

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

Photo of Woodland Cemetery Hamilton: Hollis Hiscock

Read Richard Ruggle's reflections on war memorials on page 2.

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A section of the Anglican Journal

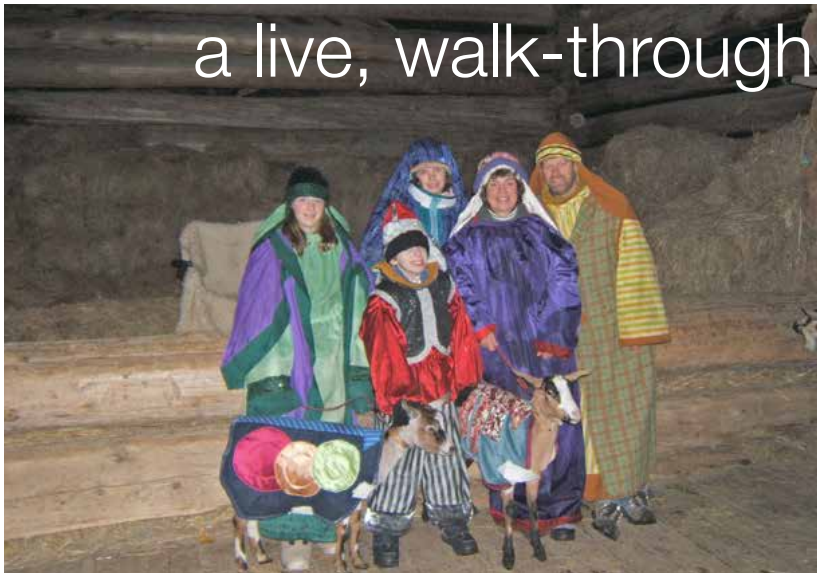
NIAGARA ANGLICAN

A Gathering Place and a Sounding Board for the People of the Diocese of Niagara — Since 1955

NOVEMBER 2016

On the Way to BETHLEHEM

a live, walk-through outdoor pageant



◀ The Moens family has been involved in On the Way to Bethlehem since year one of the pageant 15 years ago.

(From left to right) Sarah was a traveler with an animal and has graduated to a guide. Jack was a page but as a young man is now a door-keeper. Anneliese began as a Little Angel at the Manger and has graduated through the ranks to a guide. Terry is a member of the Manger Choir. Andy takes a week of holidays to help with set-up and is the door-keeper at the Manger scene.

The goats don't have names but Jacob and Job would be nice!

The family is so very proud of their continued involvement in the Nativity that the photo became their Christmas card, an idea happily used by several other families.

Photo: Submitted

ANDREA ROWBOTTOM

We are On the Way to Bethlehem.

We are part of the nearly 600 dedicated volunteers who give of their time, talents and energy to produce a nativity pageant—our gift to the community and to the Glory of God.

On the Way to Bethlehem is now in its 15th year.

We work, each in our chosen aspects, to make this three evening outdoor performance possible—advertising, costuming, casting, guides, tractor drivers, refreshments, massed choir, reception, graphic design, coordinators, fund-raising, sponsors, school choirs, sets, lighting crew and director.

Grace Church Milton has supported the pageant since day

one. Many parishioners are the key to its success. Some have been involved for all 15 years. There are Grace members in almost all of the 22 scenes—though not always immediately recognized in Biblical costuming. There are nearly 200 cast members over the three nights. For some it is a total family experience.

Many Grace members support

and organize our fund-raising ventures, namely catering to the Hall of Fame presentations for the Agriculturalists of the Year awards and a Bowl-a-thon. These make it possible to have many wonderful animals as part of the pageant—an expense of over \$4,000. Both events are supported as well by members of the parent charity, "Milton and Area Christian Churches

Working Together". The Nativity Pageant is the major project of MACCWT.

In addition, several Grace members are sponsors of the Children's Colouring Book, produced as a gift to all children who attend the pageant.

On the Way to Bethlehem is a

—See **OUTDOOR PAGEANT** Page 10

Pioneers

Pioneers of the future encouraged by pioneers of the past at St. Matthias Guelph.

Page **5**



Lay ministries recognized

We highlight a few of the 2016 Order of Niagara recipients.

Page **6**



Canterbury Hills Camp

Director Lance Wright talks about the 2016 season, with its focus on faith in action.

Page **11**



Final in a series

Continuing to Break the Silence

KAREN PITT

This month, in our series on personal and relational areas of mental health, we conclude by looking at how we care for one another in our communities.

**Caring for Our Friends**

We live in a society that moves quickly and offers little time to stop and “waste time” with one another. Physical connection and eye contact are lost to texting and exchanges through internet networks and social media. Time and attention are the most valuable gifts we can share in relationships. Our willingness to form relational bonds, within a loving community, is at the heart of the Good News of

Jesus. This can radically change the world around us.

Our communities all have individuals who experience the effects of past relational damage, along with the desperate attempts to manage the resulting pain. People are drawn to compulsive and addictive behaviors, self-harming actions, ways of controlling their world, and even ending their lives. Is this struggle only an area for professional assistance or is there a role for you and me?

My clear, confident answer is YES for you and me! Each one of us can offer support that enables those suffering from mental trauma, depression and illness to be grounded and move towards greater health. The willingness to give our time and attention can result in many positive outcomes. However, we may very well encounter hindrances at first, and there are hindrances!

Fear is one of the biggest barriers for all of us, and to those enduring mental pain it can be more apparent. The experience

of violation of one’s personhood and the feelings of being “flawed” lead to the formation of defenses to prevent further damage. Contempt or anger, directed at ourselves or others,

develop new ways of relating. This is rarely a one-person lesson in healing, but a choice and response by the whole community to care for the relationally damaged individual.

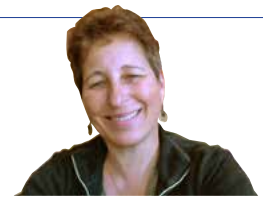
“The story of the donkey in the well may help us understand and explore our role in helping one another”

is a common reaction to silence the screaming pain of their hearts. The degree of these relational (abuse) issues may vary, but acknowledging and responding with compassionate attention is fundamental. It leads us all through the healing process ourselves and enables us to help others.

