

GOD'S EASTER GIFT TO YOU ...



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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

APRIL 2018

Niagara elects first female bishop

Susan Bell chosen in a day marked with prayer and invocation of the Spirit



Above: An emotional Susan Bell was escorted into the nave of the cathedral by Bishop Michael when the results of the election were announced.

Right: Bishop-Elect Bell was presented to Synod by Archbishop Colin Johnson after the fifth ballot. Rob Fead, also on the last ballot, joined them on the stage.



Photos: Craig Fairley

CRAIG FAIRLEY

On a mild, sunny afternoon, the 144th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara made history by electing its first female bishop.

The Reverend Canon Susan Bell, serving in the Diocese of Toronto, was elected to become the 12th bishop of Niagara.

It was the culmination of a day which was filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Chair of the special electoral Synod, Archbishop Colin Johnson, in his homily during the opening Eucharist, reminded delegates that this was not a leadership convention. ("That's happening somewhere else," he quipped, referring to the PC party leadership race.) He continued, "Instead, we are here to discern on behalf of the church of God."

He encouraged everyone to decide which candidate they

felt has the gifts to meet the specific needs of the church today. He ended his homily with the instruction, "Listen to the leading of the Spirit." Frequently during the day Colin also reminded those present to pray for discernment as they voted.

With over 90% of all registered delegates present, the election would be decided with a simple majority in both orders. To win the election, there had to be a majority vote for the same candidate by both clergy and laity.

Instead of paper ballots, electronic "clickers" were used for the voting process. That meant that all votes could be cast within 60 seconds and results were tabulated instantly.

However, the results were first shared privately with the candidates in another room. They were then given a time to pray, consider and decide if they wished to continue or withdraw

their name. After returning to the main hall, the ballot results were announced to all, immediately followed by the announcement of any candidate withdrawals.

No candidate withdrew after the first ballot. After the second, David Anderson, Stuart Pike and Martha Tatarnic had withdrawn. At the end of the third ballot, David Burrows and Robert Hurkmans withdrew, leaving only Susan Bell and Rob Fead on the fourth ballot. That vote resulted in a stalemate with Susan Bell winning by one vote among the clergy, while Rob Fead won among the laity by two, resulting in a fifth vote.

See page 5 for detailed results of each ballot.

When the results of the fifth and final ballot were announced, there was immediate cheering and applause. A standing ovation greeted a visibly emotional

Susan as she was escorted into the cathedral by Bishop Michael.

After the cheering died down, Archbishop Colin formally asked Susan if she accepted the position to which she had just been elected, which she did. With all of the candidates brought onto the stage, Archbishop Colin thanked them for running, remarking how difficult it is for anyone in that position.

Runner up Rob Fead moved that the election be declared unanimous, which was greeted with more applause.

Bishop-elect Susan thanked the other candidates, including a vote of gratitude to their spouses for their support in the months leading up to the election, which she said she knew was an emotional roller coaster for every one of them. She then turned to thank her husband Tom—who was at her side—and

finally the members of Synod for their show of faith in her ability to lead the diocese.

After the election concluded, all of the bishops in the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario gave their assent, which is a requirement.

The consecration of Susan Bell as Coadjutor Bishop—assistant to the diocesan bishop with rights of succession when he resigns—will be held on May 5. She will then succeed Bishop Michael as Diocesan Bishop June 1.

Craig Fairley is Art Director of the Niagara Anglican. imagine@imaginecreative.com

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Second Souper Super Sunday Fabulous flippers flipped

MARY MELLISH

For the second year in a row, St. John's Ancaster has collected soup to coincide with Super Bowl Sunday in the football world (February 4th this year).

We call it Souper Sunday.

The collection starts a few weeks ahead and when complete is taken to St. Matthew's House Hamilton to help replenish their food shelves.

Over the past two years, St. John's has provided more than 2,500 cans and packages of soup mix for the food bank located at St. Matthews.

The collection is spearheaded by our Social Justice Action Committee.

Mary Mellish is a Churchwarden at St. John's Ancaster. pr@ancasteranglican.org

Margie Hoffman was one of the fabulous flippers on Shrove Tuesday at The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek. Lots of laughter happened as together they served over 600 pancakes and sausages.

"It was a wonderful, community building event and everyone had an amazing time," reported Churchwarden Bev Groombridge.

Photo: Bev Groombridge



Photo: Bob Patterson

This was the first Souper Super Sunday for the Reverend Canon Joseph Asselin since becoming St. John's Rector in October 2017.

Leaving well

Resisting the temptation to hold onto past pastoral relationships

TERRY DEFOREST

In the midst of our anticipated grief, it was not something that we necessarily wanted to hear. Nevertheless, at a fall gathering of the Clergy and Licensed Lay-Workers of the Diocese, Bishop Michael Bird announced his intention to "leave well" when his term as Bishop of Niagara is over.

While he is going to be living on the eastern edge of Algonquin Park serving parishes in the Diocese of Ottawa, and therefore is not likely to return frequently to Niagara's territory, this is not really about distance and travel time. It is about declared intentions and best pastoral practice. In this, as in so much else, Bishop Michael is setting an important example and he was exhorting the rest of us to follow that example.

The Bishop's licence to ordained ministers affords the most wonderful privileges to share deeply in the lives of the people of God. Those privileges are indeed sacred and the temptation, at times, is for both cleric (or, in this case, bishop) and people to try to hold on to those pastoral relationships. However, that temptation is worth resisting.

