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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



MAY 2019

## EMBRACING RECONCILIATION in many forms and actions



Dance outfits at the powwow are colourful and inspiring.

Photo: Ann Turner

### ANN TURNER

St. James Fergus chose to immerse themselves in the subject of reconciliation throughout Lent this year.

Reconciliation is a broad spiritual challenge in these times, and it was engaged on many levels: from personal repentance to corporate responsibility to the wider subject of Truth and Reconciliation.

On the second Sunday in Lent we welcomed the Venerable Val Kerr, Archdeacon of Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministries.

Val taught us about Indigenous history and shared stories of family and community as together they worked to remember a stolen past. We had time with her throughout the service and even more in conversation over lunch.

We spoke of powwows, dances, water concerns, land concerns, autonomy and the continued unfair division of families.

We spoke of hope and possibility. But what I think was most inspiring was to share with Val in a smudging ceremony.

St. James, led by Anne Warner (Deputy Peoples' Warden, Music Assistant and a grandmother working for change), has engaged deeply in the subject of Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) over the last few years.

Like many churches in Niagara, we passed a motion at vestry a few years ago to engage the work of the commission. Holding to that commitment, Anne began a monthly "Lunch and Learn" program, gathering parishioners together for lunch and education on one of the many subjects of T & R.

We have educated ourselves about and contributed to the work of water services in Pikangicum. We have hosted the blanket exercise. We have dedicated the front gateway of our Butterfly Garden as a sacred space to remember murdered and missing Indigenous women.

The gate is adorned with red ribbons and frequently refreshed during gatherings.

We have chosen to fly the Indigenous flag during spring and summer months and, as a community, we attended a local powwow. We campaigned and continue to campaign for bill C-262 and facilitated a letter-writing campaign to all MPs and, subsequently, all Senators.

The smudging ceremony that Val introduced us to was an opportunity to bless our own learnings, ourselves and to bless the work in which we have engaged. Val blessed our parishioners together for lunch, the memorial gate and our entranceway. As the smoke of the sacred sage died down, the bundle was buried and continues to bless our community garden.

The ritual was moving and a time of deep connection for those who have been intentional about the T & R challenge to churches to

See RECONCILIATION Page 2

## Niagara's experience of equal marriage

"Even though we already knew that God blessed our relationship, ... we wanted the blessing also of our fellow people in faith," said Donna Clark, about why being married was so important to her and her late spouse, Donna Evans.

Donna was one of several same-sex spouses who shared their experiences, along with

a number of priests who have presided at equal marriage services, during a video filming session at Cathedral Place Hamilton last fall.

Niagara's video response to the amendment to the national marriage canon was shared with members of the Council of General Synod (COGS) at their recent meeting. Several submissions from other dioceses across

the Anglican Church of Canada were also presented.

The Reverend Mike Deed reflected on providing pastoral support to a parishioner's gay grandchild seeking to be married at Church of the Resurrection Hamilton. "It was a big question about whether the faith community which held this family for generations, in every grief

and every joy ... would we be there for that family?"

When equal marriage was authorized by the bishop, it "was a huge source of joy not only for the congregation but also for that couple, that they were equal with their whole family, they belonged in their family, which is a family of the church," Mike reiterated.

Niagara's experience is unique in Canada, having undertaken ministry with episcopal authorization for equal marriage since 2016. "We decided that what might be most helpful—and faithful—would be to communicate what our lived reality of this change has been," said

See EQUAL MARRIAGE Page 4

## ✍ Letters

### Touched my heart

I just wanted to pass on how much I enjoyed reading your article, YOU and Easter Assurances.

It really touched my heart and made me feel like I was there.

Angela Rush  
Burlington

### Personal Bible reading

I am writing in response to the Bible reading story (Reading the Bible in a year – Niagara Anglican, April 2019).

Many years ago, the Reverend Dianne Distler, who was taking pastoral counselling instruction, asked for people to be recipients. I contacted Dianne because I was suffering from great personal hurt.

We had months of very productive counselling sessions. What has continued all these subsequent many years since is me reading a passage from the Bible to hear/see what God is telling me or not.

To add to the meaning of this exercise, I write what God is saying to me and have kept these to be an integral part of my Christian faith practice.

I personally, find it most meaningful to use the weekly Sunday readings for my "What is God telling me?" Bible experiences.

They frequently even line up with what is happening in my life.

Judith Robertson  
Christ's Church Cathedral  
Hamilton

### Sad to read

I was very sad to read an article written by an Anglican priest in the April issue proclaiming that the resurrection of Jesus Christ did not occur.

No wonder the Church is in trouble.

The Reverend Lou Hays  
Interim,  
Church of the Epiphany Oakville

### A message of solidarity with the Muslim community of New Zealand from the Interfaith Council of Halton

Dear Members of the Muslim Community of New Zealand,

The members of our Interfaith Council here in Halton Region, Ontario, Canada, were deeply dismayed at the brutality of the terrorist murders in your two Christchurch mosques last week. We convey both our shock at this horror and terrific loss of life, as well as our sincere sympathy to you and yours during this time of grief in your community and your nation. We rebuke this attack by white supremacists and its Islamophobic underpinnings.

The road to peace and prosperity in the world has many detours but the destination is clear. It is a vision of a better world born in the hearts and minds of collaborators around the globe—a vision based on sharing and developing the

spiritual principles necessary for the betterment of society and the advancement of a worldwide civilization.

On behalf of all faiths represented by our council here in Halton Region, after our gathering this week as we prayed for those whose lives were lost and for peace in the days ahead, please accept our condolences and well-wishes as you move beyond this tragedy. We are with you in spirit and share the certainty that we must not despair but work together to sow love for all.

