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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

OCTOBER 2018

God's unfrozen people ministry of the laity

Order of Niagara 2018

Now in its 18th year, The Order of Niagara recognizes the faithful dedication of lay people, honouring substantial contributions to ministry in their communities.

All rectors are invited to nominate one person from each parish annually. The Bishop may also appoint members to the Order.

Since its inception, there have been over 1200 people inducted into the Order of Niagara. Recipients may use the initials O.N. after their name. They are encouraged to wear their medallion at diocesan services, on diocesan occasions, and when the bishop visits their parish. Nominees are installed during a special worship service at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Here is a sampling of the wide range of talents and ministries being recognized with the Order of Niagara in 2018, as described by those who have nominated them.

The full list of recipients is available on the diocesan website.



John Blackie
Church of the Epiphany Oakville

John is at the very heart and soul of the Church of the Epiphany. Often working as a team with his wife, Nancy, he contributes mightily to the parish's mission and ministries.

For 12 years John has led the annual plant sale—the highlight of the spring Extravaganza at Epiphany. Much more than a fundraiser, it is a community event, drawing people from Oakville and nearby Burlington to the Church, and bringing the beauty of God's creation into many yards and homes.

This is a huge ministry. John

and Nancy are involved from beginning to end—starting plants as seedlings, digging and transplanting plants over from one year to the next—all from their home.

Recruiting and organizing many other parishioners into this ministry, they are the face of the parish on the day of the sale.

Over 700 plants displayed on the church's driveway bring hundreds from the surrounding areas to the best perennial plant sale in all of Oakville, and into the doors of the Church of the Epiphany.

John serves as a sidesperson and counter, and recruits and trains others for this important ministry. He is also an intercessor, parish photographer and drywall specialist for the Property Committee.

John has also served several terms on the Parish Council, as Lay Delegate to Synod and as Property Committee representative.

(Church of the Epiphany Oakville)



Janice Sheppard
St. James Fergus

Janice is presently our People's Warden, a position she has held throughout all the changes at St. James over the last few years.

In that position, she has skillfully managed all our safe church tasks including screening and developing individual and committee terms of reference. She is a fantastic manager of all things volunteer and an extraordinary volunteer herself!

Janice has been at St. James since Sunday School days (we won't tell you how long that is!) and was confirmed by Bishop Bagnall on November 17, 1968. She was a member of the Junior Choir, the youth group, taught kindergarten-aged Sunday School and married her husband, Paul, at the church on July 10, 1981.

Besides warden duties, Janice heads up our server teams and manages everything to do with human resources (including summer students!).

A big part of her time is also dedicated to coordinating activi-

ties in our community Butterfly Garden. Janice wears the hat of booking agent, wedding coordinator, bar manager, strategic event planner and creative trouble-shooter!

She has helped us develop and implement garden policy that has helped us grow as a missional church reaching into our local community to welcome all to St. James.

Janice is a warm and welcoming presence, faithful worshipper and beloved parishioner who never hesitates to take up the next challenge.

(The Reverend Ann Turner,
Rector, St. James Fergus)



Clare Stewart
Church of the Resurrection Hamilton

Clare has been a member of Church of the Resurrection since it was founded and, prior to that, was a long-time member of St. Timothy's Church. Clare is a licensed lay reader and preaches regularly with her characteristic clarity and insight.

For many years she led worship at Saint Elizabeth's Village

with care and compassion for all the residents. Clare also designed and maintained the parish website with diligence and efficiency.

She helps run our Sunday morning PowerPoint, reads, prepares and leads prayers of the people, is a Eucharistic Assistant and a member of our Altar Guild, working hard to make the worship of the church meaningful and vibrant.

Behind the scenes Clare also brings the gift of proof reading to our bulletins and notices, carefully correcting the Rector's punctuation and grammar, ensuring that the presentation of our printed materials is as good as it can be!

She has served on Parish Council and as our lay delegate to Synod. She helps regularly at our parish events and volunteers her time, energy and talents selflessly.

In particular, Clare brings to the parish her gifts as an artist, her creativity, her musical gifts and her passion for social justice.

Church of the Resurrection gives thanks for Clare and her witness to the living energetic work of the Spirit in our lives.

(The Reverend Mike Deed, Rector,
Church of the Resurrection)

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Laity honoured — Order of Niagara 2018

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Allan Magnacca
St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake

Allan, a former Rector's Warden during the incumbency of the Reverend Ian Dingwall, has served me well in this role since I came to St. Mark's in 2017. I often refer to him as Senator Magnacca with the abundance of "sober second thought" he provides. He has served with distinction and is greatly admired and respected by all parish members.

As well as providing this leadership role, Allan has consistently been conscious of and committed to Niagara Diocese, regularly attending diocesan services, events and functions, including the Bishop's Company.

In addition to his active church participation, Allan has also served many community organizations, including:

- Niagara College Foundation (now a Lifetime Honorary Director)
- Niagara Police Board (member and chair)
- River Brink Art Museum (serving as Treasurer)
- Shaw Festival Theatre Guild (lifetime member)
- Lt. Col. (Retired), Royal Canadian Artillery (awarded Canadian Decoration and Bar).

Allan was a volunteer at the Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines and created a program that ensured patients waiting for treatment would not wait alone. His wife Betty was treated there before her death in 2015. It concerned him to see people waiting alone in difficult circumstances, so he created a volunteer program that provided companionship.

He told me his favourite hymn is Breathe on Me, Breath of God. Both in the Anglican Church and the wider community of

Niagara, Allan breathes new life and helps us sing:

"Breathe on me, breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou
dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do."

(The Reverend William Roberts, Rector of St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake)



Siobhan Bennett
St. Paul's Fort Erie

As an avid participant in numerous Niagara Youth Conferences and as a Youth Synod delegate for several years, Siobhan has developed a strong sense of justice and advocacy, an ability to

articulate a justice stance, and a sense of herself as a peer leader and facilitator.