Courage and compassion are needed when teaching violated individuals relational skills like boundaries and confidentiality. Coupled with healthy confrontation and honesty, the hopeless, shame-filled individual may

The story of the donkey in the well may help us understand and explore our role in helping one another:

One day a donkey fell into a well. It cried out for hours as the owner tried to decide what to do. The farmer decided it wasn’t worth rescuing the old animal, and began to bury the helpless donkey in the well. As the well filled the donkey ceased crying. It realized as the dirt fell off its back and onto the ground, a step formed and he stepped up! Eventually the mound of earth filled the well. The farmer



stopped shoveling and, amazed, saw the old donkey jump out of the well and run off!!

This is an amazing example of how we can begin to overcome the struggle in our lives. Taking time and giving the situation attention is vital, but how this helps may seem unclear. Many of us have experienced helplessness and the feeling of being trapped. We are also in a position of reaching out and enabling others. I invite you to risk giving time and attention to those in need. We can be part of healing within our communities. See how these Christians love one another!!

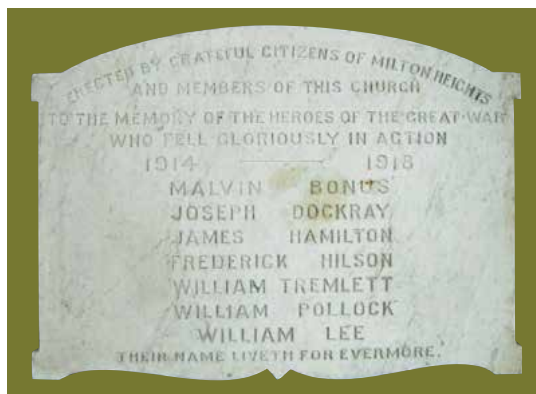
Karen Pitt, a psychotherapist with more than 25 years practice, has extensive experience in individual and group therapy, as well as facilitating workshops and support groups. She attends the Church of the Incarnation Oakville. karpitt@gmail.com

War memorials – a link to our past

RICHARD E. RUGGLE

If your church existed during one or both of the world wars, there is probably a memorial on the wall—sometimes a bronze plaque erected after the war commemorating those who died; often a scroll put up during the conflict emblazoned with flags and the Canadian coat of arms, recording those from the parish or area who served.

The scroll could be a subtle recruiting measure, with the implied question to young men still at home, “Why isn’t your name there?” As the horrendous number of casualties grew during the First World War, there was an urgent need to fill the vacant ranks. Churches were quick to lend their authority to the effort to encourage volunteers, hosting church parades where the regimental band attracted the curious and the recruiting sergeant waited at the door. No rally would be complete without a clergy on the platform. A patriotic duty became a



The honour roll that was in All Saints’ Church, Milton Heights.

Photo: Richard E. Ruggle

religious duty.

But the scroll could also be an ominous reminder of the price of volunteering. As news filtered back from the front, a † would be added beside the names of those who died, and a • next to those who were wounded.

The memorials were important for bereaved families.

Their relative may have died

an ocean away, and this was the only focus close to home for the one they loved. It might be particularly important for the families of the more than 11,000 Canadian soldiers whose remains were never identified, whose names are inscribed on the Vimy memorial but whose final resting place is unknown.

The names on the memorials

can be a bit of a puzzle. Who were these people? Why are they on the list? When townspeople erected their cenotaphs, and congregations planned their plaques or stained glass windows, they polled themselves—who should we commemorate? Two of the 17 names inscribed at the Methodist Church in Oakville (now St. John’s United Church) were brothers who may never have visited the town, but whose only relative in Canada was a member of that congregation. One memorial names a John MacDonald—there were over 50 Canadian John MacDonalds who were killed during the First World War, but none with an obvious connection to the town where he is remembered.

Some high schools have made a history project, where each student is tasked with discovering whatever he or she can about one of the names on the school’s memorial. A parish might attempt a similar project.

There are lots of resources.

One of the best is the Canadian Virtual War Memorial (veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial), which has a page for each of the more than 118,000 Canadians who gave their lives while serving their country.

When we learn more about those who have died, we identify with them.

The crowds who gather along the Highway of Heroes, or who paid their respects to Captain Nathan Cirillo, the Hamilton soldier who was killed at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, feel linked with those who serve on our behalf.

With the passage of time, however, the links become more tenuous. To learn more about those who are commemorated is one way to reforge those links.

The Reverend Richard E. Ruggle is a retired priest of Niagara Diocese, with an interest in church and military history. richarderuggle@gmail.com



Editor Hollis Hiscock encourages shut-ins to write about what they do and share their stories through the Niagara Anglican. Contact information elsewhere on this page.

HOLLIStorial

“I’m only a shut-in”

HOLLIS HISCOCK

“I don’t get out anymore, so I cannot do much for you or the church,” she lamented as tears inched closer to the corner of her not-so-bright eyes.

She recalled the countless hours of faithful service spanning eight decades—remembering numerous and varied activities she had engaged in for her church and community.

I sensed her sadness, her seeming loss of independence, but also the vanishing of that portion of her life which she loved and found fulfilling.

She blurted her question, “I am only a shut-in, what can I do for the church?”

“Shut-ins can do a great deal,” was my resounding response.

Shut-ins can stay in touch with God

The humorous retort, “If you do not feel close to God, ask yourself, ‘Who moved?’” speaks volumes about our relationship with God.

Like other relationships, it must be nurtured to grow. Being a shut-in does not preclude

opportunities to become more intimate with God.

You can deepen this relationship by spending time with God throughout the day, by reliving life’s experiences or just enjoying being with the Lord.

The internet provides opportunities for reading, reflecting and exchanging opinions and feelings.

Reading the Bible, supplemented by other writings, can also open up or renew avenues bringing us closer to God.

Shut-ins can stay in touch with others

Various levels of the church provide many possibilities for people to keep in touch with one another.

Newsletters, bulletins and websites all play a vital role in keeping people informed and connected.

Telephones, email and other social media create hubs of communication for individuals unable to venture beyond their own residence.

Shut-ins can be the eyes and ears of others, and the conduit through which updates and

requests are communicated to the pastoral teams for their response and action.

Shut-ins can be stewards of their time, talent and treasure

Many people who travel frequently or who are unable to attend worship regularly make other arrangements to ensure their stewardship obligations are fulfilled. They do this knowing that the church continues her mission even when they are absent and they want to participate constantly. Shut-ins can do the same.

