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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



SUMMER 2019

## Historic Anglican church marks 185 years of ministry

### BARB MANSFIELD

This year the people of St. John's Anglican Church are excited about celebrating 185 years of "presence and ministry" in the Stewarttown community.

St. John's is one of the oldest parishes in Halton Region. Although a church building did not appear until 1880, the parish was officially established in 1834.

The first immigrants to Halton Hills (or Esquesing Township as it was known back in the 1800s) began arriving from England, Scotland and Ireland in the early 1800s.

On May 5, 1819, the first Anglican settlers opened a cemetery on land donated by James Randall.

At that time, Anglicans were few and people met in homes and were visited by missionary priests, who travelled when weather permitted.

The early settlers did hope to build a church beside the cemetery, but that never seemed to happen. Instead, a church building was purchased from the Wesleyan Methodists in 1880 and moved to St. John's current location at 10996 Trafalgar Road (corner of Trafalgar Rd and 15 Side Road).

The Reverend Adam Elliot was the first missionary priest assigned to St. John's.

In a journal entry dated January 1834, he wrote, "On Sunday the 19th I performed divine service and preached twice at the house of Mr. Thompson, to a very numerous and attentive assemblage of people. Five children were baptized, and 27 persons received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper."

Lay people carried out worship services using Prayer Books in the absence of clergy.

The first confirmation ceremony for area settlers was not held until July 25, 1846 when Archbishop Strachan travelled from York to perform the ceremony at nearby St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Hornby.

St. John's has seen many changes over the years, and it has managed to maintain and continue its ministry in the Stewarttown community. The little white church at the top of the hill remains a beacon of hope for all who pass by.

On Sunday, June 23, 2019 St. John's will be celebrating its impressive history with a special worship service at 10:30 a.m. led by the Right Reverend Susan Bell, Bishop of Niagara.

Following the service, people are



(Above) St. John's Stewarttown today.



(Left) St. John's Stewarttown in 1958 when the church was raised and a basement (parish hall) was added. The parish hall is well used for bazaars, community dinners and family celebrations.

Photos: Barb Mansfield



invited to stay for refreshments as they browse memory boards and share stories of their time in the Stewarttown community.

We look forward to celebrating this occasion with parishioners and invited guests. A special invitation goes out to those who share a history with St. John's as former members or clergy.

Barb Mansfield is People's Warden of St. John's Stewarttown.



(Left) Inside St. John's Stewarttown.

(Above) The cross was the focus of Good Friday worship at St. John's Stewarttown.

# CANADA BRIEFS

## A roundup of news from other diocesan papers in the Anglican Church of Canada Compiled by the Anglican Journal's Joelle Kidd

### 1 Ministry plans urban farm at Toronto church

A diocese of Toronto ministry has partnered with a local church to grow and distribute food to those in need.

In 2017, the Rev. Beverly Williams and her staff at Flemingdon Park Ministry had a conversation about the need for fresh, healthy produce for residents in Toronto's Don Mills neighbourhood, which is home to many newcomers to Canada who struggle to make ends meet.

Williams had the idea of growing food, and by looking at Google Maps, she discovered that the Church of Our Saviour Don Mills, had a large swath of grass next to its church building.

With the blessing of the church and Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Vernon Duporte, the ministry team installed six raised garden beds on the property. With donations and a \$5,000 grant from a local natural food market, they were able to buy supplies to grow a variety of vegetables, herbs and fruit.

They also launched The Common Table, a market where families could register and receive 'shopping points' based on the number of people in their family. In the first

month of operation, 227 families registered, totaling about 1,200 people.

In order to meet the community's needs, plans are in the works to turn the entire green space at Our Saviour (approximately three-quarters of an acre) into an urban farm.

The six raised garden beds have been replaced with 16 larger beds dug right into the soil. This year, residents will also be able to work at the farm to earn more points for food on market day.

—*The Anglican*

### 2 Special service held to dedicate translated book of Psalms

A special service was held March 24 at St. John's Kawawachikamach, diocese of Quebec, to dedicate the translated book of Psalms in the language of the Naskapi First Nation.

The Naskapi Bible translation project began in the 1990s, with the Naskapi Development Corporation (NDC) partnering with St. John's and Wycliffe Bible Translators to build a translation team.

The translation was the vision of the late Joseph Guanish,

former chief of the Naskapi Nation and president of NDC. He lived to see the publication of the Naskapi New Testament in 2007 and the dedication of the book of Genesis in 2013.

The new publication presents all 150 Psalms to Naskapi readers for the first time in a single volume.

Early drafts were prepared and reviewed by Guanish and work continued for more than 15 years by Silas Nabinicaboo, who was joined by Naskapi Language Specialists Amanda Swappie, Ruby Nabinicaboo and Tshiueten Vachon.

"This is another important milestone for the work the Naskapi translation team does in making the Bible available and accessible in our own language," says Nabinicaboo.

"Our prayer is that these scriptures would bless the Naskapi people for generations as they have blessed millions of God's people around the world for thousands of years."

Translation of the Old Testament into Naskapi is ongoing.

—*Quebec Diocesan Gazette*

### 3 Edmonton church partners with community organization for affordable housing build

Holy Trinity Riverbend, in the diocese of Edmonton, is partnering with Right at Home Housing Society to provide affordable housing in the city's Terwilligar neighbourhood.

Holy Trinity Riverbend began trying to develop affordable housing on its large property in 2013.

In January 2019, a resolution was passed by diocese of Edmonton Executive Council "to grant permission to move forward with the redevelopment" of the site with Right at Home, "to develop a housing community that is designed to assist with the 'End Homelessness' goals supported by the diocese."

Construction on the project is projected to begin in 2020.

The current concept includes 154 units, with a majority of two- and three-plus bedroom units. The housing offered will cater to families, with some units provided for senior citizens.

In addition to housing, the



site will have worship and community space, as well as amenities like a daycare, café and community gardens.

The project will be operated using a mixed-income model, with about 25% of the units provided at below-market rental rates for families and individuals with lower incomes.

The other 75% of units will be offered at market rate to allow the project to be self-sustaining without the need for ongoing government subsidies.