Rabbi Stephen Wise, Chair,  
Interfaith Council of Halton



The Interfaith Council of Halton ([interfaithcouncilhalton.com](http://interfaithcouncilhalton.com)) consists of representatives from eight major faith groups—Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity,

Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism—which meet in the Halton Region.

The IFCH was formed after the events of September 11, 2001 in response to the recognized need for greater awareness and understanding amongst the people of our increasingly diverse community.

During our journey of discovery, we have come to learn that despite the many different practices and rituals of various faiths, the essence of our core values is the same.

The Golden Rule of treating others the way we would like to be treated, which is shared by all religions, is a primary example that demonstrates this principle.

Send your letters to the editor to let us know what you are thinking.  
[editor@niagaraanglican.ca](mailto:editor@niagaraanglican.ca) or the mailing address on page 3.



## Reconciliation at St. James

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

learn and work for change.

Finally, at this year's Vestry, another motion was passed. All meetings, gatherings and worship at St. James will begin with the territorial acknowledgment of our location, on the banks of the Grand River. It will be

posted in each of our meeting spaces and in our garden, inviting others to acknowledge this blessed earth.

Our prayer is that we honour the words of our acknowledgment, "May we who dwell on or visit this land, also be good

stewards and honour those who came before us".

The Reverend Ann Turner is Rector of St. James Fergus. [dogma1@me.com](mailto:dogma1@me.com)

Photos: Ann Turner

(Left) At the powwow, these tin cones adorned a jingle dance dress.

(Below) The front gateway of the Butterfly Garden at St. James Fergus is dedicated as a sacred space to remember murdered and missing Indigenous women.



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**HOLLIS**torial

# A question for all people in the global village

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? (*Book of Alternative Services*, page 159)

These words flooded my thoughts during the past several months for various reasons.

Maybe from mirroring myriad examples of God's people not striving for justice, not pursuing peace and not respecting the dignity of any human person.

Maybe from anticipating Easter when worshippers are invited to respond to this commitment as they renew or commence their covenant with God.

In mid-March, the kernel of this HOLLISitorial took root and germinated, even though snow and ice prevented me from walking on or even seeing the green grass of our backyard.

One Thursday evening, we watched the 1960 movie, *Inherit the Wind*. The title reflects Proverbs 11:29, "Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind." It's a parable, based loosely on the story of a real-life 1925 case about a teacher on trial for teaching evolution instead of creationism.

Midway through the movie we stopped to watch the news and were horrified to learn of 50 people being killed at two mosques in New Zealand. (Read the letter from the Interfaith Council of Halton — a message of solidarity — on page 2.)

Comparing the movie's violence, hatred and discrimination of 95 years ago with similar happenings today, we concluded people have not changed much.

The next morning, two stories fired up my attention.

The *Church Times* ([church-times.co.uk](http://church-times.co.uk)) featured an article about Toronto Bishop Kevin Robertson. The Archbishop of Canterbury told Bishop Kevin that he would be welcome



Photo: [ingimage.com](http://ingimage.com)

to attend the 2020 Lambeth Conference but his husband, Mohan Sharma, would not, even though other bishops' spouses were invited.

Bishop Kevin noted an inconsistency. The Secretary-General of the Anglican Communion maintained that same-sex marriages were inconsistent with a resolution on marriage from the 1998 Lambeth Conference which defined **marriage as the lifelong union of one man and one woman**.

As Bishop Kevin rightly pointed out, "I know as we approach 2020 that there are bishops who have been divorced and remarried, in some cases more than once, who are being invited, and their spouses are also being invited."

Apparently in the church, different strokes for different folks.

Later that day I viewed, *Towards Marriage Equality — Sharing Niagara's Experience* (see front page account). This video documents same-sex marriages as experienced by couples and presiders.

I was honoured to be interviewed and to share my experience as the presider at a same-sex marriage.

Three questions were posed; here are my responses:

1. The same-sex marriage was a blessing to the faith community, because it affirms that humans cannot limit God's blessing. God's love applies to everyone, indicating we need to be an inclusive community by our action.
2. My faith shaped my decision to preside at same-sex marriages. My father instilled in me, from my infancy, to believe in God/Jesus and to treat all people equally.
3. Presiding at a same-sex marriage was transformative for me. Our faith is a living entity which forces us to reach beyond our comfort levels and bring our faith to new situations. In his prayer, Jabez

community, because it affirms that humans cannot limit God's blessing. God's love applies to everyone, indicating we need to be an inclusive community by our action.

During my ordained ministry, people have always come first.

Occasionally that clashed with church rules and traditions, but I still believe I was following what Jesus would do.

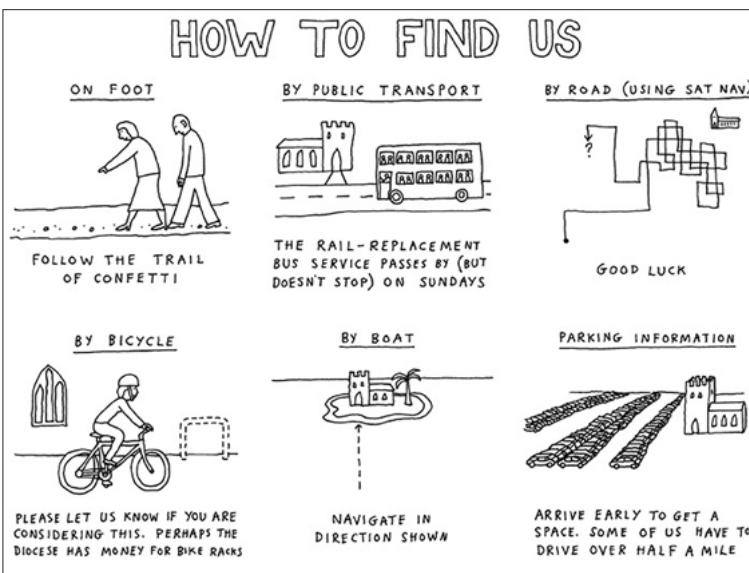
Occasionally that clashed with church rules and traditions, but I still believe I was following what Jesus would do.

