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NIAGARA ANGLICAN

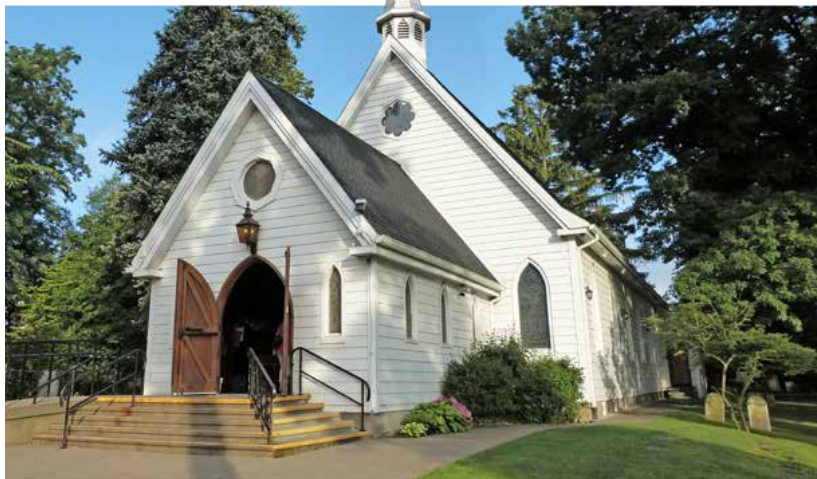


A Gathering Place and a Sounding Board for the People of the Diocese of Niagara – Since 1955

A section of the Anglican Journal

OCTOBER 2019

Another historic Anglican Church marks **185 years of ministry**



Above: St. Luke's Burlington today.

Left: St. Luke's circa 1850.

Photos: St. Luke's Burlington

ELIZABETH CROUCH AND DOROTHY KEW

The land on which St. Luke's Burlington stands is part of what was known as the Brant Block.

Thayendanegea, the Mohawk chief known as Joseph Brant, was granted a 3,000-acre tract of land in 1788 by the British crown in recognition of his loyalty during the War of American Independence.

It was not until 1833 that the church was founded, on land donated by Elizabeth Kerr, the youngest daughter of Joseph Brant.

St. Luke's, the oldest church in Halton, was completed in the fall of 1834, close to St. Luke's Day. For the next four years the small congregation was ministered to by three travelling missionaries.

The first entry in the parish register is a baptism on November 15, 1835 by the Reverend Frederick Mack. In 1838 the first resident Rector, Irishman the Reverend Thomas Greene, was appointed. He had himself been a travelling

missionary for the Stewart Missions. His first service here was July 15, 1838.

The church was consecrated on October 4, 1838 by George Jehosopht Mountain, Co-adjutor Bishop of Quebec Diocese. His signature, J. G. Montreal, is in the first parish register as he baptised Caroline Jemima Stewart Greene, the rector's first child, that day.

Thomas Greene remained rector for 40 years.

Toronto Diocese was created in 1839 and Niagara Diocese in 1875, so the land on which the church was built has been in four dioceses. Thomas Greene, then 66, was unable to attend the first synod of the Diocese, as it would have necessitated travelling to Hamilton on horseback.

In 185 years, St. Luke's has grown, with several additions to the church as the village of Wellington Square became the town of Burlington, and then a city.

The first on-site parish hall was built in 1922 as a memorial to the men of the parish killed in

See St. Luke's Page 2

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St. Luke's Burlington marks 185 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Great War. It was extended in 1955 with the addition of an auditorium and rebuilt in 2006 as the congregation grew.

Canon Stuart Pike, Rector since 2008, is our tenth rector. Of the seven deceased rectors, six rest in St. Luke's historic churchyard, as do our founders, Elizabeth Brant Kerr and her husband, William Johnson Kerr.

St. Luke's is also justifiably proud that our eighth and ninth rectors were elected to serve as Bishops of Niagara Diocese.

We are an active parish with numerous ministries.

Outreach has always been a part of our mission, beginning with the Sunday School children's collections and mite boxes and the Women's Auxiliary, begun in 1902.

Today we respond to the needs of local, national and global neighbours.

Our rebuilt parish hall allows us to offer "Food for Life" every Tuesday morning, Downtown Burlington community lunches twice a month from mid-September to mid-June and Halton Fresh Food Boxes every month. We also support a local chari-

table non-profit agency and a local food bank.

In addition, we support PWRDF, missions in Madagascar and Honduras, as well as sponsoring and supporting three refugee families over the years.

Our ministry of Christian Education includes three active Bible Study groups, Centering Prayer, an Indigenous Awareness Group and various book studies. There is an active library and excellent archives

which receive many queries about the parish.

Pastoral care at St. Luke's includes hospital visitation, lay ministry, a prayer shawl ministry and bereavement support.

Our children and youth enjoy regular Sunday School, including Messy Church as well as activities for our young people, many of whom take part as servers.

In order to support everything we do, we engage in active fun-

draising events which include our Music @ St. Luke's series, an annual garage sale in spring and our annual Christmas Market, which is well-known in Burlington.

St. Luke's has so far celebrated its 150th and 175th anniversaries and we look forward, not only to our annual Parish Dinner in October when we will celebrate 185 years of ministry, but also to many years of ministering to our community of Burlington.



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Above: The interior of the church today.

