

Parish opens triage clinic

A new ministry at St. Alban's Beamsville is helping migrant farmworkers.

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The four kinds of leader

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NIAGARA ANGLICAN



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A section of the Anglican Journal

SUMMER 2017

Love Your Neighbour walk benefits food banks

A small Bible study group at St. John the Evangelist Hamilton—the Rock on Locke—wanted to support St. Matthew's House (SMH), as they had done for three years through the Coldest Night of the Year walk.

Since SMH did not participate this year, parishioner Judith Purdell-Lewis reported, "We decided to walk anyway." They planned the two and five kilometre routes for the Love Your Neighbour walk, invited others to join, made soup and walked.

Their routes, designed to remind people who are "our neighbours", went from Locke Street to City Hall, past social

housing buildings on Hess/Jackson, YWCA women's housing, Historic Central Public School, Indwell communities on Robinson and Caroline, Ryerson School and Recreation Centre and Hill Street Community Garden on their way back to the church.

"On a lovely evening in late March," continued Judith, "over 40 adults and children, people from our and other Anglican churches—and one dog—walked ... We were thrilled to find we had raised almost \$5,000 ... We decided the money should go to the two food banks operated by St. Matthew's House

in Hamilton."

Board Chair Michael Rehill participated in the walk and acknowledged the outstanding community support for St. Matthew's House. He also noted that one in five people live in poverty in Hamilton, SMH provides over 2,000 pounds of food to support families in need on an average day and food bank usage in Hamilton is 28% higher than it was in 2008.

"We wanted to make sure that those who are hungry continue to have access to this much needed service," said Judith.

"Watch out for our walk in 2018!" she added.



One dog with over 40 adults and children participated in the Love Your Neighbour walk to raise funds for two food banks operated by St. Matthew's House in Hamilton.

Photo: Genevieve Wong

Youth stay silent for a cause



DONNA ELLIS

Last December, the youth at St. John's Ancaster joined the Advent Conspiracy, an initiative of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). Instead of buying secret Santa gifts for one another, they donated what they would have spent to the PWRDF Water Project for Pikangikum.

This inspired them to do a larger fundraiser. At the end of March, from noon on Saturday until noon on Sunday, 18 youth

and three leaders spent 24 hours in silence together.

The youth invited people, including those from the congregation, to sponsor their efforts. Once all the funds were in, they raised a total of \$2,000 for PWRDF Water Project for Pikangikum and \$2,000 for the ministries of St. John's.

How do you keep 18 teens silent for 24 hours, you ask? Here are some of the things we did:

They communicated by writing notes back and forth and all group announcements were



written on a white board.

We began with lunch, after which they decorated tee shirts to say "Silent for a Cause", so parishioners on Sunday would remember they couldn't talk.

Time was then spent doing watercolour reflections.

Group games were fun played in silence, particularly Pictionary, Sardines and Jenga.

Free time was given to do homework and to take part in meditation activities—colouring, painting with acrylics, listening to music, journaling,



sketching, reading and doing puzzles.

Snacks were always available. We borrowed a labyrinth from the Diocese and spent an hour in the evening walking the labyrinth, ending with Compline.

Waking up Sunday morning and remembering to be silent was a challenge. There was a penalty if you spoke: 50 cents a word. Each person was given five free words. The penalty applied after that, with all funds going to PWRDF.

We all donned our black tee

(left) The group used green tape as a symbol of their silence for a cause. (centre) "Yes Mom, I am doing my homework." Time was set aside during the day-long experience. (right) Participants worked on their reflections through art during their day of silence.

shirts and after breakfast went to the 10:00 a.m. service.

After church the hospitality group put on a luncheon for us and the whole room counted us down beginning 10 seconds before noon.

High school students accumulated 24 volunteer hours provided they collected at least \$100 in sponsors to show their commitment. Everyone loved the challenge. Could you stay silent for 24 hours for a cause?

Donna Ellis heads the Youth, Children and Family Ministry. youth.stjohn.ancaster@gmail.com

Bringing aid and comfort to the poor

Eight years and counting

KEN TAYLOR

For the past eight years, parishioners of St. Thomas' St. Catharines have organized an annual mission trip to the Sosua area of the Dominican Republic.

Our team has been the hands and feet of Christ as we bring aid and comfort to the poor and sick Dominicans and Haitians.

While there we have worked with the Samaritan Foundation, a non-denominational Christian organization whose head office is in Welland, Ontario.

The impetus and request for the mission came from them to Not Just Tourists (a medical humanitarian aid organization run by Ken and Denise Taylor). The enthusiasm and commitment of many volunteers have kept it going.

Each year St. Thomas' team has been composed of between



As the medical team traveled by bus to provide free clinics in remote villages, they prayed and sang hymns in Spanish.

Photos: Ken Taylor

14 to 36 people. In the past two years alone we have raised over \$100,000 through church dinners, auctions and private donations. We are regularly joined by parishioners from St. Brendan and St. James' Port Colborne, St. James' Niagara Falls and First

Grantham United Church St. Catharines.

We welcome additional participants seeking to make a positive difference for people who have so little!

What have we done while there?

We have divided ourselves into three separate teams.

The construction team, which assists in the construction of houses, has built chicken coops and last year worked on a cistern to provide water for a village of 250 families. One year we contributed to the construction of a school.

