

NOVEMBER
is a month to

Remember

“At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.”

Robert Laurence Binyon, *The Times*, September 21, 1914.

Pause for a moment and remember those who
served, suffered, died and survived human wars.



NIAGARA ANGLICAN



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

A section of the Anglican Journal

NOVEMBER 2017

In conversation about ...

“Bless the City”

Downtown Park Project, Port Colborne



From this ...



To this ...

In 2016, Niagara Diocese authorized St. James and St. Brendan to purchase 25 Charlotte Street and 26-33 Charlotte Street, Port Colborne, to create much needed green space, beautify the downtown, catalyze further urban renewal and repurpose the vacant buildings for the benefit of the city.

The Niagara Anglican explored these possibilities with the Reverend Canon Robert Hurkmans, Rector.

Niagara Anglican: What is the situation like on Charlotte Street?

Robert Hurkmans: Port Colborne is an awesome little city and lately it seems like there are good things happening on every corner.

Yet, one notable exception is

St. James and St. Brendan Port Colborne owns this derelict property on Charlotte Street in Port Colborne.

Photos: Submitted

the derelict property at the corner of King and Charlotte, right across from the church. Here you will find a large, overgrown, abandoned lot surrounded by a chain-linked fence. On the same property are two buildings: one was a former notorious hangout for a Niagara biker gang. The other building was filled with hundreds of snakes (yes, snakes) and aquariums until the owner left town.

In a nutshell the property consists of a vacant lot, a biker hangout, and the “snake pit”.

NA: What will Charlotte Street look like when completed?

RH: God has given us a compel-

ling vision to completely transform this property. Our mission is to redevelop the corner into a place of beauty, rest, community and learning.

The empty lot will become a parkette complete with benches, artwork, gardens, trees, a fountain, sundial and pavilion. It will become the perfect place for a restful lunch break, a gardening program, an art show, a concert or even a wedding.

The biker building is already (with the help of a WOW Grant) being converted into “Ozzy’s Garage”, a youth outreach centre.

After some stabilizing renovations, we are beginning to explore our options for the old

Architect’s concept drawing of the parkette to be built on the site, a part of the church’s plan for a place of beauty, rest, community and learning.

snake building.

NA: Why is the parish doing this?

RH: From the very beginning this project has been a product of prayer and vision, and we are committed to following God’s leading.

We also have a deep desire to make our city a better place for everyone.

In Jeremiah 29, when God’s people found themselves in exile, living in a foreign city, they were tempted to turn their backs and detach themselves from the problems of that city. But God spoke to them, saying: “Seek the peace and prosperity

of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

In short, we believe that churches are called to make their cities better places.

NA: Tell us about the youth program with Rick Osborne.

RH: Shortly after purchasing the property we began to ponder the possible uses of the vacant buildings.

At that moment God “sent” Rick and Heather Osborne to our church. Rick (Ozzy) was a former member of several biker

See *BLESS THE CITY* Page 2

Bless the City is a product of prayer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gangs and has painful and harrowing stories to tell about that lifestyle. Ultimately Rick spent 25 years in prison where he found God (or God found him).

Today Rick is one of Canada's leading gang experts and a much sought after speaker.

Rick and his wife Heather are now partnering with us to create "Ozzy's Garage", a multi-use, youth outreach centre. It will provide youth support and mentoring programs including the keystone program, a "Bike Build" class, where youth get the chance to rebuild bikes and hot rods under Rick's mentorship.

NA: What are the plans to bring the project to fruition?

RH: We can't do this alone.

The total cost of this project will be close to \$500,000.

As such, we have a multi-pronged approach to raising the monies needed to make this dream a reality.

Our church community has given generously to the project, but we are now approaching local businesses and residents of Port Colborne to get behind this vision as well.

We are also applying for numerous grants.

We know that if we follow God's leading then we can depend on God's supply.

NA: How can our readers help?

RH: If you would like to support

this project or if you want to learn more about it, just visit our website: www.blessthecity.ca

NA: May God continue to guide and bless you in the days ahead.



▲ blessthecity.ca project website

► Once a hangout for a biker gang, this building is being converted—with money from a Niagara Diocese WOW grant—to Ozzy's Garage, a youth outreach centre. Photos: Submitted



▲ Prayer and consideration are still being given to the future purpose for this building on the property, once filled with snakes.



Grandparents Sunday



lan Pratt lights a candle in memory of a loved one. Photo: Bev Groombridge

It was an opportunity to express joy and sense the blessing in both having grandparents and in being a grandparent.

As they came forward to the altar for communion, parishioners were invited to light a candle in memory of a grandparent or other loved one.

Following the service the 140th Anniversary Committee hosted a special coffee hour.

It was a wonderful way to honour those very special people in each of our lives.

Bev Groombridge is Warden at The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek. oursaviourtheredeemer@bellnet.ca

BEV GROOMBRIDGE

Our parish wanted to honour and celebrate the important role grandparents play in our lives by dedicating a worship service to them.

So Sunday, September 10th became Grandparents Day at The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek.

We were thrilled to see so many grandparents and grandchildren present for the service.

Date set to elect coadjutor bishop

A special electoral synod will convene on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton to elect the successor to Diocesan Bishop Michael Bird.

A coadjutor bishop is a person elected to assist and ultimately succeed a diocesan bishop.

Bishop Michael will conclude his episcopal ministry on May 31, 2018 after ten years as the diocese's chief priest and pastor.

After a short transition period following the election, the coadjutor bishop will assume the responsibilities of diocesan bishop on June 1.