She has furthered her leadership experiences and skills development in the service of diocesan synod and the work of the broader church.

In 2015, Siobhan was part of the team that travelled from Niagara to participate in the Walk for Reconciliation in Ottawa, which drew thousands who walked to transform and renew the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and other Canadians.

Siobhan was nominated by Youth Synod and then appointed by Bishop Michael Bird to the Niagara Diocese delegation to General Synod 2016. As well as speaking powerfully to motions, Siobhan was elected to represent the Province of Ontario as a youth member of the Council of General Synod (COGS). As a member of COGS, she was part of the planning team for The Road to Warm Springs, the National Consultation on Indigenous

Anglican Self-Determination at Pinawa, Manitoba in September 2017.

Siobhan is also on the planning team for General Synod 2019.

This past autumn, Youth Synod again nominated Siobhan, this time asking the Bishop to appoint her as the youth member of Niagara Diocese delegation to Provincial Synod in October 2018.

These justice and leadership experiences have deepened Siobhan's faith, and fostered in her a deep interest in church governance; an interest she hopes to continue to act upon in the years ahead.

(The Diocesan Youth Committee recommended Siobhan Bennett for the Order of Niagara.)



Choral Evensong and Recital

Sunday, October 21 – 4:00 p.m.

The Concert Choir of Redeemer University College under the direction of **Dr. Christian Teeuwssen** will sing the Anglican service of Choral Evensong.

Following the service, the Redeemer Choir will present a short concert.

Free will offering

St. John's Anglican Church
272 Wilson St. East, Ancaster

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You're invited

One year ago, the Reverend Felix Smith was inducted as Rector of St. Michael and All Angels, Lancing, West Sussex, England, stmichaelslancing.org.uk

In preparation for his new ministry, especially welcoming people, he issued this invitation in the Net, the parish's newsletter.

The *Niagara Anglican* reprints, with permission, the relevant portion of his invitation for your information and sharing ...

The church's aim is to remind people that they are invited to come to their church each and every Sunday, no matter who they are or what their background. In a sense, the church is saying "the Gospel message is amazing, dynamic, inspiring and exciting and we want you to join us in sharing it."

The thing I'm most excited about, however, is demonstrating the church's welcome to the whole village and extending the wonderful invitation of the Gospel to the community.

Therefore, I'd like to say to everyone 'you're invited!' You're invited ... to come and get to know your church at St. Michael and All Angels, to come and join us in sharing the Gospel.

Just to finish, a recent welcome notice from a church:

- We extend a special welcome

to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, confused, filthy rich, comfortable, or dirt poor. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying new-borns, skinny as a rake or could afford to lose a few pounds.

- We welcome you if you can sing like Pavarotti or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing' just woke up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury or haven't been in church since little Jack's christening.

- We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers,

vegetarians, junk-food eaters.

- We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organised religion". We've been there too!
- If you blew all your money on the horses, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, 'work too hard,' don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.
- We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both.
- We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost and wound up here by mistake.
- We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and you!

(Barbara McCallan, St. Cuthbert's Oakville received the newsletter with the article from a cousin in Worthing, Sussex.)

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HOLLIStorial

Show me what you do, and I will tell you what you believe



James and his buddies sat around their designated table in the open market square drinking coffee and chatting—every day.

Their dialogues ran the gamut from the economy, politics and religion to changing lifestyles. Often, they zeroed in on the teachings of a recently crucified teacher who had come back to life.

Most men there had learned or experienced a bit about the newly minted religious leader because people were talking about his good news. Several, with their families, left their traditional belief and adopted the ways of the one called Messiah (anointed one).

The others admired James' talent to summarize their far fetching conversations into concise, easy to remember proverbs. They encouraged him to put pen to scroll to present his well-

organized insight about religion, politics and life itself.

Although publicly he laughed at such suggestions, he secretly memorized his thoughts and observations, and later he wrote them on scraps of parchment – just in case.

One day he collected what he had written, composed a general letter to be forwarded to those who followed the one referred to as Master (Jesus Christ).

It was circulated around the first century world and read during public worship.

Centuries later his letter was chosen to be included in the New Testament of the Bible. It became the Christian operational manual—dealing with a person's relationship with God, other people and equally as important, with oneself.

His observations précised above—show me what you do, and I will tell you what you

believe—stands as a beacon in today's environment.

Former FBI Director James Comey, in his book, *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership*, describes the United States (and maybe other countries by comparison) as places where, "basic facts are disputed, fundamental truth is questioned, lying is normalized and unethical behavior is ignored, excused or rewarded ..."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently said, "hate speech and the politics of division are creating a 'dangerous path' for Canada."

They both reflect what St. Paul wrote, approximately 2,000 years earlier, "we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth."

We may reach the same conclusion after reading, hearing and viewing what various media present to us hourly.

So, what can we do to change the world?

James would say let your faith (value systems) and actions be indistinguishable—one the mirror image of the other.

Canada's Prime Minister vowed to, "remain positive and remain pulling people together, pulling communities together right across this country."

James Comey hopes that people would be inspired, "to choose a higher loyalty, to find truth among lies and to pursue ethical leadership."

Saint Paul zoomed in on the three most important characteristics needed to live a full life—faith, hope, love. Then he elevated love as the greatest of all.

Could loving all people be the foundation upon which the United Nations built its mission?

The word itself may not appear in its Charter (signed June 26, 1945), but the basic

meaning of human love must be believed and practiced in order to accomplish the UN's lofty ideals and mission.

The UN's goals include international peace, friendly relations, equal rights, solving international problems, fundamental freedoms and providing a "centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends."

Surely these goals cannot be attained without a hefty dose of human love within and surrounding those entrusted with the care and well being of every individual anywhere on this earth.

