

God said, "Let there be lights
... to separate the day from the
night; let them be for signs,
seasons, days and years and
give light upon the earth."

Genesis 1:14-15

Zambezi River at sunset, Zambia

Photo: Stan Pearce



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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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Equal marriage coming immediately to Niagara

HOLLIS HISCOCK

The courageous leadership of Bishop Michael indicates where Niagara Diocese will be going, responded Sister Heather Broadwell of the Community of the Sisters of the Church.

She was referring to the Bishop's statement issued after the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) held its General Synod, which "narrowly voted against a change in the marriage canon that would have enshrined equal marriage within our national canons."

That was late Monday evening (July 11).

The next day the decision was reversed after Synod officials discovered a clergy vote was inadvertently included with the laity.

The one vote changed the outcome, enabling the motion to be passed in all three "houses"—laity, clergy and bishops. Voting separately, each house required a two thirds majority to change the canons (laws) of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC).

A second vote on the motion



This stunning depiction of doves is the altar cloth, designed by Elizabeth Adams of St. George's Guelph, which greeted my Mixed Group on the first day of General Synod. On it we added names of people who helped form us on our Christian journey, phrases or single words from Isaiah 43,

people who greatly influenced western society and our own names. We prayed, had discussions, exchanged stories and shared our personal experiences around this altar cloth. The painted canvas will end up in a Canadian diocese. (Susan Little)

Photo: Susan Little

will be taken at the next General Synod in 2019 and if passed will, wrote Bishop Michael, "Enshrine equal marriage within our national canons."

However he and a number of other diocesan bishops decided not to wait another three years.

"I am committed to my promise to our diocese and local LGBTQ2 community to continue to walk along the path of full inclusion and to immediately proceed with equal marriage."

Their action focuses on a ruling from General Synod

Chancellor David Jones confirming our current marriage canon "does not contain either a definition of marriage or a specific prohibition against solemnizing same-sex marriage."

"It is clear" continued Bishop Michael, "our Anglican conven-

tions permit a diocesan bishop to exercise episcopal authority by authorizing liturgies to respond to pastoral needs within their dioceses, in the absence of any actions by this General Synod to address these realities."

We include the Bishop's first statement in this Niagara Anglican on page 5. His second one, following the vote's reversal, is online.

The Niagara Anglican sought reaction from our diocesan General Synod delegates, and received these responses.

Susan Little was disappointed with both votes. On the Monday vote, "What I had heard from clergy was the pastoral need to accommodate a diversity of experiences." On Tuesday's reversal outcome, "Even with one more vote, I am not convinced that the slim majority is sufficient evidence to move ahead with confidence."

Anticipating the future impact, Susan noted, "We know too well the importance of continued growth of under-

—See EQUAL page 5

Continuing to break the silence

Karen Pitt begins a series on mental health issues.

Starting Page **2**



Visiting neighbours in Ghana

Susan and Bishop Bird's photo essay of their trip in May.

Starting Page **6**



Medical assistance in dying

Roderick McDowell explains the new legislation.

Page **9**



First in a series ...

Continuing to break the silence

KAREN PITT

Our communities are struggling with tragic personal and relational areas of mental health. Over the coming months we will look at abuse, suicide and self-harm, and caring for the relationally damaged. We seek to break through the confusion, building acceptance and fostering care for our friends and helping those who hurt in our midst.

Abuse

What is your response to this word? Is it over-used? Is it over-

familiar, making it easy to ignore those who struggle with the past and present effects? Abuse is violation and intentional

Abuse can continue into adult years through patterns of abusive and coercive behaviors used to maintain power and control

“Abusive violation always damages the soul”

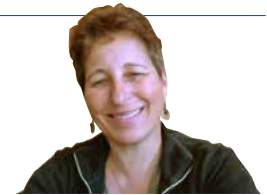
harm, and/or injury (physically, emotionally, sexually or spiritually) of one by another.

Many people have experienced violation or harm in their early years. It causes disruption to their much-needed nurture within familial connections, losing a healthy sense of self.

over a person. Abusive violation always damages the soul, irrespective of the severity, nature of the relationship with the abuser, the use of violence and the duration. The experience of being profoundly used and let down by someone we trust and relied on sears the hope

that relationship can simply be enjoyed!

Child abuse can create a range of emotional effects. Some move on with their lives after a healthy time of grieving. However, it is also common for victims to suffer throughout their adult lives. This issue is widespread. National research has found one in three females and one in six males in Canada experience some form of sexual abuse before age 18; half of all women in Canada have experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual violence since the age of 16. More significantly,



83% of disabled women will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime and 57% of aboriginal women have been sexually abused!