Contributing our time, talent and treasure enables the parish, diocese and worldwide church to fulfill their commission to spread Jesus’ Gospel.

Time can be employed in many ways as described above.

Our talents can be utilized even when we are confined geographically.

One Monday morning, a woman delivered flowers to a shut-in at a seniors’ complex. She asked what was new at the church. The visitor told her about the needlepoint project to

have the word “peace” stitched in 40 different languages on the kneelers in the Peace Chapel. “I do needlepoint!” she exclaimed, “I could do some.” Over the ensuing months she completed three kneelers, and friends brought her to the special worship when the dedication of the kneelers and the chapel took place.

Treasures come in many forms to help the church in its mission to all God’s people. Financial contributions can be given directly, through special appeals or as preauthorized payments. You can also ensure your church mission continues by leaving a legacy in your will.

Your treasured possessions can also be earmarked or given to enable the church to continue the ministry and mission God has given us to accomplish. For example, a man bequeathed a valuable painting, a woman donated her beloved sports car and a family provided a houseful of furniture to help refugees begin a new life in Canada.

Indeed, shut-ins can do more for the church than they can imagine.

“Say your grace before you eat”



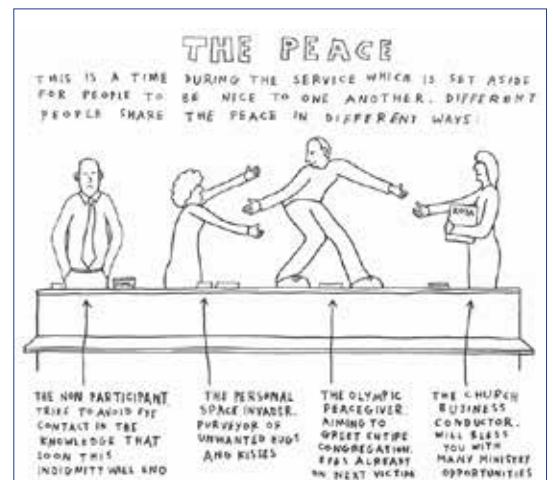
Patricia Griffith-Jones lives in Guelph and writes:

“As children we always said grace before eating and we taught our children the same growing up. Here are two that were easy to remember and say ...”

**Thank you for the world so sweet
Thank you for the food we eat
Thank you for the birds that sing
Thank you God for everything. Amen.**

**For what we are about to receive,
May the Lord make us truly thankful.
Amen.**

The Niagara Anglican always appreciates hearing from its readers. Send your feedback, comments and ideas to editor@niagaraanglican.ca



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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)
Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis
Carol Summers
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Mailing address:
Cathedral Place
252 James Street North
Hamilton Ontario L8R 2L3

For a complete staff directory and more information, visit our web site
www.niagaraanglican.ca



BOOK REVIEW

Our minds are the basis for everything

WAKING UP - A Guide to Spirituality Without Religion
2014 Simon & Shuster Paper Backs

ROB ROI

Neuroscientist, philosopher and best-selling author Sam Harris, in *Waking Up*, explores important and controversial questions about the human mind, society and current events.

Because 20 percent of Americans claim to be spiritual, but not religious, Harris discusses spirituality in his first chapter. He attempts to show that a certain form of spirituality is part of understanding the nature of the mind.

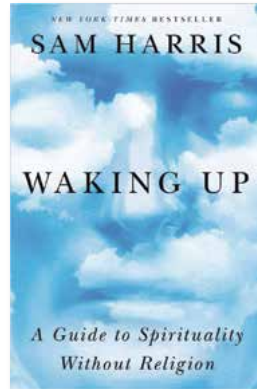
He makes it clear that our minds, rather than circumstances themselves, determine the quality of our lives, and that our minds are the basis for everything we experience and every contribution we make to the lives of others—so it only makes sense to train them. Harris claims training the mind can be done through meditation and lists steps on how to meditate.

In his chapter *The Mystery of Consciousness*, Harris states, "Consciousness is also what gives our lives a moral dimension. Without consciousness, we would have no cause to wonder how we should behave toward other beings. Nor could we care how we were treated in return."

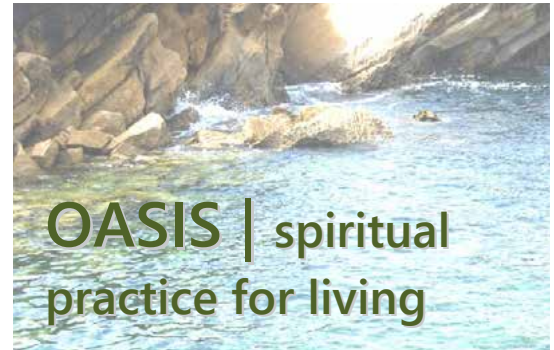
In the conclusion, he points out that although the stories in the religions might make us feel good, science and technology have proven them false, so we need to change before it's too late.

Harris concludes, "Spirituality begins with a reverence for the ordinary that can lead us to insights and experiences that are anything but ordinary."

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



Looking for something different? OASIS may be the solution



This fall, if you are looking for something in your life that stretches your imagination, challenges your mind, opens your heart or feeds your spirit, then head on down to St. James in Fergus any Wednesday evening from now until December 21st.

There, at OASIS-Spiritual Practice for Living you will experience Taizé, story and spoken word, labyrinth and creative contemplation to help you in your quest.

Taizé worship is a prayer service consisting of meditative singing and periods of silence to help you reach a contemplative state. You can join in with the music and meditation.

Story and spoken word—our words are important, significant and meaningful. This is an opportunity to write, listen or do both, as the group explores the word: poetry, story, drama and discussion. You can be part of an evening that values the word as experience and expression.

Labyrinth, an ancient symbol relating to wholeness, combines the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. It represents a journey to our own centre and back again out into the world. Long used as a meditation and prayer tool in both pagan and Christian worlds, you can walk the labyrinth, entering a path of grace offering reflection and meditation.

Creative contemplation—you will have a wonderful opportunity to explore avenues of creative contemplation through clay, glass, paint and more to discover and express your inner spirit.