At its October meeting, Synod Council appointed a seven-person Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee to oversee the electoral planning process, as well as compile biographical material on the nominees.

Members include Claire Christoff (St. Christopher's Burlington), Pat Davis (St. James and St. Brendan Port Colborne), Canon Robert Morrow (St. James Dundas), The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell (Secretary of Synod), The Reverend Anne Turner (St. James Fergus), The Very Reverend Peter Wall (Dean of Niagara) and Greg Tweney (Vice-Chancellor).

"From the nomination of



According to the diocesan canons, the top ten nominees will then be contacted by the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee to ensure they are willing to let their name stand.

Further nominations may also be made in writing by any 10 members of synod, with the consent of the nominee, and provided to the chair of the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee prior to or during the electoral synod.

As the election occurs early in the new year, parishes are being asked to plan to hold their vestry meetings as soon into 2018 as possible so that the secretary of synod receives the names of lay representatives well in advance of the election date.

"Parishes may consider holding two vestry meetings, one in early January to elect representatives and another later in February to deal with financial and other pertinent matters of the parish," said Canon Marni Nancekivell.

Archbishop Colin Johnson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, will preside at the Electoral Synod

candidates through to the announcement of a final result, an electoral synod is a process that should provide an opportunity for diocesan discernment in an open, transparent and innovative manner," said Diocesan Chancellor Rob Welch.

Synod Council, as the nominations committee, will meet and compile an initial list of candidates for coadjutor bishop. At that time, each Synod Council member will nominate by secret ballot three eligible persons.

To be eligible for election, a priest must be in good-standing with regard to the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada, at least 30 years of age, and have been ordained for at least seven years.

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HOLLISStorial

How to remember them

HOLLIS HISCOCK

At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, people gather around cenotaphs. They wait for the trumpeter to herald the moment to remember those who served, suffered, died and survived human wars.

One memorial occasion bursts onto my inner memory screen.

A beautiful November 11th brought a capacity crowd to the war memorial in a medium-sized town in my native land. Music reverberated across distant hills and spoken words ricocheted across history, culminating in a profound moment of silence.

Suddenly, the sky turned black and torrents of rain drenched those standing on the cold autumn ground. Many sprinted to their vehicles for shelter. I stoically stood there, eyes closed, thinking, "Getting wet is a small price to pay, compared to the sacrifices made by those we are here to remember."

World War One chaplain Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy (nicknamed "Woodbine Willie"



Photo: Hollis Hiscock

by the troops) expressed it more forcefully.

As the war was ending, he wrote the poem *Marching Home*. He penned the hopes and aspirations of those who had fought and survived. They were, actually or figuratively, marching home to build a life modeled after the gospel of "the lowly Prince of Peace."

In this new world, wars would cease, the physical and mental captives would find release and the strong would help the weak.

Beginning in people's hearts, there would be no boundaries or limits to the good that could

be achieved. "It's there we shall remember those who died for me and you," was Woodbine Willie's vision.

We are still working on that vision, despite God's world being battered by hurricanes, wars, violence, earthquakes, refugees fleeing homelands and other natural or human engineered disasters.

Here are two stories about individuals making the vision a reality.

Rabbi Dow Marmur (*Toronto Star*, Monday, September 11) wrote about Father Michael Lapsley, a member of an

Anglican religious order. Sent to South Africa after his ordination in 1973, he was expelled by the government and went to live in another African country.

In 1990, he opened a letter containing a bomb that "blew off both his hands and one of his eyes."

After recovering, he wrote a book which Dow called "a remarkable account of how to heal hatred." He quoted Richard, "If I were consumed by hatred, bitterness and revenge, I would be a victim forever. My oppressors would have failed to kill my body but they certainly would have killed my soul."

Today Richard travels the globe advocating peacemaking. Dow wrote, Richard believes "the future of humanity isn't a Christian future but an interfaith future. We're in this together—Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus and all others."

The second illustration comes from the most powerful obituary I ever read.

Margaret traversed this earth for 92 years, dealing with human



life in all its fullness.

Her family suggested how she could be remembered by family and friends.

Since Margaret "tended to put the needs of others ahead of her own," they recommended, "reaching out to someone with an act of kindness, an offer to help, a phone call, a visit or a donation to a charity of choice."

In conversation (Matthew 25: 35ff) with his followers Jesus said, I was hungry you fed me, thirsty you gave me a drink, a stranger you welcomed me, needed clothes you clothed me, sick or in prison you visited me.

Confused they asked, "When did we do all of that?"

Jesus answered, whatever you do for another human being, you are doing it to me.

It is through our living legacies of interrelationships and service to all people that "we will remember them."

Hollis welcomes your feedback. Contact information elsewhere on this page.

Letters

National gathering of Anglican women

How delighted I was to find your article about our National Gathering of Anglican women in the pages of your September edition.

This was a rare opportunity for the women of the Anglican Church across the country to come together to share their ministry together, to learn from varied speakers and to share in fellowship times.

It was my honour to have had the responsibility of coordinating these four days of the Gathering.



Past, present and future ACW presidents pose at the National Gathering. Marion Saunders is far right. Photo: Niagara Anglican files

Thank you most sincerely for featuring this event, the essence of which you have captured so well in your article.

*Marion Saunders
Coordinator
National Gathering of Anglican Church Women.*



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Fair for furry friends

RONDA PLOUGHMAN

For four years, All Saints Hamilton has run a special blessing of animals on the last Sunday of September at Victoria Park.

Known as St. Francis Fair, we invite community partners involved in animal rescue and wellness to come and participate. In this way, we don't just proclaim God's blessing on our non-human friends and our relationships with them, but we educate and uphold stewardship for God's creation, expressed in the front line work of our partners—most of whom are volunteers.