The school team examines the school children, plots their growth on charts and tests their vision.

The medical team runs free medical clinics and distributes free medicine in many different communities in the area. In advance of the trip, Not Just Tourists volunteers (some of



Hugh Taylor and Gail Richardson putting together soup mix packages for distribution. The mix comes in a barrel from a second harvest place and is packaged by the team.

whom accompany us) spend many hours organizing medicine and supplies.

Our days typically start early. Two or three small buses leave for the worksites at approximately 8:30 a.m. While on route there have been prayers and boisterous hymns sung in Spanish as we travelled on almost impassable roads to remote villages. On Sundays we have attended a village church and participated in very enthusiastic fellowship with the people we serve.

Accomplishments to date have included paying for and contributing to the construction of more than 20 homes, building a water cistern for a village, paying for a waste water treatment system, annually providing residents of a village with food for each family for a week, supporting and visiting a drug and alcohol rehab centre, supporting mothers' centres with baby

supplies, as well as donating medical supplies and medicine to Roman Catholic sisters who support a hospital for the poor in Puerto Plata.

The medical team has seen between 1,000 and 1,500 patients and the school team assessed up to 1,000 children each trip.

Thanks to the support of West Jet, each year the team has taken over 1,500 pounds of humanitarian aid for distribution. The medicine alone which we took this past year had a value of over \$100,000.

Team members return home feeling gratified that we have been able to help our fellow humans in this way.

"Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine." Thanks be to God.

Doctor Ken Taylor is a member of St. Thomas' St. Catharines. kententaylor@gmail.com

More summer reads*

1. *A real inside fishy tale* – Book of Jonah.
2. *Runaway slave faces the music* – Letter to Philemon.
3. *Keeping the faith is not easy* – Book of Job.
4. *Back to the future: Our wings and roots* – Acts of the Apostles.
5. *Love makes the world go round* – Book of Ruth.

*Books from the Bible.

Editor: What do these encounters say to you? Send us your thoughts. Contact information on page 3.

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Organist and music director appointed

Alison Slaats (alisonslaats.com) has been appointed Organist and Choir Director at St. Cuthbert's Oakville.

She has an Honours Bachelor of Music degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Church Music, Pipe Organ and Choral Conducting, and has undergone additional training in choral conducting with the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

A composer of sacred music, Alison has led music programs in several denominations, is experienced in working with children and youth and has a private music teaching studio.



Alison Slaats, the new Organist and choir Director at St. Cuthbert's Oakville.

Photo: submitted by the parish

HOLLIStorial

Summer – a season for new insights

Summer changes attitudes, behaviours and perceptions.

With relaxed timetables, variations in venues and more leisurely approaches regarding daily routines, we can gain new insights into Jesus' Gospel, our beliefs and even life itself. Let me illustrate.

While relaxing on our patio, I heard a loud splash as ducks landed in our neighbour's pool; caught a glimpse of baby rabbits nibbling at our freshly grown perennials and watched pesky dandelions threatening to take over our green lawn.

Firstly, the "ducks landing" flew my thoughts to the Sea of Galilee (Luke 8:22-25). Jesus and his disciples were crossing

the lake when a terrific storm threatened to sink their vessel. The frightened disciples found Jesus asleep in the back of the boat. They woke him, pleading for their safety. He commanded the elements to be quiet and it happened. The disciples wondered about Jesus, since "even

the winds and waves" obeyed him.

The "winds and the waves" represented

the difficult times in life - the loss of a loved one, challenges by complicated or unpleasant decisions, dramatic changes in personal circumstances, etc.

At such times, Jesus/God

is there, even though we may think God is asleep "in the rear of the boat" (our lives). God is still present to guide and support us as we navigate through whatever "waves and winds" we face in life.

The circumstances may not be taken away or altered, but Jesus' presence and strength can enable us to cope with the situations and then move us into a new life.

Secondly, the "rabbits nibbling" reminded me of our status within nature's cycle, and how all living creatures are dependent and interdependent upon each other.

Jesus (Matthew 6:24-34) reassured us that God takes care of our basic needs. "Look at the birds (he could have said rabbits); they do not plant seeds, gather harvests and place into barns, yet your Heavenly Father cares for them! Aren't you worth much more than birds (rabbits)?"

We are worth more than a rabbit or a bird. Jesus loved us

so much that he died and rose from the dead to save us from sin, and provided the Holy Spirit to look after us daily and to bring us to eternal life. So why worry about tomorrow? Today has enough worries for itself, and we "do not need to add to the troubles each day brings," suggested Jesus: sound investment advice during troubling times.

Thirdly, those "pesky dandelions" conjure up Jesus' story about weeds (Matthew 13:24-30). Apparently a farmer planted good seeds, and then an enemy invaded his fields and sowed weeds (dandelions). The weeds took over. The workers wanted to yank them up, but the wise farmer decided to let them grow together and separate them at harvest time.

The weeds (dandelions) could symbolize those parts of our lives which we wish we could redo or relive differently - taking back cutting words, undoing hurtful behaviours or removing



malicious thoughts.

Sometimes, even after making amends and receiving forgiveness, the consequences remain with us.

Maybe, like the farmer, we have to live with our past until our final harvest, when the good we have accomplished can be separated from the other. Then the other will be cast away and the good put in God's barn (eternal life).