Whether you are beginning to explore your spirituality or are an experienced practitioner you are invited to the Butterfly Hall, St. James Church, 171 Queen Street East, Fergus, on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

More details can be found at stjamesfergus.com.

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The 60^{second} sermon



Every week hundreds of sermons or homilies are preached throughout Niagara Diocese.

The Niagara Anglican wants to take your message to a wider congregation—our print and online readers.

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- Summarise your sermon in 200 words or less;
- Tell us where and when the sermon or homily was preached;
- Send us a headshot of yourself; and
- Add any other information.

Forward it all to the Editor – address information on page 3.

Pioneers of the future encouraged by pioneers of the past



Photo: Submitted by Laurie Douglas

Churchwarden Reta Craig, Pastor Owen Ash, Canon Terry DeForest and Churchwarden Laurie Douglas were on hand to see what the pioneers of the past had sealed away in a capsule for the pioneers of today.

People gathered at an open house to celebrate the opening of a time capsule at St. Matthias Anglican Church Guelph.

Presently known as St. Matthias Anglican Community, members congregated to share refreshments and reminisce while perusing a vast collection of photographs, newspaper articles, a slideshow and other memorabilia. Midway through the afternoon, items from the time capsule were revealed.

St. Matthias began as St. Matthias Mission and was commissioned February 12, 1978, holding its first service at Priory Park Public School. The first minister was the Reverend Bruce McPetrie.

By 1981 the congregation, then worshipping at another temporary site on Arkell Road under the ministry of the Reverend Hope Surdivall, embarked on a venture to construct their own church building on a parcel of land at the corner of Kortright and Edinburgh.

In March 1985, the Reverend Terry DeForest was appointed the minister of St. Matthias Anglican Church. He became the first minister at the new building, and conducted the "Holy

Eucharist and Laying of the Foundation Stone" on October 27th, 1985.

Decades later, St. Matthias' congregation gave up the church property and celebrated their last service in June of 2013.

Early this summer, upon the completion of the sale of the church property, the time capsule was removed from behind the cornerstone in anticipation of sharing the contents at a later date.

This happened on Sunday afternoon, September 25, 2016.

Churchwarden Laurie Douglas summed up the afternoon: "As we perused those thought provoking contents during today's gathering, many noticed the original founders were referred to as 'Pioneers', taking seven years to bring their hopes and dreams to fruition. It is this Community's desire to be 'Pioneers of the Future' and continue to build a Christian presence in south Guelph."

The St. Matthias Anglican Community presently meets at Hospice Wellington. The Reverend Owen Ash is the present Pastor.

Based on information submitted by Churchwarden Laurie Douglas.

Volunteers receive awards for valuable service

Two parishioners—Anne Washington and Susan Wallace—of St. James' Dundas have been recognized for their outstanding volunteer work by different community groups.

Tireless is how Anne Washington is described by *Happenings*, the parish's quarterly newsletter, after she received the Care and Compassion Award at the Hamilton Seniors Banquet. She was nominated by the Salvation Army for her volunteer work at Ellen Osler House, which helps women reintegrate into society after serving time for criminal convictions. Her other activities have centred on numerous parish and community outreach projects with ecumenical partners, including community dinners. "Her focus is always on the wounded and hurting members of our society, and how we can help them," concluded *Happenings*.

At another banquet the Islamic community honoured Susan Wallace, in recognition of her devotion and compassion. According to *Happenings*, in addition to sponsoring the 14 members of the Al Rahmo family, St. James has also assisted some 200 government sponsored refugee families. Working with Wesley Urban Ministries—the local agency designated by the federal government to assist these families—the parish has provided bedding, furniture, crockery, cutlery, microwaves, televisions, bicycles and toys, as well as helping refugees with many of the government forms needing completion. Other parishioners and community members have quietly volunteered their services, but special recognition was given to Susan Wallace, who has visited some 140 families (and more than once!). Feras, the parish's chief refugee translator, was recognized at the same event.



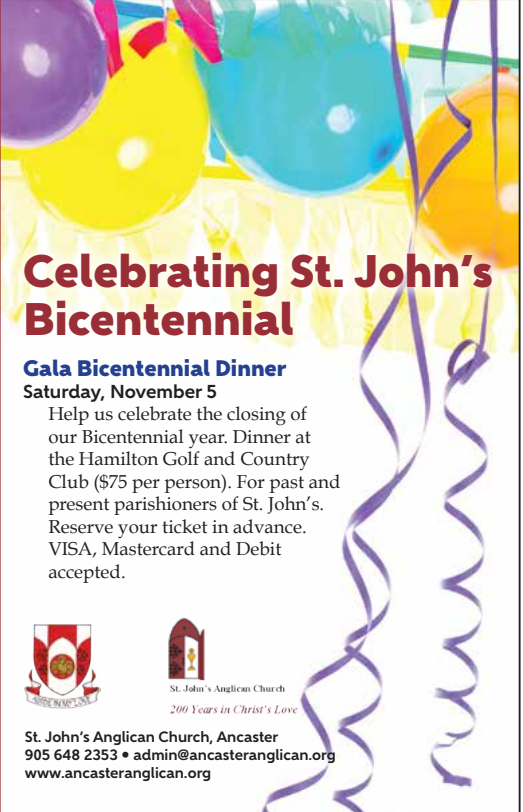
Anne Washington (centre, in black dress), was recipient of the Hamilton Senior of the Year's Compassion and Companionship Award.

Photo: Submitted



Susan Wilson was honoured by the Islamic community for her work supporting refugee families.

Photo: Submitted

Celebrating St. John's Bicentennial

Gala Bicentennial Dinner
Saturday, November 5

Help us celebrate the closing of our Bicentennial year. Dinner at the Hamilton Golf and Country Club (\$75 per person). For past and present parishioners of St. John's. Reserve your ticket in advance. VISA, Mastercard and Debit accepted.




St. John's Anglican Church, Ancaster
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Lay ministries recognized

Order of Niagara 2016

The Order of Niagara, instituted 16 years ago, enables parishes and the diocese to recognize and thank lay people for their faith and support, as well as to instill a sense of pride and satisfaction in the ministry to which they have been called by God.

All licensed clergy are invited to nominate one person from each parish annually. The Bishop can also appoint members to the Order.

Each year over 60 people are added to the Order which has more than 1,100 members.

