tea and coffee and a little snack.

Parishioners who don't knit or crochet have been generous in donating wool or money to keep us going.

We were fortunate in being able to visit a nearby church, St. Mark's Orangeville, and get advice from them as their Prayer Shawl Ministry has been underway for several years. They shared the prayer they use to

start their meetings, several patterns and how they package the individual shawls after they have been blessed.

Our priest Stephanie Pellow is also a part of the group, doing her own fair share of the knitting. She also knows other members of the group may come primed with questions about the Bible, the church and connections to world situations. In this way, Stephanie is busy doing double ministry.

When other parishioners asked about the Prayer Shawl group, we explained it is a ministry of comfort. Our meetings start with a prayer and we knit and crochet with positive thoughts as we work together.

As our basket of completed shawls begins to fill up, the basket moves closer to the altar so the congregation is aware that the shawls are part of the parish's offering. When the basket is full, the shawls are blessed and then taken to the hospital. The chaplains have an assortment to choose from when selecting one especially for a patient.

We don't just hope, we know a prayer, some wool and a few knitting needles combined with Jesus' healing love are giving comfort to people who are lonely, in physical pain or facing the end of their life.

Marg Finlayson

Christian healing conference

Forgiveness, prayer and healing will be the focus of a one day conference sponsored by the Ontario Region of the Order of St. Luke (OSL). It promises valuable teaching and workshop exercises for healing and encouragement to benefit both the beginner and the experienced.

Keynote speaker, the Reverend Murray McColl, will deliver the opening talk, Why Forgive? followed by a workshop, Prayer That Guarantees Healing, led by Doctor Colin Campbell.

The afternoon consists of a healing workshop, Receiving and Giving Forgiveness, conducted by



Keith Bird. The day concludes with the Holy Communion and Prayer Ministry.

The conference takes place on May 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at St. Simon's Church, 1450 Litchfield Road, Oakville.

The fee is \$20 per person and participants are asked to bring a bag lunch. For more information and to register go to www.oslRegion8.org

oslRegion8.org

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) is an ecumenical ministry whose mission is to bring the healing love of Jesus Christ to individuals, and restore healing to its place in the church. A network of OSL Chapters around the globe supports members and sponsors healing missions. Region 8 is designated as the Province of Ontario.

(From Keith Bird, Director of Communications for the Order of St. Luke (OSL) in Ontario)

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(See Exodus 34)

MOSES RETURNS DOWN THE MOUNTAIN WITH THE TWENTY COMMANDMENTS

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Education for Ministry for lay people flourishes again in Niagara

PETER DAVISON

Education for Ministry (EfM) began in the Episcopal Church in 1975, and started in Canada in 1980 as an outreach program of the Diocese of Kootenay. In Canada there are now 50-60 groups from Vancouver Island to Newfoundland.

After a hiatus of several years, EfM is enjoying a comeback in this diocese with the encouragement of Bishop Michael and official diocesan sponsorship.

One group meets at St. Thomas' St. Catharines and another at St. James Dundas. We hope to be able to start a couple of new groups in September.

The Reverend Stephen Hallford is the diocesan EfM coordinator.

The first thing you need to know is EfM is all about encouraging and supporting the ministry of the laity.

In the seventies and eighties of the 20th century there was a growing movement away from clericalism and the notion ministry was the prerogative of the clergy, to the realization all Christians are ministers by virtue of our baptism and the role of the clergy is to encourage

and support the ministry of the laity.

EfM was founded to equip lay people for their various ministries, both in the church and the world.



The program runs for 36 weeks each year (usually September to May). It is a small-group process—with each group consisting of no more than 12 members—guided by a trained mentor or mentors. The weekly seminars normally run for two-and-a-half hours. Members are also expected to put in a few hours of preparation each week (mostly reading the text) for the usually lively discussions.

Completing the whole program takes four years. The Hebrew Scriptures is in first year, New Testament in the second, Church History in the third, and Issues and Choices in Theology (Ethics) in the fourth. Gaining skills in Theological Reflection (TR) is central to the program,

along with worship prepared and led by the members.

Both Niagara groups have rejoiced in the commitment and enthusiasm of their members. Comments on their experience include:

Enjoyment, shock, helpful group discussions;
A fabulous/exceptional group—accepting, respects confidentiality, trusting and trustworthy;
Many new insights, including 'Aha! moments';
Look forward to each week;
Appreciate the push to read;
Love the people in the group;
Enjoy being with adults;
My spouse says it's good for me, even if we don't share details;
Developing spiritual maturity and able to share my faith.