(1 Chronicles 4:10) put it this way, asking God to "extend my territory".

While presiding at my first same-sex marriage, I felt a strong sense of God's presence and peace descending on us. God was blessing the two men as they exchanged their marriage vows and became one.

So, what can we do? On every day and in every way we can ...

- A. Keep striving for justice,
- B. Keeping striving for peace, and,
- C. Keep respecting the dignity of every human being.



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[cartoonchurch.com](http://cartoonchurch.com)



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# Equal marriage experiences in new video

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Bishop Susan Bell.

After the proposed changes to the marriage canon passed first reading at General Synod 2016, the canonical amendment was referred to dioceses and ecclesiastical provinces for consideration. If passed, the proposal would broaden the applicability of the canon to all persons duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage, and not simply to heterosexual partners.

"The experience of same-sex committed partnerships in our midst, clearly manifesting God's blessing and the fruit of the Spirit, is a powerful indication that God's view of marriage may be more inclusive than ours," says Bishop Susan in the video.

The second reading of the amendment to the marriage canon will take place when the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada meets this July in Vancouver.

Bishop Susan says that the marriage canon change is a decision the "whole church will have to reach, not by arguments alone, but by the prayerful discernment of the movement of the Spirit in our midst".

You can view the 16-minute video, *Towards Marriage Equality: Sharing Niagara's Experience*, through the link on Niagara's web page ([niagaraanglican.ca](http://niagaraanglican.ca)).



Dean Peter Wall being interviewed by Laura Babcock with cameraman James Spalding for the video, *Towards Marriage Equality: Sharing Niagara's Experience*.

Photo: Hollis Hiscock

# All of Me

MARTHA TATARNIC

About twenty of us sat around a circle on our first Tuesday evening of our Anglicanism 101 class. The question that we asked each person to answer ("pass" was a permitted answer!) was "Why are you Anglican? Or, why are you considering Anglicanism?"

It was a remarkably varied group, including many long-time or even life-time Anglicans taking this course as a sort of spiritual refresher, as well as a number of people quite new to St. George's and to our tradition. The answers reflected this diversity.

Some people had no particular draw toward "Anglican," but rather were simply looking for a community that is committed to living its faith through its care for others. Some people had never considered the question: being Anglican was just in their blood. Still others poignantly described journeys that had led them to feel that this might be a tradition in which they could be accepted for who they are.

Many of us teared up around the circle as one participant said simply, "I was part of one church and felt like certain parts of me weren't accepted; I was

part of another church and felt that other parts of me weren't accepted. I believe that all of me might be accepted here."

Those words reinforced my own gladness and gratitude for the welcome and care I have experienced throughout my own thirty-plus years in the Anglican church. My family wandered into St. James' Anglican Church in Hanover when I was a child, and we found that there was space in this tradition for our family.

As people who love to learn, read and explore different ideas, we felt that the Anglican church didn't make us "check our brains at the door". As people who are, by nature, "artsy," we felt that this was also a church whose rituals, symbolism and poetry engaged our hearts and fed our souls. The Anglican church gave me a way in to know and love Jesus, and the communities in

*"... the Anglican church didn't make us 'check our brains at the door'."*



which I have lived and served continue to model for me what faithful living looks like.

Anglicanism offers extraordinary gifts, and to remember and claim these gifts is an important antidote against our tendency to feel inferior to other, seemingly more successful, denominations. Remembering that we are one offering in God's colourful church tapestry is likewise an antidote to a dangerous smugness about our own open-minded offering of faith.

Our whole church began when God gathered a group of very flawed and frightened men and women, spoke healing and love to each of them across all of their wounds and waywardness, made room for difference and invited us to learn the art of respect in our walk with one another.

Voices of hatred continue to rage in our world, and actions of violence and destruction put

See ALL OF ME Page 12

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# In the throes of the anthropocene era

**TED HALES**

Anthropocene, a media exhibition at the Ontario Gallery of Art, featured photographer Edward Burtynsky and filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier.

They travelled to every continent documenting irreversible marks of the scale and gravity of human impact on the planet.

Each mural, installation and every bit of information about what human activity has done and is doing to the earth took my breath away.

I was captivated by the earth's awful beauty abused by mining, oil extraction, fracking and tailings ponds; by urban sprawl; by stripping away ancient-growth forests; by aggressive mining; by the hellish amount of plastic and other refuse polluting water and land.

Massive machinery designed and built to get what we want is on a scale dwarfing all living things; the permanent scars left on the earth stretch for kilometres poisoning land, water and air.

The poorest of the poor work extracting anything with a monetary value from discarded technology and items cast away by those more economically fortunate, endangering their health by exposure to toxic chemicals and by-products.

Mounting debris and pollu-



The anthropocene has been coined to refer to the current geological epoch, marked by the permanent changes human activity has made to the earth and its ecosystems.

Photo: Thossaphol/istockphoto.com

tion is a sad judgement on our over-indulgence and hankering after the newest trend.

A chill went down my spine. I thought: "I am as responsible for what we are doing as are the faceless corporations, powers and systems in control!"

I reached the crossroads where my Christian faith was roused and began to make sense of what I was viewing. I was thankful my faith raised its head and gave direction.

For the believer, faith is essential in all things; it illuminates, instructs and provides the vocabulary and steady anchor in

coming to grips with realities.

Is not our troubled relationship with the environment and one another deeply rooted in the desire to have it our way no matter what?

Humankind has tamed diseases, lifted millions from grinding poverty and created products. Technologies more comfortable and more fulfilled than our ancestors could ever imagine. But that old quirk of selfish interest is as strong as ever. It continues to damage us and the earth.

