



PHISHING FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFO

How to protect yourself from falling victim for internet scams
Page 9

HAVING NO RELIGION IN CANADA

In conversation with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, assistant professor of sociology at the University of Waterloo
Page 5



TAKE YOUR EARBUDS OUT FOR CHRISTMAS

Laurel Pattenden on "if we have ears to hear, then hear"
Page 12

HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • DECEMBER 2019

Todd Townshend is the next Bishop of Huron

The Reverend Canon Dr. Todd Townshend was elected from amongst five candidates on the third ballot. He will be consecrated on January 25, 2020.



Bishop-elect Todd Townshend addressing the delegates after the election at St. Paul's Cathedral on October 26, 2019

The Reverend Canon Dr. Todd Townshend, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Huron University College, was elected 14th Bishop of Huron on October 26.

Dr. Townshend was elected among five candidates by the diocesan synod convened at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. He received the majority of the vote of both laity and clergy after three ballots.

Dr. Townshend succeeds to the throne of Huron after his predecessor the Most Reverend Linda Nicholls was elected the head of the Anglican Church of Canada in July this year.

The new Bishop of Huron will be consecrated on January 25, 2020 at St. Paul's Cathedral.

The gathering at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, October 26 started with delegates' registration at 8:30 am.

From 8:30 till 9:30 an informal meet and greet with the candidates took place. It was a good opportunity for those

who had not attended the candidates' presentation earlier in September to learn more about the nominees before casting their votes.

After the Eucharist, the Most Rev. Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario, who presided over the election, called Synod to order.

Synod delegates had to choose amongst five candidates nominated for the episcopal election: Rt. Rev. William Cliff (Bishop of Brandon), Ven. Dr. Tim Dobbin (Archdeacon of Brant and Norfolk); Very Rev. Paul Millward (Dean of Huron and Rector of St. Paul's Cathedral); Ven. Tanya Phibbs (Executive Archdeacon of Huron); Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend.

After two ballots, it was a two-way race between Rev. Canon Todd Townshend and Ven. Tim Dobbin. On the third ballot Townshend received the majority of votes in both houses — clergy and lay — and became Huron's bishop-elect.

Townshend received 68 clergy and 134 laity votes while Dobbin got 41 clergy votes and 68 laity.

After the results were posted Ven. Tim Dobbin made a motion to make the decision unanimous which was accepted by acclamation and applause. Townshend addressed the synod, thanking them for the support, before all the delegates had an opportunity to greet the Bishop-elect in person.

Todd Townshend was ordained deacon and priested in 1992. He has served as rector in different parishes in London, Ontario.

Dr. Townshend has a long academic record that started with university instructor positions in 1999. He was Associate Professor of Contextual Theology at Huron University College from 2011 to 2013. Dr. Todd Townshend was appointed the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at Huron College in 2013.

More on Page 3

Theological consultation for Canadian Anglicans on medical assistance in dying

Huron University College's Centre for Public Theology hosts a series of conversations on medical assistance in dying in London on November 29 and 30

By Sharon Lindenburger

Three years after Bill C-14, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), became law, questions continue to arise about it and our theology surrounding life and death, not least in the face of efforts already underway to expand the parameters of the Act.

Huron University College's Centre for Public Theology, supported by SSHRC and the Anglican Foundation, will shortly host an event in London Ontario on these questions — Medical Assistance in Dying: A Theological Consultation for Canadian Anglicans. On November 29 and 30, delegates from dioceses across Canada and locally within the Diocese of Huron, will gather for a series of conversations regarding problematic aspects of where Bill C-14 is leading us. These aspects include pressure to expand MAiD criteria to mental illness, physical and mental disabilities, children, and advance directives—all of which need a



much closer examination.

Dr. Theo Boer of the Netherlands will travel to the consultation to share insights from the 50 years of the Dutch experience of legalized euthanasia. Dr. Boer, a theologian and professor of ethics, initially played a key role in crafting the legislation in the Netherlands, but now several decades later, he asserts that expansions in the Dutch laws have resulted in some very questionable and troubling outcomes.

He currently travels worldwide as a speaker on this issue and his insights are crucial for Canada which is at a much earlier stage of implementing the practice.

Other speakers include: Robert Tees, a chaplain from the Niagara Region; Lizette-Larson Miller, professor of liturgical theology at Huron; Eitel (Ike) Lindenburger on Capacity Assessment; Trudo Lemmens of Osgoode Hall Faculty of Law in Toronto, and widely considered as a foremost expert in Canada on medical bioethics and the law, particularly regarding MAiD; Agiah Attagusiak, an Inuit chaplain concerned with end of life issues among indigenous populations; Bishops Michael Hawkins of Saskatchewan and Gregory Kerr-Wilson of Calgary; Rev. Eric Beresford of Toronto, and John Guido of L'Arche Toronto.

"There is within the Anglican Church of Canada and the Churches generally a great need for more theologically informed discourse on MAiD," says Huron University College's Dr. Gary Badcock.

"The aim of this important national consultation is first of all to foster connections and conversations across disciplines, and to produce written resources for the Church. We are fortunate to have some of the best individuals in Canada at the forefront of the MAiD debate, as well as drawing upon the international expertise of Dr. Boer," says Badcock.

"This upcoming consultation is going to give us the opportunity to do what we as a church are called to do, which is to allow solid theological input into the secular discourse on MAiD. The church has been largely ignored in giving its input, and this needs to change," suggests Huron College's chaplain, Rev. Dr. Gary Thorne. "Our hope is that the consultation will give us both the courage and the

tools to enter the debate and to be heard."

Osgoode Hall's Faculty of Law professor, Trudo Lemmens, agrees. "Churches in my opinion should get involved in discussing the problematic issues surrounding where the MAiD laws are taking us, and not be intimidated into simply ceding ground to secular forces. As a lawyer and bioethicist who has been dealing with MAiD issues across the country for several years, I welcome the opportunity for dialogue with theologians, clergy, and ethicists. I think this consultation is very important and I'm happy to be part of it."

Diocesan clergy are welcome to attend. For further information, contact Dr. Gary Badcock, gbadcock@huron.uwo.ca

Sharon Lindenburger is a former journalist and editor. She completed her MA in Theology at Huron University College and is now doing a PhD in hermeneutics, culture, and sacred texts through Western's Faculty of English.

Going digital: remember, we started with twelve followers



**DAVOR
MILICEVIC**
EDITOR

Subscription confirmation numbers for Anglican newspapers in Canada are in and they send a clear message: the days of print media are almost over.

October 31 was the last day to confirm your subscription. The latest update, just a couple of weeks before the deadline, shows that the numbers are down, dramatically. The total number of Anglican subscribers in Canada has dropped from 120,000 to just over 35,000.

The numbers for Huron follow this ratio: out of 10,500 families who have been receiving their copy of the Huron Church News and the Anglican Journal, less than 3,000 confirmed their subscription. Some 6,000 still unprocessed confirmations from the entire country won't change the picture – they may add a couple of hundreds of subscribers for our diocesan newspaper. More than two thirds of our readers do not want to continue to receive news in this format.

The change in circulation will officially take effect with



the January edition. There is no going back. What we need now is a quick transition to digital media platforms as our main communications vehicle.

Are we ready for this change?

For many, the question translates to our ability to deal with technical challenges of the transition, both as providers and as recipients of information. And with a good reason: there is a discrepancy between our nominal digital presence and our digital footprint. It indicates that something is not right on both ends of our communication channel. Or simply put, we are not yet very skillful operators of our digital platforms nor are we highly competent users. There is a lot to be learned.

However, there is a deeper, underlying issue that needs to be addressed, and going digital could be an opportunity to finally expose and tackle the problem. And the problem is as

simple as enduring: we do not produce enough stories.

We do not need to go very far to establish this fact. Just compare the number of the upcoming events that we announce weekly and the number of stories that come out of these events. It's not to say that every local event deserves a story, but I am certain that in 160 plus Huron Anglican communities much more valuable events happen than our stories indicate. In terms of communications, these untold stories are simply the events that never took place.

In its essence, discipleship is storytelling. It has always been, since the time of the Great Commission and Jesus' last instruction to his disciples: "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." (Mk. 16: 15-16)

Before any ritual, before any doctrinal definition – there was

a story. The first three centuries of Christianity represented an uninterrupted process of storytelling – the process which has turned a marginal group of Jesus' followers, hidden and forbidden, into a force that has reshaped the history of the world.