Abuse, in all forms, is the most under reported of crimes. One reason is abusers are usually in a position of trust. Both the opportunity to abuse and the ability to lure the abused lead to powerlessness, betrayal and ambivalence. The sense of powerlessness strips the person of dignity to choose freely – the ability to say “no”. The betrayal

—See *ABUSE* page 4



▲ Rob Welch received a resounding ovation from those in attendance at Christ’s Church Cathedral Hamilton after Bishop Michael presented him with a certificate of appreciation “with profound thanks and gratitude” for his more than 27 years as Chancellor of Niagara Diocese.

◀ At the same choral evensong, Archdeacons Suzanne Craven, Val Kerr and Steve Hopkins were commissioned into their new ministries and responsibilities in the Diocese.

▶ Drummers from the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre played an honour song to celebrate the special occasion.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

Journey of two Chancellors

HOLLIS HISCOCK

A father-son duo has served as Chancellors in Niagara Diocese for more than a half century.

The father, Robert (Bob) S. K. Welch, retired after 23 years. The son, Robert (Rob) W.P. Welch, accepted the mantle and has served more than 27 years.

Both were appointed as honorary lay canons of the diocese.

In June, at a special Evensong when three Archdeacons were also commissioned, Bishop Michael gave “thanks to God for the many years of faithful service we have been blessed with in the life and witness of our Chancellor Rob Welch.”

Referring to the 50 years of the father-son commitment, the Bishop highlighted the “wise counsel and abiding support and presence that we have so richly benefited from in the distinguished work of these two men,

both within and beyond the life of our diocese.”

Bishop Michael spoke to those in Christ’s Church Cathedral about Rob and “the way in which your professional life, your day to day living and your faith journey are so visibly and wonderfully aligned.”

Rob, a member of Grace Church St. Catharines, was praised for being “part of a long standing bible study group” and his “special relationship with the Monastery of SSJE”, being a regular subscriber to their online ministry.

“For the many ways you have inspired and guided me personally and all of us in Niagara with a life lived with great integrity, a Christian life that walks the talk so faithfully, and your witness of service to our Lord that has been a gift to us all, we give thanks to God,” concluded Bishop Michael.



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HOLLISTORIAL

Sarah's notebooks

Sarah died tragically at age 26. It happened in Australia. Travelling the world before her 30th birthday became her dream. Why? "We can learn something from everyone ... travelling makes this world smaller ... people (need) to get out of their comfort zone and connect with others from around the world."

We first met when I became Rector of St. John's York Mills Parish Toronto in 1990. For 17 years we watched the "Richard girls" grow into adulthood.

Recently Sarah's sister Laura and future brother-in-law James met with me to plan their July wedding. Later that same week came the devastating news of Sarah's death. The family asked me to conduct the service celebrating her life. On a sunny Saturday afternoon, 400 friends gathered at the family farm to give thanks for Sarah.

Among her legacies were three

notebooks. The family permitted me to share her insights with you. Reading her notebooks I realized how closely she walked with God without ever having to write the name.

Personal thoughts and reflections coupled with sage advice about life and work filled Sarah's notebooks.

I invite you into Sarah's world to catch the spirit of this marvelous young individual whom her family described as knowing "how to live life ... approaching each new opportunity with enthusiasm and investing in what matters most: relationships and experiences."

Mutual respect

"Sawabona, a common greeting among tribes of northern Natal in South Africa, literally means, 'I see you' and 'I respect and acknowledge you for who you are.' People respond Shikbona or 'I am here' meaning



"When you see me you bring me into existence."

Learning from experiences

"Summer 2010 is over and I feel more sure of myself and confident in my own skin. Still some things I could work on, like stop putting what other people think ahead of my own feelings and desires. It will only end up hurting you in the end."

Challenges

"We have been through more challenges in our relationship than most couples ever have to deal with in their entire lives. But we have been able to overcome them. You challenge me, but you also accept me."

◀ Hollis Hiscock with the Richard sisters—Laura, Carole and Sarah—in 1991 outside St. John's York Mills Toronto.



Precious moment

"Papa and I were talking while driving to Guelph after Thanksgiving weekend. We were discussing all the cars on the road and how each one has a story. Each person in those cars feels they are the main character in their respective 'movies' and who is to say one is less important than another."

"Dress cheerfully" was the family's suggestion for Sarah's memorial service. I wore my white Eucharistic stole. I explained that in the church white symbolizes joy and is worn at baptisms, weddings, funerals, Christmas, Easter and other times of celebration.

Sarah lives on in our memories especially through her smiles and laughter, as well as through the lives of the recipients to whom her organs were donated.