After rereading the above, Nat King Cole's song *Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer* can easily be translated as those "busy, sunny, wise days of summer" enhancing our souls, minds and bodies.

This summer, look around, observe and learn about God and yourself from all your experiences.

Hollis Hiscock welcomes your feedback and reflections. Contact information elsewhere on this page.



Photo: ingimage.com



Provincial Synod 2018 – Call for nominations

Niagara Diocese is looking for articulate and active people who can represent our values, beliefs and issues at the next Provincial Synod of Ontario.

The Secretary of Synod is calling for nominations to the Provincial Synod meeting from October 10-12, 2018 in Ottawa.

Individuals must be members of the 2017 diocesan synod and give their consent to be eligible for nomination. Members may also self-nominate.

Niagara is one of seven dioceses in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. In addition to the bishop, Niagara is entitled to elect four clergy and four lay delegates at our upcoming fall synod. A youth representative will be chosen by Youth Synod delegates and appointed by our bishop. The diocesan chancellor is an ex-officio member. In 2015, Provincial Synod, held in Toronto

focused on reimagining its intersection with the public square. Clergy representative Jean Archbell called it a time away to learn about what other dioceses are working on and accomplishing together; you will be amazed. Lay delegate Sue Carson wrote, "Never having attended meetings beyond our own Diocese I was excited to learn more about how our church functions." She would encourage anyone with an interest in expanding their church knowledge to consider being a Provincial Synod Delegate.

Nomination forms, available on line, will be accepted until September 30, 2017. More information at niagaraanglican.ca/news/35th-provincial-synod-reimagines-church-in-the-public-square; niagaraanglican.ca/synod/provincial/; www.province-ontario.anglican.ca/synod



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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 ...
Richard Bradley
Paul Clifford
Dennis Hurst
The Reverend Bill Mous (Bishop's Designate)
The Reverend Canon Rob Park
Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis
Carol Summers (Chair)

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Cathedral Place
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For a complete staff directory and more information, visit the diocesan website: niagaraanglican.ca



Parish opens new triage clinic

MICHAEL HAHN

What does one do when people, who speak only Spanish, show up in church on Sunday looking for non-emergency medical help?

That's what Father Javier Arias, Rector of St. Alban's Beamsville, pondered.

For the past three years, St. Alban's has held Sunday evening services in Spanish for migrant farmworkers. Following the church service workers enjoy a complimentary meal. They can take an ESL class, use the free internet café or access free WiFi for calls home. They can now also see a doctor or nurse.

Many farmworkers put in 10-12 hour days, 60-65 hours a week. Most are here for five to eight months working on our farms to support their spouses and children back in Central America. They speak only Spanish and have little or no time to see a doctor during the week. They are often reluctant to tell their employers of illness or injury for fear of losing their jobs. Some are concerned they

won't be invited to return next year if they are perceived to be injured or sick.

If they do bother their employer with a request to see a doctor, how would they be able to communicate with one?

A solution was found by stepping out in faith and building a new medical clinic in the basement of St. Alban's.

Volunteers built walls and painted. Someone donated an old examination table which had been re-upholstered. Medications and equipment were donated, and prayers offered to find doctors and nurses who would donate a couple of hours on a Sunday evening.

The prayers were answered.

Dr. Jennifer Conners, a family physician, volunteered her services and several nurses joined the team.

Translators were recruited and on Feb. 25, 2017, St. Alban's opened its new Triage Clinic.

Here, Spanish-speaking patients can be seen for simple medical matters. They can get over-the-counter medications given to them and they can get

medical advice. If they need a prescription filled, there is a drug store across the street.

Complex cases, or cases where further testing is required, are referred to the Beamsville Medical Centre, where an interpreter is made available. Doctors there have agreed to see referred patients weekday evenings by appointment. Volunteer drivers and interpreters are available for transportation, prescriptions and medical appointments.

One of our first patients was Renaldo (not his real name). Renaldo arrived from Mexico in February. It is his first time in Canada. He came here on an eight month contract to support his wife and children back home. He soon discovered he had trouble doing his job. He was often dizzy and disoriented. His employer no doubt would be sending him home if he remained unable to do the work. For Renaldo, being sent home would be catastrophic, which added to his stress.

Dr. Conners examined Renaldo and suspected a vision problem. Arrangements



Nurse Maria Triebe takes the blood pressure of a migrant farmworker patient at the St. Alban's Triage Clinic. Translator Hilsa Ponce looks on. Photo: Michael Hahn

were made for Renaldo to see a friendly optometrist, who donated the eye examination. About a week later, Renaldo had new glasses provided to him at cost. The dizziness was gone and he could now do the work assigned to him.

I saw him and noticed he didn't have a winter coat. Luckily, Renaldo was able to find

a winter coat that fit him in the St. Alban's free winter clothing store.

We tend to think of social justice work or Christian outreach as being someplace else, when perhaps some of it is right here.

Michael Hahn is a member of St. Alban's Beamsville. mhahn@cib.ca



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The four kinds of leader we need: part two

JOHN BOWEN

(Editor's note: Last month, in part one of this series, John explored two kinds of leaders: the traditional pastor and palliative care leader. In this final installment, he focuses on turnaround and pioneer kinds of leaders, and brings it all together by answering why it all matters.)

3. The turnaround leader

The third is perhaps the most difficult of the four models of leader: the one who can help moribund congregations change from looking after their existing members to understanding they are called to participate in the mission of God.