—*The Messenger*

### 4 Nova Scotia priest blesses brews

As members of the Craft Brewers Association of Nova Scotia gathered in February to create their third annual collaboration beer at Saltbox Brewery in Mahone Bay, N.S., Mahone Bay Parish Rector Fr. Chad McCharles was on hand to bless the brewers and their new brew.

The brewery and the parish formed a friendship in 2017, when the parish began hosting an Oktoberfest event as a community connection opportunity, and Saltbox Brewery supplied the beer.

Since then, the brewery has been involved with The Three Churches Foundation, of which St. James' Mahone Bay is a founding member. The organization helps maintain the town's iconic streetscape by funding upkeep of the church's historic exteriors. A percentage of every can of Saltbox's "Three Churches" beer sold goes toward the foundation.

McCharles was honored to be asked by the brewers to bless their beer.

"To have the opportunity to engage with the community at any level is an honour and a privilege ... Being invited to bless the brewers and their beer was a chance to connect the narrative of Jesus Christ, that of the blessing and love of God for all aspects of our life and creation,

with the dominant secular narrative. I see that as mission," he says.

—*The Diocesan Times*

### 5 Diocesan bowling tournament raises almost \$40,000

Anglicans and friends in the diocese of New Brunswick raised \$39,476 for organizations that combat child hunger during the third annual diocesan bowling tournament April 6 and 7.

Proceeds from the event will go to school breakfast and lunch programs and food banks in the province.

In Fredericton, the money raised will help fund the Student Hunger Program at Fredericton Community Kitchens, which provides close to 2,000 lunches a week to area students.

The tournament began two years ago in Fredericton with a few local parishes and has grown to include bowlers from parishes and archdeacons across the diocese.

In Saint John, member of All Saint's in East Saint John and manager of Fairview Lanes bowling alley Bob Cormier set up a silent auction, adding hundreds of dollars to the proceeds.

Money raised in Saint John went to fund the Inner City Youth Ministry's Lunch Connection, which provides about 47,000 meals per year for children in Saint John.

Bishop of the diocese of Fredericton David Edwards bowled at Saint John, admitting after scoring 59 points in his first string, "I'm really bad at this!" "However, it's important to support this because we need to strike out child hunger. More importantly, we need to strike out child poverty."

More than 300 bowlers and many more cheerleaders from across the diocese took to their local lanes for the event.

—*The New Brunswick Anglican*

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(See Matthew 7:13-14)

06-16-2011

THERE IS A STRAIGHT AND WIDE. THERE IS A CURVY AND NARROW. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO PROCEED.

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**HOLLIS**Storial

# Summer releases pent-up creative energy

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

Summer provides us with unique opportunities and perspectives.

It takes us away from the storms of winter and the uncertainties of spring, and casts us into fresh physical situations and thought processes.

Summer reboots our living styles, and perhaps more importantly, our attitudes. It inspires us to look outside and inside ourselves and to contemplate fully on the meaning and direction of life.

Whether you stand by the edge of a stream casting incessantly for the elusive fish or have the gentle wind nudge your boat aimlessly, you are gifted moments in which to think or dream.

Spreading and watching paint dry generates moments for imaginative creativity, problem solving or constructive planning.

Gardening, even with countless weeds to be uprooted, enables you to pursue philosophical discerning or behavioral stocktaking.

Whether in real situations or through one's imagination, summer delivers the backdrop for our minds to run rampant, by releasing the never-ending supply of creative energy which was locked away in our mental storehouses all winter.

You get away from it all through actual life connections or by using your powerful mental images to create an atmosphere of fishing, painting, gardening or similar activity. Consequently, your total wellbeing may be enhanced by employing a variety of these or similar summer exercises.

**Begin with yourself**

- Look deep within your being.
- Examine your thinking and



Meditating on God's mountain. In ancient times Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments, was considered the place where God lived. *Only once did Hollis spend time at the summit of God's mountain contemplating his relationship with God. However, through his photographs, other media and his memories he can return for the same purpose. Each person can find their favourite place—in reality, through a picture or their mind's eye—to ponder their relationship with God and people.*

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

actions.

- Let your memory retrace the events of the past weeks.
- How did you react to different situations?
- What did you do when faced with stress, personal problems, negative feelings from a colleague or co-worker?
- What words did you use in all these situations?
- What was your reaction to these words?
- Did you think ... "I should have said it differently?" or "If I had another chance, I would have said ..."

When you are satisfied that you have really examined every aspect of your being and you have decided where you are in life, then retrace your steps and decide how you would like to have reacted, by word and speech in the same situation.

Since life has a way of replaying events, you will probably have an opportunity soon to put into action the objectives you have set for yourself.

made?

- What would you like to do?
- What group, club or association would you like to join?
- Where would you like to make a contribution?
- For what would you like to be remembered?

Slowly mull over your options. Find out what you need to do. Decide. Act.

**Summer encourages flexibility**

You are not expected to be as systematic in your meditation as it appears in print.

When opportunities present themselves, retrieve the process from your mind's bank and do it again.

By September, you should have gone through the total process, and made some definite decisions on where you want to be going.

Have fun. Enjoy the experience.



Let thoughts flow through you like a gentle rain cascading down the hillside.

Understand what is happening to you. As summer fades your mind, body and spirit could shine brighter than the sunniest summer day.

Just as our physical body needs food, rest and activity to function properly, so the rest of our nature - be it mind, spirit, soul, inner being or whatever other label you wish to attach - needs the same attention to operate at its optimum level.