Applications for 2016-2017 are being accepted and need to be completed and sent to the Kelowna, B.C. office by early July.

If you think you might be interested in enrolling as a student or in receiving mentor training (you can be both student and mentor at once), contact the Reverend Stephen Hallford (priest@cogeco.net) or Canon Peter Davison (peterdavison61@gmail.com).

BOOK REVIEW

Suggestions to create your own religious life

A Religion of One's Own
 by Thomas Moore
 2015 Gotham Books

ROB ROI

In the opening pages of this work, Thomas Moore calls himself a "religious humanist" who believes in a strong secular life, a deep spiritual outlook and an active spiritual practice.

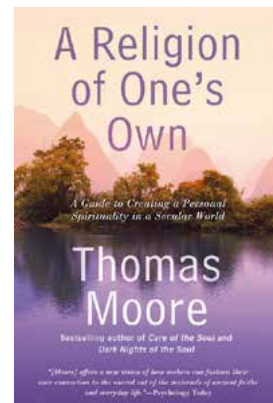
"To create a religious life of your own," writes the monk of 12 years and psychotherapist, "you have to think things through and be critical of the information you find."

He claims this book is for those who have left formal religion but want to deepen their experience, and for those who are still members of a faith community.

Also he believes that we don't need the word God but what we do need is the reality and the sense of otherness in creation—an opening to the transcendent. That otherness can be experienced in our surroundings, Thomas claims.

"In your religion," he writes, "you can heal the split between sacred and secular, your spiritual vision and your daily life ... You can be as religious as you like or as secular as you like, as long as you keep the two together in

tandem."
 In order to create one's personal religion it must include community, place and ethics, and your religion shouldn't always be calm and lovely, Thomas believes. In the closing chapters, he



shares his thoughts about intuition, magic, soul and spirit as antidotes to stress and aggression. The problems in our culture and world, he suggests, are the result of weakened formal religions with their emphasis on fundamentalism, ethical disarray, meaningless rituals and general irrelevancy.

The Reverend Rob Roi is a parish deacon at St. James' Dundas. margrobi@sympatico.ca



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.



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YOUTHart

Emily Yang enjoys singing the hymn, Lion and Lamb Lying Together (*Common Praise*, hymn 597).

The grade eight student at Appleby College in Oakville liked it so much she illustrated its message in the accompanying drawing.

Canadian hymn writer Patrick Wedd drew on the Old Testament prophet Isaiah for inspiration. Isaiah (11:6) declared in the eighth century before Christ, "The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them."

Then he takes it further into life where children and snakes play, rich and poor share, justice and peace lie together and knowledge and trust live as equals.

This will be accomplished through the leadership of a child. The child, who is the Prince of peace, the God of love and the crucified Christ will lead, guide, challenge and redeem people until the earth is filled with goodness, knowledge, justice and freedom.



Lion and Lamb, Emily Yang, Grade 8

“Say your grace before you eat”

The napkin holder – grace lady

"I had to buy her when I saw her," writes Janet Tigchelaar of St. John's Ancaster. She explained, "I recently purchased her, our family had one just like this in the early 60's. We took turns as kids saying grace and this is one prayer we used a lot."



Photo: Submitted

Dinner Prayer
 Be present at our table, Lord
 Be there and everywhere adored
 These morsels bless
 And grant that we
 May feast in Paradise
 With Thee. Amen.

Want your favourite grace included in a future Niagara Anglican?

Send it with your story to the Niagara Anglican Editor. Contact information on page 3.

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What five years can accomplish

PETER CARR-LOCKE

For a child in a small community in Nicaragua, five years can last a lifetime.

In this second poorest country in the Americas, many look forward to a life without comfort, education, basic household needs and hope.

For the past five years a group from St. Andrew's Grimsby has tried to make a difference.

Starfish Nicaragua—based on the story of a child, who finding a beach covered in starfish dying in the sun and realizing the enormity of saving them all, begins throwing them into the sea making a difference, one at a time. Starfish Nicaragua believes in making a difference one small step at a time.

We raise money for the Alejandro Vega Matus School in Masaya, located on an unmade dirt road outside the capital Managua. The community consists of shacks and lean-tos made from rusty corrugated metal, cardboard and salvaged wood. In Nicaragua, school attendance is not compulsory. Many children walk long distances to school and many families cannot afford the cost.

When we arrived five years ago, many problems required immediate attention. The school serves over 700 pupils daily in two shifts. Working through the principal we made a long range revitalization and improvement plan.