When and why we stopped believing that we are "the light of the world", or when and why we forgot to let our "light shine before others" (Mt. 5: 14-16) – it is difficult to say. But it could be safely argued that our decline in numbers is somehow connected with our reluctance to tell our story.

Going digital provides us with a unique opportunity to turn things around. Paradoxically, in terms of proclaiming and confirming our faith, the end of the printed word leads us back to our home turf. It brings us back to the very beginnings of our storytelling: it recreates that primordial situation in which preachers have faced their audience directly. The only difference is that this time around the number of people in the audience could be potentially infinite.

So, the final message before entering these exciting times of change is not to be afraid. Take your lamp from "under bushel basket" and let it shine. Do not forget: our story started with not too many likes. It started with only twelve followers.

Advent 2019: Listening... as if for the first time

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

Have you ever stopped to think just how many times you have recited the Lord's Prayer during your lifetime?

Probably not – and don't worry, I won't be asking you to actually say the number out loud – but likely the well-known words of this prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples are very familiar to us all.

Whether you prefer the traditional version or the slightly more contemporary version of this prayer, as we recite these words every Sunday, and likely many times in between, we are connecting to the truths contained in them that have been recited by Jesus' disciples down through the millennia.

Yet we also know that sometimes we can stop actually connecting with what has become very familiar to us, not hearing the words or allowing them to work in our hearts and in our lives. And so for Advent 2019 I am challenging myself each day of this season to listen afresh to the words of this prayer as if for the first time.

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



*Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.*

As I do this I will be asking, which lines of this prayer are calling out to me today.

Is there something of God's name that has caught my attention?

Is it the call for God's kingdom on earth?

Perhaps it is my own need or the need of others for the staples of life?

• Do I need to offer forgiveness to someone? Do I need to be forgiven?

• Am I mindful of the times of trial for so many all around me?

• Have I noticed the specter of evil casting its ugly shadow?

• Or is the final acclamation that all things whether kingdom, power, or glory all belong to God, calling out for me to pay attention today?

That's it. In many ways this is a simple challenge, but one full of promise. So, will you join me in this practice? Let's be expectant in this season of expectation!

Rev. Canon Val Kenyon is AFP Huron Executive.



HURON CHURCH NEWS

Volume 69, Number 10

Submissions

Huron Church News welcomes news articles, commentaries, photographs and story ideas. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

Editor

Davor Milicevic
huronchurchnews@gmail.com
519-434-6893, ext. 251
c/o Huron Church House
190 Queens Ave.
London, ON
N6A 6H7

Deadline

Monday, November 25
for the January edition

Subscriptions

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change address or name, report a delivery problem, contact:
Circulation Department
1-866-924-9192, ext. 245 or 259
Fax: 416-925-8811
Email: circulation@national.
anglican.ca

Via Web: www.anglicanjournal.
com/subscribe

Individual suggested donation:
\$15 per year in Canada.
\$23 in U.S. and overseas.

Huron Church News shall not be liable for damage arising out of errors in advertisements. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by the Huron Church News or the Anglican Church.

Publisher

The Most Reverend
Colin R. Johnson
Diocesan Administrator
Diocese of Huron
Huron Church House
190 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6A 6H7
Phone: 519-434-6893

Huron Church News is published by the Diocese of Huron as a section of the Anglican Journal.
Approximate circulation 12,000

Printer

Printed and mailed by
Webnews Printing
North York, Ontario

This newspaper is printed on partially recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.

The time of repentance, learning and turning to God

With Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend, Huron's Bishop-elect, immediately after the vote at St. Paul's Cathedral on October 26

By Rev. Marty Levesque

For the past two decades you have been involved in academia, whether it has been a part time as a professor or now full-time as a dean. How do you feel this has helped prepare you for the role you have been elected to and that you are going to assume in January?

The mission of the Faculty of Theology is to prepare leaders – lay and clergy – for work in the Church. You are constantly talking to people, learning about what the Church needs, what leadership is, how things evolve. So, it is kind of my job thinking about it all the time, without other responsibilities as a professor in the Faculty of Theology and especially as the dean, and that has been very helpful.

I have also learned a lot how organizations work elsewhere. I have a bit of a view of the Church from the outside, with



We have a bishop: the moment Archbishop Anne Germond announced that Rev. Canon Todd Townshend has won the majority of votes. The first to congratulate – standing closest to him – were his two sons Seth and Samuel.

a different angle, and that is probably going to be helpful. Understanding the way organizations get healthy and stay healthy is a helpful thing to know.

What can we look forward to at your first days as bishop? Or, in more secular terms, what is your first 100 days going to look like once you are consecrated?

Entering a thin place at St. Paul's Cathedral...

From Archbishop Anne Germond's sermon on the day of episcopal election in Huron



Archbishop Anne presenting the candidates before the election

As we quiet our minds and enter fully into this time as many members but

one body, this holy space will become a 'thin place' where the Spirit of God is close and where your individual, and personal

choices will shift and change to become that act of corporate discernment.

Your role as delegates is to pursue that liminal space where God's presence is tangible and God's voice clearly discerned above the clamour of human desires. Anything else would be a failure of your responsibility as an electoral assembly and a betrayal of God's people in the Diocese of Huron.

Writing to the Romans Paul in today's passage says, "Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on things of the Spirit...and that is life and peace" (Romans 8.6) Do not be afraid to enter that liminal space for it is in that place that something new will be revealed

to you about these candidates that is not on the surface or in any found in any interview or meet and greet, or written answer.

At the January House of Bishops meeting where we nominated the bishops who eventually became candidates in the recent Primatial election, we were given a sheet with this quote on it – no author... I share it with you:

"God sees something in the lives of each of these people that is hidden from us, and maybe from them. Something is at play today that is more than our preferences, insights and choices, though not less than them. That 'something' is in fact, some One, and that

One calls out to more than we can see or know in the lives of each of us."

Listen deeply and carefully to the voice of that Some One with the all the wisdom and knowledge or your mind as well as with the ear of your heart.

If you are listening well together then I am convinced that God will not only be guiding your corporate discernment about who the new bishop will be, but will reveal something to you individually about your own purpose and call in the church and how together with your new bishop you will be the church together in this new time in the Diocese of Huron.

... and in the virtual world, Huronwide

As Synod gathered, the Diocese also gathered, virtually.

The results of the election, ballot by ballot, was posted on the diocesan website and social media channels, Twitter and Facebook. And you might be surprised to know how many in the diocese followed along with those in the cathedral praying, singing and casting votes.

Just the single post announcing the results of the third ballot reached 5 764 people, was shared 194 times, and not all directly from the diocese Facebook page. Meaning that it was re-shared again and again. And as the final ballot announced the election of Todd, messages, pictures, Tweets and post all shared the good news widely to parishes of the Diocese of Huron and the greater community.

Townshend is the third bishop in his family to serve Huron. Both his father Robert Townshend and his grandfather William Townshend served as suffragan bishops in the diocese. And as Todd reflected during the town hall meetings before the vote, he has known the diocese for 100 years through the many stories from his father and grandfather and his time with us.

That connection to the past and connection to the wider church and community that was evident through social media will help bring us into the future, that undiscovered country when bishop-elect Todd Townshend ascends to the throne of Huron and is consecrated 14th bishop of Huron on January 25, 2020, at St Paul's Cathedral.



Greetings from Huron Church Camp!

We give thanks for the many campers, families donors, staff and volunteers who make this a place of hope, peace, joy and love!

Christmas Blessings and prayers for a new year overflowing with possibilities, awe and wonder.



Online registration opens January 20, 2020

www.huronchurchcamp.ca



Hunger hurts – hospitality helps

St. John the Evangelist's North London Fun Walk/Run in numbers and also in the words of a participant looking to give back to community and still – enjoy the day!



Well-deserved refreshment for a group of runners. Among them is Yvonne Collyer (green shirt, number 21) who raised \$2,650.00

to engage in a way that worked with my lifestyle – meaning my dog could be involved!

We canvassed different areas in the city for pledges which was a riot! He was a great icebreaker with people, which made them not only more willing to listen and learn about the cause but also to donate to the hungry and homeless.

The event itself was a lot of fun. Tons of people showed up to give their support and a few dogs were there to sniff along the way. Free T-shirts were handed out before the "race" and after we were entertained with pizza and an awards ceremony. They even had a band set up to welcome you in and give you that extra bit of drive to cross the finish line!