Photos: St. Luke's Burlington

Below: The church interior circa 1930.



October Niagara Anglican: The changing of the Editors



This month's *Niagara Anglican* is a joint effort of the incoming and outgoing of its two editors.

Since August 31 was Hollis Hiscock's completion of his ministry as Editor and Rob Towler began as interim Editor on August 26th, it seemed divinely appropriate that they edit the October paper as one.

The Reverend Rob Towler, ordained in 1988, served several parishes in Huron Diocese and has extensive experience as a regular contributor to the *Huron Church News* (HCN).

He served on the HCN Board of Trustees for over 25 years, including five years as Chair.

Rob was a two-term member of the General Synod Communication and Information Resources Committee and the *Anglican Journal* sub-committee. When the *Anglican Journal* was sepa-

rately incorporated, he became their first President, serving six years. Later, he was appointed chair of the Journal's sub-committee for three years.

He has served the wider church at Provincial and General Synod on various committees, the Council of General Synod and two terms as Prolocutor of the Province of Ontario. In 2010 he was named a Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral (London).

In addition to accepting the position of Interim Editor of the *Niagara Anglican* on a part-time limited term contract, Rob also accepted the part-time positions of Rector of St. John's Winona and Rector of St. Alban's Beamsville.

We wish Rob well in all the work to which he has been called and accepted.

Endings and Beginnings

MARIE LEONE, HAMILTON

(Marie explained, "I wrote this poem when someone I know was preparing to move from their home into a smaller apartment. The downsizing that we must all go through as we face the changes in our life.")

I don't know where to start.
Picking up each item with care and love.
A thing really ... but tied to so many memories.
Funny how each item takes me to a different time in my life.
So many changes, filled with fun, sadness, hope, dreams, ambition.
These things have surrounded me for years,
occupying space, collecting dust,
not demanding my attention.
I'm still here. They don't define me.
But ... they have been part of me, and
with change, comes the letting go.
Endings and beginnings—it's the transition
in the middle that hurts the most.



Image: istockphoto/KatarzynBialasiewicz

People in the news

Appointment:

The Reverend Canon Dr. **Penny Anderson** has accepted the position of Interim Pastor at Christ Church Niagara Falls, on a part-time basis, effective September 1.

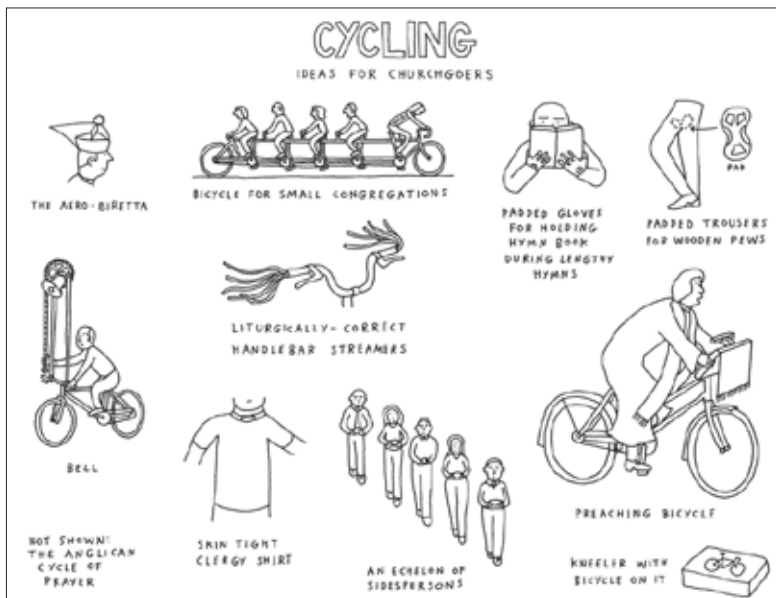
Ordinations:

Your prayers and presence are invited for **Jody Balint, Michael Coren, Judy Steers, Ann Vander Berg** and **Fran Wallace** as they prepare for their ordination to the diaconate at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton on Sunday, October 20 at 4:00 p.m.

Bishop Susan Bell will be the ordaining bishop and celebrant and Archdeacon Suzanne Craven the preacher. We ask your personal prayers for the ordinands and that they be remembered at worship services throughout the diocese. An informal reception will follow the service. All are welcome to attend.

Condolences:

Our deepest sympathy to **Anusha and the Reverend Nirmal Mendis**, and family, on the death of Anusha's father, Premadasa, in Sri Lanka, on August 23. Funeral service was held in Nagelandra, Sri Lanka. Please remember Anusha and the bereaved family in your thoughts and prayers.



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cartoonchurch.com

NIAGARA ANGLICAN

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Quilts for refugee families

The Quilters of the Church of the Apostles (St. James the Apostle and St. Matthias) Guelph displayed the three quilts made for their expected refugee family.

Eileen Johnson reported, "A large quilt was pieced by Patricia Gatsby, one of our members. The two children's race quilts were made by our group and machine quilted by a friend of the parish".

Photos: Eileen Johnson



Ride to support refugee sponsorship

The 2019 Ride for Refuge takes place on Saturday, October 5 in cities across the diocese.

You can bike, walk, or do something else entirely.

We are organizing a team in support of our refugee sponsorship ministry.

Sponsoring a refugee family doesn't just change their life, it changes everyone's life.