We have hosted Urban Wildlife Care, Ladybird Animal Sanctuary, HBSPCA, Hamilton Mounted Police and Greyhound Lovers of Hamilton Wentworth.

One of our committed participants is Ralph's Retreat, which provides rescue and a permanent home to abused and neglected farm animals. As a result of this, All Saints entered into a special contract with Value Village to receive warm,

clean blankets and towels that could not be sold due to tears or holes. Not only does this keep the farm animals warm, it keeps the items out of landfills.

This year we welcomed Pantry Four Paws, a registered charity providing emergency pet food assistance to people in need, as well as animal rescue. Many of our most vulnerable population benefit profoundly from the relationship they have with their pets, and will give up their own meal in order to provide for their pets. Pantry Four Paws is there to help so that no one has to go hungry.

We were pleased our event drew so many generous donations of food and money. Also it helped get word out that there is help for those in need, and for those who want to help there is a way to make a difference.

It wouldn't be fair to leave out the greyhound folks, who are a whole movement in themselves. They help find homes for retired racers. Many become nursing home and library visitors. They've been with St.



All creatures great and small bring their humans to St. Francis Fair in Hamilton for a blessing.

Photo: Submitted by Rhonda Ploughman



Bev brought her cat to receive God's blessing through Ronda.

Francis Fair since the beginning when they offered to come and provide low cost microchips. I adopted my own greyhound through this group.

All Saints has a long history of commitment to social justice, advocacy, mental health and supporting those who are marginalized in our city.

Our mission to "Draw the Circle Wide" includes extending God's compassion and justice to our non-human friends as well.

The Reverend Ronda Ploughman is Priest in Charge, All Saints Hamilton. rondaploughman@gmail.com

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Priest reflects on her United Nations appointment

LAURA MARIE PIOTROWICZ

I was honoured to be appointed by our Primate Fred Hiltz to represent the Anglican Church of Canada as one of 20 Anglican Communion Delegates (ACD) at the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2017.

The ACD statement to the Anglican Consultative Council, highlighting lessons learned from the experience and proposing a number of actions for the church to continue working towards gender justice, can be found at: <http://www.anglican-communication.org/media/289039/csw61-anglican-delegation-statement-to-acc.pdf>

The presence of women of faith is important and prevalent at the CSW; a primary source is Ecumenical Women (EW). Founded in 2000, EW's mission statement reads: Grounded in our faith and commitment to global justice, Ecumenical Women trains and empowers our expanding network to advocate for gender equality at the United Nations.

To meet this mission, the coalition provides a number of resources to participants: educational resources and briefing papers, theological



The Reverend Laura Marie Piotrowicz, Rector of St. John's Port Dalhousie, attended her first United Nations Commission on the Status of Women conference in March 2017.

Photo: Submitted

to best equip and empower those attending CSW. Meeting monthly by teleconference, the work is divided into four main working groups: advocacy, member orientation, worship and communications.

It is a privilege to serve as the Canadian Anglican on EW. This experience will allow me to continue my work in gender justice issues, with particular attention to ministries of concern to Canadians and Canadian Anglicans, such as creation care, human trafficking and Indigenous rights.

As with all experiences of the broader church, I expect this will enhance my ministry within the parish as I will be afforded the opportunity to share a broader perspective of being the universal body of Christ.

My hope is that the work I am doing will enhance the experience of CSW for future participants, as much as EW helped me.

For additional information on the UNCSW and/or EW, please email lm Piotrowicz@gmail.com

The Rev Laura Marie Piotrowicz is Rector of St. John's Port Dalhousie.

and academic articles, a guide to Advocacy while at the CSW, bible studies, prayers and liturgical resources. During the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women conference, EW holds orientation training, hosts networking dinners, leads daily worship and generally strives to provide the best possible experience for CSW participants.

These resources reflect significant planning from a wide variety of members. Volunteers from EW's 20 member churches and organizations connect to share their gifts and skills



New deacons

The Reverends Leonel Abaroa-Boloña and Karen Isaacs were ordained deacons at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton on Thursday September 21, 2017. Leonel will be serving the parishes of St. John the Evangelist and Church of the Ascension in Hamilton and Karen will be serving in Toronto Diocese.

Photo: Bill Mous

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Ministry of Laity

Order of Niagara 2017

The Order of Niagara, instituted 17 years ago, enables parishes and the diocese to recognize and thank lay people for their faith and support. It also instills a sense of commitment and fulfilment in the ministry to which they have been called by God.

All licensed clergy are invited to nominate one person from each parish annually. The Bishop can also appoint members to the Order. Each year over 60 people are added to the Order which has nearly 1,200 members. Recipients of the honorary designation may use the initials O.N. after their name.

They are encouraged to wear the Order's medallion on any diocesan occasion, at Synod services of any kind, when the bishop visits their parish and at the installation of new Order of Niagara members. Nominees are installed during special worship services at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Here is a sampling of the wide range of talents and ministries of the new Order of Niagara members, as described by those who nominated them. The full list can be viewed on the diocesan website.



Lorrette Shermet

Grace Church Milton

Lorrette came to Milton and joined Grace Church in the early 1980s.

Blessed with a boundless supply of energy and enthusiasm, she immediately became involved in the church and wider community, serving as a Sunday School teacher and a Girl Guide leader for over 25 years.

She was leader of the local Red Hat Society, and is a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Probus Club and Milton Seniors' Centre, all of which provide opportunities to evangelize and bring more people to Christ.