In the resources provided by the Interim Ministry Network for the training of interim pastors, there is a liturgy of farewell which includes this important exchange:

"Do you members and friends of _____ Church, now release Pastor _____ as interim minister?"
People: "We do, with God's help."

"Do you, Pastor _____, release _____ Church from turning to you and depending on you?"
Interim Pastor: "I do, with God's help."

What is true for interim pastors, is even more so the case for former "settled" ministers. We all need to work through our loss of and changes to that special connection, so that those who are next appointed with the Bishop's licence can fulfill the solemn charge given to them, in their turn, to "love and serve the people among whom you work."

The desire to include significant people (such as former clergy leaders) in significant moments (such as weddings and funerals) in our lives is quite understandable. However, the invitation for such



Terry DeForest

Photo: Submitted

inclusions should come from the person to whom the responsibility for those ministries is now entrusted — the Interim Pastor or new "settled" minister. And that inclusion ought not to be at the exclusion of the current licensed minister.

Bishop Michael has declared his intent to set us free for a new ministry partnership with a new bishop and by so doing he is teaching us all about best ministry practices.

Correction

In our Lenten meditations (February and March 2018), "The Reverend Deacon Heino Claessens, St. Albans Glen Williams" should have been "The Reverend Deacon Heino **Clæssens**, St. Albans Glen Williams".

The Niagara Anglican apologizes for the misspelling.

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The Reverend Canon R. Terry DeForest is Vision Advocate and Director of Human Resources in Niagara Diocese. terry.deforest@niagaraanglican.ca

HOLLIStorial

An Easter encounter ... through my imagination

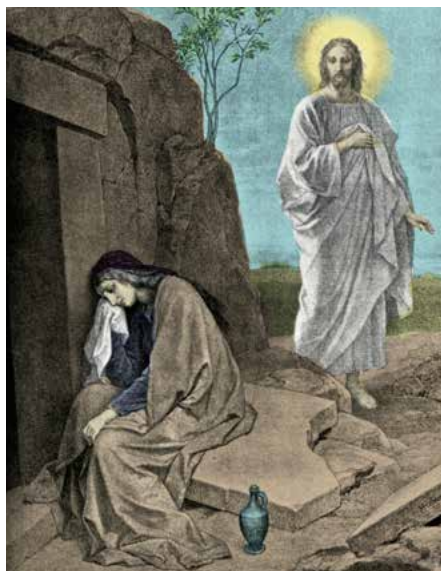


The New Testament corroborates Jesus' resurrection narratives. The gospel writers — Mark, Matthew, Luke, John — gathered their material from a variety of reliable sources, oral and written, and penned their stories decades later.

Looking through my creative eye, more than twenty centuries later, here is what my imagination sees:

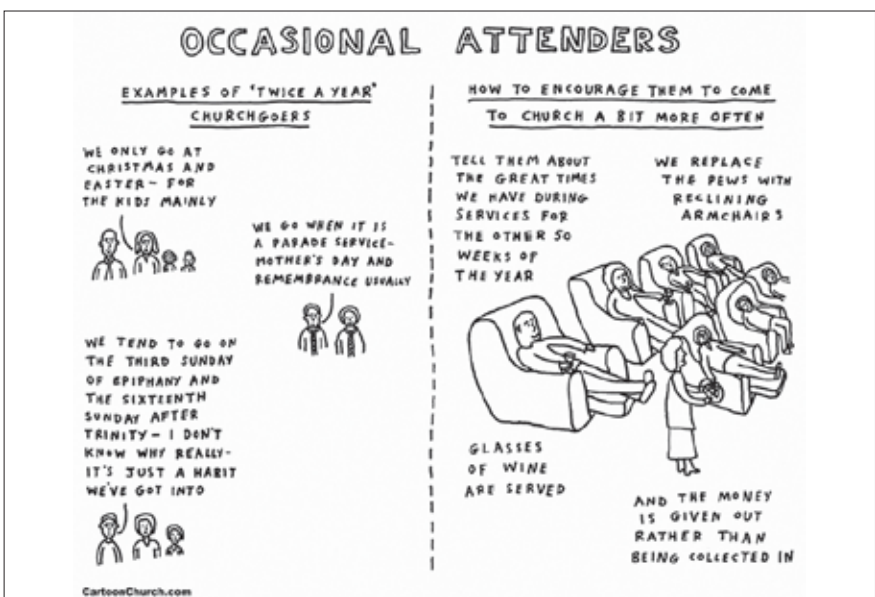
The light began dispelling the night darkness.
 A lone figure silhouetted against the climbing sun.
 The hurried walk from the nearby city left her breathless.
 A tear slipped from her moist eye and burned a path as it tumbled down her chilled cheek.
 A tear of sadness and joy.
 He told them this would happen.
 But could it be?
 Could infinite life replace finite death?
 How could she be sure?
 The gravel shuffled noisily behind her.
 She felt a small pebble ricochet off her ankle.
 Fear permeated her whole being.
 She twirled rapidly.
 A man shrouded by the daybreak mist stood there.
 He must be the gardener, arriving very early to commence his day's labour.
 She pointed to the empty tomb.
 She inquired about the body of the one they called Lord.
 The one she had followed, believing him to be the Messiah or Saviour.