The need to offer care and compassion to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution has never been greater.

To learn more about the Ride and join or support a team, go to rideforrefuge.org and search Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

Photo: rideforrefuge.org



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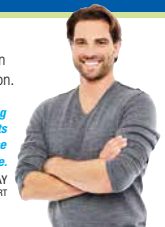
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Embracing diversity – in Burlington

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Three Anglican parishes— St. Elizabeth’s, St. Luke’s and St. Christopher’s—combined efforts and shared a booth during One Burlington, a festival celebrating faith and culture.

Embracing diversity was the theme of this year’s event which brought faith, cultural and community groups together

to have fun, savour food from different traditions, get to know each other as neighbours, become more informative and be entertained.

The third annual One Burlington happened under sunny skies and blazing hot temperatures, which added to the celebration for the hundreds of people who came to Central Park Burlington for the one-day affair.



Some of the One Burlington participants and events, clockwise from top right:

Coptic Orthodox Church; Juliette and Ethan from the United Nations 101 conference; St. John Ambulance and Halton Regional Police; Ahmidiyya Muslim; St. Elizabeth’s, St. Luke’s and St. Christopher’s parishes represented the Anglicans in Burlington; Food from different cultures and traditions was popular; The Baha’i Faith; Cynthia played the GuZheng, Chinese Zither, a traditional Chinese instrument; Booths circled the perimeters of Central Park Burlington; Suha from Greening Sacred Spaces talked with Ross Warriner.



Photos: Hollis Hiscock



Revive ready for second year following successful first year



Iwent to Revive because my Rector invited me. I had no idea the wonderful spiritual adventure I was about to begin!" Jim Steadwick's response is typical of participants surveyed after taking the Revive program held last fall through spring in Niagara Diocese.

Sixteen churches signed up to try Revive, a program equipping church leaders to become spiritual leaders. "We really were test driving the program for the first time and taking it to parishes of all sizes and cultural shapes," said the Reverend Canon Dawn Davis, Faith Formation Coordinator and creator of Revive.

Bishop Susan Bell heard about Revive and asked Dawn to implement it in Niagara. Over the past year, clergy and lay leaders began speaking to her about its effect on them. "I am so excited and impressed with the impact of Revive," Bishop Susan said. "People are speaking so tenderly and openly about their faith and deepening relationship with God. I can't recommend this program strongly enough!"

In a small group, lay leaders meet with their clergy for two-hour sessions—six weeks each in the fall, winter and spring—learning how to pray, engage with scripture and sense God's call to ministry. The program gives structure and support for a spiritual life by encouraging and modeling spiritual practices.

Special moments from the closing Revive retreat held at the Church of the Transfiguration St. Catharines June 8, 2019. Five churches came together for the special event.

Photo: Dawn Davis

Each meeting opens with the question: "How is it with your soul?"

Participants said they liked learning practical skills which built confidence and they liked being part of a peer small group with other parishioners. "I used to be terrified to pray in public! I wouldn't say it is easy but now I can do it and people find it helpful," said Sandra Thomson, Transfiguration St. Catharines.

St. Catharines' churches were unique. They all did Revive at the same time and held a joint opening and closing retreat. "You can feel the effect of Revive in our regional gatherings," said the Reverend Canon Katherine Morgan, St. John's Thorold. "There is a spirit of joy, love and spiritual growth."

Revive is not just for the long-standing Anglican either. "I am a non-Anglican, and this was a great way to learn about Anglican traditions and teachings while also growing spiritually," said Sue Chester, St. James' Fergus.

Clergy also found their spiritual lives were enhanced by Revive. "It was absolutely good to be growing with and alongside parishioners," observed the Reverend Kevin Block, St. Barnabas St. Catharines. "It is so nice to be able to speak to parishioners about their spiritual lives and help them grow

in Christ. Isn't that what we signed on for in the first place!" said Archdeacon Peter Scott, St. Mark's Orangeville.

Clergy leading Revive met weekly with Dawn through electronic conferencing to review upcoming sessions and try out spiritual practices. "I appreciated the Zoom group sessions as it helped me focus, stay on track, and be accountable," said The Reverend Leslie Gerlofs, St. John's Burlington.

Most of the 16 parishes will be doing Revive again with a different set of lay leaders. "We are definitely doing Revive again next year," said the Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic, St. George's St. Catharines. "I already have people on a waiting list."

To celebrate this first-year anniversary there will be a Revive Celebration, October 1, 4:15 – 6:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's on-the-Plain Burlington. Revive alumni and newcomers will join Forward Movement representatives and Bishop Susan to celebrate Revive launch in Niagara Diocese. All are welcome.

Those interested in Revive can contact Dawn Davis at dawn.davis@niagaraanglican.ca or visit the Forward Movement website at revive.forwardmovement.org.

Mission Action Planning for Niagara – second update

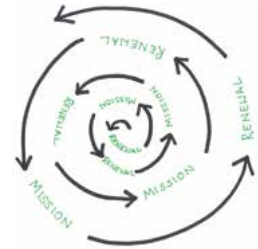
MARLIE WHITTLE

We have worked hard to ensure that the process of discovery and discernment at the Diocese of Niagara is inclusive and thorough. We are co-creating a vision for the future in which we can see ourselves and our parishes.