This month, while giving thanks for what we have, let us all commit to put our faith into action, and our actions into our faith.

Your opinion matters ...

To print or not to print?

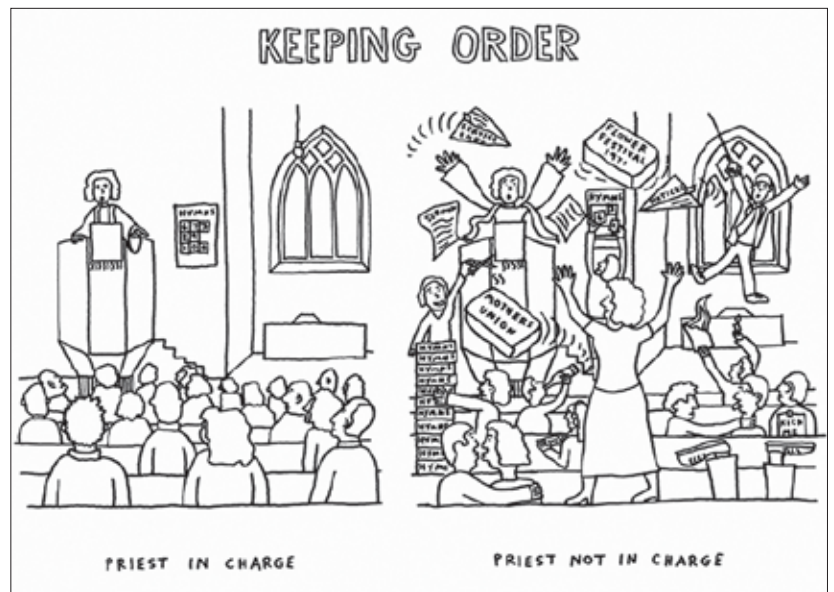
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Send us a letter or email (maximum 400 words).

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- » What do you value most and least?
- » What do you like or dislike?
- » Where can we improve?
- » Why the printed papers should or should not continue?
- » Your other thoughts or suggestions?
- » Anything else?

Send your email or letter to the Editor at the address listed below, on this page.

The *Niagara Anglican* and *Anglican Journal* thank you for your support and input.



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cartoonchurch.com

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Publisher: Bishop Susan Bell
905-527-1316
bishop@niagaraanglican.ca
Editor: The Reverend Hollis Hiscock
905-635-9463
editor@niagaraanglican.ca
Advertising: Angela Rush
905-630-0390
niagara.anglican.ads@gmail.com

Art Director: Craig Fairley
Imagine Creative Communications
Proofreader: Helen Hiscock
Niagara Anglican Publication Board:
In addition to the above:
Richard Bradley (Chair)
Paul Clifford
Janet Gadeski
The Reverend Canon Bill Mous
(Bishop's Designate)
The Reverend Canon Rob Park
Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis
Sarah Whitaker

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



CHRISTMAS

STORIES AND IDEAS WANTED

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

- In 300 words or less ...
- ✿ recall a special Christmas worship
 - ✿ compose a Christmas song (with or without music)
 - ✿ relate a humorous Christmas happening
 - ✿ retell a Christmas experience in poem or prose
 - ✿ relive a Christmas tradition or memory
 - ✿ write a Christmas poem or prayer
 - ✿ reflect on what Christmas means for you
 - ✿ share your idea to make Christmas special.

You can also draw a Christmas picture or cartoon. Get your children and youth to submit their items. Send us a high resolution picture or your head shot photo.

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

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

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The two sheets?

MICHAEL BURSLEM

In his TED Talk, Neil Turok, director of the Perimeter Institute in Waterloo, relates when he was asked by his former elementary mathematics teacher in Tanzania, "What banged?"

He suggested a mathematical model of the universe, consisting of two three dimensional sheets, parallel to one another, very close, but separated by a tiny space. The touching of these two sheets created the Big Bang. He further suggested that the Big Bang was not a single event, but theoretically there could be multiple Big Bangs.

This was totally new to my mind, and started me thinking about the relationship between the physical world and the spiritual.

The physical world is where we live our lives in time and space, subject to physical laws, such as the law of gravity.

The spiritual is eternity, the heavenly realm, or kingdom of God, outside time and space, where physical laws don't apply.

I'm not suggesting that this heavenly kingdom can be fitted into a mathematical model. Perhaps, though, two parallel sheets, physical and spiritual, are intimately close to one another, closer that we realize.

Paul tells us that our citizenship is in heaven, from where we eagerly await a Saviour, our

Lord Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:20). We have one foot already in heaven, but the other is firmly planted on earth.

When two such sheets touch there's a spiritual Big Bang, as at the Resurrection, the biggest Big Bang in all time and eternity.

Jesus died at Calvary in time and space, but rose in eternity. But he promised that he'd never leave us. How could that be? It's mystery.

At every Eucharist, I believe, the mystery thickens.

The two sheets again come together, the bread and wine becoming the body and blood of the risen Lord Jesus, our saviour. In the bread and wine not only is he present, but our loved ones who have gone before us are also present. It's an intimate foretaste of our great reunion in heaven.

The two sheets are so close that some people can peer into eternity from this world, as did Peter, James and John at the Mount of Transfiguration. They saw the glory of the Lord. These people are mystics. However, most of us don't have this gift, but at the time of the Resurrection over 500 people did see the risen Lord. We can't explain such mysteries, because they're not subject to physical law.

Similarly, some people have the gift of seeing apparitions of the Lord or the Virgin Mother, and to converse with them. They usually receive instructions to



pass on to the world. The iconic Biblical example is the Lord appearing to Paul on the road to Damascus.

But similar appearances have occurred as recently as the last century, to the three peasant children at Fatima or the unlettered Polish nun, Sister — now Saint — Faustyna.