If you are looking for a way to give back to the community that the whole family can enjoy then make sure to join us next time in this great cause to aid the homeless and the hungry. Support St. John the Evangelist's Saturday Night Meal Program!

Meg Walmsley, a member of Huron Church House team.

Are you someone looking to help others? Are you someone who wants to give more to their community? Is it hard to find an event that accommodates your lifestyle and schedule? Well, you're not alone!

I have always desired to be involved with programs that better our city and those who live here but could not find the right event that worked for me. Since beginning my role at Huron Church House, I have the benefit of being exposed to more outreach opportunities.

I am a single dog mom – my life is busy with work, auntie duties, and taking care of my big Irish Wolfhound. While volunteering should be a selfless act, it is still important to me that I find an event that allows me to give back, but not take away from my own responsibilities.

On Sunday, October 20, St. John the Evangelist in London held their annual Outreach 5km Fun Run (or Walk). When I came across this event in the paper, I was ecstatic! Finally, something that allowed me to raise money for a worthy cause but also allowed me

Mildred's connection with children benefits HCC

In the Spring of 2019 Christ Church, Huntingford made a \$10,000 donation towards the new bathroom project at Huron Church Camp. For a small rural parish this was not an insignificant amount of money and the road to its happening had many twists and turns along the way.

There was a member of the former Church of the Good Shepherd in Woodstock by the name of Mildred Richardson. Although she spent most of her adult life in cities, and was a world traveler, her roots were in rural Ontario.

Mildred was raised on a farm. And although there were three children in the family, with Mildred the middle child, it seemed she was the one who was always designated to do the chores, at least that is how she remembered it. So driving trucks and tractors at an early age helped form some of the adventures she experienced. Mildred earned her teaching certificate and the education of children set in motion her love of children.

During the summer months in the 1940s Mildred drove a van through rural Alberta knocking on farm doors and inviting children to Sunday School in the location she was going to be teaching from. In those days to see a woman drive into a yard, walk up to a house, and knock on the door, was certainly not as common as it would be today. There always seemed to be this connection with children. Until her death at the age of 100, Mildred continued to receive letters from students of past decades.

Mildred was a member of Good Shepherd almost from its beginning in the 1950's. Upon her death the Church received a bequest in the amount of \$62,000 which came as a surprise at that time, but in hindsight it probably should not have been. It was at this time that the Good Shepherd was beginning its process of closing and although a small portion of the bequest was used in the closing, it was felt by the Vestry that the bequest should be used for ministry and not keeping the doors open. With the Bishop's blessing this bequest was moved with the church members to its sister church, Christ Church, Huntingford.

In keeping with Mildred's attachment to children and education, a motion was made at Vestry in January 2019 to make the first donation from the bequest to Huron Church Camp to help update the bathroom facilities. In this way future generations of children will be blessed with the opportunity to hear and learn about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Jack Danen and Don White

Having no religion in Canada: peeking behind the numbers

In conversation with Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology and Legal Studies at the University of Waterloo

By Davor Milicevic

Back in May this year, at the annual Anglican Editors' Association conference in Winnipeg, Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme, a researcher in sociology of religion and quantitative methods, offered her audience a glimpse into religious dynamics of ever-growing population of the unaffiliated in Canada.

The unexpected revelation that those who claim that they have no religion – or the religious "nones" as Wilkins-Laflamme calls them – are not necessarily unreligious at all, asked for additional information and led to this interview.

In general, the numbers Sarah offers should not come as a surprise. What is valuable and somewhat surprising comes when we start talking about trends behind the numbers.

"In Canada right now it's a quarter of population that says that they have no religion. If you just look at young adults, it's even higher – one third of them claim to have no religion", says the researcher from the University of Waterloo and immediately warns that the numbers have been on the rise for the last few decades.



Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme

"There was a big surge of people who said that they have no religion in the 80s, 90s and early 2000s – this is when Generation X and Millennials came on to the scene", says Wilkins-Laflamme. "Prior to that, the proportion of young people – the people in their late teen years – who would say that they have no religion or have no religious affiliation would be the same as their parents' generation."

According to Wilkins-Laflamme's survey, about 35 percent of Millennials claim that they have no religion, as opposed to so called Silent Generation (10%) and Boomers (10-15%) in earlier decades. The surge has huge consequences:

"None of the Above"

Sarah Wilkins-Laflamme completed her DPhil (PhD equivalent) in sociology at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include quantitative methods, sociology of religion, immigration and ethnicity and political sociology.

In March 2020, her book *None of the Above: Nonreligious Identity in the US and Canada*, co-authored with Joel Thiessen, Professor of Sociology at Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta, will be released by New York University Press.

The book examines the nearly one-quarter of American and Canadian adults who say they have no religion. Who are they? Why, and where, has this population grown? How do religious nones in the United States and Canada compare?

"If you are looking at these trends in time, when you see these Gen X and Millennials going through young adulthood or middle-aged adulthood, that is when you see that non-religion rate climb and then it affects the numbers across the entire population", explains Sarah.

But what does having no religion really mean?

The rise in numbers of so-called religious "nones" required learning more about the people in this group. This is what Sarah has been doing for years.

As it turns out, the group is far from being homogenous. According to Wilkins-Laflamme, roughly one third of this group are individuals who

are still working on their own religious or spiritual system, away from organized religion. This is what differentiates them sharply from other "nones" – those who could be seen as "core-none religious" (and who have scientific worldviews) and those who are not willing to put their time and effort into the question of spirituality.

"We are trying to develop tools to research this area a bit more. We want to stop measuring what they are not and instead try to measure what they are", says Sarah.

This may indicate that decline in numbers of people who see themselves as religious does not imply the disappearance of all things religious and spiritual.

And it also raises the question of whether religion is truly declining, or simply changing and becoming more individualistic.

"We live in a society where there are a lot of options available when it comes to spirituality. We are not anymore in that "sweet spot" in Canadian history between the mid-19th and mid-20th century when organized religion was more popular for a big chunk of population and when the church was at the centre of a community", says Sarah.

Sarah's research also includes evaluating the experience of different church groups that have been trying, with more or less success, to attract this "spiritually inclined" sub-group of the religious "nones".

"Switching does not happen a whole lot", warns Sarah, adding that some 63% of young adults in Canada stay with the religion they were raised in, or in this case – with "no religion". If it happens, it is usually with younger people and not because they went to church initially for a strong spiritual need, but because their friends were inviting them to go:

"Instead of evangelizing, let's try with demographic support", concludes Wilkins-Laflamme.

Sixty years of All Saints, Waterloo



Looking forward to what the next 60 years will hold: service at All Saints, Waterloo on November 3, 2019

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, All Saints Waterloo was pleased to welcome Archbishop Linda Nicholls as the parish celebrated its 60th anniversary. Joining Archbishop Nicholls were some of the past rectors, Rev. Canon Neil Carver, Rev. Canon David Morris, and Rev. Canon Robin Lyons.

All Saints' began as a Sunday School Mission of Holy Saviour Church, Waterloo in 1958 at MacGregor School. In 1959, All Saints' became a separate mission parish with Allan Barker, the first rector (1958-1964). Services originally alternated

between Northdale School and the original Renison College at 193 Albert Street. The first church building at Hazel and Hickory Streets opened November 1961.

After years of planning and negotiation, a new ecumenical church building was created at Northfield Dr. West and Highpoint Ave to be shared by All Saints' Anglican and Waterloo North Presbyterian Churches. The Service of Dedication took place in March 1982. An enhanced church centre was added in 1997.

At the time of its 60th anniversary,

All Saints' has had six distinct worship spaces, from Rev. Baker's living room, Northdale School, Renison College, the building at Hickory and Hazel, the Laurel Church Centre and the new enhanced worship space. And All Saints' continues its journey as they prepare to embark on the building a new church facility that will better meet the needs of the mission field of Lakeshore North and South and the congregation.

In many ways, the journey has kept the community's focus on its mission. As a Tabernacle people constantly on the move, All Saints' has never experienced what it is like to be a Temple community. On the move and going where God calls them All Saints' has always been able to nimbly adapt to the changing landscape and mission field.

As the community looks forward to what the next 60 years will hold, the ethos of the community has not changed. It continues to put mission before building, people before artefacts, and the gospel as the guiding light for its continued journey throughout the world, boldly embodying its visions where All Are Saints, All are Loved and All are Welcome.