Our MAP Leadership Committee has gathered and analyzed data which will help us craft our Mission Action Plan.

The data collected about our external environment includes:

- Angus Reid Studies on Religion in Canada
- Canada Helps 2018 Giving Report
- Statistics Canada's Annual Demographic Estimates
- Reports on Canada's Rural population
- Significant events, globally and nationally, that will drive change in our communities
- Demographic statistics and trends by city/ town in the diocese
- A total of nineteen 'Community Discovery' interviews with nonprofit organizations and service providers in our neighbourhoods
- Focus groups and surveys about Community and Spirituality with people who are currently not in our churches



We have listened and learned about what is happening in the Diocese of Niagara through:

- Four (4) open forum sessions throughout the diocese, attended by over 300 people
- Ten (10) face-to-face interviews with staff, clergy or volunteers about the history and current direction of the diocese
- 301 surveys submitted containing the opinions, hopes and dreams of clergy and lay people in every region of the diocese
- A thorough financial analysis to determine the health of the diocese

Stay informed! We will be sending out MAP updates through our monthly Diocesan E-news, which you can sign up for at the Diocese of Niagara's website, and through Facebook and Twitter.

Marlie Whittle is Business Development Associate & Consultant to Nonprofits, M&M International. marlie@mminternational.ca



Big impact of One Thing

DAWN DAVIS

"I am surprised at the impact of the One Thing Initiative!" said the Reverend Canon Pam Guyatt at the Clergy and Licensed Lay Workers Conference. "It seemed like such a small idea has caused some wonderful things to happen."

It started at last year's conference when Bishop Susan encouraged everyone to take on one thing over the summer that would help them draw closer to God. "Our people had gone through so many changes, and I felt they just needed permission to stop and refocus," she said.

The ember was picked up by several clergy and lay people, fanned into flame and the One Thing Initiative took off early in 2019.

After parishes, small groups and individuals had dreamed about what would draw them closer to God, they made a commitment to fulfill those dreams by sending in a completed pledge card. Bishop Susan

has received over one hundred.

"As I visit parishes people talk to me about their One Thing. I don't think everyone has filled out a pledge card, so this is probably bigger than we think," she said.

Certainly, the impact is bigger than one priest first thought. When the Reverend Nirmal Mendis, Christ Church Wainfleet, challenged every member to take on One Thing, the response at first was quite disappointing, even after extensive promoting.

Then a beloved parishioner died and the whole parish council made a decision. In memory of their fellow parishioner they

would take on One Thing as a spiritual act. "God and our church were important to him, and now these One Things are important to us," said Deacon Dianne Elliott.

As the pledge cards indicate, there are as many One Thing spiritual practices as there are people. Some committed to commune in nature. Others offered their energy to an outreach ministry and some are dedicating time for study and prayer. For example ...

The Reverend Nigel Bunce, St. George's Lowville, committed to develop a Sunday lectionary for Sunday-only churches. "Attendance at mid-week services is declining. A Sunday-

only lectionary allows people to experience the whole Christian narrative through worship on Sunday morning."

Kenneth Gaston, the Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek, decided to send a daily email message of comfort and support to their friends and family. Called Morning Glory, it includes messages in English and Tamil. "I hope they ignite their everyday life with small thoughts. Just finding the appropriate messages to send to others, helped me to spiritually connect."

The Reverend Canon David Anderson offered a contemplative prayer workshop. The One Thing committee promoted the event throughout the diocese and brought together more than 50 people. "There is no doubt more people came to the workshop because it was part of the One Thing Initiative," he said. Leading this workshop rekindled this important prayer practice for him, he reported.

Another One Thing event was

a two-day icon workshop held at the Church of the Resurrection Hamilton. The Reverend Regan O'Callaghan took participants through a step-by-step process of learning the ancient practice of "writing" their very own Pantokrator (meaning ruler of all or almighty), one of the oldest icons of Jesus. The Reverend Canon Sharyn Hall, Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton, remarked, "There is so much going on right now, but I really needed to pull away and take these two days just for me and God".

It is amazing how a little change can have such a huge impact in our church and in people's lives.

There is still time to choose your One Thing as the initiative continues into the fall and ends at our Diocesan Synod in November.

The Reverend Canon Dawn Davis is Faith Formation Coordinator for Niagara Diocese. dawn.davis@niagaraanglican.ca



A rich journey of discernment

ANN VANDER BERG

What a journey it has been!

I had been feeling sorrowful, reflecting and praying about children and parents, despair and tragedy, death and God.

My work as a hospital chaplain that week was difficult and then I went to church.

This Sunday was my first stop in a series of church visits, part of my discernment process to become a vocational deacon.

When time came for the Gospel to be read, the priest and the children marched up the centre aisle, and he knelt among them, humbling himself.

This setting aside of power to offer love and inclusion broke through my week and made what was invisible visible: God in our midst. I became aware that the despairing children of my heart were also among the children in the centre aisle.

This profound encounter of sacramental life within the Anglican Church was the beginning of a rich journey along my path of discernment.

From September 2018 to April 2019, with the support of



Ann accepted the Hunger Challenge, part of a fund raiser for Out of the Cold, which involved eating for one week with \$23.68 worth of groceries. This amount reflects what a single person earning minimum wage has available to spend on food (missing: one dozen eggs).