Having lost so many loved ones, including Ellen my dear wife, I also believe they're the cloud of witnesses, viewing us through the curtain between eternity — their world, and space and time — ours, and especially being with us in the Eucharist. We do believe in the communion of saints — saints militant, us on earth — and saints triumphant in the heavens.

This analogy is not a perfect metaphor. It leaves many questions unanswered, especially concerning their origins. As a physical human being, I leave that to Neil Turok and his fellow scientists. But as a spiritual being, I have to affirm "I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

The two are not incompatible.

Michael Burslem is a member of St. George's Guelph. m.burslem@sympatico.ca

Life's Journey

BY MARIE LEONE

Life's Journey

We think of life as an endless journey, days passing one after another. We often know we are heading for eternity. There's no shortcut to life's blessings. We keep the faith and trust in giving whatever we can to hold on to life's plan.

Tomorrow is unsure,
Yesterday is no more
Tomorrow is what we carry on the journey
to see us safely home.

So enjoy the blessings of life,
be brave, be bold
Look to the future and be joyful.
Your life journey has begun.

Marie Leone is Office Administrator at The Church of the Ascension Hamilton.



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Evangelism – Part two

The practice and pattern of evangelism for Anglicans today



DARCEY LAZERTE

The late Archdeacon Steve Hopkins spoke of Anglicans practicing “Vampire Evangelism”.

It was tongue in cheek but insightful.

He described church members looking around for new members to keep the church going and wanting “new blood”. This understanding of evangelism is self serving and not the outward and missional understanding of evangelism to which God calls us.

When we read the scriptures —Dr. John Bowen in *Evangelism for Normal People* has a wonderful reflection on this—we see the purpose of Israel is outward looking and at its root evangelical.

Scripturally, Israel exists so that all the nations of the earth might come to know God. Likewise, in the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16–20) we see the purpose of evangelism is not the survival of the church but rather making disciples of all nations.

Evangelism, at its core, must be outward looking and not self serving.

That said, the truth is that mainline protestant churches in North America are not good at evangelism, and for the most part have ceded this ministry to the more evangelical churches.

There are many reasons for this.

As discussed in the last article (Niagara Anglican, September

“Going forward we must find a way to be as comfortable speaking the gospel as we are living it.”

2018), we are still wrestling with our colonial past which has not prepared us for this ministry.

Additionally, with few exceptions, there has been very little modern theological attention given to evangelism. There certainly have been volumes of church growth and evangelism conference material but little academic reflection.

Further, between the legacy of colonialism and the rise of some of the American televangelists, evangelism for many just seems in poor taste.

Add to this, that some have discomfort in and around the Great Commission as being somehow exploitive—the result is this ministry has been

neglected.

Further, whether we call it a multicultural society, a post-modern world or something else all together, there is a real fear we will somehow offend or contradict and that keeps us quiet when it comes to speaking about our faith.

So where does this leave us today?

While there are some Anglicans in North America who have embraced this ministry, it is fair to say most have not. Often, we hear those words which are attributed to St. Francis, “Preach the Gospel at all times, when necessary use words.” While there is a sentimentality to this and it does

spurn us to social justice and the social gospel, when we do so at the expense of evangelism, we do lose a key ministry to which Christ has called us.

Going forward we must find a way to be as comfortable speaking the gospel as we are living it.

We need to re-examine our fear of the ministry of evangelism.

We need to recover the Great Commission and we need to be able to articulate why we ourselves are disciples of Jesus.

The Reverend Canon Darcey Lazerte is Rector of St. Simon's Oakville. darcey@stsimon.ca

(Last month Darcey started his three-part series on Evangelism by giving us “A glimpse into its history from an Anglican perspective”. Next time he concludes with “Some approaches going forward”.)

In conversation with ...

The Reverend Canon Dawn Davis

Faith Formation Coordinator

Niagara Anglican (NA): Tell us about yourself.

Dawn Davis (DD): Three key things to know about me:

1. I am a follower of Jesus and I am passionate about helping people grow spiritually.
2. I love the church because I believe it is the best community to help us form into the fullness of our calling.
3. I am intentional about partnering with the creative energy of the Holy Spirit. It can be a bit scary, but it can take us to unimaginable places.

Other bits to know:

I am ordained, have a human resources certification and recently earned a doctorate in ministry in spiritual formation.

My husband, daughter and I have just moved from Trinity Church Aurora to Hamilton and are discovering how similar it is to our coastal roots in Halifax.

NA: Tell us more about your

role in Niagara Diocese.

DD: I think for a long time we thought people would spiritually grow if they simply came to church. Our beautiful liturgies do help people connect with God, but because it is a private experience it can quickly fade. Consequently, lay leaders often say they are not confident as spiritual leaders in offering public prayer or using scripture in their daily lives.

In a nutshell, I am here to help the church spiritually grow in faith, so our people can confidently share their stories of transformation and live into the fullness of their calling.

NA: You are to spend 70% in the greater St. Catharines area (GSC). What will you be doing there and what do you hope to achieve?

DD: My goals are that:

1. All eight parishes be equipped with spiritual



practices and resources to help them discern their future and build suitable discipleship paths.

2. All parishioners—lay and clergy—are deepening in their faith as they feel called.

To make this happen I will connect people's needs with resources by creating an online bank of programs, books, conferences and spiritual mentors.

I will offer area workshops, parish consultations, preaching, presentations, clergy peer group facilitation and a faith-forma-

tion blog based on the Sunday lectionary.

NA: Your other 30% will be devoted to the rest of Niagara Diocese. What are your plans there?

DD: A lot of what I do with the GSC churches will be extended to the diocese.

NA: What brought you to this ministry or how has your thinking about ministry changed over your career?

DD: About 12 years ago, my parish wanted to go spiritually deeper, but I couldn't take people somewhere I hadn't been myself. That awareness significantly changed my role from pastoral leader to spiritual equipper and began a new stage in my own spiritual deepening.