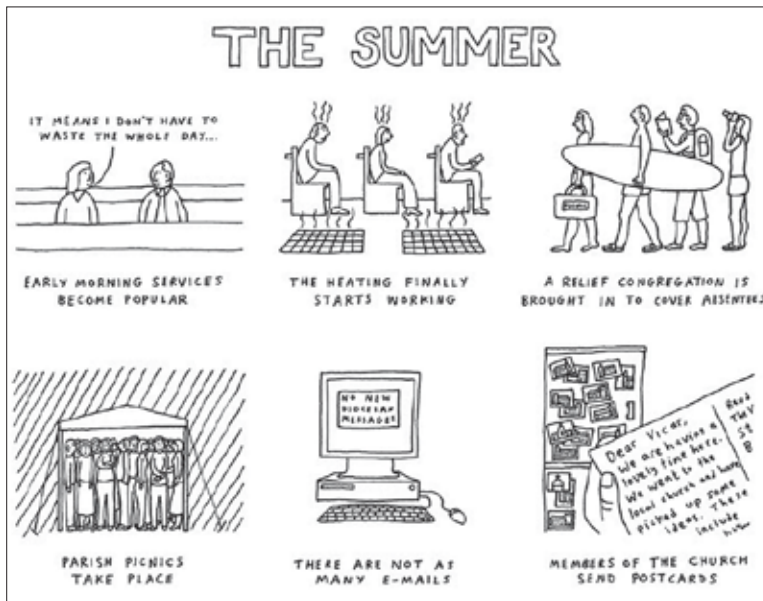
Summer, because of its seemingly slower pace with appropriate attitudinal or activity changes, offers golden opportunities to clean out the wastable, decide on the desirable and achieve the attainable.

You can do it! Go for it!

*Hollis Hiscock welcomes your comments. Contact information on this page.*

**Think outside yourself**

- What are you doing for your family, friends, colleagues and community?
- What changes should be



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cartoonchurch.com

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# The spiritual and personal impact of refugee sponsorship

**EMILY FITCH**

Private sponsorship, a life-changing opportunity for refugees, affords them a fresh start in a new country where they can live safely and freely.

It can also be rewarding for sponsors, as they realize their capacity to make a tangible difference in the lives of others and see their country through the eyes of a newcomer.

Both parties take a leap of faith, committing a whole year journeying alongside one another before ever having met. Yet, sponsors and newcomers attest to the positive impact of the experience on their lives.

Many refugees see their lives transform from fear and danger to safety and hope.

Janice Skafel noted the change in a Syrian man sponsored by St. Luke's Burlington: "He got off that plane looking

very tired and frowning, probably anticipating nothing but anxiety and problems for his family in a country he didn't understand. But now, he has quite a sense of humour. He laughs, and he's a delight to be around; he's a different person."

Emad Al-Hariri had a similar experience at St. John the Evangelist Hamilton. When he first came to Canada, he faced many challenges and fears relating to a new language, culture and climate. Instead of becoming disheartened, he said, "these things make my life interesting, they motivate me to do my best and put me in the correct way to start my new life".

Without any extended family here, Emad said, "my sponsors are my friends and family now, and the reason I feel that I belong to this country is my sponsors". They treat him as a member of their family, not as a

stranger, and try to understand his culture and respect his beliefs. "Those people let me see the beautiful side of life when I was very disappointed and hopeless because of the war in my country."

Sponsors are transformed by the opportunity to learn and grow through their sponsorship involvement. Rector Stuart Pike of St. Luke's Burlington said, "The way we engage our faith is in what we do for the other, for the stranger. When you're experiencing faith working in you and in others, it only increases faith. That's really been the experience of our parish. I believe faith is about getting your hands dirty and rolling up your sleeves. Faith is an active thing, it's not just a cognitive thing."

When we engage our faith this way, the results are tremendous. Janice Skafel emphasizes

the value this way, "It certainly deepened my understanding of the Gospel. When we talk about loving your neighbour, you don't understand that really until you are walking hand in hand with a family like this who may be strangers on paper, or strangers because they live in a foreign country – but when you get walking with them on that journey, they are like you. They are people with families and kids that they love, and fears and aspirations and goals."

For some sponsors, getting to know a refugee family makes for a lifelong friendship. Linda Tripp of St. George's Guelph described her relationship to the family they sponsored: "They will always be a part of my life. I want to watch the children grow up. They sent me an email the other night: 'Linda, you are our mother. We love you forever.' I feel like I'm part of their family,



and they're part of me now."

To learn more about refugee sponsorship and how to become a sponsor, contact Scott McLeod at [refugees@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:refugees@niagaraanglican.ca)

*(World Refugee Day is Thursday, June 20, 2019. Since 2001, the UN has held the annual observance on June 20th as a day to bring public awareness to the difficult situations faced by the millions of refugees scattered across our globe. Check it out on the web.)*

# Free speech in the church: a baptismal manifesto

**DAN TATARNIC**

The Christian tradition is grounded in Word-made-flesh. Words—spoken words, written words, sculpted words, acted-on-the-stage words, symphonic words, painted words. A picture is worth a thousand words.

Easter's Alleluia begins with a word, spoken in silence, into death and unto death: and God said.

We inhabit this world of words: art and beauty, truth and language, form and content, mystery and intelligibility. All things coalesce around this creative act, "And God said, 'let there be ...'".

Words are central to our faith. But sometimes it feels as though the church has lost confidence in its mandate to speak a clear word into the Babel of today's chatter. Regrettably, this loss

of confidence comes at a time when the world needs the witness and example of a speaking church. What do I mean?

In the mid-1950's, the Catholic theologian Karl Rahner, wrote a modest book, *Free Speech in the Church*. It's hardly a classic, and it's out of print! But it's one of those post WWII books that, like Orwell's 1984, just make you wonder.

First, he reminds the church that there is something healthy about a culture that "talks its head off". What we assume at times to be useless rambling or even a cause for near offence is, notwithstanding, the possibility for an event of revelation.

So, the problem isn't with talking too much; the problem is when we stop speaking; we need free speech in the Church—free speech.

We might cringe at the thought of sitting through meetings and synods where people are talking their heads off.

I'm not condoning the misinformed, unbridled public opinion that goes as "free speech" these days. But I, like Rahner, share a genuine concern that we are losing the corporate practice of doing public theology as a mandate of our common baptism.

The doing of theology is a



*"When people can't speak, they will go rogue. If they go rogue, they'll bring the system with them".*

public act of the Church, a manifesto sealed on the forehead of every baptized Christian.

If you don't think that the doing of theology as a public activity has any merit, consider this: Rahner predicted that the Soviet Union would fall; the system would implode from the cross-pressure caused by the human need to communicate and the systematic suppression of speech.

People need meaningful self-expression, and for lack of a better word, let's call this meaningful phenomenon speech. When

people can't speak, they will go rogue. If they go rogue, they'll bring the system with them.