Photo: Anne Vander Berg

the diocese and parish priests, I spent four weeks at each of five parishes: The Church of the Resurrection Hamilton, St. John the Evangelist Hamilton, St. George's St. Catharines, St. Christopher's Burlington and my home parish of St. James Dundas.

At each parish I attended worship services, coffee socials, met with small groups, participated in events and met with the priest. I had three learning goals.

As I reflected on my experience, I wrote a summary, sharing it with the priest and those directly involved in my process.

During a parish welcoming event, I sat beside a relatively new member and listened as they shared their experience of the Anglican Church community as affirming of their humanity. The authenticity they encountered felt good and so they stayed.

In small group settings, I

listened as people talked about their faith communities and how their participation enabled them to live with more ease and joy in their day to day relationships. These stories were usually connected to opportunities their parish presented for personal growth.

They were learning how to reflect spiritually upon their faith, talk about their faith and articulate their experience of Jesus in day to day life. The shared sense of parish belonging invisibly connected them in ways that revealed the Word made Flesh - Word made tangible and real in conversations, in daily life and in their spiritual life.

My experience of sacramental life continued to be blessed and to flourish as in one parish week after week the invisible was mediated and translated to me as palpable in the soul of an advent sung liturgy.

Perhaps all these experiences helped to create within me a desire to quietly participate in a "Hunger Challenge" that a parish extended to its members and broader community. It was

part of their Out of the Cold fundraising and education.

The challenge involved eating for one week on \$23.68 of groceries. This amount was reflective of what a single person earning minimum wage had available to spend. It opened for me a window into poverty and continues to teach me how to care in more meaningful ways.

At its heart, given that I have enough, the hunger challenge became an invitation to a deeply spiritual exercise through a very physical process. Looking through a wide sacramental lens the invisible experience of physical hunger made visible and physical the kind of hunger I needed to notice because now, I would respond in new ways.

Throughout this generous experience I was challenged and transformed as I sat among people.

My trust in faith communities deepened and my own discernment seemed authentic.

Ann Vander Berg is a member of St. James Dundas. avanderberg@cogeco.ca

New roof ensures church continues serving the community

NIRMAL MENDIS AND KIM EROS

In 2018, it was noted that the church roof (All Saints Welland) was in poor repair.

Repairs were required to prevent damage to the interior of the church.

The beautiful woodwork in the sanctuary needed to be protected.

There was only plywood standing between the woodwork and shingles.

We are a small church in Welland Ontario in an area called Dain City. The church has a dedicated group of parishioners who have worshipped at this church for many years. Everyone has been working together to keep the church viable.

In 2018, quotes were obtained to replace the roof and we submitted an application to the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC). We received approval from AFC and felt a great sense of relief to have this financial support.

We contacted the lowest bid-



Above: Spring roofing: The roofers started their work on April 18, 2019, Maundy Thursday. The congregation held their worship in the basement.

Photos: Nirmal Mendis

Below: Future roofing: With a new roof All Saints Welland can continue providing their ministry and service in the Dain City area.



der and they tarped the roof for us to get us through the winter. It was a bit of an eye sore over the winter, with a tarpaulin over the roof. We were told that the roofing company would start as soon as good weather was here.

The roofers started their work on April 18, 2019. Unfortunately, that was the date of our Maundy Thursday service. As a result, we held the service in the basement.

As disappointing as it was that we had a noisy service on Thursday our congregation pulled together to clean the church in preparation for Good Friday. We all pulled together as we always do and made sure the church was spotless for these sacred services. The roofers took Good Friday off.

In summary, this project has helped us to keep our parish maintained.

We will continue our ministry to our community. The small parish would have had to do some additional fundraising to raise the almost \$7,000 that we received from the grant.

We will be providing community space to our local recreation group, as they need to vacate their current space. They provide activities to seniors and youth in the Dain City area. Our parish also provides outreach to local senior facilities and supports other local parish's projects such as food banks and hygiene banks.

All Saints Welland (Dain City) is truly appreciative of the support we have received from the Anglican Foundation. The overall process was seamless, and guidance was provided to ensure we met all required criteria. We would have struggled to put a replacement roof on as we are a small rural church. On behalf of all of us at All Saints – Thank you!

(The projected cost for the new roof was \$13,887.70. The Anglican Foundation provided 50% and the remainder came from the parish.)

The Reverend Nirmal Mendis is Rector and Kim Eros is a Churchwarden of All Saints Welland (Dain City).



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 The Harmonious Blacksmith (Air & Variations)
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Restoring hope for seniors in need

GILLIAN DOUCET CAMPBELL

Seniors are one of the fastest growing cohorts in Canada. It is estimated by 2041, 25% of Canadians will be 55 years or older. Rates of seniors living in poverty are also on the rise. This is the evidence gathered from the latest census reports.

St. Matthew's House (SMH) Executive Director Renée Wetselaar noticed this trend too. For 52 years SMH has served seniors in the heart of Hamilton's vulnerable neighborhoods. Over the past 10 years their trends also show an increase in overall poverty rates.

Seniors living in Hamilton neighbourhoods characterized by low socioeconomic status, also known as "Code Red" neighbourhoods, face the highest rates of poverty in this community.

In these vulnerable neighbourhoods the average age of death is 65. In the rest of Hamilton, it is over 80.