The one she had witnessed dying on a wooden cross.
 The one she prepared for a speedy burial.
 The one she entombed by rolling a massive stone to cover the tomb's entrance.
 The one for whom she and others had come before dawn to give a proper burial, in unity with their custom.
 The one she had told Peter about, hoping he could explain the empty tomb.
 The one she now inquired about talking to the gardener.
 She answered his question about her weeping.
 She wanted to know where he had hidden the body.
 She just wanted to find it, take it away, anywhere safe.
 "Mary," she heard him whisper.
 She recognized his voice by the unique manner in which he spoke her name.
 Almost like a shepherd calling his sheep, or a mother her child.
 She looked up rapidly, locked her eye with his.
 "Rabboni", she blurted in her native language.
 She could have called him Lord or Jesus or Master.
 Rabboni, meaning teacher, seemed more apt, more meaningful, and more powerful for the moment.
 She wanted to hug him.
 She wanted to be assured it was him ... alive.




He held up his hands, cautioned her not to touch him.
 "Do not hold me," he cried, as if he knew what she wanted to do.
 He read her correctly.
 She did not want her friend to leave her.
 Holding him grounded there in that garden was her

intent.
 But, he had another assignment for her.
 Now that she had seen him, she had to tell others.
 Tell them he was alive for ever.
 Tell them they could embrace that new life.
 Tell them God was their father, as well as his father.
 Tell them sin and death were finally conquered.
 Tell them of his promise, "I am with you always."
 She rubbed away her tears and looked up.
 He was gone!
 She felt his warm, wrapped-around, comforting presence.
 An eerie silence welcomed the sun.
 She began walking quickly, out of the garden, towards the city.
 She stopped, turned back for one last look.
 She realized she was the first person to whom the risen Christ had appeared.
 A woman!
 Her!
 Was it a coincidence or lucky accident?
 She walked more purposefully now.
 She had good news from Jesus to deliver ... right now.
 At the garden gate, she paused, glanced around to ensure she was alone, and then shouted in her most dramatic voice ...
"I am woman ... hear me roar!"



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



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My Jesus is the middle way

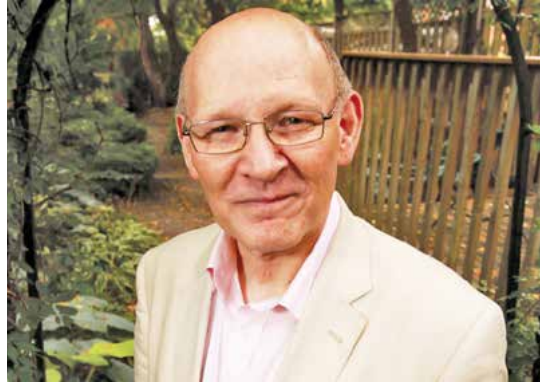
MICHAEL COREN

My mother died some years ago and she didn't have what they call a "good death". It's a strange phrase, a jarring misnomer designed to ease the pain of loss. But there was nothing good about this wonderful woman's passing.

She had dementia and I watched as her mind retreated into God knows what and God knows where. Childhood perhaps, or fantasy, or nowhere. She eventually fell asleep and remained in that oblivion for two weeks. Then she died.

But whenever I looked into her eyes, the eyes of someone who had shown me nothing but unconditional love, I could still see the spirit, the essence, of the great, grand person who was my mum.

Sheila Coren had little time for organized religion, but I do. And I know that some regard this as deluded, that God is akin to the tooth fairy, and all the rest of the insults. I am many things but I am not naïve, not



Michael Coren

Photo: Submitted

unworldly, not stupid.

I believe in the Christian God for a whole variety of reasons, some intellectual and some not, and while several of the greatest people I know are atheists, the greatest of all of the people I know is the one who founded Christianity 2,000 years ago.

He was a young, Jewish man living in occupied Palestine and he preached not change but revolution. The world not reformed but born again. He was

the Son of God and for making that claim He was abused, humiliated, executed. This personification of love, justice, forgiveness and inclusion rose again. You don't have to believe that, but I do; because it makes so much sense to me and informs and gives meaning and purpose to my entire life.

But if Jesus demanded that we love all and everybody as ourselves, and if he insisted that we look to justice rather than

gain, and to kindness rather than condemnation, why does the church so often appear cold, harsh and distant? It's a vital question.

I think of Jesus Christ as the perfect gift given to humanity, but we wrap it either in gaudy, child-like paper or dark, thick cloth. In other words, we obscure and disguise it.

We put law before love, ritual before relationship. Yet there is a middle way, a *via media*, where that gift is revealed for what it really is. It is the Prince of Peace, serving as a conduit between God and us, lighting a road that is happiness and fulfillment, a road that is curved and sometimes difficult but always worth the walk.

He didn't mention abortion, homosexuality, contraceptives or euthanasia, but he did expose and condemn hypocrisy, selfishness and the dangers of wealth, anger and inequality.

He didn't speak of the free market, but he did reject those who transformed a place of worship into a market of profit.

He didn't obsess about sex, but he did welcome and embrace those accused of sexual sin.

He didn't build walls and fences, but he did insist that we rip down all that might separate and divide us.

He didn't call for war and aggression, but he did demand we throw away weapons and all that might hurt or kill.

This is the man whom I worship, and as I do I try to remember my mother's eyes and see once again that spirit and that great, invincible love, cutting through the pain, the suffering and the confusion. That is my Jesus: cutting through the pain, the suffering and the confusion of this broken planet and pulling back the curtain to show the splendid truth of the world's possibilities.