As an active member of the Niagara Anglican Cursillo Community for many years, Lorrette attends local and regional Ultreya and is frequently asked to give a witness talk about her faith. This typically focuses on her personal ministry of "Make a friend, be a friend and bring a friend to Christ."

Lorrette is a great organizer and motivator. Each year she helps organize the golf tournament, Yuletide Fayre and Spring Fayre. She has helped

launch numerous community building activities, such as the annual ladies tea and gashion Show, a monthly community dinner, Halton Fresh Food Boxes and the Women in Grace annual retreat. She served as a Churchwarden and Parish Council member and carries the honorary title of being the Grace Church social convenor.

Since 2013 Lorrette has been the Parish Administrator and now plays an even bigger role in organizing the life of the parish.

She serves as Recording Secretary at both Vestry and Parish Council. She is instrumental in providing advice and support to parishioners and strangers alike, whether in arranging a ride to church on Sunday morning or handing out a Loblaws card to someone in need.

Above all, this is done with prayer, asking for guidance and giving thanks for God's blessings.

(The Reverend Brian Galligan, Interim Pastor)



Sean Tiernay

St. Luke's Burlington

Sean has been a member of St. Luke's since childhood, and has been actively engaged in minis-

try from an early age through serving at the altar.

He was in the position of head server for many years and was instrumental in welcoming and engaging the children of St. Luke's for a generation by getting them involved in also serving at the altar.

Sean has been the chair of the Division of Worship at St. Luke's for the last four years and is an active and engaged member of St. Luke's Parish Council for many years.

He was also instrumental in the formation of the Diocesan Altar Guild, providing youth and adult servers for all major Diocesan services.

Sean has probably had the single greatest influence on the youth and children of St. Luke's ever since the time when he was made head server. His commitment is shown in his compassion and concern for them as he takes the part of mentor and friend to them.

(The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, Rector)



Barbara Baesso

Church of the Resurrection Hamilton

Barb is a deeply committed member of the Church of the Resurrection since we were formed and she is a vital part of our worshipping community. Her talents are many!

She is one of the leaders of our Altar Guild, coordinating a team of volunteers to prepare for weekly worship and working alongside other team leaders to coordinate our ongoing and long term needs and plans.

A skilled musician, Barb offers her gifts as a member of our choir on special occasions. She reads at our 8:30 a.m. service, has volunteered to support almost every community event and

represents Resurrection on the World Day of Prayer Planning Committee.

One particular gift Barb offers is co-coordinating worship at Idlewyld Manor Nursing Home, where her care for the residents is so evident and appreciated and where she is deeply respected by the staff. She brings together clergy and lay volunteers to ensure that this worship happens in a meaningful way and everyone feels supported and organized. Barb plays the piano for worship and brings joy to all those who attend.

Always concerned for others and active in providing pastoral care, Barb brings humour and compassion to her ministry and we are blessed to have her here at Resurrection.

(The Reverend Mike Deed, Rector)



David Coles

St. Alban's Beamsville

For many years David has been our "go to guy" for any property woes.

His specialty, it seems, is dealing with all things plumbing. From blocked drains, frozen pipes, disintegrating taps and leaking toilets, David has done it all. Some say the frozen pipes on Vestry Sunday, giving rise to no bathroom privileges and the shortest meeting on record, was not a bad plan.

Under his skilled direction and advice, the main sewer drain running from the parish hall to the road was replaced, thus resolving most of the ongoing plumbing problems. It was David's inspiration to create the "flush fund" to cover the expense. And it did!

Over the past few years, David has been the driving force on our parish hall renovations including a new kitchen ceiling, masonry repairs, drywall

replacement, new paint and a refinished floor. All this was accomplished without putting the parish in debt.

David served as Rector's Warden for three years and is presently our People's Warden. He has been a choir member for many years and is also responsible for security and hall rentals.

In the early days of The Migrant Farmworkers Outreach ministry, David made presentations to raise funds and awareness and began the bike repair program which is vital to the workers.

As this outreach ministry grew David, with help from other members of the congregation, renovated space in the parish hall basement to create space where each Sunday a small medical clinic is offered to the migrant workers.

In the past, David volunteered with the Jaycees and at Camp Manitou scout camp.

David is a true witness of our faith and continues to offer leadership to our congregation and is a constant support to the Rector, which enables St. Albans to be the wonderful community it is.

(The Reverend Javier Arias, Rector)



Kath Dubecki

Church of the Nativity Hamilton

Kath's dedication, commitment and passion for the mission of the church have been unflinching over many years in multiple communities.

She has served as a churchwarden, lay delegate to Synod, member of Synod Council, chorister and a member of parish councils.

Of particular note is her role as one of the organizers of the parish's community lunch program since its inception.

Her perspicacity, warmth,

Ministry of Laity

Order of Niagara 2017

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

determination, good humour and humility make her a joy-filled companion on the journey of discipleship.
(The Reverend Matthew Griffin, Rector)



Sask (Arthur) Wilford
All Saints Erin

Sask is a long-standing member of All Saints (over 40 years) and has contributed significantly to the life of the parish and the community of Erin.

In the community, Sask volunteered his time to the Erin Air Cadets as a senior advisor

on their board and as a mentor and support to the young cadets. Although he has retired from this role, he still maintains close contact with the squadron. Sask is also an active member of the legion.

In the parish, Sask was instrumental in leading several significant parish projects over the years. Most notably, he was heavily involved in the refurbishment of the church building in the 1950s, as well as the restoration and installation of the organ from St. Andrew's Grimsby to All Saints in 1994. He facilitated the development of a peace garden for the parish's 140th anniversary.