SMH supports seniors 55+ in Code Red neighbourhoods who are at imminent risk of homelessness to remain housed. They work with homeless seniors to find safe, sustainable housing. Many of the seniors SMH supports have multiple health



For 52 years St. Matthew's House has served seniors in the heart of Hamilton's vulnerable neighborhoods by providing a wide variety of services and programs.

problems such as diabetes, mobility limitations, strokes and mental health issues.

The combination of poverty, literacy issues, physical or mental health issues, the web of healthcare service systems that are difficult to navigate, compounded by isolation can be lethal.

As Renée shares, "When I first came to St. Matthew's House last summer, I met Joe. He was waiting his turn in line at the foodbank, so we started chatting. He had just been discharged from the hospital and was trying to figure out what to do next. He didn't know much about what was available and wasn't feeling well enough to sort it out. So, I introduced him to one of our vulnerable senior's

workers. It was determined he was losing out on a significant amount of benefits available to seniors. He also needed help with his taxes. In short turn, we were able to double Joe's monthly income, connect him to health supports and improve his living conditions."

Affordable housing in Hamilton is in high demand. St. Matthew's works to ensure that once a client has a decent place to live, they can attain a standard of living that will help them beat the statistic of only living until they are 65.

With the support of individual donors, foundations, businesses and volunteers, breakfast and lunch are served to over 200 of the most vulnerable seniors Monday through Friday.



As a not-for-profit, St. Matthew's House supports seniors of the community as needed, including a place for a game of pool.

Photos: St. Matthew's House

On weekends food packages are provided and access to case management support is available.

"I remember meeting Mary last August," Renée shared. "I noticed Mary holding her arm against her chest. When I asked her what the matter was, she said she had fallen at home and now her arm was sore. I alerted a team member and within an hour she was in a taxi on her way to a health clinic. When I visited again in September, her arm was almost healed, and she was enjoying a hot lunch."

St. Matthew's House is there for the immediate crisis of homelessness and the longer-term cycle of isolation and poor health once a senior is housed. The support team follows clients for up to two years ensuring the

supports and housing they need are in place.

As a not-for-profit the support of the community is needed. As Renée reflected, "Hope and dignity can be restored to those aging in Hamilton".

Gillian Doucet Campbell is Director of Stewardship and Development for Niagara Diocese. gillian.dc@niagaraanglican.ca

Donations can be made at stmatthewshouse.ca or dropped off at 414 Barton St E, Hamilton, or support your local seniors outreach program. Contact Renée to arrange a St. Matthew's House visit to your parish or group. Renée Wetselaar is the Executive Director of St. Matthew's House. rwetselaar@stmatthewshouse.ca

Niagara in action

Immerse yourself in Justice!



Photo: Diocese of Niagara

Adults, youth and children are encouraged to dive into one of the social justice issues impacting our community today.

The event happens on Saturday, October 26, 2019, and will be held in the Hamilton area. The day begins and ends at Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

Each person can choose an issue and spend the day exploring its impacts and how to partner with people to make a difference. Each small group will be facilitated by a program volunteer and a

local issue expert.

The immersion experiences will include food security, Indigenous Justice: Doctrine of Discovery, purging plastic and waste-free shopping, urban farming and junior justice (ages 5-12).

You will get hands-on experience guided by a local expert, resources relevant to your home community and skills and tools to enable you to make a difference where you live. All of this will be set within a community passionate about faith-based

social justice. There will also be a debriefing your experiences and worship.

More details can be obtained from Congregational Support and Development Staff Sarah Bird (Children, Youth and Family Ministry) and Deirdre Pike (Program Consultant, Social Justice & Outreach).

Registration, fees and other information available from Jane Wyse, Senior Administrative Assistant, at 905-527-1316 x420 or jane.wyse@niagaraanglican.ca

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An Idea Worth Sharing:

Fidget blanket ministry



Above: Heart 2 Heart responded to a request for a child's fidget blanket. The blankets for children with autism include such things as zippers, buttons, Velcro, buckles and shoelaces. The blankets are a learning tool for basic life skills.

Left: Julie and granddaughter Addison demonstrate two fidget blankets to be distributed to Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Photos: Hollis Hiscock

HOLLIS HISCOCK

Julie Parks shares two church homes — St. Luke's Palermo Oakville, Ontario and First United Methodist Bonita Springs, Florida.

While attending the latter, which she describes as "my Christian home in wintertime", Julie was introduced to the Fidget Blanket Ministry. Back in Canada, she received eight fidget blankets to distribute to Alzheimer patients and six for autistic children, which she did.

This July, while visiting my wife's sister in a central Newfoundland-Labrador nursing home in Botwood, I noticed a fidget blanket on her bed. I

enquired but nobody knew who made it or how it got there.

The Fidget Blanket Ministry intrigued me enough to want to share it with our Niagara Anglican readers. I asked Julie for more information. She contacted her Florida friend, Ginny McIntosh, and this is Ginny's story.

"Heart 2 Heart is a God inspired ministry here at First United Methodist church in Bonita Springs, Florida. The ministry has touched lives both near and far with God's comfort and joy.

The blanket ministry started in January 2018.