As a listener of God's good

news, I can't rest or retreat to where the gospel speaks only to the life of the soul. The gospel must inform and empower me. Either it speaks directly to these troubled times, or it has no lasting value.

We Christians must speak about what human activity is doing to the environment and people—to seek, encourage and work for good and healthy change so healing can occur.

The church spends too much time talking to itself about itself, rather than proclaiming the gospel with conviction and confidence.



Perhaps we're unsure what God in Christ has done, what to say, what to do; or we are too embarrassed!

After all, we live in a secular, self-absorbed age and culture, too embarrassed to talk about a living God who is as real as the person next door and as real as the personal and communal problems we choose to face or flee.

Living in an anthropocene epoch—where human activity changes earth's systems more than all-natural forces combined—then, we must make sense of it through the lens of the gospel.

God's good news calls for justice and the right ordering of our relationships with the earth, nature, one another and God.

I hope and pray that I will always seek God's grace and guidance in making sense of the world; that I will see the world through the gospel's call to justice; and will respond with prayer and action; for it is through me and you that Christ Jesus is at work in the world!

*The Reverend Ted Hales is Honorary Assistant at St. Barnabas' St. Catharines. ethales75@start.ca*



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With every blessing,

**Michael Thompson**  
General Secretary,  
Anglican Church of Canada

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# ST. ANDREW'S GRIMSBY

## 225th anniversary

### The Rector writes ...

Every once in awhile, when preaching at St. Andrew's, I feel as if I am speaking into history. It is impossible not to be aware that one is speaking where others have spoken, standing where others have stood, praying where others have prayed.

Yet, this is not speaking into a distant, dusty past! The history spoken into is a living, unfolding revelation of a present vitality. This history is alive in the faces of those with whom we journey in this present day.

It has been this way, in this place, for 225 years! The Love of the Risen Christ makes our history an ever-present Grace.

May St. Andrew's long continue to speak into history - to speak, to stand and to pray, alongside the memory of those who came before, and alongside those with whom we journey in this anniversary year!

"You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart." (Psalm 51:6)

"Rhythm and harmony find their way in the inward places of the soul." (Plato.)

*The Venerable Max Woolaver.*



The Venerable Max Woolaver is Rector of St. Andrew's.

### What St. Andrew's means to me ...

Although I've been adopted from the late parish of St. Philip-by-the-Lake, St. Andrew's is now my Anglican home. The clergy and people are my family. The warmth I feel is one reason why this parish has sustained a long history.

*Dorothy Turcotte.*

St. Andrew's is not only a beautiful historic building, but inside there is the fellowship of our congregation that makes it special. We all enjoy celebrating our faith in the Anglican way. Those at the 10:00 a.m. service get to enjoy most Sundays the wonderful organ music. I enjoy being part of the choir with Tom's leadership.

It is nice to be part of this community where I can just show up at a church event and feel that I belong. Each one of us has gifts that we share to make our community special.

*Ruth Emerson.*



### Sunday School

We use the Godly Play curriculum ([godlyplay.ca](http://godlyplay.ca)). It is an innovative method of faith formation for childhood and beyond. Godly Play allows participants to experience faith-building stories through intentional storytelling and imaginative wondering.

We gather weekly with our children in a Sacred Space to

hear stories that teach children the art of using Christian language – parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action – to help them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives.

One Sunday a month, our Sunday School leads the worship in Church. During this Family Service, the lesson is presented as a Godly Play

story, bringing the story telling model that our children experience to the rest of our church family. Our Family Service is an evolving all ages liturgy bringing forth and exploring new music and prayer, reflecting an intentional formation of a multi-dimensional faith community.

*Melita Veinotte*

### Contact information

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### Worship service times

**Choral Eucharist:** Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
**Said Eucharist:** Sundays at 8:00 a.m.  
**Eucharist:** Wednesdays at 7 p.m.  
**Eucharist:** Thursdays at 11:15 a.m.  
**Said service:** A *healing Mass* the second Wednesday of each month



# — Still going strong

## Women's Special Missions

The women of St. Andrew's are proud to have instituted two special missions.

The first, begun seven years ago, is called Ruth and Naomi. It is an ongoing series of monthly luncheons for widows. It is not a support group with speakers or professional guests. It is simply lunch for women who share an experience. Over their food, they talk about whatever they want.

The second is the Prayer Shawl Mission. About 20 knitters

meet weekly in the church hall to knit shawls which are distributed to those who are ill or grieving, and to babies who are being christened. The patterns all incorporate the number 3 representing the Holy Trinity.

Since 2005, this group has produced hundreds of afghans. In 2011, four members travelled to England to help parishes there begin similar projects. They have also helped many local parishes to do the same.



(Left) Alfreda Jeffries, St. Andrew's elder historian, is descended from most of the pioneer families who started the parish. Most of the information here came from her book, *From Generation to Generation*.



(Right) Sanjoy Arycharya displays the peaches St. Andrew's peeled for the Winona Peach Festival where the peaches are baked into pies and sold. The peeling of the peaches is a fund raiser for St. Andrew's.

## Another innovation

On Thursday mornings at 11.30, "Coffee on us" is offered in the lobby of the church hall.

This outreach event provides coffee and snacks to parents picking up their children from the nursery school held in the parish hall. It is a great opportunity to get to know those families, and to introduce them to St. Andrew's.



Honorary Assistant the Reverend John Ripley preparing palm crosses for Palm Sunday worship.



The Reverend Deacon Jean Rutten-Yates lighting the Advent candles.



Thanks to Dorothy Turcotte for coordinating and preparing this special presentation celebrating the 225th anniversary of St. Andrew's Grimsby.