NA: You created a new resource. Tell us about its purpose and benefits.

DD: There are few spiritual formation resources for church leaders, so I created one. *Revive: Equipping Church Leaders to be Spiritual Leaders* was recently published online by Forward Movement, a ministry of The Episcopal Church U.S.A.

Revive is a 10-month, small-group discipleship program for church leaders that focuses on prayer, scripture and a call to ministry. I hope it is a resource, along with many others, that the church will find helpful.

NA: Any final thoughts?

DD: My question for each person is: Are you growing spiritually? How can your church help with the most exciting and challenging journey you will ever take ... following Jesus!

The Reverend Canon Dawn Davis is Niagara's Faith Formation Coordinator. 416-567-1827 dawn.davis@niagaraanglican.ca

In conversation with ... a husband and wife team:

The Reverends Sue-Ann and Jeff Ward — Part 2

For seven years, Sue-Ann and Jeff Ward served as Co-Rectors of Grace Waterdown and St. Luke's Palermo. Today they are each Rector of their own parish – Jeff at St. Cuthbert's Oakville and Sue-Ann at Grace Waterdown.

In the first of this two-part series, they described their ministry journey to becoming Co-Rectors, explained how they organize themselves and spoke of their accomplishments and challenges.

The CONVERSATION continues ...

Niagara Anglican (NA): Picking up from last month's CONVERSATION, what were other challenges you faced ministering as a husband and wife priest team working as Co-Rectors?

Sue-Ann and Jeff: Another challenge we experienced was the feeling each parish might perceive more time and attention was being given to the other.

For five of the seven years, the only rector's study available to us was at Grace Waterdown, so we both spent a lot of time physically at that church. When the St. Luke's building was under construction and then the new ministry in the new building geared up, the demands of that ministry took us away from Grace more of the time.

It was also difficult trying to keep up with the happenings in the lives of the people of both parishes. Sometimes we didn't immediately notice if a parishioner hadn't been around for a while because we were only at each church for worship every other Sunday.

Although we have been friends for 41 years and get along very well, we are different people with different ways of approaching certain things.

It took a bit of time to get used to working with or around what we perceived as the other person's foibles. For example,

Jeff stacks documents and files on his desk for a while and then does one big filing session every few months. Sue files as she goes along. Sometimes she wouldn't be able to find a document she was looking for because it was on one of Jeff's two desks rather than in a file cabinet.

Jeff saves most emails while Sue is inclined to only save what seems important. At times, emails that Jeff wanted to refer to would no longer exist.

And there was always a great deal of emails to address. Reading and responding to all the emails for both clerics and both parishes was a lot to wade through on a daily basis. Although knowing who should respond to which piece of mail got easier over time, the question, "Did you reply to Bob's email or should I?" got asked a lot.

NA: Looking back over your ministry at Grace and St. Luke's, what are the highlights for you?

Sue-Ann and Jeff: Following Jesus together with such amazing parishioners and staff was a privilege every day.

During our time at Grace, four parishioners discerned callings to ordained leadership. Two have been ordained and two are still involved in the preparation and discernment process. Watching the Holy Spirit beckon

and faithful people respond filled us with awe. Being a part of the raising up of new ordained leaders in the church was an honour.

The moving of the historic (1845) St. Luke's Anglican Church building from one side of the property to the other on October 30, 2015 was a memorable day in our team ministry. We both prayed our hearts out that nothing awful would happen as the move unfolded.

Thankfully, all went well with the relocation and the nerve-wracking day concluded with the joyful birth of our second grandchild. We had much to celebrate!

The grand opening celebration for the new St. Luke's building and the first worship service back in the worship space after worshipping in a school for two years were

highlights of our time serving at St. Luke's.

NA: What else would you like to say about your experience as a husband and wife clergy team working together in the same parishes or different parishes?

Sue-Ann and Jeff: We believe that team ministry, in whatever form, is incredibly rewarding and good for the Church. We are very grateful to God and to Bishop Michael for granting us the opportunity to serve together.

NA: May God bless you in your new ministries.



Moving the historic St. Luke's building was a memorable day in our ministry.

In my own words . . .

Archdeacon John Rathbone reflects on his six decades of ordained ministry



Left: Bishop Walter Bagnell officiated at the worship when John Rathbone was ordained a Deacon Sunday, May 18, 1958. The young lady behind the Bishop is John's daughter, Kathy (Hartog), who today is a member of St. Christopher's Burlington.

Photo: Submitted



Above: Bishop Michael Bird blesses Archdeacon John Rathbone on his 60th anniversary in the ordained ministry.

I celebrated the 60th anniversary of my ordination as Deacon on May 18, 2018 at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton at the 12:15 p.m. Eucharist. About 40 persons attended, including family and Diocesan staff.

Sixty years is not a world record, or even a diocesan record, but it has a nice ring to it as I recall many occasions of parish ministry during those years. They include the variety of happy and sad times, the memorable and not so memorable times.

I have experienced many changes over those 60 years through which our old Anglican Church has lived—the changes in liturgy, the involvement of more women in the Church (especially in ordained ministry), the Communion of young children before Confirmation, and the disappearance of many churches or their amalgamation with other parishes to make a more viable parish.

I sold Chrysler car parts for 15 years before answering a call to the priesthood and being accepted at Trinity College for the five-year Licentiate of Theology (L.Th.) course from 1954-1959. Bishop Walter Bagnell sent me to St. Alban's Church in Glen Williams in 1958.

What a cultural shock from Toronto to the Glen.

I worked one and a half days per week with Canon Ken Richardson in St. George's Church, Georgetown.

I also began a new parish in the fast-growing part of Georgetown, called Delrex. It was called St. Nicolas' Church and I celebrated the Eucharist

at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday in the lunch room of the Standard Products building (\$25 rental per Sunday). About 30 persons attended.