My aunt had been placed in hospice care and the ravages

of Alzheimer's kept her hands in constant motion. A chaplain had provided two small comfort fidget blankets to ease her anxiety. Having shared this with our care team at church, we saw a wonderful opportunity to provide some calm, peace and comfort to those in need. In her honor, the fidget blanket ministry began, and the blue and white labels were sewn into the Alzheimer's blankets as a tribute ... "In memory of Aunt Nat".

When God places a ministry on our hearts and we respond to the call, He provides all that we need. At that time, we had no funding, no material, no storage space or work area and only one

person who sewed.

No problem for God!!

The one person who sewed, shipped blankets back down to us when she returned to her northern home in the spring.

The church established a budget for us, friends donated to the ministry, people joined us from the community and the choir gave us storage space in the music room. God is good!

Last June, over social media, came a request for a child's blanket. The child was autistic. We knew God was giving us a nudge.

We named the ministry "Heart 2 Heart" and worked on creating blankets for children

with autism that included such things as zippers, buttons, Velcro, buckles and shoelaces. The blankets became a learning tool for basic life skills.

For seniors with dementia we have sensory, activity, comfort and roll and fold blankets. New to our ministry is seat belt pillows and small lap blankets for chemo patients.

We now have our own work and storage areas for the five year-round team members. This number doubles in season. The estimated number of blankets given out is approximately 60 to 75.

One of the many blessings we have received in this ministry is sharing together in friendship and fellowship using the gifts God has given to us.

So, whether you can sew, stitch, cut, bead, design or just be a part of the group ... Give it a go!!!

To those who have received these blankets and inspire us to continue serving in this ministry ... Thank You!!

For more information about the Fidget Blanket Ministry go to the website of First United Methodist Bonita Springs, Florida: funcbonita.org.




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Celebrating many blessings



HOLLIS HISCOCK

Pentecost 2019 was the 12th anniversary of the amalgamation of The Church of Our Saviour and The Church of The Redeemer resulting in the parish now known as The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek.

During the past year the parish has been busy putting together memorabilia from the past for future generations to enjoy. On Pentecost 2019, "we saw the results of our efforts

Everybody raised their hand as Rector Bahman Kalantari blessed the time capsule containing memorabilia from the past of The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer Stoney Creek for future generations to enjoy.

Photo: Bev Groombridge

with the blessing of the time capsule located on the front lawn," wrote Churchwarden Bev Groombridge.

The Sunday celebrations also included a baptism, as well as the blessing of two beautiful red maples, a garden bench and an archives cabinet.

Ignatius for Anglicans?

JOHN BOWEN

In two earlier installments (Summer and September 2019), John maintained that a 16th century Roman Catholic has something to offer Christians today and described the first two of Ignatius' Exercises to help develop our spirituality. Now he completes the cycle by adding the other two Exercises.

Part Three

The Jesuits have a strong sense of mission.

In a time when the church is being called to be more "missional," this is worth considering. Unlike many Orders the Jesuits did not and do not build or live in monasteries. They needed and need to be flexible and nimble for the sake of Christ's mission. According to biographer Philip Caraman, Loyola insisted that "Jesuits ... must have one foot on the road, ready to hasten from place to place".

This is why Jesuits developed the discipline known as the Examen: pausing twice during the day, noon and evening, to reflect on God's activity in their lives.

Where have I sensed God's presence? Where have I felt



Image: Wikimedia Commons

God's absence? What is God saying to me through these experiences?

This was important enough in Loyola's understanding of spirituality that he counselled the Jesuits that, even if they didn't have time to pray (does that sound familiar?), they should still do the Examen! The Examen enabled them to remain open to the promptings of God's Spirit to pursue new areas for mission, even at short notice.

The heart of Ignatian spirituality therefore is internal,

personal and highly portable—though again, that is not in isolation, but is set in the context of worship in community and frequent attendance at Mass. In a day when we are learning to explore ways of "doing church differently," this is a helpful example.

The last point of resonance came home to me in a comment by Caraman, that Loyola's "contemporaries ... saw in him, first and foremost, not a champion of Roman Catholicism, still less a hammer of heretics, but a

passionate believer in holiness, reaching out with his whole being towards God." Anglicans are not generally known for unbridled and passionate enthusiasm in their faith. They are, however, known for understatement.

If you are familiar with the Natural Church Development (NCD) program, you may be aware that, of the eight characteristics of healthy churches which NCD measures, "passionate spirituality" is almost always the weakest feature of Anglican church life.

Loyola encourages us to recognize God as the centre of our faith, to experience the love of God and to respond with love. Jesus did not come to start a new religion. There was a perfectly good one close at hand. Rather, he announced the turning point in God's plan to make all things new, and to invite human beings to participate in that work as his apprentices. Without that focus Christianity, and Anglicanism not least, becomes just another religion—and who in the world needs that?

Despite differences of culture and theology Anglicans are increasingly recognizing in Ignatius Loyola one of the more



helpful figures in the history of the church. Within that mysterious and wonderful thing called the Body of Christ, there is much to learn from him.

Maybe you would like to try doing the Exercises some time—either during a forty-day retreat or following the 19th Annotation—and discover it for yourself. Perhaps it could even be your "One Thing"?

The experience might just bring that crazy busyness under control. And—what's more—it might help our church move with confidence into an uncertain future.

John Bowen is a retired professor from Wycliffe College, where he taught evangelism from 1997 to 2013. He and his wife Deborah have been members of St. John the Evangelist Hamilton since 1997.