## St. Andrew's history

- 1787** Settlers arrived at The Forty and began worship in private homes, led by layman Andrew Pettit.
- 1794** Log church was built on land donated by Robert Nelles.
- 1804** Log church replaced by a frame church. The Reverend Robert Addison visited.
- 1817** The Reverend Robert Addison visited for the last time. The Reverend William Sampson arrived as the first missionary to St. Andrew's. The first marriage in his records was his own. On August 21, Robert Addison presided at the marriage of William Sampson to Maria Eliza, 17-year-old daughter of Catherine (Ball) and Abraham Nelles.
- 1819** Foundation stone laid for third stone church.
- 1822** Tragic accidental shooting of William Sampson and his death when there was no doctor to treat him. Despite his short tenure, over 300 people attended his funeral. Maria Eliza was a widow with three children at age 22.
- 1825** Stone church completed. Consecrated by Bishop Charles James Stewart, second bishop of Quebec on July 28, 1828.
- 1852** Cypress Inn adjoining churchyard purchased for a rectory.
- 1858** The Reverend Francis James Lundy conducted the first Anglican midnight service in Upper Canada. The organ was played for the first time.
- 1906** New rectory built.
- 1912** New parish hall built.
- 1916** Lychgate added in memory of Linus Woolverton.
- 1994** Bicentennial Celebrations. Publication of Alfreda Jeffries' book *From Generation to Generation*.
- 2019** 225th anniversary celebration – and still going strong!



# Ash Wednesday children's program both fun and educational

The Kids' Spirit team, Grace Church Milton

On Ash Wednesday at Grace Church Milton, the Kids' Spirit children's ministry hosted a half-day educational program for children, continuing a tradition that began in 1991.

The purpose of this program is to provide a fun and educational learning experience about Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, including the imposition of ashes. All children in Grades 1-8 are invited to attend and because it is a release program for religious education, the children are not marked absent from school.

This year the program was run by the collaborative

efforts of Kids' Spirit teachers Candance Barton, Edith Oyosoro, Meredith Gibson, Father Mark McDermott and Rector Karine Snowdon.

The day began with the children sharing their ideas about Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent using words or pictures on poster paper.

Following some songs and snacks, the children went on a scavenger hunt around the church. They followed clues to find envelopes containing palm crosses from last Palm Sunday. Afterwards, the children went outside with Reverend Karine and Father Mark to burn the palm crosses and leftover palm leaves. It was a cold March morning, but they were enthusiastic to help add leaves to the fire!

The program also included time for crafts. Children painted crosses and decorated Alleluias to be hidden in the church until Easter.

Throughout the morning, Reverend Karine taught the children about the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent.

There was discussion about what the children can fast from. The older kids thought about giving up activities like social media and the younger kids thought about giving up behaviours like teasing their siblings.

Reverend Karine also showed the kids a calendar of the days in Lent and talked about Holy Week, prompting lots of questions from the children. She noted that, as Anglicans, we all need to ask questions to continue learning about Jesus.

The children next gathered for an Ash Wednesday service using the ashes they had helped to prepare that morning. One by one, each child heard the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" and received an ashes cross on their forehead.

At the end of the morning everyone gathered for a pizza lunch and the children were then driven back to their schools for the remainder of the day.

This concluded another successful Ash Wednesday children's program at Grace Church!

(Top) The children went outside to burn the palm crosses and leftover palm leaves. It was a cold March morning, but they were enthusiastic to help add leaves to the fire.

(Right) Kids' Spirit Teacher Edith Oyosoro displayed the painted cross she made. Children painted crosses and decorated Alleluias to be hidden in the church until Easter.

Photos: Meredith Gibson






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# Gold for greening Parish reaches top pinnacle

The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek is, according to the Chair of Greening Niagara Sue Carson, one of only five parishes in Niagara diocese to have attained the gold level for greening. Niagara Anglican asked what was accomplished to receive the award; Churchwarden and Greening Co-ordinator Jim McConnell responded.



Churchwarden and Greening Co-ordinator Jim McConnell received their Gold Level greening certificate from Sue Carson, Chair of Greening Niagara. Photo: Anna Hope

We have been involved in the Greening Sacred Spaces Program since the beginning. To receive the Gold Level we concentrated on the suggestions noted in the following inspections: Decennial, Fire, Risk/ Insurance, Retro Fit, Niagara Green Audit and Best Practices, and Accreditation Programs.

### What was completed

- Replaced the furnace and air conditioner with high efficiency units in the Church.
- Upgraded the furnace and air conditioner in the Common

- Hall to be more efficient and removal of electric heaters.
- Replacement of lighting in the Church, Chapel, offices, kitchen, main hall and main hallways, along with Sunday and meeting rooms.
- Kitchen and main hall have been renovated and are now more efficient, user friendly, environment friendly and energy saving.
- Installation, caulking of all windows and weather stripping of all outer doors of all Church buildings.
- Signage and enforcement of blue and green boxes have been posted for proper use.
- Signage at fire extinguishers in the building explaining usage and actions to be taken in the event of a fire.
- Inventory of storage and

retention of items, etc. and have utilized recycling facilities within the church and the community for items not required.

- We have installed an on-site defibrillator and EpiPen station in the main hall.

### Why was it done

- To ensure the safety, efficiency, environmental and energy savings, upgrades have been carried out. To ensure that our facilities are user and environmentally friendly.

### What it means to people

They have been made aware of and are participating in The Greening Sacred Places, Best Practices, Accreditation Programs of the Church and practicing the same programs in

their homes. With congregational involvement in making the decisions to what had to be carried out to the Church properties they now feel ownership and part of the Church.

### What improvements happened

- We have already noticed a decrease in our hydro, water and gas usage bills.
- We have noticed that members of the Church and the community are wanting to use our facilities more.
- The Church has also received a Heritage Property Recognition Award for showing outstanding contributions to the conservation, restoration and preservation of Hamilton's Built Heritage.