Letters

A closer connection with our native peoples

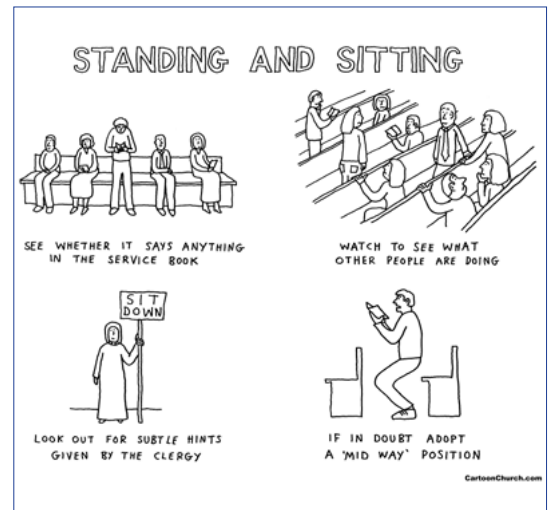
At last, after years of ignorance, we are beginning to become aware of the plight of our native peoples. Portions of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report are read out at our Sunday services each week. We read the letters from the Primate and Bishop Michael Bird, and about the Kairos Blanket Exercise, and the picture book of native peoples, and we are stirred to want to do something as individuals to help and close the gap between ourselves and our native people.

We can write letters to our politicians to provide better living conditions. We can raise funds to help with certain projects. But we also need other ways to connect, not just as a donor and recipient but as people to people. Because most native people live on reservations, we do not have the chance to interface with them. Can we change the situation from a mindset of WE and THEY to US?

I think of all the teenagers feeling so desperate that they can only see suicide as a way out. Their living conditions are so miserably substandard. It will take months and years to remedy this. In the meantime, would they gain a little more hope if they had some personal contact, such as pen pals, especially youth to youth? Would some of the native people be so good as to share in letter exchange their thoughts, and tell us something of their beliefs and values, their views of the natural world and what part the Great Spirit plays in their lives?

As we learn more of their way of life, we can also find commonalities. My plea here is to reach out to readers of the Niagara Anglican for any ideas of ways to achieve a closer connection with our native peoples.

Lynne Dole, All Saints Erin



Copyright © 2015 Dave Walker. This cartoon originally appeared in the Church Times.

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

The official publication of the Diocese of Niagara, published 10 times a year from September to June as a supplement to the Anglican Journal.

The Diocese of Niagara lies at the western end of Lake Ontario, encompassing the Niagara Peninsula, Hamilton, Halton Region, Guelph and portions of Wellington and Dufferin Counties.

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Printed and mailed by:
Webnews Printing Inc., North York, ON

Subscriptions: \$15/year.
Submissions: Submission information and deadlines are printed elsewhere in the paper.

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Celebrant or Presider?

TERRY BROWN



Photo: iStock

You may have noticed in the Sunday bulletin we have begun to use the term "Presider" rather than "Celebrant" for the priest who leads the Eucharist at the altar.

This change represents an insight of the Liturgical Movement (a century-long ecumenical movement coming to common understanding of the liturgical life of the church closer to the early church) that the very word "liturgy" means the work of the people, that is, the whole people of God, not just those leading the service.

Therefore, at the Eucharist, the whole community celebrates, not just the bishop or priest leading the service. We all celebrate Christ's death, resurrection and presence among us in the celebration of the Eucharist. That celebration is presided over by the bishop or priest of the day.

Some churches use the term "President" for the Presider but that introduces some political associations that would probably be distracting. Therefore, we are using Presider. So think of yourself as one of the celebrants of this wonderful Sacrament of Thanksgiving or Eucharist.

Bishop Terry Brown, Bishop-in-Charge of the Church of the Ascension Hamilton, was writing in their parish newsletter – "IN TOUCH".

Abuse is a crime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

is in the abusing or misusing of trust to meet another's need, damaging the image of self and others individually and in relationship. The abuse also causes a strong feeling of conflicting emotions—for example, desire and love of connection with the other (who sadly may be abusive) and hatred of who they are. This conflict, experienced concurrently, is called ambivalence. This will make anyone feel "crazy".

The emotional result, in the presence of powerlessness, betrayal and ambivalence, is shame and contempt. Shame is the experience of being flawed and unworthy of love or belonging. The individual is wrong and their identity is centered in shame. Guilt, in contrast, would lead a person to say sorry for wrongs committed. The role of contempt is to hide the deep

pain of the "Shame Identity" and that shame being seen by others. The emotional effects of abuse and the resulting identity in shame are the dreadful legacy of all forms of abuse!

The way forward starts with understanding this hurt and violation, followed by grieving. Breaking down the wall of silence and the contempt used to muzzle our hearts is essential. To risk telling our stories is the starting point. Listening to one another with love and acceptance is the vital call for life and change!!

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

Rex Murphy is speaker for the Bishop's Company dinner

Rex Murphy, powered by his extraordinary vocabulary, will bring his unique brand of insight, humour and political commentary to the Bishop's Company annual dinner as the guest speaker.

It is an evening not to be missed.

Born and raised near St. John's, Newfoundland, Rex graduated from Memorial University and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

Returning to his native land, he soon established himself as a quick-witted and accomplished writer, broadcaster and teacher.