Why is this difficult? For one reason, the changes required are pretty fundamental, in all likelihood involving their grasp of the Gospel, their understanding of church, their long-standing ministry habits and (not least) their theology.

Twenty years ago, I thought in my naivety that most struggling congregations would be willing and even excited to make this

"We have a need for leaders who can start new Christian communities (fresh expressions of church) in contexts where existing churches can never go"

kind of change in order to thrive again: all they needed was to know how, and good leadership to help them do it.

Now we know that is not the case. Given the choice between changing and dying, many will weigh the options: change? death? Hmm ... and then choose death as the easier choice. Why is it easier? Because all they have to do is keep doing what they have always done.

The other reason this has proved difficult is that most "traditional pastors," however much they might want to bring about change, simply do not know how. It requires a different skill-set. For a pastor to try to bring about that kind of change without the requisite gifts, and in the face of the inevitable

resistance, is a recipe for conflict and sometimes burnout.

There are some congregations who will choose the painful road of change. They need leaders with clear vision, thick skins and stick-to-it-iveness—not to mention lots of love—to guide them through the transition. These are the turnaround pastors.

4. The pioneer leader

Finally—maybe in the long run most important—we have a need for leaders who can start new Christian communities (fresh expressions of church) in contexts where existing churches can never go: new churches which reflect the culture of their context, and which have mission in their DNA from day one.

What kind of leader can do

this? One who is unusually gifted in evangelism, who is as comfortable in secular culture as in church culture, has experience of pulling innovative teams together, has a track record of starting things and has a competent grasp of orthodox theology. (The last is particularly important for church planting teams because, in the new situation, they will be the sole "bearers of the tradition"!)
In many cases, we will need to recruit such people, rather than waiting for them to come to us. Often the young people who come up through our churches' farm system know little apart from life in the traditional congregations they come from, and which have recognised that they have gifts for ... traditional ministry.

The kind of people who are gifted to pioneer new congregations have in many cases never considered ordination because their image of ministry leadership is the traditional one, and they know this is not for them. We need to persuade them that they are exactly what the



church needs these days—and train them appropriately.

Why does this matter?

We need to remember why these things are important. The need for suitable leaders is not in the first place about the church or leadership, or teaching and training. At the heart of all this concern is the Gospel of God—the good news of Jesus. It is the Gospel that brings the church into being (if there were no Gospel, there would be no church), it is the Gospel that gives shape to what we mean by leadership, and it is the Gospel that directs our understanding of mission.

John Bowen is the retired Professor of Evangelism, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. john.bowen@wycliffe.utoronto.ca

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A snapshot of happenings

New exhaust system – fan of students

Every month students from Fort Erie Secondary School prepare a meal for the “feed the hungry program” sponsored by St. Paul’s parish. Their workplace improved greatly with the installation of a new exhaust system in the kitchen, which was financed by a \$19,000 grant from United Way. Posing with the Fort Erie Secondary School students as they prepare the monthly meal are (left) Chef A. Keyvani, Executive Director of the Niagara Falls-Fort Erie United Way, the Reverend Deacon Rod McDowell (second from right) and Carol Stewart- Kirby (right).



Photo: submitted by Rod McDowell

Young people receive first communion

From left, Kayrah Gaston, Keturah Gaston, Hailey MacKenie, Keshan Gaston, Dominique Padmore, Owen Hamilton, Josh Padmore and Connor MacKenzie pose with Rector Bahman Kalantari after receiving their first Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek.



Photo: submitted by Bev Groombridge

Good Friday walk

Several hundred people took part in the Good Friday prayer walk along Church Street in St. Catharines. For over 30 years people have been gathering at each participating place of worship, representing six denominations, to pray, hear the story of Jesus’ passion, sing and listen to homilies. This year Infinitely More presented the message and led the singing, the clergy read the scriptures and led the prayers.



◀ The crowd, following a wooden cross, makes its way along Church Street, St. Catharines, on Good Friday.

▶ The clergy from six churches and Infinitely More conducted worship at each location.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock



Ahoy!



▲ Volunteer Sue Hawthorne-Bate (left) with Mission to Seafarers Chaplain Jann Maloney visited the crew of the Arditia in April. It heralded the beginning of the shipping season in Hamilton.

Photo: submitted

Alleluia – how many times?

▼ Paisley Ware counted 55 said or sung alleluias during Easter Sunday morning worship at St. John’s Jordan. Interim Rector Cathie Crawford-

Browning challenged the children to keep score. Here she presents Paisley with jelly beans as her sister Aurora watches.