Like it or not, our ancestors and the early councils took free-speech-in-the-Church deathly seriously. Gone are the days of Nicaea and the IV Lateran Council; but similarly, gone are the days when discourse could bring an Empire to its knees.

The Church has indelibly shaped civilization, and there's a lot of breast-beating today about aspects of that contribution.

It's no surprise that we've lost confidence in our ability to speak. But as I scroll my daily news feed, I do wonder at times if this epoch of "fake news" is not a summons to witness? Do we still have the confidence—I'll dare say a desire—to contribute toward a civilization?

Perhaps; but such things seem grandiose in light of the fact that it feels a daunting task to simply save the Church. Fair enough, but we'd do well to begin with a simple task: free speech in the church, do theology. And maybe, just maybe, we'll take civilization with us on a journey to free speech.

*The Reverend Dan Tatarnic is Pastoral Associate at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton. [daniel.tatarnic@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:daniel.tatarnic@mail.utoronto.ca)*

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# Youth Synod 2019 — 30 years young



**SARAH BIRD**

Youth Synod members and leaders from across Niagara Diocese at the 30th annual gathering held this year in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton. Photos: Sarah Bird

Youth Synod celebrated 30 years on April 12 and 13 by delegates and volunteers from across the diocese at the beautiful Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

It was a surreal moment returning to Youth Synod after 16 years. As a teenager I attended this youth ministry event three years consecutively.

This year in a different role, I reminisced about the moments where I found the courage to speak out for the first time on social justice issues that I was struggling with.

Youth Synod was a source of inspiration for me in my adult life.

Over the last 30 years, Youth Synod has helped shape the landscape of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

Greening Niagara came from a motion that was developed by youth in 2007. Today the Greening Committee offers parishes accreditations to promote greening practices that will help sustain and renew the earth.

Another important piece of Youth Synod history that deserves acknowledgment are the early progressive conversations that fought to respect the dignity of every human being no matter gender or sexuality. These conversations date back as far as 20 years.

Delegates of Youth Synod 2019 said that the two days were exciting, thought provoking and hilariously fun.

The Chancellor of Youth Synod, Bill Mous, stated, "del-



Motions considered during the two-day Youth Synod included equitable education for Ontario students, eliminating single use plastics, increasing youth involvement and positive space training.

Delegates thoughtfully considered motions using a consensus-based approach. In a world which could well benefit from more civility in its discourse and debate, Youth Synod delegates offered a powerful witness by the way they engage with the issues of our day."

Delegates were captivated and inspired by the keynote speaker, Deirdre Pike, who is the newly appointed Diocesan Program Consultant for Social Justice and Outreach.

Deirdre spoke on the importance of being not only an ally for marginalized populations, but also an advocate and accomplice. "We must walk with two feet instead of just one, both charity and justice," Deirdre explained.

The young people who attended Youth Synod 2019 are not only leaders within their parishes, but also are very involved in their communities.

Seven motions were brought forward during the consensus session.

Motions such as equitable education for Ontario students, elimination of single use plastics, increasing youth involvement by visiting diocesan parishes and positive space training are a few passed by the consensus model.

Delegates have been encouraged to go back to their parishes to talk about their experience and raise awareness of the issues discussed within their own congregation.

With the support from our



Deirdre Pike, newly appointed Diocesan Program Consultant for Social Justice and Outreach told the young people, "We must walk with two feet instead of just one, both charity and justice".



The young leaders discussed many topics and brought seven motions forward during the consensus session of Youth Synod.



Worship was central to all activities at Youth Synod with the young people sharing in the services.

bishop, volunteers, clergy, lay workers and diocesan family, we believe that youth will continue to help shape the course of our diocese and congregations in the years to come.

For any information regarding Children, Youth and Family Ministry contact Sarah Bird at [Sarah.bird@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:Sarah.bird@niagaraanglican.ca)

To find out more on youth ministry visit us at [niagaraanglican.ca/youth](http://niagaraanglican.ca/youth)

# Book completed – book launched

**HOLLIS HISCOCK**

Amidst a healthy feast of soups, stews, breads, desserts and other delightful food, about 200 gathered at St. George's St. Catharines to help the Reverend Martha Tatarnic launch her first book, *The Living Diet*.

Martha described the evening of April 26 as one that "will go down in my personal history as one of the most incredible nights of friendship, food and celebration".

The two hour event enabled buyers to get their books autographed by Martha, listen as she described the story which led to the writing of her book, meet people from a wide geographical area who came to be part of the milestone event and be entertained throughout by stirring and uplifting music.

"Fittingly the book launch was an embodiment of joyful eating," is how Martha summed up the occasion.

For more information, go to [marthatatarnic.ca](http://marthatatarnic.ca)



The lineups were long as Martha autographed copies of *The Living Diet* at St. George's St. Catharines.



As Martha began to speak the audience rewarded her with a standing ovation as they celebrated the publication of her book.



While Martha signed books and people enjoyed food and conversation, Scott McLeod, Ainsley Colburn and Brian Kerley of Tracadie Cross provided stirring, uplifting music.

Photos: Allison Lynn and Hollis Hiscock

## Book Review

# Jesus, food and a way of life

Eating played a powerful role in the shared journey of Jesus and his followers.

**The Living Diet, by Martha Tatarnic**

Church Publishing Incorporated New York, 2019

**ALLISON LYNN**

"We have an eating disorder."

With this bold opening phrase, the Reverend Martha Tatarnic invites us into a conversation about food, illness, healing and Jesus.

*The Living Diet* is a much-needed conversation for people of faith today.

Everywhere we go, we're bombarded with conflicting messages. Some encourage us to splurge on the worst kind of eating, while others demand that we fit into an unattainable body shape.

For the most part, however, our churches are silent on this

issue.

Martha wants to change this.

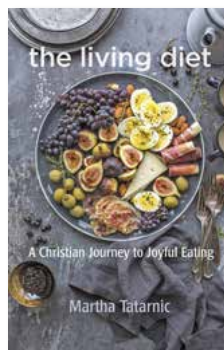
In her daily life, she's a full-time priest at St. George's Anglican Church, St. Catharines. Her desire to write this book was sparked by her own struggle with bulimia. Thousands struggle with eating disorders every year.