Rex's primary interest is in language and English literature, but he also has a strong link with politics.

He was noted throughout Newfoundland for his biting comments on the political scene, and his nightly television tussles on the supper hour show *Here and Now* with prominent politicians, including Premier Joey Smallwood.

These days Rex regularly contributes essays on diverse topics on CBC TV's *The National*, writes book reviews, commen-



Photo: Submitted

taries and a column for the *National Post*.

A collection of his writings has been published in two books: *Points of View* and *Canada and Other Matters of Opinion*.

Rex Murphy won several national and provincial broadcasting awards and received several honorary doctorates.

Bishop Michael Bird said



he was delighted to make the announcement about Rex and looks forward to welcoming him to the Bishop's Company Annual Dinner.

This year the annual dinner is being held at Michelangelo's Event and Conference Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa Street, Hamilton on Monday, October 17 with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30.

For more information about becoming a member of the Bishop's Company or attending the annual dinner, you can register on line at niagaraanglican.ca/bishops-company/register or contact Mary Anne Grant, Bishop's Company Registrar at 905-527-1316, ext. 380 or mary-anne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca

The Bishop's Company, established in 2004, is both a community of members and a discretionary fund to assist Anglicans in need in Niagara diocese with a primary emphasis on clergy, lay workers and their families.

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Equal marriage in Niagara

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

standing which people in our parishes need." She emphasized "Our openness to the power of God's Spirit moving us to pray together and read texts, both biblical and topical, together will help us make stronger our bonds of unity and respect for our diversity." Susan hopes the 2019 vote will be more decisive and "wholeheartedly endorse our viewpoint, whatever it will be."

The Reverend Bill Mous voiced disappointment over "being reminded that parts of our Church are deeply homophobic", and was not happy with the voting system causing a "procedural and emotional roller coaster during the final two days of the synod."

The Marriage Canon decision has already had an impact on the Canadian Church, he observed, "notwithstanding Bishop Michael's decision to



▲ Bishop Michael speaking about changing the Marriage Canon at General Synod.

Photo: General Synod

make the sacrament of marriage available to all duly qualified couples." He predicted, "Much work remains to be done to create positive space within our diocese."

Sister Heather suggested we need to work on the fallout from General Synod's decisions,

especially helping in the "healing of the hurt and divisions." Ever hopeful, she wrote, "as Anglicans we are called to unity in diversity, with charity to all." However, she speculated, "how do we regain our sense of being one in the Anglican Church of Canada?"

STATEMENT BY THE BISHOP OF NIAGARA

[First Statement, July 11, 2016]

The General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada has narrowly voted against a change in the marriage canon that would have enshrined equal marriage within our national canons. This decision is deeply regrettable and inconsistent with the ever more inclusive witness of our Church that has inspired this synod's theme: "You are my witnesses" (Isaiah 43).

The Report of the Commission on the Marriage Canon, 'This Holy Estate', provides a sound and compelling mandate to move forward with an understanding of the sacrament of marriage that is inclusive for all people, regardless of sexual orientation. Over the past few months I have heard from an unprecedented number of faithful people from across the Anglican Church of Canada expressing support for this vision which upholds the dignity of every human being. I am also mindful that it has been over a decade, in 2004, that our Church affirmed the "integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships."

In the words of David Jones, the chancellor of General Synod, our current marriage canon "does not contain either a definition of marriage or a specific prohibition against solemnizing same-sex marriage." At the same time, it is clear that our Anglican conventions permit a diocesan bishop to exercise episcopal authority by authorizing liturgies to respond to pastoral needs within their dioceses, in the absence of any actions by this General Synod to address these realities.

Accordingly, and in concert with several other bishops of the Anglican Church of Canada, it is my intention to immediately exercise this authority to respond to the sacramental needs of the LGBTQ2 community in the Diocese of Niagara. In the absence of any nationally approved liturgy, I am authorizing The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage and The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage 2 for use in our diocese. These newly created rites of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America may be used for the marriage of any duly qualified couples. Clergy intending to use these rites will, for the time being, be required to notify the Bishop's Office in advance.

I offer this witness to the transformational power of God's inclusive love while acknowledging the considerable differences that exist within our beloved Church. My sincere hope is that God's grace will inspire all Canadian Anglicans to continue to break bread together in the days ahead. I want to say, as a bishop charged with guarding the faith, unity and discipline of the Church, that I solemnly pledge to do my part to ensure that this is indeed the case.

Please join me in praying for God's constant presence, guidance, and comfort as we move forward. Pray for our Church: local, national and universal; as its discernment continues on this matter. And my dear friends pray especially for the global LGBTQ2 community that continues to face unjust and often horrific discrimination, oppression and violence for openly being the people God created them to be.