Recipients of the honorary designation may use the initials O.N. after their name. They are encouraged to wear the Order's medallion on any diocesan occasion, at Synod services of any kind, when the bishop visits their parish and at the installation of new members of the Order of Niagara.

The 2016 nominees were installed during special worship services at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Here is a sampling of the wide range of talents and ministries of the new Order of Niagara members, as described by those who nominated them.



John Newton
St. Paul's Fort Erie
Brock Region

John is an active member of St. Paul's, serving as their Administrative Assistant, Vestry Clerk and alternate delegate to Synod.

He is a Lay Reader in the parish and has served on a laity team which leads Morning Prayer services.

An active member in the Cursillo movement, John also served on its ministry team in various capacities.

His presence in both the church and outside community is truly inspiring, and his commitment and love for the gospel is evident in these ministries.



Maureen Truman
Holy Trinity Hamilton
Mohawk Region

Maureen exemplifies an extraordinary commitment to Christian discipleship, by embracing and supporting the faith community within the parish and extending the impact of that community in the wider world.

For over 20 years, she has served variously and tirelessly as Churchwarden, Treasurer, Lay Delegate to Synod, Assessor for the Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (ACPO) and member of Tapawingo Day Care Board.

She has built parish relationships with various community organizations including Hamilton Ladies Slo-Pitch Softball Association, Girl Guides, Pathfinders and Zumba.

"Maureen is omnipresent at parish events, exercising exemplary leadership of numerous fundraising initiatives, where no task or responsibility seems too big or too small for her careful attention."



Robert Goodwin
St. Christopher's
Burlington
Trafalgar Region

Bob is a long-time member of St. Christopher's and has been an integral part of many aspects of its ministry.

In official roles, he has served as Chair of the Parochial Committee, Parish Council Chair, member of the Stewardship and Financial Development committee and served two terms as Churchwarden. Bob has also overseen the parish safety protocols, particularly with respect to fire safety.

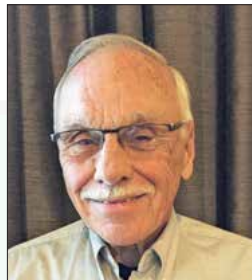
Bob has worked tirelessly to ensure that St. Christopher's is a hospitable place, be it as greeter team captain, providing refreshments on Sunday mornings, at funerals or other parish events. He is also one for keeping an eye out for parishioners who have been absent or otherwise need pastoral contact. He is a long time champion and member of the Open Doors Steering Committee.

His commitment to outreach is firmly grounded in his belief that hospitality and inclusion are central to our call as Christians.

Bob contributes to the life of the parish as a choir member, an active participant in kitchen activities through the Ginger Group, Men's Cooking Group, Tuesday Suppers and Christmas Market food preparation.

St. Christopher's has been blessed to have had Bob as a member of their faith community.

"We are grateful for both the depth and variety of the gifts that he has offered over the years."



Jim McConnell
Our Saviour The Redeemer
Stoney Creek
Undermount Region

Jim has served as an energetic member for many years, including property manager, greeter, member of the parochial committee and green facilitator. He has also been a liaison for St. Matthew's House and other food banks in the area.

He currently serves as People's Churchwarden, Greening Facilitator, property committee member and outreach programs liaison—positions to which he brings much dedication.

Jim, a friendly, approachable and open-minded individual, is passionate about ministry for seniors and youth.

One area to which Jim brings much passion and dedication is that of greening. His support and encouragement helped Our Saviour the Redeemer achieve silver level status.

"He is always on hand to help with property concerns, questions or needs."

many years, head of the Altar Guild, providing training and background orientation to new members, Memorial Flower Convener, member of Parish Council, greeter, sidesperson and counter.

As a veteran, Mary carries the flag each year at the Canada Day and Remembrance Day services.

She assists with preparing food for church events, helps at coffee hours and transports parishioners.

"Mary is an inspiration of humble selfless ministry to us all."



Pam Spencer
St. John's Winona
Lincoln Region

Pam has been a Churchwarden for more than 10 years, serving with dedication.

Her involvement in the church has been extensive—serving on the altar guild, being a church choir member, working at the outreach drop-in centre for young mothers and children located in the parish hall and helping to bring Wilma's vision of a farmers' market at the church to fruition. She was also the church representative at The Winona Peach Festival.

Her wonderful volunteer spirit has led her to be a part of The Earth Angels organization—finding homes for young people with autism.

She has worked on many fund-raising events each year and her energy never ceases to impress.

"Pam's humour and joyfulness are a blessing to all of us in the parish."



Mary Anderson
St. Alban the Martyr Acton
Greater Wellington

Mary joined the congregation in 1967 and has been a regular and faithful member ever since.

Over the last 49 years she has filled many roles, including Envelope Secretary for



White ribbons against violence

SHARYN HALL

On September 11, 2016, Trinity Church Wall Street in New York City tied white ribbons to the black iron fence around the church as a statement against violence and a prayer for peace.

Trinity Church and neighboring St. Paul's Chapel became refuges for frightened victims, first responders and aid workers when the World Trade Center was attacked on 9/11, 2001. Fifteen years later, they remember the devastation of violence on peoples' lives and the continuous work for peace desperately needed in our world.

On Sunday, September 11, 2016, the congregation of Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton was invited to tie a white ribbon on the iron fence in front of the Cathedral as a statement against violence and a hope for peace in our world, our country, our communities and our homes.

In Canada, and in 60 countries around the world, wearing a small white ribbon has come to signify the hope for peace in the lives of women and girls—at least half the world's population. The White Ribbon Campaign began in Canada in 1991 as a response to the killing of 14 young women at the Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989.

That day continues to be remembered in prayer vigils and by repeated calls for protection of all women and girls from violence in their homes, schools and communities. According to a report from the YWCA in Canada, 460,000 sexual assaults happen in Canada every year.

The White Ribbon Campaign is linked to an international movement against gender violence entitled, "16 Days of



Photo: Trinity Church Wall Street website

"People of all races, religions and levels of society have a multitude of ways in which they justify or excuse violence"

Activism", beginning November 25 (International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women) and ending December 10 (UN Human Rights Day). The United Nations continues to stress that women and girls are particularly at risk of violence because of cultural traditions and ineffective laws.