Sask sings in the choir, participates in parish outreach activities and has served as churchwarden and trustee for several terms.

Recently Sask gifted the parish with a new hand crafted baptismal font, made from a black cherry tree that fell on his property a few years ago.
(The Reverend Canon Susan Wilson, Rector)

Looking back, looking around and looking ahead

Niagara's 2017 Synod will focus on looking back, looking around and looking ahead, especially mindful of Bishop Michael's announcement that he is stepping away from his role as Diocesan Bishop.

Once a year, the Diocese gathers into one place for prayer, listening, learning and conducting church business.

It is an official meeting during which lay and clergy delegates focus on the diocesan common life and work.

At this Synod, members will entertain some canonical changes, review the 2018 Diocesan Budget, vote on a proposed change to the Diocesan Ministry and Maintenance formula and learn more about the Cathedral Place Revitalization project.

Of course, issues around the Episcopal transition will also be addressed.

Archbishop Colin Johnson, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, plans to attend both days of Synod.

The Synod takes place at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton on Friday, November 17 and Saturday, November 18.

For more information, contact the Secretary of Synod the Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell at 905-527-1316 (390) marni.nancekivell@niagaraanglican.ca; or Mary Anne Grant at 905-527-1316 (380) maryanne.grant@niagaraanglican.ca



2016 Synod delegates at work

Photo: Niagara Anglican files

More than just memories

Niagara Youth Conference 2017

ADAM MACNEIL

The Friday evening I returned to business as usual, I was struck with what I understand is a typical epidemic: "Post-NYC Blues".

It included rather uncomfortable symptoms: a sense of desolation, loneliness and a heavy heart full of memories which I couldn't re-live. NYC (Niagara Youth Conference) was over, school was on the horizon and yet so many memories which demanded prayerful reflection remained with me.

During my reflections I felt God's presence lift up those NYC memories and invite me to connect the dots between what I had learned, the relationships I had formed and the new insights into my faith.

From the games we played, to the music we danced, the food we ate and the worship we shared—there are so many stories I could share. However, I will outline just three that I believe to be the most significant.

CREATION was my first piece of learning. At our opening worship, we heard the creation story from the Book of Genesis. We learned that creation can actually be profoundly messy. Furthermore, the delegates got the opportunity to learn and reflect upon the common vocation we all share: continuous creation.

One point of this biblical story is to articulate the diversity of



Adam MacNeil Photo: Submitted

creation. This reminds us that as God has created us, God also calls and empowers all of us to participate in God's unfolding and ongoing creation, in the here and now. We can start by shaping our lives in love, peace, hope and justice for ourselves and the world around us.

The FOUNDATIONS of our faith was another theme that stood out for me. In an activity, we all took a block of wood and wrote on it the things we felt were foundational to our life and faith. Initially, it only seemed appropriate to name Jesus as my obvious faith foundation! However, as I brainstormed some more, I recognized there are so many things that are foundational to my faith, and it is through them that Christ's love is revealed to me. This activity reminded us to pay attention to the foundations that enable us to build a life of faith and a relationship with God, so that together, we may do just that.

Lastly, we had the opportunity to engage in a workshop which

focused on EXPRESSION. We learned that there are many different ways to express our own personality and identity. Each workshop worked in a particular area of artistic expression. I engaged in free form painting, approaching the workshop with no experience whatsoever.

In my group, we listened to music and were invited to paint according to the emotion we felt as a result of the song. Each painting had a unique pattern and design, allowing the expression of the individual to be communicated. This activity gave us the spiritual tools to go out into the world and not be afraid to express ourselves and know that God embraces us just as we are.

Through all these different lessons and more, I discovered a profound truth: we need to live in faith together! NYC was not just a conference for me, but an experience of an inclusive community where we all have a place. I learned that our faith is rooted in our commitment to each other.

NYC was engaging and empowering; it embraced us in a community experience where we can be changed, guided and find God revealed more fully.

Adam MacNeil, a grade 11 student, is Assistant Musician at the Church of the Resurrection Hamilton.

adammacneil47@outlook.com



NYC 2017 participants learned self-expression through painting at one workshop.

Photo: Su McLeod

Getting ready for your Christmas pageant

A producer shares her notes

COLETTE SHAND

If you are getting ready to host, direct, write or watch this year's annual Christmas nativity story in your parish, you might enjoy these reflections and tips from Colette Shand who directed the Christmas pageant for four years at St. Aidan's Oakville.

Christmas pageants are by definition a bit awkward—in that lovely real way that real life can be. Everyone is anxious to have it all come out just right. Accept the awkwardness and go with it. It will be fine.

The incredible strength of our small congregation in Oakville is that there is really just no room for “doing it wrong”. We always get through to the other side of whatever we are doing—to that place where grace resides. There are compliments and congratulations for every honest effort. Encourage and commend everyone.

The best advice I received was from the minister's wife: “remember, it's not about you, it's about the kids.”

Feeling fortunate to be able to

help create an opportunity for the kids, and adults too, to experience some authentic drama of the healthy kind will help you manage any nervousness. As always, prepare, prepare, prepare, prepare.

Think about the differences of using narrators versus speaking roles. We eventually reached a point where each child had some words to speak. How did they do? Wonderfully. Each child spoke in a clear, bright voice and all landed their lines, more or less. Your script and musical selections are your foundation stones. Get them settled on as early as possible.

We did have one mom strategically placed up front to do a little prompting when necessary, but by and large, each actor inhabited their role and aced it. It was a great advancement in our production and it was awesome to see each actor grow into greater responsibility over the years.