Michael Bird



OCTOBER 1, 2016

We will be participating once again in the the Ride for Refuge, a family-friendly cycling and walking fundraiser that helps charities raise money for displaced, vulnerable and exploited people around the world. The RIDE is held on Saturday, October 1, 2016 and provides each participant the chance to ride up to 50km or walk 5km and, of course, fundraise much needed money to support our refugee sponsorship ministry while doing so.

Last year we had teams from across the diocese ride and walk to raise over \$18,000. As a result we were able to sponsor a Syrian family that otherwise would have not been welcomed to Canada. But in the wake of the global refugee crisis the need for sponsorship is huge.

We're hoping you'll help us organize a team in your parish, so that together we can reach our goal of raising \$30,000 this year! Register your team today! Visit canada.rideforrefuge.org/register. If you have questions, contact Bill Mous at refugees@niagaraanglican.ca.

Your gift to share—Christmas

The Niagara Anglican invites you to share your Christmas with our readers.

In 300 words or less ...

- ✿ recall a special Christmas worship
- ✿ compose a Christmas song (with or without music)
- ✿ relate a humorous Christmas happening
- ✿ retell a Christmas experience in poem or story
- ✿ relive a Christmas tradition or memory
- ✿ write a Christmas poem or prayer
- ✿ reflect on what Christmas means for you
- ✿ draw a Christmas picture or cartoon.

Get your children and youth to submit their items.

Send us a high resolution head shot photo of yourself.

We need your submissions **by October 25** to be included in our December paper.

Send your item to editor@niagaraanglican.ca or Editor, Niagara Anglican, 710 Ashley Ave, Burlington, ON, L7R 2Z3 or talk to the Editor at 905-635-9463.



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Visiting neighbours in Ghana

In May, Bishop Michael and Susan Bird, at the invitation of Bishop Kobina Cyril Ben Smith (Bishop Cyril), spent five days experiencing the life, ministry and action of the church in Assante-Mampong Diocese, Ghana.

Last year Bishop Cyril and his wife Christine visited Niagara Diocese. (See Niagara Anglican, September 2015, pages 6-7).

In this photo essay, Bishop Michael shares his experiences and observations.

Jauben Palace

“Susan and I had the honour of bringing greetings from the Diocese of Niagara to the Paramount Chief Daasebre Otuo Siriboni II at the Jauben Palace. The work and influence of these rulers exist alongside a democratically elected government.” *Bishop Michael.*



▲ The Jauben Archdeaconry walking towards Jauben Palace to make a courtesy call to Paramount Chief Daasebre Otuo Siriboni II.



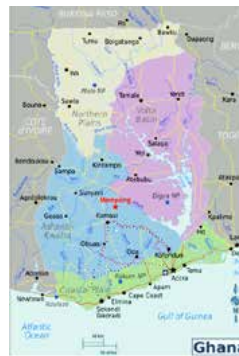
▲ Susan Bird signing guest book at the Palace.



▲ Susan and Bishop Michael are greeted by the Paramount Chief.



▲ Bishop Michael brings greetings from Canada and Niagara Diocese.



Where they were visiting
Map of Ghana: Diocese of Asante-Mampong website
Map of Africa: iStock

St. Monica's Complex School, Mampong

We visited many Anglican schools and St. Monica's is an impressive college that operates along the lines of a community college in Canada. As you can see on all our visits to schools and churches we were given an overwhelming welcome as visiting dignitaries. At every event I was asked to address the people gathered.”

Bishop Michael.



▲ Dancers add excitement to the welcoming of their Canadian visitors.



▲ A marching band brings attention to the occasion as an important event in the life of the school.

► In the open forum Bishop Michael speaks to the students, teachers and others at St. Monica's Complex School, Mampong.



Special thanks to Korankye Okyere for permission to print his photos of the visit of Bishop Michael and Susan Bird to Assante-Mampong Diocese in Ghana. For more photos check out his Facebook page.

Clergy Spouse Association of Asante-Mampong Diocese

"Susan was asked to speak to a large gathering of parishioners from several churches during a festival that involved a great deal of singing and dancing. Several bales of clothing and shoes that we had purchased were made available to those in attendance. I was asked to unveil and bless a new lectern that had been given to one of the churches. I was always blessing something!" *Bishop Michael.*



▲ Bishops Michael and Cyril at the clothing store which accepts donations and serves about 600 children from five rural communities.



▲ Susan addressing a large crowd at a gathering organized by the Clergy Spouse Association.

Confirmation and courtesy call to Ejura paramount chief

"One of the great highlights of our trip was the privilege extended to me by Bishop Cyril to participate in a confirmation at St. Andrew's Church. We shared in the confirmation of about 70 candidates and I was the guest preacher that night. The service was about four hours long! At the end of the service one of the chiefs entered the church and asked for a blessing from Bishop Cyril. We had visited his palace earlier that day and it was quite moving to see him respond in this way." *Bishop Michael.*



◀ The Ejura paramount chief welcomes Bishop Michael during a courtesy visit to the chief's palace.