Wars, natural disasters and forced migration have placed women and girls at risk of kidnapping, human trafficking and rape in conflict zones and refugee camps. Too often people

avoid the issue of violence against women and girls, which discourages victims who feel ostracized or in danger if they speak out.

A Christian coalition, called "We Will Speak Out", is working to overcome the barrier of silence so that the reality of violence against women and girls can be confronted and eliminated. Three words capture the action needed: prevention, protection, prosecution.

Prevention of violence is helped by open discussion and

education with men and women of all ages and levels of society.

Protection of vulnerable females and victims who need safety and healing is essential to overcome the physical and mental damage of violence.

Prosecution of perpetrators is necessary so that no law, religious practice or cultural tradition can be used to justify gender violence.

The greatest obstacles to the elimination of violence are the attitudes of men and women toward violence. People of all races, religions and levels of society have a multitude of ways in which they justify or excuse violence.

The White Ribbon Campaign challenges everyone to think about his or her own beliefs, language and actions. Wearing

a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Wearing a white ribbon also acknowledges that peace and dignity for the female half of the world's population will go a long way toward peace and dignity for all people.

For more information: whiteribbon.ca, wewillspeakout.org, vowpeace.org (Canadian Voice of Women For Peace), iawn.org (International Anglican Women's Network), swc-cfc-gc.ca (Status of Women Canada, 16Days).

Canon Sharyn Hall is a member of the International Anglican Women's Network. hallsl@cogeco.ca

Ecumenical service at local fair

Five churches participated in an ecumenical worship during the three day local fair in the village of Binbrook, wrote Judy Gurman from Christ Church Woodburn.

Christ Church member Vivian Kinnear, her son Tommy and her mother Marion head for the pancake breakfast following the service.

The parish mounted a display informing fair goers about the church and its outreach activities.

Photos: Judy Gurman



Historic stone church celebrates an important milestone

JOYCE SHORT

Located "on the bench" above the historic village of Jordan, St. John's Church is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

It all started in 1841 with George Ball conveying four acres of land to the Diocese of Toronto for the purpose of building an Anglican church. Built of local stone by stonemasons Andrew Dalrymple and Newton Perry, it probably followed the design of John George Howard.

The morning sun streams through the huge stained glass window with the appropriate theme for a rural congregation - "the sower went forth to sow". Pulpits and altar rail made from local walnut, kneelers and hangings worked by the ladies of the congregation all depict many hours of shared handiwork.

Our antique bell still calls the members to worship on Sunday morning. Our enthusiastic choir, led by organist Lawrence Eady at the Karl Willelm organ installed in 1984, leads the singing from the balcony. We worship at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. using the revised prayer book.

From 1920 to 2007 we had a mission church, St. Marks, located just west of St. Catharines.

Over the years, as our needs changed, we built a parish hall on an enlarged acreage acquired in the 1960s. Our grounds also offer a public cemetery with two columbaria.

Our celebration of everything old took place on a Saturday in June with a fashion show by the Westfield Heritage Village, a Victorian Tea and an outdoor display of antique cars and equipment.

On September 18th, our celebratory service was led by Bishop Michael Bird who spoke on the theme from 1 Peter - "and like living stones, let you be



Bishop Michael blesses the natural burial ground at St. John's Jordan – believed to be one of only five in Canada – as Server Sue Bailey, Diocesan Cemetery Consultant Brian Culp and Rector Kevin Block observe.

Photo: Brenda Lane

built into a spiritual house". The Bishop blessed a new painting of the church by Joyce Richardson-Tufford, as well as the columbaria installed in 2015. Mayor Sandra Easton presented a certificate with greetings from the Town of Lincoln. Following the service guests and members enjoyed a buffet lunch and a time of fellowship and reminiscing.

Included among the historical photos and articles on display was a Prayer Book dated 1842 sent by the Church in England – actually the Society for the Promoting of Christian Knowledge. A Bible and Altar

Book given at the same time are in the Diocesan archives.

October was another busy month for us at St. John's. We held an Open Doors event with tours of the historic church in conjunction with the annual Pioneer Day celebrations in the Village of Jordan, sponsored an event to raise money for the Refugee Committee and held a farewell dinner for our beloved rector since 2011, the Reverend Kevin Block and his wife Marilyn.

Joyce Short is the parish historian and long-time member of St. John's Jordan. joysh@bell.net

Quiet Saturday

Transforming Grief

Archdeacon Max Woolaver leads this Quiet Day at St. John's Convent in Toronto on November 12.

Through prayer with the Shema ("Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One...") and a practice of Lectio Divina with St. John of the Cross, participants will learn how to respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit from within their experience of grief. The day offers a balance of time together and time alone.

At the end of the day, people should leave with a clear and simple method of practice which will enable them to continue to "mine" the deep spiritual resources latent in the grief experience itself.

Max Woolaver, the Rector of St. Andrew's Grimsby, is a graduate of the Shalem program for spiritual directors.

For more information visit the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine at sjd.ca/retreat2016-1112-transforming-grief.html

Community dinners

Many parishes serve community dinners or lunches. People come for different reasons.

The Niagara Anglican would like you to share your experiences. In 200 words or less, tell us your story, including ...

- How many years having you been serving community meals?
- How many people come?
- Why do you do it?
- When are the meals served?
- What do you serve?
- Why do people come?
- Where do you serve the meals?
- How is it financed?

Add some human interest stories.

Include a high resolution photo or two.

Send your story to the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.com

Christmas Market
Church of The Incarnation
 1240 Old Abbey Lane, Oakville (off Dorval Drive)
November 19, 2016 9am-2pm
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 • raffle baskets • bake table
 • gift baskets

Get an early start on holiday shopping!

Christmas Market and Silent Auction
 November 19, 2016
 St. John's Anglican Church
 2464 Dundas St. Burlington
 9am-2pm

Featuring: baked goods, knitting & crafts, attic treasures, gift gallery, Santa's bistro (lunch and tearoom)

The historic church of St. Johns will be open for tours.



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Northern Witness

Bible Study shares stories of northern ministry

Northern Canada has an enduring mystique in the minds of southern Canadians. Images arise of vast treeless tundra, polar bears, exotic foods and the North's resilient inhabitants—both Indigenous and later explorers. Offsetting that mystique are reports of grave social problems—youth suicide, hunger and the lack of clean drinking water. But what is life really like, and what is Anglican ministry really like in northern communities?