The first year we installed a 10,000 litre water tank and purification system, brought clothing, medical and student supplies and three laptops which were converted to Spanish to access online material. We purchased school supplies—often provided by the teachers themselves—and donated towards teacher salaries, some unpaid for months.

Children welcomed us warmly and many have become friends. Some are sponsored by Canadians who exchange photographs and letters through us, as there is no postal service.

Working with a local contractor on our second visit, we built an outdoor kitchen to replace the open air fire on a concrete block. In a few days the concrete block building was completed to feed the children, which for many is their only daily hot meal.

We moved and repainted playground equipment and bought

water barrels for outside hand washing.

We dug out a weedy area, erected a high fence and purchased seeds so the children could grow their own vegetables. The garden won an award—a wheelbarrow and tools.

An emotional event for one child, Silvio, who was unable to walk, was the gift of a new wheelchair. The chair came with us—one person sitting in it to defray luggage costs.

The Tipi Tapa town dump has a large community living off the dump by selling plastics and recyclables. Our vehicle was mobbed when we distributed clothing, shoes and hygiene supplies.

On our fourth visit we brought 15 donated laptops because, when that happened, the government would supply a free teacher.

A new experience in our fifth year was visiting a sheltered workshop for people with disabilities, and their families. Workshop members create jewellery from pop cans, coconut shells and wood, and re-upholster furniture.

We also took baby clothes and other donated clothing to the local hospital and families at the town dump. To date, 1,000 pounds have been distributed.

The school has changed greatly in five years. We have seen the completion of the computer room we started—only the third in a Nicaraguan school. For the first time, students have graduated to university.

The school is now a focal point in the community, serving adults and children.

Now the question is, "What needs to be done in the next five years?" Perhaps we should ask that child saving the starfish.

Peter Carr-Locke is a parishioner at St. Andrew's Grimsby. cookingpetie@yahoo.ca

► The group from St. Andrew's Grimsby which has tried to make a difference in Nicaragua over the past five years included (back)- the Reverend Max Woolaver, Stephen Zulauf and Sandy Zulauf. (Front) Mary Ann McRea, Suzy Campbell, Gary Campbell and Peter Carr-Locke.

Photo: Tim Roberts, Nicaragua



▲ Rob Simmons, Tom Pollard, Roy Simmons installed a 10,000 litre water tank and purification system to provide safe drinking water.

Photo: Peter Carr-Locke



▲ The children of Alejandro Vega Matus School in Masaya singing at a concert for their Canadian friends.

Photo: Peter Carr-Locke



Photo: Tim Roberts, Nicaragua

The Three Cantors ... in conversation

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

performed at two consecutive "Sounds of the Season" shows on Ontario Today, sung with Orchestra London, sung for General Synod and even given a concert for The Governor General of Canada. It's been a wild and varied ride!

NA: Are there other highlights?

TC: Highlights include ...

Seeing the wonderful variety yet unity of purpose in the church across Canada, to see the beauty of our nation and the contexts in which people do their work.

Standing and singing Amazing Grace to a church packed with people, singing with all their heart. We've done it many times when people's eyes widened and tears fell as they heard the power of the gathered voices singing, while Angus let the organ out to its full potential. There were times when it seemed the heavens were opening and God and the angels were joining with us.

Being given terra cotta Christmas ornaments from a ministry we helped through a concert. It was a micro-loans program and the women we had raised money for, through PWRDF, sent the ornaments as a thank you.

But the real highlight is the dedication of the people who sponsor our shows and how they believe in the mission of their parishes, congregations and dioceses. These are the real reason for the success of the Cantors.

NA: Were there humorous moments along the way?

TC: Our concerts are full of contrasts ... from singing the day after 9/11 to singing sendups of hymns. There's always humour ... it's a means of survival but also a place to remember that joy and love always win.

Some humour is planned; some isn't, like forgetting words or what



▲ In 1999 before performing for the CBC's Ontario Today Christmas concert Photo: 3cantors.com
▼ The Three Cantors received honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Huron College in 2012. Photo: Submitted by David Pickett



verse we're on! We try to show that we don't take ourselves as seriously as we do our work ... so we sometimes poke a bit of fun at ourselves and at the church, which is made up sometimes of some pretty funny people.

Some funny things have happened around travel and hospitality. It's almost always beyond amazing, the way people spoil us rotten. For example, there's a reason we always ask for a light meal before a show, but sometimes by "light", people give us a four course feast, then expect us to sing a half hour later!

