

I am Anglican!
Cheryl Bergie shares her faith story and how it has touched the lives of others.


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Water, water everywhere ...
Dean Cormack sends us his first letter from Cuba describing his mission adventures.



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In conversation ...
about biblical storytelling, with Susan Wilson.



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Bishop Susan delivers her first charge to Niagara's Synod



HOLLIS HISCOCK

"I know the God who will not let our foot be moved, the God who watches over us, the God from whom our help comes has got us and our beloved church ... in this work."

With these words of hope and assurance, Bishop Susan Bell concluded her first charge to the 144th Niagara Synod. She began by taking delegates back approximately 2,800 years to the prophet Isaiah because, although God's people were in exile, Isaiah's message is "comforting—and challenging—promises of redemption". Even though our past is important, we should not get bogged down there, said the Bishop. "If we are so taken by how things used to be and

can't let go of that mirage, then we will miss whatever the new thing is that God is doing in our present." Citing personalities throughout history, she reminded delegates that we live in a "dynamic, ever shape-shifting time" and everything we try may not work, but "we'll learn together through the trying. And we'll be diligent with the harvesting of lessons as we go—and responsible with our resources". Experimentation and change may be the new normal, said Bishop Susan, and

Bishop Susan delivering her charge: "The Gospel is not easy. It never was, and we are called to struggle with it—interpret it for our culture – live it for our communities and our people." Photo: Hollis Hiscock

that could be exciting, "once we've disentangled ourselves from the parts of our past that have bound us." The gospel is the same good news delivered by Jesus Christ even though "it has worn different clothes in every age," she continued, and "we're still trying stuff on for size in our age". "The wine is the same wine, but new skins are waiting." She has witnessed tremendous creativity in her visits to parishes. "I mean creatively inhabiting what is best of our tradition and

restoring meaning to our actions where we've perhaps taken meaning for granted." She named spiritual formation groups, vibrant liturgies, engaging new constituencies and supporting those living on the margins as examples. Noting the letting go of a program mindset and cultivating a more relational stance towards communities, she told delegates we need to "figure out that we can't—and probably shouldn't—do it all ... and concentrate the mind rather on what we can

See BISHOP Page 2



A prayer poem for
the new year
Create anew

Cathy Jeanes, Burlington

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
a loving heart to beat for You.

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
a loving mind to think of You.

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
a loving ear to listen for You.

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
A loving eye to look for You.

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
A loving mouth to speak to You.

Create, oh Lord, create anew,
A loving soul to be with You.

Bishop delivers charge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be doing as church".

Even with "fewer people and fewer dollars with which to do ministry" today, she noted, "one of the new things we are being asked to do is remember that if we plant and do some watering, God gives the growth!"

She suggested the diocese needs to renew the culture of stewardship, one built on "relationships, as well as financial resources". Our stories should not be about scarcity and survival but about "what God is growing in and through us".

A focus on leadership, lay and clergy, was also recommended in the charge, with the Bishop mentioning new efforts for lay involvement and an enhancement for clergy continuing education. In the future, the Clergy and Licenced Lay Workers Conference will be fully funded so all can attend.

As part of the work of renewal and mission, Bishop Susan announced, beginning in Epiphany, "I will be asking us all across the diocese to commit to participate in One Thing—one spiritual practice or Christian education tool or missional action that will help renew and enliven our relationship with God. The idea is that we will begin to share stories, participate in workshops, take on spiritual practices and celebrate the God who has given us more than we can ask for or imagine."

Calling properties valuable diocesan assets, the Bishop reminded delegates that parishes and church buildings must be established where the mission fields are and that may mean redeploying some present assets. "When it is very clear that they have come to the end of their life cycle it is incumbent on us—the stewards of those resources—to redeploy those assets as needed for a new mission field—as intended by their founders: Christians who gave money to the church to be the church."

"This is an important thing for us to understand," she said, since our mission as a church is to "make



disciples and preach the Gospel to the whole of creation".

In order to become a planting church again, the Bishop noted decisions have to be made based on "understanding the needs of new housing surveys; of underserved inner-city neighbourhoods; strategic small-town locations. These are some of the contexts that we are learning about and planning to engage."

A new committee to examine and explore all aspects of Niagara's properties and strategies is being formed.

"This is the job of tilling the soil and planting seeds for the next season of our beloved church."

While travelling around Niagara Diocese, Bishop Susan also noticed a growing appreciation for shared leadership, partnering in community with values-based organizations, developing gifts inventories to reform and strengthen ministries, listening to the needs of communities, reinventing who we are in and for the world and returning to God "our eternal enduring strength".

After acknowledging the value of the diocesan vision which served Niagara so well for the past ten years, Bishop Susan spoke of "carrying forward our Diocesan vision into its next iteration".

"The Gospel is not easy. It never was," she recapped, "and we are called to struggle with it—interpret it for our culture—live it for our communities and our people.

Synod News

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Wrapped in the Eucharist

The one-day synod was organized around the Holy Eucharist. The Bible readings, prayers, hymns, consecration prayer, distribution of communion and final blessing were interspersed throughout the seven-hour synod.

Appropriately, the opening hymn was Let Us Build A House Where Love Can Dwell (and all are welcome) and at the end we were sent out into the world with the challenge to, Lift High The Cross, The Love Of Christ Proclaim.