Most worked at A.V. Roe in Malton, making the Avro Arrow fighter plane. When Prime Minister John George Diefenbaker shut down the Avro Arrow program, employees moved back to England or the USA, and the parish of St. Nicholas folded.

In 1960 I was offered three choices:

1. Stay at St. Alban's, Glen Williams.
2. Begin St. Elizabeth Church in Burlington.
3. Begin a new parish called St. Bartholomew's at Garth and Mohawk on the West Hamilton Mountain.

I chose the latter, built the first unit parish hall, started with 12 families and in three years had 250 families. I rang every doorbell from West 5th to the Sanitorium hospital. During my time at St. Bart's I also taught school at Hillfield-Strathallan College, grade six, seven and eight religion classes.

I moved to St. Mark's Church in Orangeville in 1963 to 1969 and then back to Hamilton to the Missions to Seamen and St. George's church in Hannon.

In December 1971 I had a phone call from Dean Harry Bagnall to become the Dean's Vicar at the Cathedral. I accepted and stayed on with Jo Fricker when he became Dean in 1973 and stayed for 10 years. Jo didn't want anyone to "dicker with Fricker's Vicar" so I was offered the title of Canon Pastor or Canon Residentiary and, as I

Right: Archdeacon John Rathbone tells about his ordained ministry journey to family and Diocesan staff gathered in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock



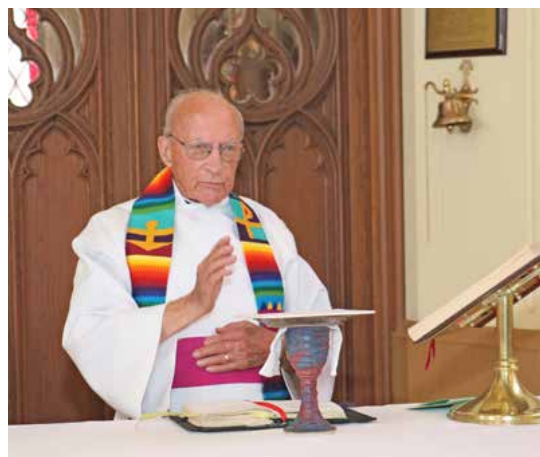
didn't know the meaning of the second, I chose the first.

I was at the Cathedral for 10 years and then went to Christ Church in Wainfleet for two years. In 1983 I was Rector of All Saint's Church in Hamilton and retired from there after 10 years.

In "retirement" I was first Honorary Assistant at Grace Church Hamilton with Rector Richard Berryman, and for the past 15 years at St. Stephen-on-the-Mount with Canon Scott McNaughton.

In 1993 I also took over the work of Diocesan Archivist from Archdeacon Homer Ferris and to this date, I still am (25 years later).

The Venerable John Rathbone is Diocesan Archivist for Niagara. archivist@niagaraanglican.ca



Archdeacon John Rathbone blesses those who attended the worship service and reception marking the 60th anniversary of his ordination as a Deacon in God's Church.

Sowing the seeds of God's love



A Celtic cross, made from traditional materials, centres the Memory Garden at St. Columba St. Catharines. Photo: Paulette Alakas

to determine the interest of parishioners were held on various Sundays throughout the late winter and early spring. The response was overwhelmingly supportive and positive.

Mori Gardens in Niagara-on-the-Lake was contacted to obtain professional input into the feasibility of such a garden in our space.

Parishioners suggested the flowers, shrubs and trees that they would like to personally donate to add to the greening of St. Columba while honouring their loved ones.

A professional garden planner drew up plans for a circular garden incorporating the wishes of the congregation, adding complimentary plants for those who wished to donate to the endeavour without a specific request.

A scale drawing was provided to the parish for approval and received with great enthusiasm.

In keeping with St. Columba's Celtic origins, a landscape designer was commissioned to create a Celtic cross using tradi-

tional materials for the centre of the garden. It also included an accessible pathway to allow anyone to approach the garden from the parking lot. Plans include the installation of two benches to provide seating for quiet contemplation.

The circle was measured out and the land prepared. On June 22nd a large group of parishioners gathered to welcome the truck of God's beautiful botanicals and begin planting. The garden professional, with scale plans in hand, directed the placement of flowers and shrubs. Several trees chosen and donated by parishioners were also added in the garden's

vicinity.

The next Sunday, the Rector blessed the beautiful addition to St. Columba's outdoor property and a celebratory reception followed.

The parish has continued with green thumbs to keep the garden watered and weeded throughout the hot summer and it is flourishing!

Neighbouring non-parishioners have been eager to utilize this cultivated and lovely new space.

Paulette Alakas is a member of St. Columba St. Catharines. columba@bellnet.ca

PAULETTE ALAKAS

Beside the back parking lot at St. Columba St. Catharines there sprawled a vast and underutilized landscape—a somewhat desolate sight for parishioners and visitors getting out of their vehicles to enter through the back door to parish halls, the hallway and the Church proper.

A tree was planted at the back corner of the vast open property by parishioner Garry Spence

in memory of his wife, and in conversation with Rector Will Alakas the idea of a Memory Garden was born.

This garden, built on the love and devotion of parishioners and family members, would eventually blossom into a colourful, joyous, vibrant garden. In it the blessings of God could be enjoyed by every church-goer, as well as our neighbouring community.

Meetings and discussions

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Reaching out to “the least of these”

EMILY FITCH

Every minute of every day, 31 people are forced to flee their homes due to violence, war and persecution. This is equivalent to 44,400 people daily, and a total of 16.2 million displaced from their homes in 2017.

These statistics from a recent report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reveal displacement levels are at a record high, with 68.5 million people forcibly displaced around the world.

Of those, 25.4 million are refugees, meaning they have not only been forced to leave their homes, but also their home countries.