A longer version of this column originally appeared in The Toronto Star. Michael Coren is an author, columnist and broadcaster, and also a postulant with Niagara Diocese. mcoren@sympatico.ca



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Parish brings unique artists to Oakville

ROY CAMPBELL

From gospel hymns to opera to slam poetry, spoken word and rockabilly music, St. Luke's Palermo Oakville is bringing performances from a wide range of artists to its community over the next year.

This exciting event, titled St. Luke's Concert Series, was conceived to let local people experience a variety of different arts in one location for a low price. The concert series is one part of St. Luke's vision to transform lives and build community by serving as a local hub for people of all walks of life. The series includes 10 events and 10 artists, each taking place on Friday evenings every other month.

St. Luke's Concert Series, sponsored in part by an Ontario Arts Council grant, combines live performances with arts education. The featured artist or group performs a short concert



Photo: Roy Campbell

The first event in St. Luke's Concert Series featured *Ininitely More*, the husband and wife duo Allison Lynn and Gerald Flemming. They performed their blend of gospel-infused folk, jazz and rock 'n' roll for a rapt audience. Every artist has been chosen for their unique gifts and their uplifting and empowering messages.

followed by an interactive Q&A session, where audiences learn about their techniques, inspirations and history. They

have been chosen not only for their unique gifts, but also for their uplifting and empowering messages.

The first event in the series was held on January 25th and featured husband-and-wife duo *Ininitely More*, who performed their blend of gospel-infused folk, jazz and rock 'n' roll for a rapt audience.

The next concert (April 6th at 7:30 p.m.) features the poetry and folk music of singer-songwriter Kate Reid. Kate is a bona-fide storyteller, poet and LGBTQ activist who has performed across Canada. She brings rapid-fire rhymes that are honest, poignant, hard-hitting, sometimes hilarious and always insightful. It is sure to be a memorable evening.

Other upcoming performances include spiritual musician and ordained minister Glen Soderholm (May 25), Indigenous opera singer Kristine Dadavino (July 27), spoken word artist and Poet Laureate of Mississauga Wali Shah (January 25, 2019), accomplished

composer and steelpan musician Joy Lapps (March 29) and Vili Verhovsek, a powerhouse singer inspired by old-school rockabilly, bluegrass and other styles (May 31).

St. Luke's Concert Series aims to inspire greater harmony and cultural understanding in our diverse community through the power of the arts.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Tickets (\$10. for one event or \$20. for three events) are available on Eventbrite (eventbrite.ca/e/an-evening-at-st-lukes-tickets-41855516978). Support persons welcomed at no charge.

Information at community1@stlukepalermo.ca or 905-825-3364 (ext. 82).

Roy Campbell is the Community Centre Coordinator at St. Luke's Palermo. community@stlukepalermo.ca

Election ballot results

Here is a summary of the results for each ballot. A majority of votes in each order—Clergy and Lay—was required for election.

Ballot	Candidate	Lay	Clergy
	<i>Votes cast</i>	<i>180</i>	<i>88</i>
FIRST	D. Anderson	11	10
	S. Bell	49	20
	D. Burrows	23	7
	R. Fead	34	18
	R. Hurkmans	30	11
	S. Pike	16	13
	M. Tatarnic	17	9
	<i>Votes Cast</i>	<i>178</i>	<i>88</i>
SECOND	D. Anderson*	5	7
	S. Bell	60	20
	D. Burrows	12	4
	R. Fead	51	29
	R. Hurkmans	33	11
	S. Pike*	8	9
	M. Tatarnic*	9	8
	<i>Votes Cast</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>88</i>
THIRD	S. Bell	66	32
	D. Burrows*	5	3
	R. Fead	78	42
	R. Hurkmans*	30	11
	<i>Votes Cast</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>88</i>
FOURTH	S. Bell	88	45
	R. Fead	91	43
	<i>Votes Cast</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>88</i>
FIFTH	S. Bell	95	47
	R. Fead	84	41

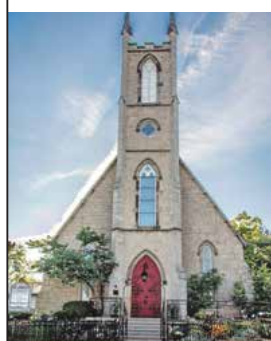
* Indicates candidate withdrew after the results of this ballot were announced.

Women's Groups

We want to hear from you.

ACW, Altar Guild, Mothers' Union, Daughters of the Church and Women's Auxiliary are some of the names of women's groups in the Anglican Church.

Write a short piece about who you are and what you do in your parish (400 words or less) and forward to the Editor (contact information on page 3).



Choral Evensong and Recital

Sunday, April 29 – 4:00 p.m.

The Anglican service of Choral Evensong will be sung by St. John's Choir under the direction of **Dr. Chris Teeuwssen**.

Organ recital by Shane Murphy

Free will offering.

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In conversation with ...

Bishop-Elect Susan Bell

The Niagara Anglican caught up with Susan Bell shortly after her election. What follows is an edited transcript of our conversation.

Niagara Anglican (NA): First, please accept our heartfelt congratulations on your election. How are you feeling?

Susan Bell (SB): My life seems to have exploded since the election! Feelings are just washing over me in waves at the moment.

I'm feeling profound gratitude. The electoral synod proceeded as a synod should. It was prayerful with lots of silence for reflection. It really was a discernment process. That experience was such a blessing.