Attendance

Chancellor Greg Tweeny reported that 71 clergy of a

possible 94 (75%) and 132 of 185 (71%) laypeople registered for the 144th Niagara Synod. All but one parish was represented.

Canons

Treasurer Jody Beck and Chair of the Bishop's Decennial Inspection Committee Terry Charters were named Honorary Lay Canons of Christ's Church Cathedral. They will lead a new committee to explore all aspects of the diocesan property portfolio.

Cuba

The Reverend Canon Stuart Pike reported on the 19 years of partnership in mission between Niagara and Cuba dioceses. Even though the future is uncertain, "we have built friendships that will remain," he said.



Adam MacNeil from the Church of the Resurrection Hamilton led the music at the 144th Niagara Synod.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Guided by a vision

HOLLIS HISCOCK

"We are celebrating ten years of engaging and being engaged by our diocesan vision for ministry," Vision Advocate the Reverend Canon Terry DeForest reminded delegates at the 144th Niagara Synod.

After outlining the process to develop the vision, Terry provided examples of how the vision became alive in the mission and ministries of the diocese.

It began 10 years earlier when Bishop Michael Bird was elected Bishop of Niagara and he had a vision that we could "make an even greater difference in the world."

"There were specific elements

that he (Bishop Michael) contributed, but the reality was that his vision—through a process of consultation, prayer and discernment—became our vision," Terry noted, "and because the whole people of God were faithfully engaged in this venture, I would hazard that it was God's vision for us."

The vision, captured in a peculiar little graphic, provided the guideposts and goals for parishes as well as the diocese.

Terry listed many examples of how people have been passionately following Jesus Christ, including the appointment of an Archdeacon for Truth Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry, Justice Camps advocacy for refugee



medical care, artist-in-residence, advocating and deciding for marriage equality, refugee sponsorship, Chinese Anglican Missioner and promotion of

living wages.

"For these, for those too numerous to name, we give hearty thanks!"

We shall never be the same

because of the differences made in us and what we have made with God in the world, Terry concluded. "Even as we retire this vision, we shall carry those differences with us into the new thing that God is doing! The new renewal and mission foci to which Bishop Susan is giving voice—Let us now perceive it!"

Delegates were asked to fill out index cards, answering the question, "How are we more passionately following Christ today?"

Over 200 responses were recorded from Synod delegates.

More synod coverage pages 6–7.

HOLLIStorial

These three remain – Faith, Hope, Love – but...



If love makes the world go round,
And God is love.
Then, God makes the world go round.
The logic formula was explained during my first university philosophy class, namely ...
If A equals B
And B equals C
Then C equals A.
We were thrilled to understand the universe through such a simple mathematical equation. Great fun awaited us as we looked forward to trying it out on family and peers.
Then Professor Brown pricked our academic fantasy.
He asked, "Do you all agree that if A equals B, and B equals C, then C equals A?"
Every hand shot up in perfectly orchestrated unison.
Then he illustrated how illogical logic could be.
He stated, "All goats have beards."
We smiled in agreement.
Professor, pointing to his face,

Maybe he inadvertently reasoned ... if faith = hope, and hope = love, then all three must be equal.

"Brown has a beard."
The smiles vanished from our faces, we knew what the next sentence would be.
The professor concluded, "Then Brown is a goat."
Wide eyed, we gawked at our smiling professor who warned, "Like life, logic is not always what it seems to be."
Let's get back to Paul.
As usual, from his prison Paul wrote letters answering questions posed by the fledging Christians in Corinth. One question centred on the foundations upon which to build their church community. He narrowed his recommendations to three — faith, hope, love. These provided the perfectly balanced three-legged stool for Christian

belief and action.
Then he seriously gnawed on the logic of his recommendation. Maybe he inadvertently reasoned ... if faith = hope, and hope = love, then all three must be equal.
Perhaps he questioned his suppositions, rationalizing that all three could be equal. But one could be more equal than the other two.
Eventually his intense mental struggling and even deeper meditation compelled him to add the postscript, "but the greatest of these is love."
Maybe Paul influenced George Orwell's logical/illogical pathways in writing his book *Animal Farm*. "All animals are equal," was the first commandment declared when

the animals revolted and drove the humans from the barnyard. However, when the pigs seized control of the farm society, they issued a revised commandment, "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."
In another letter, Paul seemed to shift gears when he wrote to Christians in Thessalonica. "We remember your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."
In the 17th century, Brother Lawrence of the Carmelite Monastery in Paris supported the logic of the three-legged Christian stool.
"Many things are possible for the person who has hope. Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But everything is possible for the person who practices all three virtues."
Bill, our next-door neighbour for years, was a talented graphic

artist and a quiet individual. He seldom spoke about his beliefs, rarely attended church worship and avoided social gatherings, but reflected often on solving human problems. I think he built his adult life around Paul's three pillars ... faith, hope, love.
After we moved to another province, we communicated through Christmas cards and short visits during our summer vacation. One year, tucked inside our Christmas card was a hand-written note. In his best graphic artist script, Bill penned, "I have come to the conclusion that the answer to all the world's problems is love".
The sooner the whole world arrives at that level of understanding and plants the seeds of love in every conceivable situation, the sooner we humans will make the world go 'round through God's love.
*This HOLLIS*torial completes the series on Paul's Faith (November 2018), Hope (December 2018) and Love (January 2019).