◀ Bishops Cyril and Michael confirming four of the nearly 70 people offering themselves for confirmation at St. Andrew's in Ghana.

▶ Bishop Michael preaching at the confirmation worship which "was about four hours long."



St. Paul's Church and School, Juaben

"It was quite an experience to interact with the children and to see their classrooms and meet their teachers. We had a chance to address the teachers who gathered to meet us during one of their breaks, and they were very interested and had many questions about life and the church in Canada. The visit here culminated in an amazing gathering in the church with many students and parishioners." *Bishop Michael.*



▲ The teachers at the school wanted to know about living in Canada and the life of the church here from Bishop Michael and Susan Bird.



▲ St. Paul's Church is filled to capacity as people gather to welcome their Canadian guests and hear the Bishop of Niagara preach.

▼ Bishops Cyril and Michael visit the Credit Union which received a sizable financial donation from people of Niagara Diocese.
The money enables the bishop to set up a micro-loan project (Assante-Mampong Micro-Loans project), which offers small sums of money to help people in his diocese to start small enterprises and become more self-sufficient.



Daniel and Henry—a serving team

HOLLIS HISCOCK

"We can make it work," Rob Pawson replied when an 11-year-old asked to be a server at St. Christopher's Burlington.

The request came from Daniel Wolak who has been blind since birth because of "retinopathy of prematurity"—a disease that occurs in premature babies. Daniel was born at 26 weeks in 1997.

Eight years later Rob recalled, "I have to admit I was scared and not sure if we could accommodate him. He showed us many things and taught me that we can do anything."

Daniel also admits "some trepidation" at first, but with other servers giving quiet verbal cues he soon mastered the various server duties. "It took a while to adjust since it seemed like every Sunday something different was happening and items were moved around, but I adapted."

In 2015, Henry came on the scene.

They met on the first of a 26 day orientation at LeaderDogs for the Blind in Michigan. "I had no idea what dog I would get," Daniel said. But after working together in a variety of situations – outdoors, in malls – "I



▲ Henry and Daniel process with the book from which the Gospel is read in the midst of the worshipping congregation.

Photos: Ian Youseman

knew almost immediately Henry was the dog for me." Henry's first day on server

duty was the Sunday after Christmas, when flowers and other decorations adorned St.



Christopher's. Henry sniffed and maneuvered through the obstacle course, guiding Daniel as he fulfilled his ministry as a server. "You have to trust your guide dog in everything"

Daniel became a server because he enjoys being part of various communities and wanted to show what a blind person can do.

His other involvements include being one of the section leaders of the baritone's in the 100 member à cappella choir Harbourtown Sound, Hamilton, and raising funds for Toys for Tots which provides toys for children at Christmas.

◀ Daniel and Henry sharing the peace during morning worship. Rob Pawson (centre) said they would make it work when Daniel inquired about being a server eight years earlier.

After four years attending Nelson High School, Burlington, Daniel spent the past year at W. Ross Macdonald School, Brantford, the only school in Canada serving blind and deafblind students. "I wanted to develop my music theory and my skills in Braille," he explained. "In Braille music is presented as symbols, not staves as in regular sheet music."

Daniel plays piano and guitar and has performed in drama productions.

His future plans include studying music at the University of Bangor in Wales, becoming a high school teacher, hoping to sing in the Bangor Cathedral choir and filling in at St. Christopher's when at home.

Daniel gives full credit and high praise to his parents, Sue and John Wolak, for their unceasing encouragement and support. "They always told me, if you want to do something, go out and do it."

Youth navigating the kitchen

CONNIE PRICE

Aldershot Youth Kitchen is expanding to four sessions per year and will include two youth mentors from the previous session, adding to the six Aldershot School grade seven students.

Through this program, school officials have noticed that unengaged, fringed youth are becoming more confident and are starting to get involved in school programs and projects. "This current session #5 was so popular some students will have to wait until one of the fall sessions to participate," Vice-principal Beth Hudson commented.

For six Tuesdays, the youth walk together from their school to St. Matthew's Burlington's hall. After sharing a healthy snack and topical conversation for half an hour they join the Cook/Instructor in the kitchen



Volunteer Blair Henderson helps the students navigate their way through the kitchen as they prepare for and cook their meal.

Photo: Jan Graham

to start experiencing healthy and fun cooking.

From discussion of the youths' food likes and dislikes, the cook makes up the menus and recipes for the six weeks. The spring session included the youths' breakfast and brunch ideas for Mother's Day.

Then they are taught and delegated to do all the prep and cooking, while also learning the whys and whats should be included in meals. They learn to clean as they go, set the table for everyone to sit down and eat together, as well as cleanup.