I'm also feeling a little nervous, as I should. I have big shoes to fill. Bishop Michael is a wonderful example, a kind and loving man. But I feel very confident that God is going to give me what I need to do the ministry that is ahead of us.

I'm also feeling sheer happiness and enjoying the moment!

NA: Tell us a bit about yourself and your family.

SB: I grew up in Stoney Creek, a Hamiltonian. I went to Sir Isaac Brock School, then Glenbrae Middle School, Glendale High School and McMaster for my undergraduate degree. After that, I went to England to study music for about 2½ years. It was there that I met and married my husband Tom.

At first, after returning to Canada, I just wanted to be a professional singer (I sang for the Elora Singers), but before long, I felt ordained ministry was a stronger call. I went to Wycliffe College to study for my M.Div. At that time we also started our family. Emily (23) has just been accepted to teacher's college in Edinburgh, Scotland! Nicholas (20) is at Ryerson, studying computer science. Andrew (17) is in grade 12 and Olivia (14) is in grade nine. After my M.Div. I went on to earn my Ph.D. in church history.

Tom is Director of Music at St. Paul's Bloor Street in Toronto. (Before that, he was organist at St. Jude's Oakville.) He also teaches music at Toronto French

School. He is a wonderful life partner and support.

NA: How do you think you'll be preparing for the job in the transition period?

SB: Apart from a very serious prayer life, there will be lots of reading and—I hope—many conversations with the people of Niagara, both the clergy and the laity. Also I will be working closely with my colleagues in the House of Bishops. I have already had a wonderful meeting with Bishop Michael. He is going to be the most tremendous support, so generous with his help and guidance.

I am so looking forward to meeting all the synod office staff, too.

I understand this is a great responsibility, so I will be reflecting a great deal on what all of this means. I will be praying throughout, hoping the Lord will give me what I need. This really will be a walk of prayer.

NA: What will be your first three priorities once you are in the position?

SB: First, One of the most enjoyable part of the election process, for me, was the "speed dating" event that we had with the youth of Niagara. I was so impressed with their level of commitment, intelligence and obvious leadership. I'm so looking forward to getting to know our youth and hear what they see is the future of the church and how they can be involved. I love their energy and even the chaos that comes along with working with youth. Youth and family ministry will be a priority.

Second, I am so looking forward to getting to know the clergy and archdeacons. I want to have a collegial relationship with each of them so I can do my best to support their ministry.

It isn't an easy time for the church;

I understand that. The work I've been involved with for the past six year has been trying to "see around corners" for clergy and their parishes. I want to help them in terms of their own professional development, as well as helping them to realize the potential of leadership in their parishes.

Third, getting to know the Synod staff will also be a priority for me, to appreciate their strengths and perhaps learn where there may be some challenges. I want us to work together to support the really strong community there.

NA: Being a bishop often comes with making hard decisions. What issue or issues might you be faced with and how would you approach your decision-making process?

SB: General Synod 2019 is approaching. While [same-sex marriage] may be more of a settled issue in Niagara than in many dioceses, it does not mean that we speak as one. It will be incumbent on us all to remember that we are one in the body of Christ. I hope that we can realize that, although we may differ on this issue, there is much, much more gospel ministry that we can do together.

What unites us is far stronger than what divides us.

When it comes to difficult decision-making, I have a natural consultative process. I will consult peers, trusted colleagues and all of our constituent groups

within the diocese before making a decision. It must be a decision that we can all live with. I may sound like a broken record, but I must repeat that everything is done in prayer. You have to listen to God's voice.

NA: Tell us about your experiences as Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Toronto and how that will play out in your ministry.

SB: My role as missioner has been based on my experience at Havergal College. What I have been doing there is basically apologetics: interpreting the church to that community and interpreting that community to the church.

A large amount of mission is doing just that. It's bridge-building: it's starting to explain what the church is, what she believes and offering the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. It's not about getting more people into church. It's about the church remembering that we are a "sent" people. The Great Commission (Matthew 28) says, "Make disciples of all nations."

This is our mandate, our mission—God's mission—in the world. I think that one of the things I have enjoyed the most is this new way of thinking. We might formulate lots of plans on our own and guess at what people want, but in the missional way of thinking, you begin with, "Where is the energy—where is God already at work in our world?" Where there are places that you see wonderful things being done by ordinary saints, you want to join that work. For example, if there are good things happening at a community centre, then perhaps the church can partner with that. This makes a bridge into our communities.

I believe with all my heart that we need to recapture a sense of the geographical parish as a cure of souls. We have spiritual responsibility for those who live within our parish boundaries. That can be really exciting.

I hope that all of this way of thinking will be a part of who I am as the new diocesan bishop.

NA: Thank you so much for your time. God's blessing on you as you begin this new and important ministry.



Reflections from two members of the Nominations and Planning Committee:

No regrets, just blessings

ANN TURNER

I understand it is not uncommon to find yourself, as a newly ordained cleric, being scooped up for various tasks at the diocesan level. The autumn after my ordination to the priesthood saw a few invitations coming my way. Yet something made me hesitate. When the phone call came inviting me to sit on the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee, I realized what I had been waiting for!

I cannot say, however, that I bargained for becoming chair of the committee. Still, it turned into a wonderful and interesting challenge for me. I enjoyed the great variety of tasks and activities it called forth. Fortunately, for me and our diocese, the committee was comprised of a creative, articulate, passionate group of people. They shared my commitment to making the process of searching for and electing a new bishop one that would be fair, considerate to those nominated, and open and transparent.