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(See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2013

YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP

EXERCISE MEETING NEW PEOPLE EATING HEALTHY

GETTING ORGANISED LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

AT THE POC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APC, CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB, AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC, THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC.

cartoonchurch.com

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Women's ministries in Niagara

Mothers Union, Glen Williams

SANDRA JORGENSEN

Our Mothers' Union branch at St. Alban's Glen Williams was begun in 1985 with the encouragement and spiritual influence of the late Elspeth Newton and Ruth Gallagher. With the support of our ministers and parish members, we have had an active role in the parish life for many years.

Although our meetings are not monthly, we are constantly in touch with each other, keeping an ear open for parishioners who may need a "cheer me up" basket, new baby basket or birthday cards.

Our group also experiences much grace by having secret prayer partners, meant to bring cheer and prayer support.

Members of the Mothers' Union at St. Alban's do the Sunday School lessons plus one of our favourites, preparing

supper for the Family Church service held every other Thursday evening. This gives us the chance to welcome young families and some grandparents, too!

St. Alban's Mothers' Union has also been very helpful in my own role as the Lone Members Co-ordinator for the National Council. The ladies often help to stuff and address envelopes for the almost 50 Lone Members across Canada. Lots of laughter happens on these occasions!

Each Sunday it is a comfort to

hear the Mothers' Union wave of prayer read during services.

We are especially delighted at this time to have our own Father Aaron Orear as Mothers' Union Chaplain for the Diocese of Niagara.

The lovely Niagara banner is displayed proudly in St. Alban's Church.

Sandra Jorgensen is a member of the Mothers' Union at St. Alban the Martyr Glen Williams.



Owen Lockwood, fourth from the left, and members of the Mothers' Union, including writer Sandra Jorgensen (wearing apron) welcomed Bishop Susan to St. Alban's Glen Williams.

Photo: Sandra Jorgensen

People in the news

Appointments and election

Sister **Marguerite Mae**, CSC, was elected as the 10th Mother Superior of the Community of the Sisters of the Church. She is the first Canadian to hold this office.

The Reverend **Joan Dunn** is Rector of All Saints Erin, on a half-time basis.

Canon **Jim Powell** accepted the appointment of Interim Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Niagara Falls (Chippawa), on a half-time basis.

Canon **Margaret Murray** is now Priest-in-Charge of Holy Trinity Hamilton, on a part-time basis.

The Reverend **Pam Guyatt** has been appointed Regional Dean of Lincoln for a period of three years.

The Reverend **Laura Marie Piotrowicz** resigned as Rector of St. John's, St. Catharines (Port Dalhousie) to become Rector of St. John's Lunenburg in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

and their family.

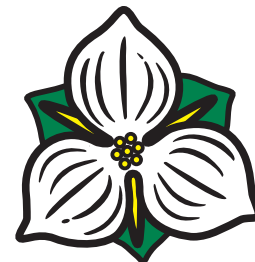
The Reverend **Ian Stuart**, retired from full-time ministry and living in Collingwood, died on October 29. He was ordained in Toronto Diocese and ministered as Chaplain at Appleby College Oakville. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Carol and family.

The Right Reverend **Joachim Carl Fricker** died on October 28. Bishop Jo faithfully served several parishes in Niagara and was the rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Dean of Niagara for more than a decade, before being elected in 1985 to serve as Suffragan Bishop of Toronto Diocese. In retirement, he served twice as the interim Dean of Western New York. Our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Shirley and their family.

(Source: People in the News at niagaraanglican.ca)

Sympathy

The Reverend **Bill Blott** died November 22. He ministered at the Church of the Nativity Hamilton (formerly St. Mary's), St. John's St. Catharines, Church of the Transfiguration St. Catharines, St. George's and St. Thomas St. Catharines and St. Paul's Dunnville. Our thoughts and prayers to his wife, Marian



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Called By Name

MARTHA TATARNIC

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide." (John 15:16)

The work of the Called By Name committee is to create a culture in our Niagara Diocese of leadership renewal and of raising up vocations, lay and ordained, in our younger generations.

We began with a day-long event

in February 2018, meeting with about 15 young people identified from across the diocese.

We continue to follow up with this first group to offer support and resources, even as we look forward to our ongoing work.

To that end, we will continue working with our current church leadership to help us identify possible vocations in the 15-30 age range to be part of our 2019 cohort.

Most of us are leaders in our church because someone else

saw something in us and named it. Your commitment to joining us in this calling of others is essential to what it means to be church.

As we invite new people to share with us in leadership, we

are faithful to our own calling to share the Good News, and as new gifts are identified, new voices heard and new leaders equipped, we are blessed in return as we see and understand God's love in new ways.

*The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic is Rector of St. George's St. Catharines.
stgeorgechurch@bellnet.ca*

I am Anglican!

CHERYL BERGIE

We all have our own story of how we came to be Anglicans and I would encourage you all to share your experiences with each other.

My journey began about 12 years ago when I was a mother of a two-year-old and a three-year-old.

I worked from home after my daughters were born, running a home daycare.

In the meantime, my neighbours a few doors down, Veronica and her late husband, the Reverend Canon Rob Fead, were discussing who was going to run the Sunday School at their parish of St. George's in St. Catharines. Veronica mentioned to Rob that I was great with kids and she saw something in me.