Rev. Marty Levesque

Music for hearing, healing and hope



Dedication of the butterfly garden and the labyrinth

St. Paul's Southampton celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2019. On July 7, the Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth gathered at St. Paul's, Southampton to celebrate its 160th birthday. We were delighted to have Bishop Linda Nicholls as celebrant. This was her last official Diocesan service before being elected as Primate.

Following the eucharist service, the Bishop dedicated a new butterfly garden at the front of the church, and then dedicated the recently completed labyrinth on the front lawn.

An anniversary musical fundraiser, entitled "Music for Hearing, Healing and Hope" was held on Saturday, September 28. In keeping with our anniversary theme "Called to Serve in This Place for 160 Years", all proceeds raised from the free will offering were given to the Grey Bruce Healthcare Chaplaincy Council, to assist in financing the chaplains working in all hospitals of Grey and Bruce.

Talented choirs, soloists and instrumentalists from our wide community were invited to participate. The newly-configured choir area worked very well in accommodating the various performing groups, and provided space for 60+ people to perform the massed finale selection, Hallelujah by Leonard Cohen.

The amazing musical evening concluded with coffee and dessert in Bevan Hall.

Doug Goar



Taking care of our four-legged companions: Macy Hack is giving the dogs water.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Good tidings of great joy



As we enter the new year in our religious life this Advent season, we have the opportunity to do just that – renew our faith, reset our lives and consider new possibilities for our faith journey. Take the time in the weeks of Advent to feel the themes of hope, peace, joy and love.

Perhaps the most needed of these is hope. So many disadvantaged people live with little or no hope. How awful a life must be without hope! Hopelessness is debilitating, and leads to so many social problems. We need to sow the seeds of hope in our communities. We must show people that we Christians care for them, that not only can they find hope in Jesus but in us as well. Look for opportunities to help those in need, to give them hope.

Peace is one of the most elusive things in our world. Whether it be in a strife filled country, a city with countless acts of violence or a home with a dysfunctional family, peace is sadly lacking. How do we build peace? How do we live peacefully? How do we end strife?

Clearly, we need to learn the ways of peace. This will be a challenge. We have a very long history of “settling” arguments with anger, fighting or warfare. We need to study how to deescalate situations, avoid confrontation, use peaceful protest, economic and political non-cooperation and other non-violent means to promote change or resist oppression. Non-confrontational means to reconcile differences must be a first course of action. Look for courses and literature that can help us learn to live in peace with each other. Encourage our politicians to search for peaceful ways to engage other world leaders.

Spread joy. Centre yourself and notice the everyday joys in life. Being joyful yourself can be contagious. Sharing kindness can bring you joy. Giving thanks for your blessings can bring you joy. Feeling the awe of creation is joyful. Sing the Carols to yourself. Read your favourite version of the Nativity story. Do something unusual – use religious symbols in your Christmas decorating. Advent is the most joyful of seasons. Put Christ in Christmas. Wish strangers Merry Christmas. Volunteer at a community Christmas dinner. Invite a neighbour into your home for some Christmas cheer. Take a tray of goodies to a senior. Invite a friend over to bake cookies together. There are many small things that you can do to bring joy to yourself as well as someone else.

Love, love, love. Jesus told us that loving God and loving our neighbours are the two greatest commandments. Popular music tells us that “what the world needs now is love ... it’s the only thing we have just too little of”. Do you love? Do you feel love? How often – sometimes, every day, momentarily, all the time? Maybe we need to exercise our “love”. If working out makes your body stronger, then why not “work out” on your ability to love. Give love. Spread love. Learn to love. Maybe you will find that love is all you need. With love we will find hope, peace and joy. Just maybe, love will change our world, make it the way God intended it to be.

That would be quite the miracle.
Merry Christmas.

Bonnie G. Rees, President
ACW Diocesan Council

Advent defined: arrival that has been awaited (especially of something momentous). The Messiah, the Saviour, will finally arrive. For the shepherds, Magi and the Holy Family, the angelic appearances were very clear. The Christ Child was born.

We have the advantage of knowing how the story progressed. We have the advantage of knowing the Good News. We have the advantage of knowing so much about the life of our Lord – knowledge that reinforces our faith. Each year we have the opportunity to renew that faith.

Bishop's Friends - London & Area



Four bishops – thirty years of diocesan history: Rt. Rev. Bruce Howe, Bishop-elect Todd Townshend, Most Rev. Percy O’Driscoll, Rt. Rev. Terry Dance

Bishop’s Friends gathered on Wednesday November 6 at the Highland Country Club. Over a delicious dinner, members enjoyed the fellowship of meeting new and old friends. Bishop elect Todd Townshend was presented with his pin by retired Bishop Terry Dance.

Bishop-elect Todd spoke to the group after dinner.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to Bette Ferguson who retired after serving as co-chair for seven years.

John Sizeland and Nancy Snyder, co-chairs

Photo: Shyla Guy



Pleasant atmosphere at the Highland Country Club

PWRDF among top 100 Canadian charities for 2020

PWRDF has been chosen by Maclean’s magazine as one of the 100 best Canadian charities for 2020.

To be considered for the Maclean’s list, charities must be listed in the Charity Intelligence report and must have at least \$2 million in annual revenue.

“PWRDF staff work extremely hard with our 35 implementing partners around the world to ensure transparency and financial accountability, and to share results with Anglicans and other do-

nors in a meaningful way. We are grateful to our network of dedicated volunteers who further spread the word,” says Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF.

PWRDF scored a final grade of 92.5%. This is derived from scoring 100% in the financials grade (weighted at 60%) plus 81% in the transparency grade (weighted at 40%). There are 10 charities listed in the International sector.

In the financial metrics, Maclean’s looked at four categories: overhead ratio, fundrais-

ing ratio, charity reserves and compensation of highest-paid employee and fundraising ratio. For example, full points were awarded to organizations that keep the amount of every dollar raised on fundraising between 15 and 35 cents.

The analysis also reviewed a charity’s ease of access to financial statements. PWRDF received full marks for being transparent in publishing our audited financial statements and annual report on our website and making them easy to find.

A further part of the analysis focused on how charities communicate results. “What do charities actually do with your money, once they get it?” asks Maclean’s. “What programs do they run? Who benefits from them? What is the charity’s mission statement and how is its work tied to it? What problem is it trying to solve and is the charity making any headway?”

Points are awarded for providing answers to these questions on websites and in annual reports.



PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS



Bishop-elect Rev. Canon Dr. Todd Townshend

Episcopal Election

The Reverend Canon Dr. Todd Townshend was elected the fourteenth Bishop of the Diocese of Huron on October 26, 2019 at St. Paul’s Cathedral on the third ballot.

Appointments

Archbishop Johnson appointed Ms. Andra O’Neill as the Lay Pastor-in-Charge of St. Mark’s, London effective October 21, 2019. Andra was a postulant in the diocesan postulancy process.

Archbishop Johnson appointed the Reverend Kar-

en Nelles as the Transitional Priest-in-Charge of St. John’s, St. Thomas’ effective October 1, 2019.

Rest in Peace

Ms. Sabine Davison, wife of the Reverend Peter Davison died suddenly on Friday, October 11. The funeral service was held on Friday, October 18, 2019 at St. James Anglican Church, Dundas.

May Sabine rest in peace and rise in glory!

Mr. William (Bill) Anthony, the widower of the Reverend Grace Coleman Anthony, died on October 16,

2019. The funeral service was held on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at St. James Anglican Church, in Wallaceburg.

May Bill rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Reverend Elizabeth (Liz) Chaplin died on October 30th. Liz was ordained a deacon in November 2002 and served as a deacon at St. John’s, Leamington until her retirement in 2015. The funeral liturgy was held at the Reid Funeral Home & Reception Centre on Monday, November 4, 2019. May Liz rest in peace and rise in glory.

Consecration of the 14th Bishop of Huron

St. Paul’s Cathedral, London
Saturday, January 25, 2020



MIDDLESEX PRINTING CORPORATION

Proudly owned & operated
by the Hull Family since 1979

• Business Cards • Envelopes • Letterhead • NCR Forms • Tickets
Brochures • Catalogues • Flyers • Computer Forms • Four Colour Process

Tel: (519) 681-0470 • Fax: (519) 681-0471
966 Leathorne Street, London, Ontario N5Z 3M5

God calls us to transforming discipleship for the sake of the world. Come learn more!