What an inspiring witness to have a church leader share her story with heartbreaking transparency. I can only imagine how many Christians will read her story thinking, "that's me".

*The Living Diet* is formed into two sections: "Disorder" and "The Diet".

In "Disorder," we're challenged to see beyond our standard views of an eating disorder.

Martha wants us to see this illness as something that is rampant throughout our society,



regardless of age, gender or faith. We have an unhealthy relationship with food, emotions and body image.

These topics have been written about before; so, what makes this book different?

Jesus.

We're invited to hear what Jesus has to say about it all.

"Diet" is a word rife with negative connotations. Martha encourages us to consider the original definition of the word: "way of life". What does our relationship with food, emotions, and body image look like when we include Jesus in the conversation?

"The Diet" invites us into a path of healing, exploring this new "way of life". Through a collection of stories, Martha shows us how to live out "the living diet". The path takes us through such steps as Thanksgiving, Hungering, Feasting and Worshipping. Martha pairs each personal story with passages from the Gospel.

We're reminded of the powerful role eating played in the shared journey of Jesus and his followers.

*The Living Diet* is an impor-

tant and timely conversation.

This is no quick fix book.

Instead, it's an invitation to deep dive into a world where Jesus speaks directly into the way we value food, our bodies and our fellowship with one another.

I recommend this book to individuals, but also to groups for discussion. A study guide can be downloaded from Martha's website.

Personally, I would suggest reading and discussing it over a fabulous meal with lots of wonderful friends. I can't think of a better description of the living diet.

Allison Lynn and her husband, Gerald Flemming, form the multi-award-winning Christian music duo, *Infinitely More*. They live in St. Catharines. [InfinitelyMore.ca](http://InfinitelyMore.ca).

 Poet's Perspective

## God's Promise

CATHY JEANES

Across the vast expansive sky,  
making its way in colours fly—  
rose, golden, green and violet.  
Arching its hue in feline stretch,  
above the trees,  
against the clouds.  
Rain and sunbeam joining hands-  
to celebrate the season change.  
Molding land to sky above—  
dance with the Creator — the message, Love.

Across the years in time and space,  
making our way in peace and grace.  
Poised on the rim of firmament-  
stretching our minds in endless search-  
above the earth's  
vast stratosphere-  
God with man, made manifold,  
to strengthen souls with faith untold.  
Molding man to realms above—  
dance with the Creator-the message, Love.

*Cathy Jeanes is a member of St. Matthew on-the-Plains Burlington.*

## Glorious

REBECCA CLIFFORD

last night I wanted to wake you  
wake you  
to tell of the stunning sapphire butterfly  
resting on the squash leaves, the  
sunglow blossoms  
flexing flexing flexing wings  
I wanted to  
but it was dark  
and His sapphire wouldn't have been as glorious  
outside my dream

*Rebecca Clifford lives in Caledonia*



The Editor welcomes poems appropriate for publication in the Niagara Anglican. Contact information on page three.

## Celebrating 70th anniversary

A new church banner, designed and created by parishioner Rebecca Beckner of St. David's Welland, was dedicated at a special worship marking the parish's 70th anniversary.

The service, presided over by Niagara's Bishop Susan Bell, also included a puppet show by the Sunday School and special music provided by the Baroque Ensemble.

A birthday party lunch, complete with cake, balloons and party hats, followed.



Rebecca Beckner, holding the banner she designed for St. David's Welland, was photographed with Honorary Assistant Canon Bill Mous, Rector Terry Holub, Bishop Susan Bell and Pastoral Associate the Reverend Nirmal Mendis during a special worship celebrating the parish's 70th anniversary.

*Photo: Pierre Dalaire*

## Anglican Editors meeting heralded times are changing

HOLLIS HISCOCK

The future of print and the expansion of digital communications occupied Anglican editors representing 24 diocesan papers from across Canada when the Anglican Editors Association (AEA) met for their annual conference in May.

During the marathon seven-hour business session on Saturday, May 4, 2019, I sat in my study office in Burlington,

Ontario, while the editors gathered in a university classroom in Winnipeg, Manitoba. We who were not physically present participated fully through modern technology.

After outlining principles of print design, Saskia Rowling, Art Director for the *Anglican Journal*, critiqued individual diocesan papers. She called the *Niagara Anglican* "great", noting that the front page extended five invitations for readers to

delve further into the paper. She liked the use of colour, the font size, the white spacing between lines and the lovely design.

The *Anglican Journal* annual appeal had another successful year in 2018. In Niagara Diocese, 764 people donated \$36,643, the third highest in Canada. After expenses, the funds are divided equally between the *Anglican Journal* and *Niagara Anglican*.

Circulation figures revealed a drop of 2.64% compared with the

national average of 3.68%. For the *Niagara Anglican* it meant a change from 7,921 to 7,703 between June 2018 and June 2019. Only three other diocesan papers have more subscribers than the *Niagara Anglican*.

*Niagara Anglican* readers want to continue receiving both papers in print. By the end of April, 2,602 had confirmed their subscription intention. This represents 33.8% of 7,703 responding in Niagara Diocese

compared with 20.7% of the *Anglican Journal's* nearly 120,000 subscribers. As people confirm their desire to continue receiving both papers, they are also sending donations to support their continued publication.

Attending his first AEA conference, Matthew Townsend, recently appointed Editorial Supervisor for the *Anglican Journal*, spoke about the opting

*See EDITORS Page 11*

# Ignatius for Anglicans?

JOHN BOWEN

How do you nurture your spiritual life moment by moment? A 16th century Roman Catholic has something surprising to offer to Christians of different traditions, even today.

"Who was Ignatius Loyola, and why should I care anyway?"

"My life is busy, my church commitments take up every spare moment, and I hardly have time to breathe, let alone think about some obscure historical figure. I really don't have time for this."

But maybe Loyola can help in getting us out of the rat-race of busyness which afflicts so many of us. Work with me here. How do you nurture your spiritual life moment by moment?

If Ignatius Loyola enters our awareness at all, it is likely as head of the Pope's anti-Reformation shock troops in the 16th century. Like most one-line characterizations, however, that is a caricature.