The banter and good natured laughter that we shared over the years, like singing Monty Python songs when Peter and David are trapped in the car with Angus and Bill, and hysterical laughter at the ordinary mishaps with our road manager, Andrew Keegan Mackriell.

At a sound check at Glenn

Gould Theatre in Toronto, we were asked to let loose so that they could get a level for the radio. The technicians seemed to have underestimated us as "amateurs" and had the levels in the booth set quite high. We started to sing the last verse of "All are welcome" which is quite loud and we heard a thump on the glass of the sound booth. The technicians had pulled off their headphones at high speed and were nursing their ears. "Yeah, right ... Amateurs ..." came the voice through the intercom.

NA: You have raised a substantial amount of money - for whom?

TC: Early on, while sitting with Bishop Percy O'Driscoll we made it clear if these concerts were perceived to be about us, we were not interested. We suggested that our work was to connect music with mission, so we decided any

◀ An appreciative audience enjoyed their "last" show in February at Grace Church Brantford. Photo: Huron Church News

is free to use their proceeds for local ministry. So we've sung to benefit congregations, local outreach, breakfast programs, Habitat for Humanity, food banks, youth programs, organs, anniversary celebrations, refugee sponsorships, The Anglican Foundation ... there's no telling how much that comes to!

NA: Any last thoughts?

TC: We want to say thank you. We do believe God has taken our efforts and, through the hard work and generosity of a lot of people in the church, blessed our efforts far beyond what we ever imagined. We are humbled and grateful, and feel we have received back far more than we could ever have given in the last almost 20 years.

NA: Thanks for the past and blessings for the future.

and every concert would hold some benefit for The Huron Hunger Fund, or if beyond Huron, to PWRDF. Also, 100% of any recording proceeds would go there, too. This has been a very important message to our audiences, and we want to thank HHE/PWRDF for allowing us to be their ambassadors.

Had we imagined what the Cantors would become, maybe we'd have kept a closer count, but we can only estimate that we've raised over \$1.3 million for PWRDF. Beyond what we ask for PWRDF, each local sponsor

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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:
September – July 25
October – August 25
November – September 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.

Changing and adapting to fit the community around us

PAMELA GUYATT

I have been reflecting on my time here at St. James St. Catharines, and how the past eight years would fit into the rich history of the past 145 years.

St. James has grown and changed more than once in that time frame.

In terms of the building, we began with the old wooden church that came down the canal on a barge from Port Dalhousie. When that burned down the brick structure we have now was built.

In the 1950's an addition was added to contain the large Sunday school. The rectory was torn down and gave way to a paved parking lot. The glass enclosed stairwell was added, and we finally had the chair lift installed in 2009.

In the early days of the church, the Merriton Lions Club was formed. Throughout the years there have been dances, bake sales, Christmas Bazaars and other fund-raising activities. In the evenings organizations

such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Pathways to Peace, the Girl Guides and the Brownies have used our space.

Today not only do we continue to host the Girl Guides and Brownies, we have Yoga and Zumba groups who meet throughout the week. On Sundays we have another faith group who rents our space as they grow their own church.

Sometimes the building seems so full of activities the parishioners have difficulties finding time to do ministry. All this activity is now the norm for every church.

But in the middle of all that busyness, it's important to contemplate the changes that are happening. More and more people are looking for places where they can slow down, not worry about a list of things to do, a place to just "be" and recharge—that's what Sunday mornings are all about.

But we wanted something more, something that could take place at a different time, and after much searching and

prayer we purchased a portable labyrinth.

If you haven't heard of that, a labyrinth is an ancient resource people have been using for centuries to help with their faith journeys. In times gone by when people couldn't afford to make a pilgrimage to a holy shrine, they could simulate the pilgrimage with a labyrinth.

In the modern era the laby-

rinth has become a place of quiet which a person can use to reconnect with oneself or question what comes next or as a time of prayer.

The labyrinth is a community resource of which I hope many will take advantage.

If you would like to explore a time set apart just for yourself, call the office (905-682-8853) and set up a time.

So present day St. James is following in the footsteps of all those who have gone before us; we are changing and adapting to fit the community around us. Thanks be to God.

The Reverend Pamela Guyatt is Rector of St. James St. Catharines.
www.stjamesmerriton.com



In the past when people couldn't afford to make a pilgrimage to a holy shrine they could simulate the pilgrimage with a Labyrinth. Today the Labyrinth is a place of quiet where persons can reconnect with themselves, question what comes next or use it as a time of prayer.

Photo: Submitted

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