I believe it was a well-met challenge to draw up the process through which the diocese could be introduced to those who had let their names stand for this important role. We crafted the questions for the profiles; we thought through the concept for the videos; we considered and rejected more than a few ideas; and we decided on the format for the meet and greet events. We also responded to an emerging desire to ask additional questions. With the candidates' consent, we added to the process by asking six submitted questions.

Amidst all of the activity with the candidates, there was also a synod to plan. Fortunately, there were those who had much more experience in this kind of planning than me; Mary Anne Grant and Marni Nancekivell (Secretary of Synod) ploughed through those details!

The learning curve was steep at times. As a committee we learned to meet in an electronic meeting room, saving mileage and travel time. I am also proud

to say we are all now very well-versed in election canons, clicker technology, and how to read quotes both for catering and technology resources.

Through it all, we left our mark on the internet highway. For instance, scheduling events in three regions at three large churches, with seven candidates (all active far beyond their primary ministries) and the committee — simultaneously — made for volumes of correspondence.

The experience of working on and at this episcopal election was a blessing and I feel privileged to have been part of this rare opportunity to serve in this way. From this task I will carry with me the wonderful level of engagement shown by our whole diocese in this discernment process. I met and heard from people across our diocese who are deeply invested in a broad cross section of ministries: from those who cherish our liturgy and the spectrum of practice and belief here in Niagara, from youth ministry,



Photo: Bill Mous

The Reverend Ann Turner, chair of the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee.

from deacons, from activists and advocates, from Cursillo, from Indigenous leaders, and from those in ministries both rural and urban. The pleasure has been mine to acquaint and re-acquaint myself with the reasons I choose to answer my call in the Diocese of Niagara.

Lastly, I want to count my

name among those welcoming Susan Bell as our Coadjutor Bishop. I also offer special thanks to the committee: Claire Christoff, Robert Morrow, Pat Davis, Peter Wall, Mary Anne Grant, Marni Nancekivell, Greg Tweeny; and on-call 'experts,' Alison D'Atri and Bill Mous.

Organizing the election of a bishop – a youth shares her experience

CLAIRE CHRISTOFF

It was mid-October and I was flipping quickly through emails when an unknown message popped up in my inbox—an invitation to join the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee (ESNPC)?

I was shocked at the realization that I had been selected as the Diocese of Niagara youth representative to this important committee, the one that would oversee the election of our new Bishop.

I was honoured, excited and especially nervous. Accepting this invitation would be stepping outside my previous experience and comfort zone. My work in youth ministry was my specialty, and I knew the people, the places and the way things worked. I knew no one on the committee already, and wasn't sure what this process would entail or what my job would be.



Photo: Craig Fisher

Claire Christoff, youth representative on the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee.

I was, of course, apprehensive about the first meeting I was to attend. I was a 15-year-old girl in a room of diocesan staff and people who knew the church better than I did. I came to a round table full of the kind faces of my committee members, who would help guide me through this process.

It was difficult to understand all the terminology at first, and I decided fairly early on there was no harm in jumping in with a clarifying question. I kept doing this, learning, inquiring and eventually earned myself the reputation of the group Question Asker, and helped the committee keep in mind the perspectives and scope of the vast diocese, including new members, youth and more.

The most important part of this experience for me was learning all the incredible effort and detail put into events and careful planning in every

step taken by the church. This committee was responsible for planning the electoral synod, running all official events for candidates, assembling profiles and overseeing so much more.

All of this amounted to months and hours of discussion, debate, countless email chains and video chats. Co-ordinated by Ann Turner and supported by every member of the committee, we worked to make the election exactly what the diocese needed it to be: organized, public and accessible.

I learned about rules and histories in the church, participated in debates over tradition versus change, and saw the way the church works as one body acting out God's mission.

I was the link between youth ministry and the ESNPC, and helped organize a special youth meet and greet for voting youth synod members. In this event, youth got to talk to all the candi-

dates, one-on-one, about special issues pertaining to us that may be overlooked by the greater diocese. Being able to experience this personal and informal conversational event truly helped the youth of this diocese get a better understanding of who we want as the leader of our diocese.

My advice to the church in the future is to continue to listen to the youth of our diocese. We do have ideas and motivation, and will contribute many things when given the chance.

Experiencing this first hand, through my time on the ESNPC has given me more opportunities in the church, knowledge and a unique story I am blessed with the opportunity to tell.

Claire Christoff is active in youth ministry in Niagara Diocese as well as at her own parish of St. Christopher's Burlington. cchristoff6@gmail.com

Parish Happenings

Experiencing homelessness

Rachel Couray, Interim Director of Open Doors at St. Christopher's Burlington, spent a weekend (February 16-18) on the streets of Burlington to bring attention to the needs of the homeless.

During the day she stood next to Guelph Line in Burlington, holding up the sign "Homeless here? Yep!"

Friday and Saturday night, she slept in a tent on the church lawn — when the temperature dipped to -10 degrees — and ate at community meals.

She did it, "to call the attention of our neighbours to the shortage of support services in Burlington and the need for organizations like Open Doors." "On a more personal level,"



Photo: Hollis Hiscock

she explained, "I wanted to learn what it means to follow Jesus into the world of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. If Jesus was living in Burlington today, he might well be camping out on a church lawn."