Soon after, they were at my door and asked if we could discuss an opportunity. My response to the question of becoming a Sunday School Co-ordinator was to laugh a little. I told them that I was embarrassed to admit to a priest that all I really knew were the basics, Adam and Eve, Noah and Moses.

Growing up we never went to church and only really mentioned God at funerals, at which time we would be comforted to hear that our loved one was in a better place with God.

I did believe in God and lived in a respectful way but really had no foundation. I told them that I would be happy to help them out by covering the classes over the summer, giving them time to find the "right" person to fill the position. That summer led to 10 years of

"As you can see, Veronica's ability to see something in me I could not even see in myself, was a seed planted that has multiplied"

building the children's program at our church.

After that time of essentially learning along with the children, I felt I had grown so much in my faith development but there was more I wanted to experience in the church, such as sitting in the pews for a service, becoming a lay reader and a mentor.

It was clear to me the work with the kids was something I was proud of, but we needed some fresh ideas.

Our new Rector Martha Tatarnic was at first apprehensive to lose me in this role, but once we discussed new leadership possibilities and decided to invite my sister Tanya, who was also unchurched, to assume the position, she was on board with the vision.

Turned out to be an incredible decision because the children's program expanded with the new ideas Tanya and Martha brought. I was engaged in new ministries and my much younger (17 years) sister Sarah, also unchurched, joined the children's team as our nursery



Martha Tatarnic (left) explained the purpose behind the program Called By Name and Cheryl Bergie described her personal journey of faith in her presentation I am Anglican!
Photo: Hollis Hiscock

provider.

As you can see, Veronica's ability to see something in me I could not even see in myself, was a seed planted that has multiplied.

Not only with my sisters joining in leadership roles, but my daughters growing up in the church and all the lives that I have touched—and all the lives that they have touched—many peoples' lives have been changed. It's a snowball effect for sure and makes me think of my favourite movie *It's a Wonderful Life*. Each life touches many other lives.

I will be eternally grateful to my friends Rob and Veronica Fead for the huge impact they made on my life with that invitation.

I'm very proud to say that I am no longer unchurched; I am Anglican!

Cheryl Bergie can be reached at cbergie@royalpage.ca

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Foundation has gone far by going together

HOLLIS HISCOCK

“Go fast, go alone; go far, go together.”

The Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) quoted this African proverb to describe the phenomenal journey and impact on the life of the Canadian Anglican Church.

The seeds were sown in 1956 to encourage and support ministry in parishes struggling to survive in a postwar world by focusing mainly on rundown church buildings and rectories, Executive Director, the Reverend Canon Judy Rois, told delegates at Niagara’s Synod.

Changing needs over the years

meant the Foundation changed its emphasis somewhat. Today, grants and loans are awarded for infrastructure needs but also, said Judy, for innovative ministries, as well as camps for refugees, theological bursaries, ESL programs and projects supporting children and families.

Since 1957, AFC has advanced over \$34 million dollars in loans and grants. Many programs and projects in Niagara Diocese have received funding.

Since AFC is a donor-based organization, we are sustained by the generosity—from dioceses, parishes and individuals—of the Anglican Church of Canada, Judy concluded.

Board member Dean Peter Wall of Christ’s Church Cathedral Hamilton praised the enormous generosity coming from parishes across Canada. However, he lamented the reality that only five parishes and around 12 individuals in Niagara Diocese were members of the Foundation. He encouraged everyone to join in the life changing work of AFC by becoming a member.

For more information about the Anglican Foundation and how you can support its work, go to anglicanfoundation.org, 1-866-924-9192 ext. 322 or foundation@anglicanfoundation.org



The Reverend Canon Judy Rois, Executive Director of the Anglican Foundation of Canada, and Executive Administrator Scott Brubacher were at Niagara’s Synod to speak about the Foundation, answer questions, distribute informational documents and provide delegates with an opportunity to purchase a wide range of merchandise.
Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Parishes working together in new ministry



(Above) Over 200 people attended the Moon Festival celebrations at St. Simon’s. (Below) St. Cuthbert’s has concentrated on seniors, including classes for women.

Photos: Garfield Wu



At St. Aidan’s, the emphasis is on youth who have increased the number of choir members significantly.

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Three parishes are moving forward quickly and effectively with the Chinese Anglican Mission in the Oakville area, delegates at the fall Niagara synod were informed.

St. Simon’s, St. Aidan’s and St. Cuthbert’s parishes are bases from which the Reverend Garfield Wu is reaching out, welcoming and integrating Mandarin speaking people into a variety of ministries.

St. Simon’s Rector Darcey Lazerte compared the church mission to sports groups. When participation is down, they often find “the number one cause is failure to reach out to new people.” He emphasized the importance of reaching out to new Canadians.

An earlier diocesan press release stated, “According to a report by Community

Development Halton, over a third of the newcomers to Halton are from Asia and the Pacific and that number appears to be trending upward. Included in these figures are a wave of young, middle-class Mandarin speaking people with whom the Chinese Anglican missionary hopes to engage.”

Garfield told Synod attendees that the ministry has an advisory group composed of representatives from all three parishes. Each parish also has its own co-ordinating group to initiate activities.