Despite these rising numbers, 2017 saw a 54% drop in the number of refugees resettled by the international community, as compared to 2016.

Refugees have their lives uprooted and destabilized in a way most of us in North America will never know or understand. Many live without rights or proper homes in their countries of asylum.

Although we may find ourselves lacking knowledge and experience regarding the plight of refugees, every person who identifies as a Christian is intimately familiar with at least one refugee: Jesus.

According to the Geneva Convention, a refugee is someone who flees their home country due to violence, persecution or war. Jesus and his parents met this definition.

After Jesus was born, Joseph received warning that King Herod was sending soldiers to kill Jesus. God instructed Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt, where they could live in safety while the threat to Jesus' life remained in effect.

Like baby Jesus, 52 percent of



The Al Rahmo family was sponsored by St. James Dundas.

Photo: St. James Dundas

refugees are children, under 18 years of age. In their countries of asylum, many are unable to attend school.

Many of today's refugees have a lot more in common with Jesus than just their refugee status.

The face of Jesus likely appeared more like that of an Iraqi or Syrian refugee than the white face seen on flannelgraphs in Sunday School class. In fact, Jesus grew up only 128 kilometres away from Damascus, the Syrian capital.

Similar in appearance or not, we know our call is to love our neighbour, for all people are beloved and made in God's image.

In the Old Testament, God warns against those “who turn away the stranger,” or “deprive the foreigners living among you of justice”. (Malachi 3:4)

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and clothe the naked, it is as if we are feeding, clothing, and

welcoming Jesus himself. But when we see people who are hungry, thirsty, naked, and dispossessed and do nothing, it is as if we have seen Jesus – in this position of greatest need – and ignored him.

We are called to do all we can to welcome refugees.

Jesus and his parents were forced to seek asylum in Egypt until it was safe for them to return home. Unfortunately for many refugees today, waiting to return is simply not an option. There is no end in sight to the threats of violence and armed conflict that forced them to leave their homelands.

For 1.2 million refugees, remaining in their country of asylum is not an option either. The UNHCR deems that these refugees – representing the full diversity of God's creation – need a new place to call home, as they face danger in both their home country and their current country of residence.

They are eligible for refugee sponsorship, but in need of

refugee sponsors.

This is our opportunity to feed, clothe and welcome the stranger as an equivalent child of God.

To learn how you can welcome the stranger through refugee sponsorship, contact

the Reverend Scott McLeod at refugees@niagaraanglican.ca.

Emily Fitch served as Refugee Sponsorship and Settlement Assistant for Niagara Diocese.



Sponsored by St. James and St. Brendan Port Colborne, mother Hiba, father Belal, son Fares and daughter Jana arrived in Port Colborne from Lebanon on New Year's Day 2016 to begin their new life in Canada.

Photo: Rob Hurkmans



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A quiz for a new season



ELEANOR JOHNSTON AND WAYNE FRASER

What's new these days? We go about saying that Niagara is one of the most advanced dioceses in the country. Really? Well, if so, how do we explain these new ideas to our families and friends in laity-land?

First off, determine your priest's theological bent by checking out the office bookshelves. Do the authors include such as John Spong, Marcus Borg, Mary Jo Leddy, John Dominic Crossan, Tom Harper, Phyllis Tickle, Diana Butler-Bass, Rob Bell, Gretta Vosper?

Ask to borrow a few books. Do so and you will have found your way into exhilarating new concepts. If you are surprised

by what you read, book an hour with your priest who will, one hopes, welcome your curiosity.

Be aware, however, that many priests are leery about teaching laity how liberal theology works. Are priests afraid to rock the boat, to upset parishioners in the pews, to lose their jobs?

Preserving the beauty and sanctity of traditional liturgy guarantees that a priest is delivering the real goods. Some priests intimidate lay people, suggesting that years of study are necessary to take part in theological discourse.

On the other hand, we have been blessed of late in Niagara with priests who encourage the discovery of new perspectives. In the past few years, Bishop Michael recommended Richard

Rohr's *Falling Upward*, Desmond Tutu's *In God's Hands* and Wab Kinew's *The Reason You Walk* for our Lenten study.

What kinds of books will Bishop Susan recommend? What is she reading? Niagara has a new Bishop for a new season.

Do you feel a need to tune up your theological expertise? Let's do it. Mark your responses as you move through the following quiz. By answering a question easily, you will indicate familiarity with the terminology.

- 1) What do "interfaith" and "ecumenical" have in common?
- 2) What's the significance of the Jewish refusal to name Yahweh?
- 3) What are some differences

between the Eucharists beginning on pages 185 and 230 in the BAS (*Book of Alternative Services*)?

- 4) What is the main limitation of the Revised Common Lectionary?
- 5) Why do many Christians have difficulty saying the Nicene Creed?
- 6) Do people in your congregation who resist change threaten you with eternal damnation? How does this jive with your sense of worshipping a loving God?
- 7) How many Commandments did Moses give the Israelites? How many did Jesus give his disciples?
- 8) What is the difference between a literal and a metaphorical interpretation of the Bible?
- 9) "Don't mix politics and religion." Did Jesus follow that advice?
- 10) Are the following also acts of worship? "Donating to good causes." "Taking a child to an art gallery." "Speaking truth to power." "Pursuing justice."

The point is lots of modern theological approaches have been around seminaries for decades, and the average layer-

son knows nothing about them. Why is that? Do lay people not want to hear new ideas?

There are many spiritual blogs offered free, e.g. by Diana Butler Bass and Richard Rohr. There is a long list at this website: progressivechristianity.org/blogs-we-love/

There must be frustration on both sides of the theological divide. But surely, laity and clergy can explore questions of faith together in a respectful, non-confrontational manner.