From my vantage point, there are some magical moments that should not be missed:

- When each actor puts on their costume and sees them-



Angel Julie



Teri Elizabeth as Mary with Morgan as Joseph



Shepherd Jordan Anthony and his sheep Aidan and Ivan Theodore. Photos: Colette Shand

selves as the character for the very first time.

- In a community, the children learn from each other and are eager to take on the next role in a subsequent year. Once, I suggested a quick and easy redesign of our donkey (a card-board cut-out attached to a broom handle). Nine-year-old actor Mary told me firmly that the donkey would have to be just the same as before, because it was her turn this year to steer it!
- Moments of silent anticipation in a production can be

exciting—like waiting for the next wise king to announce their gift.

- Things can become so comfortable in a production, that some of the action gets lost. One year, Joseph and Mary were so comfortable on stage in front of everyone singing along to Mary Had A Baby Boy, that they forgot to retrieve the baby Jesus doll from the bag he was in and “deliver” him. Finally, the congregation called out for Jesus and they pulled him out of the bag!

- Unofficial detours can often actually play out better than planned events. Don't sweat the small stuff.

There is so much grace in a twenty minute production. All the parts come together in the end: actors, costumes, makeup, props, rehearsals, lines, sets, processions and recessions.

Enjoy every moment.

Colette Shand can be contacted at shand.colette@bell.net

Time

MARIE LEONE

Time has no beginning and has no end. It weaves through eternity like a fine thread.

Speeding up or slowing down, There is no race that can match its pace.

We take Time,
We book Time,
We let Time get away,
We have no Time,
All in our quest for human space,
There is nothing Time can replace.

Marie Leone is Parish Administrator at The Church of the Ascension Hamilton. The Niagara Anglican welcomes appropriate poems for publication.



Certificates presented at pet blessing



Thirteen dogs, a hamster, a bearded dragon, four stuffed friends and three pictures of lost pets were blessed at the annual pet blessing service in the Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek.

“All animals acted as though they knew that they were in church!” wrote correspondent Bev Groombridge. Each pet owner was given a certificate of blessing which read in part, “May you and your human companion enjoy life together and find joy with the God who created you.”

After, there was a bbq for the humans and animal crackers for the little ones.

Photo: Bev Groombridge

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Church leadership – what’s needed, what’s not (Part one)

STEVE HOPKINS

The connection between priesthood and leadership is vitally important because of our history of rectors and parishes. Also because of the fragility of many parishes today, they are just one bad leadership experience away from extinction. The essential connection matters because of the witness of the early church.

The apostolic church did not believe there are “priestly” types who should be our leaders, said Edward Schillebeeck (*Ministry: Leadership in the Community of Jesus Christ*, 1981). Rather, scripture suggests it is the leaders in the community who should preach, preside at the table and assist in the church’s ministry. The apostles didn’t enter a town, seek out priestly types and ordain them. Instead, they lived in a town, observed and got to know people, figured out who the natural leaders were and ordained them to continue the apostolic work. They weren’t waiting for people to show

up and say, “God wants you to ordain me a priest. I know because God told me.”

This “locally-raised” option is more faithful to the apostolic tradition. Today in some Anglican situations when a congregation no longer has the resources to support a clergy stipend, the bishop—after training and preparation—ordains local, parish spiritual leaders as priests. I realize the practicalities of that approach are very challenging for us; I don’t want to minimize that fact at all. But this approach is more apostolic: identify gifted leaders in the community and authorize them to preach, preside and lead. It’s a far cry from our current approach: look for priestly types, authorize them and hope like hell they can lead.

Leadership in the church today is especially challenging as patterns and norms are shifting in our common life. It’s an exciting time as we become more mission-focused, more innovative and more courageous. But it’s also tough – not

just because of the complexity of the roles our leaders must play, but because some of the essential skills required are so hard to learn.

After 30 plus years working with congregations in trouble, I have learned when clergy and lay leaders get into trouble and the church experiences a failure in leadership, it’s often due to one or more of four issues: failure of rapport, abdication of responsibility, lack of skill and lack of integrity. These issues—so critical to the well-being of the church and its mission—are really difficult to learn.

Failure of rapport

Rapport is the capacity to form and maintain relationships with others. It is the emotional intelligence required to create relationships of trust and intimacy and to sustain them over time, especially when we disagree, are hurt, angry or afraid. As a leader, I need to know what pushes my buttons, how my behaviour impacts others and how my ability to

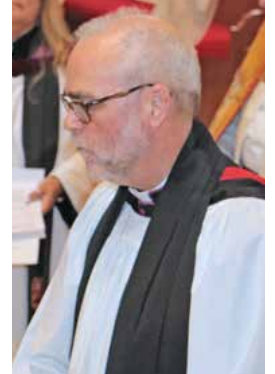
relate changes when I am not at my best. Churches are built on relationships and leaders need to know how to build and tend them.

Abdication of responsibility

The church experiences a failure when those in designated roles don’t see themselves as leaders—not simply as one with authority, but as one with responsibility to act. Throwing one’s weight around as a leader is pretty sophomoric and generally unhelpful. Appreciating when to intervene and knowing how is what really matters.

It’s not easy to be the “grown up” in the room when people are behaving badly or things are not going well—but someone needs to take responsibility when the community is vulnerable, bullied, anxious or angry. The church needs leaders willing to lead – for the well-being of the whole, the protection of common values and the advancement of the mission.

(Next month Steve concludes



his two part series on church leadership by focusing on lack of skill and lack of integrity and suggesting it takes a whole church to nurture a leader. This article was excerpted from a sermon preached at the ordination of the Reverend Ann Turner in June 2017.)