Photo: Brenda Lane



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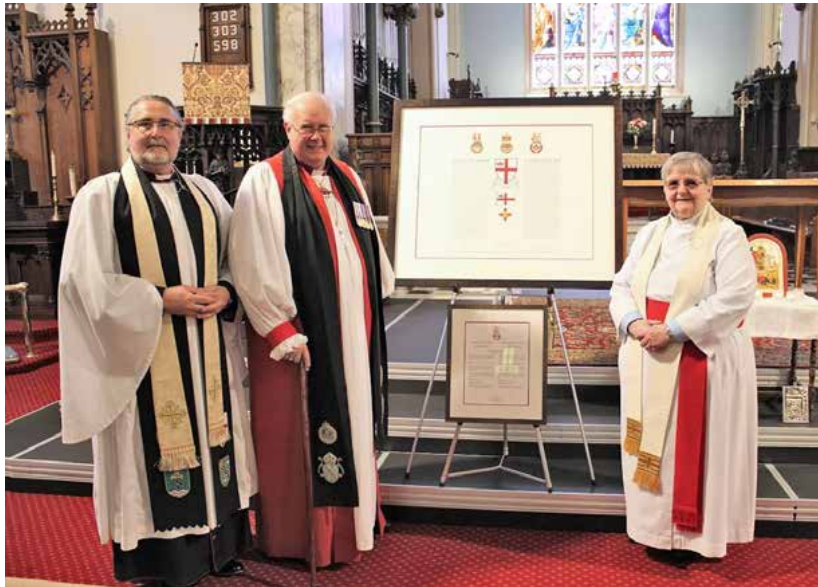
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 A snapshot of happenings



Coat of Arms granted

St. George's Day seemed a fitting occasion for St. George's Guelph to receive its heraldic emblems, including a Coat of Arms, honouring the parish's 185th anniversary. When Arthur Palmer arrived from Ireland in his mid-twenties, he set up St. George's Parish in a schoolhouse on Yarmouth Street.

The first church was a small wooden structure in St. George's Square, from 1833 until 1851. The second building, a small stone structure, occupied the same location. Construction on the current church building, started in 1870, was completed on April 20, 1873.

Today, St. George's is the spiritual home to hundreds of Guelph families, and provides space for numerous community and cultural events. The beautiful building with its soaring architecture, extraordinary stained glass and historic Casavant organ and Carillon make it one of Guelph's most significant buildings.

On hand for the granting of the Coat of Arms was Retired Bishop D. Ralph Spence, Albion Herald Extraordinary for the Canadian Heraldic Authority, along with Rector Ralph Blackman and Canon Jean Mitchell.

Photo: Laura Keller

First Inspire Award goes to youth kitchen

St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington and its Youth Kitchen volunteers received the Halton District School Board's first Inspire Award. This award is given "for going above and beyond to support our students by demonstrating caring, initiative, innovation, creativity, inspiring others, supporting students and contributing to their achievement."

Presented first at a School Board meeting, the award was later re-presented by board and school representatives during a parish Sunday worship.

The Youth Kitchen—first reported in the September 2016 *Niagara Anglican*—just completed its ninth six-week session, involving approximately 60 grade seven and eight students, plus two in each session coming back in grade nine as mentors.

Photo: Jim Blake



Send us your Parish Happenings. We need high resolution photos with a short story. Don't forget to include credit to the photographer. If children are in the photos, please confirm in your email permission from the parent/guardian to print the image.

Messy Church reaches double digits

ROB PARK

We celebrated 10 years of Messy Church in April 2017.

Our Associate Priest, the Reverend Nancy Rowe, invited families, whose children had been baptized at St. George's Georgetown, to the very first "Messy Church" in Canada.

Nancy was doing her placement as a theology student at St. George's and needed a teaching project as part of her field placement. St. George's was looking for new ways to stay connected to our baptismal families.

The idea of starting a "Messy Church" gathering was born.

Messy Church came out of the Church of England's "Fresh Expressions" movement and was just beginning to spread. It is a very untraditional and informal gathering with a Christian message communicated through crafts, activities, songs, prayers and always ends with a meal.

At St. George's, Messy Church made a connection with young families beyond the sacrament of baptism and built around it a community.

"For many people who come to Messy Church, traditional church is a place where their great grandma went, but for them it is a 'foreign' land," Nancy explained. "The rituals, even the language of Church is confusing. Messy Church offers an opportunity to explore God and our relationship with God in ways and terms that are inviting."

The informality of the gathering invites children and adults to ask questions about God, Jesus and faith, and to explore as they journey together.

"Time after time I have been amazed by the spiritual insight of the children and young adults," Nancy said as she reflected on how the message of the gospel is received.

Messy Church at St. George's



also encourages a dedicated team of volunteers who help prepare the crafts, oversee the activities, mingle with the families, and prepare and tidy up after the meal.

"Messy Church ends with a nice meal," said Nancy. "Everyone appreciates sitting down to a meal that has been already prepared and requires no clean-up after. In the lives of busy families, this is an added bonus and an opportunity to

further socialize with others who are seeking understanding of what it is to be a child of God." Messy Church provides valuable quality family time in the very busy modern lifestyle.

St. George's is proud to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this wonderful and valuable ministry and the community of families who call Messy Church home.

Canon Rob Park is Rector of St. George's Georgetown.

While children and their parents engage in creative learning activities, others prepare their meal, a very important part of Messy Church.

Photo: Rob Park

Oakville parish hosts Pilgrimage for Indigenous Rights

The Church of the Epiphany Oakville hosted an ecumenical group overnight on Tuesday April 25th, sponsored by the Mennonite Church of Canada and Christian Peacemaker Teams.

About 30 people were on a pilgrimage from Kitchener to Ottawa, and the parish fed them dinner and breakfast on their way through town. They slept on the floor of the parish hall—

and were happy to have it.

They asked if we might be interested in engaging in a conversation about Indigenous rights. They had no idea how involved the Anglican Church of Canada already is in this venture!

Prepared with notes from the Venerable Suzanne Craven, Rector, Church of the Epiphany Oakville.