# Helping seniors stay in their homes longer

## CONNIE PRICE

St. Matthew on-the-Plains Outreach Committee Burlington, in partnership with Burlington Age Friendly Council who organized the Speakers and Burlington Seniors Community Inc. and who provided financial assistance, invited Burlington seniors to a Tea. It also included housing presentations incorporating information to enlighten the seniors as to how they may be able to remain in their own homes longer. The presentations were broken into categories of housing initiatives and updates by the Halton Region, accommodating your home as your needs change by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as well as adding an apartment in your home by a local contractor. The Burlington Age Friendly Council Housing Committee spoke about the HomeShare Program which can bring another person into the senior's

home and life, to assist with "mutually contracted" tasks the senior is no longer able to do in exchange for reduced rent. Many Seniors are not aware of the housing programs and financial assistance available to enable them to stay in their own homes longer. This information was very well received, as were the tea and goodies served in style by St. Matthew's parishioners. In order to reach and invite as many seniors, including isolated ones, as possible, 5,000 invitation post cards were printed and mailed to individual homes in the Aldershot community. In addition, flyers were posted, emails sent, social media contacted, and an ad was put in the local print and on-line newspapers. This advertising attracted 125 attendees, both seniors and their families. Transportation was offered to isolated seniors without means to attend. The presenters noted that they were pleased to see



St. Matthew on-the-Plains Outreach Committee Burlington brought together 125 seniors and their families for a Tea, to meet each other and to hear presentations helpful to living longer in their own homes.

Photo: Connie Price

more men attend this one than at previous similar programs. To add to the information the seniors received, the Outreach Committee collected a wide variety of senior related information and useful items from all levels of government, fire and police departments, the library and senior organizations within the community. Specially baked and wrapped cookies from residents of a local retirement home were put in

take home bags and given to the seniors as they left. The comments of seniors and family members were very favourable, expressing that they were not aware that all this information and assistance was available to them. It made all the efforts of the day well worth it. Connie Price is Co-Chair of St. Matthew's Outreach Committee. [cepriceless@gmail.com](mailto:cepriceless@gmail.com)

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## Finding God in our neighborhood through children's theatre

**DIANE ELLIOTT**

For the past few years the faith community of Christ Church Wainfleet has been working diligently to envision "where God is out there ahead of us in our neighborhood". And how we—an aging parish where many of our active members are caring but consumed with caregiving, personal health issues and the God-given gift of simply winding down—might join in.

After many conversations, a year and a half of study to understand what it means to be "missional" in the Anglican Church today, a summer of focus on renewal (thank you, Bishop Susan!) and abundant prayer, we have come upon a new and inspiring ministry that is helping us to renew some of our existing ministries by taking them to the next level.

In our many and varied discussions, inside and outside of our church doors, we posed the following three questions: How have we served the community

in the past when our members were young and vibrant? What gifts do we have now that we know our neighborhood may need? Where are these needs already being addressed in our community, and how might we join in?

The answer was not only surprising, but also for Christ Church Wainfleet, immediately accessible and easily doable based on the gifts we have to offer, and the resources God has given our faith community over the last 150-plus years.

Most exciting of all, it meets the needs of our surrounding neighborhood, where God has been out there ahead of us already sowing the seeds.

Our new initiative is The Children's Theater Company (TCTC), where youth 10–16 years of age experience God's mission through participating in the performing arts.

The focus of this ministry is to continue to work with our newly developed neighborhood partnerships and, in some cases,



One of the children in The Children's Theater Company (TCTC) of Christ Church Wainfleet designed the poster for their first production, C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.

to renew and revitalize old neighborhood partnerships.

Wainfleet has a rural population of 6,872 residents, most with agricultural backgrounds. Many of these families cannot easily access or afford to participate in performing arts classes or quality children's theatrical productions.

The schools in our neighborhood do not have the funding or the resources to provide for the performing arts, and our home-school population has expressed great interest in accessible performing arts opportunities.

TCTC, as envisioned by our

faith community, is "missional" at its core. Participation is free, as are tickets to all of our performances. Our model is "The Kingdom of God," and our message is "Love your neighbour".

We have 17 youth participating in TCTC.

They are currently in rehearsal for their first major production, C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, to be presented May 31 and June 1 at 7:00 p.m. and June 2 at 3:00 p.m. All performances will be held at Christ Church in Wainfleet.

For more information contact The Reverend Deacon Diane Elliott at (905) 321-9502.

### Missioner appointed

The Reverend **Antonio Illas** has been appointed, on a full-time basis, to serve as migrant farm worker missioner.

It is part of Niagara's diocesan commitment to support the practical, pastoral and spiritual needs of precarious migrant farm workers during their stay in Canada.

This ministry will primarily take place at three sites: St. Alban's Beamsville, Christ Church McNab and St. John's Jordan.

## Glimpses of wisdom and grace while serving at the national church level

**SUSAN LITTLE**

The Council of General Synod (CoGS) began with the conclusion of General Synod 2016 in Toronto and ends in Vancouver this summer.

CoGS carries on the work between General Synods.

I was privileged to serve throughout this three-year span (2016-2019), called "The Triennium".

Listening and discerning God's voice is the business of the Church and responsibility of CoGS. Although CoGS' business fills 12-hour days, the most important time spent occurs each day in scripture, prayer and song.

The principle is clear: if we are open to God's Spirit working in us and through us, we must be intentional about listening to God.

Listening to one another is also a key for the Church. When we listen to the "lived experience" of being Anglican elsewhere in Canada, CoGS makes wiser decisions for the whole Church.

The purpose of General Synod is Ministry and Mission. To

accomplish this, Church House Staff works with a committee system—the lifeline of our Church's work—to which each CoGS member is assigned.

Two issues from General Synod 2016 are going to be front and centre in Vancouver; both directly affect Ministry. One is the second reading of proposed changes to the Marriage Canon, allowing same gendered people to marry in the Church, and the second is the Self-Determination of our Indigenous peoples.