St. Simon’s sponsored a Moon Festival celebration with 200 people in attendance, St. Aidan’s new ministry is focusing on youth and St. Cuthbert’s is concentrating on programs for seniors, including a choir and classes for women.

Rector Jeff Ward of St. Cuthbert’s said most people

start from ground zero and then build community which is an “inspiration for us all”.

Space is needed for people to come together to meet, so, he said, we must “keep the doors open.”

Garfield was born in mainland China. He lived and worked there for over 30 years before coming to Canada, when he pursued a call to ordained ministry.

In addition to being the Chinese Anglican Missioner—the first for the diocese—he serves as Priest-in-Charge of St. Aidan’s Oakville.

The funding for the Chinese Anglican Mission comes, in part, through a Walking on Water (WOW) grant from investment gains realized on a special fund set up with the proceeds of disestablished parishes and property sales.



Jeff Ward (left), Garfield Wu and Darcey Lazerte explained what the Chinese Anglican Mission is doing in the Oakville area.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Postcards can spur action and show we care

HOLLIS HISCOCK

For 60 years the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) has been changing lives in communities around the world, diocesan representative Doris M'Timkulu informed delegates at the recent Niagara Synod.

Then she challenged attendees to sign an *i care* postcard.

Nearly 300 people did. The *i care* campaign

is the brain child of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (foodgrainsbank.ca). For over 35 years its member churches and church agencies have been working together to end hunger.

The postcards were sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to show the Federal Government that Niagara Diocese wants an end to poverty and hunger around the globe.

Each card also encourages Canada to do more to make the world a better place for

everyone, "ensuring everyone has enough food, helping those displaced by conflict, creating opportunities for women and girls to flourish and enabling farmers and their communities to adapt to a changing climate".

It is estimated 815 million people go to bed hungry every night.

The need is great, said Doris, and we can transform lives because we care.



Sue Crowe Connolly from Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton, with nearly 300 synod delegates, signed *i care* postcards asking Canada to do more to alleviate world poverty. The postcards were sent to the Prime Minister.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

Balanced budget... almost

HOLLIS HISCOCK

"Cast your bread upon the water, and it will come back buttered," —with these words, a quote from her grandmother, Chair of the Budget Subcommittee Canon Patricia Davis presented a near balanced budget for approval by delegates attending the 144th Niagara Synod.

She also referred delegates to Matthew 17:20, where Jesus said if we had faith the size of a mustard seed, we could move mountains.

In 2019, diocesan expenses (\$3,253,500) should exceed income (\$3,263,080) by \$9,580.

In her slide presentation, Pat reiterated that we are grateful for our blessings to do what God calls us to do.

Mission at the parish, diocesan, national and international levels combined with a wide range of ministries at each level enables Niagara Diocese to insure "God's work is done."

Contact your synod delegate for detailed information about Niagara's 2019 budget.

Camps booked up by February

HOLLIS HISCOCK

A diamond where youth can meet God in a personal way, relate to others and create memories forever, is how Rosemary Anstey described Canterbury Hills Camp ministry to nearly 300 delegates attending the 144th Niagara Synod.

Hiking, creative programs, high ropes, swimming, co-operative games and chapel Eucharist help change the lives of 700 people during the various summer camps, said Rosemary, who is Chair of Canterbury Hills Camp Board of Directors.

Generally camp registration is full by February, she continued, and in 2018 we added two new camps—one for families and the other for alumni. "Camps are not long enough, was the only complaint."

Challenges, Rosemary said, mostly relate to the age of the facilities include pruning heavily forested areas, repairing lots of buildings, renovating the dining hall which is "not safe" and needing more pews for the chapel "because of the increase" in the number of campers.

She suggested people pray for the camp (especially the children) and encouraged delegates to volunteer (Sunday registration, board member, spring cleanup), make a financial contribution (infrastructure, tree care, bursary fund) and urged every parish to appoint a Canterbury Hills Camp advocate.

She invited people to come to the spring cleanup to "see the faces of the children".

More camp news at canterburyhillscamp.ca



We are amazing, part of the 2019 budget presentation, highlighted what we are doing for God's mission and ministry.

Graphic: Budget presentation



The 2019 budget was overwhelmingly passed by the delegates attending Niagara Synod from parishes around the diocese.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock



Rosemary Anstey (left), Chair of Canterbury Hills Board of Directors, received a cheque from Synod Delegate Maureen Robinson from St. John's Ancaster. By selling baked goods, especially during the 19 weeks of the St. John's Market, over 60 volunteers raised more than \$12,000. When it was announced that the parish would donate \$7,000 to Canterbury Hills Camp an individual came forward to

Spiritual growth is possible at all ages

DAWN DAVIS

"Being part of this group got me talking to my adult kids about spirituality. Who knew they thought about these things! It gave me a chance to show them what I have learned about prayer."

For the past months, 75 lay people from 12 churches have been meeting weekly with their clergy, participating in the Revive program. They have shared their spiritual stories and learned 10 different prayer

styles. The result is that participants say they are growing spiritually, drawing closer to God and gaining confidence in talking about their faith.

Along with six parishes in the diocese, Revive has been part of the spiritual formation ministry of the Greater St. Catharines Initiative.

In St. Catharines, the parishes came together for a joint opening retreat and then met in parish groups for six weeks. They will meet again in the winter in their small groups for

a second module to explore how to engage with scripture.