Aboriginal awareness day

DAN STRUTHERS

Sixty-five people from Oakville, Burlington, Hamilton, Waterdown and the surrounding area first gathered in the Fireside Room at St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington.

Then we were drummed into the Sanctuary by Myka Burning (spirit name is ti:yehs). An Iroquois, she introduced an Ojibwa song gifted to her when part of a drum band.

Our own Janice Whiteley (Silver Thunderbird Woman) shared her experiences growing up in Chapleau Ontario as a member of the Chapleau Cree First Nation. She connected with her roots as an adult. Her journey has involved her Christian upbringing in the Anglican Church, balancing with an Aboriginal spirituality with which she strongly connects.

St. Matthew's parishioner Jim Shephard told of his hidden Micmac heritage. Growing up, he did not know his grandmother was Micmac. When Jim questioned this, his father said it was never talked about due to discrimination the family experienced—denying their heritage was the solution. For 60 years Jim was denied part of his heritage, which he is now able to explore.

Ojibwa Language and Knowledge Keeper Rene Meshake played flute music and described the language of the flute. He related the creation story in his native tongue and in English. We were one of the first groups to hear him tell the creation story in his native tongue.

Val Kerr, Niagara's Archdeacon of Truth and Reconciliation

and Indigenous Ministry, spoke about her upbringing and perspective on how Residential Schools affected First Nations culture and society. She spoke of her grandmother and how fortunate she feels to have her as an example and teacher. Val admires her grandmother, who was generous despite her impoverished circumstances. "She taught us the seven Grandfather Teachings—generosity, truth, humility, wisdom, respect, courage and love."

Myka drummed us to a traditional lunch provided by Six Nations cook Lana Henhawk. The registration fees (\$800) were donated to assist Lana in her Cooking Ministry, especially with youth.

In the Blanket Ceremony we stepped on blankets, including some we brought to take home as a memento of the experience. Individuals told the history of the First Nations. The story started before the arrival of the Europeans, through their contact and conduct with the First Nations and how this changed over the years. For example, when natives were dying because of European introduced diseases, some of us were asked to move off our blankets, representing those that had died.

It was very moving to see how families were decimated by disease, starvation or isolation. As treaties changed, blankets were removed or configured to illustrate changes to the territories occupied by First Nations people.

It was shocking to see how the land (blankets) and the number of indigenous people (us) were diminished. Even today, over 1,000 Indigenous women are

registered as missing without a trace, with many more believed not to be registered with the police. We also learned of the devastation families endured because of Residential Schools.

In a circle with a "talking feather," we expressed our personal stories and what we learned or experienced during the blanket ceremony.

We heard how devastated the Six Nations community was after six young people returning from a Christian Youth Group outing were in an automobile accident - killing two and seriously injuring others. Participants donated \$373 and an anonymous donor phoned offering \$2,000, which was sent to the youth group to cover funeral expenses or help with their healing process.

This was an impactful learning experience. We took a step in the right direction in implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Report recommendations.

We ended the day being drummed home by Myka.



The Blanket Ceremony allowed participants to learn about and relive symbolically the history of First Nations people.

The registration fees for the aboriginal awareness day were donated to assist Six Nations cook Lana Henhawk in her Cooking Ministry, especially with youth.

Photos: Dan Struthers



Adrienne Clarkson – special speaker for Bishop’s Company dinner

As Canada celebrates our 150th anniversary, Bishop Michael Bird is pleased to announce that the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, 26th Governor General (1999-2005) and co-chair of the Institute for Canadian Citizenship will be the guest speaker at the annual Bishop’s Company dinner.

Once again the dinner is being held at Michelangelo’s Events and Conference Centre, 1555 Upper Ottawa St., Hamilton on Monday October 16, 2017.

The Bishop’s Company, established over 60 years ago, is both a community of members and a discretionary fund to assist Anglicans in need, with a primary emphasis on supporting diocesan clergy, lay workers and their families.

In addition to individual memberships, parish sponsorships are also available.

Adrienne Clarkson arrived in Canada from Hong Kong as a refugee in 1942 and made the astonishing journey from a penniless child refugee to accomplished broadcaster,



Photo: May Truong

journalist and distinguished public servant in a multi-faceted lifetime. Her family has been Anglican for five generations, and her parents were married by Bishop Ronald Hall of Hong Kong. Upon arriving in Canada, the Anglican Church became a great part of their ability to settle in their new home. Madam Clarkson subsequently attended Trinity College at the University of Toronto.

During Madam Clarkson’s mandate as Governor General, her energy, enthusiasm and passion left an indelible mark on Canada’s history. A leading figure in Canada’s cultural life, she is the bestselling author of the 2014 CBC Massey Lectures *Belonging: The Paradox of Citizenship*, *Room for All of Us: Surprising Stories of Loss and Transformation*, *Heart Matters: A Memoir*, and a biography of

Dr. Norman Bethune.

In 2005, Madam Clarkson co-founded the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC) to help new citizens in Canada integrate into Canadian life. The ICC hosts the annual 6 Degrees Citizen Space, the global forum on citizenship, immigration, inclusion and diversity in the 21st century.

She has received numerous prestigious awards and honorary degrees in Canada and abroad. A Privy Councillor and Companion of the Order of Canada, Madam Clarkson lives in Toronto and is currently a parishioner at the Church of St.