The Council of the North's new 5-Session study, titled *Northern Witness*, aims to share stories of northern communities and ministry with the rest of the Church—and to show how northern ministry, with all of its particular challenges, is a ministry "of the whole Church, by the whole Church."

Comprising 85% of Canada's geography and only 15% of its population, all dioceses of the Council of the North face isolation, harsh weather and sometimes unreliable communications networks. Add to that the continuing effects of poverty in many areas, and the legacy of the residential school system—and you have a very high level of pastoral needs. The Council of the North includes the dioceses of Caledonia, Yukon, Athabasca,

Saskatchewan, Brandon, Moosonee, the Arctic, The Territory of the People and the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh.

Study Module #2 has a special focus on the work of non-stipendiary priests. Taking as its theme a passage from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we learn about a husband-and-wife team of non-stipendiary priests on Sagkeeng First Nation, MB.

The Reverends Richard and Nancy Bruyere have day jobs, but they also minister tirelessly to the sick and the dying and all those in need in their community. Richard says, "We get called to Winnipeg and we go pray for people in the hospital and it is challenging ... but it's also very rewarding." "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor. 4:7). As Richard and Nancy travel, they carry with them a treasure—the message of God's love and hope. And they know that God's surpassing power is working through them.

Richard and Nancy's story is just one of many northern stories that have been chosen in order to inspire fellow Anglicans to intensify their prayers and their support for those who serve in the North. But this

Bible Study is designed not only to strengthen southern support for the Council, but to enrich the ministry and faith of southern parishes using the Study.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, has called the Council of the North a "laboratory of experimentation in mission." At the Council of the North 2015 annual meeting, the Primate commented that looking across the church at changing patterns of ministry, the church as a whole can point to the Council of the North for its leadership.

And indeed, ministry in the Council of the North, in spite of—or perhaps because of—its particular challenges, is marked by a mission-minded approach, ecumenical co-operation and a spirit of flexibility and innovation. To help participants relate their learning to their own lives and parishes, each session includes discussion questions.

The sessions include, Mission and Service: Standing in solidarity, seeing lives transformed; Seeking the Kingdom: Trust and treasure; Removing Barriers: Finding Healing in Jesus; and Partnership: Deepening our fellowship in Christ.



▲ The Reverend Lynn De Brabandere's ordination as a Deacon in St. Christopher's Anglican Church, Haines Junction, Yukon.

▼ Youth in the Diocese of Moosonee gather in "The LivingRoom" community centre in Schumacher, Ontario.

Photos: Contributed.



To download or order colour copies of this free Bible Study resource, please visit: anglican.ca/cn/resourcesconmonth/orderform/

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My visit to Uganda

NORMA ROOKWOOD

I was filled with joy and anticipation when I received a call in November 2015 from Sleeping Children Around The World.

I would be going to Uganda in May 2016 if I was interested.

Then it sank in and I thought "Oh My" - I would be travelling and working with people I've never met.

The Canadian volunteers met three times before we left for Uganda, but it wasn't until we all met at Pearson Airport in Toronto that I felt totally comfortable with no anxiety about the trip.

We were met at the Entebbe International Airport by members of the Inner Wheel

of Kampala. These women are SCAW's overseas volunteers and they are amazing.

Five thousand bed kits were ready and we had a day to tour the mattress, sheets and clothes factories. We did 11 distributions in ten days - 500 at one site and 450 at the others. Our longest day was 14 hours from the time we left our hotel in Kampala to our arrival at our hotel in Kibale. Travel time to our destination site was 6 1/2 hours.

At the distribution centre we were usually met by parents singing, clapping and dancing. The children usually sang songs of welcome for us. At each distribution centre the content of the bed kit was shown to the children and their parents. The children were very excited about



Norma Rookwood from Canada with the children of Uganda.

Photo: Submitted

the backpacks and school supplies, while the care givers were excited about the more practical items.

We visited a number of homes. It's amazing how little they have but they were not

complaining, just grateful to have received a kit.

One visit stands out.

The family consisted of a mother, pregnant with twins, who had four children and had recently lost her husband. She

worked as a digger in a field. Before we left she gave us an avocado, the most beautiful one I've seen in years. That was probably a part of her meagre dinner, but that was her way of thanking us because her son was a recipient of a bed kit that day.

The most gratifying part of my trip was seeing the smiles on those beautiful children's faces when they were given their kits.

I can't wait for my next trip in 2018.

Norma Rookwood is a member of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek. For more information about Sleeping Children Around The World (SCAWorg) or contact Norma at normarookwood@gmail.com

WAY FINDING

navigating our lives with spirit and courage

Wayfinding, the art of ancient navigational practices of deep presence and cultivated awareness, served as the theme for NYC, also known as the Niagara Youth Conference.

Supporting the theme was an overall narrative related to an ocean voyage. The conference moved naturally as though it was moving through a voyage: planning, departure, doldrums, discovery and landfall.

In each of these stages spiritual practices, stories, scripture passages, theological reflections, metaphors and workshops invited the 57 delegates to more deeply explore their own experience and faith journey. In addition, innovative worship, engaging music and creative socials were again a hallmark of the conference.

"NYC is perfect," observed Rob Lewis, a returning delegate to the conference. "The people make it that way. Canterbury is a third home to me because of this."

In a shift from previous years, this conference centred on content created by an invited conference facilitator.

Dan Hines, an ordained Anglican priest, leadership consultant, Courage and Renewal

facilitator and social justice activist from British Columbia served in this role.

Dan took his inspiration for this year's theme from the 2009 Massey Lectures by Canadian anthropologist Wade Davis, entitled *Wayfinding: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World*.

"He shared teachings with us about ancient Polynesian navigational practices as a guide for utilizing self-awareness, groundedness in the present and the Spirit for wayfinding our paths through life," said Carrie Charters, one of 15 volunteer staff members. "Delegates further explored Dan's teachings and the conference theme through morning workshops that encouraged delegates to explore the theme's connection to their own experience through arts, conversation or movement, and through worship designed to deepen the theme's connection to faith."

The annual residential conference for youth ages 13-21 took place once again at Canterbury Hills in Ancaster, Ontario during the final week of August.