The Marriage Canon resolution is the product of much consultation and study across the whole Church and of regular modification by CoGS. Its comprehensive document is deemed ready and worthy for consideration by General Synod 2019.

The Self-Determination of our Indigenous peoples is rooted in a new model of governance, created by the Council of the North and the Anglican Council of Indigenous People (ACIP). At General Synod 2019, they will seek to affirm their right to self-govern and to determine their Mission and Ministry while remaining firmly within the Anglican Church of Canada.

Change has been occurring everywhere, and CoGS has responded to new realities, including ...

*Although CoGS' business fills 12-hour days, the most important time spent occurs each day in scripture, prayer and song.*

Gradual change from print to digitalized newspapers has helped to reshape the future of the Anglican Journal over this Triennium. While print format will continue for a few years, its new structure will ensure editorial freedom for diocesan papers. The Anglican Journal's new working model has already successfully begun, boding well for an improved overall communications system for the Anglican Church.

Similarly, mirroring the changing face of our Canadian Church, new liturgies, prayers and rites have appeared.

Mission means taking our gospel message to the streets, literally!

Significant work to raise awareness of human trafficking and slavery, and of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and men, has occurred from ecclesiastical provinces, dioceses, regions and parishes. Community action across the country is responding.

On a larger scale, Mission using the historical model of Companion Diocese partnerships has begun to favour a new model. Although very successful partnerships continue to thrive, global realities keep arriving on our doorstep. The future may well be to use a global regional approach to discern ministry priorities.

Mission most powerfully appears at CoGS when the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) presents its latest work. PWRDF reveals how it helps when disasters occur and how it supports development when people need



interventions in their lives.

The Primate's initiatives—the Healing Fund and Giving with Grace—enable funding to help the whole Church witness how God is working among us.

I have been blessed to glimpse God's people deliberating, discerning and growing in wisdom.

May God's Spirit continue to prompt the Church to move wisely and confidently into the next triennium.

*Susan Little is a member of St. John the Evangelist Hamilton. She served on the Nominations Committee, Partners in Mission Co-ordinating Committee and The Working Group on the Marriage Canon. [sallittle208@gmail.com](mailto:sallittle208@gmail.com)*



## Our altar guild and ministry



### MARILYN POTTRUFF

It has been said that the best kept secret in Niagara Diocese is Christ Church Woodburn.

We are a little country church on Woodburn Road in the Hamilton East mountain area. We are a busy congregation of between 50 and 60 families and growing.

Our Altar Guild group is small, volunteering with our time, abilities and dedication to provide a beautiful and appropriate setting for worshipping God.

We work in pairs each week to prepare the altar by cleaning and polishing the vessels, checking the calendar for proper colours and arranging all the items in the correct place on the altar and credence table.

We decorate the church for special services: Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost (all red), Harvest Thanksgiving and Advent through to Christmas; including weddings and funerals. We receive donations for memorial flowers at Christmas and Easter.

Why join the Altar Guild?

It is a wonderful and rewarding experience to do ministry to the church and the glory of God.

Our church has outreach pro-

grams – we have the community food bank with volunteer help and support, St. Matthew's House, P.W.R.D.F. each month, a very active A.C.W. who support any fund raisers and church suppers during the year.

In 2018, Christ Church celebrated its 180th anniversary with different functions throughout the year.

The celebration began with a visit from Bishop Michael in April. Many items of memorabilia were on display. Bishop Michael was impressed when he picked up the Order of Service for his Ordination and Consecration from September 2007.

We also held a British Tea, an outdoor BBQ with games and a garage sale on a beautiful summer day.

Our finale was a supper with a special evening service with former priests and parishioners invited.

*Marilyn Pottruff is a member of the Altar Guild and Organist at Christ Church Woodburn.*

*Marilyn Pottruff is a member of the Altar Guild and Organist at Christ Church Woodburn.*

*Marilyn Pottruff is a member of the Altar Guild and Organist at Christ Church Woodburn.*

Photo: Judy Gurman

## A journey to geothermal

### MAC MORRISON

It began following a decennial inspection in January 2013, when there were observations as to the mixture of heating facilities and associated costs.

The Church of the Incarnation Oakville, built in 1999, had been occupied for 13 years.

The heating and cooling system (HVAC) consisted of two 15-ton rooftop type units, four split type AC units and no fewer than 23 electric baseboard heaters, all to heat and cool a 9,000 sq. ft single level facility built on a concrete slab with no basement.

The cost of gas and electricity in the early days was high; it continued to spiral upward to a range of \$19,000 by 2015.

The parish was forced to face facts in 2015 when it learned one of the HVAC units would have to be replaced.

Prior to this failure we had investigated the possibility of replacing the electric heaters with a gas fired boiler that would circulate through hydronic baseboard units and eliminate the need for the more expensive electric heating. The cost would be around \$42,000.

With the rooftop units approaching their best before date, a committee was formed to research and recommend alternatives to the existing systems.

At this point, geothermal was a word few of us understood. Those that did were convinced the cost would be prohibitive despite our desires to be as ecologically progressive as possible.

It took three years and two engineering firms before we came up with a set of comparable options. These included variations on natural gas systems, air and water source Geothermal systems.

Regardless of the HVAC system, Incarnation was faced with a choice of whether we could

afford to carry on as a viable religious community. At our first special Vestry meeting (fall 2017) the question was put, and we voted overwhelmingly to support Incarnation as an ongoing community.

Then the committee refined the cost factors and opted for a "Closed Loop Water Source Geothermal System". We would eliminate natural gas from our building and significantly reduce our electrical consumption.

At another Special Vestry (March 2018) the Vestry gave a resounding approval to go ahead with a budget of \$410,000 (HST extra).