Typical norms for team building, co-operation and courtesy are encouraged by the three dedicated and enthusiastic St. Matthew's volunteers who overseen and run the program.

On the last night of a previous session, the youth decided to prepare a three course meal and invite their parents. They did

it all and it was a huge success of organization, delicious food and hosting skills, with the proud parents watching their children receive "fun titles" on their Foody Certificates. It was especially heartwarming to hear a single mom, with a tear in her eye, say, "Last week I came home to a prepared dinner for the first time since I went back to work!"

The church volunteers interview and hire the cook/instructor, assist with the shopping, supervise while joyfully interacting with the youth, take care of the finances and fundraising for the program.

Everyone will need to be able to cook at some time in their lives, so why not have fun learning when they're young?

Connie Price is the Youth Kitchen Administrator at St. Mathew on-the-Plains Burlington. cprice3@cogeco.ca

Medical assistance in dying – an explanation of the new law

RODERICK MCDOWELL

On June 16, 2016 a new law entitled *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)* came into effect. If you would like a copy, which is 14 pages long, Google Statutes of Canada, 2016.

The new law was a result of a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in a case called Carter, which ruled that prohibitions in our criminal law that prohibited physician assisted death were unconstitutional.

Based on my background, I now hope to offer you a brief summary of the main provisions of the new law.

Two points need to be made. The new law has raised many questions the courts will have to interpret. Second, it is important for anyone concerned about becoming involved in the provisions of the new act to get legal advice.

The new law now permits medical and nurse practitioners to assist a person in dying providing they follow the very stringent requirements of this law.

In the portions that follow I shall from time to time quote



Photo: Ingram Image

directly from the law.

The law defines medical assistance in dying. This occurs when a physician or nurse practitioner administers a substance "to a person at their request that causes their death" and goes on to release these same professionals if they prescribe a substance to a person who self-administers. Pharmacists who prepare the drug are exempt from prosecution if they follow the law.

The eligibility for medically

assisted death for people considering it is as follows:

1. The person must be eligible for provincial health care
2. They must be 18 and "capable of making decisions with respect to their health"
3. "They must have a grievous and irremediable medical condition"
4. They must have made a voluntary medical request that was not

the result of external pressure

5. They must truly understand what they are asking for and must be first informed of other measures to relieve suffering that include palliative care.

The new law then goes on to define a "grievous and irremediable condition".

There are four requirements. They are:

1. The disease or condition must be serious and incurable
2. The person must be in "an advance state of irreversible decline in capability"
3. They must be experiencing physical or psychological "suffering that is intolerable" and cannot be relieved by anything acceptable
4. Their "natural death has become reasonably foreseeable ... without a prognosis ... to the specific length of time they have remaining."

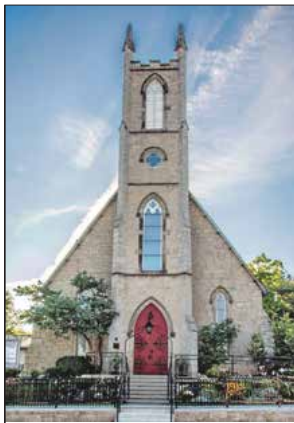
The law also spells out in detail how consent must be given, who can witness the consent and requires two independent physicians or nurse

practitioners to confirm that the conditions of the statute have been met. There is a cooling off period of 10 days after consent has been given although even that can be shortened. Although it is a short law, it is very precise in setting out detailed steps before medically assisted death can occur. Physicians and nurse practitioners are entitled to refuse to participate.

Please note that the law does not apply to minors or those incapable of making decisions with respect to their health. It does not apply to persons who are not dying. It does not allow for advanced consent. It will be up to the courts and future reviews by Parliament, which the law requires, to answer some of these problems and questions.

The question still remains for all of us. How would Christ respond?

The Reverend Roderick McDowell is a Deacon serving at St. Paul's Fort Erie. He is a part time Small Claims Court Judge, a retired lawyer and member of the Research Ethics Board of the Niagara Health System. Email: rmcowell2@cogeco.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.

Homecoming of Past and Present Clergy and Parishioners
Sunday, September 18

Please join us at the 10:00 a.m. service, followed by a chicken BBQ lunch. Walk around the building; take a self-guided tour of the churchyard; remember the decades in photographs; reminisce with past and present friends and make some new ones.

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.



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

Prayer shawl ministry

Prayer shawls cover the altar at St. Paul's Dunnville, waiting to be blessed before being given to those in need of comfort and support.

"It was started some two years ago," wrote Eileen Smith, "and involves a number of dedicated parishioners knitting or crocheting."