Mary Magdalene in Toronto.

Reserve the date and join us as we celebrate our diocesan family and welcome our distinguished guest!

For further information or to register your membership and attendance at the dinner, visit our website at niagaraanglican.ca/bishops-company/ or contact Registrar Mary Anne Grant at maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-527-1316, ext. 380.

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A bottle filled with money means students get books to take home

MARGARET FINLAYSON

Waapinichikush Elementary School in the First Nations community of Chisasibi, Quebec has about 750 students.

This school needs books to give students to take home and practise reading. Some live in poverty with no books in the home as parents struggle to support their families.

As well, some parents, as other parents in Canada, do not realize the importance of reading in a very connected, globalized 21st century world; books are few in their homes.

Research shows that the federal government funds the education of First Nations students at a lower per capita rate than provincial governments do for other Canadian students. This is why one of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) asks for the federal government to increase funding for First Nations schools.

You may wonder why this school was chosen as a focus for St. Paul's Shelburne. A parishioner here has a personal connection to the community. She wanted to honour her

mother-in-law's memory and approached the Parish Council with this idea. While visiting Chisasibi twice, she had noticed few if any books in the homes.

Parish Council agreed to the request because they felt this could be done in recognition of the findings of the TRC, to honour those residents of residential schools who had been denied a real education and who had suffered horribly in those schools.

The council asked the parish to donate to this cause by dropping spare change into a big water bottle. Not only coins but

"folding" money and cheques started appearing. When the campaign ended, \$500 had been collected.

Now came the task of getting the books up to Chisasibi. The school wanted to deal with a particular book company which had made the effort to go up to James Bay and put on a book fair for them. After much to-ing and fro-ing with the principal and the sales representative, we are pleased the books finally got

into the hands of students.

Ours is a very small effort to acknowledge past injustices. We know that. However, we feel strongly about this and will repeat the campaign next year as well. Don't tell that tidbit to Waapinichikush – they may not know yet!

Margaret Finlayson is a parishioner of St. Paul's Shelburne. marg.finlayson14@gmail.com



Emily, Joy, Andrew and Zachary (front) from St. Paul's Shelburne with the water bottle used to collect donations to buy books for students at Waapinichikush Elementary School to take home to read. The books, delivered directly from the publishing company to the school, cover a wide variety of common interest topics. Here the children use their Sunday School books symbolizing what they achieved.

Photo: submitted by Margaret Finlayson

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Long and colorful history across four centuries

HOLLIS HISCOCK

An induction, several concerts, special worship and other activities highlight the 225th anniversary at St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The celebrations began on St. Mark's Day (April 23) with a combined morning worship for people to meet and hear from Niagara's Bishop, Michael Bird.

Later the same day, William Roberts was inducted as Rector.

At a book event in May, St. Mark's Archives Committee launched *1791-2017*, its 10th publication about its people and its history.

St. Mark's began when two residents wrote to Bishop Inglis of Nova Scotia requesting a clergy be sent to minister to the residents of the new village. The following year, the Reverend Robert Addison was commissioned as missionary and minister at Niagara.

Throughout their long and

colorful history across four centuries, St. Mark's people have remained true to their calling. They have worked together to sustain and enhance their buildings and property, and have worshiped together in times of stress and celebration.

Check out St. Mark's historic facts in the accompanying box.

The 225th celebrations continue throughout the coming months. On Saturday, June 10, at 7:30 p.m. a 50 voice choir and orchestra, conducted by Michael Tansley, performs Vivaldi's Gloria and other selections at an anniversary concert. The next day at 11:00 a.m. at a Festival Choral Eucharist, Bishop Ralph Spence will lead a service of thanksgiving for all who have served God in ministry at St. Mark's over the past 225 years.

For details of St. Mark's ministry and mission and information about upcoming events, visit their website at stmarks1792.com.



Top: St. Mark's in 1804 - detail from Walsh's painting of Niagara from Fort Niagara.



Right: St. Mark's in 1911 - painting by Owen Staples.

Bottom: St. Mark's today.



ST. MARK'S HISTORIC FACTS

- 1792** - Missionary Robert Addison arrives, first recorded baptism. Addison becomes Chaplain to first Legislature and church construction begins;
- 1812** - Addison conducts Brock's funeral;
- 1813** - Town occupied, burned and church gutted;
- 1828** - Church restored, church and bell installed;
- 1829** - Addison dies and Creen named Rector;
- 1839** - Addition of transepts and east window (oldest stained glass in Ontario);
- 1843** - High pulpits installed;
- 1858** - Rectory constructed;
- 1863** - Addison's library given to St. Mark's;
- 1877** - Carillon of six bells presented;
- 1891** - Galleries and box pews removed;
- 1917** - Ladies Guild adds three bells;
- 1963** - Interior modified;
- 1991** - Heraldic coat of arms presented;
- 2000** - Publishing of parish history;
- 2004** - Addison Hall and Ontario's oldest library dedicated;
- 2007** - Nine bells added;
- 2017** - William Roberts inducted as Rector.



Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- September - July 25
- October - August 25
- November - September 25

Submissions:

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

Original cartoons or art -

- Contact the Editor.
- Photos** - very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something). Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo includes a child.