The clergy who facilitate the program have also been meeting weekly to prepare for the session, learn the spiritual practices and connect with colleagues. One of the clergy facilitators observed: "I am acutely aware of how spiritually deep and hungry our people are. I guess we took the obvious for granted."

A survey has been developed to track the effectiveness of the spiritual growth process. The findings will be shared as soon

as all the groups complete the first module.

One participant in the program who has attended church all her life wondered how she missed learning to pray on a more meaningful level. "I thoroughly enjoy learning the different ways to pray and wouldn't miss time with my small group."



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

Canada's unique opportunity for refugee sponsorship – BVOR

EMILY FITCH

According to the United Nations, there are 25.4 million refugees around the world, with 1.2 million in urgent need of resettlement.

In other words, these 1.2 million people have not been afforded adequate rights, protections or specialized health services in their countries of asylum, so they require resettlement in a third country like Canada.

Historically, global resettlement efforts were insufficient to meet this growing need. Only 102,800 refugees were resettled around the world in 2017; Canada aimed to welcome 27,000 in 2018.

With such a limited number of resettlement spaces available, we must take full advantage of every opportunity to reach out and help refugees.

Five years ago, the Canadian government introduced a new type of refugee sponsorship, called Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program.

It presents an amazing opportunity for sponsorship with several benefits.

BVOR sponsorships require less paperwork than regular private sponsorships, cost less and have much shorter processing times, with the people often arriving within one to four months. Perhaps the most notable benefit is that unlike private sponsorships, the government does not place a limit on how many BVOR sponsorships the diocese can undertake each year.

The acronym BVOR has two components: "blended" and "Visa

office-referred".

BVOR cases blend aspects of private and government sponsorship through a unique cost-sharing model.

In the first year of resettlement, six months of income support is provided by the government, and the other six months by private sponsors.

Sponsors are responsible for providing emotional, financial and social support during this first year. They are "Visa office-referred" because refugees have already been identified and screened by the United Nations and Canadian Visa offices abroad, who have deemed the refugees eligible and ready for resettlement.

BVOR refugees are some of the most vulnerable people living in the world today. Many have been victims of war, violence, torture, sexual assault or persecution.

For example, one BVOR refugee is a single Somali man who cannot return to his home country for fear of violence due to his sexual orientation. He has an informal grade seven education and some English language skills. As a survivor of violence, he would benefit from resettlement to Canada where he can receive counselling and the support of sponsors.

Another BVOR case involves a 42-year-old Eritrean woman and her 11-year-old child. She has nine years of education, including training in emergency injury treatment. Her work experience includes cleaning, housekeeping and store ownership. She is a survivor of gender-based violence.

For these individuals,



resettlement in a country like Canada is their only chance at a life with some semblance of normalcy and stability.

These two cases are examples of BVOR profiles that can be requested from Canada's Refugee Sponsorship Training Program for the consideration of potential sponsors.


Despite all the benefits to BVOR sponsorship, the program is severely lacking in sponsors.

Through the BVOR program, Christians have the rare chance to actually do something tangible about the global refugee crisis we often see on the evening news. Rather than feel powerless in the face of evil, we can help others.


Through BVOR sponsorship, we can respond to God's call that we welcome the stranger, reaching out with the care and compassion of Christ.

To learn more about the BVOR program or to become a sponsor, contact the Reverend Scott McLeod.



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A letter from Cuba

Water, water everywhere, no fresh water to drink

DEAN CORMACK

The Reverend Dean Cormack, Rector of St. John's Winona and Chaplain at San Gabriel Hamilton is on a leave of absence (up to six months) to seize an international mission opportunity serving the Bishop and Diocese of Cuba as a volunteer. Dean plans to write regularly from Cuba for the Niagara Anglican.

Dear Niagara Anglican reader:

After arriving in Matanzas, Cuba, it is apparent water is still a huge concern.

I met the neighbourhood paediatrician, around 70 years old, who rides 10 miles daily to a clinic in an outlying neighbourhood in Matanzas.

He knows disease carried by impure drinking water is a huge problem, especially with the young and vulnerable. The doctor confirmed that no fresh water and a diet with little or no nutrition have led to a spike in kidney diseases, thyroid cancers and related conditions.

Through Bishop Griselda's vision and generous donations from churches, organizations and individuals, the Cuban church has managed to provide UV filtration systems and fresh water to about 25 or half the Episcopal churches.

I hope to see what we in Niagara can do to aid.

During my intern ministry here three years ago, Bishop Griselda and I toured over 20 towns, churches and home sites. Our two-week car ride allowed me to see the need and get a feel for possible equipment needed.

My previous profession gave me a small bit of expertise in

hydraulics and filtration. With my connections at home we are using the resources of a friend's company that deals with hydraulic filtration systems.

Late one night, we stopped by the paediatrician's house to pick up his empty drinking water containers to take to the church to refill. Some church tourists, including Michael Pollack, were staying at the church. A mechanical and biological engineer from New York, Michael—a volunteer—has been supplying and installing systems here.

Our chance meeting in a little room was certainly divine intervention. We discussed system design, hydraulic challenges, procurement, transportation, installation and technical advances in solar power.

We met in Havana the following week for over three hours before Michael returned home with 20 water samples. This sharing of information and technical resources will help Michael continue his marvellous work. In January I hope to accompany his team to install two more systems in a remote part of the country.