Ignatius (1491-1556) was certainly the founder of the Jesuits, perhaps the most powerful Roman Catholic missionary movement ever. There were certainly Jesuits at the Council of Trent (1545-1563), which set out to combat Protestant "heresies." And, equally true, we do know that at least once Loyola engaged in debate with Protestants.

But if that were all, we might be forgiven for forgetting the name. His legacy, however, is actually deeper and wider than that, whether we consider ourselves Catholics, Protestants—or Anglicans.

The story is this. Having grown up in Spain, at the age of 30 Ignatius was wounded in battle against the French. While recovering, there being nothing



Image: Wikimedia Commons

*"Maybe Ignatius Loyola can help in getting us out of the rat-race of busyness which afflicts so many of us."*

more interesting to read, he read a life of Christ and a book about the saints—and, somewhat like one of his heroes, St. Francis, had a mystical conversion experience. As C.S. Lewis complained, "A young man who wishes to remain a sound atheist cannot be too careful of his reading. There are traps everywhere." Loyola's life was never the same again. The year was 1531.

Quite soon, he found that people started coming to him for spiritual advice and direction and discovered that he had a gift in this area. Over time, his direction evolved into a more or less standard form now known as the "Spiritual Exercises" of Ignatius Loyola, based on how

he had experienced God's work in his own life.

Gradually, some friends to whom he had given the Exercises, and who had been

dramatically affected by them, grew into a group of between six and ten men (yes, they were all men) who lived together and engaged in a ministry of preaching, catechism and care for the poor.

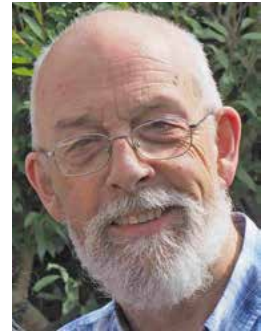
In 1537, this group decided to call themselves the Companions of Jesus. In 1540, the Society of Jesus was given the Pope's official approval, and (not surprisingly) Loyola was elected Superior.

Not that all was straightforward, however: twice, Loyola was imprisoned and brought before the Inquisition, who were suspicious of his teaching. Both times he was acquitted.

The Jesuits were often a thorn in the church's side, because while they wanted to stay within the Catholic box, they also insisted on stretching it to its limits. (Need I mention that Pope Francis is a Jesuit?)

Loyola died in 1556 and was canonized in 1609, by which time the Jesuits numbered around 15,000 and were at work in countries as widespread as China, Peru and Ethiopia.

These days, much of the old suspicion between Roman Catholics and Protestants has evaporated, thank God, and we are at least more understand-



ing of our differences. Anglican students at Wycliffe and Trinity often take courses at Regis, TST's Jesuit College, and Jesuit students have been known to take courses at the Anglican colleges.

*John Bowen is a retired professor from Wycliffe College, where he taught evangelism from 1997 till 2013. He and his wife Deborah have been members of St John the Evangelist in Hamilton since 1997. jbowen@wycliffe.utoronto.ca*

(Next month, in the second of this three-part series, John examines how Ignatius' Exercises can help develop our own spirituality by exploring two of the four areas about which he believes Ignatius can speak to us today.)

## A CHER evening

You can hear Cher's greatest hits performed by N-Zanity Singers on Sunday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Westdale, 1140 King Street West, Hamilton.

"We have great fun costumes, accessories and dance moves and Sonny may even make a special appearance (wink)," reported Sharon Molnar.

Music Director Gordon Zanity-Donn, producer and director, works hard to coordinate the various singers, ranging in ages from 13 to 77.

They will perform lots of your favourite Cher songs from the 60s to recent hits.

Tickets (\$20) available at the door. Children under 12 are free!

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# Your chance to step on the wider church stage ...

## An invitation from the Anglican Church of Canada

Are you interested in offering your skills for the ministry of the General Synod through its Coordinating and Standing Committees?

Please read further to see how that may happen.

### Nominations at General Synod

One of the triennial acts of the meeting of General Synod is to elect members to the various Standing and Coordinating Committees which oversee the work and planning of the many and varied ministries of the General Synod.

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Council of General Synod, toils away night and day at General Synod, receiving nominations from across the church, and preparing recommendations for the Synod to receive.

It is so important for these Standing and Coordinating

Committees to represent the length and breadth of our church from coast to coast to coast. For the most part, those elected by General Synod need not be members of General Synod, so nominations are sought far and wide.

Indeed, the more diverse the membership, the better the work, often!

I was lucky enough to be a member of different Standing Committees (as they used to be called) or Coordinating Committees (as they are now called) over the years, and I always found those experiences to be rich and rewarding - challenging me, and putting to use my good senses and my creativity, such as they are.

So, we invite you to nominate yourself and/or nominate others.

Nomination forms, along with descriptions of the work of the committees and some of

the skills/abilities that would be helpful for committee members, will be available online at [gs2019.anglican.ca](http://gs2019.anglican.ca) or from your own diocesan synod office.



Photo: [cathedralhamilton.ca](http://cathedralhamilton.ca)

*The Very Reverend Peter Wall is Dean of Niagara and Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton. He is also Deputy Prolocutor and Chair, General Synod Planning Committee.*

### The committees that will be elected at General Synod are:

#### Standing Committees:

- Pensions and Financial Management (note: The Pensions Committee is the only committee elected by General Synod solely from among the members of General Synod).

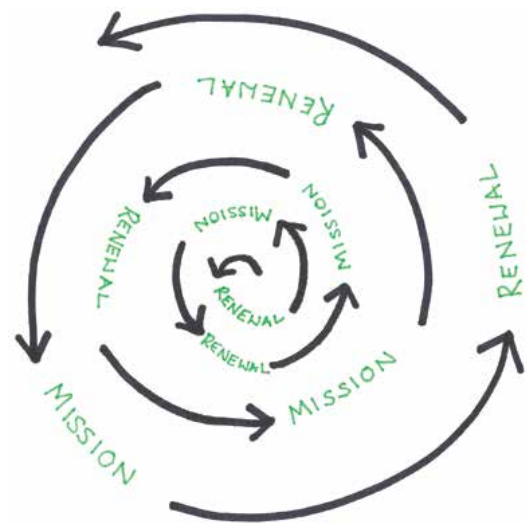
#### Coordinating Committees:

- Communications
- Faith, Worship and Ministry Partners in Mission
- Public Witness for Social and Ecological Justice Resources for Mission

#### When forwarding a name to General Synod for election, the Nominating Committee will take into account the following:

- Geographical representation and reflecting the diverse groups and individuals within the church and society.
- Expertise, experience and interest in the areas related to the particular focus of the committee.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.
- Ability to work collaboratively and consultatively.
- Committed to full participation in the work of the committees, including being prepared to commit to the meetings of the committees, either face-to-face, by telephone or by video-conference (some committees meet quite frequently by phone or video-conference) and to work on sub-committees or task groups as needed.
- Possess gifts in listening and discernment.