The parish was also asked to commit and make pledges to support the project. By early April we confirmed pledges of \$263,000. Niagara's Synod Council approved our request on April 6, 2018.

The second stage of our journey was not without hiccups.

We were able to get commitments from our contractors that kept the process within our budgeted plan.

On October 1, the bulk of the equipment arrived and installation began.

The water source field which consisted of six 650 ft. holes and a total of 1.5 miles of underground piping was completed by mid-December and connected

to the interior piping in January 2019.

We started the system in partial operation by January 22 and shut down the gas and electric heating sources in early February.

Presently, the system is operating to its full expectations, having weathered -20C conditions during the cold snap without any variation to inside temperatures.

Tips to parishes:

Be patient — this takes time. Listen to all opinions and get as many quotes as possible as this is a very specialized industry.

Be cautious of those who say "of course we can do this". Get references.

It is great to achieve rapid results, but it takes lots of patience to achieve the correct path.

Look long-term — the more expensive up-front costs will quickly be recouped and in the long term you will probably save money. About 20% of Incarnation's costs were for the deep well water source which has an unmaintained life expectancy in excess of 75 years.

*Mac Morrison, a member of the Church of the Incarnation, was instrumental in completing their Geothermal journey.*

*mmorrison12@cogeco.ca*



As representatives from the many groups involved in the geothermal journey at the Church of the Incarnation helped out, Mac Morrison on February 22, 2019 cut the ribbon with oversized scissors to officially declare project completed.

Photo: Rob Moniuk

### 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 or 905-635-9463.



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# The landscape of youth ministry painted at four day gathering

SARAH BIRD

"Life changing, fun, moving, challenging and filled with Jesus", are words used to describe this year's Youth Leadership Training Program (YLTP) by participants.

The YLTP gathering took place on March 10–13, 2019 at the beautiful Canterbury Hills Camp in Ancaster.

This year we launched the new Student Leadership Challenge curriculum as a tool to help shape and equip young people of the church with leadership skills.

The support and positive feedback from clergy, lay leaders, families and participants have been overwhelming and energizing! The success of the youth and this program relies entirely on the dedicated volunteers and support from the diocesan family.

Even with all the hours of preparations, team planning meetings, packing and familiarization with new program curriculums, I could not have anticipated the level of encouragement, leadership and openness to connect with God that the young people of Niagara exhibited throughout the four days.

Watching the young developing leaders walk a labyrinth, plan and offer meaningful worship and prayers, and build a welcoming community profoundly painted a fruitful canvas that represents the landscape of youth ministry in today's Niagara Diocese.

A favourite moment shared by many was when Bishop Susan arrived for lunch before the third year Marketplace. Instead of rushing to tables with hungry bellies, the youth welcomed the Bishop to sit among them in



(Above) The youth welcomed Bishop Susan to sit among them in front of a wood burning fire. For many it was a favourite moment of the four-day gathering.

(Below) Young people pose with their mentors and Bishop Susan at this year's Youth Leadership Training Program held at Canterbury Hills Camp in Ancaster.

Photos: Sarah Bird



front of a wood burning fire. This unplanned moment awakened precious curiosity and organic conversation that ended in prayer. God's presence was profoundly felt during this time.

The Reverend Ann Turner, a mentor for the third-year cohort explained, "There is little more

inspiring than the creative energy that my group brought each year to YLTP. This was an amazing group of bright, faithful, engaged and questioning people. Every conversation served to challenge me deeply. I have nothing but gratitude for the experience—and maybe

some sleep to catch up on!" "It is an incredible blessing to find a group of teenagers so wholly willing to forgo a March break spent vacationing or spending time with their friends in order to better themselves and the communities they are a part of," says Sharon Millar, a

**Jody Balint, Lay Pastoral Associate at St. John's Rockwood, described her experience as a Mentor in the Youth Leadership Training Program:**

Watching the youth over the three years grow into themselves and their faith was incredibly humbling.

Seeing God through the eyes of a young person is always an adventure.

YLTP is a fantastic opportunity for young people to grow stronger in their faith and form life long friendships.

As a mentor, it is an opportunity to be a part of something inspiring, gain new perspectives and keep your finger on the pulse of a younger generation. It gives you an opportunity to see and understand where young people are struggling with their faith and where they need support.

Being a mentor with YLTP simply put, is just a great way to experience and spend some time with God.

first year Mentor.

The YLTP gathering has concluded for the year but will continue to live on through the leadership roles that the participants are encouraged to embark upon as they leave the program and return to their parishes, communities and homes.

We thank you for your continual support and prayers for youth ministry.

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 about youth ministry in Niagara visit, [niagaraanglican.ca/youth](http://niagaraanglican.ca/youth)

## All of me

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

a loud speaker on those voices. Somehow, in the midst of that, we must stand up and claim our calling, balancing our trust in God's call to us with a stance of humility.

We are entrusted with an incredible and holy responsibility: to inhabit the story of how God welcomes us, loves us, blesses us, forgives and heals us; and sends us out to share what we have received with the world around us.

We are entrusted with learning, listening and respecting, so that our lives put a loud speaker on the voice of love.

We are entrusted with communicating the promise that was named in our Anglicanism 101 class: God accepts you; God accepts all of you.

*The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic is Rector of St. George's St. Catharines. [martha@marthatatarnic.ca](mailto:martha@marthatatarnic.ca)*

## A call to prayer for General Synod

General Synod 2019 will bring three important issues before the Church: The proposed revision of the marriage canon, a primate election, and indigenous self-determination, in addition to other areas of our common life together.

The House of Bishops invites the Church to join in prayer for the work of General Synod that, "we may bear with one another in unity and love under the guidance of God the Holy Spirit".

### Prayer for General Synod:

**Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in General Synod for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Prayer for the selection of the new Primate:

**Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Primate for our beloved Church, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**