She concluded, "As a parish family we have been truly blessed to share our gifts in the greater community." Photo: Submitted



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Clergy News

Condolence

The Reverend **Christopher Snow**, Rector of Grace Church Milton, passed from the darkness of illness to God's light on July 23. He is survived by his wife Bryn and their children, Robert, Helen and Nicholas. Christopher served parishes in Eastern Newfoundland-Labrador diocese before coming to Niagara Diocese. He also played in many jazz and concert bands in St. John's and Milton. The Service celebrating Chris' life was held on July 30 at Grace Church Milton.

Correction

The Reverend **Leslie Gerlofs** serves St. John's Burlington as Incumbent on a two-thirds time basis (not half-time as earlier reported).

Resignations

The Reverend **Kevin Block** has submitted his resignation as Rector of St. John's Jordan (October 17).

The Reverend **Elizabeth Sipos** submitted her resignation as Rector of St. Paul's Fort Erie and St. John's Ridgemount (October 11).

Canon **Derek Anderson** resigned as Rector of

St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington (August 15).

The Reverend **Will Alakas** resigned as Rector of Holy Trinity Welland, and became Rector of St. Columba's St. Catharines (August 1).

Appointments

The Reverend **Audrius Sarka** becomes Rector of St. Paul's Dunnville, and the Dunn Parish of Port Maitland and South Cayuga (September 1).

Archdeacon **Stephen Hopkins** becomes Rector of St. Paul's (Westdale) Hamilton, on a half-time basis (September 6).

The newest deacons in the diocese

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Sister Mary Catherine SSG, Dean Cormack and Paul Bates were ordained deacons on May 15 in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

In her sermon the Reverend Sue-Ann Ward, Co-Rector of St. Luke's Palermo and Grace Church Waterdown, described each.

"Dean, you experienced through your student placement in Cuba that part of the role of leaders in the church is ensuring that God's children are fed and clothed and housed. You learned from Archdeacon Andreis that sometimes ordained ministry involves sneaking out before daylight to meet a man associated with the 'African American Market' who can provide you with the precious milk needed for your parish's Sunday morning breakfast program – the only milk your parishioners will enjoy all week."

"Sister Mary Catherine, I admire your efforts to help others to develop the soul-nourishing practice of praying the offices. You have come to know



Sister Mary Catherine SSG, Dean Cormack and Paul Bates pose with Bishop Michael following their ordination as Deacons in God's Church.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

through your experience with the Sisters of Saint Gregory how grounding and strengthening it is to draw close to God at regular times each day by engaging in prayer, meditation, and scripture reading. What a gift your nurturance of this practice is for people in our society who find themselves caught up in hectic activity so much of the time."

"Paul, you know from your leadership of the Compassion and Care Team at Grace that part of the role of leaders in the church is to be present with people when they are hurting. Bringing the church and the sacrament to people when they are isolated and infirmed reminds

them that God is in their neighbourhood. Being a leader also means being willing to get out of your comfort zone to show people that they are precious to God and to their church family. Singing 'O Danny Boy' to Irish born Florrie Malley at the start of the 10:00 service to let her know that we were all very glad that she was well enough to worship with us once again was a caring and courageous act."

Catherine continues her ministry at St. Paul's Glanford and Paul at Grace Church Waterdown. Dean is Deacon-in-Charge of St. John the Evangelist Winona.

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

November – September 25
December – October 25
January – November 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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Parish Happenings



—hopefully to some future discoverers—including photos of various groups, service bulletins, front pages from a national and local newspaper, current coins, new plastic money and a copy of the history of the church.

It is hoped that the ministry of Christ Church—180 years in 2017—will continue well into the future, and the time capsule will bear witness to the love of Christ the people of Christ Church celebrate today. *(Information from Judy Gurman)*

Old and new time capsule

On Sunday, July 19, Julia and Brycen Gottschalk placed a time capsule in the cornerstone of Christ Church Woodburn.

In the summer of 2015, the cornerstone had become loose. In a cavity behind it, the remains of an old time capsule were found. Unfortunately, only a rusted piece of metal and some blackened Victorian coins were all that remained after perhaps 150 years.

A new time capsule was prepared with items of interest

Five clergy, four cheques

Photo: Submitted

The Reverend Bill Mous, (centre) Diocesan Director of Justice, Community and Global Ministries for the Refugee Sponsorship Program, accepting cheques (totalling \$3,917) from the Reverends Scott McNaughton, Holly Klemmensen, Sheila Van Zandwyk and Mike Deed, representing the Mountain Ministry Parishes in Hamilton.



Prayer breakfast

This year's Hamilton prayer breakfast featured an inter-faith feast of the arts: dancing, music and spoken word, including slam poetry by young

people from nearby schools. Also, three young people paid tribute to Hamilton as "the community which has given them so much affirmation and nurtured them," reported Canon Terry DeForest,

Vision Advocate and Director of Resources for the Diocese. "It was a rare expression of deep gratitude for community to which we might all aspire."

Photo: Jan Lukas

Send your Parish

Happenings, along with a high resolution photo, to editor@niagaraanglican.ca

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