# You can shape the new Diocesan Vision



Bishop Susan has been sketching the outlines of a new vision over the past 12 months and invites you to infuse this outline with the colours and shapes of the Spirit at work in all our lives.

You are invited to participate in one of the inclusive gatherings to share your hopes, aspirations and dreams for renewal and mission in your parish and the diocese.

This open forum discernment process—facilitated by Martha Asselin from M&M International, a faith-based consulting firm—is for everyone who wants to give voice to their thoughts and experiences, and to listen as others share their perspectives.

All are welcome to attend these gatherings to be held as

follows:

- **May 22: 7:00 p.m.** – Hamilton-Haldimand and Trafalgar Regions at St. Luke's Palermo, 314 Dundas St. W, Oakville;
- **May 28: 7:00 p.m.** – Lincoln and Brock Regions at Transfiguration St. Catharines, 320 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines;
- **May 29: 7:00 p.m.** – Greater Wellington Region at All Saints Lutheran Anglican Guelph, 210 Silvercreek Parkway North, Guelph.

You are asked to keep Niagara Diocese in your prayers as we undertake this discernment and planning process ... culminating in a Mission Action Plan presentation at our annual synod in November.

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# Find 'One Thing' that helps you grow closer to God ...

A project of the Diocese of Niagara — suggestions for summer

As we invite everyone in the Diocese of Niagara to try at least One Thing that will strengthen and deepen our relationship with God it's good to note that while there are workshops and group experiences being offered, that 'One Thing' might be undertaken privately or in a time that fits into your own busy schedule. Below are just a few resources and ideas we want to recommend, a fuller list will be available on the website and facebook page.

## Books to read:

- *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg
- *An Altar In the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor
- *The Shape of Living* by David Ford
- *The Sacred Meal* by Nora Gallagher
- *The Way of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen
- *Falling Upward: a Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Fr. Richard Rohr.
- *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and Your Transformation* by Fr. Richard Rohr
- *Holy Living: The Christian Tradition for Today* by Rowan Williams
- *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer* by Rowan Williams

## Blogs to Follow:

- [cac.org](http://cac.org): The webpage for the centre for Action and Contemplation, includes the reflections of Fr. Richard Rohr.
- [revlauriebrock.com](http://revlauriebrock.com)
- [canondawndavis.wordpress.com](http://canondawndavis.wordpress.com)
- [interruptingthesilence.com](http://interruptingthesilence.com)



## Movies / DVDs to watch:

- *The Miracle Maker* by Murray Watts. This beautifully animated movie tells the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection in a way accessible to people of all ages.
- *The Nativity Story* brings the story of the incarnation to life and highlights the challenges faced by Joseph and Mary.
- *Risen* starring Joseph Fiennes tells the story of the resurrection through the eyes of a Roman centurion.
- *Romero* starring Raul Julia, tells the story of Saint Oscar Romero, Archbishop of El Salvador, and how his faith motivated his care for the poor and work for justice which led to his assassination.

## Anglican daily prayer

If you have a copy of the B.A.S. you might choose to try a form of daily prayer which can be found on pages 110–128. If you want help learning to use this form of prayer, speak to your parish clergy.

Alternatively, you can go to the website for the Church of England and they will provide you each day with the appropriate prayers and readings: [churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer](http://churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-daily-prayer)

## Apps to download:

- *Prayer Notes: Daily Diary* helps you keep track of those you promise to pray for!
- *Desktop Verse* makes a Bible verse appear on your desktop each day as a source of prayer, or inspiration.

Ideas for more resources are available from our webpage, [niagaraanglican.ca/one thing](http://niagaraanglican.ca/one thing)

For more information email: [one thing@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:one thing@niagaraanglican.ca)

## People in the news

### Congratulations

Congratulations to the Reverend **Allison Courey** and Ms. **Rachel Courey** on the birth of their daughter, Adeline, on April 16.

### Appointments

The Reverend **Mike Deed** accepted the position as Rector of St. James' Dundas (July 10). His resignation as Rector of Church of the Resurrection Hamilton is effective June 30.

The Reverend **Ronda Ploughman** becomes Rector of the Church of the Epiphany Oakville (June 16). She has submitted her resignation as Priest-in-Charge of All Saints Hamilton, St. Paul's Norval, St. Aidan's Oakville and Chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers.

(Source: *People in the News - niagaraanglican.ca*)




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## An idea worth passing along



On Easter Day as people at St. Luke's Palermo processed to the altar to receive the Holy Communion, they stopped at the Good Friday plain wooden cross and attached flowers to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Altar Guild member Wendy Cousins placed her flower on the cross before receiving the Holy Communion.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock



## Ideas Ideas Ideas

The *Niagara Anglican* wants your input as we make plans for the coming year.

Send your ideas and suggestions, issues, topics, etc. that you would like us to cover.

What questions would you like answered?

Suggest someone you think would be a good writer for the paper (get their permission first).

Add any other thoughts.

We need your response **by June 5, 2019**.

Thank you in advance

Send your ideas to the Editor, Hollis Hiscock at [editor@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagaraanglican.ca) or mailing address, Cathedral Place, 252 James Street North, Hamilton Ontario L8R 2L3.



## Editors look to the future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

in program and reflected on possible reactions during this transitional period. He said there is great love for the print version of both the national and local papers and he seemed optimistic that print would continue. "We should try new things while continuing with the old," he concluded.

It was also reported that in May each parish across Canada received a letter encouraging them to respond immediately to confirm their subscriptions.

A new organization structure and editorial policy for the *Anglican Journal* were recently approved by the Council of General Synod.