The Reverend Canon Dawn Davis, Faith Formation Coordinator for the Niagara Diocese, has introduced a new spiritual study program, *Revive: Equipping Lay Leaders to be Spiritual Leaders*. Whether it's Alpha or Living the Questions, small group discussions can offer worthwhile opportunities for mutual support and growth.

Bonus Question: How did you respond to Bishop Curry's sermon at the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle?

Eleanor Johnston can be reached at eleanorjohnston@gmail.com and the Reverend Wayne Fraser at fraserwayne@gmail.com

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Chi Rho – 70 years young



St. George's Chi Rho Fellowship in Guelph will mark their 70th anniversary with an Evensong and social time, open to everyone, on Sunday, October 28 at 4:00 p.m.

Chi Rho at St. George's is one of two or three remaining Fellowships established in the 1940s under a charter issued by

The Anglican Church of Canada.

For more information, contact Elaine Tucker, Anniversary Committee Chair at daleigh@sympatico.ca

Happy Thanksgiving!

School supplies fill the gap

LESLEY HARSCHNITZ

When All Saints Hamilton left its building for redevelopment in 2009 we committed to continuing our outreach mission.

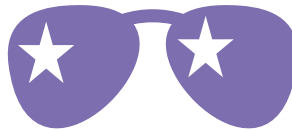
In August we collected school supplies for Elizabeth Bagshaw school, where a parish member teaches. An appreciative school fills gaps created by low income and tight funding.

Fall activities include St. Francis Fair, with our annual blessing of animals in Victoria Park (October 14) and a Fall Market (October 20) at Erskine Presbyterian Church.



Toni Skeete, Ron Bade, Melissa Mitchell and Peggy Evanoff sorted and packed school supplies donated by All Saints Hamilton for students at Elizabeth Bagshaw School. Photo: Tom Evanoff

Elton John's greatest hits – in concert



The 'N-Zanity Singers, directed by Gordon Zanity-Donn, with the help of two grand pianos and eight hands will present Elton John's songs in a concert at St. Paul's (Westdale) in Hamilton on October 14th at 7:00 p.m.

According to Churchwarden Sharon Molnar, who is also a

singer with the 'N-Zanity Singers, proceeds will assist the parish's music program, including updating the sound system and possibly proper lighting in the multi-use sanctuary.

Tickets are \$20 at the door – children under 10 are free.

More information is available from molnars@mcmaster.ca

Wanted for Ghana

Do you have altar hardware and linens sitting in a drawer at your church not being used?

If so, then the Anglican churches in the Diocese of Sunyani, the Internal Anglican Province for Ghana have need of them

The Reverend Canon Betty Jordan will pick them up and ship the goods to Ghana this fall.

Contact Betty at revbettyjordan@gmail.com or 416-795 3575 for more information.

Parish touches the lives of 10,000 people

JUDY ROIS

Where can you go to find bridge, euchre, yoga, Tai Chi, line dancing, art classes, music lessons, language classes, karate, a food bank and community meals?

Why, St. Luke's Community Centre in Palermo, of course! This is a village in Halton County amalgamated into the town of Oakville.

Thousands of people of all ages are accessing programs and services at this community hub. If you were to visit, you would find a bustling gathering place with something for everyone.

"Transforming lives and building community" is the way St. Luke's Community Centre (SLCC) describes itself.

SLCC serves as a hub where people meet in both structured and casual ways to engage in social, recreational, educational, artistic, cultural and community-building opportunities.

It partners with agencies, local groups and businesses to provide programs and services for people of all ages, abilities, faiths, sexual orientations and ethnicities.

Built in 1845, the original historical structure of St. Luke's Anglican Church has been incorporated into the innovative new design of the SLCC. Its logo is a stylized tree with a tiny heart in the centre and upheld by two open hands.

Recognizing the need and the creative plan to be a holistic and diverse hub, the Anglican Foundation has provided grants totalling \$25,000 over the past three years.

When SLCC needed a new outdoor sign to advertise their events, the Anglican Foundation stepped in with funding, and the first message on the sign read, "Thank You Anglican Foundation for funding this sign."

So, if you're in the area, you

may want to drop in for some relaxed yoga while your kids take a Zumba class.

Who ever said Anglicans don't like change?

St. Luke's is proving the inaccuracy of that old adage as they reach out with the love of Christ in new and innovative expressions of what it means to be the Church in this new day.

The Reverend Canon Judy Rois is Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada. vrois@anglicanfoundation.org



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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- December – October 25
- January – November 20
- February – December 21

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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One spirit, many expressions

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Rains may have forced an abrupt ending to the day, but rains could not dampen the spirits of those who attended the second annual One Burlington Festival.

The Festival brought together

hundreds of people from multi-faith, multicultural communities and traditions to celebrate diversity in a circle of equality, harmony and understanding.

Groups shared information, cultures shared food, community partners shared their specific interests, children

laughed and played together — all adding to the overall success of the event held in Central Park Burlington, and everything was free.

Celebrating faith and culture as one is the primary goals of One Burlington Festival.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

St. Luke's Burlington is one of the chief organizers of the city celebration of diversity



Booths circling Central Park lawn in Burlington enabled the crowds to circulate and enjoy the 2018 One Burlington Festival.



Emily Rose from Moose Factory performed the hoop dance to the beat of the drums. A dancer since age three, she was one of many groups and individuals who provided entertainment during the August 6th festival.



One of the chief organizers, St. Luke's Burlington was front and centre offering sweets for people to enjoy.



Acting Sergeant Stu Macdonald congratulated Adam after he presented the young cyclist with a free helmet from Halton Regional Police.



Ember gets her Festival passport stamped at the Halton Islamic Association booth. The passport included information about various world religions, as well as the Green Rule depicted by a tree showing how different religions relate to creation, "Do unto the Earth as you would have it do unto you."



Food from many cultures and traditions was offered as a gift for people to sample and taste.