The Venerable Steve Hopkins is currently on medical leave from his roles as Rector of St. Paul’s (Westdale) Hamilton and former Archdeacon for Ministry Leadership Development.

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Celebrating creativity

ANN TURNER

For the past few years, St. James Fergus has navigated the challenging waters of being without a rector.

They are a determined community however, and stayed in motion under the leadership of Interim Priest Trudy Lebans. When she left for the "other" St. James in Guelph last spring, I became deacon-in-charge and remain now as priest-in-charge.

Feeling a bit more settled, the community decided it was time to celebrate the work that had been ongoing in the parish.

On September 13th, Bishop Michael and Susan Bird joined us for a fantastic parish supper in our Butterfly Garden, a beautiful setting along the Grand River. The evening began with a time of blessing and celebrating different gifts that have come to the parish over the year.

The worship began as a pilgrimage through the garden and ended with evensong before our shared meal.

Bishop Michael first blessed our new aspergillum for use in

liturgy and a beautiful stone bench for enjoyment in the garden.

We traveled through the garden to our Memorial Gate, a tribute to murdered and missing Indigenous women. Red ribbons are added to the gate throughout the year as St. James engages in education and reconciliation activities.

Finally, we headed into the narthex to view the spectacular handiwork of parishioner Ruth Sproul, an installation including six pieces depicting the story of Creation. Ruth completed this beautiful gift over seven years and labored approximately 2,200 hours.

The service culminated with an evensong celebrating the creativity and compassion of the people of the parish and community.

With dinner came an opportunity for us to be among the first to thank Bishop Michael for his care of St. James and the diocese, and to wish him and Susan many blessings as they travel this next year full of transition.

We invite you to visit us in

Fergus, to spend a moment in a beautiful riverside garden, to pause for reflection and prayer at our Memorial Gate and to enjoy the Creation Story handiwork in our narthex.

The Reverend Ann Turner is Priest-in-Charge of St. James Fergus. dogma1@me.com



The Memorial Gate leading into the Butterfly Garden at St. James Fergus is adorned with hundreds of red ribbons, a remembrance of the many missing and murdered Indigenous women in our country today. Photos: Anne Turner



Bishop Michael stands beside Ruth Sproul's handiwork which includes six pieces depicting the story of Creation.

African delegation visits diocese



Canon Grace Kaiso and Elizabeth Gichovi from the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) visited the Mission to Seafarers Southern Ontario as part of their tour of Niagara Diocese, where they learned about this special ministry to seafarers.

The diocese is hoping to foster continued and deeper relationships with the Anglican Communion in Africa.

The visit comes, in part, through the good work that has been undertaken through the annual Consultation of Anglican Bishops in Dialogue attended by Bishop Michael.

Photo: Bill Mous

Christmas Market and Silent Auction

November 25, 2017
 St. John's Anglican Church
 2464 Dundas St. Burlington
 9am-2pm

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

The historic church of St. John's will be open for tours.

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On the way to Bethlehem

ANDREA ROWBOTTOM

On the Way to Bethlehem is an outdoor nativity pageant in its 16th year.

It is a three night performance staged at the historic Country Heritage Park, Milton, regardless of the weather. Visitors journey along the country roads with a guide who interacts with actors at each of the 23 scenes.

The story begins with Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary. As the story unfolds, visitors find themselves at a rustic log barn—a perfect nostalgic setting for the manger scene—with Mary, Joseph, a real baby as Jesus, little angels and a drummer boy amongst mounds of hay. As visitors take all this in, a manger choir softly sings “Still, Still, Still; The Night Is Cold and Chill!”

Nearly 600 dedicated volunteers give their time, talents and energy to produce the nativity pageant. This is their gift to the community and beyond, and above all, to the Glory of God. They work, each in their chosen

aspects to make this outdoor performance possible: advertising, costuming, casting, guides, tractor drivers, refreshments, massed choir, reception, graphic design, coordinators, fund-raising, sponsors, school choirs, sets, lighting crew and director.

Grace Church Milton has supported the pageant since day one. Many parishioners are key to its success. Some have been involved for all 16 years. There are Grace members in almost all 23 scenes, though not always immediately recognized in Biblical costuming.

There are nearly 200 cast members over the three nights. For some it is a total family experience. Some started as little children and have graduated to adult roles or leave for university. It is always a happy/sad situation when they go on to university. I miss them, yet I wish them well and am proud of each of them.

One young man, Josh, started at four years old as “the little drummer boy”. He graduated to



Travelers in a scene from On the Way to Bethlehem, an outdoor nativity pageant now in its 16th year. Visitors will be guided through 23 scenes telling the real story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Photo: Ted Hilton

the shepherd boy and finally to one of the three angel Gabriels. He is now studying music at university. His family is a three generation participating family. Ann, the grandma, was a guide for several years; Carol, the mom, was a guide and now serves on the reception team; father Peter is a perfect Joseph at the manger; and Alana, the daughter is now Mary. Collectively, they have made a wonderful contribution to the pageant.

Many Grace members support

and organize our fund-raising ventures—catering to the Hall of Fame presentations for the Agriculturalists of the Year awards and a Bowl-a-thon—which makes it possible to have many wonderful animals as part of the pageant, an expense of over \$4,000.

Both events are supported as well by members of other churches who belong to “Milton and Area Christian Churches Working Together”. The nativity pageant is their major project.

In addition, several Grace

members are sponsors of the *Children’s Colouring Book*, produced as a gift to all children who attend the pageant.