Open to everyone, **Renison Institute of Ministry’s** courses and events offer participants supportive and interactive learning experiences led by passionate and knowledgeable instructors Saturdays at Renison!

Upcoming courses

Religion and Nature—Investigate the ways in which nature and religion inform each other.

starting Jan. 11, 2020 with Mr. Jeremy Frost

Wisdom of the Saints—How shall we then live? Glean answers to that question from a (very personal) selection of sayings and texts from within the Christian tradition.

starting Jan. 18, 2020 with Rev’d Dr. Patrick Patterson

Great Literature of Asian Religions—Respond to primary texts from some of the major religious traditions of South and East Asia.

starting Jan. 18, 2020 with Mr. Jeremy Frost

New Testament as Story—Examine the role the New Testament played in establishing the dominance of the written word in our culture.

starting Jan. 25, 2020 with Dr. Davor Milicevic

Course cost: **\$250.00**

Upcoming events

Creating Space with Daily Prayer—Together we will explore a wide variety of resources that can be used for daily prayer, including ancient traditions as well as apps on your phone.

Feb. 26, 2020 with The Ven. Megan Collings-Moore

Event cost: **\$30.00 (individual rate), \$75.00 (congregational rate)**

Renison and Huron University College work in partnership to provide courses for the Licentiate in Theology (LTh) program.

For more information or to register:

uwaterloo.ca/cape/register | 519-884-4404 ext. 28659



BE ANGLICAN IN THE WORLD!



AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Our own nucleus nurturer

CONGREGATIONAL COACHES



Diego/Unsplash

By Lawrene Denkers

I am a member of the St. Matthews, Florence congregation, which is part of the six-point Parish of the Transfiguration in Kent Deanery. Let me tell you what it is like to have a Congregational Coach right in our congregation!

The biggest thing? We talk to each other about our faith.

I know! We are Anglicans, just like you, and yet, there we are talking to each other about what we believe, and how we came to that belief, and what is important, and what needs to be done, and how we can make it happen.

And we have been doing it for a few years now.

Because, thanks to our coach, we are aware of the free and amazing resources available to us, and because, again thanks to our coach, we are unafraid not only to look at them but to commit to using them to the fullest, our congregational life has changed.

A story: One day, after we had downloaded, and were meeting for, a Lenten Bible Study, one of the diocesan resources, we were prompted to discuss our church's mission

and ministry. It led to us working with our coach to come up with a new way "to respond to human need by loving service" right in our small community. That initiative has carried on, and has brought hundreds of people to our hall to help those in our village who have been struck by anything from a bump in the road of life to a great tragedy.

Another story: Because, thanks to our coach, we knew about Renew, we used its tools and inspiration to raise the equivalent of a year's budget,

over those five years, to restore our stained-glass windows and cemetery with no negative effect on our other givings or outreach.

In fact, the effect has been positive. In the last two years we have covered our operational expenses through plate offerings. We do not make pies, serve sandwiches, put on dinners, or run events for anything other than outreach.

We have been told we are unique in this.

Without tuition or material costs – all absolutely free – these tools we would not have known about without a congregational coach make us better and make our community better; they help us to really and truly help.

Oh, and, yes, we are talking to each other. You want to hear more about that.

We are a small congregation in a village. We know each other very well, we think.

We stand beside each other each week reciting the Creed.

Who would have guessed we would be so reluctant to discuss our faith?

That's right. You would have

guessed.

It's hard!

But we're doing it.

Through "I Intend", with our coach, we discussed what we do and what we will do.

Through the "Spirit of Invitation", with our coach, we are, right now, discussing what brings us to church and what keeps us there.

It's real.

We are not done.

We have a great deal to do.

We just designed some new brochures and revamped our website, for instance, but it is not because the unchurched of our village are clamouring for our service times and phone numbers. We have LOTS of empty seats for visitors. Believe me.

But we know what we love about our church and each other, we have an idea of how to present that to others, and we have the encouragement, if maybe not yet the courage, to do our job and tell the world.

We'll get there.

Lawrene Denkers, St. Matthews, Florence in the Parish of the Transfiguration.

I am "Trans Enough"!

By Sydney Brouillard-Coyte

For those of you who may not know, November 20 marks the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

This event was started in 1999 by a transgender advocate named Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honour the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. This vigil commemorated the lives of all transgender people who had died due to violence since Rita's death, which became the tradition to start the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

To recognize this important moment, and to encourage our diocese to look more into the lives of transgender people within our churches and communities, I wrote this as a reflection of my own experience in being non-binary (not identifying as either "male" or "female").

There's no such thing as being "trans enough" to deserve the use of gender-neutral pronouns. If someone asks you to use neutral pronouns, then use neutral pronouns for them. As a non-binary here are some of the many comments that I have heard since coming out:

"Oh, I'm old. Old habits die hard!"

So then practice – practice



makes perfect. Will it take some getting used to? Yes. Did it take getting used to for all of us who use neutral pronouns for our friends? Absolutely. Do we still mess up? Definitely.

"What do I do if I mess up pronouns?"

Recognize that you messed up and correct yourself. Apologize. Move on. Don't make excuses, don't make a big deal out of it. Apologize and move on.

"Neutral pronouns aren't grammatically correct!"

Actually, they are. Most dictionaries, including Merriam Webster (as of recently) have added they/them as a recognized neutral pronoun. We use it in our day-to-day conversations without even realizing it: 'Oh, have you seen [friend]

lately?' 'Yeah, I saw them at the store.' Famous writers like Shakespeare used neutral pronouns, too.

"Why do pronouns even matter? It's just a word!"

Every time someone misgenders me (on purpose or accident), I question if I am valid and if my identity is valid. Every single time. Imagine doing this every day, several times a day, for your life. It gets exhausting. So yes, pronouns are "just a word". But one that makes a big difference.

"You're just jumping onto a new fad."

It's not a fad, nor is it a phase. The reason so many people are coming out as non-binary and trans now is because now we have the language to describe ourselves that we didn't have before, and a whole community of people going through the same thing.

"I barely even use pronouns."

Trust me, you use pronouns a LOT more than you think you do. In my conducting class, after we conduct on the podium our professor will say: 'Any feedback for her/him?' The class responds with 'she should do this', 'he did that very well', 'her fingers were played', 'he needs more confidence'. Imagine if every time you used a wrong pronoun you had to

pay that person money - you'd be a lot more conscious of the pronouns you use then!

"You don't look like you're trans. It gets confusing."

Who are you to decide whether or not I am "worthy" of using neutral pronouns? I can dress however I want - I can wear a suit or I can wear a dress and look fabulous in both, and still deserve the use of neutral pronouns. My outer appearance has nothing to do with who I am.

"I am a cisgender person. How can I be an ally?"

We need more allies, so I love this question when I get it.

When you introduce yourself, include your pronouns. Put them on your social media accounts, your email, everywhere that you put your name! It may seem redundant or pointless to you, but it helps to normalize the culture of neutral pronouns and means the world to us trans people.

Also, ask what people's pronouns are. Instead of taking the risk and assuming (potentially

wrong, causing harm), just ask!

In addition to these steps, as the Transgender Day of Remembrance draws closer, we must ask ourselves what we are called to do as people of faith. To answer this call, we should place particular emphasis on the third and fourth Marks of Mission:

- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

Trans people are in need of love, support and acceptance from faith communities, from which we so often experience segregation and marginalization. As people of faith, we should seek to not only support our local siblings in Christ, but to transform a society that oppresses those siblings and subjects them to violence causing us to need a Transgender Day of Remembrance. The time is now, and the power is in your hands: will you love your neighbour as God loves us?