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Book review

Practising gratitude

Grateful
by Diana Butler Bass (Harper One 2018)

ROB ROI

Most of us claim feeling gratitude on a regular basis, but those private feelings seem disconnected from larger concerns in our public lives.

In *Grateful*, cultural observer and theologian Diana Butler Bass takes on this "gratitude

gap" and offers up surprising, relevant and powerful insights to practice gratitude.

With honest stories and heartrending examples from history and her own life, Diana reclaims gratitude as a path to greater connection with God, with others, with the world and even with our own souls. Diana has learned that gratitude is a central theme in the Bible, and that it is also central to all great ethical systems and religions.

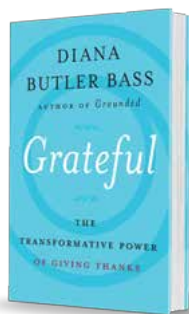
She points out that to be human is to rely on others, and that all of us are dependent every day upon general gifts such as the food we receive from the farmers who grow and market it. She quotes poet Marge Piercy, "Life is the first gift, love is the second and understanding the third".

The first gift is life – my life, your life. That is the gift, she writes, no other gift is possible without it. Gratitude is

not about stuff – gratitude is the emotional response to the surprise of our very existence.

At the beginning of her epilogue she quotes the thirteenth century Persian poet Rumi, "Gratitude is the wine for the soul. Go on. Get drunk".

The Reverend Rob Roi is a parish deacon at St. James' Dundas.
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Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

- December – October 25
- January – November 21
- February – December 27

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



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Parables are like kaleidoscopes ... unique and beautiful

SHEILA VAN ZANDWYK

Editor's note: This is an edited version of the sermon preached by the Reverend Sheila Van Zandwyk during the Choral Evensong and Diocesan Celebration of the Installation of Canons and a Licensed Lay Worker on May 26, 2019 in Christ's Church Cathedral Hamilton.

In today's gospel (Matthew 13:24-34a) Jesus told parables, a device he often used in preaching.

I find parables intriguing. When studying them I often look at other peoples' commentaries and interpretations.

Today's parable is about wheat and weeds. A farmer sowed wheat and while asleep the enemy sowed weeds in the field as well ... the plants grew together.

This parable illustrates that both good and evil people exist, and in the final judgement God will separate them—one to their doom and one to their reward.

It is a reality we can understand; there are good and bad people in our world and God promised there will be a final judgement. We could conclude that this is a parable describing the end.

I love where God allows the wheat and weeds to grow together; the weeds can grow in order not to harm the wheat. It helps us understand why God allows evil to flourish. It ensures that good people or believers are not destroyed by the early removal of evil, but God's option is allowing them both to grow and separate them when mature.

Other theologians see this parable as being about the good and evil which resides in each person, since we entertain both thoughts and intentions in our hearts.

As Christians we are called to "stay awake" and not allow evil thoughts to overcome good thoughts. Sleeping is the metaphor for being unaware that evil is creeping in and sowing seeds of discontent in our thoughts. It is an individual struggle in this life, but at the final judgement we are washed clean of our sins and able to stand before God without a blemish.

This parable was used to preach tolerance in the church. It is not our role or purpose to judge between false and true believers or even between believers and non-believers. Only God is to judge. St. Augustine preached not only about tolerance between Christians and non-Christians but even within the church itself, saying, "I tell you of a truth, my beloved, even in these high seats (the clergy) there is both wheat, and tares (or weeds), and among the laity there is wheat, and tares. Let the good tolerate the bad; let the bad change themselves and imitate the good."

So, which interpretation is right or what exactly did Jesus mean?

Well, the beauty of parables and one reason why I believe Jesus used them so



Clockwise from top: Preacher Sheila Van Zandwyk and Bishop Susan enjoying the organ recital at the beginning of the choral evensong and celebration of the induction of Canons and Licensed Lay Workers.

Canon Terry Charters proudly holds four-month-old grandson Thomas Enright prior to Terry's installation as an Honorary Canon.

Mom Susan Bird was on hand to celebrate her daughter Sarah becoming a Licenced Lay Worker in the Church. Sarah is Niagara's Program Consultant for Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

Mom Jeanne Beck beams with delight as her daughter Jody Beck was installed as an Honorary Canon.

Photos: Hollis Hiscock



often is that all interpretations are valid.

Parables are like kaleidoscopes, wonderful cylinders to look through where every turn creates a new beautiful pattern. There is no "right" pattern or colour combination in a kaleidoscope, no original pattern from which all others are simply variations. Each pattern and combination of colours is unique and beautiful.

Parables can be used to look at our world and offer up a myriad of lenses into the human condition and our understanding of the Kingdom of God.

All interpretations are helpful and needed; they make the parable clearer, not muddier, giving it a deeper and richer meaning. God cannot be viewed through one lens; we need everyone's vision to see more clearly.

In the church we also need diversity. We need everyone's gifts—talents, time and treasures—to build up God's Kingdom.

Today we recognize and celebrate three people—Terry, Jody and Sarah—who



are using their gifts to do wonderful Kingdom work. Each offers very different talents and give of themselves in different ways, but each is equally necessary and beneficial in using their God given gifts in the wonderful work to which God has called us.

The Reverend Sheila Van Zandwyk is Rector of The Church of the Transfiguration St. Catharines.