Dr. Pepe Bringas, Director General of Resource Allocation and Ministry for the Cuban Diocese, also attended our meeting. We discussed a way to allocate donations made to the water project through Pepe in coordination with Michael, so that every dollar will be strategically used to fund systems in priority of need. This falls under their developing new program ABCD, Asset Based Community Development.

Bishop Griselda's vision will be



Dean Cormack (far right) hosted a group from St Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake. They toured the Cathedral, were served lunch by the Cathedral kitchen and returned on Sunday to celebrate mass. Dean said, "I told them it was a long way to come for lunch with the priest from Winona."

Photo: Dean Cormack

further helped by their renewed admission to the US Episcopal Church. Disaster relief assets and water system replacement parts will be warehoused regionally. Discussions to coordinate our diocesan efforts with a national campaign for funding more systems are ongoing.

My first official duty was hosting, on behalf of Bishop Griselda who was out of the country, a group from St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake. I told them it was a long way to come for lunch with the priest from Winona. I gave them a tour of the Cathedral, with Dean Jose Gutierrez providing historical information.

As I travel today, I see more small private restaurants and Airbnb signs. I was here when President Obama opened talks with Raul Castro. The mood was ecstatic. Talk of relaxation of parts of the embargo sparked thoughts of American visitors, dollars and goods being allowed back to the island.

I was told in preparation for the increase in traffic, the government issued more licences for taxis, restaurants, rooms and tourist related services. Today with the change in US adminis-

tration, the outlook for relaxing relations is distant and people realize it. Government licenses have stopped, and everyone waits to see what will happen.

If you have ever been here you may complain about first world problems like bland food, but the people will give you everything they have. They will light a spark in you that will make you realize what we need is each other. Each in their own way, they live the gospel outside the Church doors everyday. Jesus said we have all we need to be disciples.

My prayer is to help bring the gift of fresh water to these remote communities.

The need is great, but the impact of clean drinkable water is immediate.

God bless.
Dean.

P.S: Lots of renovations, painting and reconstruction going on in Havana in preparation for 2019, the 500 year anniversary of the city. Next year would be an excellent time to visit.



Candles to remember

Over 200 candles were lit on All Souls Sunday at St. John's Ancaster in gratitude for those whom we "love but see no longer".

All those who had died since All Souls the previous year were also prayed for by name. Many family members and friends visited the parish for Sunday worship, some for the first time.

Photo: Sara Garcia

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In conversation ... about biblical storytelling

The Reverend Canon Susan Wilson, Rector of St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington, is a Bible story teller. "I learn and tell scripture by heart," she said. The Niagara Anglican conversed with Susan about biblical storytelling—its purpose, network and her involvement.

Niagara Anglican (NA): How did you get hooked on Biblical storytelling?

Susan Wilson (SW): I got hooked when a friend invited me to the Canadian Festival Gathering (CFG) in Peterborough in 2009. There, I experienced first-hand what it was like to hear the stories Jesus told re-told in a way that made them come alive. I learned I was able, with a bit of practise, to tell a short passage by heart.

I kept going back to CFG and took a course with the Academy of Biblical Storytelling through the Network of Biblical Storytellers International. It gave me practical tools to hone the gift that was growing inside of me.

NA: How has biblical storytelling changed your ministry, preaching and faith?

SW: Learning and telling scripture by heart has been transformative to my personal faith and ministry. Dwelling deeply with the gospel story to the point of being able to tell it by heart has changed my preaching, both content and presentation.

Learning a passage by heart involves so much more than "memorization"—the insights gained through exegesis and prayer are deeply interconnected with interpretation and understanding.

In liturgy, hearing scripture told by heart is engaging.

When I first started, or when I do it in a place that hasn't experienced scripture told this way



Linnea Good (pictured) and David Jonsson led a workshop on sharing biblical stories through music and song.

I hear the same things: (a) wow, how did you do that?, (b) may I have a copy of the story you told?, or (c) thank you for making scripture come alive for me.

The remarkable thing is people don't immediately realize the "script" for the "story" comes from the Bible, and I haven't done any adaptation. The words they hear, as if for the first time, are the same words they heard read from the lection three years ago.

People listen differently when you tell the story with inflection and pauses, while making eye contact. It isn't magic, it's just good communication. I say, "Our sacred scriptures are often read in a way that makes them dead on arrival, rather than the living Word that brings life".

NA: What is the Network of Biblical Storytellers (NBS)?

SW: It is exactly that ... a group of people connected to one another through their bond of learning and telling scripture by heart. It is international, operating in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Zimbabwe, India, Cameroon, Ireland, Scotland, Ghana and Canada.

NA: Recently you organized the ninth annual Festival of Biblical Storytelling in your parish ... tell us about it.

SW: About 40 people from across Canada, including British Columbia and the Yukon, and several from the United States, attended. Nearly half were brand new to NBS.

The Festival Gathering is an opportunity to learn the basics about NBS or to hone more advanced skills. It is a time to join in creative and energizing worship and to network with other tellers. Interestingly, the majority of participants are not clergy, and various denominations are represented.

The agenda offers several worship gatherings, three keynote addresses and three 90-minute workshops with three or four choices each time.

NA: What message did theme speaker Thomas Yoder Neufeld bring to the Festival Gathering?