On February 24th, over 125

walkers raised more than \$40,000 during the Coldest Night of the Year fundraising walk in Burlington.

For more information about Open Doors, contact Rachel Couray at opendoors@stcb.ca.

Evensong and recital

Following the 4:00 p.m. choral evensong on Sunday, April 29th at St. John's Ancaster, Shane Murphy will present an organ recital.

Shane, from Niagara Region, began studying organ 13 years ago at age eleven. While studying with Dr. Christiaan Teeuwesen at Redeemer University College he travelled to the United States for several summer organ programs.

In 2011, he spent three months living just outside of Düsseldorf, Germany, studying early organ music with the Dutch organist and pedagogue, Egbert Schoenmaker.

Shane completed his Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance at McGill University in 2015 and is currently enrolled in the Master of Music program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

St. John's choir is under the

direction of Dr. Christiaan Teeuwesen.



Photo: Submitted

The episcopal election: Thoughts from Rob Fead

The last few months have been quite a journey for me and my wife Veronica. It has been such an honour for me to be nominated as a candidate for bishop and to stand alongside the other very fine priests who made up the list of nominees. I want to thank the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee for the wonderful job they did in ensuring that the process was fair and organized.

The highlights for me were the meet and greet gatherings that took place around the diocese. I was amazed at how many people came out and participated in those events. It spoke volumes to me about how invested the people of Niagara were in this process and how seriously people were taking it even if they were not voting delegates themselves.

I cannot say enough about my fellow nominees. It is not easy for clergy in our electoral system to feel that they have to "compete" with each other for the Holy Spirit's attention. Every one of them conducted themselves with an amazing amount of grace and dignity. Their graciousness certainly helped me to see the presence of the Spirit at work in what could



easily become an all too human process.

I am so happy for Bishop-Elect Susan. I have no doubt that her ministry among us and with us will be a tremendous blessing for the Diocese of Niagara. I will always remember with thanksgiving the care and encouragement we shared with each other during the last couple of ballots.

I want to thank my Chaplain, the Reverend Will Alakas, for his tremendous encouragement and the people of St. Jude's who were kind enough to tell me they were praying that I would not be elected.

To my wife Veronica, I simply love you more than words can say! I am so very blessed.

The Reverend Canon Rob Fead is Rector of St. Jude's Oakville. rfead@stjudeschurch.net

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Slavery, human trafficking workshop open to all

Human trafficking is the focus of a half day market place workshop scheduled for Saturday, April 14 beginning at 8:30 a.m. in St. James Church Dundas.

Organizer Canon Sharyn Hall (halls@cogeco.ca) said the event is "a follow-up to our presentation at Synod and to my article in the February issue of the *Niagara Anglican*".

The Reverend Rachel Carnegie, co-executive director of the Anglican Alliance (anglicanalliance.org) will be the featured speaker. "The Anglican Alliance brings together those in the Anglican family of churches and agencies to work for a world free of poverty and injustice, to raise the voices of the vulnerable, to reconcile those in conflict and to safeguard the earth," according to their website.

The idea of a marketplace

format, Sharon explained, is to encourage people to get more than one aspect of trafficking and slave labour. International slavery, local prevention and partnerships in combatting trafficking are possible topics.

Participants will be able to attend several 20 minute break-out spaces to learn more about human trafficking and slavery, which, according to Sharon, are huge topics.

"It is open to the whole diocese and we hope to provide information and inspiration to many," concluded Sharon.

For more information, contact Canon Bill Mous, Niagara's Director of Justice, Community and Global Ministries at bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca



Earth Day 2018 — what will you do?

SUE CARSON

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970 after scientists in the United States started raising concerns about air and water pollution.

This year 140 countries around the world and over a billion people are expected to acknowledge the day.

What will you and your parish do?

In our diocese, our Youth Synod passed a motion in May 2008 urging parishes to act more sustainably and monitor greenhouse gas emissions. This was formally accepted at our diocesan synod in November. From this seed the Greening Niagara committee was born.

On this tenth anniversary year I am encouraging you to celebrate Earth Day, ponder how you might live our baptismal commitment to care for creation and make environmental changes in your lives.

Think outside the recycling box and do something that really makes a difference—plant seeds with your grandchildren; fly less often; consider buying a hybrid or electric car; buy local food; and eat less meat and processed foods.

As I write this in mid-February, the roots of my magnolia tree are still covered in snow, but transformation is happening: the buds are starting to change. The miracle of growth each spring never fails to remind me that God's world is full of hope. By opening our eyes to the beautiful part of Ontario where we live, how can we NOT celebrate Earth Day all 365 days of the year?

Caroline Sharp, a seminary student interning at St. James Dundas, believes that, "God created us to take care of the earth."

Even during the winter months my magnolia tree is a haven for birds on their way to my bird feeder; it ensures they are safe from the ginger-whiskered member of our household. This winter has been harsh for the birds, and even deer and wild turkeys have been drawn to the scattered seeds. If winters get colder or longer we can retreat inside but creatures can't adapt quickly— what will happen to them?

The yearly cycle of life does continue but we can't deny that climate change is a real threat to our world—the moral issue of our times, as some bishops have called it. Last April, Dundas



Earth Day[®] CANADA

experienced an unprecedented flood and a parishioner's home was badly damaged; around the world untold devastation is happening again and again and again through wind, fire and flooding.

Bill Mous, who was the first chair of Greening Niagara, and continues to inspire our committee, reminds us that "we should walk more gently, care more fully and act more justly in all our relations with the earth and all creation."