I invite you to walk with us to Bethlehem on Friday, Saturday or Sunday, December 1, 2 and 3, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Details at www.onthewaytobethlehem.ca

Come early and enjoy the music of the massed choir.

Dr. Andrea Rowbottom is director of On the Way to Bethlehem. dr.andrea@bell.net

New bursary created

A bursary to assist ordinands with their books and courses has been established in Niagara Diocese.

When Canon David Ricketts, Order of Niagara, retired as the insurance broker for the Diocese, an agreement was reached that if the diocese stayed with Pearson Dunn they would donate every

year a sum of money in the name of the retired broker to a bursary fund.

The Canon David Ricketts Bursary received its first cheque this year.

It is an open fund to which others can donate and receive a charitable donation receipt. The fund is to be administered by the diocesan bishop.



Bishop Michael receives the initial cheque from Canon David Ricketts for the new bursary named in David’s honour.

Photo: Submitted

Emotional farewell



Bev and John Course at their appreciation luncheon before leaving St. David’s Welland for Holy Trinity Fonthill.

Photo: Joan Perry

For the past 17 years, the Venerable John Course has ministered to the people of St. David’s Welland, providing leadership, support, encouragement and friendship.

During the summer, writes Church Secretary Joan Perry, the parish family held a farewell luncheon for John and his wife, Bev.

“It was an emotional celebration for Bev Martin Course,” continued Joan, “as she has been a life-long member of St. David’s.” Both have been “a vital part of the life of our parish.”

John continues his ministry as Rector of Holy Trinity Fonthill.

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

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

Submissions:

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

Original cartoons or art – Contact the Editor.

Photos – very large, high resolution, action pictures (people doing something).

Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo includes a child.

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

Questions or information:

Contact the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.ca or 905-635-9463.

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Through a Canadian stained glass window

John West

CATHERINE BELL

John West was educated at Oxford, ordained a priest in 1806 and settled into the life of a typical English clergyman.

He accepted a chaplaincy with the Hudson's Bay Company in 1820 through The Canadian Missionary Society.

However, as he was devoting more time on his mission to non-Christian natives than to his duty to the Hudson's Bay Company, the Company used its

influence to have him recalled to England.

Two years later he came back to Canada as a Missionary, but returned to England within twelve months.

He served parishes in England until his death in 1845.

Catherine Bell is a member of the Church of the Ascension Hamilton.

◀ The window's inscription reads: "John West explains the gospel to a young Indian on his journey to Fort Douglas in 1820. This marks the beginning of Church life in the Mid-West."

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 conclude this series next month.

Canada 150 extravaganza

SUSAN WELLS

St. Elizabeth's Burlington partnered with the city of Burlington ("Love my Hood") and Ward 5 Councillor Paul Sharman to host a Canada 150 party at Skyway Park and St. Elizabeth's Church.

Over 300 people from our local community came out to celebrate. Coordinated by Adele Reynolds and Pat Hemingway, the day was wonderful—the weather, the exhibits, the crafts, the sports and the free hotdogs.

The focus of the event was Canadian history—by learning more about our past, we are more appreciative of our now.

Several museums were invited to display artifacts of local history.

The Erland Lee Museum (Women's Institute) showed artifacts, many of which were from six generations of the Lee family, who lived in the home between 1808 and 1971.

Griffin House museum in Ancaster displayed cursive writing with real pen and ink.

The Beach Canal Lighthouse Group had pamphlets and pictures of the Burlington Canal, as well as the old lighthouse and keeper's cottage, which they would like to restore and run as museums.

There were also exhibits from Ruthven Park in Cayuga, which houses the family mansion (with a sabre from the War of 1812), a bird banding centre,



The 1923 fire truck, with its hand crank siren and open design, was a great attraction at the Canada 150 extravaganza sponsored by St. Elizabeth's Church and the city of Burlington.

Photo: Susan Wells

nature trails and a sensational view of the Grand.

The Bell Homestead from Brantford had a variety of telephones; kids found the dial phones quite a novelty.

The McMullen Dark Collection of Royal Family is quite extensive.

TEAD is The Equestrian Association of Disabled people, who assist people with physical disabilities using volunteers and trained horses.

The Donkey Sanctuary located in Puslinch provides a safe home for donkeys. Unfortunately, it is too stressful to transport the animals, so

people were invited to visit them at the sanctuary.

Golden Horseshoe Post Card Club, Griffin House—Fieldcote Museum and the Native Women's Centre were also present.

In addition to the exhibitors, the Burlington Fire Department came with their 1923 fire truck and other emergency equipment from the Kilbride Station. The hand crank siren and open design attracted youngsters wanting to be firefighters. The Halton Police and Ambulance, Crime Stoppers and St. John Ambulance, who provided our First Aid station, had many visi-

tors to their kiosks.

The "mist tent" was very popular—the children loved running through it to keep cool and it also worked well for the dogs.

The children were able to learn about and try out lacrosse and ball hockey which were played in Skyway Arena. Other outdoor games were available for the children, while Tom Goff loaned his canoe, which kids used for photo opportunities.

Over 300 hotdogs were handed out, along with cupcakes appropriately decorated for Canada's birthday.

Like most events, the success of this party was due to the sub-

stantial number of volunteers from St. Elizabeth's and our local community, as well as family and friends.

It was a wonderful day, at least up to two o'clock when the heavens opened and rained poured down causing us to end the event two hours early.

All in all, it was a great opportunity for the parish to be seen as a vibrant member of our community, and to develop relationships with community partners.

The Reverend Susan Wells is Interim Pastor of St. Elizabeth's Burlington. stelizabeths.net