Editor Mark Hauser of Ontario's *Crosstalk* was elected President of AEA, replacing Editor James Sweeney of Quebec's *Diocesan Gazette*.

## Bishop Susan Bell invites you to:



"Doctrine of Discovery; Stolen lands, Strong Hearts," is a film about a devastating decision, made over 500 years ago, which continues to profoundly impact Indigenous and Settler people worldwide. Take a step forward in understanding how we can respond to the 94 Calls to Action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mark your calendars for a special Diocesan viewing of this film at:

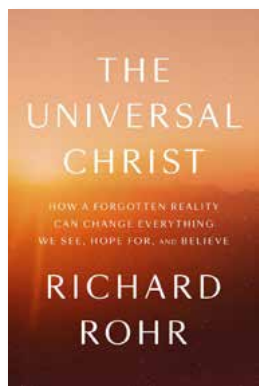
**Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, on Wed., June 19, at 7:00 p.m.**

Master of Ceremonies will be the Venerable Valerie Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry with special guest, The Right Rev. Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada's first National Indigenous Bishop.

For other news related to social justice and outreach in the Diocese, subscribe to the email newsletter *JUSTnews*. Go to [niagaraanglican.ca](http://niagaraanglican.ca) and click on the JUSTnews icon in the header, or contact Deirdre Pike, Program Consultant – Social Justice and Outreach. [deirdre.pike@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:deirdre.pike@niagaraanglican.ca) or 905-527-1316 ext. 470

### Book Review

## Christ is more than Jesus' last name



**ROB ROI**

Whether we agree with his teachings or not, Fr. Richard Rohr—Franciscan priest, ecumenical teacher and author—is one of the world's most influential spiritual thinkers.

The first chapter of *The Universal Christ* is entitled Christ Is Not Jesus' Last Name. He writes, "The whole of creation—not just Jesus—is the beloved community, the partner in the divine dance. Everything is the 'child of God.' No exceptions. When you think of it what else could anything be? All creatures must carry the DNA of

their creator."

Richard believes that Jesus came to show us how to be human much more than how to be spiritual, and that the process still seems to be in its early stages.

We often start with the human incarnation of God: Jesus.

We need to actually go back much further than that.

As Richard mentions the first incarnation happened some 13.7 billion years ago, "when God joined in unity with the physical universe and became the light inside of everything".

Jesus came out of this already

Christ-soaked world. Jesus is actually the second incarnation, Richard tells us. We definitely need to shift our perspective on who this God is.

Drawing on scripture, history and spiritual practice, Richard articulates a life-changing view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world.

"God loves things by becoming them," he writes, and Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice.

When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes

less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet.

Now in his 70s, Richard has taken his many years of wisdom to reclaim the name of "Christ" to mean much more than Jesus' last name. If we take anything from this book, it's that Christ is in all, and in everything. And that is good news.

*The Reverend Rob Roi is a parish deacon at St. James' Dundas. [margrobi@sympatico.ca](mailto:margrobi@sympatico.ca)*

**The Universal Christ, by Richard Rohr**  
Convergent, 2019

### Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

**Deadlines:**

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

**Submissions:**

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

**Original cartoons or art** – Contact the Editor.

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

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

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

**Questions or information:**

Contact the Editor at [editor@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagaraanglican.ca) or 905-635-9463.



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# Youth experience poverty up close and personal

**AIDAN FERGUSON**

At 1:00 p.m. on Friday April 12th, twelve youth gathered at St. Simon's Oakville for the annual 30-Hours for Poverty program.

This program is meant to educate youth about poverty in the local community and make a difference by volunteering at organizations that help people living in poverty.

I have been participating in this program for a few years now, and I always learn something new.

On that Friday afternoon we talked about what poverty is, how people living in poverty have no specific look or cultural/religious background, and can come from all walks of life.

We also read and discussed the passage Matthew 25: 34-46, which was our theme for the

program. I believe this passage is saying Jesus is in everyone, and we must help others as we would for Jesus, and as he would for us.

Shortly afterwards, we headed over to Kerr Street Mission to prepare and serve a dinner of sloppy Joes, salad, biscuits and ice cream to low income families from the Oakville community.

Afterwards, we went back to St. Simon's to reflect on the experience, play some card games and watch a movie. We slept on the floor of the church hall, in sleeping bags and on blow up mattresses.

The next morning we had a modest breakfast at the church before heading over to Safetynet Children & Youth Charities for the first time. Safetynet services families with clothing, diapers, furniture, household

items, bicycles, tutoring, music lessons and much more. They rely on community donations to provide free items and services to financially disadvantaged families.

After taking a tour, we cleaned, sorted and organized clothing, furniture and household donations for a few hours. It was great to find out about an organization that provides low income families with all kinds of needs and services — for free!

After eating lunch back at St. Simon's, we went to Oakville's Fareshare Food Bank. Here we had a tour of the warehouse and put together snack bags for children in need, and sorted macaroni and cheese boxes according to date.

After our return to the church, we participated in a service of reflection and the Eucharist, and

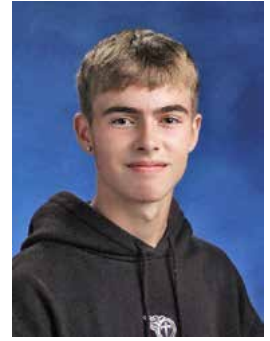
talked about what we'd experienced, our thoughts, feelings and what we learned over the weekend.

We then enjoyed dinner together and departed on Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

This amazing weekend wouldn't have been possible without our Youth Coordinator Robyn Michell, Rector Darcey Lazerte and the other adult volunteers.

All in all, it was a great and impactful weekend, where I learned a lot more about poverty in Oakville, and the amazing community resources and volunteers who work tirelessly to help those in need.

I can't wait for next year's program!



Sixteen-year-old Aidan Ferguson is a member of St. Simon's Oakville.



At Kerr Street Mission on Friday, the young people prepared and served a dinner to low income families from the Oakville community.



On Saturday morning, the youth visited Safetynet Children & Youth Charities, which helps families with clothing, diapers, furniture, household items, bicycles, tutoring, music lessons and much more.

Photos: Tamara Ferguson



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