Let's do just that, individually and as a diocese, and continue to fulfil the challenge set by our prophetic youth.

Sue Carson is chair of Greening Niagara and a member of St. James Dundas.
d.carson@sympatico.ca

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More election photos



Photo: Bill Mous

Pat Davis, member of the Electoral Synod Nominations and Planning Committee, administered communion.



Photo: Bill Mous

Above: People gathering for the 144th Synod.

Below: Delegates check-in.



Photo: Bill Mous

Synod gave Chancellor Rob Welch (seated on stage, right) a standing ovation after Archbishop Colin Johnson lauded his service to the church and noted that this would be Rob's last synod as chancellor.



Photo: Bill Mous

The technology hub for Synod.



Photo: Bill Mous

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More election photos



Photo: Bill Mous

Above: "Clicker" technology allowed the voting process to go quickly.
 Right: Runner up Rob Fead (with microphone) moved that the election vote be unanimous.



Photo: Craig Fairley



Photo: Bill Mous

With her husband Tom at her side, Susan Bell addressed Synod and thanked Archbishop Colin for his support while working in Toronto.



Photo: Craig Fairley

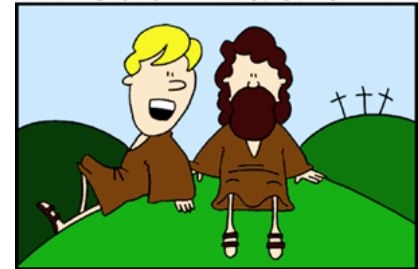
Bishop-Elect Susan Bell is flanked by retired Bishop Walter Asbil, Metropolitan Colin Johnson, Bishop Michael and retired Bishop Ralph Spence.



Photo: Craig Fairley

Jane Stephen, one of many green team volunteers, worked to ensure that as much waste as possible from Synod was diverted to compost and recycling.

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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- Summer – April 25
- September – July 25
- October – August 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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Transfiguring ministries on a Sunday afternoon

HOLLIS HISCOCK

They braved freezing rain and slippery roads.

Their whistles echoed off Cathedral walls.

They listened, prayed, sang and made promises.

They applauded, signed documents and laid on hands.

They worshipped for over 120 minutes on the Feast of the Transfiguration — Sunday, February 11, 2018 — in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

When it was over Niagara Diocese was enriched with one deacon, one priest, one Archdeacon, one lay canon and three clergy canons.

The preacher ended his homily by reminding his listeners that those "who witness us living the Christian path say of you — and of all of us: 'How vibrant and beautiful is the faith glowing around us.'"

The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer, Incumbent of St. Ann's Toronto, began his sermon by describing the present day conflicting cultures and messages which can sometimes cause storms of resistance injustices. Yet, "This is the culture we all live and breathe, and this is the world into which the church ordains."

He suggested that people, including those ordained, put aside their own story for a while and be like John the Baptist, who pointed others to Jesus Christ.

Gary said we should be like Jesus who was "patient with

this slow journey to belief." This includes dealing with the couple seeking to be married and promises to join your church.

"Then there's that look. They know you don't believe them, and you know they know."

We need to see the light of the transfiguration in other people, was Gary's recommendation. "Having had your own story scrutinized, let's be a breath of fresh air welcoming the stories of others."

Gary was recently appointed Interfaith Officer for Toronto Diocese.

The Reverend Garfield (Weiliang) Wu is Deacon-in-Charge of St. Aidan's Oakville (half-time basis), as well as Assistant Curate at St. Simon's Oakville and Chinese Anglican Missioner for Oakville (half-time basis), under the direction of St. Simon's Rector Darcey Lazerte.

The newly ordained priest, the Reverend Leonel Abaroa-Boloña, continues as Ministry Associate at St. John the Evangelist Hamilton and Church of the Ascension Hamilton.

Patricia (Pat) Davis was installed as a lay honorary canon of Christ's Church Cathedral, along with clergy the Reverends Stephanie Pellow, Matthew Griffin and Bill Mous. They were appointed by Bishop Michael at the 2017 Niagara Synod.

The Venerable David Anderson was collated as Regional Archdeacon of Hamilton-Haldimand.



Photo: Hollis Hiscock



Photo: Hollis Hiscock



Photo: BarBara Harris

(Top left) Bishop Michael lays his hands on the head of Garfield (Weiliang) Wu, ordaining him a deacon in the Church of God.

(Above) Following the ancient tradition, the bishops and priests lay hands on the Reverend Leonel Abaroa-Boloña (centre of picture), ordaining him a priest in God's church.

(Left) The Reverend Gary van der Meer, Incumbent of St. Anne's Toronto, preached at the transfiguring worship.



Photo: Hollis Hiscock

The newly installed Canons are layperson Patricia (Pat) Davis (second from left) and clergy the Reverends Stephanie Pellow, Matthew Griffin and Bill Mous.



Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Dean Peter Wall read the documents to collate the Venerable David Anderson as Regional Archdeacon of Hamilton-Haldimand. Diocesan Registrar the Reverend Paul Whitehouse and Bishop Michael witnessed the installation.



Celebration of Ministry for Bishop Michael Bird

Saturday April 21

1:00—4:00 pm

Christ's Church Cathedral

252 James St. North, Hamilton Ontario

More details to follow as we celebrate and give thanks to God for Bishop Michael's episcopal ministry in Niagara