For more information on the Transgender Day of Remembrance, or how to practice using gender-neutral pronouns, check out these great resources:

<https://www.glaad.org/todor>

https://www.practicewithpronouns.com/#/?_k=y0ca3f

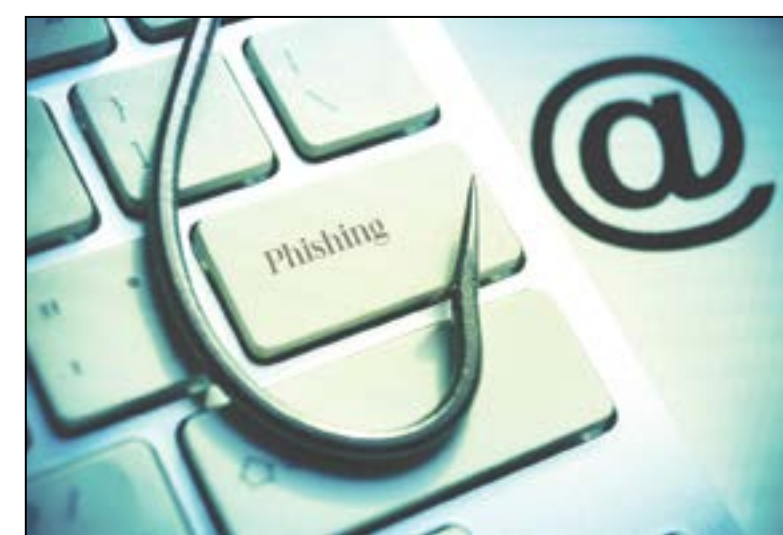
Phishing for your personal info: how to protect yourself

Recently someone seeking to use the goodwill of the people of the Diocese of Huron cloned what appeared to be Archbishop Colin Johnson's email and sent an email out the



MEDIA BYTES

REV. MARTY LEVESQUE



emails listed on the diocesan website. The person was seeking Google Play or iTunes cards. This is just one of many scams that are used to prey upon people.

There are a variety of ways to protect yourself from falling victim to such scams. Here are a few tips to help protect yourself.

1. Never send money to someone you have never met

face-to-face. And don't do it if someone you know asking you to use a wire transfer, a prepaid debit card, or a gift card like iTunes or Google Play (those cannot be traced and are as good as cash).

2. Don't click on links or open attachments in an unsolicited email. Links can download malware onto your

computer and/or steal your identity.

3. Scammers are great at mimicking official websites, fonts, and other details. Just because a website or email looks official does not mean that it is. Even Caller ID can be faked. Always contact the company by opening a new browser window or by calling

Don't click on links or open attachments in an unsolicited email. Links can download malware onto your computer and/or steal your identity.

and speaking to someone at the organization.

4. Never share personal information with someone who has contacted you unsolicited, whether it's over the phone, by email, on social media, even at your front door.

5. Always check the email address or URL to see it is legitimate. Case in point, the recent email sent to the diocese was not from a diohuron.org address but was from "Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson <anastasiapeckins35@gmail.com>"

The World Wide Web, much like the world itself is a wonderful place full of interesting information and great people. But much like a market in a

tourist centre, where the best deal is available only to you and pickpockets lurk around the corner, we need to take a few steps to protect ourselves.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the diocesan social media officer and rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.

martylevesque@diohuron.org



Why participants keep coming back... in their own words

Prepared by Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

"... I'M LEARNING to find God in the ordinary and I'm finding this deepens my understanding of all of life ..."

"... I THINK it makes me a better Christian because my faith has become more personal ..."

"... I HAVE learned that context is important and I can now apply that understanding to all parts of my life; it really helps me better understand my past actions as well ..."



Education for Ministry is spiritual, theological, liturgical, and practical formation for laypeople. Efm is about integrating faith and life, and communicating our faith to others.

"... EVERY WEEK is something new as we learn to think more about the Bible and the stories in it ..."

"... Efm challenges us to look at the Bible and Christianity differently as our preconceptions are challenged ..."

"... LIVING my faith is an all-week endeavour. I volunteer my time for lots of different things, but Efm... I do that for me ..."

"... LEARNING takes time, and so I keep coming back to give myself the time I need to

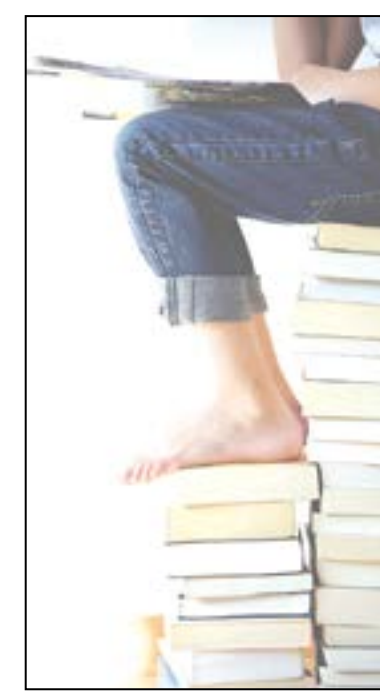
think and to reflect ..."

"... THE MORE I READ the Bible, the more I'm realizing that its message is timeless, filled with universal metaphors ..."

Watch for Open House opportunities in the new year to learn more about Efm and all it has to offer.

For more information please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron Efm Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon at Efm@huron.anglican.ca

Rev. Canon Val Kenyon is EFM Animator in Huron.



Hope Bears for Christmas: Buy a bear to help a child

The Anglican Foundation has produced a number of promotional items for sale, including Hope Bears.

All donations support ministry within the Canadian Church. Hope Bear makes a great gift for a special celebration or for someone you love. Each Hope Bear comes with a special gift bag, paw-print tissue, and a favourite Bible verse: "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace."

A variety of Hope Bear styles are available. All proceeds help kids in Canada:

- choir school and summer camp
- breakfast programs before school
- after-school homework clubs
- hospice care for children

For any questions or to place an order, please contact Sharon Sorenson at 416-924-9199 ext. 244 or email afstore@anglicanfoundation.org. Online orders are also available @ www.anglicanfoundation.org

Diane Dance, AFC representative for Huron



Entering Advent with a purple bishop tree

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



Church – in food banks, meal programs, clothing cupboards, street ministries, quilting and sewing groups, tutoring programs, pollination gardens, tree planting, truth and reconciliation efforts, advocacy groups and more. The people of Huron meet Jesus in the faces of friend and stranger who remind us of the value and grace of loving our neighbour. The Holy Spirit will continue to find ways to call us into these relationships as long as we continue to listen for that still small voice. These are signs of the Kingdom of God made manifest through our efforts already.

The challenge to continue to discern God's prodding for every church and every parishioner is a reminder that we are not yet living in that kingdom. We need these moments when we are reminded that God continues to make things new. We need Christmas celebrations when we meet Jesus in the manger and recognise the hope that this birth brings millennia later. And we need moments of renewal such as when someone new takes the helm.

So, in a way, this year we get to enter Advent with a purple Bishop tree – our new Bishop-elect who brings the kind of hope for a new beginning that

we are promised in the Advent journey. May we use this opportunity to listen deeply for the Holy Spirit beyond election day to see where we are being called as people of faith to serve God in this world, at this time.

Aside: For those who need proof that the "Purple Bishop Tree" is real, you can find the details here: <https://www.canadiantire.ca/en/pdp/nompre-lit-bishop-christmas-tree-purple-6-5-ft-1517192p.html>

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is the Social and Ecological Justice Huron chair.

chrisbrouillardcoyle@diohuron.org



with the Holy Spirit. Like Mary and Joseph, like the shepherds and magi, we hoped that the choices we made were inspired by something beyond ourselves each time we cast our votes. In the end, we greeted the one who will become the 14th Bishop of Huron.

As we welcome Bishop-elect Todd Townshend into this new role, we remain hopeful that the gifts he brings will lead us in meaningful ways in the years to come. Like the wonder and grace of Christmas,

this moment is ripe with an already and not yet feeling. Yes, there will be things that change, simply because we have a new bishop who brings a new perspective and invites us in his own way to look at and live out the Marks of Mission. At the same time, the ways we have encountered Christ in our midst for months, years and perhaps even decades will continue.

Throughout our diocese there are powerful examples of God at work through the living

Stewardship of time - the liberation of Sabbath

By Rev. Raymond Hodgson



Our time and attention are sold to advertisers; our aches and pains and exhaustion become yet another opportunity to sell us a solution. Even in our own eyes we become valuable only in the ways in which we contribute — the thought of being considered lazy or not pulling our weight is abhorrent to us.

would not be productive. And yet, they would still have value. At the heart of their liberation would be sabbath.

Sabbath was not just the heart of their liberation. It was also the heart of their resistance.

Even in a strange land, even by the rivers of Babylon, sabbath was with them. Even under occupation by Persians and Greeks and Romans, sabbath was with them. Even in diaspora, scattered across the earth, sabbath was with them. It set them apart; it made them different; it defined a relationship with God and with each other that was separate from any consideration of productivity or wealth or utility.