SW: Tom's keynote theme was Exploring Ephesians: Paul's story told and retold.

He delved deep into the context of when, where and why Paul wrote the letter and how it was shared with the churches in Ephesus.

This year we connected the final worship scripture to the keynote theme by having people learn the entire letter by heart. This is called an epic telling and is a unique way to hear scripture. For those who learned parts of the text by heart, the addresses were likely more interesting and had greater practical connections. For those attending for the first time or who had not learned Ephesians, the addresses enhanced their hearing of the scripture during worship.

All in all, the FG is an enriching and energizing event.

NA: What were some highlights from the workshops and other activities?

SW: For beginners there is always Workshop 101. I love sharing this with new folks because I see the participant transformed right before my eyes. They come thinking and saying there is no way they can do this because they cannot even remember what they had for breakfast let alone an entire scripture passage.

After 90 minutes they prove to themselves not only is it



Thomas Yoder Neufeld was the theme speaker at the 9th annual Festival of Biblical Storytelling. In exploring Ephesians: Paul's story told and retold, he delved into the context of when, where and why Paul wrote the letter and how it was shared with the churches in Ephesus.

possible, but it is life-giving and faith-building. They leave inspired, with a re-ignited passion for the living Word of God. It is remarkable.

On Friday evening we had a coffee house where Archdeacon Max Woolaver was among the musical and storytelling guests. It was a great night.

NA: If parishes or individuals want to try Biblical storytelling, what should they do?

SW: Invite me to come to their parish to lead a workshop and

launch them into this fulfilling practise.

The 10th annual Festival Gathering, hosted at St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington, is scheduled for October 18–19, 2019. In the spring Susan will be looking for volunteers who would like to learn how to tell scripture by heart.

Contact her at canonsusan@stmatthewburlington.ca.



Susan Wilson storytelling the Old Testament passage at the 144th Niagara Synod.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock

Evangelism: beginning locally (Part one)

DARCEY LAZERTE

David Bosch shaped the missional conversation for a generation with his 1991 book *Transforming Mission*. In it, he developed two concepts which should be foundational for any congregation serious about engaging in the ministry of evangelism.

This first is that while the principles of mission apply to evangelism, not all mission is evangelism.

This means that we need to be deliberate about our understanding of evangelism. We cannot just assume because we are engaged in the mission of God that we are engaged in the ministry of evangelism. Many churches are beginning to understand this and are now asking how they can more

deliberately engage in the ministry of evangelism?

The second concept helps with this engagement and is the distinction between dimensional and intentional evangelism.

Dimensional evangelism are those parts of church life which we might call ordinary. While not exhaustive, these are things like worship, Christian education, general programming, some parts of outreach initiatives and even pastoral care.

There is an evangelical dimension to them, but these are primarily things which happen within the life of the worshipping community. When they do come in contact with those outside the local community there is nothing specifically invitational about

the encounter.

This is compared to intentional evangelism, which are those initiatives which deliberately are meant to engage the wider society outside the church. Again, while not exhaustive, it includes things such as advertising, personal invitations, some aspects of social justice work, online presence and some of our outreach efforts.

Today, this distinction is often called Attractive versus Invitational Evangelism. The understanding is that people will stay in churches they find attractive ... if they like the preaching or the music, if they find the outreach meaningful and enjoy the community. These are things people are looking for in a church.

However good these things



of evangelism, I would suggest the place to start is to get a working group together that is passionate about evangelism.

Then ask whoever upholds your parish in prayer to pray about this initiative as it begins and develops.

Make sure the first thing the group does is to do an evangelism audit; that is, make a list of what your church does which is invitational and a second list of what is attractive about it.

With that foundation of prayer and understanding in place we will come back next month and look at some subsequent steps.

The Reverend Canon Darcey Lazerte is Rector of St. Simon's Oakville. darcey@stsimon.ca Building on his previous series (Niagara Anglican, September, October, November 2018) when Darcey examined the wider aspects of Evangelism, for this three-part series, he zeroes in on how local congregations can engage in the ministry of evangelism.

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

March - January 25
 April - February 22
 May - March 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:
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Parting shots

Moments from Synod

Photos: Hollis Hiscock, unless otherwise indicated



The Reverend Canon Marni Nancekivell modelled the Indigenous diversity blanket presented to her following a synod motion acknowledging her many contributions to the life of Niagara since becoming Secretary of Synod on February 16, 2011. "She has been a gifted pastor to many, a trusted advisor to our bishops, a good steward of our property resources and a steadfast advocate for a safer and more inclusive Church." Marni retired December 31.

Photo: Bill Mous



The interior of Christ's Church Cathedral where delegates sat in chairs facing the altar for the 144th session of Niagara's Synod.



Brenda Lane from St. John's Jordan was attending her first diocesan synod.



At the head table: incoming Secretary of Synod Bill Mous, retiring Secretary of Synod Marni Nancekivell, Bishop Susan Bell and Chancellor Greg Tweney guided proceedings during the one-day synod.



Newly appointed Clerical Secretary Mike Deed received some tips about the job from experienced Lay Secretary of Synod Carol Summers.



The Reverend Deacon Nina Page had her photo taken by photographer Peter Head from IPC Canada for the diocesan photo directory.



Greg Tweney was installed by Bishop Susan as the Chancellor of Niagara Diocese.