For more photos from NYC, go to niagaraanglican.ca/youth/gallery/2016-nyc



▲ Making giant bubbles: the young people had fun seeing who could get the largest bubble.

▼ The cards on the table were used throughout the week to pair people up for various activities.

Photos: Diocesan website



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Don Smith
owner

Outdoor pageant a Milton tradition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Director Andrea Rowbottom promotes the annual pageant *On the Way to Bethlehem* by displaying its motif on her vehicle throughout the whole year.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

live, walk-through, outdoor pageant making use of the natural rural setting at Country Heritage Park, Milton. Regardless of the weather, the pageant proceeds. The journey to Bethlehem leads us to a century old log barn, with a real baby, live animals and a few moments of serenity upon which to reflect.

Walk with us to Bethlehem on Friday, Saturday or Sunday evening, November 25, 26 and 27, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Come early and enjoy the music of the massed choir.

CANTERBURY HILLS CAMP — *faith in action*

LANCE WRIGHT

This summer over 600 children and teens participated in overnight and day camps at Canterbury Hills Camp.

Many were returning campers who had been waiting in anticipation for months. Many were new campers arriving with a mixture of excitement and anxiety. All set out for an outdoor adventure away from the comforts of technology and familiarity of home. All were invited to put faith into action.

On the first day of each session, cabin units were assembled and campers could see cabin mates as strangers or potential friends. They could trust this new camp family or withhold trust. They could choose to open their hearts or remain distant.

Fast forward to the last day of each session and miraculously, these units of strangers became trusted friends. Barriers were crossed. Differences were celebrated. Hearts were joined. Cabin units that started with awkward beginnings finished with emotional group hugs and



- ▲ Climbing the wall
- ▲ Administering Holy Communion

prolonged good-byes.

Faith was put into action in the first decision to register for camp. Faith was tested in the moments when doubts and insecurities surfaced. Faith was rewarded when strangers became close friends. New heights of self-confidence were reached when decisions of faith overcame fear.

In our daily Chapel sessions, we presented an entertaining and interactive skit about a girl who was struggling to find her identity. She was a brilliant scientist who had created a cure that would stop the evil Dr. Fang from turning humans into monsters. To save humans and the world, she needed faith in herself, faith in other people, faith that wouldn't quit and faith that she could contribute to a better world. In a parallel



- ▲ Exploring the creek

Photos: Canterbury Hills Camp staff

journey, campers explored how faith could be put into action at camp and after camp.

At our Holy Eucharist each Friday, campers and staff considered God's love and role in their journey of faith while reflecting on these themes - independence, teamwork, confidence, acceptance, selflessness, creativity, love and peace.

With faith put into action through enthusiastic and passionate campers and staff all

summer long, we had a fabulous and wonderful summer at Canterbury Hills Camp. Special thanks to all those people and parishes who supported this camp ministry with gifts and prayers.

This fall, we are inviting campers, alumni and supporters to put faith into action by joining the Canterbury Hills Walk/Run team in the annual Road2Hope event on November 5. For information: canterburyhillscamp.ca/road2hope

Lance Wright is Director of Canterbury Hills Camp. director@canterburyhills.ca

Diocese may double original goal

BILL MOUS

In the face of an unprecedented global crisis, our diocese launched a refugee sponsorship initiative as a way of marking its 140th Anniversary. While we have been a private sponsor of refugees under the auspices of a Citizenship and Immigration Canada program for over a decade, this special initiative sought to increase our impact by welcoming as many as 50 refugees in 2016.

People, parishes and community groups have responded in all sorts of incredible and unexpected ways, and continue

to respond generously to this initiative.

Since the beginning of this year, groups have sponsored over 110 refugees—more than the diocese has in the past decade combined; and already 78 people have been welcomed into communities in Hamilton, Halton, Guelph, Burlington and Niagara. Through our collective efforts we are on track to more than double our original goal.

Hundreds of volunteers have been engaged to support these efforts, inspired by our tradition of welcoming the stranger while striving for justice and peace in our world.

This humanitarian initiative comes at a time when the ongoing conflict in Syria is dramatically increasing the number of refugees in need of resettlement.

The United Nations estimates that nearly one million refugees are currently in need of resettlement, while over 65 million people have been forcibly displaced.

The Reverend Bill Mous, Director of Justice, Community and Global Ministries, can be reached at bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- January – November 25
- February – December 30
- March – January 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.



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Assessment formula – focus of upcoming synod

MARNI NANCEKIVELL

The 142nd Annual Synod of the Diocese of Niagara is scheduled to meet on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m., while Synod will be called to order at 9:00 a.m. This meeting of Synod will be completed in one day at Cathedral Place.

One particular focus of this Synod will be the proposal to revise the formula for the Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DM&M) assessment, which provides a common way for parishes in the diocese to contribute their fair share towards the work of the church beyond each parish. The aim of the DM&M Working Group has been to produce a formula that is simpler, clearer and more equitable.

We will also review the proposed Diocesan budget for 2017-2018. It is the Finance/Budget Subcommittee (FBSC) which assists the Treasurer with the preparation of the Diocesan

budget. In conjunction with the Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) it also monitors Diocesan financial operations, including parish loans, loan guarantees and debt repayment plans.

Synod will hear a report from Niagara's delegates to General Synod which was held in July 2016. We will see a video of the Justice Camp, held in partnership with the Diocese of Cuba this past year. Outreach and mission will be highlighted as we review Walking on Water grants and Hands Across Niagara grants.

A major initiative of the Diocese in the past year has been the 140th Anniversary Refugee Sponsorship initiative, which will be reported on by the Reverend Scott McLeod. This Synod will also hear of the new ministries of the Venerable Steve Hopkins, Archdeacon for Ministry Leadership Development, and the Venerable Val Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries.



Synod delegates from parishes and other groups gather annually to hear reports and plan for the future.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

We anticipate too, learning more about the proposed Cathedral Place Development Project.

The Incorporated Synod of Niagara Diocese is the legal entity (established by statute of the Legislature in the Province of Ontario) with responsibility

for the dealings of the Anglican Church within its diocesan boundaries. At Synod we seek God's intention for us as we pray, discern, talk, listen and work at being a Church as a diverse community under the leadership of our Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend

Michael A. Bird.

The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell is Secretary of Synod (with Responsibility for Property). marni.nancekivell@niagaraanglican.ca

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