Sabbath is also God's gift to us. Inside this commandment is the key to unlocking our chains, liberating us from

our bondage to busyness and inviting us to experience the freedom of sabbath. God did not create us only to be productive, but also to enjoy, experience, and celebrate the whole of God's creation.

At the core of stewardship lies the idea that we are to use God's gifts in the way in which God wants us to use them. Material possessions, talents and skills, and time itself are all God's gifts. God has not just hinted or suggested that we should take time to rest and recognize that we are more than just slaves — God has commanded it.

We are freed by God's command.

Rev. Raymond Hodgson is the rector of the Church of St. Bartholomew, Sarnia and a member of Diocesan Stewardship Committee.



Guillaume de Germain/Unsplash

of being considered lazy or not pulling our weight is abhorrent to us.

God's response now, as it was then, lies in liberation. God led those Hebrew slaves through the wilderness and into the Promised Land giving them this instruction: "remember

that you were a slave in the land of Egypt...keep the sabbath day." (Deuteronomy 5:15, NRSV) For one day each week, they would not be productive. Their slaves, their servants, their animals, even the foreigners living among them — all

Self-regulation as a constant task: embracing life's imperfect flow



As I See It

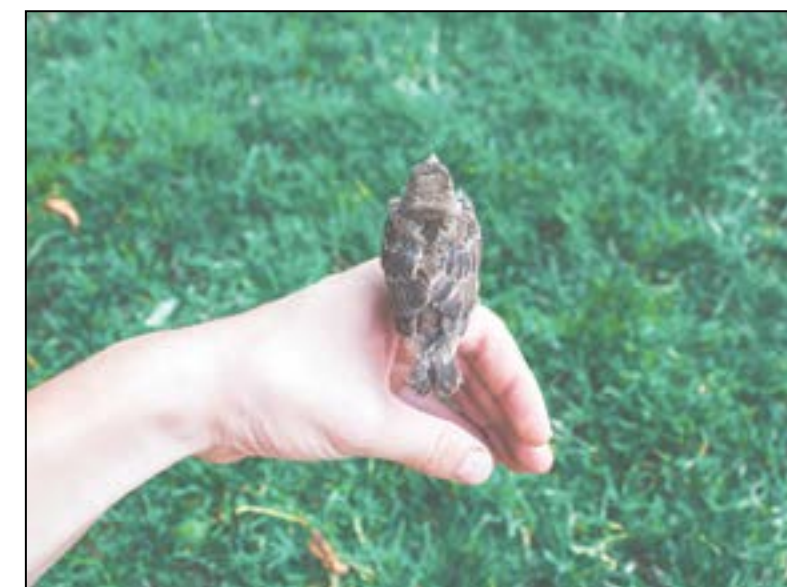
REV. JIM INNES

Are we ever quiet? I mean truly still?

As living organisms, we throb with life continually and never do our minds or bodies turn off. Meditation promises the most peace and is of great benefit. I also believe we can shift into neutral (a trance-like noiselessness).

However, we don't ever roll to a complete stop. We are continually regulating, internally and externally, some manner of biological or social stimulation. Since childhood, we have been learning (or not learning) how to set limits and manage emotions, attention, and behavior. Such adaptation is arguably our most active human task.

We are continually managing responses governed by our nervous system, or adjusting to our emotional reactions, or modifying our thinking and



Razvan Narcis Ticu/Unsplash

trying to retain information, or sifting through our memories, or assessing social cues, or experiencing feelings of empathy, or on and on... perhaps many all at the same time. Moreover, given that eternal stimulation effects internal stimulation, we are bound to a continual cycle of adjustment. The green light is always blinking.

We are always in some manner of disruption, and we can typically manage it without

a second thought. Nonetheless, we will not always make the best choices. We live in a learning curve. Moreover, if our behavior is not too far off the acceptable margin, we move on while being kind to ourselves (usually by trying to forget our moment of 'craziness').

As an everyday example, think of the last time you were cut off in traffic, or someone butt into line in front of you. Even for those of you who can

'pull it back' quickly, there is a lingering shame that, if you're like me, you try to suppress.

However, in saying this, we must be mindful that when we may make the same (less than perfect) choice, over and over again, there are adverse effects. These effects can be both internal (in our body) and external (in our relationships): meaning, physical and emotional illness or social conflict, or both.

The truth is, despite our intentions, we will react 'badly' in certain situations. Most times, we forgive ourselves and move forward. However, there are situations of unexpected disruption that trigger panicked emotions (fear or pain or anger). And when we find ourselves in such emotional distress, our choices become limited, and regrettably, we create more problems than when it all began.

So, getting back to the beginning of this article, self-regulation is a constant task. As I see it, in managing this task, what becomes essential is reasonable diligence. We consider not only our critics but to our bodies and our conscience. We mon-

itor external conflict and ask questions about our responsibility (even more than looking into the responsibility others ought to take).

A few months back I quoted Timber Hawkeye, a Buddhist writer, "You can't calm the storm, so stop trying. What you can do is calm yourself and the storm will pass." Calming yourself is a fundamental truth in self-regulation. It places the process of managing life's bumps squarely in our own hands.

Too often, we seek 'asylum' from disruptions by running or blaming; everything but looking at ourselves. We might find the culprit, and we might be offered compensation, but not often.

In my experience, our energy is more wisely spent managing our reactions and developing resilience through practical cognitive reasoning and a compassionate embrace of life's confusing and imperfect flow.

Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of the Regional Ministry of South Huron.

jimminnes@diohuron.org

How silently the wondrous gift is given



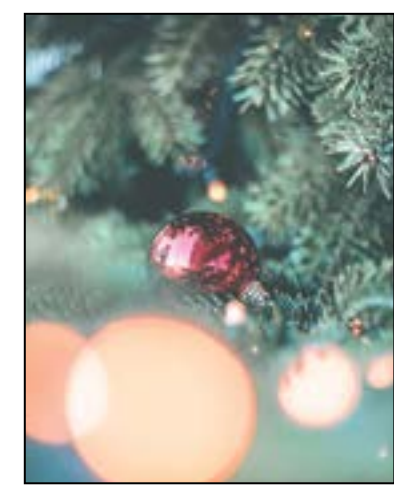
A VIEW FROM THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON CHRISTOPHER B. J. PRATT

The view from the dome car as the train left Churchill, kept changing as the tracks went through the tundra of the sub-arctic landscape, the boreal forest of Northern Manitoba, skirting through the prairies of Saskatchewan until the urban structures of Winnipeg appeared on the horizon. The vastness, diversity and rugged beauty of a small part of our great country appeared right outside the windows of the train during a two day and two-night journey.

In response to the kind invitation of Bishop Cliff of the Diocese of Brandon, my wife, Carolyn and I spent Thanksgiving Sunday with the Parish Family of St Paul's Church, in Churchill. The prime options offered to us were Polar Bear Season or Northern Lights Season. Even the guarantee of seeing the Aurora Borealis in February was not persuasive when linked with the reality of minus (fill in the number here!) Celsius!

On Thanksgiving Sunday, the Parish Family gathered for a service of Baptism and Eucha-



Tiard Shultz/Unsplash

rist. Carolyn played the organ, the congregation sang with enthusiasm, the one year old smiled as he was baptized and the experience of worship in that setting has become indelibly etched into my life and memory.

As a part of our time in Churchill, we attended a presentation given at the Parks Canada office regarding polar bear safety. The reality of living in that community is that, especially during Polar Bear Season, personal safety becomes a top priority.

Walking through the community, alone, is not really an option. Being mindful of your surroundings heightens sensitivity to the point that in the early evening, even a white propane tank, peaking out from behind a structure, may take on a bear like quality!

I was reminded of the words from St Peter's first Epistle, "Discipline yourselves, keep alert.

Like a roaring lion your adversary...prowls around, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8-9) After having spoken to a young woman who had survived a polar bear attack, it was clear that the local saying "The only good polar bear is a distant polar bear" had a great deal of merit.

In that setting, the faithful witness of the congregation of St Paul's has been a cornerstone of community life. Families deal with the reality that, prior to a government subsidy of \$2.78, a five-pound bag of russet potatoes costs \$10.57! (Check your own grocery store for some comparison shopping). The Parish Family at St Paul's offers a ministry where local people may have access to clothing at a low cost and where some clothing is sent to more remote communities further North.