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

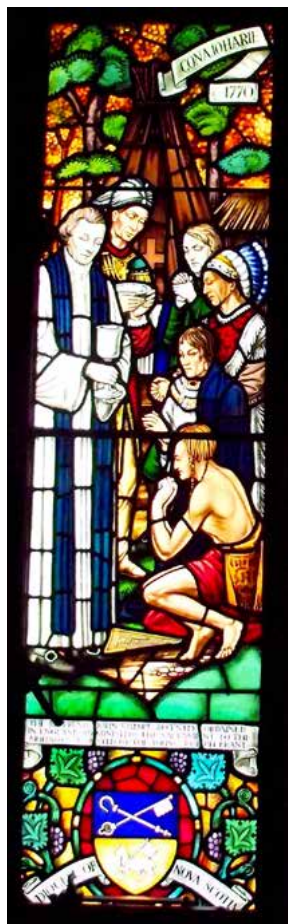
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Through a Canadian stained glass window

John Stuart and Joseph Brant

ABBY MULVIHILL

Joseph Brant-Thayendanegea, a Mohawk war chief, died in 1807 in Upper Canada.

Before the American Revolution he lived in what is now the United States, where he fought in the Seven Years' War and was an interpreter in the British Indian Department.

He actively assisted Christian missionaries as they worked with aboriginal peoples.

Joseph Brant fought in the American Revolutionary War with an Aboriginal-Loyalist group. He was a talented soldier, and in 1784 after Britain's loss, he brought the Mohawk Loyalists and others to land on the Grand River. He believed that First Nations people had to learn farming in order to survive.

In his old age he translated sections of the Bible into Mohawk.

His friend, the Reverend John Stuart, died in 1811 in Kingston, Upper Canada.

In 1771 John was appointed a minister of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel at Fort Hunter, New York. There he held services for both First Nations and white settlers.

He met Joseph Brant and collaborated on the translation of St. Mark's gospel into Mohawk.

John's political sympathies were with the British during the American Revolution, and in 1781 he moved to Quebec, bringing not only his wife and children, but also black slaves. He spent four years in Montreal where he was a military chaplain and ran a school.

When he could not get a parish in Quebec, he moved to Cataraqui, Upper Canada, where he hoped to become rector, as well as a military chaplain once again.

He was an energetic missionary, travelling many miles.

John was the Rector when St. George's Church in Kingston was built in 1792.

John was not paid by his parishioners, but instead cobbled together an income from a variety of church and government sources. He also farmed.

Ontario Anglicanism owes him a great debt.

Abby Mulvihill, one of the newer members of the Church of the Ascension Hamilton, has been involved with the Fundraising Group and the Sunday School, as well as sharing the responsibility of being a projectionist at Sunday services.

As we celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary, we look back at the role of the church as told through stained glass windows.

The Church of the Ascension Hamilton has 10 stained glass windows in their Chapel of the Holy Spirit dedicated to Canadian Anglican pioneers. For more information about the windows go to www.ascensionchurch.ca.

Note cards featuring the historic windows can be purchased through the church.

The *Niagara Anglican* will feature others in the coming months.

◀ The window's inscription reads: "The Reverend John Stuart, recently ordained in England, administers the sacrament to the Mohawks, assisted by the young Joseph Brant."

The Genesis Project

CHRISTYN PERKONS

Imagine your congregation singing contemporary songs written by Anglicans ... perhaps written by someone from your congregation!

Do you want to introduce contemporary songs into your Sunday worship, but struggle to find songs that capture the Anglican ethos? Are there choir members, musicians and poets in your congregation who might be excited by the opportunity to learn how to write contemporary faith songs?

The Diocese of Niagara, in conjunction with Infinitely More (Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming), is offering an opportunity to be part of a community of worship songwriters. Through supportive hands-on work, workshops and personal online mentoring, the Genesis Project aspires to nurture songwriters who will compose and introduce exciting new worship

music into the churches of our diocese. This experience is open to musicians, songwriters, singers, poets, writers and anyone with a passion to create music for worship.

"The Genesis Project seeks to model itself after great Christian musical collectives such as Bethel, Hillsong and Holy Trinity Brompton. We want to join with all levels of writers who are passionate about creating music for worship. This is also a unique opportunity to be mentored by experienced professionals, over a period of time, while you imagine, fashion and ultimately finish your new creation," explains Gerald.

Here's what is on offer: a day-long songwriting workshop on September 23 that will use workshops to root participants in the basics of songwriting, coupled with lots of writing and co-writing experiences over the course of the day. The registration fee includes online

mentoring by Allison and Gerald from September to January, as participants continue to develop their songs.

The experience continues with a second workshop on November 25. At that time, songwriters will get feedback, work on further refinements with a guest clinician and get tips for bringing the songs to completion.

Finally, the whole experience concludes with a concert on January 27, at which the participant's songs are featured.

Allison shares, "We're excited to bring together songwriters from all genres of worship songwriting. Our desire is to draw people into the heart of worship, whether it's with new hymns, contemporary worship songs or singing words from Scripture.

We also hope to create music that will embody the unique character of the Anglican Church—songs that are liturgical, sacramental and reflective of



Infinitely More (Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming).

Photo: Infinitely More

the church seasons."

Bring your passion, your interest, your curiosity and your sense of playfulness and let's create songs together!

Check out the diocesan website for more information or to register.

Canon Christyn Perkons is Director of Congregational Support and Development for Niagara Diocese.