Over his years as our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz often spoke of the Anglican Church of Canada as our "Beloved Church". The truth of that statement has been made very real to me during 2019 as I have been able to experience ministry in different parts of the Diocese of Huron, (Kitchener, Windsor, Stratford, Tobermory), the Diocese of Quebec, (Cauca) and the Diocese of

Brandon (Churchill). It is a bit of a culture shock to worship at St. Paul's, Churchill and fourteen days later be present in St. Paul's Cathedral, London for Huron's Episcopal election! Each building is undergoing physical repairs, but the scale and cost generates a significant and similar challenge to both congregations.

What does this all have to do with our observance of Christmas? Everything.

From my perspective from the back pew these days, it is my observation that too often as congregations grapple with the question of survival, that we lose sight of the bigger picture. The privileges that are ours as members of the Diocesan Family of Huron are significant. Sharing ministry in this part of the Anglican Church of Canada is an experience that others may envy. Do we look at our context of ministry as being a place where the glass is filled rather than looking at the gap remaining between the top of the contents and the brim of the glass? Have we placed ourselves into a situation where we are never satisfied with what we have and are always wanting more?

An essential element of the Christmas experience is that we are given the opportunity to be aware of the fact that God loves us so much that we have been gifted with an individual who is the personification of Divine

Love. There is an awesome beauty wrapped up in that divine gift which transforms every facet of our lives, no matter where we live, no matter where we offer ministry.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. So God imparts to human hearts

the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

(O Little Town of Bethlehem - verse 3)

I suggest that this Christmas Season you pause and reflect on what you have in your life. Rather than the accumulation of a pile of "stuff" under the tree, let your generosity be expressed by gifts given to those whose life is lived in a far more precarious situation than your own.

As you live the gift of each new day, may the experience of that day, wherever it may be, be the gift that you cherish and the memory that you hold dear.

May the observance of the Christmas Season of 2019, be a special time of blessing for us all.

Rev. Canon Christopher B. J. Pratt has retired from full time parish ministry, but continues to offer priestly ministry in the Diocese of Huron.

chriscpratt@diohuron.org

Journey of learning about justice and inclusion

I paused for a moment of contemplation before I affixed the scrawl I call a signature to the letter. For just a second, I thought through



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON
KEITH
NETHERY**

the journey, 30 years long, that had taken me to this place. My signature, on behalf of the people of St. James Westminster, London; was to ask the Diocese of Huron for permission for this parish to celebrate same sex marriages. Which means I was saying yes to officiating at same sex marriages.

If you had told me 30 years ago that I would sign such a document, I would have first said no and then most likely started an argument.

It is important, I think, for us to remember the journey that has taken many of us, our church and our society to a very different place. And I think it is equally important that we recognize that many have not yet completed that journey and there are some who do not wish to make that journey. I was very much aware as I signed the letter that I was still pastor to those who would disagree. We undertook a significant process to ensure that all would have the opportunity



Tayla Kohler/Unsplash

to share where they stood and I have listened equally to those who said yes and those who said no and will continue to journey with each of them.

I have been involved in the "sexuality" discussion, in its many forms, for 30 plus years. From the young(er) version of me that went through the ordination process in Calgary, to the media me who worked in the media center for the initial debate at General Synod 2007, to being part of discussions and votes through many years in Huron; I have gathered much information, read and reread the Scriptures and accompanying commentaries and talked and talked and talked with anyone who wished to. Perhaps not as quickly as some, but I have steadily moved to a place

of acceptance of all. I'm not sure it is a journey on which I can point to a definitive moment where it became clear, rather a journey of learning about justice and inclusion that simply became infused into who I am.

If I were to point to the most significant factor on this journey, it would be personal experience. With my young children growing to be teens and then adults, I could see through their eyes the acceptance of people and how this "issue" was not in the least an issue for them. As more and more people in the LGBT community became willing to share their stories, talk more openly about their relationships, as I began to develop friendships with those who were in gay

relationships; I began to see the deep love they found in being who they were with the partners they chose.

These words have been hard for me to write. I am self described as old. Homosexuality was not the subject of a single positive discussion in my teenage years. To be bluntly honest, for many years, it never occurred to me to give the subject any thought. Rejoining the church in Alberta in the mid 80's after a significant period of "I don't care", the culture was still at that time mostly negative to gays and lesbians. Perhaps seminary in Saskatoon was where I first started a journey to find my true feelings and to understand the pain that had been caused to people who simply wanted to fall in love. I watched and listened as people around me began to share different understandings, found new insights through deep discussion around Scripture and culture. And equally others around me became more entrenched in opposing any or all change. There were times I felt like all I could do was hunker down and hide in the middle until this all came to make sense. Those who are a generation or two younger than I, might not understand this as they entered the discussion when society had shifted significantly. But there were times that it didn't feel safe to be in the middle, because everybody wanted you to make a decision right now.

I've been accepting and supportive of the full inclusion of gays and lesbians in society and in the church for many years now. I have continued to try and understand people for who they are and where they are; always putting first and foremost that we are talking about real people and their real lives, not some philosophical cultural debate in which what we say and do, have no hurtful impacts. While not as demonstrative as many of my clergy colleagues, I have tried to show support in ways that are real and reflect the journey that I have taken.

So it is somewhat strange to me that I felt a simple signature was such a big step. Perhaps it's because that for the first time there is a reality that I might be asked to participate in a same sex wedding. 30 plus years ago that would be a definite no, but today it is a yes. Will I have that experience? Probably not, but I'm open to it now. I have not yet been asked to take part in a blessing of a same sex relationship, nor has anyone approached about a same sex wedding if and when that became possible. It's not surprising given my age and my social circle. But it is important that I have finally had that moment at which I felt I had to say yes, I will participate if asked, and in fact I will celebrate the opportunity.

*Rev. Canon Keith Nethery is the rector at St. James' Westminster, London.
keithnethery@diohuron.org*

Take your earbuds out for Christmas



**LAUREL
PATTENDEN**

One of my favourite modern Christmas songs was written by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne, and you know it very well. One of the lines in the second verse poses the question "Do you hear what I hear?" The little lamb wants to know if the shepherd boy is listening to the same song.

The little lamb poses a very good question. Do you hear what I hear? I highly doubt that you do hear what I hear as we are several miles away and not tuned into the same channel. But what if you were in the same room as me. Would you hear what I hear? That would depend on all the interference happening with your attention and my attention. It would



Kristina Flour/Unsplash

depend if we were standing there together with our earbuds (headphones) still in.

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone, who you are hoping is listening to you, but they are constantly checking for texted messages or reading the menu as you speak?

Well of course you have. We all have!

Finding someone to listen, truly listen, is like trying to find Waldo. Or, for those unfamiliar with Waldo, a needle in a haystack. We are terrible listeners and that's why Jesus wore himself out telling us that "if we have ears to hear, then hear". He knows us so well. We are heavily wired towards talking and not listening. Have you ever been somewhere,

anywhere and not been able to find a talker? Exactly.

Listening can be a scary thing to do because it is such a commitment to actually sit and open our ears and heart to someone else. Listening to someone's story or pain has the ability to rattle us. It may shake our belief systems that we have built to protect ourselves. Listening may open us up to change and we wouldn't want that. Listening can open us up to their pain.

But, on the other hand, it hurts so much not to be listened to. When we are not listened to, it has a way of taking our worth and validation as a person and discarding it. We have all felt this. So if we have felt this why have we not become better listeners?

I got thinking about the Christmas story and listening. What if the participants were too busy to listen? Picture Zechariah not listening to what the angel said concerning Elizabeth. Mary took time to listen to Gabriel and opened her heart to the message. What if

she didn't? The Christmas story wouldn't have been the same if Joseph hadn't listened to the angel and gone ahead and divorced Mary. If the shepherds hadn't listened they would still be sitting in their fields. The wise men would have let Herod in on the location of the Christ child if they hadn't listened to the dream. Joseph listened, again, and was able to escape to Egypt with his family. They all listened and took to heart what they heard. They didn't live with their earbuds in.

This Christmas, I am going to take my earbuds out and read the Christmas story and strive to listen to it. I am going to take my earbuds out and try to be a better listener to those around me. This Christmas, I hope to be more like the little lamb and hear the song. The song "with a voice as big as the sea". This Christmas let's give the gift of listening because when we don't listen we miss the Story.

Laurel is retired and likes to spend her time in her art studio.